

Achieving a new national governance framework as recommended in the Productivity Commission (PC) report is a critical element in the chemicals and plastics regulatory reform work. It will deliver better coordination of chemicals and plastics regulation as identified by the PC.

The new governance framework comprises:

- (i) a new Standing Committee on Chemicals (SCOC) to coordinate the formulation of strategic policy, oversee the institutional and regulatory arrangements and make recommendations to ministerial councils;
- (ii) the new Standing Committee to be supported by an executive unit to be located in a Commonwealth agency;
- (iii) the roles of existing ministerial councils for policy development to continue within their respective areas of responsibilities, underpinned by intergovernmental agreements;
- (iv) risk-management decision making and standard setting to be undertaken within the policy frameworks of the existing ministerial councils; and
- (v) the assessment of hazards and risks of chemicals to human health, occupational health and safety and the environment to be undertaken on a cooperative national basis, with such assessments based on best available scientific knowledge and evidence;
- (vi) the administration of agreed standards and monitoring of their impact;
- (vii) jurisdiction-specific functions to be undertaken by state and territory agencies, or where agreed by the states and territories jurisdictions, delegating to other bodies such as national regulators.