

ENVIRONMENT NETWORK WEEKLY (ENW)

AEBN National ENW e-news – 11 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

National Electricity Market Review Draft Report:

Comment sought

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has released the draft National Electricity Market (NEM) Review, first reported on in the AEBN ENews in February 2025.

The NEM Review Panel is now seeking feedback and inputs to a

series of questions related to each of the themes in the draft report.

Following extensive consultation, the report identifies four major themes with recommendations:

- Reforms to support the continued efficient operation of the spot market
- Reforms to enhance liquidity in the short – to medium term derivatives market
- Reforms to support new investment in the services the NEM needs
- Reforms to ensure consumer benefits

To have your say:

Access the draft report and supporting documentation at this link [NEM Review Draft Report Consultation - Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water](#).

Submit your feedback by 11:59 pm AEST on Wednesday, 17 September 2025.

Australian Government releases EPBC Act reform package

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on 5 August 2025 has announced proposed reforms to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), aimed at updating Australia's national environmental law.

The reforms focus on stronger environmental protection, more efficient project assessments, and clearer decision-making processes. They are intended to be delivered within the next 18 months, with

ongoing consultation with stakeholders.

The changes will affect sectors that require environmental approvals, including manufacturing, infrastructure, housing and energy. The government expects that streamlined processes will support development while meeting environmental obligations.

Key measures include:

- Establishing a National Environment Protection Agency (EPA) to manage regulatory functions under an independent body.
- National Environmental Standards which set measurable outcomes for activities under the EPBC Act.
- Regional Planning to assist decision-making and guide environmental management.
- Reforming Offsets and Restoration Contributions to deliver tangible environmental outcomes and reduce delays for project developers.

The government will continue working with First Nations partners to incorporate their knowledge in environmental management.

Penalty issued for importing unlicensed greenhouse gas equipment

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has issued a penalty of \$18 780 to a company for importing unlicensed greenhouse gas equipment.

The notice was issued for the import of equipment containing a gas known as R410a without a licence. R410a is a refrigerant often used in air

conditioners and other cooling systems.

It is a type of synthetic greenhouse gas and can stay in the atmosphere for a long time. If it escapes, R410a and other greenhouse gases contribute to climate change.

The Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989 and related Acts protect the environment by reducing emissions of ozone depleting substances and synthetic greenhouse gases.

The Department's role is to implement the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Program to control the manufacture, import, export, use and disposal of ozone depleting substances and synthetic greenhouse gases.

The Department works closely with the Australian Border Force to check what comes into the country, supporting the protection of the environment and confirming businesses and individuals are following the law.

- Nature Repair Market scheme participants must understand the scheme rules and method requirements, and applications must be accurate and complete.
- All Safeguard facilities' net emissions must be at or below baselines by 31 March.
- All NGER reports must be complete, accurate and on time.
- Installers and retailers must provide true and correct written statements for small-scale technology certificate (STC) claims.
- Battery installations must be compliant.
- Auditors must meet their obligations.

More details may be found at [Compliance and enforcement priorities 2025–26 | Clean Energy Regulator](#)

Tullamarine after hundreds of litres of liquid dairy waste escaped its premises.

On 6 June 2025, a member of the public reported a milky white discharge running across parkland towards Steele Creek. EPA officers traced the trail across 80 metres of vegetated land from the creek bank to the site's boundary. The liquid had pooled around trees and shrubs, soaking into the soil, and carried a smell of rancid milk. Water and soil samples were taken to confirm the substance.

EPA determined the discharge came from an overflowing tank at the site's water treatment plant. The spill was estimated at more than 50 litres but less than 1,000 litres and was deposited at a location not licensed to accept it.

The operator has the right to seek a review of the infringement or have the matter heard in court under the Environment Protection Act 2017 and the Infringements Act 2006. Complimentary 30 minutes of legal information – per environmental issue.

Clean Energy Regulator Compliance and Enforcement Priorities 2025 -26

The Clean Energy Regulator has released the compliance and enforcement priorities for 2025 – 2026. The priorities describe our compliance and enforcement focus for the year ahead. They highlight areas of actual and potential risk to the integrity of the schemes.

The approach to compliance with these schemes is that the obligation to comply with legislative requirements rests with participants. A strong compliance and enforcement framework is fundamental to maintaining the integrity of Australia's emission reduction schemes and accelerating carbon abatement.

The [2025–2026 compliance and enforcement priorities](#) are:

- Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) project applications must be complete, accurate and on time.
- ACCU project notifications must be timely.

VICTORIA

Clothing recycler charged over alleged EPA notice breach

EPA Victoria has charged a clothing collection and recycling company after it allegedly failed to comply with an EPA notice.

EPA officers visited the Cheltenham facility in November 2024 and will allege they found unsafe levels of overstocking, with recycled clothing stacked too high, too close together, and creating a fire risk. Notices were issued requiring the company to stop accepting additional stock and reduce existing quantities, which the EPA will allege were ignored.

The matter is listed for hearing at the Moorabbin Magistrates Court on 3 September 2025.

EPA fines over spilt dairy waste

EPA Victoria has issued a \$5,928 fine to a dairy products manufacturer in

NEW SOUTH WALES

NSW EPA proposed greenhouse gas reporting and mitigation requirements:

Comment sought

As part of the NSW [Climate Change Action Plan 2023–26](#), the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is consulting on proposed licence conditions to strengthen greenhouse gas reporting and mitigation measures aimed at reducing emissions across the state.

The draft requirements set out reporting obligations and specific mitigation actions. They will initially apply to around 200 premises, including coal mines, that emit 25,000

tonnes or more of scope 1 and 2 carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂-e) per year. The approach will be phased in by the industry sector, starting with very large emitters.

The consultation includes the following draft documents:

- Proposed Climate Change Licensee Requirements
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plans – Mitigation Requirements
- Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Guide for NSW Coal Mines

Public consultation is open until **5 pm, Tuesday 7 October 2025**. Submissions can be made via the [EPA Have Your Say](#) page, where FAQs and factsheets are also available.

An online information webinar will be held on 20 August 2025 at 10:30 am. Registration is available through the consultation webpage.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: NSW high-emitting manufacturing and mining facilities

The NSW Government is offering \$305 million in grants to help high-emitting manufacturing and mining facilities reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The funding is part of the Net Zero Industry and Innovation Program under the Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020–2030.

Manufacturing and mining contribute around 30% of NSW's total emissions, with almost 60 facilities each emitting over 90,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e) annually. The program aims to accelerate decarbonisation to meet NSW's legislated target of a 70% emissions reduction by 2035 and net zero by 2050.

Grants are available for:

- **Pre-deployment projects** – late-stage feasibility studies, commercial trials, business case development, and front-end

engineering and design for scope 1 emissions reduction.

- **Deployment projects** – implementation of technically ready and commercially proven low-emissions technologies and infrastructure.

Eligible applicants are NSW manufacturing or mining facilities that have emitted more than 90,000 tCO₂-e in any year since 2018–19. Applicants must contribute at least 50% of eligible project costs, with higher contributions preferred.

Applications are accepted year-round through a two-stage process:

1. **Fast-track assessment** – short application with technical review and feedback.
2. **Full application** – for shortlisted projects.

Submissions close at midnight 31 December 2026.

Further information, including funding guidelines, eligibility criteria, and application details, is available at [High Emitting Industries Funding Application - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water*](#).

upgrades that reduce energy use or costs.

Eligible applicants must:

- Be a small or medium South Australian business or not-for-profit
- Hold an active ABN and be registered for GST
- Be an electricity customer connected to the network
- Have grouped payroll under \$18 million and turnover of \$75,000 or more in 2024–25
- Own or lease the premises where works will be undertaken
- Not operate as a home-based business.

Applications close Friday 31 October 2025.

Further details, including eligibility and application information, are available at [Powering Business Grants | Small and Family Business](#)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: Support for WA agrifood and beverage businesses

The WA Government's AgriFood and Beverage Voucher Program is now open, offering small-to-medium businesses in the sector funding to engage business consultants or technical experts.

The program provides vouchers of up to \$20,000 on a 50:50 co-contribution basis. Funding can be used for professional consultancy services in one or more of the following areas:

- Business planning.
- Manufacturing for business growth, including transition to manufacturing, HACCP, process engineering and automation.
- Sales and marketing, including e-commerce, marketing strategy, CRM design, export market development and re-branding.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: Funding for SA businesses to improve energy efficiency

The South Australian Government's Powering Business Grants program is open, providing funding for small and medium businesses and not-for-profit organisations to upgrade to more energy-efficient systems.

Funding of between \$2,500 and \$75,000 is available through two streams:

1. Solar and battery projects – grants for battery or combined battery and solar installations, based on system size and capacity.
2. Energy efficiency projects – grants covering up to 50% of costs for equipment or infrastructure

- Financial health, including succession planning, pitch decks and investment planning.
- Environmental sustainability and social responsibility, including net zero planning, wastewater management, sustainable packaging design and ESG.
- Enables submission of general planning advice questions and enquiries via an online form.

This release forms part of Environment Online's staged rollout to improve access to and management of environmental and planning services in WA.

To be eligible, applicants must be:

- A food or beverage manufacturer, or a food producer transitioning to manufacturing.
- Located in WA with an ABN and annual turnover between \$100,000 and \$50 million.
- Operating for at least 18 months, incorporated in Australia and not tax-exempt.

Applications close Tuesday 26 August 2025.

Further information, including eligibility and application details, is available on the AgriFood and Beverage Voucher Program WA webpage [Agrifood and beverage voucher program](#) | Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

WA GreenTech Hub launched to drive clean technology innovation

The Western Australian Government has launched the \$4 million GreenTech Hub to strengthen local capability in green technologies and services.

Operated by Curtin University as a stand-alone facility, the Hub will bring together government, industry, academia and the community through initiatives such as innovation challenges and Curtin's Accelerate Program. Its first innovation challenge will focus on advanced energy storage systems to help reduce reliance on fossil fuels and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

The Hub is part of a four-year, \$40 million Lower Carbon Grants Program and GreenTech Hub funding agreement between the State Government and the Chevron-operated Gorgon Project.

Over the next four years, the Hub will host projects aimed at supporting WA's transition to a low-carbon economy and connecting local innovations with global markets.

More information on participation opportunities, challenges and programs is available via the [GreenTech Hub](#) website.

Planning Advice referrals now live on Environment Online

The WA Government has launched Planning Advice functionality on the Environment Online platform, consolidating around 1,500 annual referrals for water and environmental land use advice into a single system.

The update integrates regional planning advice requests, internal advice for Environmental Protection Assessments, and general planning advice enquiries. New Water and Environmental Land Use Planning Advice referrals can no longer be submitted through Water Online.

The new functionality:

- Provides a consistent referral process across WA.
- Allows customers to track and manage referrals through an interactive dashboard.