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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Presented and read a first time

Sustainable Imported Seafood and Aquaculture Feed Transparency Bill 2026

No. , 2026

(Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)

A Bill for an Act to improve transparency, traceability and environmental accountability in relation to imported seafood and aquaculture feed, and for related purposes

Contents

Part 1—Preliminary 3
1 Short title 3
2 Commencement 3
3 Simplified outline of this Act 4
4 Objects of this Act 4
5 Definitions 5
Part 2—Seafood labelling requirements 6
6 Mandatory origin and production labelling 6
7 Cooked and hospitality seafood 6
8 Aquaculture feed disclosure 7
Part 3—Aquaculture feed traceability 7
9 Traceability records 7
10 Supplier declarations 8
Part 4—High-risk marine ingredients 8
11 High-risk marine ingredient determinations 8
12 Restriction on products using high-risk marine ingredients 9
Part 5—Retailer and importer due diligence 9
13 Positive due-diligence duty 9
14 Retention of due-diligence records 10
Part 6—Imported Seafood Transparency Register 10
15 Establishment of Register 10
Part 7—Government procurement 11
16 Commonwealth procurement requirements 11
Part 8—Auditing, compliance and enforcement 11

17 Independent audits 11
18 False or misleading information 12
19 Failure to maintain records 12
20 Aggravated contraventions 12
21 Injunctions and remedial orders 12
Part 9—Administration 13
22 Regulator 13
23 Information sharing 13
24 Review of operation of Act 13
25 Regulations 13
Schedule 1—Application and transitional provisions 14

AUSTRALIAN LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMISSION

A Bill for an Act to improve transparency, traceability and environmental accountability in relation to imported seafood and aquaculture feed, and for related purposes

The Parliament of Australia enacts:

Part 1—Preliminary

1 Short title

This Act is the Sustainable Imported Seafood and Aquaculture Feed Transparency Act 2026.

2 Commencement

(1) Each provision of this Act specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Provisions	*Commencement*	*Date/Details*
1. Sections 1 to 5 and anything in this Act not elsewhere covered by this table	The day this Act receives the Royal Assent.	
2. Parts 2 to 9	A day or days to be fixed by Proclamation. However, if any of the provisions do not commence within the period of 12 months beginning on the day this Act receives the Royal Assent, they commence on the day after the end of that period.	
3. Schedule 1	At the same time as Part 2.	

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this Act as originally enacted. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this Act.

(2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this Act. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in this column may be edited, in any published version of this Act.

3 Simplified outline of this Act

This Act requires transparency, traceability and due diligence in relation to designated imported farmed seafood and the marine ingredients used in aquaculture feed.

Retailers and hospitality suppliers must label designated seafood with origin and production information. Importers must keep feed-origin records. Major retailers and importers must take reasonable steps to assess environmental risks in feed supply chains.

The Minister may determine high-risk marine ingredients. Import and sale of designated seafood produced using a prohibited high-risk marine ingredient is restricted.

A public Imported Seafood Transparency Register is to be maintained. Commonwealth entities must not procure designated imported farmed seafood unless prescribed traceability requirements are met.

The Act provides for independent audits, civil penalties, injunctions and remedial orders.

Note: This outline is not intended to be comprehensive. Readers should rely on the operative provisions.

4 Objects of this Act

The objects of this Act are the following:

(a) to improve transparency in imported seafood and aquaculture supply chains;

(b) to ensure consumers receive meaningful information about the origin and production of seafood;

(c) to require traceability of marine ingredients used in aquaculture feed;

(d) to reduce Australian market support for destructive, untraceable or unsustainable fisheries;

(e) to promote responsible aquaculture production and lower-impact feed systems;

(f) to establish due-diligence obligations for major importers and retailers;

(g) to support informed consumer choice and the protection of marine ecosystems.

5 Definitions

In this Act:

aquaculture feed means feed used in the farming of aquatic animals, including feed containing fishmeal, fish oil or other marine-derived ingredients.

civil penalty provision has the same meaning as in the Regulatory Powers (Standard Provisions) Act 2014.

designated seafood product means an imported farmed seafood product prescribed by the regulations, and includes farmed prawns and any other species materially reliant on marine-derived feed ingredients that is so prescribed.

high-risk marine ingredient means a marine-derived feed ingredient sourced from a fishery, fishing method or feed supply chain that:

(a) is determined under section 11 to be high risk; or

(b) fails prescribed sustainability, legality or traceability criteria.

major retailer means a retailer prescribed by the regulations that has annual Australian grocery or seafood sales above the threshold prescribed by the regulations.

marine ingredient means fishmeal, fish oil or another ingredient derived wholly or partly from marine animals.

penalty unit has the same meaning as in section 4AA of the Crimes Act 1914.

processing by-product means trimmings, frames, heads, offcuts or other material produced from seafood already harvested primarily for human consumption.

regulator means the person or body prescribed under section 22.

responsibly managed fishery means a fishery:

(a) assessed under a prescribed independent standard; or

(b) determined by the Minister, in writing, to satisfy prescribed sustainability and traceability requirements.

this Act includes the regulations.

trash fish or low-value fish means mixed or low-value marine catch retained for reduction into fishmeal, fish oil or other feed products, and includes juvenile commercially important species where present.

Part 2—Seafood labelling requirements

6 Mandatory origin and production labelling

(1) A person must not sell a designated seafood product at retail unless the product is labelled with each of the following:

(a) the country of farming;

(b) the species;

(c) whether the product is farmed or wild-caught;

(d) if the country of final processing differs from the country of farming—the country of final processing.

(2) The regulations may prescribe additional information that must be displayed on packaging, menus, seafood counters or digital product information.

Note: Schedule 1 sets out staged application of labelling and feed-disclosure requirements.

7 Cooked and hospitality seafood

(1) A person supplying designated seafood for immediate consumption must identify the actual country of origin of the seafood if that information is known to the person, or is reasonably ascertainable by the person.

(2) A generic description such as "Imported" is not sufficient for the purposes of subsection (1) if the country of farming or harvest is known or reasonably ascertainable.

(3) The regulations may prescribe the form, placement and minimum prominence of a disclosure required by this section.

8 Aquaculture feed disclosure

(1) A designated farmed seafood product must be accompanied by consumer-accessible information stating whether marine fishmeal or fish oil was used in production feed.

(2) If marine ingredients were used, the information must state whether they were derived predominantly from:

(a) processing by-products; or

(b) whole wild-caught fish; or

(c) a mixture of both.

(3) If whole wild-caught fish were used, the information must identify whether the source fishery was independently assessed as a responsibly managed fishery.

Part 3—Aquaculture feed traceability

9 Traceability records

(1) An importer of a designated farmed seafood product must obtain and retain the records prescribed by the regulations concerning the aquaculture feed used in production of the product.

(2) The records must, to the extent reasonably available, identify the following:

(a) the feed manufacturer and feed mill location;

(b) the major feed ingredients;

(c) the proportion of fishmeal and fish oil used;

(d) the proportion derived from seafood-processing by-products;

(e) the proportion derived from whole wild-caught fish;

(f) the country and fishery of origin for whole-fish marine ingredients;

(g) any applicable sustainability certification or independent assessment;

(h) any use of mixed low-value fish or trash fish;

(i) any use of fish sourced from bottom or demersal trawl fisheries.

(3) Records required by this section must be retained for at least 7 years and produced to the regulator on request.

10 Supplier declarations

(1) An importer of a designated seafood product must obtain a written supplier declaration verifying the accuracy of feed-origin and marine-ingredient information supplied for the product.

(2) A supplier declaration does not relieve an importer or major retailer of an obligation under this Act to undertake reasonable due diligence.

Part 4—High-risk marine ingredients

11 High-risk marine ingredient determinations

(1) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, determine a fishery, fishing method or feed supply chain to be high risk if the Minister is satisfied that there is evidence of serious sustainability, legality or traceability concerns.

(2) In making a determination, the Minister may have regard to the following:

(a) severe historical or current biomass depletion;

(b) high levels of juvenile fish capture;

(c) unassessed or poorly managed trawl fisheries;

(d) mixed trash-fish catches with inadequate species identification;

(e) illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing;

(f) inability to identify vessels, landing ports or source fisheries;

(g) inability to distinguish processing by-products from whole wild-caught fish.

(3) A determination under subsection (1) is a legislative instrument, but section 42 (disallowance) of the Legislation Act 2003 applies to the instrument.

12 Restriction on products using high-risk marine ingredients

(1) A person must not import or sell a designated seafood product produced using a prohibited high-risk marine ingredient.

(2) The regulations may provide for transitional, exemption or remediation arrangements if adequate traceability or sustainability controls are demonstrated.

Note: This section is not intended to operate as a blanket restriction by reference to the nationality of a producer. It applies by reference to the fishing method, supply chain and ecological impact.

Part 5—Retailer and importer due diligence

13 Positive due-diligence duty

(1) A major retailer, and an importer of designated seafood, must take reasonable steps to identify and assess environmental risks associated with the aquaculture feed supply chain of a designated seafood product.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), reasonable steps include verifying, where applicable, the following:

(a) where the seafood was farmed;

(b) who supplied the feed;

(c) whether the feed contained marine ingredients;
(d) where those marine ingredients originated;
(e) whether whole wild fish were used;
(f) whether the source fisheries were responsibly managed fisheries;
(g) whether destructive trawling materially contributed to the feed supply.

(3) Reliance solely on a generic sustainability certificate does not, by itself, discharge the duty under this section.

14 Retention of due-diligence records

A person subject to section 13 must retain records of the person's due-diligence processes for at least 7 years.

Part 6—Imported Seafood Transparency Register

15 Establishment of Register

(1) The regulator must establish and maintain a publicly searchable register to be known as the Imported Seafood Transparency Register.

(2) The Register must contain, for each prescribed designated seafood product, information concerning the following:
(a) the retailer or importer;
(b) the product and species;
(c) the country of farming;
(d) the processing country;
(e) the feed supplier (if applicable);
(f) the use of marine ingredients;
(g) the use of processing by-products;
(h) the use of whole wild-caught fish;
(i) any applicable sustainability certification;
(j) any identified high-risk feed source;
(k) any compliance or enforcement action.

(3) The regulator may require a product label to include a QR code or other digital link to the relevant Register entry.

Part 7—Government procurement

16 Commonwealth procurement requirements

(1) A Commonwealth entity must not procure designated imported farmed seafood unless the supplier demonstrates compliance with the traceability requirements prescribed for the purposes of this section.

(2) The Finance Minister may issue procurement rules giving effect to this section.

(3) In this section:

Commonwealth entity has the same meaning as in the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013.

Part 8—Auditing, compliance and enforcement

17 Independent audits

(1) The regulator may require an importer or major retailer to undergo an independent audit of seafood and aquaculture-feed traceability records.

(2) An audit may examine any of the following:

(a) feed documentation;

(b) supplier declarations;

(c) fishmeal origin;

(d) certification validity;

(e) chain of custody;

(f) species composition;

(g) processing by-product claims;

(h) claims that whole wild-caught fish were excluded.

18 False or misleading information

(1) A person must not knowingly or recklessly provide false or misleading information required under this Act.

(2) A person is liable to a civil penalty if the person contravenes subsection (1).

Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units for a body corporate; 400 penalty units for an individual.

19 Failure to maintain records

(1) A person must not fail to maintain, or fail to produce, records required under this Act.

(2) A person is liable to a civil penalty if the person contravenes subsection (1).

Civil penalty: 500 penalty units for a body corporate; 100 penalty units for an individual.

20 Aggravated contraventions

(1) If a contravention of a civil penalty provision of this Act is deliberate, repeated or systemic, or results in material concealment of a high-risk marine ingredient, a court may impose a civil penalty of up to 10,000 penalty units for a body corporate.

(2) In determining a penalty under this section, the court must have regard to the following:

(a) the size of the business;

(b) the duration of the contravention;

(c) the environmental risk;

(d) the degree of culpability;

(e) any previous contraventions.

21 Injunctions and remedial orders

(1) The regulator may apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for an injunction or remedial order in relation to a contravention of this Act.

(2) A remedial order may require one or more of the following:

(a) correction of labels;

(b) publication of corrective notices;

(c) withdrawal of non-compliant products;

(d) implementation of improved traceability controls.

Part 9—Administration

22 Regulator

(1) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, prescribe a Commonwealth regulator to administer this Act.

(2) The regulator may issue guidance, approved forms and technical standards consistent with this Act.

23 Information sharing

The regulator may share information obtained under this Act with a Commonwealth, State or Territory agency if the regulator is satisfied that sharing the information is reasonably necessary for food regulation, biosecurity, customs, consumer protection or environmental enforcement.

24 Review of operation of Act

(1) The Minister must cause an independent review of the operation of this Act to commence no later than 3 years after the commencement of Part 2.

(2) The review must consider the effectiveness of labelling, feed traceability, retailer due diligence, compliance, consumer understanding and impacts on responsible seafood producers.

(3) The Minister must cause a copy of the report of the review to be tabled in each House of the Parliament within 15 sitting days of that House after the Minister receives the report.

25 Regulations

The Governor-General may make regulations prescribing matters:

(a) required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed; or

(b) necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.

Schedule 1—Application and transitional provisions

Note: See section 2.

1 Definitions

In this Schedule:

commencement day means the day Part 2 commences.

2 First 12 months after the commencement day

During the period of 12 months beginning on the commencement day, the following requirements apply:

(a) the labelling requirements in sections 6 and 7 (other than any requirement relating to aquaculture feed disclosure);

(b) importer reporting requirements prescribed for the purposes of section 9, to the extent provided by the regulations;

(c) the requirement in section 15 for the regulator to establish the Imported Seafood Transparency Register.

3 Period beginning 12 months after the commencement day

The following provisions apply in relation to a designated seafood product imported or sold on or after the day that is 12 months after the commencement day:

(a) section 8 (aquaculture feed disclosure);

(b) section 13 (due-diligence duty);

(c) section 17 (independent audits).

4 Period beginning 24 months after the commencement day

The following provisions apply in relation to a designated seafood product imported or sold on or after the day that is 24 months after the commencement day:

(a) section 12 (restriction on products using prohibited high-risk or untraceable whole-fish marine ingredients);

(b) any additional consumer-facing feed information requirements prescribed for designated imported aquaculture products.