

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

PFAS Sub-committee

Inquiry into the remediation of PFAS related impacts in and around Defence bases

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Topic: Legislation supporting Australia's ratification of the Stockholm Convention

Member: Ms Swanson MP, Deputy Chair

Type of question: Spoken, Proof *Committee Hansard*, 10 February 2020, pp.5–6

Question: Bill to establish the National Standard for managing environmental risks from industrial chemicals

Mr Tregurtha: Our primary work in that space at the moment is on the national standard and the passage of that, so that's the first step, and that's certainly where the focus of the department is at the moment. As Mr McGregor said, the draft bill is out for public comment, and we hope to introduce it towards the middle of the year.

Ms SWANSON: What was that draft bill called?

Mr McGregor: I'll get the exact title for you. It's a framework piece of legislation which will establish the national standard for the environmental risk management of chemicals. It will provide the mechanism through which chemicals of concern can be scheduled and through which risk management measures can be—

Answer:

The title is the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Bill.

As mentioned at the hearing, the draft Bill is currently out for public consultation. Further information is available on the Department's website at:

<https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/chemicals-management/national-standard/draft-legislation>