

ENVIRONMENT NETWORK WEEKLY (ENW)

AEBN National ENW e-news – 25 June 2025

UPCOMING AEBN EVENTS

For a list of upcoming AEBN events, please visit [Events](#).

Missed an AEBN event? Some AEBN events are recorded and made available to Members on AEBN's [Webinars On-Demand](#).

FEDERAL

Amendments to NGER legislation for 2025-26 reporting year

The Clean Energy Regulator has announced amendments to the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Measurement) Determination 2008.

The [National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting \(Measurement\) Amendment \(2025 Update\) Determination 2025](#) is now available.

The amendments apply to **reports to be submitted by 31 October 2026 for the 2025–26 reporting year**. The amendments do not affect obligations relating to reports to be submitted by 31 October 2025 for the 2024–25 reporting year.

The NGER scheme is Australia's national system for reporting greenhouse gas emissions and energy production and consumption by corporations. The NGER scheme underpins the operation of the [Safeguard Mechanism](#), and informs climate and energy policy development. The government reviews the NGER scheme annually.

A brief overview of some amendments are as follows:

Renewable fuels

- Introduces market-based reporting of emissions from consumption of biomethane and hydrogen

Fugitive emissions from oil and natural gas operations

- Updates the emissions factors used in method 1 and method 2A for gas flared during oil and natural gas operations
- Makes method 2B for estimating fugitive emissions from gas flared during natural gas production available to natural gas transmission and distribution facilities to expand access to facility-specific higher order methods
- Corrects an error in the contextual data to be reported when method 2B is used to estimate fugitive emissions from gas flared during natural gas production. The correction replaces unintentional references to 'tonnes of flared crude oil and liquids' with references to 'tonnes and gigajoules of flared gas'
- Adds the requirement to report the 'tonnes of flared gas' when methods 2, 2A or 3 is used to estimate fugitive emissions from flaring during natural gas operations are used. This update will help to support Australia's domestic and international emissions reporting obligations and NGER Scheme compliance

Scope 2 emissions from consumption of electricity

- Makes a routine annual update of emission factors
- Updates the market-based method
 - Adds a requirement for consistent use of the market-based method for all facilities within a controlling corporation's group
 - Clarifies the permitted timing of surrender of renewable energy certificates used in calculating market-based emissions
 - Adds new matters to be identified under Schedule 4 – Renewable Energy Target accreditation codes for power stations within the facility, surrender ID numbers of surrendered certificates

Waste

- Enables reporting of the diversion of biosolids to biochar production
- Updates the N₂O emission factor for effluent discharged to estuaries

In addition, it makes other minor technical updates for the purpose of improving clarity and the operation of the scheme.

The [NGER 2025 Consultation Outcomes Paper](#) is also now available.

Additional Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme transparency changes

On 19 June 2025, the Clean Energy Regulator published the following extra data to the [Australia Carbon Credit Unit \(ACCU\) Scheme project register](#):

- names of all authorised agents involved in a project
- detail on the activities being undertaken by each project to support carbon abatement
- for regeneration projects, any identified suppression mechanisms in the baseline period of the project.

The Clean Energy Regulator also released their [analysis of this newly added data](#).

Projects can now list any significantly involved persons in the register. This information is collected through project registration and crediting applications.

In July 2025, the Clean Energy Regulator will release its final publication of additional information under the recent Rule. This will include:

- the type of estimation or modelling approach used by the project to calculate carbon abatement
- the modelling start date for each carbon estimation area using FullCAM or Reforestation Modelling Tool to estimate abatement
- a link to any enforceable undertakings made with respect to the project.

Reforms to default electricity prices:

Comment sought

The Federal Government is seeking feedback to the [2025 Review of the Default Market Offer consultation paper](#). The government is considering reforms to the Default Market Offer (DMO) to ensure consumers on

standing offers can access a fair price for their electricity that reflects the costs of providing an essential service.

A fair price means shifting the DMO towards an efficient price which means the DMO does not build in costs above an efficient level.

The DMO was introduced by the Federal Government in 2019 to address concerns that retailers were advertising large headline discounts against their own independently set and high-priced standing offers prices.

This made it difficult for customers to meaningfully compare electricity offers. It also meant disengaged customers on those same standing offers were not benefiting from competition but were instead paying unreasonably high prices.

[Comment](#) to the consultation paper is sought by 11.50pm, 18 July 2025.

Dynamic measuring systems for liquids other than water:

Comment sought

The National Measurement Institute (NMI) is seeking feedback on the Australian pattern approval requirements for measuring systems for liquids other than water. These are also known as flow metering systems.

NMI is proposing to adopt and modify the latest version of OIML R 117 *Dynamic measuring systems for liquids other than water*. This is the international standard.

OIML R 117 covers the following flow metering systems:

- fuel dispensers
- blend dispensers
- fuel dispensers for liquified gases under pressure (LPG dispensers)
- measuring systems on road tankers
- measuring systems for unloading ships' tanks using an intermediate tank

- measuring systems for rail and road tankers using an intermediate tank
- measuring systems for liquified gases under pressure (other than LPG dispensers)
- measuring systems for milk, beer and other foaming potable liquids
- measuring systems on pipelines and systems for loading ships
- measuring systems for aircraft fuelling
- measuring systems for bunkering
- measuring systems for liquified natural gas (LNG).

NMI's proposed regulatory approach will modernise Australia's requirements for flow metering systems in use for trade by aligning them to the latest international standard.

The [Proposed implementation and transition plan](#) is now available.

The draft standard (NMI R 117) is available for comment in 3 parts:

- [NMI R 117-1 Dynamic measuring systems for liquids other than water. Part 1: Metrological and technical requirements: Consultation draft June 2025 \[2,683 KB PDF\] \[455KB DOCX\]](#)
- [NMI R 117-2 Dynamic measuring systems for liquids other than water. Part 2: Metrological controls and performance tests: Consultation draft June 2025 \[4,341 KB PDF\] \[1,537 KB DOCX\]](#)
- [NMI R 117-3 Dynamic measuring systems for liquids other than water. Part 3: Test report format: Consultation draft June 2025 \[2,807 KB PDF\] \[947 KB DOCX\]](#)

Comment is sought [online by answering specific questions](#) by 15 August 2025.

New report on taking national leadership in adapting to climate change:

Release by Climate Change Authority

The Climate Change Authority has released a new report – [Home safe: National leadership in adapting to a changing climate](#) that examines how climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of flooding, bushfires, extreme storms and coastal erosion, and the rising costs of these events for Australians.

The report highlights that millions of Australian homes are facing escalating risks from natural hazards, which are growing more intense due to climate change. Bushfires, cyclones and floods are currently costing Australian homeowners around \$4 billion a year in cleanup and recovery costs. These costs are estimated to grow to about \$8.7 billion a year by 2050.

It states that some climate impacts are already locked in and will require governments and communities to take action to adapt.

The report outlines that the surge in extreme weather disasters around Australia reinforces the need for national leadership on adaptation to keep communities safe in a changing climate.

The report draws on insights from experts, stakeholders and the voices of those affected by climate disasters.

CSIRO releases new software tool to accelerate mineral discovery

CSIRO has released the [LandScape+](#) that allows users to interpret their geochemical data in the context of the landscape, giving explorers the opportunity to generate maps at various scales.

CSIRO, who is Australia's national science agency, highlights that LandScape+ is a new online tool to help geologists interpret their geochemical data and plan follow-up exploration programs to target new

resources across a range of commodities including gold, lithium and copper.

Mineral exploration in Australia is challenging because much of the land is covered by a thick layer of loose soil, sand, and broken-down rock – making it harder to detect signs of the valuable minerals beneath. Much of Australia is also remote and difficult to access to map the surface effectively.

LandScape+ uses remotely sensed data to create landform maps informed by machine learning at a 30-metre resolution for mineral exploration, reducing the need for extensive, on-the-ground observations. It then integrates surface geochemistry for better, faster, and easier interpretation of soil survey results.

Users can [purchase a license to access LandScape+](#), and create landscape models for their exploration tenements and data.

Landscape+ is the latest in a suite of digital data analytical tools and data products in the [eXploration Toolkit \(XT\)](#) developed by CSIRO to accelerate mineral discovery and exploration

Re-Made in Australia

The Australian Made Campaign Limited, that manages the Australian Made, Australian Grown logo, has been appointed to lead the ReMade in Australia program.

The ReMade in Australia program is expected to certify and promote products and construction projects made with recycled materials in Australia, and help consumers and businesses to identify, choose and build demand for recycled content as part of a circular economy.

The ReMade in Australia brand will be administered as a separate entity to the Australian Made Campaign and will function as a separate certification with its own criteria.

Subject to approvals, ReMade in Australia is expected to launch later in 2025. Businesses interested in

certifying products or projects with ReMade in Australia can [sign up for launch updates](#).

Expect environmental reforms within next 18 months, says Federal Environment Minister

Federal Minister for the Environment and Water, Murray Watt hosted recently a high level roundtable of key stakeholders in Canberra that support reforms to Australia's environmental laws.

Mr Watt advised that the Federal Government is committed to delivering stronger protections for the environment while streamlining project approvals processes to improve productivity.

The roundtable consisted of environmental, resources, energy, climate, housing and agricultural sectors and First Nations representatives.

The roundtable also demonstrated strong support for key components of the reforms, such as:

- National Environmental Standards
- Streamlined approval processes
- Regional planning
- More robust offsets regimes
- Better data on environmental impacts

Minister Watt said "Everyone agrees that our current laws are broken".

"They are not working for the environment, and they are not working for business. "Many groups shared that they were prepared to give and take, knowing there will need to be some compromise to achieve the broader outcomes. "It's vital these groups continue working together, as well as with the Government to deliver these much-needed reforms. "Reforming our environmental laws is not just a job for government and there is an opportunity for all involved to be part of the solution."

Minister Watt said “That’s why it is my intention to deliver these reforms within the next 18 months.”

VICTORIA

Sediment run-off sees Council fined almost \$10K

A Council has received almost a \$10,000 fine for failing to properly implement controls, allowing sediment to flow into a river that occurred in March 2025.

The Council has been carrying out remedial works at a former landfill site. Due to the inadequate erosion and sediment controls, the first significant rainfall event of the year caused sediment to wash into the river, resulting in environmental harm.

Martha-Rose Loughnane, Regional Manager South-West region, EPA Victoria said “Waste is any material that is deposited or discharged into the environment in a manner that alters the environment. When large quantities of sediment is released into the environment, it is considered a pollutant. “As our region grows, we commonly see greenfield land stripped bare in preparation for works. The longer bare soil remains exposed, the higher the risk of sediment loss when there are rain events. This risk is particularly severe during drought periods. When rain comes it can quickly erode a dry site and transport all the muddy runoff into our waterways.”

EPA has seen an increase in these sediment loss incidents occurring across the region after rain events.

Ms Loughnane added, *The Council* “should have known rain was coming and that is why we have not only issued an improvement notice to fix their erosion and sediment controls but also fined the Council \$9,880 for the environmental harm caused.”

Adequate controls should have been in place to prevent sediment loss in the case of heavy rain.

Ms Loughnane added “EPA is taking a strong approach to sediment discharging from construction sites. Fine sediments, such as soil, silt, or

clay, are frequently exposed and stockpiled on construction sites and can contain soil-based contaminants, such as nutrients or heavy metals. Sediment can cause significant and permanent harm to our waterways, altering the environment and threatening wildlife.”

Guidance material is available to assist:

- [Working with or adjacent to waterways](#)
- [Erosion, sediment and dust: treatment train](#)
- [Civil construction, building and demolition guide](#)

NEW SOUTH WALES

NSW’s launches its first large scale Virtual Power Plant

The NSW Government has launched the state’s first large-scale Virtual Power Plant under the NSW Electricity Roadmap, which is expected to help manage the reliable supply of electricity during peak periods to avoid blackouts and price spikes.

A Virtual Power Plant coordinates businesses to reduce or shift their energy use for short periods when demand is high, such as during cold snaps and heatwaves. This helps prevent outages and puts downward pressure on prices for all households and businesses in NSW, while also reducing the need to build additional large-scale energy infrastructure.

Enel X will operate three large-scale Virtual Power Plants. The projects are among four being underwritten by the NSW Government as part of the Roadmap’s first firming tender, to ensure more renewable energy projects get built to replace ageing coal-fired power plants.

The three Virtual Power Plants will involve 21 businesses at 108 sites across Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Newcastle and Illawarra. The major power users, including heavy industry, factories, retail, universities, data centres and food producers, will be orchestrated to use less energy at the same time via the Virtual Power Plant,

which has the same effect as bringing a physical power plant online.

QUEENSLAND

Proposed amendments to the Environmental Protection Act 1994:

Comment sought

The QLD Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation is undertaking [consultation](#) on proposed amendments to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) to increase efficiency and ensure the EP Act remains fit for purpose, and responds to emerging issues and challenges.

Minor amendments are also proposed for the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and chapter 3 of the *Water Act 2000*.

Community, industry, businesses and local governments are invited to have their say on proposed legislative amendments, which are outlined in the consultation paper.

Feedback will be used to inform drafting of a Bill that responds to the identified issues and opportunities raised. [Feedback](#) is sought by 5.00pm, 14 July 2025.

Statutory review of Regulated Standards under Reef protection Regulations:

Comment sought

The QLD Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation is seeking [feedback](#) on the environmentally relevant activity (ERA) standards (regulated standards), prescribed methodologies and guides, which are part of the Reef protection regulations for commercial sugarcane and banana cultivation and beef cattle grazing in the Great Barrier Reef catchment.

Feedback from agricultural producers, peak bodies and others with an interest

in the regulated standards are sought. The review team seeks to hear about:

- whether parts of the sugarcane, banana and grazing regulated standards (and supporting materials) may be difficult to understand and, as a result, may be difficult to comply with
- relevant recent studies or projects that will help ensure the standards remain evidence based and current with industry practices that minimise nutrient and sediment run-off.

The scope of the review is limited to the regulated standards and supporting materials. The review is not looking at changes to the legislative framework, such as the offence provisions or the regions prescribed within the Great Barrier Reef catchment.

For enquiries regarding the statutory review of the regulated standards, please email officeoftheGBR@detsi.qld.gov.au or call 137468.

Feedback is sought by 8 August 2025.

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:
For businesses with
operations in QLD**

The QLD Government is providing the following funding for businesses with operations in QLD, to assist with waste and resource recovery:

- [Local Government Battery Collection Program](#)
- [Household Waste Payment Scheme](#)
- [Let's Get it Sorted \(LGIS\) Partnership Program](#)
- [Growing the Recovery of Organic Waste via Food Organic and Garden Organic \(GROW FOGO\) Fund](#)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**SA's draft waste strategy
2025-2030:**

Comment sought

Green Industries SA is seeking feedback on the [draft strategy – Accelerating SA's transition to a circular economy: South Australia's waste strategy 2025–2030](#) to help identify any changes that may be required before the strategy is formally adopted.

The draft 2025–2030 strategy sets out the opportunities and key priorities that are intended to support SA's path to a more circular and sustainable economy.

Feedback is particularly sought on:

- objectives, goals and targets
- focus areas
- list of actions
- action leads and partners.

Green Industries SA (GISA) is responsible for developing a statewide circular economy and waste strategy every 5 years. The draft 2025–2030 strategy builds on the 2020–2025 strategy, setting ambitious targets and goals and identifying priority areas where action is needed to accelerate SA's transition to a [circular economy](#).

Feedback is sought on the draft strategy by completing the [survey](#) by 23 July 2025.

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:
Investing in circular
infrastructure**

Green Industries SA is providing grants to businesses with operations in SA, under the -

- [Circular Infrastructure Grants](#), and
- [Recycling Modernisation Fund \(RMF\)](#).

Both grant programs focus on developing infrastructure that will boost SA's transition a circular economy.

[Circular Infrastructure Grants:](#)

- **Circular Infrastructure Grants** – is available to SA businesses and local governments that recover, handle and process recyclable materials with the opportunity to invest in equipment, technology and processes to respond to the prevailing market conditions.

These grants will assist in the purchase and installation of infrastructure, allowing for innovative approaches to increase the types, quantities and quality of resources that are kept circulating in the SA economy for as long as possible, and to recover resources and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill each year.

[Recycling Modernisation Fund \(RMF\)](#)

- The **Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF)** is a \$200 million national initiative, led by the Federal Government.

The funding is open to the private sector, non-government organisations and local government organisations to improve recycling outcomes and address critical gaps in Australia's recycling infrastructure.

Funding is available for large-scale projects that will see the installation of infrastructure to increase the capacity for domestic sorting, processing and manufacturing of materials affected by the COAG waste export bans, these being glass, plastic, tyres, paper and cardboard.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**Bill passes to protect native
forests – to end large-scale
commercial timber
harvesting**

The WA Government has announced that the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2025 has passed through Parliament.

The Bill gives legal effect to the WA government's decision to end large-scale commercial timber harvesting of native forests.

Since 1 January 2024, under the Forest Management Plan 2024-2033, timber taken from native forests has been limited to forest management activities that improve forest health and clearing for approved mining.

By 2033, more than 400,000 hectares of karri, jarrah and wandoo forests will be reserved as national parks, conservation parks and nature reserves.

employees to commute to and from work

- fleet charging – charging EVs owned by the eligible organisation that are primarily used to undertake the activities of the organisation within operating hours
- destination charging – charging EVs owned by customers or other visitors to an eligible organisation's premises (for example, to shop, dine or recreate)
- public charging – chargers that are open to the public at large.

Full details are now available. Applications close on 30 June 2025.

STAGE 2 BAN
on sale and supply of non-
compostable plastic barrier
bags:

Effective 1 Sept 2025

The WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has released a [fact sheet](#) that details their policy position for the design standard that will apply to prescribed plastic barrier bags in WA.

From 1 September 2025, there will be a ban for the sale and supply of non-compostable plastic barrier bags that do not meet the design standard used for loose/unpackaged meat, seafood and dairy products, as well as loose dry nuts and confectionery products. Included in this ban is the sale and supply of compostable plastic barrier bags, as prescribed in the regulations, that do not meet the required design standards.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:
EV recharging infrastructure
projects

[Round 3 of the Charge Up Grants](#) is now available to SMEs and local government. The types of charging projects expected to be funded in this round include:

- charging employee EVs – charging EVs that are primarily used by the eligible organisation's