Principles for cost recovery of the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS)

Draft for consultation

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1. Introduction

Reforms to the regulation of industrial chemicals

Within the Department of Health, the Office of Chemical Safety (OCS) administers the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS). From 1 July 2020, NICNAS will be replaced by the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS).

On 26 May 2015, the Australian Government announced its decision to implement a range of reforms to the regulation of industrial chemicals. These reforms seek to streamline the assessment process for industrial chemicals to reduce the regulatory burden on the sector, while also ensuring Australia’s robust safety standards are maintained.

As a result, there is now new Australian industrial chemicals law — the Industrial Chemicals Act 2019, associated legislation and delegated legislation. This law creates a new regulatory scheme for the importation and manufacture of industrial chemicals in Australia.

The main purpose of the new scheme will remain the same as the current scheme— to protect the Australian people and environment by assessing the risks of industrial chemicals and providing information and recommendations to promote their safe use.

The new scheme has been designed to make regulatory effort more proportionate to the risks posed by industrial chemicals and to promote safer innovation by encouraging the introduction of lower risk chemicals.


Purpose and scope

The purpose of this consultation paper is to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on the principles that will be used to inform and construct the cost recovery arrangements for AICIS when it becomes operational from 1 July 2020, prior to development of a final cost allocation methodology and supporting cost model, and the drafting of a Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS).

This paper provides details of the key activities that will be undertaken to administer the Industrial Chemicals Act 2019, and a summary of how these activities are proposed to be costed and cost recovered to deliver the new scheme. As with NICNAS, the primary cost recovery mechanisms that are proposed for AICIS are fees for services and charges (levies). This paper will provide an overview of the methodology used to map the activities undertaken in operating the new scheme to relevant fees and levy charge points.

After considering stakeholder feedback on the proposed cost recovery methodology outlined in this paper, OCS will:

1. Develop proposed volumes for each fee and charge (levy).
2. Develop cost estimates for each activity to be undertaken by AICIS.
3. Allocate the cost estimates into cost pools for each fee or charge (levy).
4. Publish a draft CRIS that will include further detail about the amount of the proposed fees and charges in each fee/charge category.

5. Publish a final CRIS following stakeholder feedback on the draft CRIS, and relevant Government approvals.

Further information on the methodology used to estimate costs and volumes is available in sections 5 and 6 of this paper.

Policy authority for cost recovery of AICIS

Cost recovery involves government entities charging individuals or non-government organisations some or all of the efficient costs of a specific government activity. This may include goods, services or regulation, or a combination of them.

Full cost recovery of NICNAS activities was provided for in the 1994–95 Budget under the measure “Implementing full cost recovery in 1996–97 for National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme”. A small appropriation from the government to subsidise the compliance program, to support small to medium enterprises to comply with the Scheme, and funding to cover the cost of services to government that relate to the regulation of industrial chemicals, was ceased in June 2005.

Policy authority to recover the costs of implementing the NICNAS reforms was given in the 2015–16 Budget under the ongoing measure “Reducing the Burden of Industrial Chemicals Regulatory Framework to Industry”. This measure provided authority to recover operational costs for reform implementation during the first two years of reform activity, and for recovery of associated capital costs over the useful life of the asset. The Australian Government made an upfront investment in a new ICT capital asset in 2015-16 and 2016-17 and has granted the authority to recover this upfront investment from industry over the estimated useful life of the asset. Additional capital investment will further enhance the ICT system built to support the new scheme. The need for additional ICT functionality has been identified as detailed work on the anticipated operation of AICIS has progressed. This additional functionality will assist stakeholders to transition to AICIS and enhance efficient administration of this new scheme.

The new regulatory scheme, AICIS, does not change the Government policy position that the full cost of regulatory activities will be recovered through fees and charges paid by regulated entities (predominantly introducers of industrial chemicals). Cost recovery continues to apply and is considered appropriate because introducers will continue to create the need for industrial chemicals to be regulated in the marketplace.

Statutory authority for cost recovery of AICIS

New fees and charges will be reflected in rules and regulations made under the:

- *Industrial Chemicals Act 2019*
- *Industrial Chemicals Charges (Customs) Act 2019*
- *Industrial Chemicals Charges (Excise) Act 2019*
Transitional arrangements will also be reflected in legislative instruments to ensure fees and charges for the same activity will only be payable once as ongoing activities transition from one scheme to the other.
2. Principles for cost recovery

The Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines (CRGs) set out the overarching framework under which government entities design, implement and review cost recovered activities on behalf of the Australian Government.

OCS will ensure that the principles set out by the CRGs are adhered to when determining the cost base and establishing the relevant pricing for AICIS. The principles include:

- Efficiency and effectiveness
- Transparency and accountability
- Stakeholder engagement

Efficiency and effectiveness

Efficiency of cost recovery relates to two key areas – efficiency of costs associated with rendering services and regulating industrial chemicals within the marketplace and efficiency of established charge points as recovery mechanisms.

Actual and forecast costs in the proposed cost model will be underpinned by the proper and efficient use of government resources. This means that the cost borne by the regulated group will be the minimum cost that continues to achieve the agreed policy objectives and gives effect to relevant legislative requirements. As is its predecessor NICNAS, AICIS will be governed by the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, which imposes obligations on OCS regarding the proper (efficient, effective, ethical and economical) use of resources required to regulate the importation and manufacture of industrial chemicals in Australia.

For cost recovery charges to remain efficient charging mechanisms, consideration will be given to whether costs of administrating the cost recovery of each charge point outweigh the benefits of charging for that activity. Charge points will be selected to minimise the potential burden and cost of collection for industry and OCS where possible. Proposed charge points have been designed with this principle in mind.

To be effective, the cost recovery model will reliably measure and allocate costs to AICIS charges. Further information on establishing the cost base and cost allocation is provided in section 3 of this paper.

Transparency and accountability

Transparency is characterised by maintaining an effective dialogue with stakeholders through a robust communications strategy.

To facilitate transparency, OCS proposes to continue to document key information relating to cost recovery arrangements of AICIS activities. OCS will continue to provide quarterly financial and performance (non-financial) reports to the Strategic Consultative Committee (SCC) which comprises community and industry stakeholders. As AICIS will be a new scheme, historical comparisons to the current scheme (NICNAS) may not deliver a useful comparison.
Accountability relates to governance structures and ensuring that staff, the Executive Director administering AICIS and the Minister continue to be answerable for their actions and decisions that relate to cost recovery.

Documentation is key to achieving transparency and accountability and will be made available to provide detail on the cost allocation and recovery methodology to allow scrutiny for each charge point administered. This will be achieved through stakeholder consultation such as this document and the CRIS that is developed to support the scheme as well as annual CRIS reviews.

Stakeholder engagement

To date, substantial engagement has been undertaken with stakeholders affected by the NICNAS reforms. In line with the Australian Government Guide to Regulation, the engagement on cost recovery will be broad and accessible by allowing for a period of public consultation on the draft CRIS containing important information on the proposed method for the recovery of costs incurred in administering AICIS.

OCS proposes to continue to maintain strong relationships with all stakeholders through effective and meaningful engagement during the design, implementation and review of cost recovery arrangements and related policies and processes. Feedback from a variety of stakeholders helps to inform settings that are critical to building and operating an efficient and effective cost recovery model.

A stakeholder engagement plan has been included at Figure 1 that aims for continuous, transparent and timely consultation and includes options for stakeholders to provide feedback on the cost recovery principles and model to inform necessary reviews to the approach.

Stakeholder responses to the Cost Recovery Model discussion paper published in June 2017 will also inform this review, where relevant.
Stakeholder engagement plan

Stakeholder engagement will occur throughout the design of the cost recovery model through to implementation and post-implementation (Figure 1). For this purpose, “internal stakeholders” are those within Government and include OCS staff, other areas of the Department of Health, the Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) and the Department of Finance. “External stakeholders” include industry and industry associations and civil society groups.

Figure 1 – Stakeholder engagement plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Design Phase 1</th>
<th>Design Phase 2</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective</strong></td>
<td>To seek feedback on the principles that will be used to construct the cost recovery fees and charges for AICIS</td>
<td>To seek feedback on the cost recovery fees and charges and draft Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS)</td>
<td>To inform stakeholders of the upcoming changes relating to cost recovery of AICIS</td>
<td>To inform stakeholders of the performance of the cost recovery arrangement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timing</strong></td>
<td>September 2019</td>
<td>December 2019</td>
<td>March to June 2020</td>
<td>July 2020 onwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stakeholders</strong></td>
<td>Internal and external stakeholders</td>
<td>Internal and external stakeholders</td>
<td>Internal and external stakeholders</td>
<td>Internal and external stakeholders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feedback on the stakeholder engagement plan can be provided through the channels detailed at section 6 of this paper.
3. Establishing the cost base for AICIS

While the objective of the new scheme will remain the same as the current scheme, the way in which this objective is achieved is shifting significantly under the new scheme.

The new scheme has been designed to make regulatory effort more proportionate to the risks posed by industrial chemicals and to promote safer innovation by encouraging the introduction of lower risk chemicals.

This fundamentally changes the way introducers interact with OCS and changes the capabilities required within OCS to achieve improved regulatory outcomes under the new scheme as illustrated in Figure 2.
The changes to capabilities and processes under the new scheme have substantially changed the way activities undertaken by OCS are delivered. For example, the ban on using animal test data to assess unlisted introductions of cosmetic chemicals, and the move towards the use of in vitro assays in general, mean that the assessment of hazard and risk is inherently more complex. The changes to the activities undertaken will enable many benefits to be realised such as those shown in Figure 3.
Where possible, historical data will be used to inform the costs of activities. However, due to the significant changes in activities conducted under the new scheme, assumptions such as management estimates regarding the resourcing requirements and cost of new and changed activities will be required. These assumptions will be reviewed in 2021-22 to determine whether they remain appropriate.

The Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) will continue to undertake the environmental component of risk assessments, the costs of which will continue to be included within the cost base. In accordance with the CRGs, the fees and charges will be set to recover the efficient costs of providing these services.
Method used to determine the cost of activities

An activity based costing (ABC) methodology will be used to allocate all direct and indirect costs incurred by OCS and DoEE to each activity and subsequently each charge point. This is demonstrated in Figure 4 below.

The cost base will primarily be comprised of:

- Direct costs such as labour costs and some supplier costs that can be directly traced to a specific activity.
- Indirect costs including corporate costs such as finance, human resources and property, which will be driven to activities using relevant activity drivers that will reflect the link between the cost of the services and the likely amount of those services absorbed to the amount allocated.
- Capital costs including depreciation and capital investment where appropriate.

Figure 4 – Activity Based Cost Model
4. Design of cost recovery charges

The characteristics of each AICIS activity will determine the type of cost recovery mechanism used. There are two types of cost recovery mechanism defined in the CRG’s¹:

- **Cost recovery fees**—fees charged when a good, service or regulation is provided directly to a specific individual or organisation.

- **Cost recovery levies**—charges imposed when a good, service or regulation is provided to a group of individuals or organisations (e.g. an industry sector) rather than to a specific individual or organisation².

Historically, revenue for NICNAS activities has been raised from both fees and levies:

Fees for services are currently payable where an activity is provided to an identifiable individual person or organisation. For example, the applicant is charged a fee when seeking an assessment of a new industrial chemical or listing of a chemical on the confidential section of the Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances. The fee recovers the full cost, including both direct and indirect costs, of delivering that specific activity.

Under AICIS, there will be different activities for which a fee for service will be charged. For example, there will be two main types of application— an application for an assessment certificate (e.g. for medium to high risk chemical introductions not listed on the Inventory) or for a commercial evaluation authorisation (CEA). Most other introductions (Listed, Exempted or Reported introductions) will not require pre-market assessment by AICIS, and thus not incur a fee. The different regulatory pathways means AICIS services and fees will change.

An annual registration charge (levy) is payable where an introducer imports and/or manufactures relevant industrial chemicals above a certain value. The charge was designed to recover costs relating to the regulation of the market as a whole and funds regulatory activities that are not attributable to a service provided to a specific introducer such as existing chemicals assessments, post-market monitoring and compliance activities, information provision (including input into policy processes) and statistics collection.

The regulation of the import and manufacture of industrial chemicals has changed. Subsequently, the activities and associated effort necessary to give effect to the regulation through the new scheme have evolved and the charge points will need to reflect the new regulatory structure and effort.

The new scheme will include greater emphasis on post-market monitoring and enforcement. This will affect the annual registration charge (levy) that funds regulatory monitoring and enforcement activities.

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² A cost recovery levy is a tax and is imposed via a separate charge through a taxation Act. It differs from general taxation as it is ‘earmarked’ and limited to fund activities provided to the group that pays the levy.
The proposed charge points for AICIS can broadly be grouped by relevant activities:

- Registration Levy and Fee for service
- Certificates and authorisations Fee for service
- Protection of Confidential Business Information (CBI) Fee for service
- Import and export of certain industrial chemicals subject to international agreements Fee for service

There are two types of fee for service charging structures proposed.

- **Tiered fee**—charges when the effort associated with an activity may vary based on the different classes of an activity. For example, an application for a certificate may be of low, medium and high complexity, and different fees could apply to each tier of complexity.

- **Flat fee**—charged when an activity requires a similar level of effort in all instances.
The proposed charge points and activities they will be designed to recover are documented in the tables below.

## Proposed fees and charges relating to registration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of fee or charge</th>
<th>Outputs and business processes of the activity</th>
<th>Who pays</th>
<th>Proposed structure of fee or charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Application for registration          | • Receiving an application  
• Validating registration information submitted  
• Maintaining the Register, including corrections and cancellations                                              | Applicant | Flat fee                           |
| Annual registration charge ( levy)    | • Receiving an annual declaration  
• Responding to enquiries about the regulatory scheme  
• Receiving and recording pre-introduction reports for Reported introductions, including any variations  
• Receiving and recording post-introduction declarations for Exempt introductions  
• Receiving and assessing information  
• Changes to persons covered by a certificate, changes to certificate holders and cancelling certificates  
• Changes to authorisation holders and cancelling authorisations  
• Development and promulgation of information about the regulatory scheme  
• Staff and stakeholder training  
• Complaints investigation  
• Compliance monitoring and enforcement  
• Assessments of registration charges  
• Performance and financial reporting (Health Annual Report and Regulator Performance Framework )  
• Public Interest Disclosure activities and Freedom of Information requests  
• Financial management including the AICIS Special Account  
• Executive Director initiated evaluations (this is a large item with multiple sub-items comparable to assessment certificates below), associated de/prioritisation activities, and a range of administrative and/or regulatory outcomes (e.g. referral of risk recommendations and, less frequently, cancellation/variation of assessment certificates/authorisations)  
• Referral of risk recommendations arising from assessments | Registrant | Annual charge  
This annual charge could be constructed based on the following options:  
• **Current levy structure ( under NICNAS):** Tiered annual registration charge based on the introduction value estimated for the current year (and subsequently subject to reconciliation)  
• **Preferred levy option ( under AICIS):** A fixed percentage of the previous financial year’s introduction value e.g. 0.26%, with a cap on the maximum fee charged. This option reduces the financial impact of moving to a higher tier (e.g. tier C to tier D) as happens under the current levy structure  
• **Additional levy option for consideration:** Equal amount payable for all registrants  
Under each of these options, registrants introducing less
### Proposed fees and charges relating to certificates, authorisations and Inventory listings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of fee or charge</th>
<th>Outputs and business processes of the activity</th>
<th>Who pays</th>
<th>Structure of fee or charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Application for a certificate | • Receiving an application  
• Screening of application for completeness  
• Requesting further information, which is further assessed for completeness  
• Assessing application/preparing draft assessment statement  
• Consulting with applicant  
• Consulting with prescribed bodies where necessary  
• Taking submissions on draft assessment statement  
• Deciding on the application  
• Notifying the applicant of the decision  
• Issuing the certificate and publishing the assessment statement | Applicant | Tiered fee based on effort for different classes of application:  
• Low  
• Medium  
• High  
• Comparable agency  
• Consolidated application |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of fee or charge</th>
<th>Outputs and business processes of the activity</th>
<th>Who pays</th>
<th>Structure of fee or charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Application to vary the terms of an assessment certificate | • Receiving an application  
• Screening of application for completeness  
• Requesting further information, which is further assessed for completeness  
• Assessing application/preparing draft assessment statement  
• Consulting with applicant  
• Consulting with prescribed bodies where necessary  
• Deciding on the application  
• Notifying the applicant of the decision  
• Issuing varied assessment certificate  
• Publishing the assessment statement  
• Updating the relevant databases | Applicant   | Tiered based on effort for different classes of application:  
• Without reassessment  
• With reassessment |
| Application for a commercial evaluation authorisation     | • Receiving an application  
• Screening of application for completeness  
• Requesting further information, which is further assessed for completeness  
• Assessing application  
• Consulting with applicant  
• Consulting with prescribed bodies where necessary  
• Deciding on the application  
• Notifying the applicant of the decision  
• Issuance of authorisation  
• Publishing relevant details of commercial evaluation authorisations | Applicant   | Flat fee |
| Application to vary the terms of an authorisation          | • Receiving an application  
• Screening of application for completeness  
• Requesting further information, which is further assessed for completeness  
• Assessing application  
• Consulting with applicant  
• Deciding on the application  
• Notifying the applicant of the decision  
• Updating the relevant databases | Applicant   | Flat fee |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of fee or charge</th>
<th>Outputs and business processes of the activity</th>
<th>Who pays</th>
<th>Structure of fee or charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Application for listing on the Inventory before 5 years | • Receiving an application  
• Screening of application for completeness  
• Assessing application  
• Consulting with applicant  
• Consulting with other certificate and CBI holders  
• Deciding on the application  
• Notifying the applicant of the decision  
• Updating the relevant databases | Applicant | Flat fee |
| Application to vary Inventory listing | • Receiving an application  
• Screening of application for completeness  
• Requesting further information, which is further assessed for completeness  
• Assessing application  
• Consulting with applicant  
• Consulting with prescribed bodies where necessary  
• Deciding on the application  
• Notifying the applicant of the decision  
• Updating the relevant database | Applicant | Tiered based on effort for different classes of application:  
• Without reassessment  
• With reassessment |
### Proposed fees and charges relating to protection of Confidential Business Information (CBI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of fee or charge</th>
<th>Outputs and business processes of the activity</th>
<th>Who pays</th>
<th>Structure of fee or charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Application for protection of proper name | • Receiving an application  
• Screening of application for completeness  
• Requesting further information, which is further assessed for completeness  
• Assessing application  
• Consulting with applicant  
• Consulting with prescribed bodies where necessary  
• Deciding on the application  
• Notifying the applicant of the decision  
• Updating the relevant database | Applicant   | Flat fee                   |
| Application for protection of end use | • Receiving an application  
• Screening of application for completeness  
• Requesting further information, which is further assessed for completeness  
• Assessing application  
• Consulting with applicant  
• Consulting with prescribed bodies where necessary  
• Deciding on the application  
• Notifying the applicant of the decision  
• Updating the relevant database | Applicant   | Flat fee                   |
| Application for continued protection | • Receiving an application  
• Screening of application for completeness  
• Requesting further information, which is further assessed for completeness  
• Assessing application  
• Consulting with applicant  
• Consulting with prescribed bodies where necessary  
• Deciding on the application  
• Notifying the applicant of the decision  
• Updating the relevant database | Applicant   | Flat fee                   |
## Principles for cost recovery of AICIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of fee or charge</th>
<th>Outputs and business processes of the activity</th>
<th>Who pays</th>
<th>Structure of fee or charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Application for Confidential Business Information (CBI) - Other | • Notifying confidence holder of intention to publish ‘flagged’ information  
• Receiving an application  
• Screening of application for completeness  
• Requesting further information, which is further assessed for completeness  
• Assessing application  
• Consulting with applicant  
• Deciding on the application  
• Notifying the applicant of the decision  
• Updating the relevant database | Applicant | Flat fee |

### Proposed fees and charges relating to the import or export of certain industrial chemicals subject to international arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of fee or charge</th>
<th>Outputs and business processes of the activity</th>
<th>Who pays</th>
<th>Structure of fee or charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Application for the import/export of industrial chemicals into or out of Australia subject to international arrangements | • Receiving an application  
• Screening of application for completeness  
• Requesting further information, which is assessed for completeness  
• Assessing application  
• Consulting with applicant  
• Where exporting, consultation and vetting of application with Department of the Environment and Energy and export destination Authority  
• Deciding on the application  
• Notifying the applicant of the decision  
• Audit of applicant where required | Applicant | Tiered based on effort for different classes of application:  
• Category A country export  
• Import or Category B country export |
5. Forecasting charge volumes for AICIS

Due to the regulatory reforms that will occur with the transition from NICNAS to AICIS on commencement of the Industrial Chemicals Act 2019 on 1 July 2020, activities linked to administering the new scheme will be somewhat different from those required under NICNAS. While some of them remain consistent, there are others that are new or significantly amended. These activities map to the various charge points. The fundamental change to the design of the scheme requires us to make some key assumptions on the expected volume of activity. For the purposes of these initial cost recovery arrangements, OCS is examining a number of options including historical actuals, activity projections, and management estimates of industry trends of which OCS becomes aware.

Method used to determine registration volumes

The regulatory reforms are predicted to have minimal impact on the number of businesses registering and the introduction value of their chemicals. Registration volumes will be forecast using historical registration numbers and introduction values. The forecast will also be informed by the industry outlook and adjusted accordingly.

Method used to determine other Fee for Service (FFS) volumes

As a result of the regulatory reforms, the nature of other FFS activities and the frequency at which they will be undertaken are predicted to change significantly. These include assessment certificates, variations to certificates and Inventory listings. The volumes for these charges will be informed by a mixture of historical information where relevant, as well as management estimates of volumes under AICIS. It is anticipated that fewer and more complex assessments will be applied for under the new scheme.

6. Next steps

Feedback

Feedback on ideas presented in this paper can be submitted via the NICNAS website at: https://www.nicnas.gov.au/New-scheme-1-July-2020/Consultations-on-the-new-scheme

Feedback can also be provided via post at:

NICNAS
GPO Box 58
Sydney NSW 2001

Or via email to info@nicnas.gov.au

Submissions close on 14 October 2019.
Implementation of cost recovery for AICIS

Feedback on this paper will help to inform the cost recovery design for AICIS activities. Following this consultation:

- OCS will work with consultants to estimate the costs of each activity. This will be informed by comparing effort with the existing scheme, estimating cost drivers (including, for example, volumes of applications and the costs of resources) and using proxies for allocation of indirect costs.

- The proposed approach and estimated costings will be reviewed by the Department of Finance to ensure consistency with Australian Government cost recovery policy.

- The draft CRIS will be published for public comment in late 2019.

  The CRIS will:
  o detail the estimated costs of various activities
  o describe the design of the various cost recovery charges
  o include a cost recovery risk assessment
  o include financial estimates for three forward years
  o set out NICNAS’s historical financial performance since 2015-16.

- The CRIS will be finalised following stakeholder consultation and relevant approvals will be sought.

- Consistent with the CRIS, fees and charges will be reflected in Regulations and Rules made under the new law. These will be subject to Parliamentary scrutiny.

- OCS will review these fees and charges annually, taking into account AICIS’s financial position (current and forecast), labour costs and changes in non-labour costs.

A timeline for the broader implementation of AICIS is provided at Attachment A.
Milestones for industrial chemicals reforms: NICNAS to AICIS

About the reforms
Reforms to industrial chemicals regulation aim to streamline processes, focus regulatory effort on higher risk chemicals and maintain Australia’s robust health, safety and environmental standards. The new scheme, Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS), starts July 2020 and replaces the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS).