

# ENVIRONMENT NETWORK WEEKLY (ENW)

AEBN National ENW e-news – 5 June 2025

## UPCOMING AEBN EVENTS

LIVE Workshop Webinar -

[Optimising Your Trade Waste Treatment Plant and Troubleshooting Workshop Webinar](#)10.00am – 3.00pm  
18 June 2025

This interactive Workshop Webinar is designed to –

- assist you to optimise your trade waste treatment plant,
- provide an overview of trade waste regulations and requirements - how they operate in states/territories,
- explore the different trade waste treatment technologies and options available and highlight their strengths and weaknesses of each,
- explore the Introductory, Secondary, Tertiary and Advanced treatment options in trade waste management,
- explore the use of chemicals in trade waste treatment and how chemicals can enhance the treatment process reducing operational costs and ensuring compliance,

- reduce your trade waste costs,
- **TROUBLESHOOT SESSION with the experts:** The Workshop Webinar provides an opportunity to troubleshoot with the experts. Participants are encouraged to bring along their specific trade waste issues or queries to discuss with wastewater treatment experts.

## FEDERAL

### Guide for entities required to prepare a Sustainability Report

The Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) released the [Regulatory Guide 280 for Sustainability Reporting](#).

The guide is for entities required to prepare a sustainability report under Ch 2M of the Corporations Act (reporting entities). This may include companies (including registered corporations under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007), registered schemes, registrable superannuation entities and retail corporate collective investment vehicles.

It explains how ASIC will exercise specific powers under legislation (primarily the Corporations Act), how ASIC interprets the law and the principles underlying ASIC's approach. It also provides practical guidance to entities about complying with their sustainability reporting obligations.

### Australia's first Biennial Transparency Report:

#### Released

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has released Australia's first [Biennial Transparency Report](#) (BTR) that outlines the action Australia is taking to meet its commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.

The report provides information on Australia's greenhouse gas emissions and trends, national circumstances and current policies and measures.

It reports on Australia's climate change impacts and approach to adaptation, and financial assistance provided to developing countries that are party to the Paris Agreement. The report also provides projections of greenhouse gas emissions.

### Quarterly update on Australia's greenhouse gas emissions to December 2024

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has released the [quarterly update](#) of Australia's national greenhouse gas emissions for the period to December 2024.

The report shows emissions were 446.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e) in the year to December 2024. This is essentially flat compared with the previous year, with national emissions estimated to have increased 0.05% (0.2 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e).

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## New default electricity prices released by Australian Energy Regulator

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The Australian Energy Regulator has released the Default Market Offer (DMO) electricity prices for 2025-26.

The DMO is designed to protect consumers from excessively high prices while allowing retailers to recover their costs. It is the maximum price electricity retailers can charge customers on standing offer contracts. It also acts as a reference price so customers can compare plans offered by other retailers.

The DMO applies to small businesses and households on standing offer plans in NSW, SA and south-east QLD.

From 1 July 2025, prices will rise across the 3 areas. The price rises for small businesses will range from 0.8% to 8.5%, depending on the same factors.

The AER sets the DMO prices each year. It said the upcoming rises were due to cost increases in the different components that make up the DMO, including wholesale energy costs and network costs.

Generally, the DMO is not the cheapest offer in the market. Most retailers have better deals than the standing offer and customers can save money by shopping around.

Customers in NSW, ACT, SA, Tasmania, and QLD can compare offers at [Energy Made Easy](#), and for Victoria please check the [Victorian Energy Compare](#).

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## Cheaper Home Batteries Program to benefit small business

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The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water have announced a new [Cheaper Home Batteries Program](#) to assist small businesses and households tackle bills and emissions.

From 1 July 2025, small businesses and households may be eligible for an approx. 30% discount on the upfront cost of installing typical small-scale battery systems alongside new or existing rooftop solar.

The discount will be based on the usable capacity of the battery and will gradually decline through to 2030.

The discount will typically be available via solar and battery retailers and installers. Claims for small-scale technology certificates (STCs) will be able to be made for eligible installations following implementation of regulations.

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## ACCC Scheme transparency changes commence

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The Clean Energy Regulator has commenced releasing further information on the [Australia Carbon Credit Unit \(ACCU\) Scheme project register](#) following the recent amendment to the [Carbon Credits \(Carbon Farming Initiative\) Rule 2015](#). This is expected to improve transparency.

On 21 May 2025, the Clean Energy Regulator also released additional data to the project register:

- crediting period start and end dates for all projects
- permanence period start dates for all sequestration projects.

The [analysis of this data](#) was also released that provides project timelines.

Over the next 2 months, the Clean Energy Regulator is expected to continue to publish the remaining project data in stages.

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## Ban on importing and making small multi-head split air conditioning that use hydrofluorocarbons:

**Effective 1 July 2025**

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The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has announced a ban from 1 July 2025, for the import or making of small multi-head split air conditioning systems that use hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) with a high global warming potential (GWP).

Certain air condition equipment and equipment designed to use refrigerant over 750 GWP is banned.

These rules are part of the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989*, which helps Australia to meet its goals under the Montreal Protocol – an international agreement to protect the ozone layer and cut emissions.

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are a type of synthetic greenhouse gas, mostly used in refrigeration and air conditioning equipment. HFCs generally have a high global warming potential which means they have a greater ability to trap heat in the atmosphere compared to a similar mass of carbon dioxide.

The ban applies to outdoor units for multi-head split systems, including variable refrigerant flow systems, if the equipment:

- is made to cool or heat indoor spaces for comfort
- has a refrigerant charge of 2.6 kg or less
- uses an HFC with a GWP higher than 750 (even if it is not charged when imported).

There are some exemptions and more bans may be introduced later.

You can get ready by:

- planning ahead so you don't get caught out
- checking what equipment you are planning to import

- find environmentally safe and compliant alternatives for any banned equipment.

## VICTORIA

### Guidance on operating organic waste processing facilities: Updated

EPA Victoria has updated the [Guidance on operating organic waste processing facilities](#). The guidance provides information on -

- the design and management of organic waste processing facilities
- their associated risks
- how to identify those risks
- how to manage those risks.

The guidance provides information on ways to meet duties under the:

- *Environment Protection Act 2017*
- Environment Protection Regulations 2021.

The guidance is applicable to all types of organic waste processing technologies.

The guidance will help you understand:

- ways to minimise risks of harm to human health and the environment from the siting, design, construction and operation of such facilities
- how to design risk assessments based on the needs of your site.

### Protocol on how and when sewer spills are reported to EPA:

#### Updated

EPA Victoria has updated the [sewer spill notification protocol](#) that serves as a guide for Water Corporations and EPA on how and when sewer spills are reported to EPA.

The protocol:

- Provides a consistent and transparent approach to sewer spills.
- Enables EPA to give more clarity in communicating with our stakeholders about potential impacts to water quality.
- Builds EPA's capacity so EPA can respond in an effective and transparent way.
- Provides a level playing field for Water Corporations.

### Guideline for minimising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for your business:

#### Updated

EPA Victoria has updated the [Guideline for Minimising Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#). The guideline is designed to help businesses minimise risks to human health and Victoria's environment from their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The guideline is designed to help businesses:

- meet their responsibilities under the *Environment Protection Act 2017* and general environmental duty
- understand how to identify and assess their GHG emissions and put in place reasonably practicable controls to minimise them.

### Guideline for water recycling in Victoria:

#### Updated

EPA Victoria has updated the [Victoria guideline for water recycling](#). The guidance provides for the safe and sustainable use of recycled water in Victoria for suppliers, managers and users of treated wastewater.

The guideline also outlines the Victorian regulatory process and

requirements for water recycling for:

- wastewater suppliers and managers, such as water corporations
- producers of industrial wastewater
- those seeking to utilise recycled water as a resource.

### Guidance for risk assessment of wastewater discharges to surface water:

#### Updated

EPA Victoria has updated the [Guidance for risk assessment of wastewater discharges to surface waters](#). The guidance provides a step-by-step guide to assess the environmental and human health risks associated with point-source wastewater discharges to surface waters.

It has been developed to help those responsible for prescribed permission activities (as defined in the Environment Protection Regulations 2021) involving wastewater discharges to surface waters, and the risk assessors/consultants conducting environmental and human health risk assessments on their behalf.

The guidance supports minimising the risk of harm to human health and the environment, and provides information that will help permission holders to comply with their legal obligations and meet community expectations.

### Urban stormwater management guidance:

#### Updated

EPA Victoria has updated the [Urban stormwater management guidance](#). The guidance is intended to help improve the management of urban stormwater in Victoria by recognising current science and the risk of harm from urban stormwater flows.

This guide:

- highlights the risk to waterways and bays the creation of sealed (impervious) surfaces causes
- provides general objectives and information to support risk assessment and minimisation
- explains stormwater management for communities in Victoria

## Permissions scheme policy:

### Updated

EPA Victoria has released an update of the [Permissions scheme policy](#).

The policy sets out EPA's approach to implementing the new permissions scheme from 1 July 2021. It also aims to provide clarity on how we will exercise our regulatory powers and be held to account for our decisions.

## General Standard Policy updated by EPA Victoria

EPA Victoria released an update of the [general standards policy](#). The policy is intended to assist people to understand and meet their environmental obligations under the Act.

This policy provides an overview of general standards instruments and tools. It sets out the high-level approach to developing and using the best instruments and tools to address a problem.

The General Standards Policy guides the implementation of the Act, along with the:

- [Permissions scheme policy \(publication 1799\)](#)
- [Compliance and enforcement policy \(publication 1798\)](#)
- [Regulatory communications and engagement policy \(publication 1929\)](#)

- Charter of consultation (publication 1928).

## Updated Guidelines and Publications:

### Released by EPA Victoria

EPA Victoria has recently released updates for the following guidelines and publications:

- [Landfill buffer guideline](#)
- [Managing plastic feedstock](#)
- [Guidance for the cleanup and management of contaminated groundwater](#)
- [Supporting information for separation distance guideline and landfill buffer guideline](#)
- [Separation distance guideline](#)
- [Annual Report Card – Port Phillip, Western Port and Gippsland Lakes \(July 2022 to June 2023\)](#)
- [Arsenic bioavailability in mine waste – technical report](#)
- [Effluent dispersal and recycling systems guidance](#)
- [Guidelines for onsite wastewater management](#)

## Recycling Victoria's Compliance and Enforcement policy

Recycling Victoria is making available their Compliance and Enforcement Policy that focuses on Recycling Victoria's role as the state's regulator for the provision of waste, recycling and resource recovery services, to guide and inform its regulatory functions under the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021* (CE Act).

These regulatory tools and powers are directed towards improving reliability and integrity of waste, resource recovery and recycling services, to

enable more growth and investment in the sector.

In administering this function, Recycling Victoria will work alongside its partners that include –

- [Environment Protection Authority Victoria \(EPA\)](#),
- [Sustainability Victoria](#), and
- the circular economy policy area of the Victorian [Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action \(DEECA\)](#).

Recycling Victoria works closely together with these organisations to share data, coordinate public messaging and in operations and compliance activities. Its partnerships may also include working with other Victorian regulators in respect to undertaking compliance and enforcement actions.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

### Temporary waste levy waiver of waste disaster clean-up

NSW EPA is working with councils across the NSW East Coast area to help communities prepare for and undertake waste disaster clean-up.

Affected councils have been advised they will have the NSW waste levy and the requirement for reporting pollution incidents temporarily waived. Information is now available at [waste levy waiver](#).

### Round 4 of Local Government Waste Solutions Fund:

#### Opens September 2025

Round 4 of the [Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy grant fund](#) is expected to open in September 2025 for applicants consisting of Local councils and regional groups of councils in the levy-paying area. The fund is managed by NSW EPA.

The Fund is intended to assist with the transition to a circular economy by supporting innovative waste and recycling solutions designed in collaboration with partners to achieve impactful projects with long-term outcomes.

Eligible projects must contribute to achieving at least one of the priorities and targets identified in the [NSW Government's Waste and Sustainable Materials \(WaSM\) Strategy 2041](#) and/or the [NSW Plastics Action Plan](#).

Projects must be completed by end of financial year 2026/27.

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