

ENVIRONMENT NETWORK WEEKLY (ENW)

AEBN National ENW e-news – 28 June 2024

UPCOMING AEBN EVENTS

[AEBN Interactive Webinar]
[CONTAMINATED LAND: A Legal and Practical Approach to Risk Management associated with Contaminated Land](#)
(Interactive)

10.00am to 3.00pm
24 July 2024

[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
18 Sept 2024

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

Covering: Safe Storage, Handling and Transport

10.00am to 1.45pm
19 Sept 2024

FEDERAL

Reforms to Australia's product stewardship arrangements for all Batteries

A meeting of Australia's Environment Ministers' was held recently where Ministers agreed to take urgent action to help prevent potentially deadly battery fires.

Ministers have determined that NSW, QLD and Victoria will work together to lead action on reforms to Australia's product stewardship arrangements for all batteries.

There have been major issues such as ongoing fires and emergency situations caused by batteries, notably lithium-ion batteries embedded inside a range of devices that show the critical importance of acting quickly to protect lives and property.

In response to this concern, Environment Ministers have agreed to accelerate work towards reforming the product stewardship arrangements for all batteries, acknowledging that intervention is needed through the entire lifecycle of a battery or battery-powered device.

This includes looking at options to improve the design, packaging, importation, storage and disposal of batteries.

A key focus will be on creating financial incentives to ensure the safe disposal of all types of batteries, reducing the chances of batteries ending up in bins and landfills.

Agreed immediate action will be:

- NSW - will immediately commence work on a draft Regulatory Impact Statement, which will assess the costs and benefits of product

stewardship models. It will also consider how reforms would relate to existing product stewardship schemes, such as the B-Cycle scheme.

- NSW, Victoria and QLD - will also commence work on model legislation.

This work will enable governments to quickly identify the best reform option to reduce the risk of fires, support Australia's battery recycling sector, and deliver the most cost-effective and efficient approach for businesses and consumers.

Ministers acknowledged work already done by QLD on safe battery disposal and discussed the issue of managing the risks of batteries, including embedded battery devices, as a matter of priority.

Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme – developing new methods

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is implementing a new way for developing Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme methods as recommended by the [Independent Review of ACCUs](#).

The Emissions Reductions Assurance Committee (ERAC) will be responsible for assessing expression of interests for new methods against their potential to meet the legislated Offsets Integrity Standards (OIS), and specified triaging criteria. The Minister will prioritise methods for development based on this assessment. The ERAC is responsible for assessing draft methods against the OIS.

The new proponent-led method development process has 5 main

steps:

- [Submitting your new method idea](#)
- [Submitting an expression of interest \(EOI\) for a new method or method variation](#)
- Developing the method proposal or method variation proposal
- Public consultation on the draft method or draft method variation
- Finalising the method.

The ERAC is currently accepting EOIs by **12 July 2024**.

The ERAC will announce the date of future submission rounds once they are scheduled.

Commercial Building Disclosure (CBD) Expansion Consultation:

Comment sought

The Federal Government is considering changes to the Commercial Building Disclosure (CBD) Program and to support this, the Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has released a CBD Program expansion consultation [discussion paper](#) for comment.

The CBD Program currently requires energy efficiency information to be provided, in most cases, when commercial office space of 1000 square metres or more is offered for sale or lease.

The potential expansion of the CBD Program is part of the 2019 Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings (the Trajectory). The Trajectory is the joint strategy of the Commonwealth and the States and Territories that aims to achieve zero energy and carbon-ready buildings in Australia.

Successive reviews of the CBD Program in 2016 and 2019 suggest that expanding the program to cover new building and ownership types will

reduce energy consumption, reduce energy bills, and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

KPMG was engaged by the Federal Government to complete a [feasibility report on Expanding the Commercial Building Disclosure Program](#) (feasibility report). This analysis of the CBD Program suggests it is performing well when compared internationally and, if expanded to other building types, could be a powerful tool in transitioning Australia's commercial buildings to net zero.

Your feedback will help to develop a considered approach that will assist Australia's commercial building sector to transition to a net zero future.

Feedback is sought on the [expansion of the CBD Program](#) via the [online survey](#) by 5.00pm AEST, 13 September 2024.

Development of the Transport and Infrastructure Net Zero Roadmap and Action Plan:

Comment sought

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has announced the development of the Transport and Infrastructure Net Zero Roadmap and Action Plan that will be developed in two stages.

- The first stage is this Consultation Roadmap that sets out potential pathways for transport and transport infrastructure to contribute to net zero by 2050. It does not set out the actions or policies that will be taken by government to support these potential pathways.
- The actions or policies to be taken by government will form the basis of the final Action Plan, which is the second stage of developing the final Roadmap and Action Plan.

Your feedback is sought by 25 July 2024 via the [online survey](#) on the identified pathways and the actions or policies government will need to take

to decarbonise transport and transport infrastructure.

Reforestation by Environmental or Mallee Plants method 2024 draft:

Comment sought

Reforestation by Environmental or Mallee Plantings method 2024 draft: Comment sought

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is developing the [draft Reforestation by Environmental or Mallee Plantings method determination 2024](#) which is intended to replace the 2014 method of the same name which will expire at the end of September 2024.

While the 2024 method is fundamentally the same as the 2014 method, some changes have been made to make participation easier. These are detailed in the Explanatory Statement under the section titled 'Summary of changes from the 2014 method'.

A summary of the proposed changes are as follows:

- Proponents may now own seeds/seedlings before applying to register a project and can prepare the land for planting between applying to register and registration.
- Mixed-species environmental plantings may include climate resilient native species not part of the local vegetation provided these species are appropriate for the local area.
- Proponents can plant both seeds and tube-stock together for linear mixed-species plantings.
- Fruits, nuts, seeds, and leaves from a project can be sold. Only 10% from each tree can be harvested each year. Bark, fallen timber and wood cannot be sold. These restrictions do not impact on traditional Indigenous practices or Native

Title	Rights.	to:	million	homes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For projects using a specific FullCAM calibration, fertiliser use is allowed during the first 12 months of planting. Infill planting rules are included. Proponents must use the FullCAM version in force at the end of each reporting period. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> deliver an additional 32 GW of capacity by 2030 deliver the Australian Government's 82% renewable electricity by 2030 target. 		Offshore wind projects cannot be built yet.

Please provide feedback by **11:59pm, 15 July 2024.**

Registration is open until 5.00pm AEST on 19 June 2024, and project bids are open until 5.00pm AEST on 1 July 2024. To assist you, please [Register and read the Tender Guidelines.](#)

Interested parties will need to apply for a [feasibility licence](#) between 17 June and 15 August 2024.

There will be more:

- investigations
- environmental assessments
- approvals
- consultation with the local community, government, industry, and First Nations people.

Parties are expected to maximise local content and demonstrate their contribution to local and Australian communities by using Australian goods and services.

Renewable energy tender:

Open

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has opened a tender for renewable energy in Australia. Bids are now open, with the Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) aiming to produce 6 GW of new variable renewable energy projects for the National Electricity Market (NEM).

Projects through the Capacity Investment Scheme Tender 1 – NEM Generation (Tender 1) will have a target completion date of 2027 and will boost energy generation as aging coal fired power generators retire and the demand for electricity increases.

Tender 1 is seeking an indicative 6 GW of renewable electricity generation across the NEM. Of this 6 GW, minimum capacity targets across jurisdictions apply:

- New South Wales – 2.2 GW
- South Australia – 300 MW
- Victoria – 1.4 GW
- Tasmania – 300 MW

The remaining 1.8 GW of renewable capacity will be allocated to projects across the NEM based on the merit of the projects.

Tender rounds will run in the NEM approx. every six months until 2027.

Through the CIS, the Federal Government will seek competitive tender bids for renewable capacity and clean dispatchable capacity projects

Latest Quarterly Carbon Market Report:

Released

The Clean Energy Regulator has reported that the Australian carbon credit unit (ACCU) market is seeing a shift with regulatory compliance emerging as the primary source of unit cancellation, according to the Clean Energy Regulator's (CER) [latest Quarterly Carbon Market Report \(QCMR\)](#).

One million of the 1.2 million ACCUs cancelled in the first quarter of 2024 were for compliance purposes, with the balance used to meet voluntary commitments. This includes 0.9 million ACCUs surrendered for 2022-23 Safeguard compliance, ahead of the reformed Safeguard Mechanism commencing for the 2023-24 compliance year.

A [brief overview](#) of the latest QCMR is now available.

NSW area declared for offshore wind farm

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has declared an area in the Pacific Ocean off the Illawarra, NSW between Wombarra and Kiama where offshore renewable energy, such as offshore wind, can be developed.

It is expected that the declared area has the potential to generate up to 2.9 gigawatts of renewable wind energy which may power up to around 1.8

Draft National Roadmap to protect and conserve 30% of Australia's land by 2030:

Comment sought

The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is seeking your views on the [draft National Roadmap to protect and conserve 30% of Australia's land by 2030](#).

The Federal Government has committed to a national target to protect and conserve 30% of Australia's land and 30% of its marine areas by 2030 (referred to as the 30 by 30 target).

All state and territory environment ministers have agreed to work together to achieve this national 30 by 30 target. The national 30 by 30 target aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The National Roadmap is being developed in consultation with state and territory government and is expected to coordinate national action for achieving the national 30 by 30 target on land.

Please provide [online feedback](#) via the survey on the draft National Roadmap by 5.00pm AEST, 19 July 2024.

VICTORIA

Transport company cops fine for failure to supply information to EPA Victoria

A failure to supply information to EPA Victoria in line with an official notice is a breach that has copped a transport company a fine of \$9,615.

EPA Victoria had issued an Information Gathering Notice to the transport company as part of an investigation into the alleged abandonment of industrial waste in shipping containers at a container yard in Truganina.

The waste, which was waste tyres tied in a bale, will need to be taken to a licensed facility for disposal.

EPA Victoria can order a company or an individual to provide information to assess compliance with the Environment Protection Act 2017 and the company provide that information.

"Some people may not at first realise we have that legal authority, though we go to great lengths to ensure they do understand what's required of them," EPA Western Metropolitan Acting Regional Manager Sam Sparks said.

Choosing not to provide the information requested by EPA Victoria is a breach and will see you cop a significant fine.

Round 3 of Victorian Timber Innovation Fund opens

The Victorian Government is providing grants through the [Victorian Timber Innovation Grants Program](#) of up to \$1 million for eligible native timber businesses to diversify away from native timber harvesting.

The grant provides native timber industry businesses funds to explore, invest and implement new opportunities, that can include businesses switching their operations to plantation timber, construction and earthmoving services to both maintain existing jobs and create new

sustainable jobs.

Round 3 of the program also includes a Grant Application Assistance Service for the first time.

Businesses can apply for vouchers of up to \$7,500 which will provide them with access to a panel of Registered Service Providers. These providers will help businesses to prepare and submit strong submissions for the grants program.

Eligibility for Round 3 has also been extended to harvest and haulage sub-contractors, chip truck drivers and other businesses which were heavily dependent on the native timber industry. Businesses who take up other forestry transition support packages can still access the VTIF.

Round 2 of the Timber Innovation Fund supported 29 successful applications from 28 native timber businesses, totalling over \$7 million.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Draft Greenhouse Gas Assessment Guide and Climate Change Assessment Requirements for Large Emitters:

Comment sought

To assist the NSW Government to achieve its greenhouse gas emissions reduction target, NSW EPA is consulting on the

- [draft Climate Change Assessment Requirements](#), and
- [draft Greenhouse Gas Assessment Guide for Large Emitters](#)

that will require proponents to assess greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation opportunities of proposed developments, both in the short-term and long-term.

The Guide and Assessment Requirements will apply to all new projects or significant modifications considered to have large greenhouse gas emissions. This includes coal mines, landfills, chemical manufacturers, and waste

management facilities. These requirements will increase transparency of the greenhouse gas emissions for any new development proposal.

Please provide feedback via the online survey by **5.00pm, 1 July 2024**.

Issues Paper on Review of NSW Waste Levy:

Comment sought

NSW EPA has released an issues paper on the review of the NSW Waste Levy and seeks your feedback that is expected to inform the development of options for improving the waste levy and its operation.

NSW EPA is calling for industry, local councils and the community for their views to explore how adjustments to the operation of the waste levy could reinvigorate the incentive to recycle while minimising impacts on cost-of-living and making it easier for waste operators to do the right thing. Feedback is sought on how NSW EPA can:

- adjust waste levy rates and boundaries to increase resource recovery in NSW, while minimising impacts on cost-of-living
- create a fair playing field for waste operators who safely and sustainably manage waste
- ensure the waste levy operates as an effective incentive for resource recovery within the broader waste and resource recovery landscape of NSW, including infrastructure, services, and markets.

Please provide feedback via the [online survey](#) by 15 July 2024.

NSW EPA calls for member nominees for new climate change group

NSW EPA is calling for nominations for members of a new advisory group, ensuring community and

environmental advocates can provide advice on climate change action.

NSW EPA's new Climate Change Community and Environment Advisory Group (CCCEAG) is the third of its kind, complementing statutory advisory groups already established for the mining and agriculture sectors.

NSW EPA Executive Director Policy and Strategy, Nancy Chang said hearing from community and advocates is a vital part of our work as we design and implement policy and regulatory actions to prevent, mitigate and respond to climate change.

"For this new advisory group, we're seeking members who represent environmental and conservation groups, as well as community members, climate change experts and Aboriginal knowledge holders," Ms Chang said.

"Once appointed, members will provide the EPA with valuable information on potential options, gaps, risks and opportunities as we work to help NSW towards achieving its 2030 and 2035 emission reduction targets. "It is critical that we bring key stakeholders across community, advocacy groups, industry and government to the table as we work together to protect the environment from the threat of climate change."

Nominees for the CCCEAG will be assessed by a cross-agency panel and the selected representatives will serve a two-year term.

[Expressions of interest](#) are open until 27 June 2024.

Members of the public can also have their say on the draft [Climate Change Assessment Requirements and Greenhouse Gas Assessment Guide](#) until 1 July 2024.

FOGO mandates:

Comment sought

NSW EPA is seeking feedback on proposed three new mandates for the collection of source-separated food organics and garden organics (FOGO) waste. When good and garden waste

is collected separately, FOGO waste can be made into high-quality compost and used in green spaces and on farms, instead of emitting greenhouse gases as it breaks down in landfill. Communities, councils, food businesses and charities are encouraged to provide their feedback by 5.00pm, 15 July 2024 via the [online survey](#).

Waived waste levy for flood affected areas

In order for NSW communities to rebuild and recover from heavy rainfall and flooding, the NSW Government is [waiving the waste levy for affected areas](#).

The Natural Disaster Waste Levy Exemption will apply to the following LGAs:

- Camden
- Wollongong
- Shoalhaven
- Shellharbour
- Wingecarribee
- Kiama

Residents in six Local Government Areas hit hardest by a downpour in early June can dispose of flood-affected items at landfill sites without having to pay the waste levy fee until early September 2024.

The exemption covers waste on public and private land, including damaged building materials, furniture, carpet and gardening debris.

Removing the fee will expedite the recovery process and ease financial burdens on impacted households and businesses.

QUEENSLAND

New legislation to strengthen powers and penalties under QLD Environment Protection Act: Commences 18 June 2024

The [Environmental Protection \(Powers and Penalties\) and Other Legislation Amendment \('EPOLA Powers and Penalties'\) Act 2024](#) commenced on

18 June 2024. It was passed by the QLD Parliament on 11 June 2024.

This amending Act implements the recommendations of an independent review into the adequacy of existing powers and penalties under the QLD *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) that was carried out by retired Judge Richard Jones and Barrister Susan Hedge.

The amendments will ensure that:

- the legislation promotes proactive measures to prevent and minimise environmental harm;
- there is an appropriate emphasis on human health, wellbeing and safety;
- the environmental regulator has sufficient powers to intervene early and quickly to prevent environmental harm before it occurs; and
- penalties are proportionate to impacts on the community.

Some of the key amendments are outlined below, along with links to new guidance that has been developed to assist in understanding how to comply with the new requirements.

The final review report, government response, public consultation paper and consultation report is now [available](#).

New principles of the Act

The following principles have been inserted (alongside existing principles) into section 6A of the EP Act to give them more prominence:

- ***polluter pays principle*** – those who generate pollution and waste should bear the cost of containment, avoidance, or abatement;
- ***proportionality principle*** - that a decision, action or thing directed towards minimising harm or a risk of harm to the environment should be proportionate to the harm or risk of harm that is being addressed;
- ***principle of primacy of prevention*** - that prevention of harm to the environment is preferred to remedial or mitigation measures; and

- **the precautionary principle** – where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.

The principles are applied to the general administration of the EP Act, including for the making of regulations, Environmental Protection Policies, guidelines, and codes of practice.

Amended definitions for environmental harm

Definitions for 'serious environmental harm' and 'material environmental harm' have been amended to clarify that, despite a matter having prescribed characteristics of environmental nuisance (for example, unreasonable interference from release of aerosols, fumes, light, noise, odour, particles or smoke), it may constitute serious or material environmental harm.

This amendment opens a greater range of enforcement tools for these matters, as well as stronger penalties that are more proportionate to the impact on the community.

To support this amendment here is a new procedure in place to assist local governments escalate matters to the State regulator where they consider that material or serious environmental harm is being caused.

Information about reporting environmental nuisance is available [here](#).

Changes to duties under the EP Act: A new offence for breaches of the general environmental duty

The general environmental duty (GED) is a long-standing obligation under the EP Act. It requires anyone who is carrying out an activity that causes, or may cause, environmental harm, to take all reasonably practicable measures to prevent or minimise the harm.

The EPOLA (Powers and Penalties) Act 2024 has introduced a new offence for contravention of the general

environmental duty when the contravention causes, or is likely to cause, serious or material environmental harm. Some exceptions apply (e.g. where an activity is being carried out in accordance with a code of practice). People and businesses currently taking reasonably practicable steps to comply with the duty will not have to do anything differently.

See [here](#) for further information and advice on meeting the GED.

Introduction of a new duty to restore

The EP Act now includes a duty to restore. This requires that, if a person causes or permits an incident that results in unlawful environmental harm through contamination of the environment, they must, as soon and as far as reasonably practicable, take measures to rehabilitate or restore the environment to its condition before the harm.

The duty clarifies that a person should not wait for instructions from the administering authority to clean-up or remediate contamination. Rather, they should respond quickly to prevent greater harm from occurring.

Contravention of the duty to restore is an offence where failure to restore relates to material or serious environmental harm.

Further information is available [here](#).

Changes to the duty to notify

The duty to notify provisions now include situations where a person 'ought reasonably to have become aware' of an event that requires notification. This helps to ensure that notification is provided early where there are circumstances or indicators that suggest a notifiable event has occurred. For example, if someone has observed indicators of a leak from underground fuel storage, then that may be the appropriate time to report the event, rather than waiting until all facts are known about the extent of contamination from the leak. These changes are not intended to require additional monitoring or oversight, but rather to ensure early and proactive notification.

Further information is available in the guideline Duty to Notify guideline available [here](#).

New Compliance Tool – Environmental Enforcement Order

The Environmental Enforcement Order (EEO) is a new compliance tool that replaces and consolidates the existing powers of Environmental Protection Orders (EPOs), Direction Notices (DNs), and Clean-up Notices (CNs).

Rationalising statutory notices provides a simpler process for notice recipients as well as the administering authority and supports a more streamlined compliance approach. Where previously multiple notices may have been required to address a compliance issue, the EEO allows for one notice to be issued.

EPOs, DNs and CNs that were issued prior to commencement will continue to have effect and their requirements will still be enforceable.

The amendments also clarify that an environmental enforcement order can be issued to the holder of an environmental authority, regardless of whether the environmental authority authorises, or purportedly authorises, the activity causing harm.

Further information about EEOs is available [here](#).

Clarified grounds for an environmental investigation

Amendments have been made to the EP Act to clarify that a person can be required to conduct or commission an environmental investigation about an activity or event that is causing environmental harm, regardless of whether the activity is authorised by an environmental authority.

This helps to ensure that the department has the information it needs to understand the source, cause or extent of environmental harm or contamination, and inform appropriate actions.

Further information about environmental investigations is available in the department's guideline [Compliance under the EP Act 1994](#).

New process for amending transitional environmental programs (TEPs)

The EP Act has been amended to clarify that the administering authority can initiate and decide amendments to a TEP. The new provisions require that the administering authority provide notice of the proposed amendment and have regard to any submissions from the TEP holder in deciding the amendments.

Further information about TEPs is available in the guideline [Transitional environmental programs \(ESR/2023/6520\)](#).

Changes to evidentiary provisions

Some changes have been made to evidentiary provisions, including:

- to allow the production of certificates, for example about the analysis of a sample, as evidence in a civil proceeding under or in relation to the EP Act. This has previously been limited to criminal proceedings.
- to provide that opinion evidence may be given in civil proceedings in relation to certain offences involving environmental nuisance. This amendment allows opinion evidence about emissions to be given by authorised persons which is based on their own senses, without the need to call further opinion evidence in civil proceedings.
- to provide that opinion evidence may be given in civil proceedings for an offence under the EP Act related to noise, if it is claimed audible noise was made.

Note of thanks:

The AEBN wishes to thank DES for providing this article for AEBN Members.

Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024

New legislation in QLD is now in place to support the delivery of the [Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan \(QEJP\)](#).

The [Energy \(Renewable Transformation and Jobs\) Act 2024](#) was passed on 18 April 2024 and the Act is the next key step in implementing the [QEJP](#).

The Plan lays out a vision for Queensland's energy future, provides a pathway to clean, reliable and affordable power for generations, and sets a target of 80% renewable energy by 2035.

The Act provides key commitments from the Plan in law. It establishes frameworks to build the necessary infrastructure to transition Queensland to a clean economy future. It also creates the governance and advisory functions for a smooth, coordinated transformation.

The Act provides Queenslanders certainty and confidence about QLD's pathway for the energy transformation. QLD's commitments include:

- legislating Queensland's 3 [renewable energy targets](#)
- a commitment to public ownership of energy assets in law
- establishing the Job Security Guarantee Fund in law, to support affected energy workers.

Funding and initiatives for QLD businesses

The QLD Government is providing funding and initiatives to assist industry, councils and the community to take action towards becoming a zero-waste society, where waste is avoided, reused and recycled to the greatest extent possible.

The following funding is available to assist with waste and resource recovery programs:

- [Let's Get it Sorted \(LGIS\) Partnership Program](#)
- [Regional Waste Management Plan Coordination Program](#)

- [Growing the Recovery of Organic Waste via Food Organic and Garden Organic \(GROW FOGO\) Fund](#)
- [The Charitable Recyclers Reimbursement Program](#)
- [Circular Economy Investment Program](#)

The following programs and initiatives have received funding from the QLD Government:

- [Recycle Mate](#)
- [Construction Plastics Recycling Scheme – Phase 3](#)
- [Nambour material recovery facility](#)
- [Thankful 4 Farmers and Saveful Garage Sale Trail](#)
- [EcoMarines Foundation](#)
- [2022–2024 Local Government Levy Ready Grants Program](#)
- [Food Rescue Grant Program – Round 2](#)
- [Organic Waste Smart Schools Program](#)
- [Queensland Food Waste for Healthy Soils Program](#)
- [Regional and Remote Recycling Modernisation Fund](#)
- [Food Organics, Garden Organics \(FOGO\) Kerbside Collection Trial](#)
- [Regional Recycling Transport Assistance Package](#)
- [Resource Recovery Industry Development Program](#)
- [Illegal Dumping Partnerships Program](#)
- [Illegal Dumping Hotspot Grants Program](#)

Plan to prevent climate change risks and impacts to QLD historic heritage places

The QLD Government is developing a plan to provide a clearer understanding of the climate change risks and impacts to QLD's historic heritage places so that they can prioritise and coordinate actions to preserve them into the future.

In developing this plan, the QLD Government is consulting with those who own, manage and/or protect, and regulate heritage-listed places. This includes a range of people and organisations from government to industry and individual heritage property owners.

The plan will align with the [Queensland Government's Climate Adaptation Strategy 2017-2030](#), which provides a framework to ensure QLD becomes more climate resilient and manages the risks associated with a changing climate.

If you own, manage, regulate or work with heritage-listed places, please provide your feedback by completing the [online survey](#) to help develop the plan.

Consultation closes at **5.00pm, 23 July 2024**.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Green Energy Approvals Initiative

The WA Government has launched the Green Energy Approvals Initiative that is a cross-government collaboration to deliver faster environmental approvals for renewable energy projects without compromising the unique environmental biodiversity of WA

The Initiative is key to the diversification and decarbonisation of WA industries. The initiative consists of a dedicated environmental assessment team and a dedicated major projects facilitation team for [Green Energy Major Projects](#).

The Green Energy Approvals Initiative is helping to attract investment into the WA renewable energy sector by improving WA's renewable energy credentials while ensuring the environment is protected for future generations.

State Government agencies, including Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI), Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), Department of Energy, Mining, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) are working together to develop more streamlined assessment pathways and fit-for-purpose support for proponents.

JTSI is the first point of contact for all green energy project proponents and [investors](#). JTSI provides initial assessment, advice and referral to relevant regulatory agencies. Find out more about JTSI's case management services for Green Energy Major Projects.

For a project to be assessed as a Green Energy project by DWER via the dedicated Green Energy Approvals Initiative assessment team, projects must fit into at least one of the [Green Energy project categories](#).

Enquiries can be made to WA Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation at greenenergywa@jtsi.wa.gov.au or call 08 6277 3000.

New board member for WA EPA

WA's Environment Minister Reece Whitby has announced Jane Bennett's appointment under a 3 year term with WA EPA.

Ms Bennett joins Deputy Chair Lee McIntosh and Fiona Haslam McKenzie, Darren Walsh, and Hamish Beck on the independent authority's board.

EPA members are appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Environment Minister.

Ms Bennett is the owner and Managing Director of CLE Town Planning & Design.

She currently sits on the board of WA Planning Commission and Development WA and is also an Urban Development Institute of Australia Councillor.