

# ENVIRONMENT NETWORK WEEKLY (ENW)

AEBN National ENW e-news – 27 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**

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## FEDERAL

### PFAS National Environmental Plan Version 3.0

Just a reminder that there is an updated version of the [PFAS National Environmental Management Plan version 3.0](#) (PFAS NEMP 3.0) that was released in December 2024.

The PFAS National Environmental Management Plan (PFAS NEMP) is Australia's national guide for managing Per- and poly-Fluoroalkyl substances

(PFAS) contamination in the environment.

PFAS NEMP 3.0 includes new and additional guidance and standards on priority areas including:

- new guideline values for investigation and risk assessment
- guidance around remediation of contaminated land
- guidance on re-use of resource recovery products
- risk-based criteria for re-use of biosolids contaminated with PFAS.

The new guidance was developed by the National Chemical Working Group (NCWG).

A number of [supporting and ancillary documents](#) have been released.

### Federal Government signs agreement for more Australian gas supply to 2029

The Federal Government has signed an agreement to bring more Australian gas into the domestic market to improve local supply pressures for a further four years to 2029.

Commercial and industrial gas consumers will receive first preference for the new supply of up to 40PJ of affordable gas. It is expected that the Government's Gas Code of Conduct will see new supply offered at \$12/GJ, indexed to CPI.

In a statement released by the Government, it states that APLNG will now supply up to 10PJ of gas per year for four years, having agreed to extend the terms of its existing domestic supply deal under the Code, which was originally set to expire at the end of this year. This is expected to enable

additional contracting for long-term domestic gas supplies.

### Regulation Impact Statement on the Energy Efficiency of External Power Supplies:

#### Comment sought

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is consulting on possible changes to the energy efficiency requirements applying to external power supplies (EPS) sold, supplied or imported into Australia or New Zealand.

The proposed changes would update Australian and New Zealand regulations to increase minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) applying to EPS, as well as expanding the scope of products covered by MEPS.

If approved by Energy Ministers, these new requirements would be established in Australia under the *Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards Act 2012* ("the GEMS Act") and in New Zealand under the *Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EEC) Act 2000*, and the *Energy Efficiency (Energy Using Products) Regulations 2002*.

The consultation [Regulation Impact Statement \(RIS\) on External Power Supplies](#) sets out a range of options to improve the energy efficiency of external power supplies.

[Feedback](#) is sought online by **9.00pm on 28 April 2025**.

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## New Audit Thresholds Instrument 2025:

**Effective 19 March 2025**

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On 19 March 2025, the new [Carbon Credits \(Carbon Farming Initiative\) \(Audit Thresholds\) Instrument 2025](#) came into effect. This Instrument replaces the [Carbon Credits \(Carbon Farming Initiative\) \(Audit Thresholds\) Instrument 2015](#), which has been repealed.

The Audit Thresholds Instrument is used to set the audit schedule for Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme projects. It prescribes thresholds for different types of audits, including scheduled audits and triggered audits. It also sets requirements for alternative assurance projects that may be eligible for a reduced number of audits.

The 2025 Instrument includes a new class of alternative assurance projects, referred to as low-risk environmental plantings 2024 projects under the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) (Environmental and Mallee Plantings–FullCAM) Methodology Determination 2024. The Clean Energy Regulator will release the application form for this new class of projects under the [reforestation by environmental or mallee plantings FullCAM method 2024](#) sometime in 2025.

No other changes to audit requirements have been made under the 2025 Instrument.

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## Podcast on Healthy Soils:

**Now available**

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The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has released 5 Podcasts (Episodes 1 to 5) that provide practical advice on how to develop Healthy Soils.

The podcasts include:

- Episode 5: Hear practical advice on where to source compost and how to use it effectively;

- Episode 4: Hear the importance of quality compost in broadacre farming;
- Episode 3: Hear soil scientist Dr Susan Orgil explain the science of soil health; and how the microbial and chemical processes in compost make it a powerful tool.
- Episode 2: Hear from:
  - farmers Alan Smith and Lucy Miller of Rocking Chair Farm
  - agronomist and farmer Steve Nicholson
  - avocado farmers from the Hunter Valley region of New South Wales, Will and Georgie.
- Episode 1: Hear:
  - compost expert Lachlan Jefferies explain how high-quality compost is made
  - compost manufacturer Greg Watts from C-Wise and Duncan LeGood of SoilCo discuss the basics of composting.

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## New guide to installing EV chargers in strata buildings

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The Federal Government has developed [guides to help multi-residence \(strata\) buildings become 'EV ready'](#).

These guides address the growing need for EV charging solutions as EV popularity increases nationally.

- **Building owners corporations**

This guide caters to [owners corporations wanting to make their buildings EV ready](#).
- **Strata residents and owners**

This guide caters to [strata residents and owners who wish to seek approval from their owners corporation to install a shared or personal EV charger](#).

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## VICTORIA

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### Victoria's Climate Change Strategy 2026-30: Comment sought

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The Victorian Government is preparing its second Climate Change Strategy and seeks your feedback to shape the development of the strategy.

The second Climate Change Strategy builds on the progress and foundations of the first [Climate Change Strategy 2021-25](#), and sets the course for reducing emissions and strengthening climate resilience over the next 5 years.

A [summary paper](#) has been released that details how climate change is impacting Victoria and the approach the Victorian Government is taking. Please read the summary paper before providing your feedback via the [online survey](#) by 11.59pm on 8 April 2025.

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## Updated guide to air pollution modelling

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EPA Victoria has released the [updated guide to air pollution modelling](#) that provides guidance for Air Pollution Impact Assessments (APIA) required by EPA Victoria for licence approvals and other regulatory purposes.

The guide provides best-practice guidelines for air dispersion modelling in Victoria.

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## NEW SOUTH WALES

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### New legislation to place greater responsibility on suppliers of certain products

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In NSW, a Bill is before Parliament that seeks to introduce legislation that would require suppliers of certain products to take responsibility for the handling and disposal of products, including batteries, that can cause a risk to human safety and the environment.

The new Product Lifecycle Responsibility Act, if passed, will create a framework for suppliers of

certain products to participate in mandatory stewardship schemes. This will mean that those who make and sell products will have to adhere to requirements on design and manufacturing, reuse and recycling and safe disposal options of their product.

If the Bill passes, NSW will be the first state to introduce such legislation.

In a statement by NSW EPA, they advise that the first products that will be regulated under this act will be batteries, which according to NSW Fire and Rescue are the fastest growing fire risk in NSW. The waste and recycling industry estimates that between 10,000 and 12,000 fires each year in trucks and at waste facilities are caused by improper disposal, use, and poor design of lithium batteries.

If passed, the Act could require battery suppliers to:

- Register battery products to ensure compliance and facilitate safe disposal or recycling through dedicated collection points
- Run public education campaigns to improve awareness of battery risks and disposal options
- Enhance battery design, packaging, importation, and storage to improve safety and recyclability.

NSW EPA advised that the new legislation and regulation will also apply to smaller embedded batteries, which are found in everyday devices such as, cordless vacuums, electric toothbrushes, children’s toys, e-bikes and e-scooters.

- Water Management (Water Supply Authorities) Regulation 2025

The DCCEEW is proposing to replace the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 (the 2018 Regulation) with the above two Regulations. The Regulation 2018 will automatically cancel on 1 September 2025. It is important to have regulations in place as they support the operation of the *Water Management Act 2000*.

Feedback is sought [online](#) by **11.59pm Sunday 6 April 2025**.

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### FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:

#### **\$31.4 million in grants open for NSW councils to support rollout of FOGO recycling**

NSW EPA has announced \$31.4 million in [grants](#) for councils to support the roll out of food organics and garden organics (FOGO) recycling.

With food and garden waste making up about a third of red-lid bins, diverting food and garden waste is a critical step in easing pressure on landfill. It is expected that the grants will support councils to move all households to FOGO recycling by July 2030.

Councils who seek to apply for the Go FOGO and Scrap Together grants can do so by **29 April 2025**.

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### **Water Management Regulations 2025**

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) is seeking feedback on the –

- draft Water Management (General) Regulation 2025, and