



500 Biggest Polluting Companies

The Carbon Pricing Mechanism is expected to cover around 500 businesses operating in Australia.

Which companies will be liable under the carbon pricing mechanism?

Most companies operating large facilities will be liable—those which generate over 25,000 tonnes of CO₂-e emissions each year. Most of these companies directly emit greenhouse gases, such as power stations, mines and heavy industry. Some will be public authorities responsible for emissions from landfills.

Of the 500 liable businesses, it is estimated that around:

- 135 operate solely in New South Wales and the ACT;
- 110 operate solely in Queensland;
- 85 operate solely in Victoria;
- 75 operate solely in Western Australia;
- 25 operate solely in South Australia;
- 20 operate solely in Tasmania; and
- fewer than 10 operate solely in the Northern Territory.
- A further 45 liable entities operate across multiple states.

Of the 500 businesses:

- around 60 are primarily involved in electricity generation;
- around 100 are primarily involved in coal or other mining;
- around 40 are natural gas retailers;
- around 60 are primarily involved in industrial processes (cement, chemicals and metal processing);
- around 50 operate in a range of other fossil fuel intensive sectors; and
- the remaining 190 operate in the waste disposal sector.

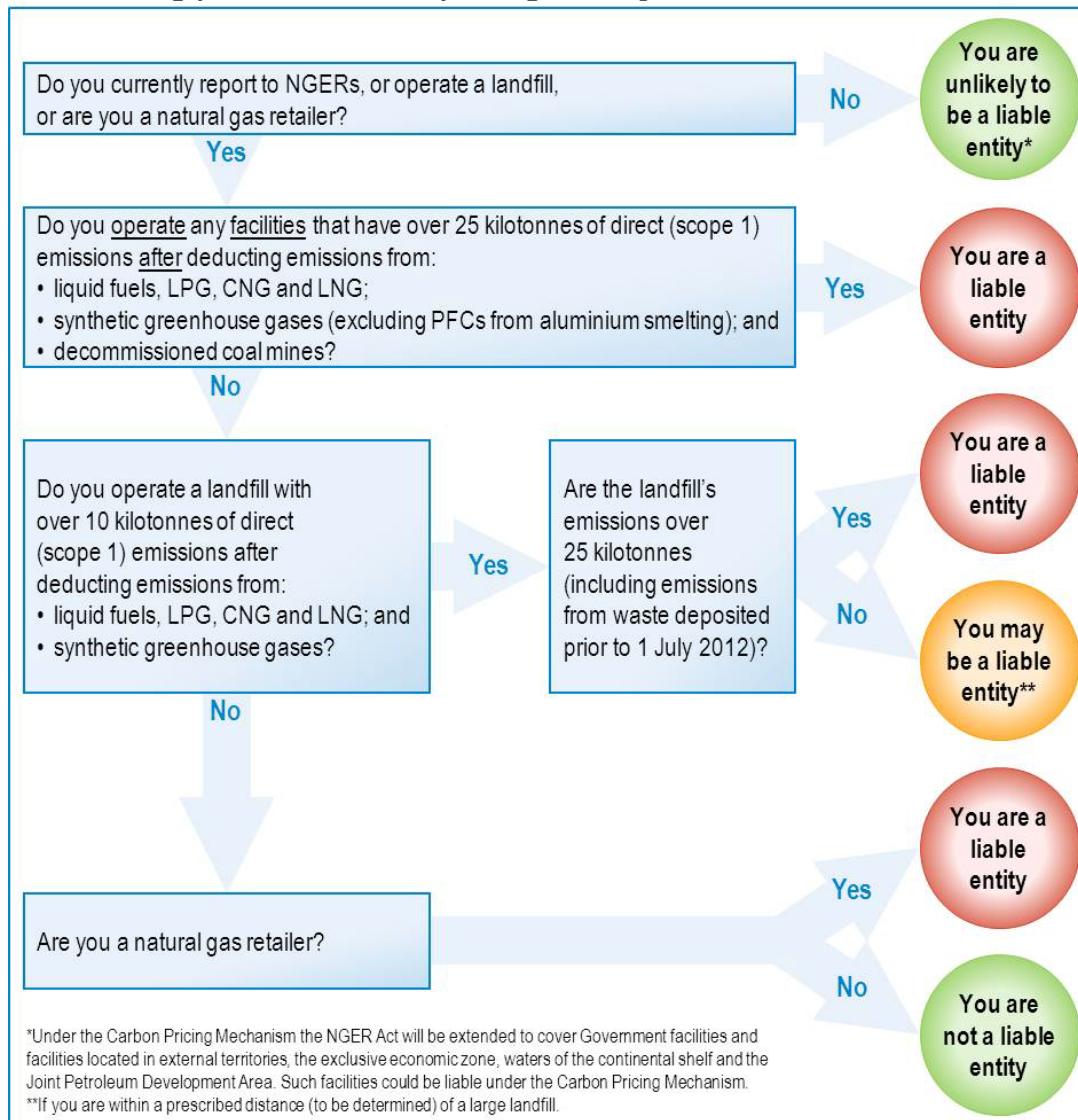
These numbers are estimates only, and are largely based on emissions data reported under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Scheme. NGER registered controlling corporation emission and energy data is available at: www.climatechange.gov.au. Most Australian businesses that will be liable under the carbon pricing mechanism are businesses that already have reporting obligations under the NGER Act.

Data on these businesses is at the subsidiary facility level and is unable to be published because of confidentiality provisions under the NGER legislation.

The vast majority of Australian businesses will not have any obligations under the carbon pricing mechanism.

- Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that there were over 2 million actively trading businesses in Australia in 2009 and of these only around 500 will be directly liable under the carbon pricing mechanism.

Determining possible carbon pricing liability



What if you are liable?

If you are liable you will have to register under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System, if you have not previously done so. You will also be required to report emissions and surrender permits to match your emissions.

What if you are not liable?

No action is required if you are not liable.

Further Information

For further information call 1800 057 590.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this fact sheet is based on policy positions outlined in the Australian Government's Climate Change Plan, Securing a clean energy future. Please note that the material in this fact sheet is provided for general information only and should not be relied upon for the purpose of a particular matter. Please obtain your own independent professional advice before any action or decision is taken on the basis of any of the material in this fact sheet.