

STATEMENT ON THE CONSISTENT USE OF TERMINOLOGY

DECEMBER 2024

SUMMARY

The Australasian BIM Advisory Board (ABAB) formed the Terminology Working Group to address inconsistencies in terminology across different organisations and jurisdictions, and the use of interchangeable terms with identical meanings. Through the Terminology Working Group, a comprehensive review of documentation from organisations such as Transport for NSW, Queensland Health, and the Victorian Digital Asset Strategy demonstrated a strong alignment with ISO 19650 terminology, which can be applied to all assets. The working group concluded that in recent years client organisations such as those involved in ABAB have adopted ISO 19650 terminology in their BIM requirements, effectively addressing the issue of inconsistent terminology.

Background

Inconsistent use of terminology across professions, organisations, and jurisdictions has historically caused confusion and hindered clarity in the implementation of BIM requirement documents. To address this, ABAB formed the Terminology Working Group with the dual purpose of:

- Addressing inconsistencies in terminology across different organisations and jurisdictions.
- Providing leadership and clarity around terminology standardisation.

Analysis

The working group adopted ISO 19650 terminology as the benchmark for a matrix-style analysis. This involved reviewing BIM requirements and documentation from key organisations, including Transport for NSW, Queensland Health and the Victorian Digital Asset Strategy. The analysis identified interchangeable terms and assessed their alignment with ISO 19650 definitions.

Outcome

The review found that the documents examined were, in large part, already aligned with ISO 19650 terminology. These organisations had updated their BIM documentation in recent years to reflect ISO 19650 standards, indicating that the issue of inconsistent terminology has been significantly mitigated through organisations alignment with ISO 19650 terminology.

Conclusion

The working group agreed that whilst the use of interchangeable terminology may still be occurring at the project documentation level, client organisations have already moved to resolve this issue with the adoption of ISO 19650 terminology within their BIM requirements documents.

The working group agreed that a matrix document would not be published, as there are already existing resources that define terminology, such as ISO 19650 and the Glossary Appendix A of the NATSPEC National BIM Guide.

In lieu of the matrix, this statement serves to inform industry that the working group's review confirms alignment with ISO 19650 terminology among ABAB client organisations. This alignment reflects ABAB's role in leading the industry toward consistent and standardised terminology practices.