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CABLE RECALL HIGHLIGHTS THE DANGERS AND COST OF NON-CONFORMING PRODUCTS

“The national recall today by the ACCC of installed electrical cable will cost tens of millions of dollars and is another example of the risks to the community of non-conforming products,” Innes Willox, Chief Executive of the Australian Industry Group said today.

“Ai Group supports the ACCC’s action which involves replacing accessible installed cable in an estimated 40,000 homes and businesses. The ACCC and other regulatory agencies involved in the recall are acting responsibly to prevent the much more serious problems that would arise from deteriorating electrical insulation – such as much higher risks of fire and electrical accidents in homes and buildings over the coming years,” Mr Willox said.

“Enforcement of standards and regulations is a part of the conformance framework that is seldom applied to general building and construction products. As long as there is a significant presence of non-conforming products in the Australian building and construction market, consumers, employees and businesses will continue to face risks including around safety, business sustainability and long-term asset values.

“Ai Group’s recently published report – *“The quest for a level playing field: The non-conforming building products dilemma”* – revealed the widespread use of non-conforming products across the building and construction sector. This report specifically highlighted concerns that sub-standard cable and other non-conforming building products could jeopardise consumer and employee safety, detract from long-term asset values; and impact negatively on Australian businesses.

“Ai Group has been leading a multi-stage project with industry stakeholders to investigate and address non-conforming products in Australian building and construction supply chains. To increase engagement across the industry in the project we have formed the Construction Products Alliance. The Alliance has developed five priority areas for action around research, certification, surveillance, engagement and education.

“Given the scale of the problem, Ai Group believes that engagement of all stakeholders and commitment to address the problems is needed. We acknowledge there may be no quick fix, but ongoing action is needed to rectify the problems presented by non-conforming products across the economy,” Mr Willox said.

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