

# ENVIRONMENT NETWORK WEEKLY (ENW)

AEBN National ENW e-news – 18 October 2024

## UPCOMING AEBN EVENTS

[AEBN Workshop Webinar - Interactive]

### [SERIES 1 to Dangerous Goods, Hazardous Substances/Chemicals and GHS – INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP WEBINAR](#)

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

10.00am to 1.45pm  
13 November 2024

[AEBN Workshop Webinar]

### [SERIES 2 to Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances/Chemicals – INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP WEBINAR](#)

COVERING: Safe Storage, Handling and Transport

10.00am to 1.45pm  
14 November 2024

## FEDERAL

### Nature Repair Committee consultation:

#### Comment sought

The Nature Repair Committee has released a [proposed method and biodiversity assessment instrument](#) and seeks your feedback on -

- the replanting native forest and woodland ecosystems method – the first proposed method under the Nature Repair Market
- the biodiversity assessment instrument.

The release of this proposed method is one step closer to the opening of the [Nature Repair Market](#).

The proposed method is expected to set rules for running a project under the Nature Repair Market. This includes:

- eligible land
- eligible project activities
- biodiversity monitoring and reporting requirements.

This method may be combined with a carbon project, to get biodiversity and carbon benefits from the same project area. The biodiversity assessment instrument allows people to compare the biodiversity benefits from different methods and projects.

These documents will enable the Nature Repair Market to:

- deliver measurable environmental gains from biodiversity projects
- meet the needs of landholders and buyers

- encourage revegetation in the intensive land use zone.

The *Nature Repair Act 2023* establishes the Nature Repair Market to incentivise actions to protect and restore the environment. These legislative instruments will underpin the market, which will begin operating in early 2025.

Please provide feedback on the proposed legislative instruments by **30 October 2024**.

### Carbon market infrastructure for holding and trading certificates and units:

#### Comment sought

The Clean Energy Regulator is seeking feedback on the needs and priorities of establishing new market infrastructure to allow participants to better access to carbon markets. Carbon markets play an important role in supporting Australia to meet its legislated climate targets.

The Clean Energy Regulator is seeking feedback to decide how best to support the expansion and growth of carbon markets in Australia. With a modernised Unit and Certificate Registry already underway, the Regulator is seeking stakeholder feedback on a proposed carbon exchange trading model to facilitate improved investor access and trading in carbon and environmental markets.

[Details](#) are now available. Please provide feedback by 22 November 2024.

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## Australia's 2035 Emissions Reduction Targets

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The Climate Change Authority is developing advice on the 2035 emissions reduction targets for Australia's next Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), as [requested](#) by the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy.

Details are provided on the Authority's approach in its 2023 consultation papers on:

- [Setting, tracking and achieving Australia's emissions reduction targets](#);
- [Modelling for the 2035 targets](#).

Australia is due to submit its next NDC under the Paris Agreement in 2025. Under the *Climate Change Act 2022*, the Federal Government must receive the Authority's advice before submitting Australia's next emissions reduction targets.

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## 2024 National Hydrogen Strategy:

### Released

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The Federal Government has released the [2024 National Hydrogen Strategy](#) that provides the framework to guide Australia's production, use and export of hydrogen. A [summary](#) has also been released.

The new 2024 National Hydrogen Strategy represents a comprehensive [formal review](#), and is an update of the 2019 National Hydrogen Strategy.

This new strategy focusses on accelerating clean hydrogen industry growth. This will be achieved through increasing global cost competitiveness by supporting industry development at scale.

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## Proposed changes to energy efficiency regulations of distribution transformers in Australia:

### Comment sought

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The Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is seeking feedback on proposed changes to energy efficiency regulations of [distribution transformers](#) in Australia.

Transformers are energised 24 hours a day. Even a small increase in energy efficiency could result in significant electricity savings in the network. This means that for the same amount of energy that is generated, more of it is available to be used.

The [Consultation Regulation Impact Statement \(CRIS\)](#) is an impact assessment of options to increase the minimum energy performance standards applying to distribution transformers.

This work is being delivered through the Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) Program. The E3 Program is an initiative of the Australian, states and territories and New Zealand governments. It aims to improve the energy efficiency of appliances and equipment.

Please read the [CRIS](#) and provide feedback by 6 December 2024.

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## \$9 million to assist Pacific neighbours with climate change challenges

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The Federal Government will contribute \$9 million to the Regional Pacific Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Hub to support Australia's Pacific neighbours to assist them to respond to climate change challenges.

NDCs are commitments made by countries under the Paris Agreement to reduce emissions, adapt to climate change, and limit global temperatures.

The NDC Hub is a Pacific-led initiative that helps countries across the Pacific set and implement their NDC targets.

This latest contribution was announced by Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen, at the Pacific Islands Countries Climate Change Ministerial Talanoa on 1 October 2024.

The contribution will help kick-start a new phase of the NDC Hub, as countries seek to submit new NDCs in 2025.

The NDC Hub has assisted 14 Pacific countries to access climate support since 2017. This support includes investment planning, low emissions strategy development, and emissions reporting.

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## Second Australia-US Clean Energy Ministerial Dialogue

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On 4 October 2024, Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen and US Secretary for Energy, Jennifer Granholm held their second Australia-United States Clean Energy Ministerial Dialogue. Marking a year since the inaugural Clean Energy Ministerial Dialogue, Ministers issued a [joint statement](#).

The dialogue was held on the margins of the G20 Energy Transitions Ministerial in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil.

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## VICTORIA

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## EPA Victoria's hi-tech drones detect pollution

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EPA Victoria is sending a clear warning to businesses that they will use their hi-tech drones to detect pollution incidents including poor air quality at industrial sites across Victoria.

EPA's drones are equipped with a new Aerial Air Pollutant Detection & Mapping system – adding to existing uses, including collecting water samples, detecting hotspots and fire risks in waste stockpiles, as well as inspecting landfills, illegal dumping

sites and spills.

EPA Executive Director Operations Joss Crawford says the gas detection system provides detailed information on the move, for EPA officers on the ground.

“The sniffer drone gives us real-time gas concentrations and distributions, that will help assess total emissions from the landfill, oil and gas refinery, wastewater treatment plant or other industrial site we’re inspecting,” Ms Crawford said.

“The new technology also enables us to pinpoint significant sources at these sites so we can then target the real cause of pollution and direct measures to do something about it,” she said.

The arrival of the new technology fits in with EPA’s increased regulatory focus on landfills this year. Operators can expect more direct engagement and education, backed by strengthened monitoring and enforcement, all designed to prevent typical landfill problems with gas, leachate and contamination of the land and water.

The system will enable EPA officers to measure the typical pollutants Carbon Monoxide, Hydrogen Sulphide (noted for its rotten egg odour), particulates such as dust or smoke, and Methane, a common byproduct of landfills.

- [Waste codes](#)

This guide is for those that handle reportable priority waste, such as waste producers accredited consigners waste transporters, waste receivers.

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## NEW SOUTH WALES

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### Report on Measuring Atmospheric Concentration of Methane, Carbon Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide:

#### Released

A report on the [Measurements of the Atmospheric Concentration of Methane, Carbon Dioxide, and Carbon Monoxide: Eastern Creek, Horsely Park, Minchinbury, and Arndell Park](#) has been released by NSW EPA. The report was prepared on behalf of the Unisearch Exprt Opinion Services (part of the University of NSW).

NSW has a carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>-e) goal of net zero by 2050 (NSW Government, 2020). To achieve this goal, it is important to identify mitigation opportunities and to verify the amount of greenhouse gas emissions reported under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act (NGERs).

This report documents the results of a car-based survey that measured the concentrations of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and carbon monoxide (CO) in the atmosphere using a Picarro 2401-m analyser. The main suburbs for the survey were Eastern Creek, Minchinbury, Arndell Park, and the industrial/agricultural portions of Horsley Park. Portions of Prospect, Pemulwuy and Wetherill Park were also surveyed.

The aim of the survey was to identify facilities that are significant sources of CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, or CO. The primary compound of interest is CH<sub>4</sub>, because CH<sub>4</sub> is a potent greenhouse gas and sources of CH<sub>4</sub> can often be reduced or eliminated (Nisbet et al., 2020). Major facilities of interest are listed in the report.

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:

### Local Government Waste Solutions Fund

NSW EPA is providing funding to local government through the [Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy](#) of the Local Government Waste Solutions Fund.

The funding is available to Local councils and regional groups of councils in the levy-paying area.

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](#).

Applications are open until 4.00pm on 12 December 2024.

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## NSW EPA Regulatory Policy:

### Released

NSW EPA has released its [Regulatory Policy](#) that sits under the Regulatory Framework.

The Regulatory Policy is the place to go to understand:

- many of the different tools NSW EPA uses and regulatory actions they may take; and
- what they consider when they make a regulatory decision.

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## New publications on Waste disposal categories and Waste codes:

### Released

EPA Victoria has released two publications on –

- [Waste disposal categories: characteristics and thresholds](#)

This publication is intended to assist you to assess certain wastes including total and leachable concentrations determine the correct waste disposal

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## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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### Review of the Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy

Just a reminder, feedback is sought on the [proposed discussion paper](#) for the review of the [Environment Protection \(Water Quality\) Policy 2015](#) (Water Quality Policy).

The Water Quality Policy commenced in 2015 and replaced a 2003 version of

the Policy. Since then, several aspects of the Water Quality Policy have been identified as requiring update, leading to the commencement of a review.

The discussion paper outlines five areas for proposed policy improvement:

1. Improved protection of all underground (including saline) waters for future use
2. Update national water quality guidelines reference to current Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality, which includes recognition of cultural and spiritual values of waters
3. Align the Water Quality Policy with the Planning and Design Code requirements in the Mount Lofty Ranges Water Supply Catchment, allowing the EPA to require that development applications referred to it have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality
4. Align the Water Quality Policy with the updated Code of Practice for Vessel and Facility Management (Marine and Inland Waters) 2019 (Vessel Management Code)
5. Updating schedules to ensure best practice, including:
  - Schedule 2 – Class 1 pollutants
  - Schedule 3 – Class 2 pollutants
  - Schedule 4 – Codes, standards, guidelines and other documents

Feedback on the Water Quality Policy review is intended to inform the preparation of a draft policy that will be further consulted on in accordance with section 28 of the EP Act.

Please provide feedback via the online [Survey](#) by 9 December 2024. [Further information](#) is now available.

## QUEENSLAND

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: Waste programs

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

Applications are sought for the following funding programs:

- [Household Waste Payment Scheme](#)
- [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](#)

### Company and director cop significant fine for Asbestos offences

A company and its director has pleading guilty to a number of offences relating to an illegal operation of a waste facility in QLD. The asbestos demolition company has been fined \$400,000, with an additional monetary benefit order to pay \$75,544. Its director has been fined \$100,000, and sentenced to nine months imprisonment wholly suspended for three years. The company and its director were also issued with a rehabilitation order to restore the impacted land.

The asbestos removal and demolition company pleaded guilty to nine offences under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, including:

- two offences for carrying out an environmentally relevant activity without an environmental authority,

- five offences for wilfully contravening an environmental protection order (EPO),
- one offence for wilfully and unlawfully depositing a prescribed water contaminant, and
- one offence for wilfully and unlawfully causing material harm.

The company's director, pleaded guilty to failing to ensure his company complied with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act.

The Court recorded convictions against both defendants and ordered they pay \$12,645 each in legal and investigation costs.