

ENVIRONMENT NETWORK WEEKLY (ENW)

AEBN National ENW e-news – 11 March 2025

2025 AEBN EVENTS

1. [\[Interactive Webinar\] 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!

2. [\[Interactive Webinar\] 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

Guarantee of Origin scheme consultation –

Comment sought

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is consulting on the [first component of the draft rule for the Guarantee of Origin \(GO\) scheme](#).

The GO scheme will play a key role in Australia's transition to a clean energy economy by supporting the production of renewable electricity and the production and export of hydrogen and other clean energy products.

The GO scheme is intended to track and verify emissions associated with low-emissions products and provide a mechanism to certify renewable electricity.

The scheme will allow Australian business to register and create two types of certificates:

- Product GO (PGO) certificates will display the emissions intensity of particular commodities.
- Renewable Electricity GO (REGO) certificates will contain information about when, where and how renewable electricity was produced.

Feedback is sought [online](#) by **27 March 2025**.

Nature Repair Market's first method announced

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has released the [first method](#) for the [Nature Repair Market](#).

Under the [Replanting native forest and woodland ecosystems method](#), landholders can register Nature Repair Market projects that:

- revegetate land on Australia's productive and historically cleared landscapes
- replant native vegetation to restore ecosystems and support ecological connectivity.

The Nature Repair Market is a voluntary national market that is designed to drive investment into activities that protect and repair nature.

It is a regulated market and supported by a public register. Under the Nature Repair Market, landholders will undertake projects that result in specific measurable biodiversity outcomes. As more methods are developed there will be more opportunities for landholders and for private sector investment in nature repair and restoration.

Additional Nature Repair Market [methods](#) are being developed by the department together with experts and organisations.

Proposed updates to NGERs and NGER scheme forward work program:

Comment sought

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is seeking feedback on the proposed amendments to the [National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting \(NGER\) scheme and areas of future work](#), and has released a consultation paper and exposure draft amendments to read and provide feedback.

Proposed key amendments include:

- introducing a market-based method for estimating emissions from consumption of biomethane and hydrogen
- updates to emission factors used to estimate fugitive emissions from flaring gas during oil and natural gas operations
- making a mass balance approach for gas flared during natural gas

production available to natural gas transmission and distribution facilities

- requiring additional reporting of data used to estimate fugitive emissions from flaring during natural gas production
- annual updates to scope 2 emission factors
- clarifying the circumstances for the application of the market-based method for scope 2 emissions and the surrender of renewable electricity certificates
- amending wastewater methods to enable reporters to account for sludge diverted to biochar production
- updating the N₂O emission factor for effluent discharged to estuaries.

The department also seeks feedback on areas for potential future updates:

- review of Method 2 for estimating fugitive methane emissions from open-cut coal mines
- consideration of changes to enable reporting of emissions from combustion of co-processed liquid fuels
- consideration of further improvements to the market-based method for scope 2 emissions.

These updates will help improve reporting standards and align with climate and energy policies. The feedback received will assist with finalising the amendments and informing the NGER scheme's future work program.

Please upload your [submission](#) by **11.59pm on 11 April 2025**.

Quarterly update of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions – for September 2024

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and

Water has released the latest [Quarterly Update of Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory: September 2024](#).

The report shows emissions were 434.9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂-e) in the year to September 2024. This is a decrease of 0.5% (2.2 Mt CO₂-e) compared with the previous year.

[Details](#) are now available.

ACCU Scheme's Soil Organic Carbon 2021 method

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is seeking your feedback on the Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee's (ERAC) review of the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme's [Soil Organic Carbon method 2021](#).

The full name of the Soil Organic Carbon 2021 method is: [Carbon Credits \(Carbon Farming Initiative – Estimation of Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration using Measurement and Models\) Methodology Determination 2021](#).

Projects under this method can earn [Australian Carbon Credit Units](#) by increasing carbon stored in soil. This carbon comes from the breakdown of:

- plants
- microorganisms
- animal waste

This consultation has 2 purposes:

- to assess the method's compliance with the [Offset Integrity Standards](#) set out in the [Carbon Credits \(Carbon Farming Initiative\) Act 2011](#)
- review advancements in science and technology related to:
 - eligible management activities
 - measurement
 - modelling approaches.

Further information is available at [CER](#) by referring to the *2021 Understanding your soil carbon project- Simple method guide*.

VICTORIA

Guidance: What's coming from EPA Victoria

At the recent [2025 AEBN Annual National Conference on Environment, Climate Change and Energy Webinar](#) on 7 March 2025, Lee Miezi, CEO EPA Victoria advised that EPA is currently drafting the following new guidance that are scheduled for release in 2025:

- **Vapour Intrusion guidelines:**

Providing advice on identifying potentially hazardous vapours seeping into buildings from contaminated land or groundwater.
- **Reducing the impacts of grazing on water quality:**

Providing advice to farmers and ranchers on how they can mitigate the adverse effects of grazing on water quality.
- **Clean-up plan guidelines:**

Articulating EPA's expectations for clean-up plans that are prepared for contaminated land.
- **Framework methodology for determining financial assurance for contaminated land:**

Guidance on how EPA determines the amount of financial assurance required from a business to ensure costs of clean-up or remediation of sites are adequately covered.
- **Update to guidelines for operating organic waste processing facilities:**

Updates to existing guidance on operating organic waste processing facilities, recognising new legal requirements, technologies and industry best practice.

EPA Victoria cracks down on waste tracking

EPA Victoria is continuing its fight against the improper or lack of tracking of reportable priority waste (RPW) materials including construction and demolition waste.

EPA West Metropolitan Regional Manager Jeremy Settle said “One of EPA’s tools in uncovering illegal waste activity is Waste Tracker, which electronically tracks waste when it is created, transported and deposited.”

“If there’s a break in the Waste Tracker chain, we can see there is an issue and take action. Failing to keep proper records is therefore an offence and EPA is sending a clear message to businesses that it will cost them.”

NEW SOUTH WALES

Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment (FOGO Recycling) Act 2025:

Commenced 2 March 2025

The NSW [Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment \(FOGO Recycling\) Act 2025](#) (FOGO Recycling Act) commenced on 2 March 2025.

The FOGO Recycling Act introduces mandates on the source-separated collection of food organics and garden organics waste (FOGO) from businesses and households and the reporting of supermarket food donations.

The FOGO Recycling Act also:

- includes regulation-making powers to prescribe exemptions and other matters;
- establishes a FOGO Implementation Advisory Panel made up of members appointed by the Minister, including at least 2 members nominated by Local Government NSW and 2 members from or otherwise representing the waste and resource recovery industry.

The mandates apply from specified dates as set out below.

- From 1 July 2026 – large supermarkets must make monthly records of their food donations.
- From 1 July 2026, 2028 or 2030 – various businesses and institutions must ensure food waste is separately collected and transported from their premises.
- From 1 July 2030 – a FOGO collection service must be provided to all households who receive a residual waste collection service from their council.

[Full details](#) are now available.

NSW Energy from Waste framework review

NSW EPA is seeking feedback on proposed changes to the NSW energy from waste framework.

The [paper](#) outlines options and seeks your views on 3 key areas in this waste framework:

1. Changes to the precincts and associated risks

The paper outlines some changes to the locations where energy from waste facilities can be proposed and developed. This includes adding Tomago, located near Newcastle, as a new priority infrastructure area and adding the former Wallerawang Power Station to the already established West Lithgow Precinct. It is proposed that the Richmond Valley Jobs Precinct is no longer identified as a priority infrastructure area.

2. Changes to the definition of thermal treatment

Expanding the exclusions to allow certain types of waste to be thermally treated to produce new products or inputs to those products, not just for plastic.

- Also, under consideration is expanding the exclusions to include processes that produce a clear environmental benefit, as defined by the criteria in the Regulation or guidelines.
3. **Changes to the exception relating to powering industrial or manufacturing processes on site**

Adjusting the exception under clause 144(4) of the Regulation to enable the EPA to consider and allow proposals to replace liquefied petroleum gas, natural gas, and liquefied natural gas with energy recovery from waste, on a case-by-case basis. This is to maximise the value of waste where it can be demonstrated that it is safe and environmentally sound.

Feedback is sought by 8 April 2025 to energyfromwaste@epa.nsw.gov.au or via the [online survey](#).

Resource Recovery Order and Exemption Framework:

Comment sought

NSW EPA is drafting new and updated guidelines on the resource recovery order and exemption framework, including updated information on how to apply for an order and exemption, how applications are assessed and how decisions are made – and your feedback is sought.

- The new guidelines are expected to provide detailed information to assist people applying for an order and exemption. NSW EPA seeks to make the assessment and decision processes clearer, improving transparency and enabling more efficient processing of applications.
- The [draft Policy Guide](#) details the background, laws and policies that support orders and exemptions. It describes the process for applying for an order and exemption, and the assessment criteria that a

propose re-use needs to satisfy.

- The [draft Application Guide](#) provides specific guidance on how to prepare an application for a resource recovery order and exemption to apply waste to land as a fertiliser, soil amendment or for engineering purposes.

Please provide feedback [online](#) on the draft Policy Guide and Application Guideline documents by 5.00pm on 9 April 2025.

QUEENSLAND

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES for business for waste and resource recovery projects

The QLD Government is providing the following funding to assist businesses with waste and resource recovery programs.

- [Household Waste Payment Scheme](#)
- [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](#)