

STATEMENT

Passing the *Industrial Chemicals Bill 2017* without amendment will deliver a workable and timely animal test ban for cosmetics in Australia

Another tumultuous year in the Australian Parliament concluded with no Senate consideration of the *Industrial Chemicals Bill 2017*.

A push by some parties in the Senate for amendments to *Industrial Chemicals Bill 2017* may stand in the way of the timely introduction of a workable animal test ban that matches the approach currently in place in Europe.

These amendments are unnecessary and instead reflect a misguided agenda of some globally-based animal activist groups for Australia to go beyond the European ban's approach, in a manner that would not be in the national interest and would also create confusion and uncertainty for industry.

Worth noting are the following facts:

- Two-way trade in cosmetics is significant. Australia's local manufacturing industry is growing steadily and reaching out to export markets. Imports are estimated at \$2.1B with the USA, France, Thailand, UK, China, Korea and Canada the major import nations. Australian cosmetic exports are growing at a 9 percent annualised rate and are estimated at \$610M. Being aligned with existing global approaches will foster local industry growth. Stepping out of alignment with the EU approach would be damaging for the local industry and adversely impact Australian trade relations, particularly in light of our current EU Free Trade Agreement discussions.
- 'Cosmetics' represent more than make-up or beauty products. Many cosmetic products affected by the animal test ban provisions are used daily by Australians of all genders and ages. This includes health and hygiene essentials like toothpaste, mouthwash, secondary sunscreens, sanitising soaps, deodorants and baby care products.
- The *Industrial Chemicals Bill 2017* is the end result of extensive stakeholder consultation. A significant consultation process specifically on the animal test ban elements was undertaken by the federal Health Department¹. All interested groups, including animal welfare organisations and industry, put their positions on the policy details for the animal test ban and the final approach adopted in the Bill reflects the balance of these views, as well as the need for international alignment.
- Public opinion research conducted independently for the Health Department reported the following finding: "*Consumers expressed that they do not want to disadvantage businesses importing cosmetics or exporting Australian products to overseas markets. Consumers have an expectation that government ensure that the broader economic impacts are minimised when implementing the ban.*"
- The European Chemicals Agency has written to the Government confirming the existing provisions in the *Industrial Chemical Bill 2017* align with the EU ban approach. Government members noted this in the Hansard debate in the House of Representatives.

Anyone with an interest in the timely introduction of an Australian animal test ban for cosmetics should be concerned that this now risks stalling because of possible Senate amendments which would go beyond the existing ban currently in place in Europe.

It is hoped that commonsense will prevail when the Senate revisits the *Industrial Chemicals Bill 2017* during its 2019 sitting sessions.

#ends#

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¹ <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ban-cosmetic-testing-animals>