



STANDARDS AUSTRALIA LIMITED

## SDAC COMMUNIQUE

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT & ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

### Highlights from the 29 October 2020 SDAC Meeting

If you have any feedback please email [mail@standards.org.au](mailto:mail@standards.org.au)

#### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 29 OCTOBER 2020 SDAC MEETING

##### 1. STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

- 1.1 Sector Advisory and Other Forums Update
- 1.2 Mandatory vs guidance aspects of SG-006 *Rules for the Structure and Drafting of Australian Standards*
- 1.3 Technical Governance Review - Implementation Plan Update FY2021 and benefits realisation
- 1.4 Production / Portfolio Update – Overview
- 1.5 Aged Standards Review

##### 2. SDO ACCREDITATION

- 2.1 SDO Update

##### 3. OTHER MATTERS

- 3.1 Committee Annual Performance Review

#### FORUMS HELD BETWEEN JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2020

##### 1. Nominating Organisation "Virtual Connection" Events

In September 2020, SA hosted a series of Nominating Organisation forums as we have done for the last seven years. This year due to COVID-19, we held a series of virtual events.

The Nominating Organisation forums are a valuable opportunity to understand our nominating organisations' issues and challenges and provide them with key updates on initiatives. This year's discussions focused on standards development, engagement, and learning development.

Quality feedback was received from participants, and lessons learnt in respect of delivery.

##### 2. Critical Minerals

SA has been working with stakeholders in the area of critical minerals.

In August, two briefing sessions were held to provide background on a proposal for an ISO New Standardization Area for Critical Minerals.

SA received strong support for the proposal.

##### 3. Hydrogen

SA hosted a discussion with key hydrogen stakeholders to progress actions in this emerging area of standards development work.

A draft hydrogen roadmap for standards development opportunities was presented, including:

- Committee structure to manage the development of standards development work relevant to hydrogen, which includes technical committees and working groups, and ongoing coordination mechanisms
- Immediate priorities for standards development projects

The roadmap will act as an engagement tool for government and industry alike, to provide the committee with feedback and interact as priorities change.

##### 4. Cyber Security

Following previous updates, SA's Cyber Security Standards taskforce with AustCyber and the NSW Government held the final task force meeting in September 2020.

The task force brought together leading experts from the defence, energy, health, financial services, and education sectors to deliver a baseline framework and new guidance strategies.

SA also convened several taskforce meetings over six months, with task force representatives across seven industry sectors.

Participants identified opportunities comprising the adoption of international standards, developing new handbooks, and market support mechanisms. SA will also be mapping material for each sector to be delivered more dynamically.

##### 5. Cranes

In July, SA held a meeting with the technical committee and industry to review the catalogue of aged standards. The purpose of the workshop was to agree on:

- The standards development work
- International adoptions that would replace some of the national content
- The work program for delivery

As a result of the forum, there is a work program for approximately 30 projects (revisions, identical and modified adoptions) agreed, and which is being progressed.

## 6. Swimming Pool Barriers

AS 1926.1 Swimming Pool Safety - Safety Barriers for Swimming Pools is a standard that attracts significant industry and public interest. Also, several coronial investigations (most recently, in VIC, NSW and WA) refer to the standard, and the National Construction Code and various state/territory regulations reference the standard.

The recent revision project commenced in 2017, and despite SA's best efforts, we were unable to reach consensus on the technical requirements.

In August and September, SA held a series of stakeholder discussions to reset and establish a clear delivery plan.

## 7. Intelligent Transport Systems

In August 2020, SA with Austroads and Intelligent Transport Systems Australia held a joint forum to accelerate the adoption of Intelligent Transport Systems standards in Australia.

The purpose of the forum was to identify:

- Priority areas for the transport sector in terms of Intelligent Transport Systems
- Identify international standards for immediate adoption
- Peer review technical group to progress the adoptions

As a result of the forum, we have a work program to progress the work.

If you would like any more information on these forums, please contact our Stakeholder Engagement team on [sem@standards.org.au](mailto:sem@standards.org.au)

### 1.2 Mandatory vs guidance aspects of SG-006 *Rules for the Structure and Drafting of Australian Standards*

Standards Australia Standardisation Guide 6 *Rules for the structure and drafting of Australian Standards* (SG-006) specifies rules for the structure and drafting of Australian Standards and joint Australian/New Zealand Standards.

Over recent years, Standards Australia has ensured the editorial team has consistently applied SG-006 to all drafts Australian/New Zealand Standards. Whilst this practice has increased consistency across our projects, it has also been subject of strong criticism from various industries and stakeholders, primarily that some of the rules do not support their sector needs and make comprehension of standards difficult.

Noting some level of consistency and certain rules and policies are critical in ensuring the integrity of the role of a standard, many aspects within the policy can be relaxed to allow for greater flexibility and enable technical committees to deliver on their sector needs.

The SA Publishing team has worked through the document to identify both policy and drafting principles that ought to be mandatory and at the meeting SDAC agreed that, with the exception of those mandatory aspects, all other provisions within SG-006, be of a voluntary/guidance nature.

More details will be made available to Committees via their Project Managers when the changes to SG-006 are implemented in the coming weeks.

### 1.3

#### Technical Governance Review - Implementation Plan Update FY2021 and benefits realisation

In 2017, Standards Australia's Board committed to a thorough program of review of our Technical, Company and Accreditation governance arrangements.

The Technical Governance Review (TGR) led by independent consultants CRK was undertaken through 2017 and 2018. A final report was released in April 2018 by CRK, and Standards Australia released its response shortly after.

Several priorities were addressed in the response, with a clear focus on the six main steps of the standards development process, supported by a three-tiered reform approach. In response to the recommendations, SA committed to a yearly Implementation Plan to address key focus areas.

The implementation plan for FY19 and FY20 saw a number of initiatives delivered, such as:

- Release of the first phase of the new contributor platform "Connect"
- The pilot for a new online Public Comment platform
- Monthly projects proposal process
- Kick-off workshops across all projects
- Mid-project surveys across all projects to identify and ascertain any early issues and provide feedback on Standards Australia's performance
- Policy review on appointment, tenure and performance of Committee Chairs
- Independent facilitators and technical writers in place to provide assistance on complex technical committees. A framework and criteria on how to apply these resources has been developed and rolled out with resources in place supporting committees in need.

Throughout the program, SA committed to update our stakeholders on progress of the work, as well as SDAC, as many of the initiatives drive policy changes that ought to be reviewed / approved by SDAC.

More details are available at this [link](#).

### 1.4

#### Production / Portfolio Update – Overview

SDAC regularly monitors the performance of the SD portfolio. For the October 2020 meeting, the following highlights were presented, with the full report attached for information.

##### FY20/21 Forecast

- Publication target 403 (FY19/20 target = 329; Actual = 372)
- Uplift in ISO Identical Adoptions (IDT)
- Project success rate of 85% (FY19/20 target = 85%; Actual = 72%)

##### Portfolio Overview

- Joint Australian Standards 24%, below year on year averages of 30%
- Improvements seen in target durations for Medium and Complex projects
- Elevated "Not Kicked Off" due to the progression of International Adoptions (40)
- Forecast "Variance" of -24 as expected for 1st quarter due to IDT estimated forecast

##### Projects at risk and over maximum durations

- At Risk reductions – 15% to 7%
- Over Max reductions – 15% to 10%

## PRODUCTION PORTFOLIO UPDATE AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

### 1. Dashboard Report

#### Number of Publications for FY 2020-21

Forecast:	379	Target:	403	Variance:	(24)
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#### Number of Publications for Year to Date

Actual:	68	Target:	99	Variance:	(31)
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#### Average Project Duration for all Active Projects (in Months)

Forecast:	17.4	Target:	16.2	Variance:	(1.2)
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#### Number of Active Projects

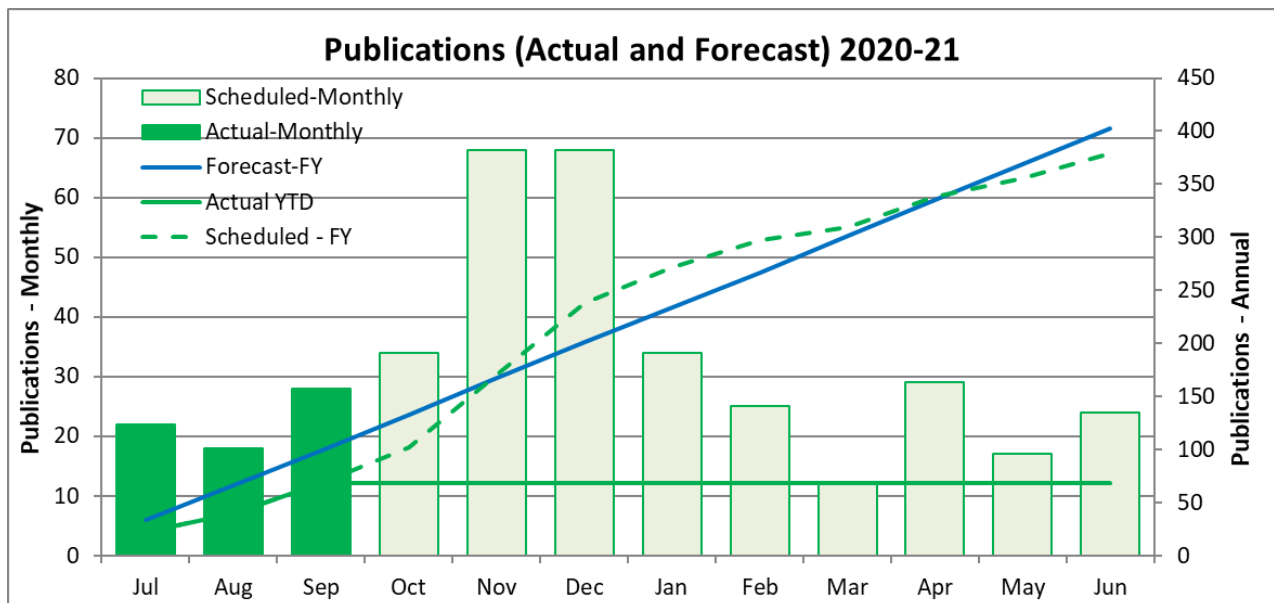
502	Kicked off:	398	Not Kicked Off:	104
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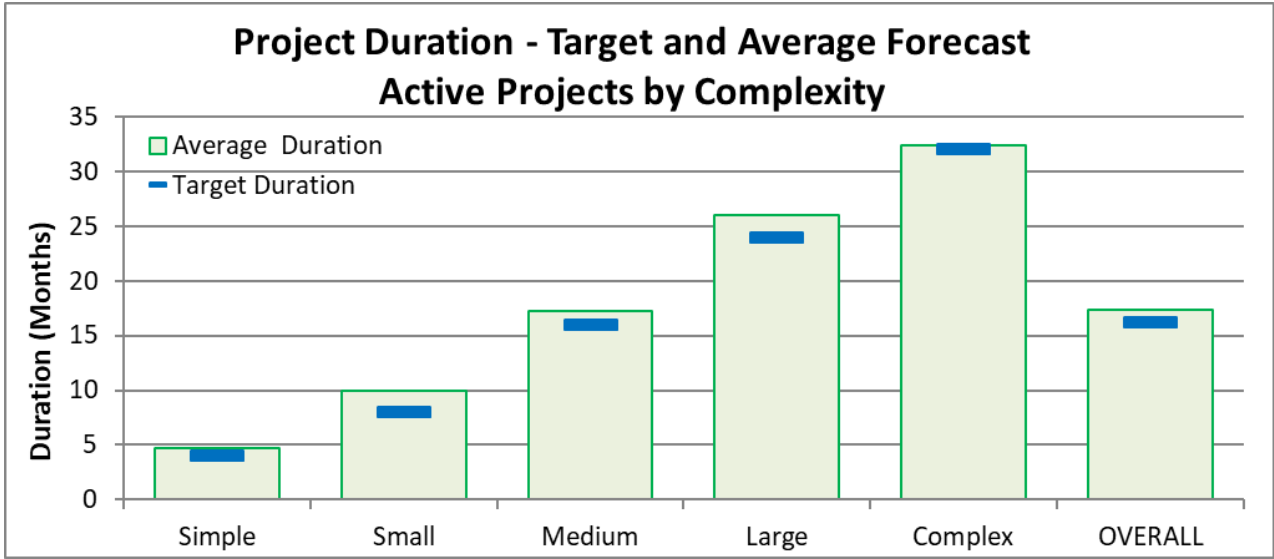
#### Notes:

1Forecast Values (Number of Publications, Project Durations) are derived from Project Schedules at the date of the report.

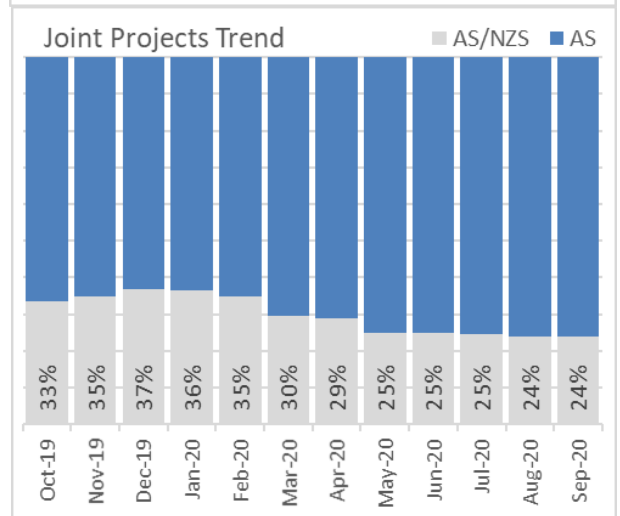
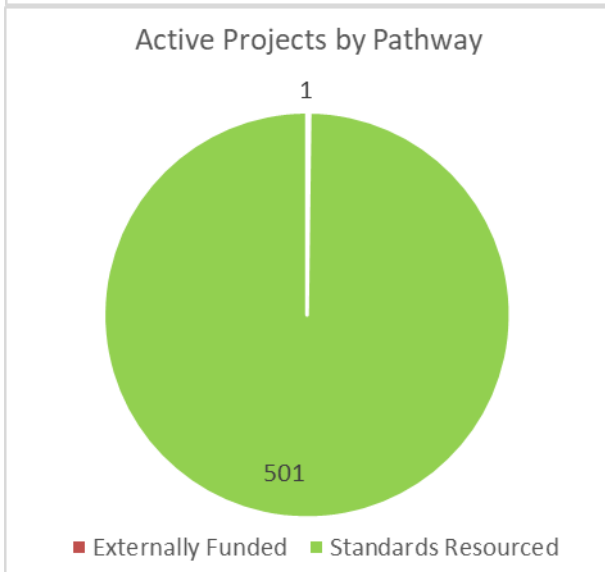
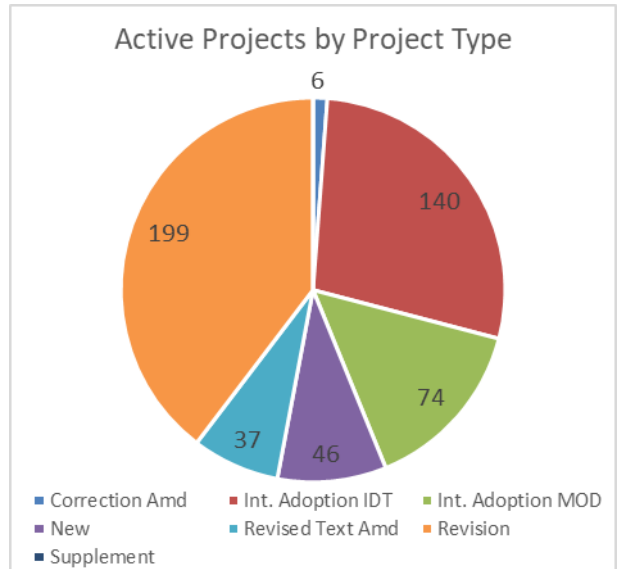
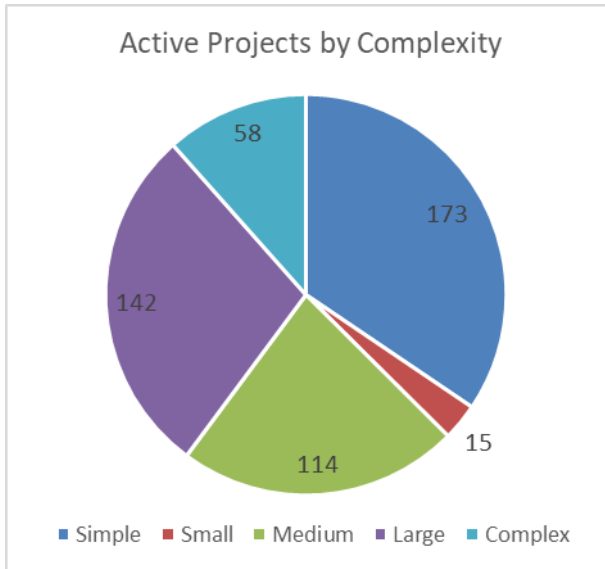
2The number of Actual Publications includes Standards, Handbooks, Amendments, International adoptions, etc. The number excludes items such as Reconfirmations and Withdrawals.

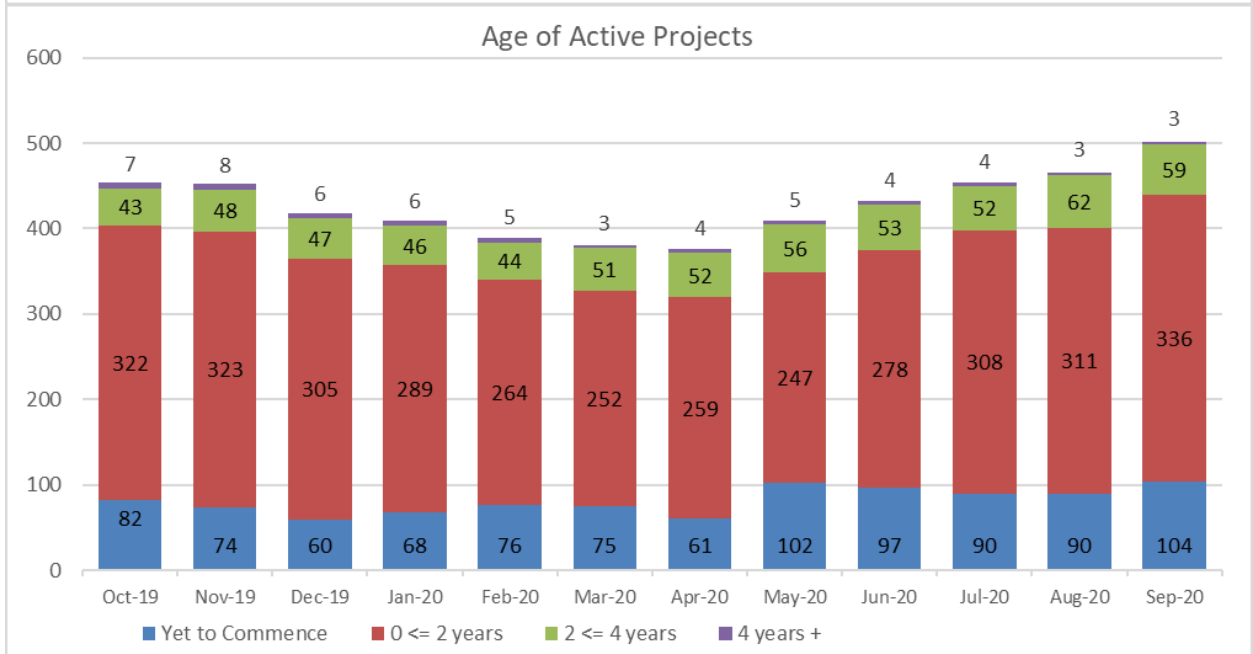
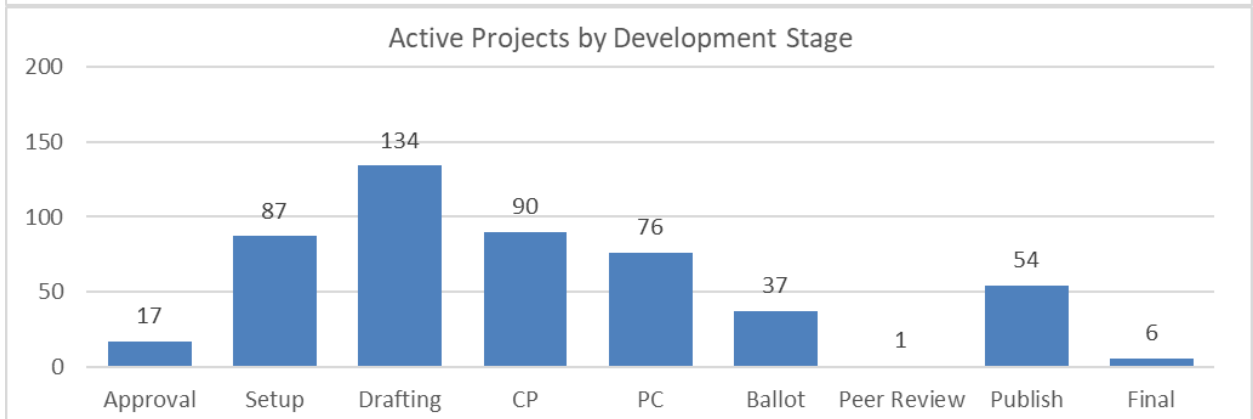
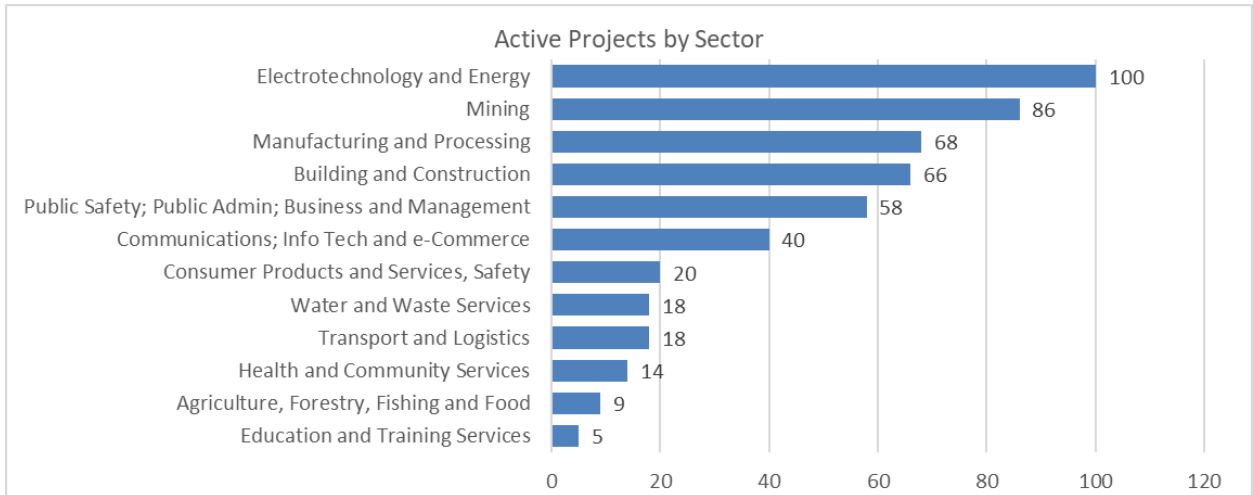
3The Target for 'Average Project Duration' may vary from month to month due to changes in the overall portfolio of SD projects. The target is a weighted average according to project complexity.





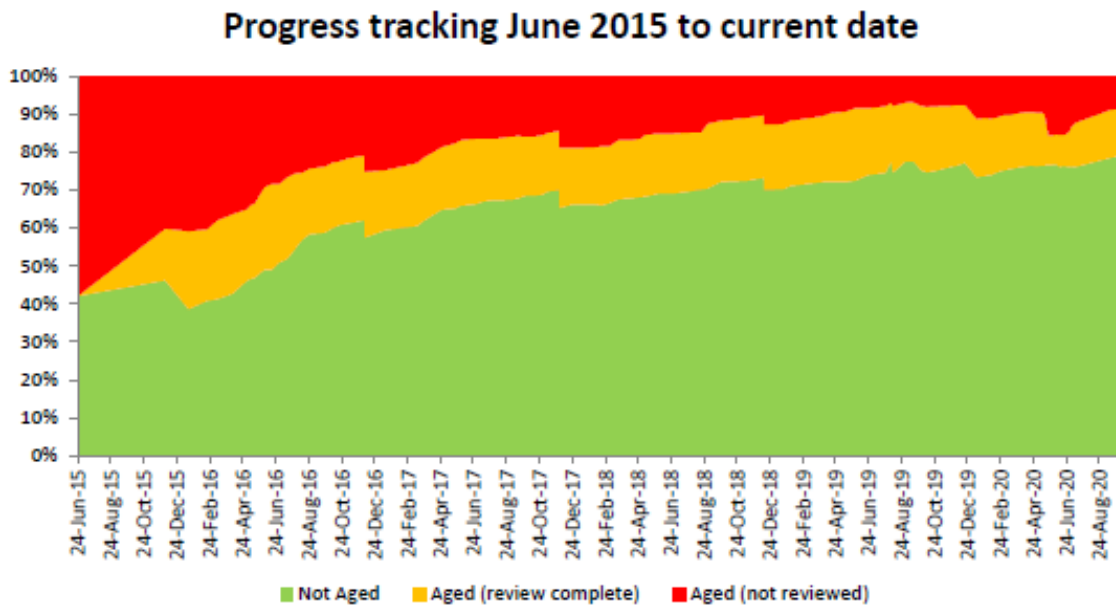
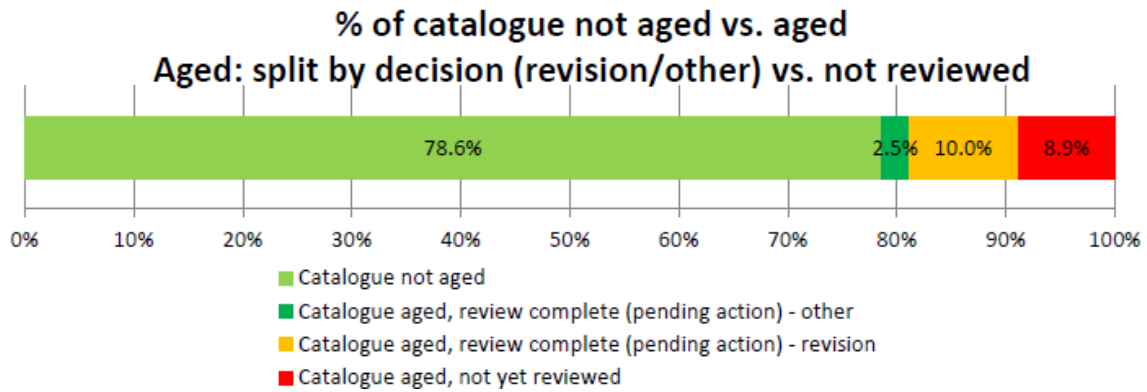
## 2. Portfolio Overview





## 1.5 Aged Standards Review

SDAC regularly monitors the currency of the SD catalogue. For the October 2020 meeting, a snapshot of the current position and the progress to date was presented.



SDAC also noted that a systematic review system is being developed to further streamline the process and ensure the reviews occur every 5 years as opposed to 10 years.

## 2.1 SDO Update

Congratulations to the Fisheries Research Development Corporation who in September 2020 successfully completed their annual accreditation audit of 2020.

If you are interested in exploring opportunities to become an accredited SDO please contact [sem@standards.org.au](mailto:sem@standards.org.au) for more information.



### 3.1 Committee Annual Performance Review

As part of its commitment to ensuring superior governance throughout the organisation, the Standards Australia Board and all Board Committees undertake a formal evaluation of their performance at least annually. The outcome of all Committee evaluations are reported back to the Board.

Some of the areas discussed included:

- Providing opportunities for the Chair of the technical committees to present on behalf of Committees if there is a request for an exemption to a requirement in a Standardisation Guide
- Continuing to consider areas to improve policy and procedures. The Committee noted SDOs welcoming the “lighter” review of organisations who do not have active projects underway.

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