



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Industry,  
Science and Resources**

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

Senator the Hon Tim Ayres  
Minister for Industry and Science  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your Statement of Expectations issued on 7 December 2025 and published on 15 December 2025. This Statement of Intent is our response, outlining how the National Measurement Institute (NMI) will respond to and give effect to your expectations.

This Statement of Intent confirms how NMI, as the regulator of the *National Measurement Act 1960* (the Act) and as a division of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) will support the Government's priorities including the Future Made in Australia Agenda, productivity growth, the net zero transition and Australia's economic resilience.

This Statement of Intent is informed by the performance expectations for Commonwealth regulators under [Regulator Performance Resource Management Guide 128](#) (the Guide) and the 6 principles of the [Regulatory Policy, Practice and Performance Framework](#) (the Framework).

## Our role

NMI leads Australia's national measurement system, bringing together regulatory responsibilities and sovereign scientific capability to support confidence in trade, innovation, safety and productivity across the economy. Our work underpins economic activity across multiple sectors and supports our vision of a fair, safe, healthy, and competitive Australia. NMI provides the measurement backbone of the economy — largely invisible, but essential.

## Sovereign measurement science capability

A trusted national measurement capability is critical to Australia's economic resilience, international engagement and national security.

NMI's scientific expertise underpins confidence in trade and consumer transactions, regulatory decision making and enforcement, the development and adoption of new and emerging technologies, and Australia's participation in global measurement systems.

We work with international measurement institutes and organisations to maintain equivalence and recognition of Australian standards. These relationships support market

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access for Australian exporters and ensure Australian businesses can operate with confidence in global supply chains.

## Effective, proportionate and risk-based regulation

In exercising our functions and powers, we will follow the principles of regulator best practice as set out in the Guide and the Framework to ensure fit-for-purpose regulation.

NMI applies a principles-based regulatory approach that is proportionate to risk and focused on outcomes. Our programs are informed by data, evidence and intelligence so we:

- put our effort where it counts by prioritising industry sectors with greater risks of non-compliance and harm
- use market intelligence, consumer complaints, business compliance history and stakeholder feedback in planning our national inspection programs
- conduct regular trader visits and concentrated audit programs that focus on priority industries.

We will continue to use our risk assessment methodologies to improve our compliance programs. We are actively working to refine our methods and will continue to leverage technology and data capabilities to achieve better outcomes.

Our response to non-compliance will continue to be proportionate to the harm being managed, in alignment with our [Compliance policy](#). This approach aims to protect consumers while minimising government intervention where the risks are relatively low.

We are open and transparent and seek to improve how we work. We will continue to provide clear guidance on measurement law to support businesses and consumers to understand their obligations under Australia's measurement legal framework. We are open about our policies, processes and decisions. This includes through advice, online information and direct enquiry services.

We engage regularly with stakeholders, including through the Consumer and Industry Liaison Committee, targeted consultations and participation in international forums. These engagements inform regulatory practice, support continuous improvement and help ensure that regulatory approaches remain practical and effective.

## Regulatory reform

We are reforming Australia's measurement legislation to reduce the regulatory burden, protect consumers and support the conditions for productivity and economic growth.

The new legislation will establish a future focused and principles-based framework with alternative compliance pathways for new types of measuring instruments, reduced technical barriers to trade, and enables a quicker path to market for emerging technologies.

## Partnerships, influence and whole-of-government contribution

NMI works with other areas of the Industry and Science portfolio and with Commonwealth, state and territory agencies that rely on measurement to deliver policy objectives, including in food safety, health, agriculture, energy, environment, trade and defence.

NMI works with other Australian standards and conformance bodies to ensure Australia's measurement, testing and accreditation arrangements operate coherently and are recognised internationally.

As Australia's official representative to peak global and regional scientific and legal metrology forums, NMI represents Australia's interests in the development and maintenance of the international system of measurement. NMI's memoranda of understanding with advanced international counterparts support future capability development by leveraging external expertise and investment.

## Sustainable, secure and accountable operations

We prioritise activities and allocate resources to ensure the long-term sustainability of Australia's measurement science and regulatory functions. We use information from audits, inspections and stakeholder feedback to inform planning and resource allocation, ensuring effort is focused on areas of greatest risk and public value.

NMI has set key performance measures and service standards for its regulatory functions in alignment with the Guide and Principles. We report against them and publish the results through the [corporate plan](#) and [annual report](#), and through NMI's annual [Legal metrology priority plan](#) and [compliance report](#).

NMI works closely with other divisions in DISR to deliver enabling services and to implement robust cyber security, research security and intellectual property protections. Together, we manage our digital systems and scientific facilities in alignment with asset management strategies, planning upgrades and maintenance within available resources.

## Working collaboratively with the Minister's Office

We provide timely, accurate and evidence-based advice to portfolio Ministers on significant issues relating to measurement, including regulatory reform, key performance measures, and matters set out in the Statement of Expectations. We support the Minister through regular briefings and early engagement on documents and issues that may attract stakeholder or public interest.

Yours sincerely,



Meghan Quinn PSM  
Secretary  
Department of Industry, Science and Resources

13 March 2026

