

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Issued by Authority of the Minister for the Environment

Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020

Recycling and Waste Reduction (Mandatory Product Stewardship - Mercury-added Products) Rules 2021

The Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020 (RAWR Act) establishes a legislative framework to enable Australia to more effectively manage the environmental and human health and safety impacts of products and waste material. This includes, in particular, impacts associated with the disposal of waste materials and products.

Chapter 3 of the RAWR Act deals with product stewardship. It establishes a framework providing the basis for those who design, import, manufacture and distribute products to take greater responsibility for their impacts on the environment. Product stewardship involves the shared responsibility for reducing the environmental, health and safety footprint of manufactured goods and materials across the life cycle of a product stream (including material streams).

The purpose of the *Recycling and Waste Reduction (Mandatory Product Stewardship - Mercury-added Products) Rules 2021* (the Rules) is to implement Australia's obligations under Articles 4(1) and 4(5) of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (the Minamata Convention), once that Convention comes into force for Australia.

The details of the Rules are set out in the initial Explanatory Statement.

The purpose of this Supplementary Explanatory Statement is to provide additional information on consultation taken in relation to the Rules.

Extensive consultation was undertaken in relation to the ratification of the Minamata Convention. The details of this consultation are outlined in the initial Explanatory Statement.

The Rules only introduce measures that are necessary for the purposes of Australia ratifying and implementing the Minamata Convention. Therefore, specific public consultation on the Rules was not undertaken as the potential impacts of the measures contained in the Rules had already been widely consulted on.

The Attorney-General's Department and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade were consulted during the development of the Rules.