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| General/overall comments |
| Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the RIS for National Phase out of PFOS.  NSW Department of Industry, Water (DoI Water) regulates water supply & sewerage (including trade waste) in regional NSW through the provisions of the NSW Local Government Act, 1993.  DoI Water supports the Australian Government’s initiative and the national framework to regulate PFOS in order to protect public health and the environment.  Listed below are some general and specific comments on the above draft document:  Municipal sewage treatment plants are not designed to treat PFOS contaminated wastewater. If PFOS contaminated wastewater is discharged into a sewerage system, such waste would disperse with large volumes of municipal sewage, making it difficult to manage the subsequent contamination of both biosolids and treated effluent produced by the plant.  The proposal to implement mechanisms for management of PFOS contaminated biosolids (and effluent) can be seen as the ‘end of the pipe’ solution which is impractical and costly. Instead, controls should be of point source discharges to the sewerage system through trade waste regulation.  No guidance is provided in this document for regulation of PFOS that could be present in liquid trade waste.  It is imperative that PFOS contaminated wastewater be managed at the source through appropriate environmental regulations, including ‘trade waste’ management controls for sewer discharges. It is also important to have market controls to prevent PFOS related products reaching the consumers.  It would be helpful for regulators, guidance be provided on appropriate testing techniques and associated detectable levels for PFOS in both solids and liquids waste (or reference be provided to appropriate guidelines). Clarification is also needed on whether the 50 mg/kg limit is applicable only to solids (eg soils, biosolids etc) or whether it also applies to liquid. If applicable only for solids, then appropriate levels for ‘liquids’ needs to be included.  The document also discusses destruction techniques if concentrations are found to be higher than 50 mg/kg. Again these techniques (plasma arc & high temperature) appeared to be focus only on the solid waste. No discussion was provided on current available treatment technologies for liquid waste and their effectiveness (eg, application of commonly used water treatment technologies such as adsorption techniques –granular activated carbon (GAC), zeolite etc.).  *Industry Costs for options*  In relation to costing for water utilities, the costing associated with monitoring influent and trade waste regulation have not been considered. Furthermore, cost associated of managing treatment plant effluent, if contaminated with PFOS, has not been considered. |

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| **Specific comments – please insert your specific comments below, listed against the part of the Consultation Regulation Impact Statement to which they apply** | |
| **RIS reference:***[insert section number and title of relevant part of the Regulation Impact Statement]* | **Comments** |
| Consultation  Page 11  & 3.4.2 Use and Waste Disposal | Liquid waste treatment facilities is another pathway of PFOS entering to the environment directly or via sewage treatment plant, if PFOS contaminated waste is treated at these facilities and by-products are not managed in environmental sound manner. This pathway is not considered in this document. |
| 2.5 What are the current uses of PFOS? | This section needs to be updated with more recent data.  In this section, an industry survey carried out more than 10 years ago (ie 2008) has been referred to as the latest industry data. The relevancy of this data to current environment is questionable, in particular, currency of data in relation to photographic and X-ray waste, considering the rapid expansion of digital technology in this area during past 5-10 years. |
| 3.4.3 Waste infrastructure | Currently, PFOS is not included in the contaminant grading in the NSW EPA Biosolids Guidelines. |
| Table 8 – Summary of measures  Improved waste management (Page 66) | Consider including ‘liquid waste treatment facilities’ in this Table |
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