



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

National Implementation Plan

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

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Executive Summary

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are chemicals that are persistent, bioaccumulative, subject to long-range transport in the environment, and cause adverse effects on human health or the environment. The main objective of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Convention) is to protect human health and the environment from the harmful effects of POPs.

Australia signed the Convention in 2001 and ratified it in 2004. The Convention entered into force for Australia on 18 August 2004. The purpose of this National Implementation Plan (the Plan) is to inform the Conference of the Parties and the public about how the obligations of the Stockholm Convention are being implemented in Australia. This Plan also describes the broader strategic and regulatory settings in Australia and intended environment protection reforms, as they apply to chemicals management.

The first section of this Plan provides an overview and describes the shared responsibilities in Australia for implementing regulatory systems that ensure the environmentally sound management of POPs.

Ongoing actions are then articulated, ranging from eliminating certain pollutants from production and use, through to community education, research, monitoring, reporting and evaluating the effectiveness of the Convention.

The Plan concludes with a summary of the responsibilities of various government organisations with respect to administering the Convention, and Australia's role in providing technical assistance and financial resources.

Successful implementation of this Plan will continue to require collaboration and cooperation across all levels of government in Australia. It is intended that this Plan is not a static document and will be continuously improved over time, endeavouring to apply a minimum review frequency of every 4 years, to align with national reporting obligations. This will ensure ongoing awareness and effective implementation of the Convention in Australia.

A summary of actions in this Plan is presented in [Appendix A](#).

Introduction

The Convention aims to protect human health and the environment from the effects of POPs. The Convention acts to eliminate or reduce the presence of listed chemicals in the environment and aims to prevent unintentional production of listed chemicals. Provisions also apply to the prevention and management of POPs contaminated wastes.

On ratification in 2004, Australia established control measures for the 12 POPs initially listed to the Convention. Since 2004, Parties have agreed to list an additional 22 substances under the Convention. Australia has supported these amendments at the global level, however, has not yet completed the ratification process for domestic action. In Australia, these substances are subject to existing regulatory regimes, and some were never used or manufactured in Australia or are not currently registered for use. A summary of all the substances listed to the Convention, the status of their ratification and current understanding of use in Australia is presented in [Appendix B](#).

At a national level, Australia is currently reforming chemicals management, enhancing preventative public health and preparedness, and improving regulatory oversight of environmental protection measures. Relevant initiatives include creating national standards for managing the environmental risk of industrial chemicals, creating an Australian Centre for Disease Control, and establishing an independent environmental protection agency - to be known as Environment Protection Australia (EPA).

1.1 Purpose of this National Implementation Plan

Australia, as a Party to the Convention, has agreed to develop, and endeavour to put into practice, a plan setting out how it will implement its obligations under the Convention. Australia first transmitted a National Implementation Plan to the Convention Secretariat on 10 August 2006, complying with the requirement to transmit the Plan within 2 years of the date on which the Convention entered into force for Australia.

This Plan replaces the 2006 National Implementation Plan. It describes the practices and measures implemented by Australia to protect human health and the environment from the effects of POPs listed on the Stockholm Convention.

The purpose of this Plan is to set out the actions that Australia will continue to implement, to fulfill its obligations under the Convention. The objectives include:

- protecting the health and wellbeing of Australians from the harmful effects of POPs
- conserving and protecting Australia's natural environment
- ensuring Australia's capacity to supply safe and high-quality products, and
- meeting Australia's international obligations.

The Australian Government will endeavour to update this Plan every 4 years, to align with national reporting obligations. The Plan may also be revised earlier when major policy or regulatory changes are made of material consequence to the content of the Plan, or when Australia ratifies an amendment to text or annexes of the Convention.

1.1.1 The Australian system of government

Australia has 3 levels of government – federal (the Australian Government), state and territory governments, and local governments. There are six state governments (New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia), 2 territory governments (the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory), and over 550 local government councils. There are also four non-self-governing territories for which the Australian Government performs state-level functions.

Each level of government provides different services to Australians. The Australian Government is responsible for matters that affect all Australians, such as foreign affairs, defence, immigration and trade. State and territory governments are responsible for issues that affect people within that jurisdiction, such as health care, education, public transport, and policing. Local councils operate under limited autonomy from state governments and address community-specific needs, such as municipal services and facilities.

1.1.2 Chemicals and waste management in Australia

The sound management of chemicals and waste containing POPs in Australia is a shared responsibility across all levels of government. For example, the federal government regulates the manufacture of chemicals, the import and export of chemicals and waste, negotiates, and implements international agreements at the national level, and manages chemicals and waste on federal government land.

State and territory governments implement national standards, and regulate use, handling, transport, disposal, facilities and risk management of chemicals and waste in areas under their authority. Queensland also regulates chemical manufacturing.

Local governments provide municipal waste collection and recycling operations, in accordance with relevant state or territory laws.

Although the responsibility for meeting Australia's obligations under the Stockholm Convention rests with the federal government, past actions on the chemicals covered by the Convention have been taken by all levels of government and through several ministerial councils.

1.1.3 Legislative frameworks for regulating POPs

Australia has robust and integrated legal frameworks across federal, state and territory governments to manage chemicals and waste, reflecting the different role of each jurisdiction under Australia's Constitution. These frameworks help to protect Australia's environment and human health, support industry, and safeguard against contamination. Australian laws are implemented and enforced by responsible government departments, agencies, or authorities, funded by their respective governments to establish appropriate institutional capacity to manage chemicals and waste effectively.

[Appendix C](#) summarises legal instruments that give effect to Australia's legal frameworks for the management of POPs.

1.1.4 Australia and POPs

In Australia, the historical uses of POPs primarily included:

- agricultural and veterinary chemicals (e.g., insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, parasiticides)
- industrial chemicals (e.g., solvents, coolants, lubricants, hydraulic fluids, flame retardants, fire fighting foams, textiles, packaging)
- therapeutic goods (e.g. active ingredients in human health-related formulations)

Australia's geographical isolation, declining manufacturing industry, and low population density create a dependency on imports, emphasising a reliance on globally coordinated efforts to consider and manage the use of POPs in products and articles.

Equally, Australia seeks to coordinate with other Parties to the Convention in contributing to global efforts to ensure that Australia's footprint of chemical usage is responsible and sustainable.

How Australia is managing POPs

1.2 Regulatory and assessment schemes

Covers provisions in Article 3

The Convention was drafted to be a dynamic treaty, allowing updates to the list of POPs included in the Annexes. The Convention also contains provisions that apply to all POPs throughout their lifecycle, irrespective of individual listings in the Annexes.

Article 3 of the Convention seeks for Parties to implement regulatory and assessment schemes to assess new POP chemicals, *prior to* production and use. This is with regard to the POPs characteristics described in Annex D of the Convention. Article 3 also requires that Parties consider the POPs characteristics described in Annex D of the Convention when conducting assessments of pesticides or industrial chemicals *currently* in use.

Regulatory and assessment schemes can provide a systematic approach to reducing the risk of POPs throughout their lifecycle, and to incorporating a precautionary approach.

1.2.1 Existing regulatory and assessment schemes

To achieve national consistency on cross-jurisdictional matters, the federal, state and territory governments may choose to develop an intergovernmental agreement. This mechanism has been applied for matters such as the environment, transport, health, disaster management and education.

Nationally agreed standards, codes or legislation may also be developed by the Australian Government in consultation with state and territory governments. States and territories may also initiate and lead efforts to develop a national approach. The Australian Government can provide centralised leadership, arrange consultation mechanisms, and provide ongoing stewardship of nationally agreed approaches.

Australia implements national approaches that apply to the introduction, manufacturing, use, import and export of chemicals. These schemes vary based on the chemical use, effect and/or exposure scenario. Some of these schemes are applied through intergovernmental cooperation and agreement. Key national organisations that have responsibilities relating to the management of POPs are detailed on the following pages.

The Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme

The Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS) is an independent statutory scheme of the Australian Government. The [Industrial Chemicals Act 2019](#) is the Australian law that regulates the importation and manufacture of industrial chemicals in Australia and AICIS is the regulatory scheme that administers these laws. The [Australian Inventory of Industrial Chemicals](#) is a publicly available resource that contains a database of chemicals that may be introduced (manufactured or imported) for industrial use in Australia.

The Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS) regulates chemicals that are introduced into Australia for an industrial use, conducts scientific risk assessments on the introduction and intended use of industrial chemicals, issues certificates and authorisations following

pre-market assessments of industrial chemicals and maintains the Inventory. Any chemical that meets the definition of an industrial chemical (or class of industrial chemicals) can be evaluated by AICIS.

In accordance with Article 3, AICIS has a responsibility to prevent the production and use of new chemicals which exhibit the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants and consider the POPs characteristics described in Annex D of the Convention when conducting assessments of chemicals currently in use.

For example, following coordination between AICIS and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), the assessment certificate for the flame retardant, decabromodiphenyl ethane was cancelled in 2022.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) administer some international regulatory and administrative programs, including the legislated permit system for Stockholm and Rotterdam agricultural and veterinary chemicals under the [Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals \(Administration\) Regulations 1995](#), the [Customs \(Prohibited Exports\) Regulations 1958](#) and the [Customs \(Prohibited Imports\) Regulations 1956](#). This allows Australia to fulfill the import and export obligations for pesticides, in accordance with the Stockholm Convention and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

As an independent statutory authority of the Australian Government, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) regulates agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemicals, up to, and including, the point of retail sale. Regulatory controls stipulated by the APVMA are supported by an intergovernmental agreement, with states and territories implementing legislative controls for the use of agvet chemicals.

In accordance with Article 3, the APVMA has a responsibility to regulate agvet chemicals with the aim of preventing the production and use of new chemicals which exhibit the characteristics of POPs and considers the POPs characteristics described in Annex D of the Convention when conducting assessments of chemicals currently in use. This is in addition to other regulatory requirements.

States and territories regulate the use and disposal of pesticides from the point of sale.

Australian Border Force

The Australian Border Force (ABF) is Australia's frontline border law enforcement agency and customs service and is responsible for managing and reporting the border movement of all goods across Australia's international borders. The ABF coordinates with permit-issuing agencies to implement compliance and enforcement controls for prohibited imports and exports. Some of the POPs are prohibited under both Customs legislation and specific environmental legislation, to enable the ABF to enforce the strict border controls for these chemicals.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) is responsible for implementing some international regulatory and administrative programs including prior informed consents for industrial chemicals (in accordance with the Rotterdam Convention), as well as

permitting programs for waste exports including hazardous waste (in accordance with the Basel Convention, Waigani Convention, and an agreement with Timor-Leste), and dumping of dredged material (in accordance with the London Convention).

The Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management Standard

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) also administer the Industrial Chemicals Environment Management Standard (IChEMS). IChEMS provides nationally consistent standards for effective management of industrial chemicals.

The Industrial Chemicals Environment Management Standard (IChEMS) categorises industrial chemicals in one of 7 schedules based on their risk to the environment, and assigns measures for safe use, handling, and disposal. Tighter standards are applied to activities that involve higher risk chemicals, including prohibitions and restrictions that will help give effect to obligations under Annex A and Annex B of the Convention.

Regulatory adoption of these standards ensures nationally consistent controls and makes it easier for industry to choose less harmful chemicals.

In accordance with Article 3, DCCEEW is responsible for administering IChEMS with the aim of preventing the production and use of new chemicals which exhibit the characteristics of POPs, and consider the POPs characteristics described in Annex D of the Convention when conducting assessments of chemicals currently in use.

For example, following coordination between AICIS and DCCEEW, the assessment certificate for the flame retardant, decabromodiphenyl ethane was cancelled in 2022.

State and territory environmental regulators

State and territory governments regulate use, handling, transport, disposal, facilities and risk management of chemicals and waste in areas under their authority. States and territories are also responsible for adopting and implementing IChEMS into their own regulatory frameworks.

For example, the proper environmental management of chemicals throughout their whole lifecycle is regulated under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act (1997)* (POEO Act) in NSW, and the IChEMS register has been adopted as the NSW IChEMS register.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) safeguards and enhances the health of the Australian community by regulating therapeutic goods. The TGA also manages scheduling under the Poisons Standard, which is a national classification system on how medicines and chemicals can be made available to the public. Regulatory controls stipulated by the Poisons Standard are given effect through state and territory legislation.

In accordance with Article 3, the TGA has a responsibility to regulate therapeutic goods with the aim of preventing the use of new chemicals which exhibit the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants and consider the POPs characteristics described in Annex D of the Convention when conducting assessments of chemicals currently in use.

Safe Work Australia

Safe Work Australia (SWA) is a national policy body that manages Australia's work health and safety (WHS) legislative framework and workers' compensation arrangements. SWA also maintains the Hazardous Chemical Information System (HCIS), an internet advisory service that assists duty-holders to find information on chemicals that have been classified in accordance with the Globally

Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) or which have an Australian workplace exposure standard (WES).

As a tripartite body, SWA works collaboratively with governments, employers and workers to drive national policy development on WHS and workers' compensation matters, including the management of chemicals in the workplace. To become legally binding the commonwealth, states and territories must implement these policies within their respective WHS legislation.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is an independent statutory agency responsible for protecting public health and safety by ensuring a safe food supply in partnership with food, agricultural and health authorities in Australia and New Zealand. Regulatory controls stipulated by FSANZ are adopted by state and territory legislation.

1.2.2 Future regulatory and assessment schemes

Implementation of the Nature Positive Plan and Environment Protection Australia

The Australian Government is reforming national environmental law – the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The [Nature Positive Plan](#) delivers on the Government's commitment to strengthen and streamline Australia's environmental laws in response to the *Independent Review of the EPBC Act*, undertaken by Professor Graeme Samuel AC ([the Samuel Review](#)).

The Australian Government has committed to establishing an independent national environment protection agency—to be known as Environment Protection Australia (EPA). The EPA will be responsible for:

- issuing permits and licences
- project assessments, decisions and post-approvals
- compliance and enforcement
- assuring states, territories and other Commonwealth decision makers apply National Environmental Standards under accredited arrangements.

A national environment protection agency will help to deliver better environment protections including through strengthened enforcement and compliance, speed up decisions and restore integrity and trust. A national regulator will also help to foster greater cooperation and collaboration with state and territory environment protection agencies.

The Australian Centre for Disease Control

On 1 January 2024, the Australian Government launched an interim Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC) within the Department of Health and Aged Care. The CDC will be responsible for public health emergency preparedness, improving public health surveillance systems and building One Health and health security capabilities.

Establishing an organisation responsible for improving national coordination of public health measures will provide a strong basis to improve the health of all Australians by protecting the country from health threats. The CDC seeks to enhance nationally consistent surveillance and reporting of health outcomes, including those related to environmental health factors.

1.2.3 Overarching practices

The Stockholm Convention recognises the importance of developing and using environmentally sound alternative processes and chemicals to reduce the presence and impact of POPs. Article 3 also requires Parties to consider the POP characteristics described in Annex D of the Convention when assessing new or existing chemicals.

The [Environmental Risk Assessment Guidance Manual for industrial chemicals](#) provides governments with guidance on the environmental risk assessment of industrial chemicals. The criteria described in Annex D to the Stockholm Convention are incorporated into this overarching guidance.

1.3 Regulation of Annex A, B and C chemicals – measures to reduce or eliminate

Covers provisions in Articles 3, 5 and 6

Parties to the Convention have agreed to reduce the environmental release of chemicals listed on Annexes A, B and C of the Convention. Parties agreed to:

- completely eliminate the production and use of substances listed on Annex A, specific exemptions applying to chemicals listed on Annex A are time-limited and specific.
- restrict the production and use of chemicals listed to Annex B, while recognising continued use for a limited number of acceptable purposes.
- reduce the generation of unintentionally produced substances (listed on Annex C), unintentionally produced POPs often appear as impurities in intentionally produced chemicals, or are produced during certain activities, such as incineration of waste.
- further, measures relating to POPs in wastes, in stockpiles and at contaminated sites also apply to listed chemicals. Surplus stockpiled chemicals, contaminated materials (such as water or soil) and other wastes pose a high risk to the environment and human health during all phases of management, including handling and collection, storage, transport, and disposal.

[Appendix B](#) summarises the regulatory status of Stockholm Convention POPs in Australia.

1.3.1 Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use

Describes measures that apply to POPs ratified by Australia and appearing in Annex A or Annex B, where relevant.

Import and manufacture of chemicals

Agvet chemicals

Australian legislation prohibits the import and manufacture of aldrin, chlordane, dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT), dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene mirex and toxaphene unless the chemical is being imported for the purpose of environmentally sound disposal, or the chemical is being imported for a use or a purpose that is permitted under the Convention.

Industrial chemicals

Australian law makes it an offence to import or manufacture mirex, hexachlorobenzene or polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), unless the import or manufacture is consistent with the *Industrial Chemicals Act 2019*. Mirex, hexachlorobenzene and PCBs (except for decachlorobenzene) do not appear on the Australian Inventory of Industrial Chemicals.

In addition to controls on the import or manufacture of industrial chemicals under the *Industrial Chemicals Act 2019*, imports of all PCBs (including decachlorobiphenyl) are prohibited, *unless* permission is granted by the relevant Australian Government Minister.

Wastes

Australia is also a Party to the Basel Convention, and POPs may be considered hazardous wastes according to Australia's domestic enabling legislation, the [Hazardous Waste \(Regulation of Exports and Imports\) Act 1989](#). These laws require an importer to obtain a permit to import hazardous waste unless an exemption applies.

Use of chemicals

Agvet chemicals

The [Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994](#) and the [Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals \(Administration\) Regulations 1995](#) prohibit the use of agricultural or veterinary chemical products that are not approved by the APVMA.

The [Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals \(Administration\) Regulations 1995](#) prohibit the use of aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, mirex and toxaphene, as a pesticide or veterinary chemical.

Industrial chemicals

The use of industrial chemicals in Australia is controlled by federal, state and territory governments. As previously described (at 1.2.1), the Industrial Chemicals Environment Management Standard (IChEMS) provides a viable pathway for nationally consistent controls on use, through the scheduling of chemicals based on the magnitude of risk to the environment and identification of essential use(s).

Export of chemicals

Agvet chemicals

Australian legislation prohibits the export of aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, endosulfan, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, mirex and toxaphene, unless permission is granted by the relevant Australian Government Minister or their delegate.

Industrial chemicals

Australian law places conditions on the export of industrial chemicals. To export PCBs, authorisation must be provided by the Executive Director of the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme, who must have regard to prescribed international agreements when making a decision.

Australian legislation prohibits the export of hexachlorobenzene or mirex, unless permission is granted by the relevant Australian Government Minister or their delegate.

Wastes

Australia is a Party to the Basel Convention, and POPs may be considered hazardous according to Australia's domestic enabling legislation. These laws require an exporter to obtain a permit to export hazardous waste unless an exemption applies.

1.3.2 Measures to reduce or eliminate unintentional production

Describes measures that apply to POPs ratified by Australia and appearing in Annex C, where relevant.

The [National Action Plan for Addressing Dioxins \(NAP\)](#) was adopted by federal, state, and territory governments in 2005. The NAP outlines actions for Australian governments to minimise, and where feasible, eliminate dioxin releases. The actions identified in the NAP are broader than reducing and eliminating releases of dioxins as required under Article 5. For example, it also includes actions on dioxins in soil, water, biota, waste oil, food and human intake.

The NAP contains an emissions guideline value (0.1 ng/m³) that has been adopted by most states and territories, with some prescribing this value in legislation while others have adopted it as a licence condition. States and territories are responsible for the licensing of facilities.

To ensure continued implementation of controls on the production of dioxins, levels lower or equal to the emissions guideline value will continue to be adopted as guideline emission levels for new combustion facilities and for existing combustion facilities when they are upgraded.

1.3.3 Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes

Describes measures relating to the initial 12 POPs ratified by Australia, where relevant.

Wastes

States and territories differentiate between types of waste with corresponding regulatory controls. Waste management frameworks differ by location, according to jurisdictional requirements.

All state and territory environmental regulators implement site and activity-based permission frameworks. This may include (but is not limited to) facility licences, waste transport registrations, development permits and disposal authorisations.

Operating licences issued by state and territory regulators stipulate conditions, such as requirements to monitor discharge concentrations and to abide by maximum discharge limits.

Organochlorine Pesticides Waste Management Plan

The Organochlorine Pesticides (OCP) Waste Management Plan was published in 1999 and except for mirex and toxaphene, covers the pesticides listed in Annexes A and B of the Convention and ratified by Australia.

The OCP Waste Management Plan states that OCP waste is to be destroyed at the earliest practicable opportunity and in an environmentally sound manner. It provides guidance for management of OCP waste on farms, businesses, and domestic premises; the collection, handling, transport, and storage

of waste; the identification, sampling and analysis of the collected waste; and the destruction and disposal of the scheduled OCP waste.

ChemCollect was a nationally coordinated scheme for the collection and safe disposal of unwanted and deregistered agricultural and veterinary chemicals from farms during the period 1999 to December 2002. ChemCollect called for collection and safe disposal of certain banned pesticides, fungicides, and other veterinary chemicals. The chemicals that make up the waste were a mixture of organo-chlorinated pesticides (OCPs) and metal-based pesticides.

Of the 1,676 tonnes collected nationwide, approximately 235 tonnes were collected in Victoria. Most of the collected chemicals were treated, disposed of or destroyed safely at the time, however EPA Victoria was required to manage a stockpile of 80 tonnes that were unable to be treated at the time due to the mix of pesticides.

Transportation of the remaining waste to an interstate hazardous waste processing facility commenced in November 2018, with disposal completed by September 2020. All 352 drums of waste have now been transported and fully processed for safe disposal.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls Management Plan

Australia's polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) Management Plan was revised in 1999 and provides treatment provisions for the different types of PCB waste including liquid residues and discharges, gaseous emissions, solid residues, and disposal.

The [PCB Waste Management Plan](#) is given effect through federal, state and territory statutory instruments and provides guidance to state and territory authorities with responsibility for ensuring the safe storing, handling, treating and disposal of PCB waste. According to the PCB Management Plan, state and territory authorities should maintain records of quantities of PCB material and waste stored and destroyed.

Example - PCB waste management in Victoria

In Victoria for example, PCBs are primarily managed under the [Environment Protection Act 2017](#) via an [environmentally hazardous substances order](#), which implements the National Management Plan. Failure to comply with an environmentally hazardous substances order is an indictable offence under the Act and may attract significant penalties.

Waste PCBs are reportable priority waste and subject to the highest level of regulatory controls under the Environment Protection framework. Reportable priority waste duties, and the [Waste disposal categories – characteristics and thresholds](#) publication are incorporated into the [Environment Protection Regulations 2021](#) and ensure that wastes containing or contaminated with PCBs exceeding 50mg/kg total concentration are not permitted to be disposed of to landfill.

Requirements for the storage, handling, use and transport of materials containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in Victoria are outlined in the [PCB Management Industrial Waste Resource Guideline \(EPA publication IWRG643.2\)](#).

Processes for the treatment and destruction of POPs waste

In 1992, the federal, state and territory governments endorsed the [National Strategy for the Management of Scheduled Wastes](#). Many POPs meet the definition for ‘scheduled wastes’ defined in this strategy. Subsequently, governments agreed that scheduled wastes would comprise the chemicals presented on [Schedule X](#). This strategy establishes two protocols for Environment Protection Agencies (EPAs) in states and territories to assess new POP treatment facilities and inform licensing decisions:

- [National Protocol for Approval of Trials of Technologies for the Treatment/Disposal of Schedule X Wastes](#), and
- [National Protocol for Approval/Licensing of Commercial - Scale Facilities for the Treatment/Disposal of Schedule X Wastes](#)

In 1997, the Australian Government published a review of technologies for treating scheduled wastes within Australia: [Appropriate Technologies for the Treatment of Scheduled Wastes](#).

Technical guidelines to the Basel Convention

The Parties to the Basel Convention have developed a series of [non-binding technical guidelines](#) to support its implementation, with respect to wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs. These guidelines are updated regularly by the Parties to the Basel Convention. The guidelines will continue to be adopted by the Australian Government as appropriate, to support assessment of application for hazardous waste import, transit, and export permits by the Australian Government.

National codes and standards for transport, storage and handling

The Model Work Health and Safety laws, overseen by Safe Work Australia and adopted by most Australian jurisdictions, set out the storage and handling requirements for hazardous chemicals and the work health and safety obligations that apply to workplaces where these are present.

State and territory governments implement legislation controlling the transport of dangerous goods, including all ratified substances listed on Annex A and B, through the [National Transport Commission’s Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail](#).

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) is Australia’s national regulatory body for protection of the marine environment from the impacts of shipping. AMSA implements regulations in accordance with International Maritime Organization agreed minimum requirements for controlling the handling and transport of cargoes and dangerous goods by sea.

AMSA provides guidance in the publication [Dangerous, hazardous and harmful cargoes handbook](#). In the event of ship sourced pollution, AMSA and/or state and territory governments can investigate and implement penalties established under the [Protection of the Sea \(Prevention of Pollution from Ships\) Act 1983](#). AMSA also has powers to recover clean-up costs from vessel owners and their insurers, in accordance with Australian legislation.

Controlled waste

In June 1998, states and territories agreed to implement the [National Environment Protection \(Movement of Controlled Waste between States and Territories\) Measure](#) (the Controlled Waste NEPM). The Controlled Waste NEPM provides a basis for ensuring that controlled wastes which are

to be moved between states and territories are properly identified, transported and otherwise handled in ways which are consistent with environmentally sound practices for the management of these wastes. State and territory waste management frameworks incorporate the wastes described in the Controlled Waste NEPM, some of which are relevant to the Convention. These include (but are not limited to):

- Waste, substances and articles containing or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs), polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs) and/or polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs)
- Waste from the production, formulation and use of biocides and phytopharmaceuticals
- Waste from the production, formulation and use of organic solvents
- Waste from the production, formulation and use of resins, latex, plasticisers and adhesives
- Soils contaminated with a controlled waste.

Waste management and transportation control frameworks provide risk-based controls to prevent the improper disposal and release of hazardous chemicals (including POPs) from wastes.

Recycling used oil

The [*Product Stewardship \(Oil\) Act 2000*](#) establishes the general framework and benefit entitlements to provide incentives for recycling used oil in Australia. Criteria have been established to encourage re-refined base oils, incentivized by the scheme be of a quality that is not damaging to the health and safety of workers and users of the oil. To be eligible for category 1 benefits, the highest benefit rate under the scheme, the specifications include that:

- the oil must contain less than 2.0 milligrams of polychlorinated biphenyls for each kilogram of oil, and
- the total amount of dioxins and furans that the oil contains must be less than 10 picograms Toxic Equivalent for each gram of oil.

Stockpiles

Hexachlorobenzene (HCB) Waste Management

HCB was produced as a waste-by-product from the manufacturing operations of ICI Australia (now Orica) from the early 1960s to early 1990s. As at 2016, approximately 15,000 tonnes of HCB waste was stockpiled at the Botany Industrial Park in Sydney, New South Wales (NSW). Storage of this waste is licensed by the NSW EPA, who regularly inspect the premises.

Since 2016, Orica has routinely applied for and been granted hazardous waste export permits to ship the waste to the Fortum Waste Solutions facilities in Finland and Sweden for environmentally sound disposal. The quantity of waste permitted for disposal exceeded 10,000 tonnes between 2016 and 2023.

Orica applies for an export permit annually and is required to meet permit conditions. In consultation with the NSW Government, Orica is required to manage environmental site risks and the conditions of their environment licenses.

1.3.4 Contaminated sites

Describes measures that apply to the initial 12 POPs ratified by Australia, where relevant.

National Environmental Protection (Assessment of Contaminated Sites) Measure

Australia has agreed to a national approach for determining if a site is contaminated through the [National Environment Protection \(Assessment of Site Contamination\) Measure 1999 \(Site Contamination NEPM\)](#). The Site Contamination NEPM sets criteria for a range of POPs, as well as providing guidance for using site-specific approaches to assessing contaminated sites.

1.4 Data, development and regulatory controls

Covers provisions in Articles 9, 10, 11, 15 and 16 that apply to all POPs, including the initial 12 POPs ratified by Australia.

1.4.1 Designation of a national focal point

Australia has designated an Official Contact Point and a National Focal Point. Appropriate staff are nominated from the federal department responsible for environment policy. Australia will continue to ensure the Stockholm Convention Secretariat is notified of any changes to the designation of the Official Contact Point or the National Focal Point in a timely manner.

1.4.2 Information exchange

The sharing of public sector data, which is data collected and held by Commonwealth, State and Territory governments, is governed by the [Intergovernmental Agreement on data sharing between Commonwealth and State and Territory governments](#).

Recognising the importance of sharing knowledge and to avoid duplicative efforts, Australia will proactively assess opportunities to exchange information and seek to actively contribute to the global state of knowledge pertaining to POPs.

Australian government organisations may consider the following factors when deciding to exchange information, including responding to calls for information released by the Convention Secretariat:

- **Relevancy** – Whether the opportunity pertains to the Australian context. For example, a challenge that Australia has experienced, a chemical in use or previously in use by Australia or relating to an industry that has a significant presence in Australia.
- **Impact** – Consideration of whether the comments, insights, data or feedback that Australia is able to provide are meaningful and accurate, and whether the response likely to be of productive value in supporting Parties to execute the objectives of the Convention.
- **Sensitivity and legality** – That the organisation disclosing the information has a legal right to do so, and relevant sensitivities (e.g., cultural sensitivities, information security sensitivities) have been considered.
- **Representativeness** – That the information and/or opinions are proportionate and representative of Australia's governance structures and associated responsibilities, context and input from relevant organisations is sought.

- Resourcing and timeliness – Whether there is capacity and capability to respond the call-for-information in a timeframe that is appropriate for the subject matter.

Government-held data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aligned with the [Framework for the Governance of Indigenous Data](#), the framework is based on principles of respect for cultural heritage, informed consent, privacy, and trust. Informed by the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) guiding principles on data management and CARE (Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, Ethics) principles.

Government organisations (including those in states and territories) may proactively volunteer information to the federal department responsible for environment policy, for exchange with the international community. Alternatively, the department may make specific or general requests for other government organisations to provide information for exchange. The exchange of information within the context of the Convention must be authorised by the Official Contact Point or the National Focal Point.

Australia will also continue to periodically contribute information and expertise through voluntary participation in groups established by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and through attending meetings of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC), as an observer or a member (when Australia has an active member). The POPRC is a subsidiary body to the Convention established for reviewing chemicals proposed for listing.

1.4.3 Public information and awareness

Content produced by the Australian Government is subject to the *Australian Government Style Manual*, which promotes an accessible and consistent approach to developing user-focused content. Accessible content describing the purpose and function of the Stockholm Convention is available on the websites for [AICIS](#), [APVMA](#), [DAFF](#) and [DCCEEW](#).

The Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme

The Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS) provide the public with information about importing and manufacturing industrial chemicals in Australia, categorisation of chemicals, chemicals prioritised for evaluation on the [Rolling Action Plan](#), [Risk Management Recommendations Register](#), chemical information and compliance. Members of the community can subscribe to updates from AICIS and public consultations are periodically released through the [AICIS Consultation Hub](#).

The [Australian Inventory of Industrial Chemicals](#), maintained by AICIS, is a publicly available resource that contains a database of chemicals that may be introduced (manufactured or imported) for industrial use in Australia. The database can be searched or exported in full as a spreadsheet. It contains chemical identity data and indicates where regulatory obligations or conditions may apply under the *Industrial Chemicals Act 2019*. A copy of the publicly available information on the Inventory on 2 January 2024 contained 39,659 chemicals.

Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS) also provides the public with a [searchable database of chemical assessments](#). The database can be searched or exported in full as a spreadsheet. These assessments contain information on the chemical identity, hazard, exposure, and risk, and provide a link to assessment reports.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Educational information about [chemicals management](#), [PFASs](#), [polychlorinated dioxins and furans](#), [polybrominated diphenyl ether flame retardants](#), [organochlorine pesticides](#), [PCBs](#) and [hexachlorobenzene](#) is published by DCCEEW. DCCEEW have also published the following guidance: [Disposal of wastes containing persistent organic pollutants: Australia's obligations under the Stockholm Convention](#).

Waste POPs and hazardous waste contaminated with POPs is subject to the *Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989*. DCCEEW [publishes notices](#) of application to import, transit or export hazardous waste and notices describing the regulatory outcome of those applications (such as decision to grant permits).

Heads of EPAs Australia and New Zealand

Heads of EPAs Australia and New Zealand (HEPA) is an informal, self-authorising alliance of heads of environment protection regulators in Australia and New Zealand. HEPA reports to the environment ministers of Australia. To support collaborative action on PFAS by the Commonwealth, state and territory and local governments around Australia, HEPA first developed the PFAS National Environment Management Plan (NEMP).

The PFAS NEMP was first published in 2018 and is updated periodically to reflect new scientific evidence and guidance. Following public and government consultation, the PFAS NEMP 3.0 will be finalised in 2024. The latest version of the PFAS NEMP contains updated and expanded guidance for the management of PFAS.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) provides details on the regulations and conditions applied under Australian legislation with regards to the pesticide listed under the Stockholm Convention. The import, export and use of listed pesticides is prohibited unless permission is granted by an authorised officer where specific conditions are met, such as for environmentally sound disposal or research purposes. Permissions must be obtained through DAFF's [online permit application system](#).

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

Educational information about importing, supplying and using agricultural and veterinary chemicals is published by APVMA. This includes information about following instructions on labels, workplace health and safety, and personal protective equipment.

The APVMA also published the [Spray drift risk assessment manual](#) in 2019. The manual provides an overview of APVMA's staged approach to setting spray drift requirements, and information on establishing buffer zones, determining regulatory acceptable levels, determining deposition curves, use instructions, tools and case studies. This manual is applicable to chemicals such as 2,4-D which contains PCDD and PCDF as unintentionally produced contaminants to a level specified by APVMA.

Members of the community can subscribe to receive newsletters from the APVMA or view previous newsletters on the [APVMA website](#). Public consultations are periodically released on the APVMA [public consultations](#) webpage.

The APVMA also publishes information about chemicals subject to review, including the status of the review and the final regulatory decision. Of the 12 initial POPs listed on the Convention, only [mirex](#) is listed on the APVMA's chemical review webpage because the review and prohibition of other ratified pesticide POPs pre-dates the creation of the APVMA.

Of the 10 chemicals historically or currently used as pesticides that have since been listed on Annex A of the Convention ('new POPs'), only endosulfan is listed on the APVMA's [chemical review](#) webpage. The [publications provided](#) for endosulfan show the reason for APVMA's cancellation of the active constituents and products was due to unacceptable environmental risk following the provision of new data supporting the listing of endosulfan on the Convention.

Therapeutic Goods Australia

At a national level, the TGA develops and maintains [the Poisons Standard](#). The Poisons Standard classifies medicines and poisons, specifies recommendations for exemptions, labelling, containers, packaging and other controls. It provides consistency by describing model legislation for adoption by state and territory governments. All state and territory governments implement medicines and poisons legislation.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand

State and territory governments adopt, without variation, food standards once a notice has been published by the Australian Government.

The [Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991](#) provides information about food safety protections and the establishment of FSANZ. FSANZ also conducts the Australian Total Diet Study, which includes monitoring chemicals in the Australian diet. [Results from these studies](#) are available to the public.

Safe Work Australia

Safe Work Australia (SWA) publishes model Codes of Practice, guidance and [information on hazardous chemicals](#) for Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBUs, such as employers), and for the working public. The Commonwealth, state and territory governments have implemented a [version of the model WHS legislation](#), except for Victoria. However, Victoria has similar codes, guidance and information which it provides to employers in the workplace context, and non-workplace context for dealing with chemicals and/or hazardous substances.

Safe Work Australia (SWA) also provides guidance to the public with a searchable database of hazard information for chemicals, the [Hazardous Chemical Information System](#) (HCIS). The database contains chemicals that have been classified in accordance with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) by an authoritative source, such as the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) or the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS). It also contains the workplace exposure standards.

Australian Border Force

Australian Border Force provide a [searchable database of prohibited imports and exports](#), and links to the department responsible for issuing import and export permits.

State and territory environmental regulators

State and territory regulatory authorities provide information and education to the community in relation to risks of harm to human health and the environment, including from POPs, and environmental best practice and improvements.

1.4.4 Education

Federal, state and territory governments provide education about science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This may be in the form of outreach and community education programs, learning resources, virtual resources, tours and other resources that contribute to community and student education.

Vocational education and training

Professionals in skilled technical jobs involving the use and handling of chemicals in Australia are required to hold accreditations obtained through the completion of relevant [vocational education and training](#) (VET). This involves the successful completion of training modules relevant to the profession, usually involving theory, practical and on-the-job training. A [national register](#) of all recognised VET training courses, packages and Registered Training Organisations is publicly available.

Australian Government Department of Education

The Australian Government's Department of Education provides strategic direction and national leadership for Australia's education system. The Department of Education funds the Education for Sustainability project, which provides guidance and collates classroom ready teaching resources for educators, including education about resource management, sustainability, waste and water.

National Curriculum

In 2015, Australia's education ministers endorsed a national curriculum. [The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority](#) (ACARA) monitor, regulate and report on delivery of the [Australian Curriculum](#). Relevant learning areas incorporated into the Australian Curriculum include biological sciences, earth and space sciences, chemical sciences, physical sciences, nature and development of science, and use and influence of science.

The Australian Curriculum connects to development of capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities, including sustainability. As a priority area, 'sustainability' seeks to explore the knowledge, skills, values and world views necessary for people to act in ways that contribute to a sustainable future.

State and territory governments – education departments

The Australian Government allocates funding to state and territory governments for delivery of school education. State and territory governments are responsible for delivering the national curriculum and administering government schools. State and territory governments also implement science, and outdoor and environmental education measures that augment the National Curriculum. These include, but are not limited to, developing and maintaining specialised environmental education facilities and professional development for educators.

1.4.5 Research and development

The federal, state and territory governments conduct or fund a range of research studies pertaining to POPs and provide scholarships or positions for academics that conduct research pertaining to POPs.

Since 2006, findings from over 90 studies pertaining to POPs were direct or indirect beneficiaries of contributions from one or more Australian government organisations. Most studies were published in peer reviewed journals, with findings for some research published in technical reports issued by governments.

National Environmental Science Program (NESP)

The Australian Government funds environment and climate research through the [National Environmental Science Program](#) (NESP). The NESP is currently in its second phase, with \$AUD149 million contributing to 4 research hubs, including the hub for sustainable communities and waste. Program funding has been allocated for the measurement of hazardous chemicals in various projects.

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

In 2019, the Australian Government provided \$12.5 million to establish a National Research Program to study the potential effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) exposure on human health. The program is funded by the Department of Defence and the Department of Health and Aged Care. It is administered by the NHMRC. Nine successful research applications were announced in 2019, with all research projects still active and due to be completed in 2024 and 2025.

The NHMRC has also published [Guidance on PFAS in Recreational Water](#) (2019) and a PFAS Chemical Fact Sheet (2018) in the [Australian Drinking Water Guidelines](#). This PFAS guidance includes information on exposure to PFAS in recreational and drinking water and derivation of guidelines values.

In April 2023 NHMRC commenced an independent review of the Australian health-based guideline values for PFAS in drinking water. This review, funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care, is considering recent guidance and reviews from international and national jurisdictions to determine whether they are suitable to adopt or adapt for the Australian context. It is expected that the updated NHMRC PFAS guidance for drinking water will be published by late 2025.

The Australian Research Council (ARC)

The ARC is an independent Australian Government entity responsible for growing knowledge and innovation for the benefit of the Australian community through providing research funding, assessing the quality, engagement and impact of research, and providing advice on research matters.

Pilot studies and trials by Australian Government entities

Where operationally relevant, government organisations in Australia may conduct laboratory scale trials, pilot studies and field trials pertaining to preventing, monitoring, and remediating contaminated sites. This may include waste treatment facilities, defence sites, airports and other industrial sites. Results of pilot studies and field trials may not be published online due to the nature of the research and commercial arrangements.

The Department of Defence and Airservices Australia are government-owned organisations responsible for the provision of aviation rescue firefighting services, among other responsibilities, at 27 Australian airports. Both organisations have conducted numerous trials relating to PFAS investigations and remediation.

1.4.6 Monitoring

State and territory environmental regulators

State and territory governments periodically monitor environmental media for a range of purposes, such as to manage the risk of orphaned site contamination, to support regulatory decision-making, validate results provided by duty-holders, and/or inform policymaking.

For example, since 2019, EPA Victoria has had an [Emerging Contaminants Program](#), which aims to monitor and assess contaminants of emerging concern in water, land, air, dust, plants and biota; and identify and assess environmental and human health risks associated with these contaminants. As part of the Emerging Contaminants Program, EPA Victoria has conducted several monitoring campaigns for a range of contaminants, including POPs ([EPA publication 1879](#); [EPA publication 2054](#)) and continues to include them in ongoing and future monitoring campaigns.

In 2020, EPA Tasmania conducted the [Tasmania Ambient PFAS Monitoring Program](#), collecting samples at 76 sites and analysing for PFASs, to progress Tasmania's implementation of the [Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Framework for Responding to PFAS Contamination](#). This monitoring provided an indication of typical PFAS concentrations in surface fresh and estuarine waters across Tasmania.

State and territory governments can require duty-holders (such as holders of operating licences) to develop and implement monitoring plans and submit monitoring data. The approach to licensing facilities is typically modified according to the risk of the facility.

For example, EPA Victoria takes a [tiered approach to regulating activities](#) that pose a risk to human health and the environment, requiring duty-holders to obtain a licence for high-risk activities. Examples of high-risk activities include (but are not limited to) sewage treatment plants, chemicals works, refineries, abattoirs, composters and landfills. A general licence condition requires the licence-holder to establish and implement a risk-based monitoring program.

Other environmental monitoring

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) may periodically invest in monitoring activities, such as the following activities that have occurred since ratification in 2004:

- National sampling and archiving of air samples
- Atmospheric Monitoring POPs in Antarctica
- Chemical monitoring of POPs in Human Media: human blood, breast milk and urine, and
- Chemical monitoring of perfluorinated compounds in the South Pacific and Southern Ocean.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) funds storage of samples at the Australian Specimen Bank. Established in 2009, the biobank facility archives human

and environmental samples, enabling retrospective study of exposure assessment and environmental toxicology.

A number of other government organisations also have programs to investigate and monitor specific POPs. For example, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts is delivering the PFAS Airports Investigation Program at civilian airports where historic firefighting services used foams containing PFAS. The Program aims to identify the nature and extent of PFAS contamination and develop robust nationally consistent management plans to address any identified risks.

The Department of Defence is also investigating PFAS at its bases under its PFAS Investigation and Management Program.

National Pollutant Inventory

The [National Pollutant Inventory](#) (NPI) tracks pollution across Australia, and ensures the community has access to information about the emission and transfer of toxic substances which may affect them locally.

The NPI contains data on 93 substances reported by over 4,000 industrial facilities each year. These substances have been identified as important due to their possible effect on human health and the environment, and include the ratified industrial POPs being HCB, PCBs, dioxins and furans.

Diet monitoring

Australian Total Diet Study

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) implements the Australian Total Diet Study (ATDS), a monitoring survey of chemicals, nutrients and other substances in the Australian diet. The selected suite of analytes varies for each study period. Various POPs have been measured in the 24th to the 27th editions of the ATDS, which are available on the [FSANZ website](#).

National residue monitoring

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) conducts annual [National Residue Surveys](#), monitoring Australian animal and plant products for chemicals residues and environmental contaminants, and publishing datasets containing reported exceedances of the maximum residue levels, including POPs.

1.4.7 Reporting and effectiveness evaluation

As the National Focal Point, DCCEEW centrally coordinates reporting to the Conference of the Parties on the measures Australia has taken to implement the Convention and the effectiveness of these measures.

Reporting has historically been coordinated through a range of established mechanisms, such as:

- The Heads of EPA (HEPA) Australia and New Zealand - an alliance of heads of environment protection regulators from Australia and New Zealand.
- The National Chemicals Working Group (NCWG) - established under the HEPA, the NCWG is composed of senior public service officers.
- Data from the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI)

- Requests for information circulated to other government departments for input.

Federal, state and territory governments with carriage of relevant reporting data, transmit information (including reporting the absence of data collection) to the National Focal Point. Reporting and effectiveness evaluation data is transmitted by the National Focal Point to the Convention Secretariat.

The sharing of public sector data is governed by the [Intergovernmental Agreement on data sharing between Commonwealth and State and Territory governments](#).

1.5 Administration and amendments

Covers provisions in Articles 4, 7, 8, 21, 22

Parties to the Convention may register for one or more types of specific exemptions listed in Annex A or Annex B. When Australia ratified the Convention, a notification of a specific exemption for mirex was also transmitted. The specific exemption applied to mirant and mirex termite bait, for the control of termites in the Northern Territory only. The specific exemption expired in 2009 and was not renewed by Australia. Research had since demonstrated the effectiveness of an alternative product, and the APVMA has ceased all registrations for products containing mirex.

Australia does not currently hold any specific exemptions for ratified chemicals.

Should further chemicals be subject to ratification by the Australian Government, consideration of the need for specific exemptions would be subject to intergovernmental consultation. Submission of a registration for a specific exemption would be subject to the authorisation of the National Focal Point.

1.6 Implementation plans

1.6.1 Development of initial implementation plan

Australia transmitted an initial *National Implementation Plan* to the Convention Secretariat on 10 August 2006. This Plan replaces the 2006 *National Implementation Plan*, which has become outdated due to changing regulations and practices.

1.6.2 Review and update

This Plan will be reviewed and updated periodically to reflect current organisation names and remit, contemporary scientific knowledge and practices in Australia. This Plan is intended to be a dynamic document, readily updated and continuously improved over time. To reflect this control philosophy, the Australian Government will endeavour to update this Plan:

- every 4 years, to align with national reporting obligations,
- when major policy or regulatory changes are made of material consequence to the content of the Plan, or
- when Australia ratifies an amendment to text or annexes of the Convention.

1.6.3 Stakeholder consultation

National and regional stakeholders consulted during the development of this Plan include:

- Australian Government organisations, including organisations seeking to advance the Government’s commitment to achieve gender equality
- State and territory governments.

1.6.4 Listing of chemicals in or amendments to Annexes A, B and C

Australia may propose to amend or list chemicals in the annexes of the Convention. The Australian Government is responsible for coordinating and facilitating this activity. The requirement for a proposal to amend the Convention would be subject to intergovernmental consultation and consultation with other Parties. Submission of such a proposal is subject to the authorisation of the National Focal Point.

1.6.5 Adoption and amendment of the annexes

Adoption of amendments to the annexes of the Convention are subject to Australia’s treaty-making processes. It is Australian Government policy that action to bring a treaty into force will not be taken until all necessary implementing legislation has been passed. Where amendments are already consistent with existing laws, legislative implementation may not be required.

Entry into force of amendments to the annexes is reliant on adoption of implementing legislation by all responsible organisations. For POPs, this would typically include implementation of legislative amendments by all the states and territories, and many of the federal government organisations referred to throughout this plan, especially DCCEEW, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), APVMA, AICIS and ABF.

DCCEEW will continue to provide centralised leadership and monitoring of efforts to adopt amendments to the annexes of the Convention that pertain to industrial uses of listed POPs. DAFF will continue to provide centralised leadership and tracking towards efforts to adopt amendments to the annexes of the Convention that pertain to agricultural and veterinary use of listed POPs.

1.6.6 Integration with sustainable development strategies

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) implements Australia’s commitment to the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) will continue to collaborate with DFAT to align sustainable development activities with the Convention, where practicable.

1.7 Technical assistance and financial resources

Covers provisions in Articles 12 and 13 that apply to POPs, including the initial 12 POPs ratified by Australia.

The Australian Government has provided donor funding to the Global Environment Fund (GEF) for over 30 years. The GEF provides a structured mechanism for dispensing donor funds to build capacity, provide technical assistance and financial resources. The funds are distributed between the five focal areas of biodiversity loss, chemicals and waste, climate change, international waters, and land degradation. The [GEF Project Database](#) contains 6,205 current and historical projects across all focal areas, 384 of these current and historical projects are allocated to the POPs focal area.

Appendix A: Summary of Actions in this Plan

Article 3: Intentionally produced substances

- Australia will continue to implement existing national approaches to regulation and assessment that apply to the introduction, use, import, export and transport of chemicals.
- Agricultural Chemicals and Veterinary Medicines (Agvet Chemicals) ratified by Australia are controlled under the [Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals \(Administration\) Regulations 1995](#), the [Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1994](#), the [Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994](#), the [Customs \(Prohibited Exports\) Regulations 1958](#) and the [Customs \(Prohibited Imports\) Regulations 1956](#). Other Agvet Chemicals, such as POPs listed to the Convention since 2004 may also be governed by agricultural and veterinary chemicals legislation.
- Industrial chemicals listed on the Convention may be subject to the [Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management \(Register\) Act 2021](#) that provides a nationally consistent set of measures for managing environmental risks.
- The Australian Government is reforming national environmental law – the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). [The Nature Positive Plan](#) delivers on the Government’s commitment to strengthen and streamline Australia’s environmental laws in response to the *Independent Review of the EPBC Act*, undertaken by Professor Graeme Samuel AC ([the Samuel Review](#))
- The Australian Government has committed to establishing an independent national environment protection agency—to be known as Environment Protection Australia (EPA).
- The [interim Centre for Disease Control](#) launched by the Australian Government on 1 January 2024 will improve the health of all Australians by protecting the country from health threats. CDC seeks to enhance nationally consistent surveillance and reporting of health outcomes, including those related to environmental health factors.

Article 4: Register of Specific Exemptions

- Australia does not hold any exemptions for chemicals listed in the Convention and will adhere to the processes for obtaining exemptions, as required.

Article 5: Unintentionally produced substances

- Action to reduce and eliminate emissions of unintentionally produced POPs will continue, through Australia’s legislative framework for chemicals and waste management.

Article 6: Wastes and stockpiles

- Australian environmental regulators will continue to implement site and activity-based permission frameworks for managing wastes and stockpiles, such as issuing licences, authorisations, and permits.

- Australian governments will continue to implement waste and stockpile management frameworks as well as transportation control frameworks, to provide risk-based controls preventing the improper disposal and release of POPs from wastes.
- As a Party to the Basel Convention, the Australian Government will continue to adopt Basel Convention guidelines to support assessment of applications for hazardous waste import, transit and export permits, including those relating to POPs.

Article 7: Implementation Plans

- Australia transmitted an initial Plan to the Convention Secretariat in 2006. This Plan replaces the initial Plan, and the Australian Government will endeavour to update this Plan every 4 years.

Article 8: Listing of chemicals

- Australia will continue to adhere to the processes for listing chemicals in the Convention.

Article 9: Information exchange

- Australia will continue to play an active role in information exchange between Parties and seeks to actively contribute to the global state of knowledge pertaining to POPs.

Article 10: Public information, awareness and education

- The relevant Australian environmental, agricultural and health authorities will continue to ensure that information is available to the general public and is updated as necessary, including digital information available in searchable databases.

Article 11: Research, development and monitoring

- Australia will continue to participate in research and development projects, and monitoring programs related to environmentally harmful substances at both the national and international level.

Article 12 and 13: Technical assistance and financial resourcing

- Australia will continue to support the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as it has done for the past 30 years.

Article 15: Reporting

- Australia is committed to adhering to the reporting requirements of the Convention, as decided by the Conference of the Parties.

Article 16: Effectiveness Evaluation

- Australia will continue to provide information and data to the Convention Secretariat and other Parties to contribute to evaluating the effectiveness of the Convention, where practicable.

Article 21 and 22: Amendments, and adoption of amendments and the annexes

- Entry into force of amendments to the annexes is reliant on adoption of implementing legislation by all responsible organisations in Australia. The Australian Government will continue to provide centralised leadership to consider adoption of amendments not yet ratified.

Appendix B: Summary of Stockholm Convention chemicals - status in Australia

Persistent Organic Pollutant Listed on the Stockholm Convention	Year Listed on the Stockholm Convention	Annex			Ratified by Australia	Current use in Australia
		A	B	C		
Aldrin	2004	✓			✓	Phased out in 1992
Chlordane	2004	✓			✓	Phased out in 1995 but used in the Northern Territory until 1997
Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT)	2004		✓		✓	Banned in 1987
Dieldrin	2004	✓			✓	Restricted for use only on sugar cane and banana crops in 1977. Phased out in 1988
Endrin	2004	✓			✓	Phased out in 1987
Heptachlor	2004	✓			✓	Phased out in 1995 but used in the Northern Territory until 1997
Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)	2004	✓		✓	✓	Production at the Orica plant, Sydney ceased in 1991. De-registered as a pesticide by 1987 and use as an industrial chemical was phased out by 1997
Mirex	2004	✓			✓	Registration ceased after 30 June 2006.
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)	2004	✓		✓	✓	Unable to be imported or manufactured under most circumstances.
Polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs)	2004			✓	✓	N/A (listed for unintentional production). The APVMA has released Guidance on analysis of polychlorinated dibenzodioxins and dibenzofurans in technical active constituents , and has updated evaluation specified maximum level of total dioxins in evaluation reports for quintozene and 2,4-D .
Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs)	2004			✓	✓	N/A (listed for unintentional production). The APVMA has released Guidance on analysis of polychlorinated dibenzodioxins and dibenzofurans in technical active constituents , and has updated evaluation specified maximum level of total dioxins in evaluation reports for quintozene and 2,4-D .
Toxaphene	2004	✓			✓	Banned in 1987.
Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane	2009	✓				Alpha and beta HCH are isomers. They are by-products from the production of lindane. Lindane and HCH isomers are subject to the same import and export controls as ratified Stockholm POP pesticides and may only be imported or exported with permission from the relevant Minister.
Beta hexachlorocyclohexane	2009	✓				
Chlordecone	2009	✓				Chlordecone is an insecticide that is not currently and has never been registered for use in Australia. Chlordecone is therefore controlled for use in Australia.
Hexabromobiphenyl (HBB)	2009	✓				Production and use of HBB in Australia ended in the 1970s. Subject to management standards under the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Act 2021, effective 1 July 2023.

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Persistent Organic Pollutant Listed on the Stockholm Convention	Year Listed on the Stockholm Convention	Annex			Ratified by Australia	Current use in Australia
		A	B	C		
Hexabromodiphenyl ether (hexa-BDE) and heptabromodiphenyl ether (hepta-BDE)	2009	✓				Subject to management standards under the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Act 2021, effective 1 July 2024
Lindane	2009	✓				Lindane and HCH isomers are subject to the same import and export controls as ratified Stockholm POP pesticides and may only be imported or exported with permission from the relevant Minister. Lindane production has not occurred in Australia since 1985. No products containing lindane are currently registered in the APVMA's Public Chemical Registration Information System database. No therapeutic goods for the treatment of head lice or scabies containing lindane or its HCH isomers appear to be included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods, administered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, or supplied in Australia under any of the pathways for lawfully supplying unapproved therapeutic goods.
Pentachlorobenzene (PeCB)	2009	✓		✓		Subject to management standards under the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Act 2021, effective 1 July 2024
Tetrabromodiphenyl ether (tetra-BDE) and pentabromodiphenyl ether (penta-BDE)	2009	✓				Subject to management standards under the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Act 2021, effective 1 July 2024
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF)	2009 (Annex B)/2019 (Amendment to Annex B)		✓			Subject to management standards under the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Act 2021, effective 1 July 2025
Technical endosulfan and its related isomers	2011	✓				The endosulfan review was completed in 2005, which resulted in label changes. In 2010, the APVMA cancelled all active constituent approvals for endosulfan, including all endosulfan product registrations based on risk to the environment. This decision was taken following a review of further information provided in response to the listing of endosulfan on the Stockholm Convention.
Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD)	2013	✓				Subject to management standards under the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Act 2021, effective 1 July 2024
Pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters (PCP)	2015	✓				Pentachlorophenol has been registered for use by APVMA as a molluscicide and a herbicide. The last registered product was archived by APVMA on 30 June 1997. There are no active constituents or products registered in the APVMA's Public Chemical Registration Information System database.
Polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs)	2015	✓		✓		Subject to management standards under the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Act 2021, effective 1 July 2023
Hexachlorobutadiene (HCBd)	2015 (Annex A)/2017 (Annex C)	✓		✓		Subject to management standards under the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Act 2021, effective 1 July 2023
Decabromodiphenyl ether (commercial mixture, c-decaBDE)	2017	✓				Subject to management standards under the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Act 2021, effective 1 July 2025
Short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs)	2017	✓				Subject to management standards under the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Act 2021, effective 1 July 2024
Dicofol	2019	✓				The last registered dicofol active constituents were cancelled by APVMA at the request of the active constituent holder in March 2021. The remaining registered dicofol products were archived by the APVMA, and their use became illegal on 30 June 2021. No product can remain registered without a registered active constituent.

2024 National Implementation Plan: Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Persistent Organic Pollutant Listed on the Stockholm Convention	Year Listed on the Stockholm Convention	Annex			Ratified by Australia	Current use in Australia
		A	B	C		
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds	2019	✓				Subject to management standards under the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Act 2021, effective 1 July 2025
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds	2022	✓				Subject to management standards under the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Act 2021, effective 1 July 2025
Dechlorane plus	2023	✓				Available for industrial use in Australia. Not yet included on the schedules to the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Act 2021.
Methoxychlor	2023	✓				The last methoxychlor product was archived by APVMA on 15 June 1987. No active constituents or products containing methoxychlor are registered in the APVMA's Public Chemical Registration Information System database.
UV-328	2023	✓				Appears on the AICIS Inventory (as accessed 8 February 2024) - available for industrial use in Australia.

Appendix C: Legislation and National Environment Protection Measures related to the management of POPs

NB: This list is not exhaustive and does not include all instruments with relevance to POPs (chemicals or waste) controlled under the Convention.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION	STATE AND TERRITORY LEGISLATION
Agricultural and veterinary chemicals	
<u>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1994</u> <u>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994</u>	<u>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (New South Wales) Act 1994</u> <u>Pesticides Act 1999 (NSW)</u> <u>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 2004 (NT)</u> <u>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Northern Territory) Act 1994</u> <u>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Queensland) Act 1994</u> <u>Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966 (Qld)</u> <u>Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988 (Qld)</u> <u>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (South Australia) Act 1994</u> <u>Agricultural and Veterinary Products (Control of Use) Act 2002 (SA)</u> <u>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995 (Tas)</u> <u>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Tasmania) Act 1994</u> <u>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992 (Vic)</u> <u>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Victoria) Act 1994</u> <u>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Western Australia) Act 1995</u>
Industrial chemicals	
<u>Industrial Chemicals Act 2019</u> <u>Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Act 2021</u>	<u>Dangerous Substances Act 2004 (ACT)</u> <u>Environment Protection Act 1997 (ACT)</u> <u>Protection of the Environment, Operations Act 1997 (NSW)</u> <u>Dangerous Goods Act 1998 (NT)</u> <u>Dangerous Substances Act 1979 (SA)</u> <u>Environmental Protection Act 1993 (SA)</u> <u>Dangerous Goods Act 1985 (Vic)</u> <u>Environment Protection Act 2017 (Vic)</u> <u>Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004 (WA)</u> <u>Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA)</u> <u>Environmental Protection Act 1994 (Qld)</u> <u>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (Tas)</u>
Medicines, poisons, and therapeutic goods	
<u>Therapeutic Goods Act 1989</u>	<u>Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008 (ACT)</u> <u>Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2022 (NSW)</u> <u>Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966 (NSW)</u> <u>Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012 (NT)</u> <u>Medicines and Poisons Act 2019 (Qld)</u> <u>Therapeutic Goods Act 2019 (Qld)</u> <u>Controlled Substances Act 1984 (SA)</u> <u>Poisons Act 1971 (Tas)</u>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION	STATE AND TERRITORY LEGISLATION
	<i>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 (Vic)</i> <i>Therapeutic Goods (Victoria) Act 2010</i> <i>Medicines and Poisons Act 2014 (WA)</i>
Hazardous and other waste management, product stewardship and circular economy	
<i>Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989</i> <i>Product Stewardship (Oil) Act 2000</i> <i>Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020</i>	<i>Circular Economy Act 2023 (ACT)</i> <i>Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act 2016 (ACT)</i> <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001 (NSW)</i> <i>Protection of the Environment, Operations Act 1997 (NSW)</i> <i>Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021 (NSW)</i> <i>Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act 2011 (NT)</i> <i>Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998 (NT)</i> <i>Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 (Qld)</i> <i>Plastic Shopping Bags (Waste Avoidance) Act 2008 (SA)</i> <i>Single-use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Act 2020 (SA)</i> <i>Zero Waste Act 2004 (SA)</i> <i>Litter Act 2007 (Tas)</i> <i>Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022 (Tas)</i> <i>Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 (Vic)</i> <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 (WA)</i>
Environment protection, conservation, and contamination management	
<i>Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981</i> <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> <i>Protection of the Sea (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Act 1983</i> <i>Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997</i>	<i>Environment Protection Act 1997 (ACT)</i> <i>Nature Conservation Act 2014 (ACT)</i> <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)</i> <i>Protection of the Environment, Operations Act 1997 (NSW)</i> <i>Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 (NSW)</i> <i>Marine Pollution Act 2012 (NSW)</i> <i>Environment Protection Act 2019 (NT)</i> <i>Marine Pollution Act 1999 (NT)</i> <i>Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 (Qld)</i> <i>Environment Protection Act 1994 (Qld)</i> <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld)</i> <i>Environmental Protection Act 1993 (SA)</i> <i>Pollution of Waters by Oil and Noxious Substances Act 1987 (SA)</i> <i>Protection of Marine Waters (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Act 1987 (SA)</i> <i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (Tas)</i> <i>Natural Resource Management Act 2002 (Tas)</i> <i>Nature Conservation Act 2022 (Tas)</i> <i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 (Tas)</i> <i>Environment Protection Act 2017 (Vic)</i> <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic)</i> <i>Marine and Coastal Act 2018 (Vic)</i> <i>Pollution of Waters by Oil and Noxious Substances Act 1986 (Vic)</i> <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (WA)</i> <i>Contaminated Sites Act 2003 (WA)</i> <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA)</i> <i>Pollution of Waters by Oil and Noxious Substances Act 1987 (WA)</i>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION	STATE AND TERRITORY LEGISLATION
Work health and safety	
<u>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</u>	<u>Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (ACT)</u> <u>Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW)</u> <u>Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011 (NT)</u> <u>Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld)</u> <u>Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)</u> <u>Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (Tas)</u> <u>Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic)</u> <u>Work Health and Safety Act 2020 (WA)</u>
National Environment Protection Measures (agreed at all levels of government)	
<u>National Environment Protection (Air Toxics) Measure</u> <u>National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure</u> <u>National Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Measure 1998</u> <u>National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure 2011</u> <u>National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999</u> <u>National Environment Protection (Movement of Controlled Waste between States and Territories) Measure 1998</u>	
Public health	
<u>National Health Security Act 2007</u>	<u>Public Health Act 1997 (ACT)</u> <u>Public Health Act 2010 (NSW)</u> <u>Public and Environmental Health Act 2011 (NT)</u> <u>Public Health Act 2005 (Qld)</u> <u>Public Health Act 2011 (SA)</u> <u>Public Health Act 1997 (Tas)</u> <u>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)</u> <u>Public Health Act 2016 (WA)</u> <u>Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911 (WA)</u>
Import and export controls	
<u>Customs Act 1901</u> <u>Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956</u> <u>Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958</u> <u>Biosecurity Act 2015</u>	
Airports	
<u>Airports Act 1996</u> <u>Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997</u>	