

## **Draft Proposal from Ridley to the Productivity Commission's Infrastructure Report.**

This submission supports the submission made by Building Smart Australia (bSA) in support of wider take-up of Building Information Modelling (BIM).

Ridley and Co ([www.ridleyco.com](http://www.ridleyco.com)) is one of Australia's leading Virtual Design and Construction (VDC) and Architecture and Engineering documentation (AE) firms. Our project work varies from major gas works (e.g., the Gorgon project in WA), hospital work, rail and other infrastructure projects, and major office work across Australia. Our clients are many of the leading infrastructure & construction companies, architects and investors.

We urged that the Productivity Commission consider the practical challenges associated with the rollout of BIM.

### Observations on the Draft Infrastructure Report

The observations in the draft PC Report suggests that the evidence is persuasive concerning the merits of BIM, lean production and smarter ways of working to drive productivity improvement.

But the case is made that there is no cause for to make any specific recommendations, as the market seems to be sorting things out.

Yet there is a plethora of State & Federal, and Health and Defence and other BIM guidelines. We consider the inconsistency in varying standards and guidelines to cause confusion.

We believe from our own feedback from clients that a significant problem is present due to inconsistent definition, imprecision in wording, etc. Such deficiencies has practical importance. The problem is not merely that there's different wording here and there.

The problem created is causing significant inefficiency in the building and infrastructure industries.

The fragmented and 'what's best me' attitude from the design and supply chain in the industry allows the non-consistent approach to delivery and hence the overall business value of BIM is significantly diminished.

Other countries implementing BIM processes and guideline have developed it through a top down approach with 'buy in' from federal government bodies, institutions, local government and on to a mandate to delivery teams of consultants and contractors. A similar and organised approach to the definition and contractual requirements delivering the BIM process has to happen.

Thus we support the bSA representations in their submission that "There are hundreds of different building information models being built, each for a specific purpose. Support from the Government is required so that the roll out of BIM is accompanied by unified standards across the Australian Commonwealth, States and Territories. Importantly, it is also about these standards being set by Government in collaboration with industry to maximise competition in the property, building and construction markets and maximise the effective use of public funds."