

ENVIRONMENT NETWORK WEEKLY (ENW)

AEBN National ENW e-news – 25 August 2025

UPCOMING AEBN EVENTS

[AEBN Workshop Webinar]
[SERIES 1 to Dangerous Goods, Hazardous Substances/Chemicals and GHS](#)
(Interactive)

Covering: Regulatory framework, Changes to laws and requirements, Identification, Safety Data Sheets and more

10.00am to 1.45pm
17 Sept 2025

[AEBN Workshop Webinar]
[SERIES 2 to Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances/Chemicals](#)
(Interactive)

Covering: Safe Storage, Handling and Transport

10.00am to 1.45pm
18 Sept 2025

FEDERAL

AEMO Releases 2025 Electricity Statement Of Opportunities (Esoo)

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) has released the 2025 Electricity Statement of Opportunities (ESOO) for the National Electricity Market (NEM), setting out a 10-year reliability outlook and the system needs as coal exits and demand electrifies.

ESOO summarises reliability risks and the timing of firming, storage and transmission required to keep the system within the Reliability Standard as demand grows, and retirements proceed.

AEMO's public overview and webinar pack provide the key scenarios and sensitivities industry should track.

ESOO signals forward energy reliability and price risk drivers that affect contracting, production planning and investment in on-site generation or demand response. It also informs medium-term hedging strategies.

On 28 August, from 2:00-3:30pm AEST, AEMO will hold a webinar to present the 2025 ESOO and answer stakeholder questions.

Further information and registration is available on AEMO's ESOO page [AEMO | NEM Electricity Statement of Opportunities \(ESOO\)](#).

Clean Energy Regulator Permanently Suspends Registered Person

The Clean Energy Regulator (CER) has permanently suspended the registration of a company under section 30A of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*.

The decision took effect immediately, with the CER no longer satisfied that the company is a "fit and proper person" for the purposes of the Act. The entity can no longer create renewable energy certificates.

The suspension follows a CER investigation. The company, with several affiliations, has also had these registrations permanently suspended under the Act. The CER found the company had provided misleading responses when asked to supply information.

This development is relevant to businesses that engage registered agents to create certificates under the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES), including commercial sites installing small solar systems.

Registered agents and their executive officers must remain fit and proper persons and report any changes that may affect their status. Companies should confirm the status of any agent they use and ensure internal governance and due-diligence checks are in place.

The CER actively monitors registered agents and may require information about their participation in the SRES. Providing false or misleading information (including omissions) can result in suspension and loss of ability to create small-scale technology certificates or large-scale generation certificates and may lead to criminal prosecution.

Updated Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings

The Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council (ECMC) released the Update to the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings, replacing the 2019 Trajectory and its Addendum.

The update sets a refreshed, national strategy for Commonwealth, State and Territory action across residential and commercial buildings.

The Trajectory outlines how governments will support homes and workplaces to use less energy, cost less to run, and be more comfortable, while contributing to a net-zero emissions building sector by 2050.

This development is relevant to owners and operators of industrial and commercial facilities, building product suppliers, and manufacturers planning refurbishments or new builds where HVAC/refrigeration, electrification, or materials choices drive energy and emissions outcomes.

An implementation plan will follow.

NGER 2024–25: Calculators Updated

The Clean Energy Regulator has updated the NGER 2024–25 calculators and reminded responsible emitters of upcoming obligations.

NGER registration and operational control nominations are due 31 August 2025, and 2024–25 reports are due 31 October 2025.

CER and DCCEEW have also summarised recent NGER legislative amendments affecting 2024–25 and 2025–26 reporting, including method updates and the staged phase-out of certain estimation approaches in covered sectors.

For manufacturers at or near NGER thresholds, ensure site data capture, supplier emission factors and assurance arrangements are in place now.

Safeguard facilities must also report production data with their NGER submission.

ACCC proposes to authorise national Soft Plastics Circularity Scheme

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has released a draft determination proposing to authorise a new Soft Plastics Circularity Scheme, enabling major supermarkets and industry to coordinate recovery and recycling of household soft plastics.

The proposal would replace ad-hoc programs with a structured, monitored scheme to rebuild collection and domestic processing capacity after the REDcycle collapse.

Authorisation is sought to allow collaboration that would otherwise risk breaching competition law.

Manufacturers using flexible packaging should monitor the scheme’s design, potential design-for-recyclability expectations, and any take-back/traceability requirements that flow through to brand owners and suppliers.

Climate Change Authority - 2025 Issues Paper

The Climate Change Authority is seeking input to its 2025 Annual Progress Report to inform the Minister’s 4th Annual Climate Change Statement to Parliament.

Submissions close 17:00 AEST, 1 September 2025. Consultation documents can be accessed at the following link: [2025 Issues Paper - Climate Change Authority](#)

Australian Industrial Chemical Introduction Scheme (AICIS) Annual Declarations

The Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (formerly

NICNAS) has opened submissions for the [2024–25 annual declaration](#).

The annual declaration confirms that any industrial chemicals introduced for commercial purposes during 1 September 2024–31 August 2025 were authorised under the *Industrial Chemicals Act 2019*. Declarations are lodged through AICIS Business Services and are due by 30 November 2025.

This requirement applies to all introducers, importers and manufacturers, including businesses that introduce industrial chemicals within products used in manufacturing, processing and maintenance.

Businesses should ensure they have categorised each introduction correctly, retained required records, and aligned internal systems to support future audits.

VICTORIA

Recycling Victoria issues seven Waste-to-Energy cap licences

Recycling Victoria, the Victorian Government’s recycling regulator, has issued seven thermal Waste-to-Energy (WtE) cap licences totalling 2.35 million tonnes per annum of permitted waste processing capacity.

The Waste to Energy Scheme is designed to allow alternative treatment of residual waste while preventing over-reliance on thermal WtE by limiting total throughput statewide. Licences allocate an annual tonnage cap to specific operators and sit alongside, but do not replace Vic EPA licences.

Operators with internal WtE projects should note that only cap licence holders (or existing operator licence holders) may process “permitted waste” at thermal WtE facilities in Victoria

Landfills are filling up and Victoria will start to run out of landfill capacity in the mid-2030s. Securing infrastructure that can process large quantities of waste that can't be recycled and otherwise destined for landfill is a high priority for Victoria.

After waste avoidance, reuse, and recycling, waste to energy is the final opportunity to get value from material that would otherwise be destined to landfill.

The waste to energy facilities can play a role in:

- diverting waste from landfill and recovering additional metals and aggregates that would otherwise end up in landfill
- allowing businesses to generate more value from the materials they manage
- creating valuable energy that can be used by industry or exported to the electricity grid for the community
- supporting Victoria to meet its target of net zero emissions by 2045.

Visit [Waste to Energy Scheme licences | vic.gov.au](#) for more information.

EPA Victoria fines contractor for mud tracked onto public roads

EPA Victoria has issued a \$5,298 infringement to a construction contractor after officers observed trucks tracking sediment onto Sneydes Road and Hoppers Lane, Point Cook.

The incident relates to trucks leaving a construction site without adequate controls to prevent mud and soil being deposited on public roads.

The regulator notes that depositing waste (including mud and soil) on roads is an offence. Tracked-out sediment can be washed into stormwater drains and waterways,

increasing turbidity and harming aquatic life. EPA Victoria expects businesses to plan for wet weather and implement practical measures to stop sediment leaving sites.

This enforcement action is relevant to civil contractors, construction and transport operators, and site managers across Victoria.

Operators should review site exit controls and ensure staff and subcontractors understand their responsibilities before, during and after rain events.

Tyre Dumping Conviction Leads To \$90,201 In Penalties

The Wodonga Magistrates' Court has convicted an individual of multiple offences under Victoria's *Environment Protection Act 2017* after an illegally stockpiled cache of waste tyres, estimated at up to 64 tonnes, was discovered in a leased warehouse on Day Street, Wodonga.

The court imposed a \$20,000 fine, \$60,299 compensation to the landlord, and \$9,902 in costs payable to EPA Victoria (total \$90,201).

The stockpile created an unacceptable fire and environmental risk. EPA Victoria told the court that waste tyres are a reportable priority waste, requiring duty holders to ensure tyres go to an authorised facility and that movements are recorded in Waste Tracker.

An EPA notice to remove the tyres to a lawful place was not complied with, leaving the landlord with the clean-up bill.

This outcome is a reminder that unlawful storage or disposal of tyres can attract prosecution and civil liabilities.

Chemical manufacturer ordered to pay \$300,000 over Elwood/St Kilda beach spill

EPA Victoria has secured civil penalties against a chemical manufacturer after a 28,000-litre spill of an industrial chemical reached Elwood and St Kilda beaches in January 2023.

The company was ordered to pay \$260,000, plus \$21,054 compensation to the Department of Transport and Planning for clean-up costs and \$18,946 in EPA legal costs (total \$300,000). The company must also publicise the offence and penalty in local newspapers.

The case concerned a leak from a storage vat containing Palmera A1813 (oleic-acid based) that contaminated the stormwater system and flowed into the Elster and Elwood Canals, Elwood Beach, St Kilda Beach and waters around St Kilda Pier.

The leak occurred during a Christmas shutdown period and went undiscovered for several days, leaving an oil layer on the water and likely contributing to fish deaths reported at St Kilda Beach.

NEW SOUTH WALES

NSW EPA Consults On Tighter Chemical Limits For Land-Applied Biosolids

The NSW EPA has opened consultation on a review of limits for metals and chemicals in biosolids applied to land to ensure beneficial use, with minimal risk to human health and the environment.

The review looks to update contaminant thresholds (including alignment with current national guidance) and sampling/monitoring requirements to ensure land application remains safe.

The package includes proposed limit changes and supporting material for stakeholders. A new definition of “biosolids” is proposed to distinguish them from sewage sludge and to provide flexibility for future thermal treatment options.

The proposals are relevant to sewage treatment plant operators, water utilities, biosolids producers and spreaders, composters, analytical laboratories, farmers, and businesses with on-site treatment that generates biosolids.

Operators may need to update sampling plans, QA systems, acceptance criteria and reporting processes if the changes are adopted. Submissions close 5 pm, 26 September 2025.

Further information (including how to lodge a submission) is available from NSW EPA. [Revised draft resource recovery order and exemption for biosolids | NSW Environment Protection Authority](#)

NSW Funds Regional Landfill Upgrades

The NSW EPA awarded \$5.9 million for 35 projects under Round 5 of the Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvements Program, and signalled the separate [Joint Procurement Funded Support](#) program is open to councils until June 2027.

The program funding supports councils to close or rehabilitate high-risk regional landfills, build or upgrade transfer stations, and bring older sites into line with contemporary environmental standards.

The EPA notes 14 high-risk landfills will be closed and rehabilitated, and 13 transfer stations will be designed, upgraded or built, reducing risks such as leachate, odour, dust and illegal dumping.

For industry, the program underpins more reliable regional waste services and may change how businesses, particularly manufacturers and processors in regional NSW, access local disposal and recycling infrastructure.

It also supports planning for Sydney’s waste shortfall, with Greater Sydney’s landfill capacity projected to run out by 2030, increasing reliance on regional facilities.

NSW EPA Consultation On Draft Acid Sulfate Soil Resource Recovery Order and Exemption

Comment sought

The NSW EPA is seeking comment on the draft Acid Sulfate Soil Resource Recovery Order and Exemption.

The proposal sets a state-wide framework for the safe, beneficial reuse of acid sulfate soils, replacing complex site-specific approvals.

The draft package is intended to streamline approvals, promote best practice and minimise risks to the environment and surrounding infrastructure.

It responds to growing reuse needs driven by housing and commercial projects, flood-recovery works and limited landfill capacity, and has been developed with input from associations, industry and councils as a practical pathway to manage and reuse acid sulfate soils.

Have your say

Public consultation is now open. Provide feedback via the [online form](#) or email submissions to waste.exemptions@epa.nsw.gov.au with the subject line: “*Feedback on draft Acid Sulfate Soil Resource Recovery Order and Exemption.*”

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Small business sustainability support workshop

The South Australian Government is hosting a free Small Business Sustainability Support workshop in Stirling on Tuesday 26 August 2025.

The session is designed to help SA small and family-owned businesses make better environmental decisions and reduce emissions.

The workshop builds capability in practical sustainability, covering how environmental performance links to day-to-day operations and cost control.

Content includes emissions reduction options relevant to small business, switching and efficiency opportunities, and how to find and interpret the data needed to track emissions.

This event is aimed at SA businesses looking to understand sustainability obligations and opportunities, and to embed simple systems that improve performance over time.

Eligible participants may also access a 1:1 consultation after the workshop to review their specific technologies and how they operate in their business context.

Register through this link: [Small business sustainability support workshop | business.gov.au](#)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

EPA WA recommends approval for Port Hedland Iron Project – Stage 1

EPA WA released [EPA Report 1789 – Port Hedland Iron Project \(Stage 1\)](#) recommending the proposal may be implemented subject to conditions. The report has been sent to the Minister for Environment and is now open to public appeal.

The proposal by Port Hedland Iron Pty Ltd is for a downstream processing facility in the Boodarie Strategic Industrial Area ~10 km south-west of Port Hedland.

Stage 1 comprises a pellet plant and hot-briquetted iron (HBI) plant using direct-reduction (DRI) technology, processing ~3–3.5 Mtpa of ore to produce ~2 Mtpa HBI (with ~0.7 Mtpa pellets exported).

The EPA notes the SIA location aggregates industry to improve resource efficiency and reduce impacts.

As a new facility with >100,000 t CO₂-e emissions, it will be covered by the Safeguard Mechanism, with EPA-recommended periodic reporting on carbon abatement and the rate of hydrogen integration against market availability.

Conditions also address the ongoing protection of conservation-significant fauna

Public appeals close 8 September 2025 and should be lodged with the [Office of the Appeals Convenor](#).

EPA WA to proceed with assessment of amended

Browse proposal

EPA WA accepted amendments to Woodside's Proposed Browse to North West Shelf Development, determining the amended proposal is of substantially the same character as the proposal already under assessment.

The EPA will continue its assessment and provide a report and recommendations to the Minister for Environment.

The State Waters component involves extracting hydrocarbons from the Torosa reservoir, about 425 km north

of Broome. In May 2025 the EPA took the unusual step of publishing the proposed changes for a four-week public comment period; more than 17,700 submissions were considered in reaching the decision to proceed.

Accepted changes include prohibiting planned night-time flaring from drilling units, excluding drill centres within 20 km of Sandy Islet, refining the development envelope, and adopting technology intended to reduce loss-of-well-control risk.

This development is relevant to oil and gas proponents and contractors, marine operations and logistics, and major energy users monitoring long-term gas supply.

Environmental consultants and service providers should note the evolving expectations around light, noise and spill-risk controls in sensitive marine environments.

National End-of-Life Tyres Options – project report released

The Western Australian Government has published the [National End-of-Life Tyres Options – Project Report](#), outlining issues with end-of-life tyres and related products and assessing policy solutions, including regulated product stewardship.

The report builds a shared picture of the problems associated with end-of-life tyres (including off-the-road tyres) and related products such as conveyor belts and rubber tracks, and evaluates options suited to the Australian context.

It concludes that only broad-based approaches can fully address current gaps, with a well-designed regulated product stewardship scheme considered the most capable option.

The report also flags “no-regrets” measures such as market

development and better standards and recommends staged implementation to align with market readiness and processing capacity.

Likely implications include future producer fees/incentives, targets for recovery, stronger verification and data requirements, and expanded pathways for tyre-derived products.

Hydrogen Transport Pilot Plant Opened In WA

WA Energy and Decarbonisation Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson opened Hydrilyte Technology Pilot Plant in Kwinana. The pilot demonstrates a local technology intended to make hydrogen storage and transport safer and more practical at ambient temperature and pressure.

Hydrilyte uses a metal hydride suspended in light mineral oil to bind hydrogen in solid state within a pumpable liquid.

According to the proponent and independent summaries, the carrier can be stored for extended periods without loss and moved through existing liquid-fuels infrastructure (tanks, pipelines, road tankers and ships). The process can also be reversed to release hydrogen at the point of use.

Early reports note the ability to separate hydrogen from helium in mixed gas streams, which could be relevant to natural hydrogen projects.

The pilot has been funded by private investors including Woodside Energy and Hive Energy.

Queensland Future Timber Plan

Comment sought

The Queensland Government has released the draft Queensland Future Timber Plan (QFTP) for public consultation, setting out a 25-year strategy for the State's forestry and timber industry. Five-year action plans will be developed to deliver the strategy.

The draft QFTP forms part of the Government's Primary Industries Prosper 2050 blueprint and is intended to secure a reliable, sustainable timber supply to help meet housing and infrastructure demand.

The plan emphasises co-design with industry to build competitiveness and resilience across the supply chain.

A public webinar will be held 26 August 2025, 3–5 pm AEST. [Click here to register.](#)

Stakeholders can complete the online survey or provide a written submission via the consultation hub. <https://dpi.engagementhub.com.au/register>

Submissions close **5:00 pm on 3 September 2025.**