



The Hon Rebecca White MP
Assistant Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing

Mr Graeme Barden
Executive Director
Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme
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Dear Mr Barden

As the responsible Minister, I am writing to outline the Australian Government's strategic direction and expectations for the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS) in exercising its powers and fulfilling its regulatory objectives to protect human health and the environment.

The Government recognises and respects the independence of AICIS and its responsibility for regulation of a national scheme for the introduction of industrial chemicals in Australia, as provided by the *Industrial Chemicals Act 2019*. However, I expect the AICIS to adopt the best practice principles of the Regulator Performance - Resource Management Guide (RMG 128) and Regulatory Policy, Practice & Performance Framework and follow good corporate governance guided by the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) in administering its functions. I also expect AICIS to provide its perspective on delivery of my expectations and its statutory objectives in a response Statements of Intent guided by the Guidance Note attached to RMG 128, which can be found at www.finance.gov.au/government/managing-commonwealth-resources/regulator-performance-rmg-128/guidance-note.

The rationale for industrial chemicals regulation is to leverage the fullest possible benefits that can be derived from making regulatory effort more proportionate to risk. AICIS promotes safer innovation by encouraging the introduction of lower risk chemicals and will continue to aid in protecting the Australian people and the environment from harmful effects of industrial chemicals.

THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES

Regulatory Reform Agenda

The Government's Regulatory Reform Agenda, as articulated in the Statement of Expectations Policy – *Prioritising Productivity*, underpins its commitment to a fit-for-purpose regulatory environment that supports national productivity and reduces the cost of living. In this context, I expect AICIS to actively contribute to reducing unnecessary or duplicative regulatory costs, collaborate with state, territory and international partners to enhance the quality and efficiency of regulation, and strengthen performance, capability and culture through regulatory stewardship. These expectations align with the Government's broader objectives of building trust in public institutions, embedding business and community at the centre of regulatory practice, and ensuring that regulatory effort remains proportionate to risk.

I expect AICIS to progress key initiatives that align with the Government's regulatory reform agenda by:

- Working with the Department of Finance, where appropriate, to initiate, implement and report on any reform proposals to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden that may require legislative reform or have funding implications.
- Identifying and addressing international regulations and the global regulatory operating environment, and engaging with international regulatory bodies, relevant to the regulator's role, functions, and environment. This includes seeking opportunities to reduce duplication and streamline processes to improve efficiency and lift productivity through international harmonisation and streamlining processes while not compromising core regulatory protections.
- Acting in accordance with regulator best practice in its decision-making, policies, processes and communications practices, to maximise transparency and minimise compliance costs.
- Applying the Resource Management Guide 128 Regulator Performance (available at www.finance.gov.au/government/managing-commonwealth-resources/regulator-performance-rmg-128) to its regulatory functions to assess its performance and engagement with stakeholders.
- Incorporating regulator performance reporting into the entity's reporting processes, as required by Resource Management Guide 128, Regulator Performance under the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014 to support greater transparency and accountability of regulator performance.

Where relevant, I expect AICIS to consult with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and other stakeholders to ensure these initiatives are delivered effectively.

Principles of regulator best practice

In exercising its functions and powers in accordance with these principles, I expect AICIS to display the following principles of regulator best practice:

1. Continuous improvement and building trust:
 - Use qualitative and quantitative analysis as important tools for assessing and reporting on performance, and to support continuous improvement.
 - Promote a work culture that encourages procedural fairness, accessibility and responsiveness and builds public trust and confidence in the performance of the AICIS and whole-of-Government decision-making.
2. Risk-based and data-driven:
 - Actively identify and manage strategic risks to ensure regulatory functions are effective and proportionate, while avoiding unnecessary disruption to the operations of regulated entities.
 - Build organisational data capability and digital literacy to support secure and effective use of data and improve risk management for the Regulator.
3. Collaboration and engagement:
 - Open, transparent, and consistent engagement with stakeholders including industry, government and the broader community are critical to co-design of solutions where appropriate and implementation of innovative regulatory practices. Consequently, I expect AICIS to:
 - Seek opportunities to engage and consult genuinely with stakeholders.
 - Be receptive to feedback and diverse stakeholder views.
 - Seek to increase transparency in decision-making processes.
 - Provide up-to-date, clear and accessible guidance and information to assist regulated entities with compliance.
 - Maintain productive working relationships with other relevant jurisdictional and Commonwealth regulators and relevant international bodies.

Innovation and regulatory change

I expect AICIS to continually monitor the operational environment to ensure regulatory approaches keep pace with changes in technology, industry practices, international regulation, and community expectations.

I also expect AICIS to regularly review and, where necessary, adjust policies, protocols, and operational procedures to ensure it can respond to the changing social, technological international regulatory environment, and commercial context in which it operates.

Relationship with Minister and portfolio

AICIS plays a critical role in supporting the Government to respond promptly to policy challenges and opportunities in industrial chemicals regulation. As Executive Director, I expect you to provide accurate, timely advice on significant regulatory issues aligned with the Government's policy priorities. I also expect you to work closely with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to contribute to ongoing policy development. I will ensure you are informed of the Government's policy direction as initiatives and strategies are considered, creating an environment that enables AICIS to implement best practice.

Relationship with Secretary of the Department

I expect this Statement of Expectations to be incorporated into the corporate documents and PGPA Act processes to help the Secretary meet PGPA Act obligations, including annual performance reporting. I also expect you to coordinate administrative matters with the Deputy Secretary, Health Products Regulation Group, and keep in regular contact with the Secretary.

Statement of Intent

I look forward to your reply to this Statement of Expectations, including your Statement of Intent, indicating how you will implement my expectations as outlined above. I request that both be published on the AICIS website.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca White

13 / 4 / 2026

Cc: The Hon Mark Butler, Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing and Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme