



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

Senator Thorpe
Chair
Select Committee on PFAS (Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Thorpe

On 5 September 2025 Rachel Burgess and I appeared as witnesses before the Select Committee on PFAS (Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances).

During the hearing Senator Whish-Wilson said in relation to the publication of material following the department's 2024 consultations on packaging regulations

"My question just goes back to PFAS in packaging. In the submission to this inquiry from the department, on page 45, under 'Packaging reform', it mentions: In September 2024 the department released a consultation paper seeking views on potential options to reform packaging regulations. The consultation paper identified PFAS as a chemical of concern, targeted for elimination from packaging. The consultation outcomes are expected to be released in early 2025. So I was just checking. Have the consultation outcomes been released?"

In response Ms Burgess said

"Not as yet. That was the work that I was referring to in my previous response to your questions on packaging."

Senator Whish-Wilson responded and said

"Okay. I missed that. Why hasn't it been released?"

In response Ms Burgess said

"The department is currently working through submissions provided through that consultation process."

Senator Whish-Wilson responded and said

"When do you expect that that will be ready to be released?"

DCCEEW.gov.au

John Gorton Building - King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600 Australia
GPO Box 3090 Canberra ACT 2601 ABN: 63 573 932 849

In response I said

“As Ms Burgess has said, we're working through those submissions, including next steps in terms of reform of packaging regulation more broadly. We expect that the consideration of those submissions will be included in that process. I can't give you a specific time, though, as to when that material will be released.”

I wish to correct these answers. The department has evaluated the submissions provided through the October 2024 public consultation process and published the outcomes on the department's website in March 2025. The remainder of my answer to the question, given at the hearing, is correct including that the submissions will continue to inform reform of packaging regulation.

I apologise for the error in these answers and trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

James Tregurtha
Head of Division
Circular Economy

24 September 25