

NATIONAL
COMPETITION
COUNCIL



2026-27 Work plan



Work Plan for the National Competition Council for 2026-27

Version	Date endorsed by National Competition Policy Oversight Committee
1.0	1 April 2025
2.0	29 July 2026

The NCC is an independent Commonwealth Statutory agency that operates in accordance with Part IIA of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (CCA) and this Annual Work Plan is determined in accordance with clauses 46 to 53 of the *Intergovernmental Agreement on National Competition Policy* (IGA).

Table 1 describes the functions of the NCC under the CCA, the IGA and the *Federation Funding Agreement – Affordable Housing, Community Services and Other – National Competition Policy Schedule* (FFA Schedule), and requirements for the 2026-27 Annual Work Plan. This Annual Work Plan covers the period from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.

Table 1 – Functions of the NCC

Function	Reference	Description	Required action	Timing
National Access Regime				
National Access Regime	Part IIIA, CCA	To make recommendations under the National Access Regime in Part IIIA of the CCA and recommendations and decisions under the National Gas Access (Western Australia) Law.	Advice	Demand-driven requirement
NCP – National Reform Agenda				
Assessment of Jurisdiction-specific Reform Plans (JSRPs)	Clause 15, FFA Schedule	The Commonwealth may request advice from the NCC to assist it in assessing and providing advice on a State or Territory Party's JSRPs.	Advice	Demand-driven requirement

Function	Reference	Description	Required action	Timing
as requested by the Commonwealth				
Binding advice on reform implementation	Clauses 25 – 33, FFA Schedule	States and territories that are parties to the FFA Schedule may request the NCC to provide and publish final binding advice on whether – and to what extent – that party’s proposed implementation approach for performance elements that will have no guidelines or will be different from approved guidelines would likely meet the commitments set out in the FFA Schedule.	Advice	Demand-driven requirement
Annual assessment of reform implementation by Parties	Clauses 44-59, FFA Schedule	To assess the extent to which each Party has delivered their commitments in accordance with their bilateral schedule and provide advice on whether each State and Territory Party is eligible to receive payments for its reform efforts, and to publish this advice.	Report	No later than 31 October each year (subject to approved extensions of time)
Review of mutual recognition arrangements for workers	Section 29B(1)(b) of the CCA Terms of Reference	Review to assess how mutual recognition arrangements for workers (including automatic mutual recognition) are enhancing productivity, supporting workforce flexibility, and expanding consumer choice. Findings will help to identify unnecessary occupational licensing barriers and inform national approaches to occupational licensing under the NCP single national market for workers reform.	Advice	By 14 August 2026

Function	Reference	Description	Required action	Timing
NCP – National Competition Principles				
Advice on implementation of Principles	Clause 21, IGA	Parties to the IGA may request advice on the application of the National Competition Principles.	Advice	Demand-driven requirement
Thematic reviews of Principles	Clause 44(b)(i), IGA	After engaging with states and territories, the NCC is expected to undertake and publish thematic reviews of how one or more Principles are being applied in practice.	Develop a plan for undertaking thematic reviews, to be shared with all Parties	By 31 December 2026
NCP - Education				
Education and communication	Clause 44(c), IGA	The NCC has a role in educating the public on the value of competition and competition policy reform and advocating for ongoing progress for National Competition Policy.	Develop a communication and engagement plan to be shared with all Parties Undertake communication and engagement in accordance with plan	By 30 September 2026 2026
NCP – Reporting				
Reporting	Clause 45, IGA	The NCC is required to provide (a) regular updates to the National Competition Oversight Committee, and (b) an annual update to Heads of Treasuries (HoTs) and Council on Federal Financial Relations (CFFR) on its work relating to National Competition Policy.	Attend relevant meetings Provide updates as requested	(a) As requested (b) Annually

Function	Reference	Description	Required action	Timing
			Provide an annual report to HoTs and CFFR	
Other				
Research and advice	Section 29B(1) of the CCA	Upon referral by the Commonwealth Minister, the NCC will carry out research and provide advice on other matters.	Provide research and advice	As requested
Reporting for the purpose of exceptions from the Competition Laws	Clause 30, IGA	Where a Party to the IGA enacts legislation that relies on section 51 of the CCA, the Commonwealth will request the NCC to examine and report on matters specified in clause 30 of the IGA to enable the Commonwealth Minister to table the Commonwealth Parliament regulations made for the purposes of section 51(1C)(f) of the CCA in respect of that legislation.	Provide advice	As requested
Other conferred functions	Sections 29B(2)-(2B) of the CCA	The NCC may be requested to undertake other functions and powers as conferred on it by a law of the Commonwealth, or a law of a state or territory, subject to the agreement by the majority of Parties (this does not apply to s29BA of the CCA).	n/a	As requested