An approach to conformity assessment –
the New Zealand experience

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Regulatory stewardship approach

• A regulatory stewardship approach underpins how New Zealand manages and develops:
  ▪ NQI
  ▪ regulatory systems
Regulatory stewardship approach

• What is regulatory stewardship?
• It is about how we look after our regulatory systems. It means:
  ▪ proactively caring for regulatory systems using a whole-of-system, collaborative approach
  ▪ monitoring and regularly reviewing regulatory systems
  ▪ carrying out robust analysis for any regulatory change and supporting its implementation
  ▪ using good regulatory practice (GRP)
Regulatory stewardship approach

• Designing and using regulatory powers is fundamental to the wellbeing of people –
  ▪ doing regulation well means supporting the functioning of New Zealand and contributing to New Zealanders’ wellbeing and quality of life
Approach for the development of NQI – a brief case study

• New Zealand has a well established NQI
  ▪ two accreditation bodies with functional specialisations (one is a joint Australia-New Zealand body)
  ▪ metrology and standards bodies
  ▪ dynamic conformity assessment body market

• For New Zealand, NQI development means considering the performance of the arrangements and settings

• We used a Regulatory Stewardship approach to undertake a targeted review of our conformance infrastructure

• The findings led to the development of the New Zealand Conformance System Strategy
Case study

• New Zealand Conformance System Strategy:
  - sets aspirations and a plan for the conformance system
  - addresses opportunities in conformance
  - is designed to assist accreditation, conformity assessment bodies and other organisations, agencies and people involved in conformance
  - sets out actions to sustain a trusted, reliable and high quality conformance system
Case study

• 4 Focus areas of Conformance System Strategy:

  1. Organisational performance
     ▪ Strengthen connections and coordination across NQI bodies

  2. Regulatory quality and practice
     ▪ Capability and visibility building on good regulatory practice for mandatory conformity assessment procedures

  3. Partnerships for skills and value
     ▪ Growing value proposition, adoption of technology and NQI workforce development

  4. International connections
     ▪ Contributing to good practice internationally and advancing trade
Case study – 3 GRP categories in practice

1. **Internal government coordination of rulemaking activity**
   - NQI peak coordination group (NZ Standards, Accreditation & Metrology Group)
   - NZ Government Regulatory Practice Initiative (G-Reg)

2. **Regulatory impact assessment (RIA)**
   - RIA requirements apply to regulatory proposals considered by Cabinet (central decision-making body of executive government)
   - Mandatory standards/CAPs in scope of RIA requirements

3. **Public consultation mechanisms**
   - NZ Conformance System Strategy underpinned by public consultation mechanisms – research interviews, survey, public consultation document and workshops
   - NZ Government Expectations for GRP include expectations for public consultation
The New Zealand Conformance System Strategy and more information are available at: www.mbie.govt.nz/conformance