

ENVIRONMENT NETWORK WEEKLY (ENW)

AEBN National ENW e-news – 15 April 2025

UPCOMING AEBN EVENTS

Workshop Webinar (Live)

[Optimising Your Trade Waste Treatment Plant and Troubleshooting Workshop Webinar](#)

10.00am – 3.00pm
28 May 2025

At the Workshop Webinar:

- Waste water experts will provide guidance on how to optimise your trade waste treatment plant
- You will hear a legal perspective of trade waste regulations and current enforcement trends
- Waste water experts will explore the different trade waste treatment technologies and options available, and outline the strengths and weaknesses of each method
- Waste water experts will explore options on how to reduce your trade waste costs
- **Troubleshoot with the experts:** Participants are encouraged to bring along specific issues to discuss with waste water treatment experts.

FEDERAL

An assessment of impact of a nuclear pathway on national emissions:

Released

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

The Authority compared published modelling on these two pathways to explore their impacts on national emissions. They represent two alternative approaches to Australia's energy transition.

This work has been undertaken as a self-initiated research project, in line with the Authority's mandate to advise on policies to reduce emissions and address climate change.

It builds on the Authority's previous consideration of nuclear as part of research underpinning the 2024 Sector Pathways Review, and its submission to the Federal Parliament's inquiry into nuclear energy. It also forms part of the Authority's ongoing development of advice on an ambitious and achievable 2035 target.

Participating in the Nature Repair Market

The Nature Repair Market is a voluntary national biodiversity market scheme that encourages businesses to invest in projects that restore and protect the natural environment.

The Nature Repair Market is intended to deliver improved biodiversity outcomes, by -

- planting trees on farmland
- re-establishing vegetation along waterways
- protecting and managing existing habitat or native vegetation
- encouraging the use of biodiversity Indigenous knowledge, guided by the knowledge owners.

Projects can be carried out on Australian land, waters or a combination of both.

[Information](#) is available on how you can participate in the Nature Repair Market Scheme.

Future Gas Strategy: Draft Offshore Guidelines –

Comment sought

The Federal Department of Industry, Science and Resources has released for comment the following draft policy statement and the draft guidelines that relate to the Future Gas Strategy -

- [Draft Policy Statement: Venting and Flaring from Offshore Petroleum Facilities](#)
- [Draft Guideline: Offshore Petroleum Exploration – work-bid](#)
- [Draft Guideline: Offshore Petroleum Declaration of Location](#)
- [Draft Guideline: Offshore Petroleum Retention Lease](#)

The Future Gas Strategy maps the Federal Government's plan for how gas will support the economy's transition to net zero in partnership

with the world.

The Future Gas Strategy is the Federal Government's plan for gas production and consumption in Australia. It adopts 6 principles to help guide the strategy's aims and outlines immediate actions that arise from the principles.

Two of the strategy's immediate actions include:

- update Commonwealth retention lease policies to encourage more timely development of existing gas discoveries and consider a firmer 'use it or lose it' policy
- work with regulators and industry to reduce and, where possible, eliminate venting and flaring of gas, unless required for safety purposes.

The Policy Statement outlines the Federal Government's policy position on the management of venting and flaring of gas associated with offshore petroleum facilities in Commonwealth waters.

Support for Climate Reporting in Developing Countries

The Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) held two key meetings recently in Germany to bolster support for developing countries implementing the Paris Agreement's transparency requirements.

The group's 7th informal Forum brought together 145 participants to discuss lessons learned by developing countries as they prepare their first Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs).

The Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), established in 1999, is mandated to provide technical advice and support to developing country/Parties for enhancing their institutional and technical capacity to prepare and submit national communications, biennial update reports, national greenhouse gas inventories and BTRs, as applicable, with a view to enabling improvements in their reporting over time.

These reports enable governments to build a stronger evidence base that helps refine climate policies over time, identify needs and opportunities, and allocate resources effectively.

The CGE also provided an update on its 2024 activities, reporting progress made by developing countries in preparing their first BTRs. Representatives from South Africa, Maldives and Kazakhstan shared their experiences, discussing the challenges they faced, steps followed, and lessons learned. Representatives from partner organizations – including [CBIT-GSP](#), [UNEP](#), [UNDP](#) and [ICAT](#) – also offered insights into their support efforts and upcoming plans for 2025.

Draft water quality guidelines:

Comment sought

Water Quality Australia has released the following draft guideline values (DGVs) technical briefs for your feedback –

- Draft [Chlorine in marine water](#) DGVs technical brief
- Draft [Manganese in marine water](#) DGVs technical brief
- Draft [Simazine in marine water](#) DGVs technical brief

Please provide [feedback](#) by 28 May 2025 at which point the above draft guideline values will become final unless new peer reviewed scientific or technical information justifies a re-examination.

VICTORIA

EPA Victoria warns businesses of illegal dumping of tyres

In early April 2025, EPA Victoria conducted a series of inspections on vehicle wreckers, mechanics and tyre retailers in the Sunshine, Braybrook and Hoppers Crossing area.

EPA West Metropolitan Regional Manager Jeremy Settle said "Businesses need to be using the EPA Waste Tracker system that records movement of waste tyres as they're generated, transported and disposed of. If they (businesses) can't show us Waste Tracker has been used either by themselves or their contractor, they are non-compliant and face potential penalties."

Businesses must use the EPA Waste Tracker tool generating waste tyres.

EPA Victoria advised that the snap inspections resulted in –

- 19 businesses were inspected and over 57 pieces of formal compliance advice was given covering a range of topics including 'how and why to use Waste Tracker, managing runoff to stormwater drains, stock separation, fire risk planning and other areas that needed addressing.'
- 4 notices were also issued to businesses that required more than just advice on what was needed to become compliant.

EPA Victoria is warning businesses that dumping of tyres will lead to prosecution and the dumper will possibly made to pay for the cleanup.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: Victorian Circular Economy Recycling Modernisation Fund

Round 5 opens

Sustainability Victoria is providing grants through [Round 5](#) of the Victorian Circular Economy Recycling Modernisation Fund.

The fund aims to:

- build the capacity, capability and resilience of Victoria's resource recovery sector
- support Businesses to respond to the national regulation of waste exports

- increase the quality of materials for manufacturing
- create jobs in the circular economy.

Applications close at 11.59pm on 12 May 2025.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Product Lifecycle Responsibility Act 2025: Passed NSW Parliament

On 28 March 2025, the Product Lifecycle Responsibility Act 2025 was passed by NSW Parliament and will commence on a date to be set.

The legislation establishes a mandatory product stewardship framework for brand owners of certain products that may pose a risk to the environment and human health. A brand owner is the owner of the product name under which the product is supplied in NSW.

Specific regulations will be made about products that can be regulated using the framework.

The product stewardship framework can cover all or a part of the entire life cycle of a product, from how it is designed, produced, collected, supplied, recovered, recycled and eventually disposed of.

The Act:

- enables the establishment of a product stewardship scheme for a particular product that has been identified as posing a risk to human health or the environment
- allows product stewardship requirements and mandatory environmental outcomes that must be delivered by product stewardship schemes to be prescribed by regulation
- sets out record keep and reporting requirements of brand owners to ensure transparency
- requires brand owners or product stewardship organisations to prepare an action plan setting out

how they will comply with product stewardship requirements

- enables the EPA to enter into an agreement with a product stewardship organisation in connection with management and administration of a product stewardship scheme
- carries significant penalties for brand owners who fail to comply with product stewardship requirements
- applies to brand owners who supply certain products into NSW, including online operators.

The Act replaces existing provisions about product stewardship in the *Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021* and the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001* and will be initially used to establish a product stewardship scheme for certain batteries.

NSW energy from waste framework review:

Feedback extended

NSW EPA has extended feedback on proposed changes to the [NSW energy from waste framework](#).

Please provide your feedback by 5.00pm, 16 May 2025.

Managing your energy usage

NSW Climate and Energy Action has made available the following technology guides to assist you to learn about the different appliances and equipment you can use and how they can assist you to manage your energy use:

- [Circular design guidelines for the built environment](#)
- [Battery storage guide](#)
- [Electricity metering and monitoring guide](#)

- [Gas measurement and monitoring guide](#)
- [Compressed air guide](#)
- [Energy efficiency light guide](#)
- [Heating, ventilation and air conditioning \(HVAC\) guide](#)
- [Industrial refrigeration guide](#)
- [Voltage optimisation guide](#)
- [Renewable energy guides for farmers](#)

QUEENSLAND

Draft Site Management Plan guideline: Released

The QLD Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation has released the Draft Site Management Plan guideline that provides information in relation to drafting site management plans (SMPs) under the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

The guideline explains:

- what an SMP is
- can I get advice before submitting my application?
- how the Act applies to an SMP
- when an SMP is required
- who prepares and submits a draft SMP
- how to write a draft SMP
- what happens after an SMP is approved.

Coastal Recovery Works in Response to Disaster Events:

Information Sheet released

The QLD Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation has released an Information Sheet on

Coastal Recovery Works in Response to Disaster Events.

The Information Sheet provides details for local government on what coastal development works can be undertaken in response to disaster recovery without an approval.

This information sheet outlines what legislative requirements are associated with certain activities, and what exemptions are available to local governments.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Conviction and fine of more than \$340K for Director and company

In the SA Environment, Resources and Development Court, a business and its sole Director have been convicted and fined over \$340,000 for intentionally causing serious environmental harm in the Adelaide Hills.

The court ordered the Director to pay \$340,000 plus a victims of crime levy of \$2,494.

The Director and the business were found guilty of eight contraventions (3 offences by the business in relation to the EP Act, and 5 offences by the Director) of the *Environment Protection Act* (EP Act). These charges include - two counts of intentionally causing serious environmental harm, four counts of failing to comply with a direction of an authorised officer and two counts of failing to comply with a clean-up order.

In March 2016, the business was found to have intentionally dumped into a pit on its property, tyres, oil, used truck filters and 44-gallon drums, some of which contained oil. The pit was located near a creek and swamp area, with several experts testifying at the trial that serious environmental harm would have occurred for a period of up to 30 years if SA EPA had not intervened.

The Director had then failed to comply with a clean up order issued by SA EPA.

The EPA's Director of Compliance, Circular Economy and Investigations Steven Sergi said the conviction would serve as a strong deterrent for anyone considering violating the Environment Protection Act.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

2025 WasteSorted Awards:

Open for nominations

The WA Waste Authority is calling for nominations for the [2025 WasteSorted Awards](#).

The Awards are held annually and recognise individuals and organisations in WA who are committed to reducing waste and protecting the environment.

You are encouraged to nominate those in the WA community that are working towards a low-waste future through improved waste practices.

The WasteSorted Awards recognise individuals, businesses, local governments, community groups and schools in the following categories:

- Community Waste Award
- Schools Award
- Business Award
- Waste Champion Award
- Waste Team Award
- Local Government Award
- Regional Award
- Community Events and Engagement Award
- Innovation Award
- Closing the Loop Award.

Nominations will close on 26 May 2025.