



Media Release

15 May 2006

EXISTING CHEMICALS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM TO BE DISCUSSED AT NICNAS FORUMS

Commencing 15 May 2006, the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) is hosting public engagement forums on chemical safety issues in ten locations across Australia.

While individuals and organisations with an interest in chemical safety (staff and supporters of organisations, institutions and groups involved in worker health and safety, environmental protection, chemicals manufacture, waste management and similar fields) have been invited, other interested members of the public are welcome to attend.

Public engagement forums represent an important part of NICNAS's commitment to community engagement to ensure best practice risk assessment in Australia. In particular, these forums provide an opportunity for consultation about NICNAS's discussion paper: *Promoting safer chemical use: towards better regulation of chemicals in Australia*, which includes a range of proposals for change to NICNAS's Existing Chemicals Assessment Program.

The discussion paper outlines the changes being proposed for the Program, with twenty specific proposals and a new assessment model. The changes include how existing chemicals (those industrial chemicals already in use in Australia) are assessed and on what priority in response to specific concerns about their potential health and/or environmental effects.

After presentation of the proposals and aspects of the proposed new model at each forum, comment and input about the Program and proposals and public submissions can be made at the forums or, subsequently, directly to NICNAS by 23 June 2006.

Schedule for the forums (duration of each forum: 2 hours)

State/ Territory	Date and times	Venue
ACT	Monday 29 May, 2 pm & 7 pm	Quality Inn, Cnr Melrose Drive & Launceston St Woden, CANBERRA
NSW	Monday 15 May, 10 am & 7 pm	Mercure Hotel – 818-820 George St, SYDNEY

NT	Tuesday 23 May, 2 pm & 7 pm	Novotel Atrium – 100 The Esplanade, DARWIN
QLD	Monday 29 May, 2 pm & 7 pm	Mercure Inn – Woolcock St, TOWNSVILLE
	Tuesday 30 May, 2 pm & 7 pm	Novotel Brisbane – 200 Creek St, BRISBANE
SA	Monday 22 May, 2 pm & 7 pm	Rydges South Park – 1 South Terrace, ADELAIDE
TAS	Wednesday 31 May, 7 pm and Thursday 1 June, 9 am	Hotel Grand Chancellor – 1 Davey St HOBART
VIC	Thursday 1 June, 7 pm and Friday 2 June, 10am	Novotel Melbourne on Collins – 270 Collins St MELBOURNE
WA	Tuesday 16 May, 2 pm & 7 pm	Mercure Hotel – 10 Irwin St, PERTH
	Wednesday 17 May 7 pm and Thursday 18 May 9 am	Mercure Inn Continental – Weld St BROOME

Further information:

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