DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

PUBLIC NOTICE

NATIONAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION BILL 2026

Seeking Stakeholder Views on Proposed Consolidation and Modernisation of Papua New Guinea's Consumer Protection and Competition Laws

The Department of Treasury invites businesses, industry associations, consumers, government departments, statutory authorities, State-Owned Enterprises, professional bodies, development partners, civil society organisations, academic institutions and interested members of the public to participate in the national public consultation process on the Draft Competition and Consumer Protection Bill 2026 (Draft CCP Bill).

The Draft CCP Bill is a major component of the Government's National Consumer and Competition Reform Program and represents the principal legislative reform arising from Papua New Guinea's National Competition Policy (NCP), which was developed following the earlier Consumer and Competition Framework Review (CCFR).

The reform program forms part of the Government's broader economic reform agenda aimed at strengthening competition, improving consumer welfare, promoting efficient markets and supporting private sector development. Consistent with the National Competition Policy, the Draft CCP Bill seeks to consolidate and modernise competition and consumer protection provisions currently dispersed across multiple laws administered by different government agencies and sectors.

The proposed reforms are intended to establish a dedicated Competition and Consumer Protection Act that provides a modern, coherent and effective framework for promoting competition, protecting consumers, supporting investment and innovation, improving market transparency and enhancing regulatory effectiveness.

The consultation process provides stakeholders with an opportunity to review the proposed reforms, assess their likely impacts and provide informed feedback on the suitability of the proposed framework for Papua New Guinea's economic, legal, regulatory and institutional circumstances.

The Department of Treasury is leading this reform initiative with technical assistance provided through the Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI). The consultation process is supported through a partnership arrangement involving the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Department of Treasury and the Independent Consumer and Competition Commission (ICCC).

The Government recognises that competitive markets, effective competition policies and strong consumer protection arrangements are fundamental to sustainable economic growth, private sector development, investment confidence and consumer welfare. Stakeholder participation is therefore an essential component of the reform process.

WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT REVIEWING THE LAW?

Papua New Guinea's competition and consumer protection framework has largely been governed by the Independent Consumer and Competition Commission Act 2002 and various sector-specific legislation for more than two decades.

During this period, Papua New Guinea's economy has evolved significantly. Markets have become increasingly interconnected, business practices have become more sophisticated, technological developments have transformed commercial transactions and consumers are engaging in new forms of trade and commerce.

These developments have highlighted the need to ensure that Papua New Guinea's legislative framework remains effective, contemporary and capable of responding to current and emerging economic and regulatory challenges.

The Government's review identified that competition and consumer protection provisions are currently dispersed across multiple legislative instruments administered by different government agencies and sectors. This fragmented framework can create inconsistencies in legal coverage, overlap in regulatory responsibilities, administrative complexity and uncertainty for businesses, consumers and regulators.

The Government therefore considers that reform is necessary to establish a clearer, more coherent and modern framework for competition and consumer protection.

The proposed reforms seek to ensure that Papua New Guinea's competition and consumer protection framework:

- remains fit for purpose in a modern economy;
- promotes fair and efficient competition;
- supports investment and private sector development;
- enhances consumer confidence;
- addresses anti-competitive business practices;
- strengthens protections for consumers;
- provides effective compliance and enforcement mechanisms;
- improves regulatory certainty; and
- reflects relevant international developments and good regulatory practice while remaining appropriate to Papua New Guinea's local circumstances.

The Government has not yet made final decisions on all aspects of the proposed reforms. Feedback received during the consultation process will assist in refining the proposed legislative framework before final consideration by Government.

WHAT DOES THE DRAFT BILL PROPOSE?

The Draft Competition and Consumer Protection Bill proposes a comprehensive modern legislative framework for competition and consumer protection in Papua New Guinea.

The Draft Bill is intended to consolidate consumer protection and competition provisions currently contained in a number of legislative instruments administered by different government agencies and sectors into a dedicated Competition and Consumer Protection Act.

As part of this process, substantial consumer protection and competition provisions currently contained within the Independent Consumer and Competition Commission Act 2002 and other legislation will be reviewed, modernised, transferred, repealed, replaced or harmonised through consequential legislative amendments.

The reform is intended to establish a clearer legislative distinction between:

- laws governing competition and consumer protection matters; and

- laws governing the establishment, administration and institutional functions of the Independent Consumer and Competition Commission.

Under the proposed framework, the Competition and Consumer Protection Act would become the principal legislation governing competition and consumer protection matters in Papua New Guinea.

The ICCC Act would continue to be retained as the primary legislation governing the establishment, governance, administration and institutional functions of the ICCC, including matters relating to:

- economic regulation responsibilities;
- regulated entities;
- regulated goods and services;
- licensing and regulatory functions;
- appeals arrangements;
- appeals panels; and
- related administrative and institutional responsibilities.

The ICCC would continue to administer and enforce both legislative frameworks.

The Bill seeks to promote competitive markets, strengthen consumer rights, modernise regulatory arrangements and improve the administration and enforcement of competition and consumer protection laws.

This will provide Papua New Guinea with a more coherent, modern and effective legal framework for regulating market conduct, protecting consumers and promoting competition across the economy.

WHAT WILL NOT CHANGE?

The proposed reforms are not intended to abolish the Independent Consumer and Competition Commission nor remove its role as Papua New Guinea's national competition and consumer protection regulator.

The ICCC will continue to administer and enforce competition and consumer protection legislation under the legislative framework enacted by Parliament.

The ICCC Act will continue to provide for the establishment, governance, administration and functions of the Commission, including its economic regulation responsibilities, regulated entities, regulated goods and services, appeals arrangements and related institutional matters.

Existing economic regulation arrangements administered by the ICCC are not the primary subject of the Draft CCP Bill and will continue to operate under the relevant legislative framework unless amended separately through future legislative processes.

The reforms are intended to strengthen, modernise and clarify the legislative framework, while maintaining continuity in the regulatory role and functions of the ICCC.

Regional Consultation Program

The national consultation program will be conducted from **07-30 September 2026** across Papua New Guinea's four regions.

Southern Region – Port Moresby (National Capital District)

Date	Activity
9 September 2026	Public Consultation Workshop
10 September 2026	Targeted Stakeholder Sessions (Businesses, SOEs, Provincial Governments, Regulatory Agencies and Consumer Representatives)

New Guinea Islands Region – Kokopo (East New Britain)

Date	Activity
15 September 2026	Public Consultation Workshop
17 September 2026	Targeted Stakeholder Sessions (Businesses, SMEs, Provincial Governments, Regulatory Agencies and Consumer Representatives)

Momase Region – Lae (Morobe Province)

Date	Activity
23 September 2026	Public Consultation Workshop
24 September 2026	Targeted Stakeholder Sessions (Businesses, SMEs, Provincial Governments, Regulatory Agencies and Consumer Representatives)

Highlands Region – Mt Hagen (Western Highlands Province)

Date	Activity
29 September 2026	Public Consultation Workshop
30 September 2026	Targeted Stakeholder Sessions (Businesses, SMEs, Provincial Governments, Regulatory Agencies and Consumer Representatives)

SUBMISSIONS AND ENQUIRIES

The Department of Treasury, through the Consumer and Competition Framework Improvement Management Committee (CCFIMC), is leading the implementation of the National Consumer and Competition Reform Program.

The CCFIMC provides strategic direction, oversight and monitoring of the reform program. The Committee is supported by a Secretariat, which coordinates the Legal Work Stream Team (Technical Working Group) responsible for progressing legislative reform activities, stakeholder engagement and the public consultation process for the Draft Competition and Consumer Protection Bill 2026.

Businesses, consumers, government agencies, statutory authorities, industry associations, professional bodies, academic institutions, civil society organisations, development partners and interested members of the public are invited to provide written comments, submissions and recommendations on the Draft Competition and Consumer Protection Bill 2026.

Submissions should clearly identify the relevant provision, issue or policy matter being addressed and, where possible, provide supporting reasons, proposed amendments or alternative approaches.

Comments and recommendations may be provided on any aspect of the proposed reforms, including competition provisions, consumer protection provisions, institutional arrangements, enforcement mechanisms, consequential legislative amendments, transitional arrangements and implementation issues.

Feedback received through the consultation process will assist the Department of Treasury, the CCFIMC and the Legal Work Stream Team in refining the proposed legislative framework before final consideration by Government.

SUBMISSION CHANNELS

The draft Competition and Consumer Protection Bill 2026 will be made available on the Department of Treasury website for public review and comment. Supporting documents, including the Consumer and Competition Framework Reform (CCFR) Report and its recommendations, the National Competition Policy, and other relevant reform and policy documents, will also be accessible on the Treasury website to provide stakeholders with the necessary background and context for informed feedback on the proposed legislation.

Written submissions should be addressed to:

Mr. John Uware
Deputy Secretary and Chair, CCFIMC
Department of Treasury
P O Box 542
Waigani, National Capital District

Submissions may be sent by post to the above address, hand-delivery or by email to daniel_agiru@treasury.gov.pg clearly marked "Competition and Consumer Protection Bill Consultation Submission."

For further information or enquiries regarding the consultation process, please contact **Mr. Daniel Agiru**, Acting Assistant Secretary, Consumer Protection and Competition Policy Branch, on 3133 524 or email above.

All submissions must be received by **Friday, 16 October 2026.**

Authorized by:

ANDREW F. OAEKE
Secretary