



29 April 2022

Kia ora tātou,

In this update we provide information on our stakeholder surveys, upcoming hui, request for submissions on regulatory barriers to entry or expansion, and our engagement of an industry expert to provide advice to the study.

Stakeholder surveys

The Commission is inviting feedback from a range of stakeholders to enhance our understanding of the factors affecting competition for residential building supplies. This feedback should help to inform the study.

We are currently running two surveys with a third being launched today.

Specifying and purchasing key building supplies survey

For this survey we're looking to hear from individuals and businesses involved in specifying/purchasing key building supplies. We want to hear about the factors that influence decisions on a) which key building supplies are specified in plans for residential building work, and b) which key building supplies are purchased.

[Click here to take the survey.](#)

We are extending the closing date for this survey. It will remain open until 9 May 2022 and can be completed anonymously.

Supplier survey

For this survey we want to hear from suppliers of key building supplies on several topics including suppliers' product types, distribution options, pricing practices, and set-up costs. We are particularly interested in any challenges that make it difficult for suppliers to enter and expand in the market, and to compete effectively.

[Click here to take the survey.](#)

The survey is open until 9 May 2022 and can be completed anonymously.

Regulatory and standards systems survey

For our third survey, we want to hear from all stakeholders on whether there are potential regulatory barriers in relation to key building supplies and, if so, the specific issues and possible solutions you might propose. We will consider this feedback alongside the submissions we invited in our [Additional Paper](#) on the scope of this study (see below).

[Click here to take the survey.](#)

The survey will be open until 23 May 2022 and can be completed anonymously.

Upcoming hui

As indicated in our Additional Paper, we will be holding a hui with Māori leaders and industry representatives on 4 May 2022. Anyone who would like more information on the hui is welcome to contact buildingsuppliesmarketstudy@comcom.govt.nz.

Submissions invited on regulatory barriers to entry or expansion

As mentioned in our [Additional Paper](#) on the scope of this study, we are inviting submissions from all interested parties regarding any regulatory barriers to the entry or expansion of key building supplies. We are specifically interested in any specific issues arising and your views on them – if there are factors affecting competition, what are some possible solutions?

Submissions close at 4pm on 13 May 2022. Please send submissions to buildingsuppliesmarketstudy@comcom.govt.nz.

Please note, we will publish public (non-confidential) versions of the submissions that we receive to the study [webpage](#). Where appropriate, submitters will need to provide us with public (non-confidential) and confidential versions of these submissions so that the public version can be published.

We understand that some of the information stakeholders may want to share with us could be commercially sensitive and confidential. Anyone who has information relevant to the study can [ask us](#) to keep their identity and/or the information provided confidential and we can discuss any available protections with them.

John Gardiner to provide advice on Building Act regulatory and standards systems

The Commission has engaged industry expert John Gardiner to provide advice to the study about the Building Act regulatory and standards systems. Mr Gardiner's advice will assist us to assess:

- Whether there are, currently, regulatory barriers to the entry or expansion of key building supplies and, if so, what those barriers are.
- The submissions that we are seeking from interested parties on the regulatory and standards systems (see above for more detail).

We plan to publish Mr Gardiner's advice, covering both aspects above, alongside the Commission's Draft Report in July 2022. Submissions will be invited on all published material at that time.

Mr Gardiner's industry experience

Through his consultancy, Building Confidence Ltd, Mr Gardiner provides a range of services to participants in the building and construction sector. An expert in the broader building regulatory system, he also has technical experience in relation to building products. Prior to forming Building Confidence, Mr Gardiner was Manager, Determinations and Assurance at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment where he had policy and operational responsibilities for building product issues, including development of the concept of product assurance.

Mr Gardiner is on the Board of the New Zealand Building Industry Federation (BIF). He will stand down from his BIF Board role until the Commission's Final Report has been completed. In addition, during the course of the study he will not provide any consultancy services to building product suppliers that relate to policy or advocacy advice and he will not assist any company or other organisation with advocacy or submissions relating to the study.

Mr Gardiner’s consultancy, Building Confidence, made a [submission](#) on the study’s Preliminary Issues Paper.

Get in touch

If you have any questions, please contact buildingsuppliesmarketstudy@comcom.govt.nz.

More information on the study can be found on our [webpage](#).

