

*Canterbury Earthquakes
Royal Commission*

STANDARDS COUNCIL

*John Lumsden (Chair)
Debbie Chin (Chief Executive)*





About the Standards Council

- Established in 1932 to improve the quality of buildings
- New Zealand's national Standards body
- Autonomous Crown entity
- Standards Act 1988 (replaced 1965 Act)
- Develop, publish, and promotes Standards
- Self-funded / not-for-profit
- Has promulgated 3,500 NZ Standards for over 45 industry sectors, and has access to over 25,000 international Standards

Key points – Role of Council

The role of the Council in the building regulatory framework is:

- an autonomous expert body which can develop or adopt Standards that can be used as means of compliance with the Building Code
- the gateway to international Standards
- owner and steward of the national Standards catalogue

Key points – Role of MBIE

- MBIE has a role both as the regulator and as lead Ministry for the building sector
- MBIE, as the building regulator, can choose how to set requirements (directly into regulation, or by reference to another document such as a Standard)
- MBIE's other roles include:
 - ' ... be a catalyst for a high performing economy to ensure New Zealand's lasting prosperity and wellbeing'
 - lead Ministry for standards and conformance (including Standards Council)
 - lead Ministry for science and innovation
 - responsibility for occupational regulation

Key points – Building Standards development

- Standards can be, and have been, developed for regulatory purposes
- The standard setter needs clear direction from the regulator on the intended role of the Standard
- As the regulator, MBIE can provide this direction through a range of mechanisms, including:
 - work programmes (proposed 'National Policy Statement')
 - direct engagement in the Standards setting process

Key points – Strengths of the Standards process

- Standards draw on an internationally recognised methodology, body of knowledge, and pool of expertise beyond New Zealand
- A consensus-based approach can produce Standards that are the best solution for a regulatory purpose
- This is enhanced by clear statements from the regulator about:
 - what function the Standard is to serve
 - what the performance requirements are
 - why the intervention is needed
 - what goals it is looking to achieve

Key points – Innovation and new technologies

Standards are an internationally accepted means of:

- setting expected performance requirements for new technologies
- diffusing knowledge

Key points - Funding

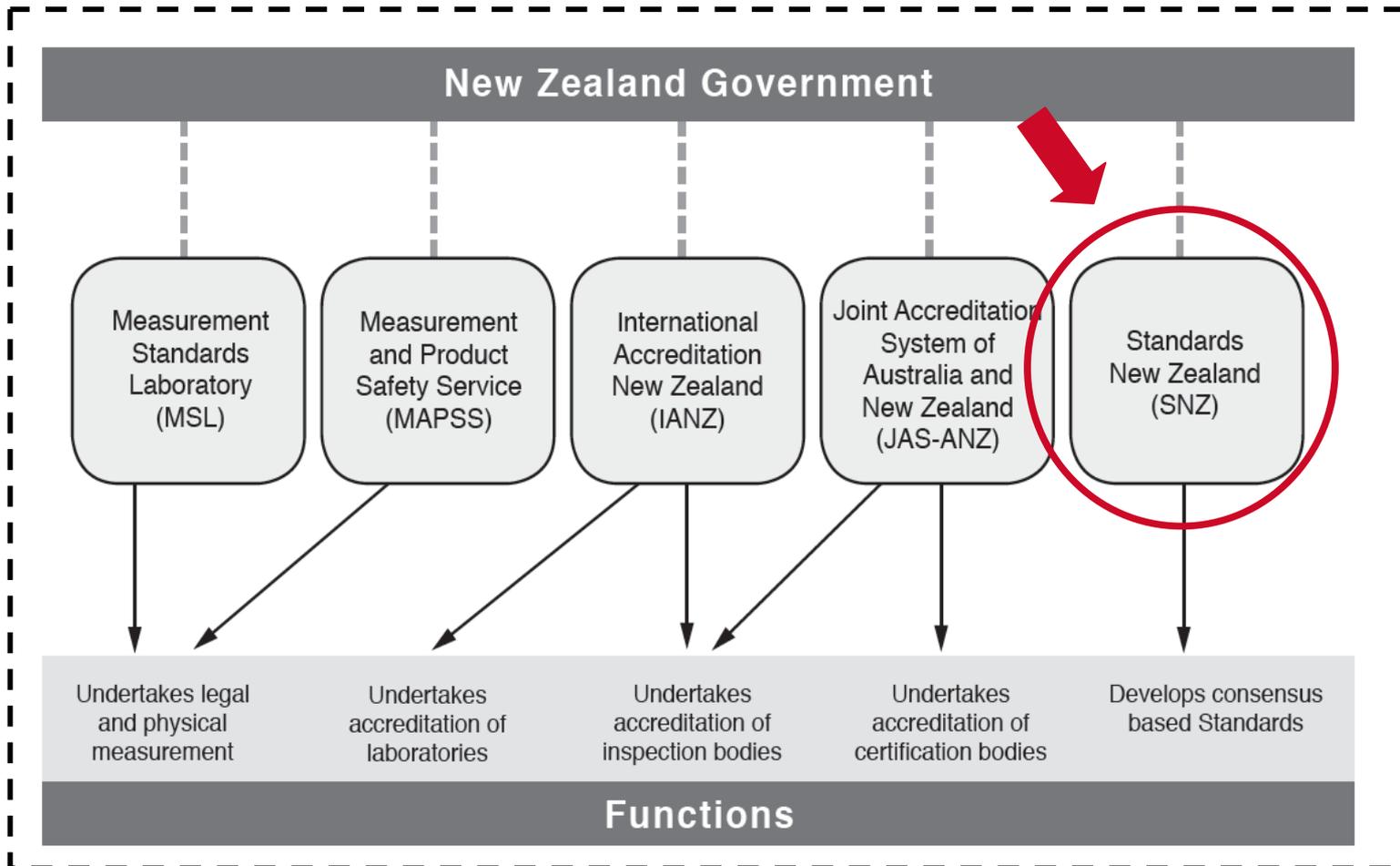
- We agree with the submissions that the current building Standards funding model is not sustainable
- Council supports an industry option of dollar matching of the building levy with practitioner fees

Areas of Agreement

We agree with MBIE that there is:

- 'confusion in the sector on roles and responsibilities'
- under resourcing
- a backlog of aging Standards
- a need for 'accessible' and 'searchable' information
- a need to clarify the interface between building regulatory instruments and Standards
- 'market failure' in the building sector, needing MBIE intervention

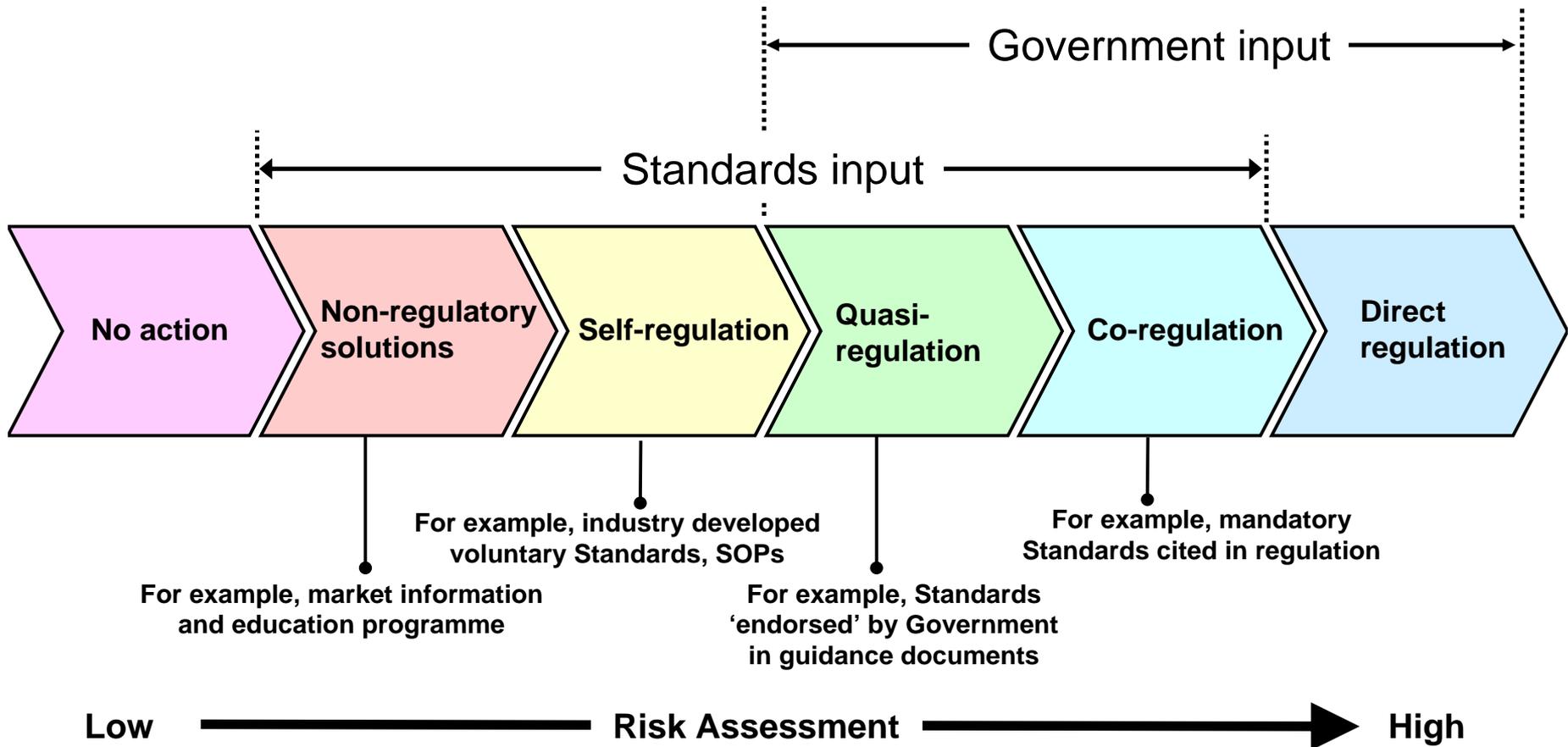
NZ's standards and conformance system



Council's size & scale



How Standards can be used



The Standards process

- Provides value for 'NZ Inc'
- Independent
- Collaborative and trusted
- Stakeholder consensus
- Internationally recognised
- Faster than average development time
- Meets New Zealand's international agreements

www.iso.org/iso/iso_iec_guide_15_1977.pdf



A proven and reliable methodology

- Balanced committees of concerned interests
- Experts act as volunteers, gifting to the committee their knowledge and skills
- Process enables experts to challenge, test, and moderate to achieve the best outcome
- Public comment process
- Meets New Zealand's international obligations, while addressing the 'national public interest'

Consensus means:

'General agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by an important part of the concerned interest and by a process seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments.

... Consensus need not imply unanimity.'

Source: ISO/IEC Guide2:2004 definition 1.7

Standards in the building system

New Zealand Standards and Amendments	NZS (New Zealand)	NZS adoption of overseas	AS/NZS (Joint Australia/NZ)	Total
Cited in Building Act	1	0	0	1
Referenced in Compliance Documents	147	10	114	271
Referenced in Handbooks	13		7	20
Secondary References	245	47	548	840

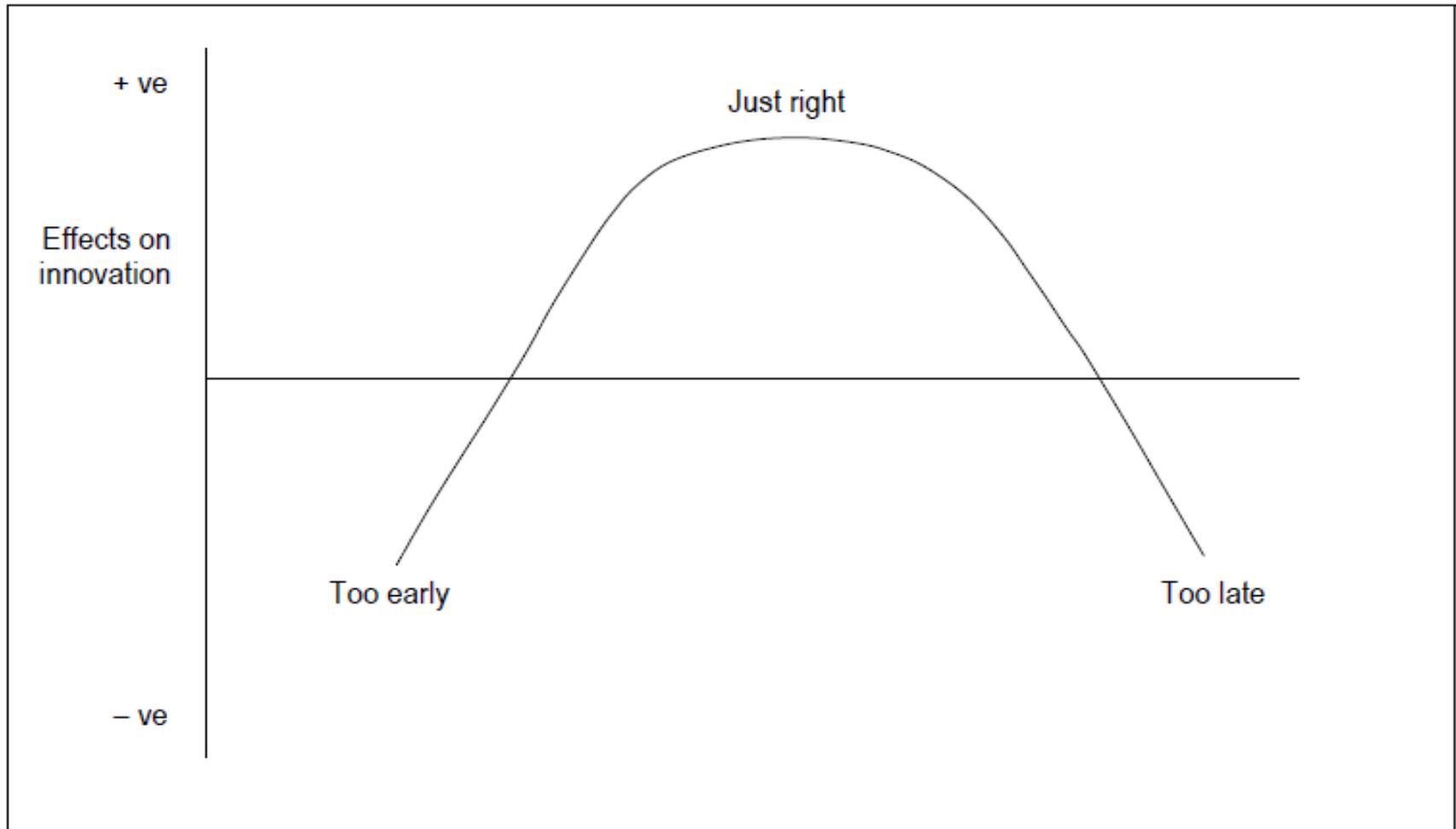
This excludes overseas Standards referenced in documents eg AS (Australia), ASTM, (USA), BSI (British), ISO (International)

What could a 'National Policy Statement' achieve?

- Clarity of MBIE's expectations as:
 - regulator for building and construction
 - leader for building and construction
 - leader for New Zealand economy
- Articulate the intervention logic for developing Standards in given situations
- Full deployment of the IRCC model

We agree with the IPENZ and NZCIC approach

Standards and innovation



Centre for International Economics (2006)

A Sustainable Funding Model for Building Standards

- Council agrees that the current business model for New Zealand building Standards is not sustainable
- Funding is a critical factor in the Council's ability to update the building Standards referred to in the Royal Commission's recommendations to date
- Council supports an industry option of dollar matching of the building levy with practitioner fees

A new and sustainable funding model would:

- Improve the accessibility of Standards
- Enable the building Standards catalogue to be kept up to date
- Enable more research and education on Standards
- Ensure that innovations and technological advances are addressed