

## POLICY STATEMENT

### BUILDING MATERIALS EMBODIED CARBON

#### **Policy Precise**

Building and construction materials and products play a significant role in the performance of buildings and infrastructure. They are acknowledged as contributing to the emission of climate-changing gases into our atmosphere through their manufacture and use.

As the building and construction industry moves to reduce carbon emissions it is critical that it has the means to measure those environmental impacts reliably and consistently.

|                               |  |              |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Dates</b>                  | Policy or amendment approved           | [27/05/2022] |
| <b>Approved by</b>            | BPIC Board - Meeting - [20/05/2022]    |              |
| <b>Implementation Officer</b> | Executive Officer – on behalf of Board |              |
| <b>Relevant to</b>            | All members                            |              |
| <b>Related documents</b>      | BPIC Constitution                      |              |
| <b>Superseded documents</b>   | N/A                                    |              |
| <b>Legislation</b>            |  |              |

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### 1. Policy Issue

Building and construction materials and products play a significant role in the performance of buildings and infrastructure. They are acknowledged as contributing to the emission of climate-changing gases into our atmosphere through their manufacture and use.

In Australia, the current regulatory framework for reducing the environmental impact of building products is inconsistent. Whilst various States and Territories have set targets for carbon emissions from buildings, no consistent or coherent government policy framework has been provided to industry.

The building materials and product sector believe there is a need for:

- A comprehensive and standardised approach to the measurement of embodied and emitted carbon in buildings and the materials that they are constructed from.
- The selection and procurement of building and construction materials and products to be undertaken in a manner that is consistent across product categories.

### 2. Relationship to BPIC Objects

- a) Advancing building technology through regulatory reform by promoting and establishing a council of national industry associations representative of building products manufacturers and suppliers and without limiting the generality of the forgoing to:
  - position BPIC to be recognised by governments and their regulatory agencies as an authoritative group for the building products sector of the building industry on technical matters;
  - coordinate an industry-wide approach and response to codes and standards;
  - improve the regulatory environment for the accreditation of building products;
  - facilitate the sourcing of practical industry information to regulators from BPIC member organisations; and
  - encourage investment in skills formation, product development and industry research by removing regulatory impediments to innovation.
- c) To develop policy and make submissions or representations to governments, industry and the community on agreed technical standards, codes and regulatory issues of mutual concern to Members.

- e) To foster industry practices that promote the prosperity of Members and of the Australian community in general;
- i) To be an agent for strategic change to improve the technical standards, codes and regulatory environment in which Members do business in Australia and elsewhere;
- j) To conduct research into any matter of agreed mutual interest in the technical standards, codes and regulatory areas affecting the building industry.

### **3. Policy Principles**

- Building and construction materials and products supplied in Australia (whether from local or international sources) should compete on a level playing field in relation to their environmental impacts.
- The building industry should have access to reliable information about the environmental performance of building and construction materials and products.
- Approaches that seek to reduce the environmental impact of building products should be assessed within a framework of performance, rather than prescriptive based standards so as not to compromise their integrity and resilience.

### **4. Policy Statement(s)**

#### **4.1 A comprehensive and standardised approach to the measurement of embodied carbon in building materials**

- The building industry supports a comprehensive and standardised approach to the measurement of embodied carbon in building materials that references a full Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology which is based on internationally recognised standards.

#### **4.2 The measurement of embodied carbon in building materials should be consistent across product categories**

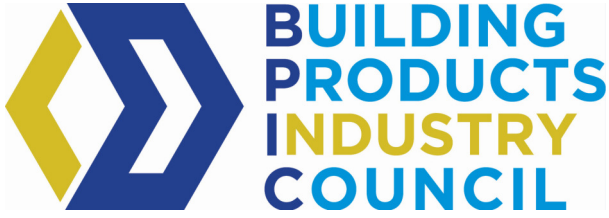
- Measurement should be done in a manner that is consistent across product categories and based on 'whole of life, whole of building' (cradle to cradle) approach consistent with circular economy principles.

#### **4.3 Various tools and enablers can be used to should measure embodied carbon in building materials**

- Measurement can be facilitated by tools that are in alignment with international standards such as Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs). However while EPDs can be used to compare products within a sector, they should not be used to compare products across sectors.

### **5. Relationship to BPIC Strategic Plan:**

The Building Products Industry Council (BPIC) is committed to an Australian building and construction Industry that is safe, competitive, sustainable and meets society's expectations for quality and performance. We are focused on promoting regulatory reform, harmonised standards and code compliance in the Australian building and construction product industries.



## 6. Version Control and Change History

| Date       | Version | Approved by and resolution no. | Amendment                       |
|------------|---------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 20/05/2022 | 1       |                                | Draft for BPIC board discussion |
|            |         |                                |                                 |
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