

ENVIRONMENT NETWORK WEEKLY (ENW)

AEBN National ENW e-news – 11 July 2022

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FEDERAL

Emissions and Energy Reporting System (EERS) opens for 2021-22 reporting cycle

A reminder that [Emissions and Energy Reporting System \(EERS\)](#) is now open for the 2021–22 reporting year, and can be accessed via the Client Portal.

National Greenhouse and Reporting (NGER) reporters can now submit emissions and energy reports.

To assist reporters to meet their reporting obligations under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting scheme, [training videos](#), [user guides](#), [FAQs](#) and [guidelines](#) are now available.

2021-22 reports are due by 11.59pm (AEDT), 31 October 2022.

2022 Offshore Greenhouse Gas Storage Acreage Release:

Nomination areas sought

The Federal Department of Industry, Science and Resources is seeking area nominations for the 2022 Offshore Greenhouse Gas Storage Acreage Release.

The release supports Australia's resources sector by enabling carbon capture and storage in Australian Commonwealth waters - a key component of the Federal Government's strategy to reduce emissions.

An [online form and further information](#) is now available to assist you with nominating areas for the 2022 release.

The nominations portal is open and submissions close on 11.59pm (AEST) 31 July 2022.

VICTORIA

Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF) Preliminary Design:

Comment sought

The Victorian Government is seeking your views on the [proposed approach to developing Victoria's Renewable Energy Zones \(REZ\)](#) and to contribute to Victoria's energy future.

Victoria is undergoing a once-in-a-generation energy transition. As Victoria's ageing coal-fired power stations retire in the coming decades, Victoria's electricity system needs to evolve. To enable this transition, the Victorian Government needs to modernise and upgrade Victoria's transmission network to support affordable and more efficient renewable energy across the Victoria.

Developing Victoria's Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) is an effective way to meet Victoria's energy needs during this period of change. REZs are areas across the state with high-quality and abundant renewable energy resources. Long-term planning and investment in large-scale infrastructure will be needed to coordinate new transmission, generation and storage infrastructure across Victoria's REZs. This planning will enable Victoria to have clean, reliable and affordable electricity into the future

Comment is sought by 15 August 2022.

Dairy company cops fine for dead livestock left unburied

A fine of \$5,452 has been issued to a dairy company for failing to comply with a requirement of an EPA remedial

notice that related to dead cattle left unburied.

EPA Victoria's Southwest Regional Manager Carolyn Francis said "The General Environmental Duty that is part of the new Environment Protection Act 2017 requires every Victorian to take all reasonable actions to minimise any risk of harm to the environment and human health from their activities".

Dead and decaying livestock left unburied can create hazard to the environment and people if disposal is not correctly undertaken. Disease can also spread as well as contaminate the land and nearby waterways.

Mr Francis said "The fact that the dead stock had been left unburied, some of them for a considerable amount of time, was not only a breach of that duty and a hazard to the environment, but something any landholder downstream would not appreciate," she said.

EPA officers had issued a remedial notice to the company requiring that the dead stock be removed for disposal or properly buried in accordance with EPA's guidelines.

Individual charged for dumping industrial waste at unlicensed property

Charges have been laid against an individual under the Environment Protection Act 2017, for the dumping and burning of industrial waste on an unlicensed property in Victoria. The individual will face the Broadmeadows Magistrates Court on 17 August 2022 as the charges allege the individual:

- Received Industrial Waste – s27A(2)(b) Environment Protection Act 1970.
- Contravened the duties of a person receiving industrial waste s134 of the Environment Protection Act 2017 – two charges;
- Contravened the duties of a person depositing industrial waste s133 of the Environment Protection Act 2017 – three charges;

- Contravened an Environmental Action Notice s274 of the Environment Protection Act 2017 – two charges;
- Contravened an Information Gathering Notice s225 of the Environment Protection Act 2017; and
- Hindered an Authorised Officer s266(a) carrying out duties under the Environment Protection Act 2017.

Each charge relates to a criminal offence under either the Environment Protection Act 2017 or the Environment Protection Act 1970.

EPA guidelines regarding the disposal of industrial waste are available at epa.vic.gov.au

NEW SOUTH WALES

Tips for reducing odours for facilities

NSW EPA has advised of an increase in odour complaints as a result of the increase in rainfall.

Increased rainfall can exacerbate the problem of offensive odours for some facilities, and common types of activities affected can include - waste and resource recovery activities such as landfilling and composting, as well as agricultural processing and livestock activities.

The EPA is asking that all licensees managing any of these types of facilities should be proactively working to anticipate and manage any potential odour-generating activities and processes, before they become a problem.

It is important to note that the court in NSW can also impose fines of up to \$1 million for odour offences.

Some proactive tips have been provided by NSW EPA on mitigation measures that may be relevant for your facility to reduce odours:

- Actively manage and anticipate rainfall and run-off to reduce leachate / effluent / wastewater

generation on your site

- Plan contingency measures for increased surface water and wastewater, e.g. storage capacity or offsite transport to an appropriate facility
- Check and maintain gas collection systems
- For landfills, review the use of cover material, for example is what you're currently using going to be effective at controlling odours and do you have enough material?
- Check around your site for general housekeeping, for example do you have large quantities of stock type that could be affected, what about the onsite, pad/hardstand condition
- Plan regular odour surveys at your site and in the surrounding areas and react quickly if there is a problem
- Monitor weather in conjunction with operational management controls so you can respond to changing conditions for example, stopping odour-generating activities when the wind blows in a direction that will impact the community.

Plastic single-use straws – exemptions guidance

From 1 November 2022, the supply of plastic single-use straws will be banned in NSW unless you are an individual with a disability or other medical need, or an individual/organisation acting on behalf of someone with a disability.

[Guidance](#) for businesses, manufacturers, suppliers and individuals on the single-use plastic straw exemption is now available. [Further information](#) is now available.

NEW GUIDELINES: Eligible Waste Fuels

NSW EPA has released [guidelines that relate to the list of Eligible Waste Fuels](#) as outlined in the NSW Energy from Waste Policy Statement.

The guidelines are to be read in conjunction with the NSW Energy from Waste Policy Statement that allows for certain low risk wastes or waste-derived materials to be thermally treated. These low risk wastes are referred to in the NSW Energy from Waste Policy Statement as eligible waste fuels.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:

For flood affected large businesses in the Northern Rivers Region of NSW

The NSW Government is providing funding under the [Anchor Business Support Grant Program NSW](#) to support flood-affected large businesses to help them return to operations and continue to support employment in the Northern Rivers region.

Details are now available and applications close 26 July 2022.

QUEENSLAND

Waste levy changes effective 1 July 2022

In an effort for Queensland to reach its waste and resource recovery targets, several changes have been made to the way the waste levy operates in Queensland.

As a reminder, from 1 July 2022, the [levy zone](#) has been divided into [two areas](#):

- the metro zone—comprising 12 south-east Queensland local government areas
- the regional zone—made up of the remaining 27 local government areas in the current levy zone.

The non-levy zone has not been affected, and therefore, no changes to the levy will occur.

[Details](#) are now available.

2022-23 environment and climate change budget for QLD

The QLD Government has provided its budget for 2022-23 for environment and climate change. A [full copy](#) is now available.

Some key initiatives within the budget are:

- \$964.2M over 5 years, as part of the 10 year \$2.1B Waste Package, to transform QLD's waste and resource recovery industry and drive the [transition to a zero waste society](#);
- \$32.6m over four years, including an annual ongoing commitment of \$4.8 million, to enhance [climate science](#) and emissions modelling capability and deliver a program to support communities to reduce emissions;
- \$262.5m over four years to continue implementing the [Protected Area Strategy 2020–2030](#) for land acquisitions and capital works to increase Queensland's public protected area estate;
- \$38.5m over four years and \$1.2 million per annum ongoing for the continued support of the [Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program](#);
- An additional \$25m will be held centrally by Queensland Treasury and available in 2022–23 for land acquisitions and capital works to support the [Protected Area Strategy 2020–2030](#)

Draft QLD Low Emissions Agriculture Roadmap 2022-32 Consultation:

Comment sought

The Queensland government is seeking your views on the [draft QLD Low Emissions Agriculture Roadmap 2022-32](#) to reduce agriculture emissions and increase carbon farming.

The draft Queensland Low Emissions Agriculture Roadmap 2022-32 proposes:

- research, development and adoption of low emissions production systems
- support for agribusinesses along the supply chain to make climate-informed business decisions through education, training and skills
- integrated actions across government to support the implementation of inter-related climate action initiatives.

There are five focus areas for action:

- livestock emissions
- cropping and horticulture emissions
- on-farm energy opportunities
- carbon farming and land management
- regions and supply chains.

Please provide feedback by 10 August 2022.