



For Immediate Release

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New NGER Amendment Brings Biosolids-to-Biochar into National Reporting Scheme

The Clean Energy Regulator (CER) has confirmed that the **National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Measurement Amendment (2025 Update) Determination** will come into effect **1 July 2025**, applying to reports due by **31 October 2026** for the 2025–26 reporting year ([cer.gov.au](https://www.cer.gov.au)).

Crucially, the amendments introduce **updated wastewater reporting methods** that enable organisations to **account for biosolids diverted to biochar production**, alongside an updated **N₂O emission factor for effluent discharged to estuaries** (app.converlens.com).

ANZBIG strongly welcomes these amendments to the NGER Measurement Determination. This significant development enables more effective accounting for biosolids diverted to biochar production, aligning with ANZBIG's strategic objective to advance biochar as a sustainable resource solution. Our collaboration with the Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) has been instrumental for coordination across sectors in support of these changes, and we look forward to continuing our partnership to further promote circular economy outcomes within the water sector.

KEY IMPACTS FOR BIOCHAR TECHNOLOGY & SECTOR MEMBERS

1. Water Corporations & Local Councils

Local water utilities and councils operating wastewater treatment plants now have a **clearer pathway to quantify greenhouse gas benefits** from converting biosolids into biochar. The requirement to report:

- Tonnes of biosolids transferred,
- COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand) in sludge diverted to biochar facilities, and
- Associated emissions under updated formulas

This ensures more accurate emissions accounting and potential alignment with **ACCU methodologies** ([Google Cloud Storage](https://www.googlecloudstorage.com), app.converlens.com, [dcceew.gov.au](https://www.dcceew.gov.au), [gldwater.com.au](https://www.gldwater.com.au)).

2. Biochar and Carbonisation Technology Providers



Inclusion of biosolids biochar routing embeds the technology as a recognised emissions mitigation solution within the national regulatory framework. This legislative recognition unlocks:

- Enhanced commercial credibility for biochar technology,
- Opportunities to support clients in meeting regulatory reporting requirements, and
- A platform for scaling biosolids pyrolysis across local government and water treatment sectors.

3. Broader Environmental and Carbon Reporting Context

These amendments reflect the broader trajectory toward robust, sector-specific emissions tracking across land, waste, and emerging bio-products. They further advance **transparency, accuracy, and consistency** in national emissions data collection under:

- NGER,
- Safeguard Mechanism,
- ACCU system integration.

Quotes

"Embedding biosolids-to-biochar pathways within the NGER Scheme marks a major milestone for both the biochar industry and urban wastewater services. It enables tangible accounting of climate benefits and positions biochar technology as a core component of Australia's emissions reduction toolbox."

"For water utilities and local councils, this latest development offers a structured, compliant means to demonstrate emissions reductions, from biosolids reuse and circular economy practices." Don Coyne - CEO @ANZBIG

WHAT'S NEXT



- **Facilities** should review the updated **Measurement Determination** to align internal data collection systems, especially COD tracking and biochar diversion metrics.
- **Technology providers** are encouraged to adapt MRV (measurement, reporting and verification) frameworks and client support tools to facilitate compliance.
- **MRV & Carbon Offset Practitioners** can now integrate biosolids-to-biochar projects into project pipelines with enhanced reporting rigour.

Background

The NGER Scheme is Australia's national framework requiring corporations to report greenhouse emissions, energy production, and energy consumption. The updated **Measurement Determination** is designed to commence on **1 July 2025**, applying to 2025–26 reporting obligations due in October 2026 (gldwater.com.au, cer.gov.au, cer.gov.au).

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