2025 FULL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Report submitted on 13 March 2026

REPORTING PERIOD:
1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024

Attachments can be found on the website

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party
Australia

Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited
7 December 2021

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party
7 March 2022

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution
Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

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3. Information about the contact officer submitting the reporting format if different from the above

Focal Point is submitting the national report

- ○ Information is submitted by the national focal point
- ◉ Information is submitted through the national focal point by the contact officer

a3_subsection

Full name of the institution
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▼ ART. 3: MERCURY SUPPLY SOURCES AND TRADE

3.1: Does the party have any primary mercury mines that were operating within its territory at the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ○ Yes – primary mercury mining with available data
- ○ Yes – primary mercury mining with no available data
- ◉ No

3.2: Does the party have any primary mercury mines that are now in operation that were not in operation at the time of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ○ Yes – primary mercury mining with available data
- ○ Yes – primary mercury mining with no available data
- ◉ No

3.3: (A) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons that are located within its territory?

3.3: (A) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons that are located within its territory?

- ◉ Yes – with new data* (also to be selected by parties reporting for the first time)
- ○ Yes – endeavoured and indicates same stocks as reported in the previous report
- ○ No

ba33a_subsection

i. Please attach the results of your endeavour or indicate where it is available on the Internet;

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ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information – for example, on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks.

The Australian Government conducted a voluntary survey with relevant industry stakeholders in 2025 (attachment refers). From the information available, no individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds located in Australia exceeded 50 metric tonnes in the reporting period. Reported stocks (< 50 metric tonnes) largely related to dental amalgam and polyurethane manufacture (prohibited from 31 December 2025). Other reported stocks relate to waste streams and waste processing (e.g. production of recycled/recovered mercury during metal and oil/gas extraction and processing).

Australia has measures in place to ensure that mercury and mercury compounds are managed in an environmentally sound manner and are either re-used for a use allowed under the Minamata Convention or exported for environmentally sound disposal in line with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article 11 of the Minamata Convention and the Basel Convention. Each export of mercury for re-use must be authorised by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. Authorisations are only granted if the mercury is not excess mercury from the decommissioning of chloralkali facilities and if the importing country has provided its written consent for the import of the mercury for a use allowed under the Minamata Convention.

3.3: (B) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual sources of mercury-supply-generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?

3.3:(B) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual sources of mercury-supply-generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?

- (●) Yes – with new data* (also to be selected by parties reporting for the first time)
- ( ) Yes – endeavoured and indicates same stocks as reported in the previous report
- ( ) No

ba33b_subsection

i. Please attach the results of your endeavour or indicate where it is available on the Internet;

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i. Please attach the results of your endeavour or indicate where it is available on the Internet;
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ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information – for example, on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks.
The Australian Government has endeavoured to identify domestic sources of mercury-supply-generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tonnes per year. As a result, three businesses have been identified as generating mercury or mercury compounds from waste streams, exceeding the 10 metric tonne per year threshold over the reporting period. These mercury/mercury compounds are disposed of and managed as waste.

3.4: Has the party determined that it has excess mercury available from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities?

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No – has determined it has no excess mercury
- ( ) No – has not made a determination

3.5: *Has the party received consent, or relied on a general notification of consent, in accordance with article 3, including any required certification from importing non-parties, for all exports of mercury from the party's territory in the reporting period?

- [ ] Yes – exports to parties
- [ ] Yes – exports to non-parties
- [ ] No – no export took place
- [x] No – consent was not given

If the party answered no – consent was not given, please provide information on the trade which was not in compliance with the Convention, the challenges met by the party and/or its needs in meeting the requirements of paragraphs 6 and 7 of article 3.
Consistent with Article 3, paragraph 6(b)(i), Australia denied a request to export elemental mercury to a non-Party for gold extraction purposes in June 2022 on the basis the non-Party could not provide certification that there are measures in place to ensure the protection of human health and the environment.

Australia implements Minamata Convention obligations for Article 3(6) and 3(8) through the following legislative instruments:

• The import or export of mercury for industrial purposes is regulated by the Industrial Chemicals (General) Rules 2019 (amended in September 2021) made under the Industrial Chemicals Act 2019;

• The import and export of therapeutic goods that are mercury, the import, export and manufacture of therapeutic goods that are mercury-added products, and the manufacture of therapeutic goods that contain mercury-added products, is regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Regulations 1990 made under the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989;

• The import and export of mercury, and the import, export and manufacture of mercury-added products, for agricultural or veterinary purposes is regulated by the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Regulations 1995 made under the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992;

• The import and export of mercury is prohibited under the Customs (Prohibited Export) Regulations 1958 (Prohibited Export Regulations) and the Customs (Prohibited Import) Regulations 1956 (Prohibited Import Regulations), made under the Customs Act 1901. No permissions need to be granted under the Customs legislation, rather the Prohibited Export Regulations and the Prohibited Import Regulations ensure that any permissions granted under the relevant subject specific legislation above are presented to Customs officials and are verified before the import or export of mercury can be cleared at the border.

3.6: Has the party allowed the import of mercury from a non-party?

- (●) No
- ( ) Yes
- ( ) The importing party has relied on paragraph 7 of article 3

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▼ ART. 4: MERCURY-ADDED PRODUCTS

4.1. Has the party taken any appropriate measures to not allow the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products listed in Part I of Annex A of the Convention after the phase-out date specified for those products?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Yes (implementing paragraph 2 of article 4)

If yes, please provide information on the measures.
Australia implements Minamata Convention obligations for Article 4(1) and 4(5) through the following legislative instruments:

• Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020: establishes a framework to regulate the export of waste materials, and to manage the environmental, health and safety impacts of products. Under this Act,

the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Mandatory Product Stewardship—Mercury-added Products) Rules 2021 prohibit manufacture, import and export of listed products in part I of Annex A for industrial purposes, and prohibit the incorporation of mercury-added products into other products.

• Therapeutic Goods Act 1989: provides for the establishment and maintenance of a national system of controls for the quality, safety, efficacy or performance, and timely availability, of therapeutic goods that are used in, or exported from, Australia. The Therapeutic Goods Regulations 1990 (the TG Regulations) prohibit the importation of a therapeutic good that is mercury from a non-Party, and the exportation of a therapeutic good that is mercury, unless an approval has been granted under the TG Regulations. The TG Regulations also prohibit the import, export and manufacture of therapeutic goods that are mercury-added products, and the manufacture of therapeutic goods containing such mercury-added products.

• Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992: regulates the import, export, manufacture and (in some cases) use of agricultural chemical products, veterinary chemical products and the active constituents of such products. The Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Regulations 1995 list mercury as a controlled chemical when it is used as an active constituent or as another ingredient. Under these regulations, mercury cannot be imported, exported or manufactured in Australia for agricultural or veterinary chemical purposes, unless permission is granted or an exemption applies.

If yes, has the party registered for an exemption pursuant to article 6?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

4.3: (A) Has the party taken two or more measures listed in subparagraphs (i) to (ix) of part II of annex A for the mercury-added products listed in part II of annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

4.3:(A) Has the party taken two or more measures listed in subparagraphs (i) to (ix) of part II of annex A for the mercury-added products listed in part II of annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

If yes, please provide information on the measures.
Australia was compliant with the following measures in the reporting period:

i. Setting national objectives aiming at dental caries prevention and health promotion, thereby minimising the need for dental restoration: Australia's National Oral Health Plan 2015-2024 set national objectives aimed at dental caries prevention and health promotion. Stakeholder engagement commenced in 2024 to set strategic priorities for the next Plan for 2025-34.

iv. Promoting research and development of quality mercury-free materials for dental restoration: In 2019, the Australian Government awarded a AUD$3 million research grant to SDI Limited for "Dentistry without mercury – Glass fibre reinforced flowable dent composite". According to SDI, this new material's mechanical properties nearly match those of amalgam.

v. Encouraging representative professional organisations and dental schools to educate and train dental professionals and students on the use of mercury-free dental restoration alternatives and on promoting best management practices: Australia's professional organisations and dental schools educate and train in the use of mercury-free dental restoration materials.

viii. Restricting the use of dental amalgam to its encapsulated form: Dental practitioners are held to a code of conduct that is tied to industry best practice articulated through mechanisms such as Position Statements. The Dental Board of Australia has published a Position Statement on dental amalgam that does not allow the use of mercury in bulk form by dental practitioners.

ix. Promoting the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce releases of mercury and mercury compounds to water & land: Australia's state and territory environment

protection and health frameworks control releases of mercury from facilities, which can include dental clinics. Some examples include:

• New South Wales Health - Dental Amalgam Clinical Use and Disposal – Guideline (https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/Pages/doc.aspx?dn=GL2020_015)

• Queensland Health Guideline – Use of Dental Amalgam (https://www.health.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0028/1265077/qh-gdl-975.pdf)

• Queensland Government Department of Environment, Science and Innovation Guideline – Clinical and Related Waste (https://www.des.qld.gov.au/policies?a=272936:policy_registry/pr-gl-clinical-and-related-waste.pdf)

• Icon Water, the utility regulator in the Australian Capital Territory, have issued acceptance guidance for dentistry, which has requirements for dental amalgam. (https://www.iconwater.com.au/sites/default/files/2025-06/TW-GN-107 Dental Surgery-Technician-Specialist.pdf)

4.3: (B) If the amendment to annex A adopted in decision MC-4/3 has entered into force for the party, has the party (please check the appropriate box below) taken relevant measures:

4.3:(B) If the amendment to annex A adopted in decision MC-4/3 has entered into force for the party, has the party (please check the appropriate box below) taken relevant measures:

◉ Yes

○ No

○ Not applicable

If the party answered yes please select from the bellow checkboxes

☑ Excluded or not allowed, by taking measures as appropriate, the use of mercury in bulk form by dental practitioners

☑ Excluded or not allowed, by taking measures as appropriate, or recommended against, the use of dental amalgam for the dental treatment of deciduous teeth of patients under 15 years of age and of pregnant and breastfeeding women, except when such use is considered necessary by the dental practitioner based on the needs of the patient

If the party answered yes to either option above, please provide information on the measures.
The Dental Board of Australia is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (National Law), as in force in each state and territory. The Dental Board's functions include developing or approving standards, codes and guidelines for the health profession. The Dental Board is also responsible for regulating dental practitioners in Australia under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The Dental Board uses a range of mechanisms to inform the industry of appropriate practices, including formal position statements.

The Dental Board of Australia published a Position Statement on dental amalgam in November 2022 (https://www.dentalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/Position-statements.aspx) which:

• Does not allow the use of mercury in bulk form by dental practitioners; and

• Stipulates that the use of dental amalgam for the dental treatment of deciduous teeth, of patients under 15 years, and of pregnant and breastfeeding women is not recommended, except when considered necessary by the dental practitioner based on the needs of the patient.

4.4: Has the party taken measures to prevent the incorporation into assembled products of mercury-added products whose manufacture, import and export are not allowed for it under article 4?

◉ Yes

○ No

○ No - not applicable (do not have facilities assembling products using mercury-added products)

If yes, please provide information on the measures.
Under the Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Mandatory Product Stewardship—Mercury-added Products) Rules 2021 prohibit manufacture, import and export of listed products for industrial purposes, and prohibit the incorporation of mercury-added products into other products.

4.5: Has the party discouraged the manufacture and the distribution in commerce of mercury-added products not covered by any known use in accordance with article 4, paragraph 6?

◉ Yes

○ No - no action taken

○ No - an assessment of the risks and benefits of the product demonstrates benefits to human health or the environment

If yes, please provide information on the measures.
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water actively encourages transitions to mercury-free products on the department's website and through correspondence with stakeholders.

Further, the Australian Government is reducing the environmental impacts of harmful chemicals through the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management Standard (IChEMS). The IChEMS establishes nationally consistent standards for managing the import, manufacture, export, use and disposal of industrial chemicals. The IChEMS applies to industrial chemicals, on their own, in mixtures (products) and in some circumstances in finished goods (articles).

Following extensive public and targeted consultation, the Australian Government published its risk management standard for mercury and its compounds, that will commence on 1 July 2026 (https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/chemicals-management/national-standard/mercury).

The standard for mercury and mercury compounds prohibits import, export, manufacture, and use of these chemicals, with the exception of some uses deemed essential in Australia.

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▼ ART. 5: MANUFACTURING PROCESSES IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED

5.1: Are there facilities within the territory of the party that use mercury or mercury compounds for the processes listed in Annex B of the Minamata Convention in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 5 of the Convention?

◉ Yes

○ No

○ Do not know

If yes, please provide information on measures taken to address emissions and releases of mercury or mercury compounds from such facilities.
Industrial facilities have duties in relation to the management of mercury or mercury compounds emissions/releases, and minimising risks to the environment and human health under the respective legislative frameworks for environmental protection across Australia's federal, state and territory governments. State and territory environmental protection legislation typically regulates potentially polluting facilities and activities through the issuance of environmental authorities or licences, which set out the conditions under which the activities must operate.

If available, please provide information on the number and type of facilities and the estimated annual amount of mercury or mercury compounds used in those facilities.
In the reporting period, Australia had one manufacturer of polyurethane using mercury catalysts for a small portion of their product lines.

The annual quantity of mercury used by this facility was as follows:

2021 = ~940kg
2022 = ~770kg
2023 = ~740kg
2024 = ~720kg

Please provide information on how much mercury (in metric tons) is used in the processes listed in the two first entries of Part II of Annex B in the last year of the reporting period.
Mercury-based production of vinyl chloride monomer and sodium or potassium methylate or ethylate does not occur in Australia.

5.2: Are measures in place to not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in manufacturing processes listed in Part I of Annex B after the phase-out date specified in that Annex for the individual process?

CHLOR-ALKALI PRODUCTION

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ◉ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

ACETALDEHYDE PRODUCTION IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED AS A CATALYST

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ◉ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

5.3: Are measures in place to restrict the use of mercury or mercury compounds in the processes listed in Part II of Annex B in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER PRODUCTION

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ◉ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

SODIUM OR POTASSIUM METHYLATE OR ETHYLATE

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ◉ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

PRODUCTION OF POLYURETHANE USING MERCURY-CONTAINING CATALYSTS

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

If yes, please provide information on these measures.
Australia's subnational authorities have appropriate measures in place to restrict the use of mercury or mercury compounds in the processes listed in part II of annex B.

For example, in the state of Victoria, under the Environment Protection Act 2017, the Environment Protection Authority must refuse to make certain permission decisions where the activity poses an unacceptable risk of harm to human health or the environment; this includes activities that involve Annex B manufacturing processes.

In the state of New South Wales, the Environment Protection Authority issued a chemical control order (an administrative instrument) to prevent the use of mercury in any new facilities where Annex B manufacturing processes are carried out. Failure to comply with a Chemical Control Order is an offence.

5.4: Is there any use of mercury or mercury compounds in a facility using the manufacturing processes listed in Annex B that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

5.5: Has the party discouraged the development of any facility using any other manufacturing process in which mercury or mercury compounds are intentionally used that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No – no action taken
- ( ) No – the party demonstrated to the Conference of the Parties the significant environmental and health benefits of the manufacturing process and that there are no technically and economically feasible mercury-free alternatives available providing such benefits.

If yes, please provide information on the measures taken.
No facilities using other manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are intentionally used, that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention for Australia, have been identified.

On 20 June 2025, the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management Standard (IChEMS) standards for mercury and its compounds were added to the IChEMS Register. From 1 July 2026, the import, export, manufacture and use of mercury and mercury compounds is prohibited. Exceptions only apply in very limited circumstances, including essential uses and research or laboratory purposes.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 7: ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING

7.1: Have steps been taken to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, artisanal and small-scale

gold mining and processing subject to article 7 within your territory?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ◉ There is no artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 in which mercury amalgamation is used in the territory

7.2: Has the party determined, and notified the secretariat, that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory is more than insignificant?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

7.5: Supplemental: Has the party cooperated with other countries or relevant intergovernmental organizations or other entities to achieve the objective of this article?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Please provide information

Australia recognizes the significant environmental and human health risks posed by mercury use in ASGM globally. In this context, Australia has actively collaborated with Papua New Guinea in a joint research partnership to identify a safer and more sustainable alternative to mercury use in ASGM.

The research project involved multiple agencies, including Papua New Guinea's Conservation and Environment Protection Authority, Mineral Resources Authority, the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), and a private company – Clean Mining.

The project ran from May 2022 – September 2024 and focused on:

• Assessing the feasibility of a cyanide-free and mercury-free micro-vat leaching process using thiosulfate as an alternative for ASGM miners.

• Expanding the global knowledge base to promote adoption of mercury-free extraction methods.

• Strengthening dialogue among key actors to support Papua New Guinea's potential accession to the Minamata Convention.

The pilot phase of the project, conducted in August–September 2023 in the Wau–Bulolo region of Papua New Guinea, demonstrated that gold extraction rates using the thiosulfate technology were 31% higher compared to mercury amalgamation methods.

A short video about the project is available at: Gold without mercury in Remote Papua New Guinea (https://publish.viostream.com/play/bgoo5gyrb8i5m3).

Please provide information

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▼ ART. 8: EMISSIONS

8.1: Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are new sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (c) of article 8.

For each of those source categories describe the measures in place, including the effectiveness of such measures, to implement the requirements of paragraph 4 of article 8.

- [ ] Coal-fired power plants
- [ ] Coal-fired industrial boilers
- [ ] Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals
- [ ] Waste incineration facilities
- [ ] Cement clinker production facilities

Has the party required the use of best available techniques or best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) to control and where feasible reduce emissions for new sources no later than 5 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No (please explain)

If Yes, please explain

Since Australia's entry into force of the Convention on 7 March 2022, there have been no newly established facilities that fall under Annex D source categories.

Several new waste-to-energy facilities are in development or expected to reach commercial operation over the next few years. These facilities are designed to process solid waste and generate electricity.

In accordance with paragraph 2 (c) of Article 8, Australia's state and territory governments have legislative mechanisms in place to ensure any new facilities or substantially modified facilities opened after March 2027 (five years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for Australia), employ best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT/BEP).

8.2: Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are existing sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (e) of article 8.

For each of those source categories, select and provide details on the measures implemented under paragraph 5 of article 8 and explain the progress that these applied measures have achieved in reducing emissions over time in your territory:

▼ COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS

- [ ] A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- [x] Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- [x] Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- [x] Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- [ ] Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

Australia's sub-national government agencies are responsible for managing emissions from Annex D source categories. Responsible authorities employ a variety of mechanisms, including licencing frameworks, to implement pollution controls. Most governments rely on emission control measures and/or multi-pollutant control strategies that deliver co-benefits for the control of mercury emissions.

Examples of sub-national legislative mechanisms and measures to implement these emissions controls include:

• Australian Capital Territory: Facilities are regulated through an environmental authorisation (licence) issued under Part 8 of Environment Protection Act 1997.

• New South Wales: The Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2022 made under Protection of the Environment, Operations Act 1997 sets individual mercury emission limits and emission limits for mixtures of toxic metals.

• Northern Territory: Facilities are regulated and licensed under Part 5 of Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998. The Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Guideline sets mercury in-stack emission concentration limits to 0.05 mg/m3 for disposal of waste by incineration.

• Queensland: The Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2019 made under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 sets air quality objectives for enhancing and protecting the environmental values (health and wellbeing). The annual average inorganic mercury vapour emission limit is 1.1 µg/m3.

• South Australia: The Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016 made under section 28 of the Environment Protection Act 1993 sets requirements for ground level concentrations of inorganic mercury (0.004 mg/m3) and organic mercury (0.0036 mg/m3) over a 3 min averaging period; and stack emissions allowable concentrations for mercury or its compounds – 3 mg/m3 as mercury.

• Tasmania: The Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality) 2004 requires 1) the application of Accepted Modern Technology (AMT) and Best Practice Environmental Management; 2) sets guideline limits on the in-stack concentrations of mercury (1 mg/m3); 3) requires air dispersion modelling to be undertaken when necessary to conservatively predict ground level concentrations that should not exceed 0.0003 mg/m3 for organic mercury and 0.017 mg/m3 for inorganic mercury over 3 min averaging period; 4) estimates annual mercury emission rates from Tasmanian facilities based on measurements of in-stack concentrations and flow rates.

• Victoria: The Environment Protection Regulations 2021 prescribe activities which require a permission, and the tier of permission required. From 7 March 2022, permissions issued by the Environment Protection Authority for activities that relate to Annex D source categories include conditions that emission controls must meet or exceed best available techniques and best environmental practices.

The Environmental Protection Act 2017 applies a prevention-based approach underpinned by a general environmental duty. Victoria's Environment Protection Authority air quality guidance assists businesses to meet their obligations under the general environmental duties (GED). This guidance provides a framework for assessing and controlling risks associated with air pollution. The most common type of risk assessment involves the use of dispersion modelling or monitoring to predict or measure pollutant concentrations and compare them with pre-defined air pollution assessment criteria (APAC) to understand if an activity poses an unacceptable risk. Health-based APACs for mercury or mercury compounds are 1 µg/m3 based on WHO standard. Multipollutant control strategies are also in place.

• Western Australia: The facilities that release/discharge mercury are regulated and licensed under Part V Division 3 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and Schedule 1 of the Environmental Protection Regulations 1987. Current industry and regulatory practice in Western Australia is to use or require BAT/BEP through conditions on approvals.

Together, these measures reduce emissions at source, limit releases to air, and drive continuous improvement in industrial practices.

Progress

The following table summarises annual emissions data from coal combustion in power plants as reported to Australia's National Pollutant Inventory.

Reporting year Annual air emissions of total mercury – Coal combustion in power plants (kg)
2023/2024 1617.49
2022/2023 1809.25
2021/2022 1996.09
2020/2021 1800.98

The reduction in annual mercury emissions from coal combustion between 2020 and 2024 may be attributed to both lower electricity generation and improved plant operations in response to state based general environmental duties.

▼ COAL-FIRED INDUSTRIAL BOILERS

- [ ] A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- [x] Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- [x] Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- [x] Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- [ ] Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures
Australia undertook analysis on sub-national legislative mechanisms and measures to implement these emissions controls. As such, please refer to the information on measures provided at the section on coal-fired power plants.

Progress
The following table summarises annual emissions data from coal combustion in coal-fired industrial boilers as reported to Australia's National Pollutant Inventory.

Reporting year Annual air emissions of total mercury – coal-fired industrial boilers (kg)
2023/2024 34.66
2022/2023 60.57
2021/2022 61.24
2020/2021 63.46

Coal-fired industrial boilers are a minor contributor to overall mercury emissions in Australia.

▼ SMELTING AND ROASTING PROCESSES USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF NON-FERROUS METALS

- [ ] A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- [x] Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- [x] Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- [x] Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- [ ] Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures
Australia undertook analysis on sub-national legislative mechanisms and measures to implement these emissions controls. As such, please refer to the information on measures provided at the section on coal-fired power plants.

Progress
The following table summarises annual emissions data from lead, zinc, copper and industrial gold extraction and initial processing as reported to Australia's National Pollutant Inventory.

Reporting year Annual air emissions of total mercury – lead, zinc, copper and industrial gold extraction and initial processing (kg)
2023/2024 994.54
2022/2023 1907.39
2021/2022 1753.02
2020/2021 1029.72

Copper, lead, and zinc smelting and refining accounted for approximately 94–97% of total mercury emissions within this sector. Between 2013 and 2019, industrial gold production transitioned from being a major source of atmospheric mercury emissions to contributing negligible amounts in Australia. Overall, Australia has made notable progress in reducing industrial mercury emissions, with total annual emissions declining by approximately 51% between 2004 and 2023 largely due to an industrial gold facility upgrading its infrastructure.

The reduction in mercury emissions from zinc, copper, and lead smelting and refining observed in 2023–2024 is likely attributable to reduced production levels.

Aluminium and alumina production is the dominant source of mercury emissions in Australia, emitting approximately 2316.57–2694.01 kg annually between 2020 and 2024. These sources are outside the scope of the Minamata Convention.

▼ WASTE INCINERATION FACILITIES

☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources

☑ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources

☑ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources

☑ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions

☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures
Australia undertook analysis on sub-national legislative mechanisms and measures to implement these emissions controls. As such, please refer to the information on measures provided at the section on coal-fired power plants.

Progress
The following table summarises annual emissions data from waste incineration facilites as reported to Australia's National Pollutant Inventory.

Reporting year Annual air emissions of total mercury – waste incineration facilities (kg)
2023/2024 6.85
2022/2023 7.68
2021/2022 86.11
2020/2021 95.05

In Australia, only a small number of facilities contribute to total mercury emissions from waste

incineration, primarily from medical waste and sewage sludge. Annual emissions decreased to 6.85 kg in 2023–24.

▼ CEMENT CLINKER PRODUCTION FACILITIES

☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources

☑ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources

☑ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources

☑ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions

☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures
Australia undertook analysis on sub-national legislative mechanisms and measures to implement these emissions controls. As such, please refer to the information on measures provided at the section on coal-fired power plants.

Progress
The following table summarises annual emissions data from cement production/manufacturing facilities as reported to Australia's National Pollutant Inventory.

Reporting year Annual air emissions of total mercury – cement production facilities (kg)
2023/2024 133.20
2022/2023 88.42
2021/2022 121.02
2020/2021 167.22

Cement production/manufacturing facilities are a minor contributor to overall mercury emissions in Australia.

Have the measures for existing sources under paragraph 5 of article 8 been implemented no later than 10 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

◉ Yes

○ No

8.3: Has the party prepared an inventory of emissions from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the Convention for it?

◉ Yes

○ No

○ Have not been a party for 5 years

If yes, when was the inventory last updated?
31 March 2025

Please indicate where this inventory is available
Australia's National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) collects annual emissions, releases, and transfer data reported by industrial facility operators. State and territory regulators conduct quality controls on

the data with support from the Australian Government.

Owners or operators of facilities emitting or using over 5 kg mercury per year have been required to report to the NPI on an annual basis since 1998.

The NPI published the 2023-2024 data on 31 March 2025.

The National Pollutant Inventory is available at:
https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/npi/data

Attach
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8.4: Has the party chosen to establish criteria to identify relevant sources covered within a source category?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

8.5: Has the party chosen to prepare a national plan setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions from relevant sources and its expected targets, goals and outcomes?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

If yes, has the party submitted its national plan to the Conference of the Parties under this article no later than 4 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Please explain
Australia has published a National Implementation Plan for the Minamata Convention. The Plan sets out that responsible sub-national authorities employ a variety of mechanisms to implement pollution controls and have legislative mechanisms in place to ensure new or substantially modified facilities opened after March 2027 employ best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) in accordance with the Convention.

Australia's National Implementation Plan has been submitted to the Minamata Convention Secretariat and published on the Convention's website.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 9: RELEASES

9.1: Are there, within the party's territory, relevant sources of releases as defined in paragraph 2 (b) of article 9?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Do not know (please explain)

Please indicate the measures taken to address releases from relevant sources and the effectiveness of those measures.
Subnational authorities employ a variety of mechanisms, including licencing frameworks, to implement pollution controls at sites. Most sub-national authorities rely on release control measures and/or multi-pollutant control strategies that deliver co-benefits for the control of mercury releases. Mercury releases are regulated through operating licences and/or permissions issued under relevant

environment protection legislation and water quality policies. For some authorities, there is also accountability on facilities through a General Environmental Duty. It is generally an offence to discharge mercury into any waters or onto land.

9.2: Has the party established an inventory of releases from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the convention for it?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) Relevant sources do not exist in the territory
- ( ) Have not been a party for 5 years
- ( ) No (please explain)

When was the inventory last updated?
31 March 2025

Please indicate where this inventory is available.
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Please explain
Australia's National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) collects annual emissions, releases, and transfer data reported by industrial facility operators.The National Pollutant Inventory is available at: https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/npi/data

Part E - Additional comments on this article

Australia maintains an inventory of releases to water and land through the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI). Facilities that report to the NPI are classed as Australia's 'relevant point sources' in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention.

The largest sources of mercury releases to water are from sewerage and wastewater treatment services, followed by mining and production of metals and steel. Sources of mercury releases to land are primarily from petroleum refining and manufacturing, non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying, oil and gas extraction, mercury waste treatment/recovery plants, waste disposal and wastewater.

Wastewater facilities contribute to mercury pollution to Australian waters, but limited data exist on the sources and associated risks. Through the National Environmental Science Program (2022-2025), mercury and other contaminants were measured in treated effluent, seawater, and sediments at three coastal wastewater treatment facility outfalls. In several instances, the total mercury concentration exceeded the Australian and New Zealand Default Guideline Values for inorganic mercury in both water and sediment. The results of this research highlight the potential for mercury pollution from wastewater facilities.

▼ ART. 10: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND INTERIM STORAGE OF MERCURY, OTHER THAN WASTE MERCURY

10.1: Has the party taken measures to ensure that the interim storage of non-waste mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No (please explain)
- ( ) Do not know (please explain)

If yes, please indicate the measures taken to ensure that such interim storage is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner, and the effectiveness of those measures.
Industrial facilities have duties in relation to the storage of mercury or mercury compounds, and in minimising risks to the environment and human health under the respective legislative frameworks for environmental protection, dangerous goods, and occupational health and safety across federal,

state and territory governments. Sub-national environmental protection legislation typically regulates potentially polluting facilities and activities through the issuance of environmental authorities or licences, which set out the conditions under which the activities must operate. Quantity or size thresholds may apply.

For example, in the state of Victoria, under the Environment Protection Act 2017 (Vic), a person who is engaging in an activity that may give rise to risks of harm to human health or the environment from pollution or waste must minimise those risks, so far as reasonably practicable. This includes ensuring that substances are handled, stored, used or transported in a manner that minimises risks of harm to human health and the environment from pollution and waste. Guidelines on the environmentally sound interim storage of mercury developed under the Basel Convention and the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management Standard (IChEMS) risk management measures are part of the state of knowledge and inform what is expected under the general environmental duty (https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/general-environmental-duty) and other relevant environment protection framework duties.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 11: MERCURY WASTES

11.1: Have measures outlined in article 11, paragraph 3, been implemented for the party's mercury waste?

◉ Yes

○ No

☑ Yes - the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner

Please describe measure and effectiveness of measures
Waste management frameworks differ by location, however all sub-national environmental regulators implement site and activity-based permission frameworks. This may include (but is not limited to) facility operating licences and/or permissions, waste transport registrations, development permits and disposal authorisations.

For example, in the state of Victoria, the management of industrial waste is regulated through the Environment Protection Act 2017 (the Act) and Environment Protection Regulations 2021 (the Regulations). The Act is a duties-based framework with duties which apply to those in management or control of the waste from generation, transport and receipt for treatment or disposal. Industrial waste that contains mercury or mercury compounds is classified as reportable priority waste; reportable priority waste is the subset of industrial waste with the highest level of controls. The relevant duties that apply to mercury waste as a reportable priority waste include:

• Duty to ensure mercury waste is taken to/received at a licenced facility (prescribed permission activity A01 - Reportable priority waste management). Licences are required for any facility 'storing, treating, reprocessing, containing or disposing of any reportable priority waste generated at another site'.

• Duty to manage mercury waste so it is properly contained, isolated to ensure resource recovery remains possible, and provide relevant information including risks of harm to next person along the waste supply chain.

• Duty to ensure the transporter of mercury waste has the appropriate permission (prescribed permission activity A10b - Reportable priority waste (transport)-other). Movement of the waste must also be tracked through EPA VIC's Waste Tracker system every time the waste changes hands.

☑ Yes - the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is recovered, recycled, reclaimed or directly re-used for a use allowed to a party under the Convention or for environmentally sound disposal pursuant to paragraph 3 (a)

Please describe measure and effectiveness of measures
Mercury waste can only be recovered, recycled, reclaimed or directly re-used for a use allowed under the Minamata Convention. To satisfy this obligation, sub-national governments have measures in place to not allow use of mercury in certain manufacturing processes.

In addition, the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management Standard (IChEMS) standards for mercury and its compounds will take effect from 1 July 2026. The IChEMS standards have been designed to be in alignment with the Minamata Convention Article 11 and ensure that "disposal must not lead to recovery, recycling, reclamation, or re-use of the class of chemicals", except for some uses deemed essential in Australia or for environmentally sound management.

☑ Yes - the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is not transported across international boundaries except for the purpose of environmentally sound disposal

Please describe measure and effectiveness of measures
With regard to the international transboundary movement of mercury wastes, Australia has measures in place to ensure mercury and mercury compounds are imported/exported for re-use or environmentally sound disposal according to the provisions of both the Minamata Convention and the Basel Convention.

Importers and exporters of mercury waste must obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit and gain consent from transit and import countries in accordance with the Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989. Exports of hazardous wastes, including mercury wastes are generally only allowed if it can be demonstrated that the waste cannot be processed in Australia.

If the party answered yes to any measures above, please describe the measures implemented pursuant to paragraph 3, and please also describe the effectiveness of those measures.
Australia ensures the effectiveness of the measures listed above through:

- Strong regulatory obligations applied across the waste lifecycle (generation, transport, treatment and disposal)

- High-risk classification and licensing controls for mercury waste

- Mandatory reporting for licensing purposes

- Robust measures in place to manage the international movement of mercury wastes in accordance with the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

- Restrictions on recovery and reuse consistent with the Minamata Convention obligations

- Availability of disposal infrastructure

With the commencement of the IChEMS standards in 2026, Australia's framework will further mature into a nationally consistent, internationally aligned system for the environmentally sound management of mercury waste.

11.2: *Are there facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the party's territory?

◉ Yes

○ No

○ Do not know (please explain)

If the party answered yes to any measures above, please select from the following

☑ Yes - there are facilities in the party's territory

☑ Yes - there are facilities outside the party's territory accessible to the party (in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 11)

If there are facilities in the party's territory and if the information is available, how much waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds has been subject to final disposal under the reporting

period? Please specify the method of the final disposal operation/operations. If the party does not have specific data on waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds, the party may report on the data including other mercury waste, with an explanatory note.
Australia has one geological repository facility for the final disposal and permanent storage of waste consisting of mercury and mercury compounds. In line with domestic regulations, liquid mercury waste must be stabilised and solidified before final disposal. One company is currently developing a new capability that will enable the safe conversion of liquid elemental mercury into a more stable form.

Australia has several specially engineered landfills or cells, which are designed to receive waste containing or contaminated with mercury if they satisfy leachability criteria defined in the licence conditions for the landfill site.

The total amount of mercury wastes as defined by paragraph 2 of Article 11, deposited to the geological repository, specially engineered landfills or cells are based on reports from sub-national government authorities and industries. The amount of reported mercury waste between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2024 is 1,646 tonnes. This total is based on Australia's definition of waste mercury and mercury compounds as set out by the National Environment Protection (Movement of Controlled Waste between States and Territories) Measure and includes those wastes sent directly for final disposal or via physico-chemical treatment facilities, as stabilised/solidified mercury wastes.

During the identification and categorisation process, it was determined that these wastes are predominantly comprised of natural gas industry spent catalysts and/or mercury removal units, fluorescent lamps, dental waste and other types of end-of-life products (medical).

Kindly attach any additional relevant information
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Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 12: CONTAMINATED SITES

12.1: Has the party endeavoured to develop strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds in its territory?

◉ Yes

○ No

Please elaborate
Australia's National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999 (Site Contamination NEPM), as amended in 2013, sets exposure criteria for mercury and investigating levels for mercury, and provides guidance for using site-specific approaches to assessing potentially contaminated sites.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 13: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISM

13.1: Has the party undertaken to provide, within its capabilities, resources in respect of those national activities that are intended to implement the Convention in accordance with its national policies, priorities, plans and programmes?

◉ Yes

○ No

Please specify
Actions to implement the Convention are taken by all levels of government and multiple agencies. Due to the large number of national activities with work that touches on mercury, as well as the complexities of aggregating information on the financial resources allocated only to Convention implementation, it is not possible to provide an estimate of the direct costs for implementation.

13.2: Supplemental: Has the party, within its capabilities, contributed to the mechanism referred to in paragraph 5 of article 13?

◉ Yes

○ No

Please provide comments, if any.
The Australian Government has provided donor funding to the Global Environment Fund (GEF) for over 30 years. The eighth replenishment of the GEF trust fund (GEF8) has allocated US$269 million for the Minamata Convention from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2026. Australia's pledge for the GEF8 programming period (2022-2026) is AUD$80 million.

Australia has not yet contributed to the Specific International Programme.

13.3: Supplemental: Has the party provided financial resources to assist developing-country parties and/or parties with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention through other bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels?

◉ Yes

○ No

Please specify
Australia works with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to coordinate regional efforts on environmental and pollution issues. Established by the SPREP Agreement (1993), SPREP is the principal intergovernmental organisation for the protection of the environment and sustainable development in the Pacific. Its mandate is to promote cooperation and provide technical assistance to Pacific island countries and territories to protect and improve the environment.

SPREP is spearheading the Mercury-Free Pacific Campaign, with the goal to encourage Pacific island countries to ratify the Minamata Convention, it will also focus on management and disposal of legacy mercury waste within Pacific communities. SPREP is the implementation agency of the GEF ISLANDS Pacific Child Project, which aims to prevent the build-up of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and mercury materials and to manage and dispose of existing harmful chemicals and wastes across Pacific SIDS.

Australia is a metropolitan member and is one of the largest financial partners of SPREP. This includes core funding of AUD24.75m (2025-2031) and an annual membership contribution of USD222,000 (in addition to core funding, SPREP also manages approximately AUD57.25 million in Australian investment in program funding, at the time of reporting). While not specifically for implementation of Minamata Convention, these contributions allow SPREP to undertake its core functions, and incorporate activities relevant to mercury pollution into existing programs, where appropriate.

Please provide comments, if any.
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Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 14: CAPACITY-BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

14.1: Has the party cooperated to provide capacity-building or technical assistance, pursuant to article 14, to another party to the Convention?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Please specify
From May 2022 to September 2024, Australia actively collaborated with Papua New Guinea in a joint research partnership to identify a safer and more sustainable alternative to mercury use in ASGM.

14.2: Supplemental: Has the party received capacity-building or technical assistance pursuant to article 14?

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

Please specify
Australia has not received capacity-building or technical assistance pursuant to article 14.

Please provide comments, if any.
{Empty}

14.3: Has the party promoted and facilitated the development, transfer and diffusion of and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound alternative technologies?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Other

Please specify
The response to question 7.5 refers.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 16: HEALTH ASPECTS

16.1: Have measures been taken to provide information to the public on exposure to mercury in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 16?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.
The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water maintains a public website to educate the community about the dangers of mercury, the role of the Minamata Convention and Australia's implementation of the Convention.

Australia's National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) tracks pollution across Australia, and ensures the community has access to information about the emission and transfer of toxic substances which may affect them locally.

The Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme helps protect the health of Australians and the environment by finding out the risks of industrial chemicals (including mercury) and recommending ways to promote their safer use.

State and territory governments adopt, without variation, food standards developed by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) once a notice has been published by the Australian Government.

The Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991 provides information about food safety protections and the establishment of FSANZ. FSANZ also conducts the Australian Total Diet Study (https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/science-data/monitoring-safety/australian-total-diet-study), which includes monitoring chemicals in the Australian diet.

Food Standards Australia and New Zealand monitors mercury concentrations in a range of Australian foods (including seafood) to identify risks and develop management strategies if necessary. They also provide recommendations to vulnerable populations (pregnant women and children) and the rest of the Australian population on the safe consumption of fish (FSANZ Food Safety Advice - Mercury, https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/consumer/chemicals/mercury).

Safe Work Australia publishes model Codes of Practice, guidance and information on hazardous chemicals, including mercury, for persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs, such as employers), and workers.

Safe Work Australia also maintains the Hazardous Chemical Information System (HCIS) (https://hcis.safeworkaustralia.gov.au), an internet advisory service for the public with a searchable database of hazard information for chemicals. The database contains chemicals that have been classified in accordance with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) by an authoritative source, such as the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) or the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS). It also contains the Australian workplace exposure standards.

Australia has set workplace exposure standards (https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/workplace-exposure-standards-airborne-contaminants-2025) for several mixtures and substances containing mercury. Under the model work health and safety (WHS) laws, persons at the workplace must not be exposed to airborne concentrations of a mixture or substance above the exposure standard. The workplace exposure standards are generally set at airborne concentration below which exposure is unlikely to cause an adverse effect. Safe Work Australia has also developed a guide to help doctors monitor the health of workers exposed to mercury (https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/health-monitoring-mercury-inorganic).

16.2: Have any measures been taken to protect human health in accordance with article 16 beyond the provision of information to the public on exposure to mercury (referred to in question 16.1)?

(●) Yes

( ) No

Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.
The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines provide guidance to water regulators and suppliers on monitoring and managing drinking water quality. Based on health considerations, the concentration of total mercury in drinking water should not exceed 0.001 mg/L.

The Guidelines for managing risks in recreational water set criteria for mercury based on the health-based guideline value for drinking water.

The model work health and safety (WHS) laws, developed by Safe Work Australia set out the storage and handling requirements for hazardous chemicals and the work health and safety obligations that apply to workplaces where these are present.

State and territory governments implement legislation controlling the transport of dangerous goods through the National Transport Commission's Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail.

Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) manages risks associated with the potential presence of contaminants like mercury in the food supply, through developing and maintaining the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Food Standards Code). The Food Standards Code specifies legal requirements for food at the point of sale in Australia, including maximum levels

(MLs) for mercury (Standard 1.4.1 and Schedule 19). MLs are set to protect public health and safety, whilst being achievable through sound food production practices.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 17: INFORMATION EXCHANGE

17.1: Has the party facilitated the exchange of information referred to in article 17, paragraph 1?

◉ Yes

○ No

If yes, the Party may wish to indicate in the space provided below the exchange of information it has facilitated, such as:

☑ Scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, including toxicological, ecotoxicological and safety information

Scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, including toxicological, ecotoxicological and safety information
Australia has provided national and local scientific findings to the Convention's Open-ended Scientific Group (OESG) in support of the effectiveness evaluation framework to the Minamata Convention. The OESG is a voluntary, technical committee established under the Convention. Australia has one government official and three technical experts contributing to the work OESG.

In addition, leading research scientists from the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), with expert input from regulatory, risk and contaminant specialists, have developed a new framework to support scientifically informed environmental risk assessments for offshore decommissioning, including in relation to mercury. The framework will support industry proponents and regulators in assessing whether infrastructure left in the ocean aligns with environmental protection standards.

To help inform international research and development in this space, ANSTO has joined the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership to further collaborate and share their research.

☐ Information on the reduction or elimination of the production, use, trade, emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds

☐ Information on technically and economically viable alternatives to:

☐ Epidemiological information concerning health impacts associated with exposure to mercury and mercury compounds, in close cooperation with the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, as appropriate. (Art. 17.1 (a)-(d))

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 18: PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

18.1: Have measures been taken to promote and facilitate the provision to the public of the kinds of information listed in article 18, paragraph 1?

◉ Yes

○ No

If yes, the party may wish to indicate in the space provided below, the measures it has taken to promote and facilitate information to the public, such as:
(a) Provision to the public of available information on:

☑ The effects of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment

The effects of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment
The Australian Government has developed and disseminated information to raise public awareness about the risks associated with mercury exposure. This includes educational materials and resources available on the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme, Food Standards Australia and New Zealand, Safe Work Australia, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority websites. State and territory regulatory authorities provide public health information and location-specific advice to educate the community about to risks of harm to human health and the environment, including from mercury.

In addition, the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZ Guidelines) provide a platform for consistent water quality management advice, technical support and tools for governments and the community to utilise. The guidelines are a joint initiative of the Australian and New Zealand governments to help manage water resources in both countries so that the use of water is sustainable, and the ecology of waterways is maintained.

The focus of the ANZ Guidelines is water quality in the context of ecosystem health and management. Default guideline values (DGVs) and guidance documents ensure that specific physical and chemical stressors in waterways do not reach harmful levels for biota.

☐ Alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds

☐ The topics identified in paragraph 1 of article 17

☐ The results of its research, development and monitoring activities under article 19

☑ Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention
The Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) leads the domestic implementation of the Convention and provided information on the activities taken to meet its obligations in Australia's National Implementation Plan, which is publicly available on DCCEEW and the Convention websites.

(b) Education, training and public awareness related to the effects of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment in collaboration with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and vulnerable populations, as appropriate.

Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention
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(Art. 18 (1) (a) and (b))

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 19: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING

19.1: Has the party undertaken any research, development and monitoring in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 19?

◉ Yes

○ No

If yes, the party may wish to indicate in the space provided below, the research, development and monitoring it has undertaken, such as:

☐ Inventories of use, consumption, anthropogenic emissions to air and releases to water and land of mercury and mercury compounds

☑ Modelling and geographically representative monitoring of levels of mercury and mercury compounds in vulnerable populations and in environmental media, including biotic media such as fish, marine mammals, sea turtles and birds, as well as collaboration in the collection and exchange of relevant and appropriate samples

Modelling and geographically representative monitoring of levels of mercury and mercury compounds in vulnerable populations and in environmental media, including biotic media such as fish, marine mammals, sea turtles and birds, as well as collaboration in the collection and exchange of relevant and appropriate samples

Research studies pertaining to mercury are conducted across the different levels of government and by the Australian research community.

The Australian Government funds environment and climate research through the National Environmental Science Program (NESP). The NESP is currently in its second phase, with $AUD149 million contributing to 4 research hubs, including the hub for Sustainable Communities and Waste, and the Marine and Coastal hub. Australia's National Environmental Science Program has allocated funding to examine concentrations of contaminants of emerging concern (including metals) in wastewater treatment effluent, seawater and sediment samples, and their ecological significance. The project is running from 2022-2025 with outcomes expected to facilitate a broader understanding of the scale, distribution and potential ecological impacts of contaminants of emerging concern. This will support future decision-making about wastewater treatment and the protection and management of Australian coastal waters.

The NESP recognises and values the experiences, perspectives, and cultures of Indigenous Australians. Program researchers are collaborating with Indigenous experts and Traditional Owner groups to help achieve improved on-ground outcomes for the environment. This involves caring for Country and embedding Indigenous knowledge systems into the protection of biodiversity.

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is Australia's national science agency. CSIRO is helping to maintain the integrity of the Australian environment by providing scientific information and advice on the environmentally sound management of chemicals, including state-of-the-art approaches, techniques and tools for monitoring, minimising and mitigating impacts of chemicals and wastes.

Working with the Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO makes long term observations of mercury in the atmosphere at 2 locations in Australia:

• Kennaook/Cape Grim Baseline Air Pollution Station - located 90 m above sea level on the northwest tip of Tasmania, situated in a coastal temperate climate heavily influenced by clean Southern Ocean air masses. Observations of gaseous elemental mercury commenced in 2011. Observations of mercury in precipitation commenced in 2024.

• The Northern Territory Baseline Air Pollution Station (NTBAPS) - located at Gunn Point, experiences a tropical coastal savannah climate. Observations of gaseous elemental mercury commenced in 2014.

Both Kennaook/Cape Grim and the NTBAPS stations are operated as World Meteorological Organisation Global Atmospheric Watch stations with other observations made at these stations such as meteorological variables and air composition measurements that contribute to the understanding of mercury cycling in the regions. These sites are among only a handful of sites in the Southern Hemisphere that are used for long term global/hemispheric trend analysis.

In addition to these two sites, CSIRO is working with Charles Darwin University to measure mercury in precipitation as part of the Asia Pacific Mercury Monitoring Network in Darwin, located 30 km from the NTBAPS. Measurements commenced in 2022. CSIRO, in collaboration with universities, also participates in Canada's Global Mercury Passive Sampling Network. These important collaborations continue to enhance regional and global mercury monitoring capabilities and strengthen scientific work in the Minamata Convention's Open-Ended Scientific Group.

The Bureau of Meteorology is Australia's national weather, climate and water agency. The Bureau contributes to national social, economic, cultural and environmental goals by providing observational, meteorological, hydrological and oceanographic services and by undertaking research into science and environment-related issues in support of its operations and services. The Bureau monitors aspects of the atmosphere and its products, services and information systems improve Australia's environmental information base.

The Bureau owns and operates the Kennaook/Cape Grim Baseline Air Pollution Station and jointly manages the mercury science program in collaboration with CSIRO at this site. Bureau technical staff provide the maintenance of mercury instrumentation and real-time analysis of data quality to support CSIRO scientists' research.

The Geochemical Atlas of Australia provides data on 68 mineral elements (including mercury) in sediment samples which were gathered from 1315 sites in 1186 catchments across Australia as part of Geoscience Australia's National Geochemical Survey of Australia project.

Research conducted by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) supports the sustainable use and protection of oceans. AIMS applies core capabilities in large-scale, high-tech and long-term ocean monitoring, risk assessment of pollution and cumulative impacts, and analyses and prediction of ecosystem function and change.

Scientists from AIMS have published several important studies on mercury measurements in biota and sediments. AIMS also works with industry and national regulators to define best practice for the environmental risk assessment of mercury in offshore oil and gas decommissioning and conducts research on mercury biomagnification in marine food webs.

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) uses nuclear science and technology to deliver real-world benefits to Australians through excellence in research, supporting access to nuclear technologies to improve health, providing expert advice to Government and leading the development of a nuclear workforce.

Through its nuclear science and technology capabilities, ANSTO has extensive expertise and experience in identifying and quantifying the mechanisms that influence how contaminants move through the environment and affect living organisms, ecosystems and people. ANSTO conducts and enables research to address some of Australia's and the world's most challenging environmental problems including providing data and insights to assist with planning and risk management associated with the offshore oil and gas sector. ANSTO has produced a number of scientific publications about potential risks associated with mercury in subsea oil and gas pipelines in Australia.

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) Research Strategy identifies priorities relating to enhancing understanding of sources, transformation and fate of mercury related to offshore oil and gas, as well as research on best available techniques and best environmental practices to control releases of mercury and manage mercury waste.

The Australian Antarctic Division addresses critical issues relating to climate change, the human footprint in Antarctica, the conservation of Antarctic and Southern Ocean wildlife, and the sustainable management of Southern Ocean fisheries. Antarctic science is highly collaborative, bringing together researchers from across Australia and around the world. Australia's Antarctic scientific program includes a range of long-term observational activities in addition to targeted multidisciplinary environmental and contaminant research activities in Antarctica, the sub-Antarctic and Southern Ocean.

Scientists from the Australian Antarctic Division have contributed to the first circumpolar assessment of mercury contamination in Antarctic marine ecosystems, critical for evaluation of the Minamata Convention's effectiveness.

The Antarctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AnMAP) is a body under the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research established in June 2023. The AnMAP aims to deliver a circum-Antarctic research and surveillance programme focused on the major threats of organic contaminant pollution and climate-driven ecosystem change. It seeks to provide scientific information on threats

to the Antarctic environment, and government advice as to preventative and remedial action. Researchers from the AnMAP have published their first mercury observation in humpback whales, Antarctic krill, fur seal and seabirds.

The Australian Research Council (ARC) is an independent Australian Government entity that is responsible for growing knowledge and innovation for the benefit of the Australian community through the provision of research funding, assessing the quality, engagement and impact of research, and providing advice on research matters.

The Environment Protection Authority of Victoria have recently undertaken a study to identify legacy mine waste sites using machine learning and remote sensing. These sites are often contaminated with mercury or contain mercury wastes. This has involved the sampling and analysis of mine wastes to establish mercury concentrations according to waste types.

Mercury Australia is a network of Australian university and government researchers with diverse backgrounds, investigating the historical and contemporary uses and impacts of mercury. The network conducts research in Australasia to identify potential adverse effects of mercury on the environment and human health, as well as ways in which to mitigate those risks.

The aim of this network is to create new collaborations, and to translate research results into publicly accessible information. Australian Government officials are members of this network and regularly engage in science-policy dialogues.

Australian scientists present their mercury research at national and international conferences, including the International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant, and publish their work in peer reviewed journals.

Recent journal publications from Australian scientists and their collaborators that are relevant to understanding mercury risks, emissions, releases and concentrations in environment and biota are below:

Larissa Schneider, Patrice de Caritat, James R. Taylor, Olha S. Furman, Simon G. Haberle, and Corey J. A. Bradshaw, Predicting Continental-Scale Soil Mercury Concentrations in Australia to Refine Global Frameworks, Environmental Science & Technology 2026 60 (2), 1858-1870 DOI: 10.1021/acs.est.5c11189

Amanda Reichelt-Brushett, Yusthinus Male, Tess Hoinville, Alberth Nanholy, Mercury and methylmercury in seafood from Maluku, Eastern Indonesia and New South Wales, Australia - considering food risk and trophic levels, Regional Studies in Marine Science, Volume 93, 2026, 104663, ISSN 2352-4855

Larissa Schneider, Fei Cao, Peter Davies, Kathryn Allen, Simon Apte, James River Taylor, Quan Hua, Josh King, Ruoyu Sun, Matthew Theodore Brookhouse, Susan Lawrence,Legacy mercury emissions and releases from colonial-era gold mining in Australia, Environmental Pollution, Volume 393, 2026, 127517

Natalie Palmer, Amanda Reichelt-Brushett, Jane Hall, Daniele Cagnazzi, Karrie Rose, Duane March, Contaminant assessment of stranded and deceased beaked whales (Ziphiidae) on the New South Wales coast of Australia, Marine Pollution Bulletin, Volume 204, 2024,116520, ISSN 0025-326X, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2024.116520

Chantel S. Foord, Kate Robb, Dayanthi Nugegoda, Trace element concentrations in dolphins of south-east Australia; mercury a cause for concern in the region, Marine Pollution Bulletin, Volume 209, Part A,2024, 117130, ISSN 0025-326X, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2024.117130.

Saaristo, M., Johnstone, C. P., Mikkonen, A., Lewis, P., Sardiña, P., & Taylor, M. P. (2024). Trace elements in liver and muscle tissues from wild waterfowls in Australia: Risk associated with human consumption in a global context. Environmental Pollution, 362, 124949. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2024.124949

Schneider, L., Fisher, J. A., Diéguez, M. C., Fostier, A.-H., Guimaraes, J. R. D., Leaner, J. J., & Mason, R. 2023. A synthesis of mercury research in the Southern Hemisphere, part 1: Natural processes.

Ambio, 52(5), 897–917. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-023-01832-5

Fisher, J. A., Schneider, L., Fostier, A.-H., Guerrero, S., Guimarães, J. R. D., Labuschagne, C., Leaner, J. J., Martin, L. G., Mason, R. P., Somerset, V., & Walters, C. 2023. A synthesis of mercury research in the Southern Hemisphere, part 2: Anthropogenic perturbations. Ambio, 52(5), 918–937. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-023-01840-5

Cusset, F., Bustamante, P., Carravieri, A., Bertin, C., Brasso, R., Corsi, I., Dunn, M., Emmerson, L., Guillou, G., Hart, T., Juáres, M., Kato, A., Machado-Gaye, A. L., Michelot, C., Olmastroni, S., Polito, M., Raclot, T., Santos, M., Schmidt, A., Cherel, Y. 2023. Circumpolar assessment of mercury contamination: the Adélie penguin as a bioindicator of Antarctic marine ecosystems. Ecotoxicology, 32(8), 1024–1049. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10646-023-02709-9

Apte, Simon; Jarolimek, Chad; King, Josh. Review of Contaminants in Australian Marine Fauna. Sydney: CSIRO; 2022. https://doi.org/10.25919/kgnp-wm81

Edward C.V. Butler, Simon J. Harries, Kirsty A. McAllister, Jonathan O. Windsor, Murray Logan, David A. Crook, Brien H. Roberts, Mark A. Grubert, Thor M. Saunders, Influence of life history variation and habitat on mercury bioaccumulation in a high-order predatory fish in tropical Australia, Environmental Research, Volume 212, Part A, 2022, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2022.113152

MacFarlane, S., Fisher, J. A., Horowitz, H. M., & Shah, V. 2022. Two decades of changing anthropogenic mercury emissions in Australia: inventory development, trends, and atmospheric implications [10.1039/D2EM00019A]. Environmental Science: Processes & Impacts, 24(9), 1474–1493. https://doi.org/10.1039/D2EM00019A

Fenny Kho, Darren J. Koppel, Rebecca von Hellfeld, Astley Hastings, Francesca Gissi, Tom Cresswell, Stuart Higgins, Current understanding of the ecological risk of mercury from subsea oil and gas infrastructure to marine ecosystems, Journal of Hazardous Materials, Volume 438, 2022, 129348, ISSN 0304-3894, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhazmat.2022.129348.

Gissi F, Koppel D, Boyd A, Kho F, von Hellfeld R, Higgins S, Apte S, Cresswell T. 2022 A review of the potential risks associated with mercury in subsea oil and gas pipelines in Australia. Environmental Chemistry 19, 210–227. https://doi.org/10.1071/EN22048

Susan M. Bengtson Nash, Maria Valeria Casa, So Kawaguchi, Iain Staniland, Poul Bjerregaard, Mercury levels in humpback whales, and other Southern Ocean marine megafauna, Marine Pollution Bulletin, Volume 172, 2021, 112774, ISSN 0025-326X, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2021.112774.

☐ Assessments of the impact of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment, in addition to social, economic and cultural impacts, particularly in respect of vulnerable populations

☐ Harmonized methodologies for the activities undertaken under subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 1 of article 19

☐ Information on the environmental cycle, transport (including long-range transport and deposition), transformation and fate of mercury and mercury compounds in a range of ecosystems, taking appropriate account of the distinction between anthropogenic and natural emissions and releases of mercury and of remobilization of mercury from historic deposition

☐ Information on commerce and trade in mercury and mercury compounds and mercury-added products

☐ Information and research on the technical and economic availability of mercury-free products and processes and on best available techniques and best environmental practices to reduce and monitor emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds

(Art. 19 (1) (a)-(g))

Part E - Additional comments on this article

{Empty}

▼ COMMENTS REGARDING POSSIBLE CHALLENGES IN MEETING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION

Part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention

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▼ COMMENTS REGARDING THE REPORTING FORMAT AND POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS, IF ANY

Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any

The report was prepared using a paper-based offline format. The subsequent transition to an online version presented a few challenges due to minor differences in questions between the offline and online versions. To avoid confusion and support more efficient future processes, it is recommended that the offline form is identical to the online format, clearly indicates mandatory questions, and allocates adequate space for each sub question.

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