

ENVIRONMENT NETWORK WEEKLY (ENW)

AEBN National ENW e-news – 26 September 2023

FORTHCOMING AEBN EVENTS



[AEBN WEBINARS]

- [SERIES 1 to Dangerous Goods, Hazardous Substances and GHS](#)

Covering: Regulatory framework, Identification, Classification, SDSs and Labelling

10.00am to 1.45pm (AM Half Day)
25 October 2023

- [SERIES 2 to Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances](#)

Covering: Rules and practical applications for the safe Storage & Handling and Transport

10.00am to 1.45pm (AM Half Day)
25 October 2023

FEDERAL

Federal Government says Australia has met its target for 2nd commitment period under Kyoto Protocol

The Federal Government is stating that Australia has met its emissions reduction target under the second commitment period (CP2) of the [Kyoto Protocol](#).

An international review process in early 2024 is expected to show Australia's compliance with the CP2 target.

As part of its [Nationally Determined Contribution](#) under the Paris Agreement, Australia voluntarily committed not to use Commonwealth held Kyoto units surplus to our 2020 [Cancun Agreement](#) or [Kyoto Protocol emission target requirements](#), to meet its Paris Agreement targets.

The Clean Energy Regulator carried out several key accounting transactions through the [Australian National Registry of Emissions Units \(ANREU\)](#) to show Australia is meeting its international commitments.

Kyoto units are issued in accordance with the [Kyoto Protocol Rules](#). Each unit represents 1 tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e).

Kyoto units are **not the same** as Kyoto Australian carbon credit units (Kyoto ACCUs). Kyoto ACCUs are Australia's domestic unit issued under the [ACCU Scheme](#). The transactions were completed before the deadline of 9 September 2023, during the '[true-up period](#)'.

The key transactions were:

- retiring a total of 4,229,526,447 CP2 Assigned Amount Units (AAUs) and 86,480,473 CP2 [Removal Units \(RMUs\)](#) – equivalent to Australia's cumulative greenhouse gas emissions during CP2
- cancelling 127,650,775 CP1 AAUs and 21,768,290 [Certified Emission Reduction \(CER\)](#) units
- [voluntarily cancelling](#) all remaining 545,555,875 RMUs and 6,720,688 CERs.

The Commonwealth Holding Account in the ANREU now holds no Kyoto units. Kyoto unit holdings in all ANREU accounts are published under [Public Reports](#).

Australian case study report on piloting the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures framework

The [Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures \(TNFD\)](#) is an initiative led by the private sector. It aims to create a global framework to help organisations manage and disclose their nature-related risks and opportunities. The TNFD is working to shift global financial flows towards nature-positive outcomes.

The TNFD has released its recommendations and guidance. The TNFD framework is now ready for voluntary use in the market.

Australia has supported the design and development of this global framework. The Federal Government funds the TNFD. It has sat on the TNFD Stewardship Council since November 2021. Other international governments on the council include France, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The pilots covered the following 5 value chains:

- Critical mineral mining for producing clean energy technologies
- Natural gas extraction for industrial manufacturing
- Domestically sourced fresh beef and salmon sold at a supermarket
- Property development and building construction
- Domestic cultivation of cotton for export

[Information](#) from the pilots has now been published and includes the case study report and 5 value chain deep-dive guidance documents.

Organisations can use the package to assess their nature-related risks and opportunities.

Guarantee of Origin Scheme: Detailed Design

Comment sought

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) is seeking [feedback](#) on the proposed detailed design of the Guarantee of Origin (GO) scheme, including:

- the emissions accounting approach,
- the approach to certifying renewable electricity, and
- scheme expansion (to new products).

Feedback from stakeholders is expected to inform the development of legislation and regulations to give effect to the GO scheme.

It is anticipated that legislation will be in place in 2024.

The Guarantee of Origin (GO) is a world-class assurance scheme being designed to track and verify emissions associated with hydrogen, renewable electricity and potentially other products made in Australia. Over time, it could expand to include a range of products such as metals and biofuels.

It is expected to provide transparency to end users in Australia and overseas over the carbon emissions of the products they are buying. It is expected it will help Australia to produce and export hydrogen and other clean energy products at scale.

The GO scheme also includes the Renewable Electricity Guarantee of Origin (REGO) scheme. The REGO scheme will allow renewable electricity generation to be certified and tracked. This will provide transparency about the production and consumption of

renewable electricity, supporting claims by producers in the GO scheme and other voluntary renewable electricity users.

There are four Guarantee of Origin (GO Scheme) consultation surveys open for feedback.

- **Scheme design survey – Closes 20 October**

The GO scheme design paper provides a practical perspective on what participants will be able to expect from the scheme once it commences.

Respondents can provide feedback on the regulatory burden, practicality and ease of participation of the scheme.

- **Renewable Electricity Guarantee of Origin approach paper – Closes 20 October**

The Renewable Electricity Guarantee of Origin approach paper builds on policy positions proposed in the Department's consultation paper published in December 2022.

- **Emissions methodology survey – Closes 19 November**

The Emissions Accounting Approach (methodology) paper provides detail on how emissions will be estimated for Product GOs. The accompanying GO emissions calculator is a tool that provides a practical illustration of the emissions accounting approach.

Respondents can provide feedback on the proposed emissions accounting methodology.

- **Product expansion and prioritisation – Closes 19 November** – where respondents can provide information on the additional products, they believe should be included within the GO scheme.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY: Carbon Capture Technologies Program – Stage 1

Opens

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) has announced that Grant guidelines for Stage 1 of the Carbon Capture Technologies Program (CCTP) are now [available](#).

The CCTP is expected to support the research and development of new and novel ways to capture and use carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas), especially in hard to abate sectors such as cement manufacturing.

Funding will also support research in negative emissions technologies such as direct air capture. This is where carbon dioxide is taken from the atmosphere for storage, or for production of goods.

The CCTP stage 1 is now open for applications and will close on 31 October 2023.

Lake Eyre Basin Scientific Advisory Panel:

Expression of Interest sought for Members and Chair of the Panel

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) is seeking expressions of interest from individuals who have high quality scientific expertise and a strong understanding and connection with the Lake Eyre Basin to become a member or Chair of the panel.

The Lake Eyre Basin Scientific Advisory Panel provides scientific advice to Lake Eyre Basin ministers. This advice helps manage the basin's water and natural resources.

Specifically, the Department seeks expertise in one or more of the following:

- hydrology, particularly in relation to rivers in the Lake Eyre Basin

- hydrogeology
- freshwater ecology conservation and biodiversity. This includes ecology of waterbirds, rivers and wetland systems in the arid and semi-arid zone of Australia, and the ecological impacts of river regulation
- water quality
- environmental and natural resource planning and management
- environmental restoration.

The [Lake Eyre Basin Scientific Advisory Panel - Job Package](#) is now available.

For queries, please contact the LEB Secretariat at lebsecretariat@dcceew.gov.au.

Applications close at by 11:59pm AEST Sunday 15 October 2023.

ACCU Scheme Method Development Interim Framework:

Released

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) has released the [Method Development Interim Framework](#) for the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme. This brings the Federal Government closer to [implementing the recommendations](#) from the [ACCU independent review](#).

The [interim framework](#) is expected to provide some interim support to external method developers while the new Integrity Committee and proponent-led method development process are being established. However, this guidance is interim only and not definitive. This guidance may also be updated from time to time in response to stakeholder feedback.

To provide feedback on the implementation, engage in

the [consultation on the ACCU Review Discussion Paper](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: Solar Infrastructure in Australia's Remote Communities

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) has announced funding for solar infrastructure in Australia's remote communities. The [Regional Microgrids Program](#) (Program) will allocate \$75 million for projects in First Nations communities.

The Program seeks to support the development and deployment of renewable energy microgrids across regional Australia that contribute to the Program outcomes.

ARENA has allocated funding across two Streams under the Program, and each Stream has its own Outcomes.

Applications are now open, with the program to run until December 2025 or until funds are exhausted.

ARENA's White Paper on Ultra Low-Cost Solar (ULCS):

Released

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) has launch its white paper on [The Incredible Ultra Low-Cost Solar \(ULCS\)](#) – how ultra low-cost solar can unlock Australia's renewable energy superpower.

The report details why ultra low-cost solar is critical for reducing electricity costs and decarbonising hard-to-abate sectors such as industry and transport, and how it can offer exciting green export opportunities for Australia.

The main objectives of the paper are to:

- elevate solar photovoltaics (PV) in Australia's national priorities by outlining the benefits that extremely cheap solar could unlock, and
- communicate key barriers and innovation priorities for ultra low-

cost solar to government, industry and the Australian public.

A set of coordinated activities is required to ensure that Australia can successfully deploy the scale of solar PV needed, not just to realise the Government's target of 82 per cent renewables in our electricity system by 2030, but to reduce the cost of solar PV even further beyond 2030 and realise the vision of Australia as a renewable energy superpower. These activities include ensuring that Australia has a vibrant local solar PV industry, there is off take certainty for new solar developments, there is adequate deployment of energy storage, and new transmission lines are built out.

CSIRO and AEMO release latest report on electricity generation and storage

The CSIRO and the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) have released their latest report [GenCost 2022-23](#), that marks the first time that all technology costs have increased from the previous year since GenCost commenced in 2018.

GenCost is an annual collaboration between CSIRO and the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) that actively consults with industry stakeholders to revise domestic electricity generation and storage, as well as hydrogen production costs.

This report states that renewables, led by wind and solar, maintain their position as Australia's cheapest new-build electricity generation despite a 20 per cent average rise in technology costs.

The report highlights industry concerns that the rapid pace of the global energy transition will contribute to escalating cost pressures. This is attributed to the immense scale of manufacturing, raw materials and

Register of solar water heaters (V.51): Applications open

The Clean Energy Regulator is seeking applications for version 51 of the Register of solar water heaters. The [Register of solar water heaters](#) lists all solar and air source heat pump water heaters that are eligible to have small-scale technology certificates created for them.

The application period opens on 2 October 2023 to 5pm (AEDT) on 2 November 2023 as per the timetable of the [2023 application rounds](#).

For enquiries, please email CER-RET-SWH@cer.gov.au

Independent appointed for review on gateway checks for Human-induced regeneration (HIR) projects

The Clean Energy Regulator (CER) has engaged Assoc. Prof. (Honorary) Cris Brack from the Australian National University to independently review gateway checks for [human-induced regeneration \(HIR\) projects](#) under the Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme (ACCU Scheme).

It is a legislative requirement that all HIR projects must undergo regular gateway checks to demonstrate that only land that is progressing towards forest cover is being issued ACCUs.

Assoc Prof Brack has over 30 years of experience in teaching and research into forest measurement and management.

Climate Change Authority to review potential technology transition and emissions pathways to better support Australia's transition to net zero by 2050

The Australian Parliament has requested the Climate Change Authority (CCA) to review the potential technology transition and emissions pathways that best support Australia's

transition to net zero by 2050 for the following sectors:

- Electricity and energy
- Transport
- Industry and waste
- Agriculture and land
- Resources
- Built environment.

The Authority must identify opportunities, technologies, barriers, workforce matters, information gaps, and the role of public and private finance in its review of sectoral pathways.

The review was requested under Section 59 of the Climate Change Authority Act (2011) and is to be delivered by 1 August 2024.

The Authority is to consult widely and provide advice to government on decarbonisation pathway. Through examining each sector's opportunities to achieve emissions reductions and barriers that might stand in the way, the sectoral pathways review is to outline how Australia could achieve net zero by 2050, and how far sectors could go by 2035.

2023-24 Corporate Plan of Climate Change Authority:

Released

The Climate Change Authority has released its [2023-24 Corporate Plan](#) that outlines its activities for the next four years.

The Chair of the authority Mr Grant King stated that the plan reflects a substantially expanded role and work program for the authority, spanning existing and new statutory responsibilities, and backed by a restored capacity to deliver.

VICTORIA

Code of Practice for Common Risk Management Techniques for Quarries:

Comment sought

Consultation opens to review and provide feedback on the [draft Code of Practice for Common Risk Management Techniques for Quarries](#).

Earth Resources Regulator (ERR) have designed and implemented improved processes and guidelines for quarrying operations to reduce harm to the environment, communities, and infrastructure. Recent improvements have provided clarity around the statutory authorisation process, better pre-application engagement with regulators and more support around how to meet technical performance standards.

One of the key deliverables to address issues relating to reducing end-to-end statutory authorisation time frames and simplifying the application and assessment process for quarrying activities, is the creation of the Code of Practice for Common Risk Management Technique for Quarries (the Code). Assessments to authorise quarrying activities are often lengthy, complex and need input from many regulators and agencies.

The Code will:

- provide a shared understanding of common hazards, performance standards and control to remove or minimise impacts from the hazards that occur at quarries.
- simplify and streamline requirements for assessments of quarry work plans and work plan variations.
- reduce duplication in assessments between co-regulators.

As part of this process, please provide [feedback](#) on the Code.

Please provide feedback by 16 October 2023.

EPA Victoria aims to release response to comments by November 2023 and the final version of the Code by December 2023.

Victoria's renewable gas consultation paper:

Comment sought

The Victorian Government seeks comment from industry and the community on a consultation paper - [Victoria's Renewable Gas Consultation Paper](#) on the potential design of a policy or policies that could best support renewable gas in Victoria.

The consultation paper poses a number of questions which Government is seeking your feedback on. Please submit your response below.

Submissions received will inform the Victorian Government renewable gas policy and the development of future updates to the Victoria's [Gas Substitution Roadmap](#).

Please provide feedback by 6 October 2023.

NEW SOUTH WALES

NEW GUIDELINES: Asbestos and Waste Tyres

From 19 September 2023, new [Asbestos and Waste Tyres Guidelines \(Version 2\)](#) come into effect that contain legal requirements that consignors, transporters and receivers of Asbestos Waste and Waste Tyres must meet in addition to their obligations under the POEO Waste Regulation.

The new guidelines were released by NSW EPA and include general and specific user requirements for:

- a. the Integrated Waste Tracking Solution to report on the location and movement of Waste Tyres; and
- b. WasteLocate to report on the location and movement of Asbestos Waste.

These Guidelines, and the relevant clause(s) of the POEO Waste Regulation under which they are being made, are listed below:

1. Guideline 1: Prescribed form and manner (clauses 76(3)–(7) and (9)

as well as 79(3)–(6) and (8) of the POEO Waste Regulation).

2. Guideline 2: Waste Tyres consignor requirements (clause 76(3)(g) of the POEO Waste Regulation).
3. Guideline 3: Waste Tyres transporter requirements (clause 76(6)(b) of the POEO Waste Regulation).
4. Guideline 4: Waste Tyre receiver requirements (clause 76(7)(d) of the POEO Waste Regulation).
5. Guideline 5: Asbestos Waste transporter requirements (clause 79(3)(f) of the POEO Waste Regulation). Asbestos and Waste Tyres Guidelines | 4
6. Guideline 6: Asbestos Waste receiver requirements (clause 79(6)(c) of the POEO Waste Regulation).

NSW EPA releases policy on use of Pesticides

NSW EPA administers the NSW Pesticides Act 1999 (the Act) to control the use of pesticides in NSW and reduce their risk to human health, the environment, property, industry and trade.

The Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the Regulation) supports the aims of the Act by setting out requirements for record-keeping, training, licensing and the notification of some pesticide uses. Mandatory training helps prevent mistakes being made when pesticides are used, and is one of the most effective ways of protecting the community, the environment and the people who use pesticides regularly.

The Regulation requires training to be undertaken every five years, but provides an alternative for people who hold a recognised qualification and participate in an EPA approved quality assurance or stewardship program relating to the use of pesticides.

Guideline on Offsetting requirements for electricity firming infrastructure

NSW EPA has released the guideline on Offsetting requirements for electricity firming infrastructure that outlines the role of NSW EPA as a regulator under the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020 (EII Act) and Electricity Infrastructure Investment Regulation 2021 (EII Regulation).

It also provides guidance to long-term energy service operators on requirements they must comply with under Part 12 of the EII Regulation. NSW EPA's role includes calculating and comparing greenhouse gas emissions from electricity firming infrastructure facilities with greenhouse gas emissions from the NSW grid, to determine if offsets need to be procured and surrendered for the facility.

NSW EPA puts coal mines in Hunter region on notice

NSW EPA is targeting coal mines in the Hunter region to monitor air quality as part of NSW EPA's ongoing *Bust the Dust* campaign.

NSW EPA's Director Operations David Gathercole said previous *Bust the Dust* campaigns in 2019 and 2020 had been very successful with most mines adjusting their operational activities on high-risk windy days, and further improvement was expected this year.

"Dust from mining activity in the Hunter Valley is a key concern for the community and NSW EPA expects all coal mines to be vigilant and take extra precautions to ensure better air quality for the community," Mr Gathercole said.

"After two years of wet La Nina conditions, we're expecting dry weather this spring and summer and this will increase the risk to air quality, so dust monitoring will be a priority for us.

"EPA officers will be on the ground using the latest technology, including drones, to locate the source of any

dust emissions and ensure mines have appropriate controls in place.

The EPA regulates air quality at mine sites through the Environmental Protection Licences and coal mines are required to implement procedures to reduce dust from their operations.

The key focus of this consultation is renewable gas for industrial users that cannot readily substitute fossil gas with electricity.

QUEENSLAND

QLD Containers for Change – to include wine and spirit bottles:

Effective 1 November 2023

The Queensland Government has announced that the Containers for Change will include [wine and spirit bottles from 1 November 2023](#).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Outcomes of Waste Authority Meeting 11 September 2023

The WA's Waste Authority has released the outcomes of its last Meeting on 11 September 2023.

[Details](#) of important matters discussed and decisions are now available:

- Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030
- Draft State Waste Infrastructure Plan
- Draft 2022-23 Waste Authority Annual Report
- Development of National principles for product stewardship for tyres
- E-waste to landfill ban by 2024
- Geographic area of the waste levy
- Waste Export bans and Recycling Modernisation Funding
- WasteSorted Recycling Infrastructure Grants
- Trash Talk Newsletter

The next meeting of the Waste Authority will be held on 4 December 2023.

WA EPA recommends approval for Pilbara renewable project

EPA WA has completed its [first assessment](#) in the Pilbara's Maitland Strategic Industrial Area (MSIA), recommending approval for the Woodside Solar Facility subject to strict conditions.

The proposed solar photovoltaic farm will generate electricity for industrial customers via the North-West Interconnected System and includes up to one million solar panels and a battery energy storage system.
