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### **Proposals to Modify Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS)**

Dear EECA Regulation and Compliance Team,

Thank you for the opportunity for consultation.

Lighting Council New Zealand (LCNZ) does NOT support MBIE and EECA proposals to modify Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and Mandatory Energy Performance Labelling (MEPL) requirements for lighting products under the Energy Efficiency (Energy Using Products) Regulations 2002.

The product-based MEPS concept as applied for lighting now approaching 25 years old and is well overdue for withdrawal. It would be counter-productive to continue to include LED lamps and lighting products in a MEPS scheme. Such a market intervention fails to recognise technology progress and commercial realities, as the NZ market is seeing very progressive LED uptake via solid consumer value and natural economic forces.

LED lighting products in all forms are already vastly superior in energy performance compared to the traditional technologies that are still available on NZ the market. A stark reminder of the real issue is that NZ policymakers have chosen not to use MEPS as a policy instrument to remove obsolete incandescent, halogen, and fluorescent technologies from the NZ market. This does not align with the approaches used in Australia and almost other developed-world regions.

As the MEPS proposal stands, responsible NZ suppliers would bear ongoing costs of compliance management and reporting. Increasingly, short-term opportunist internet-based suppliers, and compliance avoiders and backsliders trade unfettered, often supplying non-compliant and unsafe products.

We note the MBIE *Cabinet Economic Development Committee* ministerial briefing papers (identified in the consultation links) are dated mid-2019. This information is outdated. The

lighting industry worldwide has made, and continues to make, appreciable product energy efficiency gains on a continuous basis.

The consultation information states the MEPS proposals are to align with existing Australian Determinations. Why? The concept of trans-Tasman alignment is outdated for lighting products. Unlike some other electrical consumer product categories, there is no longer significant trans-Tasman trade in lamp or lighting products. The wider lighting market reality is 'global products for global markets' which means harmonisation with IEC standards for lighting products (safety and performance) and ISO standards for lighting application (building design and energy performance).

Furthermore, the appetite of some AS/NZS Australian Standards committees to retain outdated locally-developed methods, with a reluctance to adopt IEC or ISO approaches is holding back progress for progressive New Zealand suppliers and consumers (specific examples can be provided). LCNZ is an active participant in IEC and ISO standardisation drafting for energy performance in lighting. LCNZ members have a strong appetite for international alignment for NZ, a view which some AS/NZ committee Australian members do not commonly share.

Looking forwards, LCNZ considers that the UK *'United Kingdom Building Regulations 2010 - Conservation of Fuel and Power - Part L'* lighting efficiency regulation is a suitable model for NZ to consider for adoption or adaption. The aim being to deter/remove poor energy performance and to incentivise ambitious but attainable installed targets for higher performance, for both residential and commercial lighting applications.

Finally, the longstanding MEPS model for lighting is no longer suitable and places unnecessary financial burdens on businesses, such on-costs are inevitably passed on to consumers as inflationary pressure.

LCNZ urges EECA and MBIE to re-appraise the MEPS proposal, and to open lighting and building design industry dialogue for considering the detail of the mature and successful UK 'Part L' model for NZ application.

We would be happy to discuss this prospect with EECA and MBIE policy managers, and with Minister of Energy - Simon Watts.

Chris Byrne

Chair

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