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*Australian Environment Business Network (AEBN) webinar: Mid-year Update
Environmental Compliance for Business: New Laws and Developments from across Australia*



The NSW EPA is the environmental steward and regulator for New South Wales.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians as the first protectors of the land, water, sea and sky on which we live and work, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.



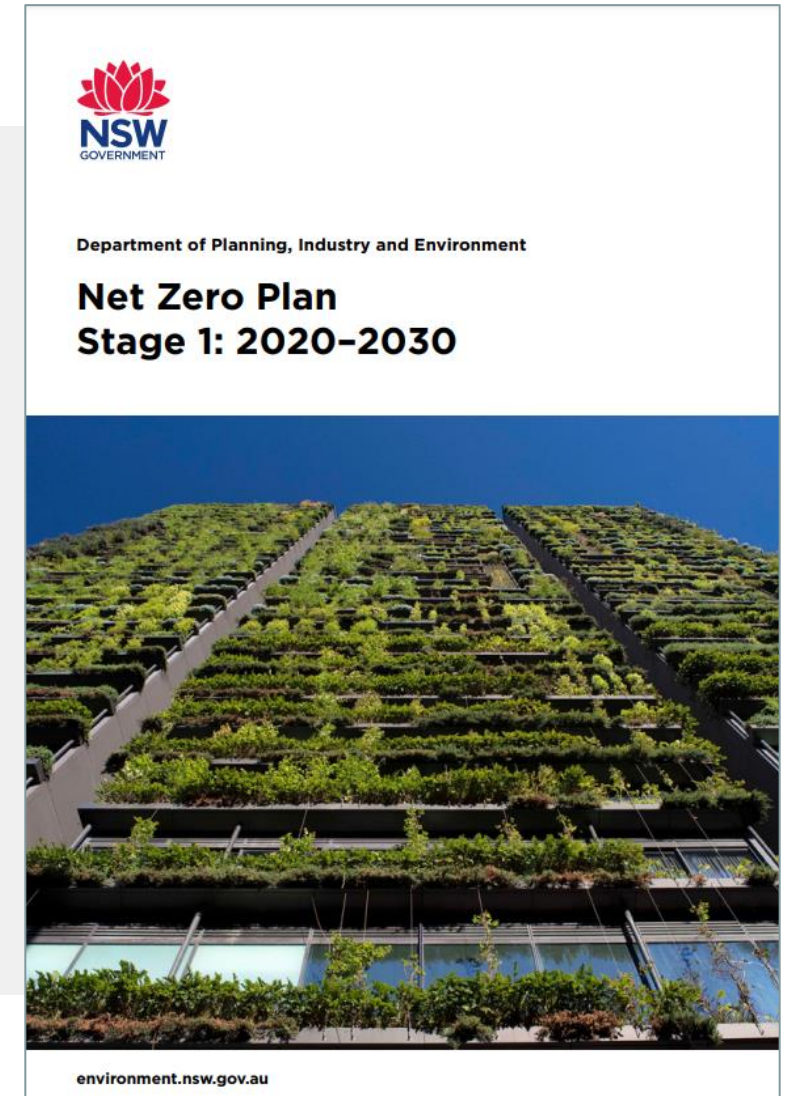
We are strengthening our regulatory response to climate change

We are working with our regulated community to address the causes and consequences of climate change in NSW

Taking NSW towards net zero



- NSW is committed to net zero by 2050
- Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020–2030
 - Coal Innovation Fund
 - Net Zero Industry and Innovation Program
- **Net zero targets** to be legislated
- A **Net Zero Commission** to be established



EPA Climate Change Policy and Action Plan 2023–26

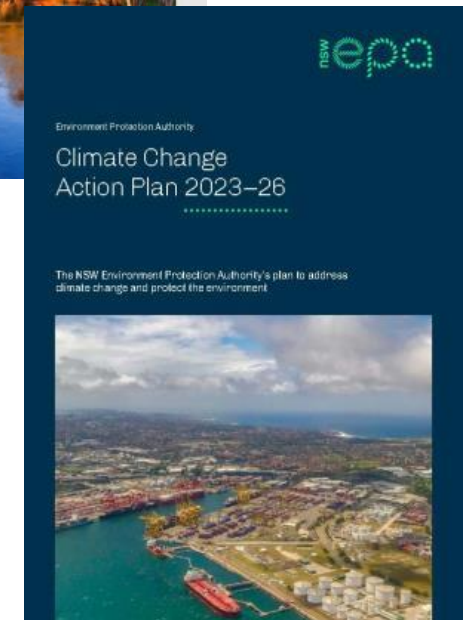
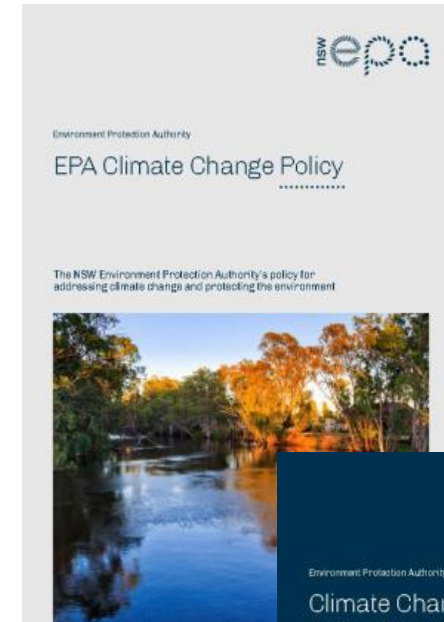


Our policy

- Describes the causes and consequences of climate change in NSW
- Outlines our statutory objectives and duty to address climate change
- Adopts, supports, builds on the Government's overarching objectives
- Gives stakeholders certainty on our regulatory approach

Our action plan

- Describes how we'll deliver on the objectives of the policy
- Outlines the specific actions we'll take over the next three years
- Signals the stronger regulatory action we intend to take over the medium to longer-term, if required



Our actions will be staged



1

LISTEN AND GATHER INFORMATION

- Establish sector advisory groups
- Collaborate via government and industry knowledge and working groups
- Survey licensees
- Research, analysis and consultation
- Build expert networks and relationships

2

SET TARGETS AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE

Guidelines

- Establish planning guidelines (with key gov. partners)
- Establish internal decision making guidelines
- Provide climate change mitigation and adaptation best-practice guidance

Targets

- Set emission reduction targets for key industry sectors

3

ENABLE AND REQUIRE

Existing licensees

- Emission benchmarking against guidance
- Require Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Plans (CCMAPs)

New licensees

- Set best-practice standards
- CCMAPs
- Set limits and requirements

4

REQUIRE IMPROVED PERFORMANCE

Existing licensees

- Use a range of tools (e.g. pollution reduction programs) to require performance

New licensees

- Set and ensure compliance with best practice
- CCMAPs
- Set emission limits and requirements on licences

Consider and align with evolving government policy at national and state levels, in particular changes to the Safeguard Mechanism and NGERs Act.

Progress will be reported each year in the EPA Annual Report.

Action Plan will be revised in three years, and will be adjusted to address NSW progress towards its net zero targets.

Our key focus this year is **listening and gathering information**

Engagement & Evidence Base

- Establishing **sector advisory groups**
- **Licensee survey** – to better understand climate change actions and where support is needed
- First **Climate Change Horizon Scan**
- NSW Chairs **Climate Change Community of Practice** – Head of EPAs Australia & NZ (HEPA)
- Commenced engagement with the EPA **Youth Advisory Committee**

Advice & Guidelines

- Developing **Firming Infrastructure Guidelines**
- Planning assessments – preparing **Climate Change Assessment Requirements** for large emitters
- Preparing guidelines to help licensees prepare **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Plans**
- Scoping **best-practice guidelines** to support industry transition

Policies & Programs

- Input and advice into the **Commonwealth Safeguard Mechanism** reforms
- Trialling **methane measurement and monitoring** techniques
- **EPA** is working to become a **net zero organisation** by 2030

Development of climate change assessment requirements: Planning processes

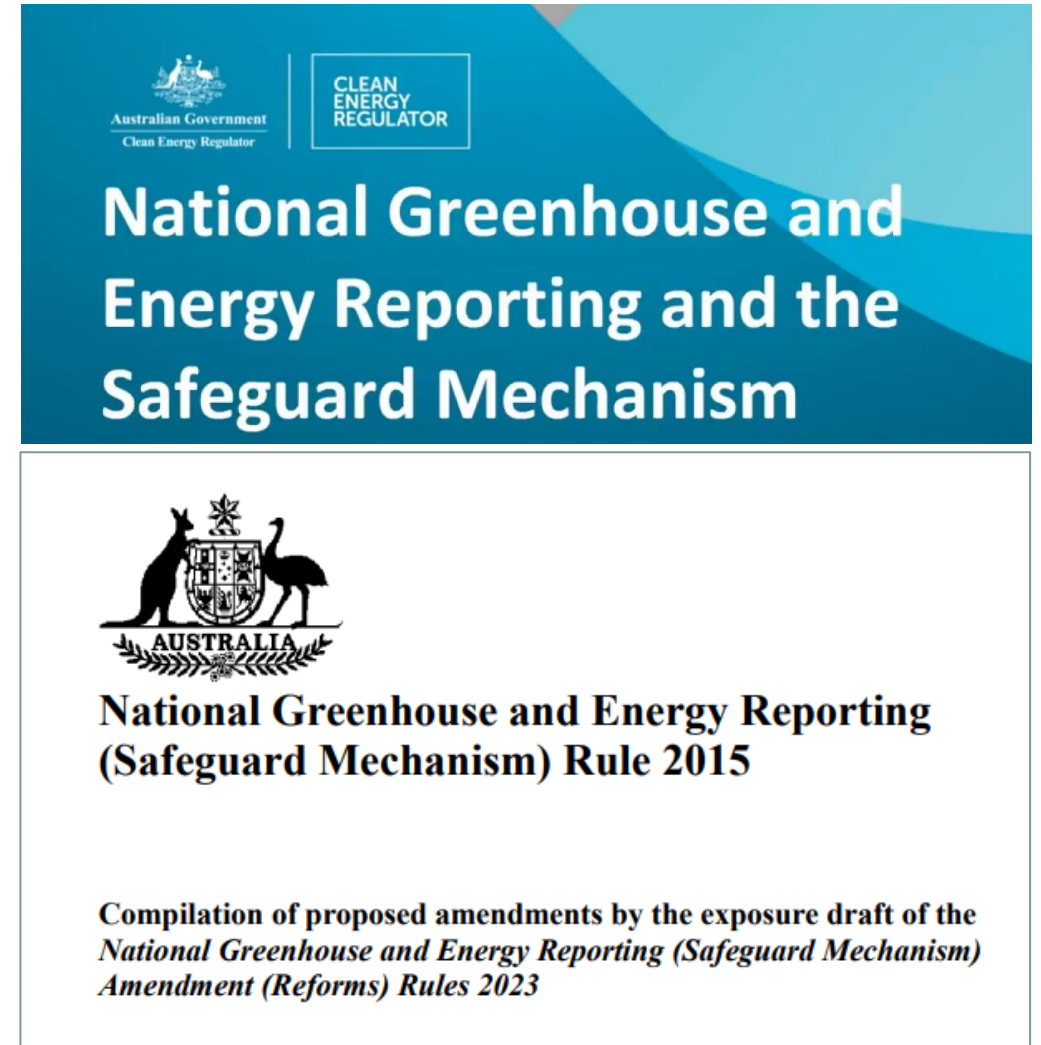


- Developing new **climate change assessment requirements** for large emitters - we'll consult on a draft supporting guide
- Scoping **best-practice guidance** for the mining industry
- Opportunities for stakeholders to **inform** this work

Alignment with Safeguard Mechanism reforms



- EPA is committed to **aligning** with NSW and Commonwealth initiatives, including the **Safeguard Mechanism**
- We chair the **HEPA Climate Change Community of Practice** – alignment is a key issue being considered
- Commonwealth requirements **do not preclude** us from needing to properly understand GHG impacts of our licensees
- We will be ensuring that proponents are adequately **avoiding, minimising and managing** emissions



Proposed further action on plastic



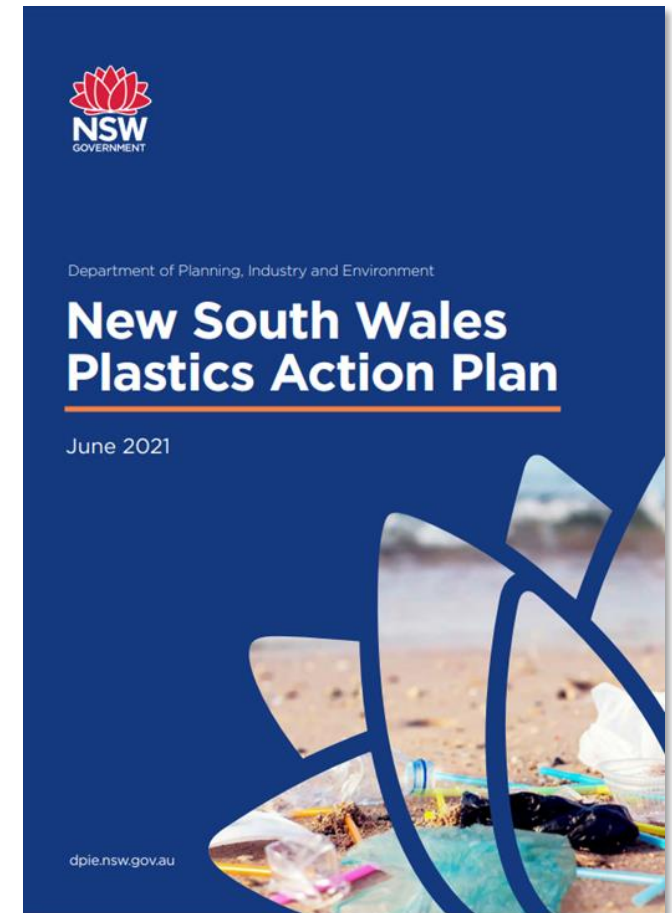
NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy (WaSM) and NSW Plastics Action Plan (PAP) Overview



The NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy (WaSM) and NSW Plastics Action Plan (PAP) were launched in June 2021.

The four **key outcomes** set out in the PAP aim to:

- reduce plastic waste generation
- make the most of our plastic resources
- reduce plastic leakage
- improve our understanding of the future of plastics





Under review now (identified in the Plastics Action Plan).....

....oxo-degradable plastics, cigarette butt litter, single-use plastic bowls with lids, single-use plastic cups (including lids), synthetic turf, crumbed rubber infill, fruit stickers, heavy weight plastic bags, barrier/produce bags, use of microbeads in other products

Harmonisation opportunities – items banned or under review in other Australian jurisdictions.....[and NZ]

.....single-use plastic food containers, all remaining expanded polystyrene (EPS) food service items, EPA packaging, single serve plastic condiment packets, plastic bread tags and ties, balloon release, plastic balloon clips, tags, sticks and fasteners etc, mylar balloons, plastic pizza savers, plastic beverage containers, plastic confetti and glitter

Other unnecessary or problematic plastics.....

.....the PRCE Act enables the Minister to phase out, implement design standards, and/or introduce product stewardship schemes for 'unnecessary' or 'problematic' plastics. We are considering what other plastic items this could include. These will be discussed at future SEG meetings

**Have your say:
'Action on Plastic discussion
paper' to be released for public
consultation in 2023**

A serene sunset scene over a vast body of water. The sun is a bright, glowing orb on the horizon, casting a shimmering path of light across the water's surface. The sky is a mix of soft oranges, yellows, and pale blues, with a few wispy clouds. The water in the foreground is calm, reflecting the colors of the sky. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Questions?