

# ENVIRONMENT NETWORK WEEKLY (ENW)

AEBN National ENW e-news – 25 February 2025

## 2025 AEBN EVENTS

1. [Interactive Webinar]  
**PLAN FOR 2025: 2025 AEBN National Conference on Environment, Climate Change and Energy:**

[New laws, developments and funding for business in 2025](#)

This annual AEBN Conference Webinar is designed to assist you to **PLAN FOR 2025**. The Conference Webinar will provide key **changes expected in 2025** on environmental, climate change and carbon management compliance, including funding and grants available to businesses.

This Conference Webinar is designed to assist businesses to remain compliant.

**10.00am to 4.00pm  
7 March 2025**

Register early to secure your place!

2. [Interactive Webinar]  
**SERIES 1: Dangerous Goods, Hazardous Chemicals & GHS**

[Covering: Regulatory framework, Identification, Classification, Safety Data Sheets \(SDSs\) and Labelling](#)

**2 APRIL 2025  
9.50am (AEST) for 10.00am  
(start) to 1.45pm**

Register early to secure your place!

3. [Interactive Webinar]  
**SERIES 2: Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Chemicals**

[Covering: Storage, Handling and Transport](#)

**3 APRIL 2025  
9.50am (AEST) for 10.00am  
(start) to 1.45pm**

Register early to secure your place!

## FEDERAL

### Climate Change Authority releases their assessment of the impact of a nuclear pathway on Australia's emissions reduction

The Climate Change Authority has released their report on [Assessing the impact of a nuclear pathway on Australia's emissions](#).

The Climate Change Authority has compared published modelling by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and Frontier Economics to understand how a nuclear pathway could impact national efforts to reduce emissions.

The analysis found that a nuclear pathway could see Australia miss the legislated 43% emissions reduction target for 2030 by 5 percentage points, and still not achieve this level of reduction by 2035.

Australia would not reach 82% zero emissions electricity until 2042 – more than a decade later than current national plans.

Matt Kean, Chair, Climate Change Authority said "Prioritising nuclear at this time would be inconsistent with

Australia's national emissions reduction priorities and commitments."

This new analysis builds on previous work by the Climate Change Authority on nuclear energy, including through the 2024 Sector Pathways Review and its initial [submission to House Select Committee on Nuclear Energy](#). This analysis will be provided to the Committee as a supplementary submission.

### Senate passes Future Made in Australia production tax credits

The Senate has passed the Federal Government's *Future Made in Australia (Production Tax Credit and Other Measures) Bill 2024*. This legislation implements production tax incentives for renewable hydrogen and critical minerals.

The incentives are:

1. Hydrogen Production Tax Incentive worth \$2 per kilogram of renewable hydrogen produced between 2027–2028 and 2039–40 for up to 10 years per project.
2. Critical Minerals Production Tax Incentive worth 10% of relevant processing and refining costs for Australia's 31 critical minerals, for critical minerals processed and refined between 2027–28 and 2039–40, for up to 10 years per project.

It is intended that the incentives are to support Australia's efforts to decarbonise industries, and produce and process more of the minerals needed for the energy transition.

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## Outcomes of 4<sup>th</sup> pilot exit window and interim contract management approach

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The Clean Energy Regulator has announced that the fourth pilot exit window for the [fixed delivery exit arrangements](#) has now closed. The window covered delivery milestones between 1 July 2023 and 31 December 2024.

During this window –

- 4.5 million Australian carbon credit units (ACCUs) exited, and
- 2.4 million were delivered.

This means the [cost containment measure](#) now holds 3.9 million ACCUs.

For the first time since exit arrangements were introduced in 2022, this window required sellers to deliver at least 20% of the delivery milestone to the Australian Government. Deliveries exceeded the 20% minimum partial delivery requirement, with some contracts delivering in full.

Further [details](#) are now available.

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## The potential of EV batteries to generate energy for other electrical devices:

### Report released

A report on the [National Roadmap for Bidirectional Electric Vehicle Charging](#) has been released that highlights the potential of bidirectional electric vehicle (EV) charging to reduce electricity costs and accelerate national emissions reduction.

The report was commissioned by Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) in partnership with [RACE for 2030 Co-operative Research Centre](#) and delivered by enX Consulting.

Bidirectional charging refers to the ability of an electric vehicle (EV) or other energy storage systems to not only draw power from the grid to charge its battery, but also to send

power back to the grid, your business, home or directly to other devices. This capability allows the EV to act as an energy source when needed – essentially turning cars into batteries on wheels.

The Roadmap lays the foundation on which key industry and government stakeholders can identify and adopt policy settings and strategy initiatives to realise the benefits of bidirectional EV charging for Australians.

Bidirectional charging has the potential to become one of the largest forms of flexible energy storage in Australia and to materially reduce electricity costs for millions of Australians and accelerate national emissions reduction.

While not yet directly available in Australia, the technology has been successfully tested in other countries through small-scale trials.

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## \$30M for project to commercialise new process for manufacturing cathode powder for lithium-ion batteries

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The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) has committed \$30 million, in conditional funding, to VSPC Pty Ltd who seeks [to commercialise a new process for manufacturing cathode powder for lithium-ion batteries](#). The project is to involve VSPC constructing a new 250 tonne per annum demonstration facility possibly in Brisbane.

The project is expected to lead to advancements in cathode powder manufacturing and create significant benefits for lithium-ion battery production. Expected benefits include

- cost reductions,
- quality improvements,
- reduced waste and
- the diversification of global battery supply chains.

VSPC's new process combines the advantages of solid-state and solution-phase synthesis methods, to produce high-performance lithium ferro phosphate (LFP) and lithium manganese ferro phosphate (LMFP)

powders with greater control of product characteristics and quality. This makes the process flexible for use in different battery cell technologies.

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## 2025 Great Barrier Reef Progress Report:

### Released

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has released the [2025 Great Barrier Reef Progress Report](#) that outlines the Federal Government's latest delivery, progress and commitments to:

- mitigating climate change impacts on the Great Barrier Reef;
- Australia's adaptive management of the Reef;
- improving water quality on the Great Barrier Reef; and
- sustainable fishing on the Great Barrier Reef.

The report provides preliminary results on the impact of the 2023-24 extreme weather events.

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## VICTORIA

### Dairy company cops \$650K fine plus \$30K in costs for breach of General Environmental Duty (GED)

In a Supreme Court civil case, a dairy processing company has been ordered to pay EPA Victoria \$650,000 plus \$30,000 in costs after a series of spills.

The spills are a breach of the General Environmental Duty (GED), a part of the Environment Protection Act 2017 - that makes it everyone's responsibility to take reasonable steps to prevent pollution.

The company admitted it failed to manage the risks of environmental harm occurring so far as reasonably practicable, and has since made improvements to

the stormwater and wastewater systems on its site.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

### Statewide mandate for Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO)

NSW Parliament has passed legislation to [mandate](#) Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection services for businesses and institutions in stages from July 2026, and for households by July 2030.

This will mean, NSW has a statewide mandate for FOGO recycling, to reduce food waste and stop food waste going to landfill.

NSW EPA is working with industry, councils and communities to assist with a smooth transition.

The mandate requirements -

- Large supermarkets, institutions and hospitality businesses will be required to have a source-separated food organics (FO) waste collection service in place, starting with the largest generators from 1 July 2026 and staggered to 2030 depending on how much waste they send to landfill each week.
- Supermarkets will be required to record food donations across six categories, including meat, dairy, fruit and vegetables, frozen food and baked goods.
- NSW local councils to provide all NSW households who receive a residual (red lid) waste collection service with a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) waste service by 1 July 2030.

### Protection of the Environment:

### Comment sought

NSW EPA is seeking feedback on the [Sustainable Construction](#) - [Protection of the Environment Policy \(PEP\)](#) that

will establish a reporting and monitoring framework for emissions and recycled materials use in the construction of public infrastructure.

The **Sustainable Construction PEP** aims to promote decarbonisation of the infrastructure delivery sector and a circular economy in NSW.

The PEP will require NSW government agencies delivering public infrastructure to consider upfront carbon emissions throughout the project lifecycle and report information to NSW EPA to demonstrate those considerations, in line with the NSW Government Decarbonising Infrastructure Delivery Policy. It also requires agencies to preference the use of recycled materials in public infrastructure projects and report on recycled materials used.

The PEP is proposed to apply to major public infrastructure projects undertaken by, or on behalf of a NSW Government agency, with a cost of -

- over \$50 million for building sector projects
- over \$100 million for all other infrastructure types.

Comment is sought by 5.00pm Wednesday 2 April 2025 to [sustainableconstructionpep@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sustainableconstructionpep@epa.nsw.gov.au)

## QUEENSLAND

### Manufacturing Energy Efficiency Grant program

The Manufacturing Energy Efficiency Grant (MEEG) program is now open to Queensland-based manufacturers to improve energy efficiency measures and technology, reduce energy usage, costs and emissions.

Lighting upgrades may be eligible for up to 100% of project costs. Applications for other eligible projects can seek funding of 75% of the project costs.

[Details](#) are now available.

Applications close on 30 June 2025 or until all funding is allocated.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: Open for applications

The following funding is open for businesses - to assist with waste and resource recovery programs -

- [Let's Get it Sorted \(LGIS\) Partnership Program](#)
- [Regional Waste Management Plan Coordination Program](#)
- [Growing the Recovery of Organic Waste via Food Organic and Garden Organic \(GROW FOGO\) Fund](#)

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### Australian Gas Networks regulatory framework review 2026-2031:

### Final decision

The Essential Services Commission has released their [Final Decision](#) on protections that Australian Gas Networks (AGN) must deliver for SA consumers between 1 July 2026 and 30 June 2031.

The ESC's final decision is to:

- Extend the application of the AGN Gas Distribution Licence so it also applies to distribution of hydrogen and other renewable gases
- Continue monitoring network reliability and create service standards if required
- Require that AGN reports directly to the public on aspects of its operational performance
- Begin monitoring the timely provision of disconnection and abolishment services
- Ensure that consumers receive information about how to disconnect from the gas network
- Ensure that customers are notified about when customer-requested disconnection services will be provided, and when they have been delivered

- Require AGN to seek the Commission's approval if it proposes to disable any part of the gas distribution network in the future
- Create specific timeframes for reconnecting customers after de-energisation where AGN is obliged to do so by the National Energy Retail Rules
- Ensure that customers are provided with notice before a different meter (like a digital smart meter) is installed and are provided with information about the impact of that change, and
- Make a series of changes to the Gas Metering Code to improve consistency with other regulatory instruments, provide for changes in the composition of gas and accommodate possible expanded use of digital meters.

Revised versions of the AGN Distribution Licence, Gas Distribution Code and Gas Metering Code are published alongside the Final Decision.

carbon storage for companies across Australia and the Asian region.

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## **Large-scale onshore carbon capture and storage project at Moomba SA**

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Santos and Beach Energy have jointly and officially opened a large-scale onshore carbon capture and storage project at Moomba, in the Cooper Basin, SA.

The Moomba Carbon Capture and Storage project (Moomba CCS) commenced in October 2024 and it is said it has sequestered 340,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent since its commencement.

At full capacity, Moomba CCS is said to be able to store up to 1.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually. This is the equivalent to taking 700,000 cars off the road – or approx.10% of South Australia's total annual emissions in 2022.

As the Moomba CCS grows over subsequent phases of development, the project has potential to provide