

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health Disability and Ageing

Select Committee on PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances)

Inquiry into the extent, regulation and management of PFAS

10 June 2025

PDR Number: IQ25-000052

PFAS bans under the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme

Written

Senator: Lidia Thorpe

Question:

9. Mr Bouwhuis also said: '...those chemicals are being phased out from 1 July. If they are still being put in products, they won't be able to anymore. Most companies have phased out PFAS—and it shows in the ABS data that over time, the levels are going down—because people are realising that these chemicals cause concern and phasing them out of their products. If there were any frypans left that were still using these chemicals, they've got a couple of weeks left to stop that before there's a complete ban on them being able to import them. So I'd be surprised if those chemicals are still going into frypans, and, if not, there'll be a ban on them shortly, which will stop them coming on'. (Committee Transcript, 10 June 2025, p. 41) However, the committee notes that the PFAS bans under the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme only apply to industrial chemicals – not ready-made products that are imported into Australia.

- a. Is there currently any prohibition on importing consumer products, cosmetics, etc, containing PFAS?
- b. Who would administer and enforce such a ban?

Answer:

- As noted in the response to IQ25-000010, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has banned three groups of PFAS (over 500 related chemicals) effective 1 July 2025 with plans for the consideration of several additional PFAS chemicals in the 2025-26 financial year.
- Regulation, or enforcement, of standards is reliant on adoption by the Commonwealth, states and territories into their own environmental laws. Jurisdictions are at various stages of incorporating these changes into their own regulatory frameworks.
- Existing products on the market that may have contained PFAS would also be subject to laws requiring labelling where PFAS is included as an ingredient. For example, the labelling of cosmetic products is regulated under the Consumer Goods (Cosmetics) Information Standard 2020, administered by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.