



Mr Jason Lange
Executive Director
Office of Best Practice Regulation
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
1 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

Dear Mr Lange

**Regulation Impact Statement – Ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury –
Second Pass Final Assessment**

I am writing in relation to the attached Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) prepared to support consideration of Australia's ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The RIS received second pass certification on 17 August 2018 (OBPR ID: 19441). It has since been updated to reflect changes that affect the analysis and ratification options presented in the previous document.

This RIS presents two options: the base case (retaining Australia's current status as a signatory, non-Party); and ratifying the Minamata Convention.

Ratification (Option 2) is the preferred option because it has the highest net benefit and would support the Australian Government's objectives of:

1. Protecting the environment and human health from the harmful effects of mercury exposure;
2. Reducing mercury pollution from human activity;
3. Continuing Australia's role as an engaged and responsible global trading partner; and
4. Ensuring any approach provides a net benefit to the community, including minimising the impact and cost to business and industry while still meeting the other objectives.

For Option 2, the RIS estimates a net benefit of over \$5.9 million over 20 years. This is a Benefit Cost Ratio of 1.4. No regulatory burden is expected on business or the community due to ratification, as Australia's environmental regulatory frameworks are already broadly aligned with the Convention.

Accordingly, I am satisfied the RIS is consistent with the six principles for Australian Government policy makers as specified in the Australian Government Guide to Regulatory Impact Analysis.

I submit the RIS to the Office of Best Practice Regulation for formal final assessment.

Yours sincerely

Dean Knudson
Deputy Secretary
14 December 2020