



Australian Government



Australian  
**Small Business and  
Family Enterprise**  
Ombudsman

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Dr Bruce Warrington  
Chief Executive Officer and Chief Metrologist  
National Measurement Institute  
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
10 Binara Street  
Canberra ACT 2601

*via email: [measurementlawreview@industry.gov.au](mailto:measurementlawreview@industry.gov.au)*

Dear Dr Warrington

### **Measurement Law Review**

We agree that it is important to continually review regulation to ensure it is well suited to achieve its goals, and 'right sized' for small business. As such, we support the current measurement law review.

The second reform option that uses principles-based regulation, as preferred by the National Measurement Institute (NMI), should allow greater flexibility and agility for small business and help to reduce compliance costs.

Principles-based regulation may reduce certainty for industries such as fuel retailers that rely on accuracy for both business transactions and a public perception of accuracy. As such, if this approach is implemented it could benefit from a communication and information campaign that provides support to help businesses understand and apply the changes. This could also aim to build trust in those industries that rely on precise measurements in order to operate fairly and effectively.

In our experience, principles-based regulation benefits from flexible compliance. This includes informing small businesses when they make mistakes, with accessible guidance on how to comply.

Further, the change will benefit from an effective dispute resolution tool to assist businesses who have disputes with other businesses relating to measurement. This will help reduce the legal burden of disputes by offering an alternative to court-based resolution processes.

We would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with the NMI. Our Office is keen to assist to help disseminate information and build stakeholder networks where possible. We also have an extensive history of alternative dispute resolution practice and would be able to assist to develop best practice dispute resolution processes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Luke Collins on 02 6213 7540 or at [luke.collins@asbfeo.gov.au](mailto:luke.collins@asbfeo.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

**The Hon. Bruce Billson**  
Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman

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