



STANDARDS AUSTRALIA LIMITED

SDAC COMMUNIQUE

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT & ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 4 AUGUST 2022 SDAC MEETING

If you have any feedback please email mail@standards.org.au

1. Engagement, Research and Strategic Initiatives Update

Engagement activities

With a change in Commonwealth government, the engagement team has been focused on understanding what changes to policy will impact standards development. Resources and minerals policy, and energy policy have been a strong focus. Early work has commenced on the adoption and adaptation of standards for electric vehicle recharging.

A forum was held in July 2022 with the Chairs of structural engineering standards committees. Outcomes included:

- agreement on active steps to ensure that the principles of resilience and circularity are incorporated into structural standards.
- additional work to ensure Standards Australia's structural codes continue to adapt to changing construction technology; and
- a program to focus on how commentary that supports structural codes is developed and published.

Standards Australia has also been in discussions with the Commonwealth Department of Health, which is looking to renew its work in e-health interoperability standards.

Work is continuing regarding domestic water treatment systems with the next set of discussions occurring through July 2022. These discussions should lead to precise questions to be answered in three discrete areas of work.

Strategic initiatives

A new strategic initiative has commenced looking at the broad area of Agtech.

In July 2022, Dr Alan Finkel was interviewed for a Standards Australia hydrogen podcast. The podcast is available at this [link](#).

Contributor forums 2022

During May and June 2022, Standards Australia held Contributor Forums to provide updates on work underway, but also consult stakeholders on the wrap-up of the Technical Governance Review program and transition to the [Voice of Customer program](#) and accompanying Standards Development annual plan.

The forums were held in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and a virtual session was also held for those unable to attend a face-to-face session. A Contributor Forum has also been planned in August 2022 in Perth to coincide with Board meetings being held in Perth.

2. Production / Portfolio Update – Overview

SDAC regularly monitors the performance of the Standards Development portfolio. The following highlights for FY2021/2022 were presented.

Dashboard Report

Number of Publications for FY 2021-22

Forecast: 406 Target: 460 Variance: (54)

Number of Publications for Year to Date

Actual: 406 Target: 460 Variance: (54)

Average Project Duration for all Active Projects (in Months)

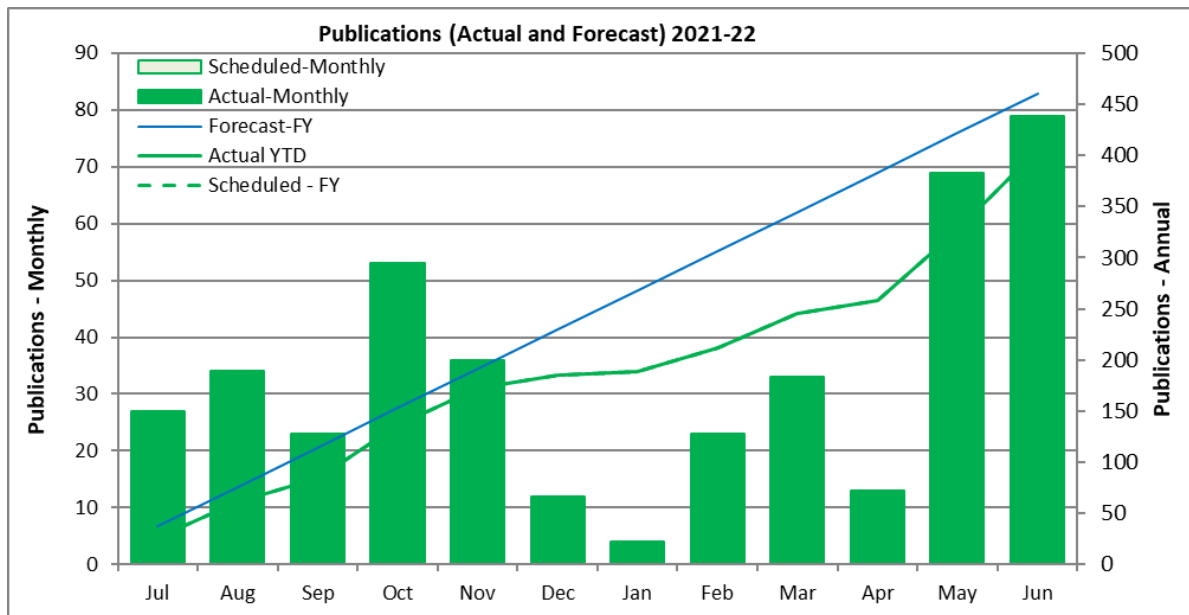
Forecast: 20.6 Target: 19.1 Variance: (1.5)

Number of Active Projects

405 Kicked off: 308 Not Kicked Off: 97

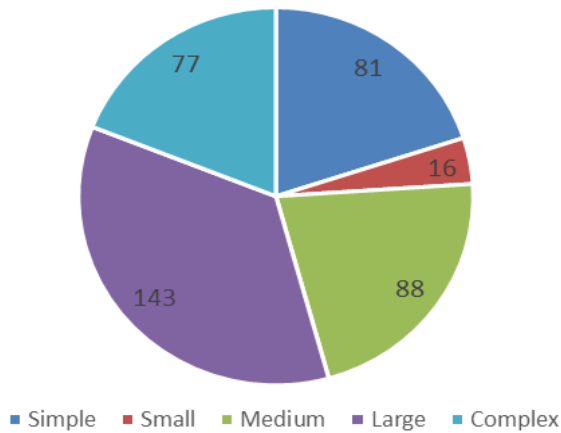
Notes:

- Forecast Values (Number of Publications, Project Durations) are derived from Project Schedules at the date of the report.
- The number of Actual Publications includes Standards, Handbooks, Amendments, International adoptions, etc. The number excludes items such as Reconfirmations and Withdrawals.
- The Target for 'Average Project Duration' may vary from month to month due to changes in the overall portfolio of SD projects. The target is a weighted average according to project complexity.

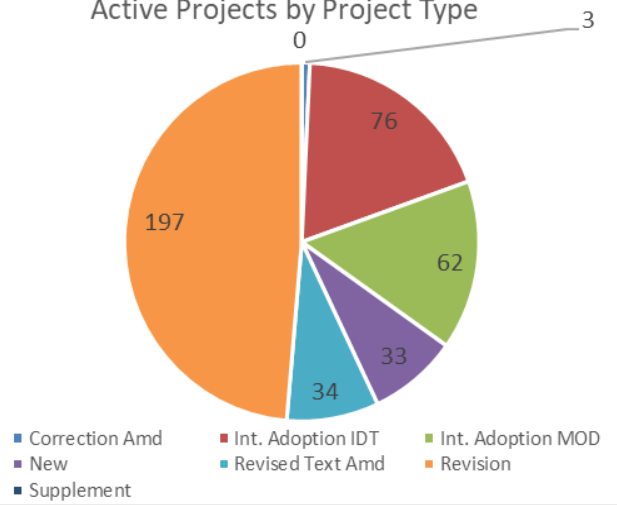


Portfolio Overview

Active Projects by Complexity



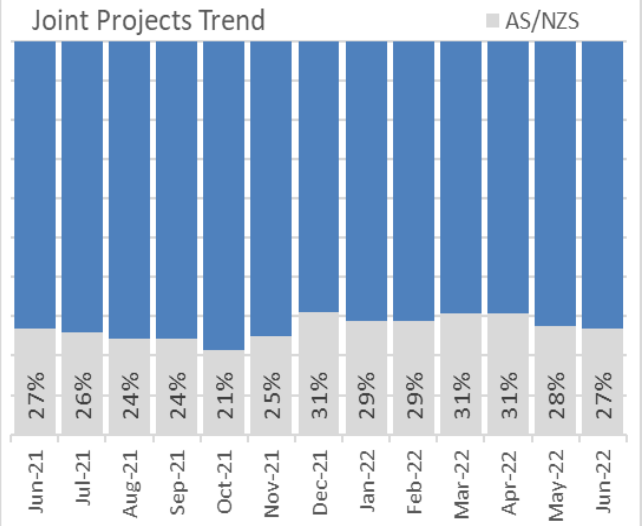
Active Projects by Project Type



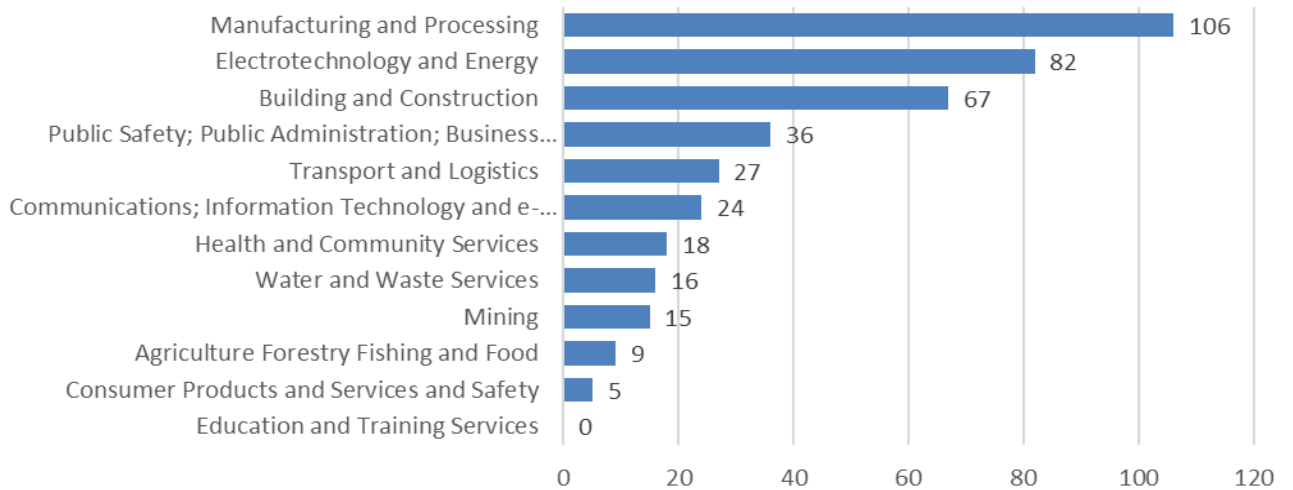
Active Projects by Pathway



Joint Projects Trend



Active Projects by Sector



3. Adapting the Standards Development process to meet demands

Through a Roundtable held in May 2022, the Committee discussed the standards development model broadly, the ever-changing expectations of industries and contributors and new and emerging areas of endeavour where traditional models of standards development may not be fit for purpose. The Committee asked the Management team to revert with options for accelerated development models for Australian Standards ahead of its August 2022 meeting.

Management presented the following three proposed pathways to the Committee in August.

- Pathway 1 – Alternative path to the development of an Australian Standard (including international adoptions);
- Pathway 2 – Alternative path to the adoption of International Standards as Australian Standards; and
- Pathway 3 – New publication type – Emerging Standard

The Committee considered the proposed pathways and asked that changes are made to the Standardisation Guides prior to being submitted to SDAC for review and interim approval prior to being circulated to Committee members and other affected stakeholders for consultation for 30 days.

It was agreed that following consultation and consideration of any comments received, final approval will be required by the Committee and that any new or alternative pathways to the current standards development process will be broadcast to all our Nominating Organisations and contributors, so they are aware of any new options to develop Australian Standards and other publications available to Standards Australia's Technical Committees.

4. Standards Development Organisation Update

The Committee were advised that audits were pending for the following accredited SDOs

- Pharmacy Guild Australia (PGA) Surveillance Audit
- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) Accreditation Audit
- Australian Forestry Standard Ltd trading as Responsible Wood (AFSL) Accreditation Audit
- Communications Alliance (CA) Accreditation Audit

The purpose of auditing accredited SDOs is to review SDO compliance against SDAC-001 - Requirements for the Accreditation of a Standards Development Organisations (Version 2.2 - 17 July 2019).