Kaya,
I am Kala Senathirajah, representing Engineers Australia, the peak body for the engineering profession in Australia whose purpose is to advance the science and practice of engineering to benefit the community. We acknowledge the traditional owners of all lands where we live, work and meet and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, and celebrate the cultures, traditions and knowledge of all communities. Thank you for the floor.
We support option 10 a (i) and that due consideration given to transitioning based on country needs. And for element 10 b (i), we would like to see the banning of production of virgin polymers of concern where possible and reductions of all other virgin plastic polymers to limit distribution and impacts. We support all other elements of b especially transparency and reporting to be included as a control measure to enable tracking and progress of volumes which will also allow for adaptive management measures.
We support option c and propose that the need to reduce subsidies for fossil fuels and petrochemical production be included here because currently crude oil production contributes to the majority of plastic production.
Lastly, noting that it’s being covered in Contact Group 2, the incorporation of the need to increase awareness and knowledge of the implications and adverse impacts of plastic polymers – especially polymers for concern as a core control measure will help to reduce demand for and use of virgin plastic polymers. And if there is no demand, there will be no need to manufacture.
Thank you for your consideration.