



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Submission – Inquiry into the *Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Bills 2020*

1. Recommends an explicit acknowledgement of human health in the Objects of the Act (s.3). This may be an addition to 3(a)
to give effect to an intergovernmental scheme involving the Commonwealth and the States that relates to the establishment of nationally consistent standards to minimise risks to the environment, **including human health**, from industrial chemicals.

The Department of Health WA acknowledges that the definition of ‘environment’ as stated in the Bill includes people and communities. However, there is a widely held belief among the public and across government that the term ‘environment’ refers specifically to ecosystems occupied by plants and animals. In popular usage the term ‘environment’ means non-human hence the recommendation to explicitly define the term in the Objects of the Act.

2. For both Div 2 and Div 3, consultation with State Environment Ministers is required (s.21 and s.25). In many jurisdictions, environmental health sits within health departments so consultation with State Health Ministers should also be required.