

# ENVIRONMENT NETWORK WEEKLY (ENW)

AEBN National ENW e-news – 18 July 2022

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## FEDERAL

### Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme reforms:

#### Request for feedback from Registered Agents

As Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme [reforms work](#) are underway, the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) is exploring the option of making system changes for the small-scale technology certificate (STC) creation process.

Through an [online survey](#), Registered agents are encouraged to provide feedback on:

- how you currently create STCs
- your ideal future state
- your likely usage of an Application Programming Interface (API) if it were available.

Feedback is sought by **Friday, 22 July 2022**. For enquiries regarding the survey, please email [cer-sresreforms@cer.gov.au](mailto:cer-sresreforms@cer.gov.au)

### Key dates announced for safeguard mechanism:

#### Released

The Clean Energy Regulator has released updates to its [key dates](#) table for the safeguard mechanism.

The updated table outlines the deadlines for baseline applications, National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) registrations and nominations of operational control and multi-year monitoring applications.

### Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism extension:

#### Comment sought

The Federal Department of Industry, Science and Resources is seeking feedback on the [extension of the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism \(ADGSM\) to operate past 1 January 2023, until 1 January 2030](#).

The ADGSM is in place to ensure a sufficient supply of natural gas meets the forecast needs of energy users in

Australia. If there is a domestic supply shortfall, LNG projects may be required to limit their exports or find new gas sources.

The Australian Government has also announced a review of the ADGSM to consider possible changes or alternatives to the existing mechanism.

To inform advice to the government on the extension, please provide your feedback by 19 July 2022. Should you have enquiries, please email [ADGSM@industry.gov.au](mailto:ADGSM@industry.gov.au)

### Australia & US sign partnership to accelerate zero emissions technology

The Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen and United States Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm have signed the Australia/US Net Zero Technology Acceleration Partnership. This is a formal partnership between the two countries to accelerate the development and deployment of zero emissions technology and co-operate on critical minerals supply chains to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while trying to accelerate economic growth.

### Improving Australia's diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) supply:

#### Industry information sought

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is seeking industry information via a public [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) to assist them with their decision making on options to build resilience in the [domestic diesel exhaust fluid \(DEF\) market](#).

Modern diesel engine technology is designed to require domestic diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) to control nitrogen oxide pollutants. The Department is interested in better understanding the market for refined technical grade urea (TGU) which is the main component of DEF.

In late 2021 and early 2022 global supply pressures highlighted limited flexibility in the TGU market in Australia. This had the potential to cause harmful economic impacts through disruption of Australia's diesel dependent transport and logistics system – in particular, heavy trucking and other modern diesel vehicles that require DEF.

The Department is seeking to further understand:

- stocks, storage, supply chains and how the market is functioning
- ways to promote greater market transparency to support good decision making by industry and government
- existing sovereign capability investments, new sovereign capability opportunities and projects in the pipeline that can be brought forward
- what industry is doing to strengthen and diversify supply chains, including from international sources.

[Feedback](#) is sought by 12.00pm AEST on 22 July 2022. Enquiries can be made to [urea@industry.gov.au](mailto:urea@industry.gov.au)

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### **23 companies participate in pilot to report a snapshot of their climate related commitments**

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Twenty-three companies are participating in a pilot that reports a snapshot of their climate-related commitments, progress and net emissions position through the [Corporate Emissions Reduction Transparency \(CERT\) report](#).

The intent of the pilot is to test the reporting framework and guidelines,

and to evaluate how it could evolve over time.

The CERT report is a voluntary initiative for eligible companies to present a snapshot of their climate-related commitments, progress and net emissions position all in one place. It provides a snapshot of the progress being made by some of the biggest companies in Australia towards their climate ambitions.

In this first year, participating companies are from across Australia and within the energy, manufacturing, mining, retail, financial, construction and research sectors. The 23 companies represent almost one quarter of Australia's emissions that were reported to the Clean Energy Regulator for 2020-21.

About the 23 companies that are participating in the 2022 CERT report pilot:

- These companies represent 23% of scope 1 emissions, as reported to the Clean Energy Regulator, for 2020-21.
- 21 of these companies (90%) have commitments to reach net zero emissions or 100% renewable electricity.
- 19 of these companies' CERT reports (83%) included a commitment with progress data verified by the Clean Energy Regulator.
  - 80% of these commitments are due to be met by 2030.
- 14 of these companies (61%) surrendered units or certificates, including:
  - 780,000 Australian and International carbon units to offset their emissions.
  - 360,000 large-scale generation certificates (LGCs), including Greenpower purchases, to demonstrate renewable electricity use.

## VICTORIA

### **VIC Offshore Wind farm Project EES:**

#### **Comment sought**

The Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is seeking feedback on the draft scoping requirements for the [VIC Offshore Windfarm Project EES](#).

VIC Offshore Windfarm Project comprises of an offshore wind farm in Discovery Bay in Victoria, approx 5.5 kilometres off the coast of Portland, supporting electricity transmission assets required to transfer energy generated by the wind farm to the existing electricity transmission network, and potential modifications to ports and harbours required to support the construction and operation of the wind farm. The project life is proposed to be at least 30 years.

The key components of the project are:

- Offshore wind assets consisting of up to 62 (8-15 MW) wind turbines and a network of buried or mechanically protected subsea cables.
- An offshore substation platform installed on foundations and an offshore export cable.
- A landfall site with a transition joint pit connecting the marine cables from the offshore substation to the onshore cables that will run to an onshore substation.
- An onshore substation, which may include further transformers.
- A new transmission line supplying energy generated from the wind farm to the National Electricity Market, with additional equipment as required, which may include battery storage for fast frequency response to provide stability to the grid.
- Existing ports and harbour to be used to support project construction and operations.

The Department is seeking your feedback that can be made via the [online survey](#) by 5 August 2022.

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: Waste to Energy Bioenergy – Stream 2: Project Infrastructure

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Sustainability Victoria (SV) is supporting bioenergy project developers through the Waste to Energy Fund: Bioenergy in order to support the sector to increase renewable energy generation in Victoria.

Of this funding, [Stream 2: Project infrastructure](#) is now open that supports applicants with a proven business case in the purchase, construction, and commissioning of infrastructure to convert organic matter to bioenergy.

This grant program is funded through the Victorian government's circular economy policy, [Recycling Victoria: a new economy](#).

Details are now available including the guidelines for applying for Stream 2 of this fund.

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### NEW SOUTH WALES

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#### New energy from waste regulation:

**Commenced 8 July 2022**

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In NSW, the new energy from waste Regulation came into effect on 8 July 2022.

The [Protection of the Environment Operations \(General\) Amendment \(Thermal Energy from Waste\) Regulation 2022](#) puts into law the Government's [Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan](#) to strategically locate energy from waste in four designated locations in NSW to maximise efficiencies in infrastructure, waste management, innovation and energy recovery.

The Regulation ensures that where it is used, energy from waste plays a sustainable role as NSW transitions towards a circular waste and resource recovery framework.

All proposed energy from waste facilities must also adhere to strict air quality controls, and meet and exceed

world best practice air quality standards as set out in the [Energy from Waste Policy Statement](#).

[Details](#) are now available.

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### Better Regulation Statement: Released by NSW EPA

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NSW EPA has released the [Better Regulation Statement](#) that considers how the better regulation principles apply to the *Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Amendment (Thermal Energy from Waste) Regulation 2022*.

The *Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Amendment (Thermal Energy from Waste) Regulation 2022* amends the *Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2021* to provide for a prohibition, in some circumstances, on the thermal treatment of waste that involves or results in energy recovery, except where it is carried out at certain precincts or premises.

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### Accredited Site Auditors: Applications open

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NSW EPA is seeking [applications](#) from appropriately qualified and experienced people to become accredited Site Auditors under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997*.

Application requirements are based on Schedule B9 of the [National Environment Protection \(Assessment of Site Contamination\) Measure 1999](#) and applicants should have extensive experience and a high level of expertise in -

- assessment of contaminant exposure pathways
- contaminated site assessment and remediation including management
- evaluation and interpretation of chemical and analytical data
- soil sampling design and methodology

- soil gas sampling design and methodology
- groundwater sampling design and methodology
- identification of potential human health and environmental risks
- quality control/quality assurance procedures; and
- risk communication.

Applicants will also be expected to demonstrate a good understanding of NSW and national guidelines, policies and legislation relating to contaminated land and meet the selection criteria which is set out in the [application form](#).

Applications must be received by close of business Monday 1 August 2022.

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### Important information by NSW EPA on how to clean a flood-affected property

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NSW EPA has released [important information](#) for NSW businesses affected by the floods.

The information provides a one stop shop on how to keep businesses and the community safe after flooding; what to do with waste material and hazardous materials; how to clean a flood-affected property, as well as:

- Building site run-off
- Waste levy waivers
- Dealing with waste material when clean-up commences
- Cleaning your flood affected property
- Community safety.

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### Another prosecution for Forestry Corp of NSW for alleged forestry breaches

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NSW EPA has launched its [second prosecution](#) this year against Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) for allegedly failing to retain habitat for

local wildlife, by felling giant and hollow-bearing trees in Wild Cattle Creek State Forest, near Coffs Harbour.

Each breach carries a maximum penalty of \$2,000,000.

[Details](#) are now available.

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### **Advanced sonar program to locate hazardous submerged debris as result of NSW floods**

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NSW EPA has released a statement regarding the new [advanced sonar program](#) that has started surveying NSW rivers for hazardous submerged debris as a result of the high floods experienced in NSW. The Sonar Program has the ability to reveal otherwise invisible hazards.

Sonar Technology mounted on boats sends out sound waves and measures returning echoes to detect large items on the riverbed. Based on what has been found on shoreside, clean-ups hazards are expected to include items as diverse as - chemical drums, farming equipment, large tree branches and even caravans.

NSW EPA will be working closely with Transport for NSW to secure and mark hazardous debris prior to removal.

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## **QUEENSLAND**

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### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: Industry Partnership Program**

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The QLD Government is providing funding through the [Industry Partnership Program](#) intended to create jobs across a number of priority industry sectors such as - advanced manufacturing, hydrogen, biofutures, biomedical, defence, aerospace, space, resource recovery and METS.

Businesses, industries and research institutions aligned with priority industry sectors can apply.

[Details](#) are now available.

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## **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

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### **Fine of \$18K for waste facility**

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A waste management facility in WA has been fined \$18,000 and ordered to pay costs of \$788.30 in the Magistrates Court after a WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) investigation found the company had breached a condition of its licence. [Continue reading...](#)

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