



**Australian
Communications
and Media Authority**

Emissions Reduction Plan

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Accountable Authority sign-off

The Australian Government released the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy in November 2023, setting out the overall approach and action required by Commonwealth entities to achieve the APS Net Zero 2030 target.

The Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy represents a strong commitment by the Australian Government to lead by example on emissions reduction and contribute to the decarbonisation of Australia's economy.

The ACMA is committed to the achievement of the government's APS Net Zero 2030 target and is following the APS Net Zero 2030 target in full, as per the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy.

This Emissions Reduction Plan describes the priorities and actions the ACMA is taking to reduce our operational emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target.



Nerida O'Loughlin PSM
Chair and Agency Head

28 August 2024

Emissions Reduction Plan

The ACMA is responsible for managing and implementing emissions reduction initiatives in the agency as set by the Australian Government's [Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy](#) (the Strategy) developed by the Department of Finance. The Strategy sets out the Australian Government's approach to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions from its operations by 2030 and the reinstatement of public emissions reporting.

The goal of this Emissions Reduction Plan is to provide a pathway for the ACMA to contribute to the achievement of the APS Net Zero 2030 target through emissions reduction activities. This plan encompasses existing and new priorities and actions within ACMA to reduce emissions.

This Emissions Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with the Strategy, associated guidance and reporting standards for annual emissions reporting and covers the operations of the ACMA, including the eSafety Commissioner.

Net zero greenhouse gas emissions

APS Net Zero 2030 is the target set by the Australian Government to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from government operations by the year 2030. It includes scope 1 emissions, which are emissions from sources that an organisation owns or controls directly, and scope 2 emissions, which are emissions that an organisation causes indirectly and come from where the energy it purchases and uses is produced. These emissions are from activities in Australia and its territories, as described in the Strategy. The APS Net Zero 2030 target applies at the aggregate level to non-corporate Commonwealth entities and generally covers the entire entity's organisation. From an organisational perspective, this means minimising the greenhouse gas emissions that are within our control.

Governance and reporting

Progress against actions identified within this Emissions Reduction Plan, and any additional measures adopted, will be included in our annual reports. This, combined with annual emissions reporting, will be used as a measure of ACMA progress towards reducing its emissions.

As part of the Net Zero in Government Operations Annual Progress Report, the Department of Finance will aggregate these measures to provide whole-of-Australian Government emissions reporting.

ACMA operational context

The ACMA, including eSafety, operates offices across 3 cities – Canberra, Melbourne, and Sydney, with approximately 600 staff (435 ACMA and 165 staff supporting the eSafety Commissioner) spread evenly across the locations. Our facilities include office spaces, data centres and 12 unstaffed monitoring sites across the country, which in some cases, include large vacant land areas. A list of the ACMA's buildings and monitoring sites is in Table 1.

Table 1: ACMA's buildings and monitoring sites

Site	Location	Site type	Site inclusions
Canberra office, ACT	North Canberra	Office	Single floor in multi-tenanted building
Melbourne office, Vic	Melbourne CBD	Office	2 floors in multi-tenanted building
Sydney office, NSW	Sydney city	Office	1 ½ floors in multi-tenanted building
Lucas Heights, NSW	South Sydney enroute to Heathcote	Monitoring site	Single-level building, garage and antenna
Warrimoo, NSW	Out west past Penrith	Monitoring site	Single-level demountable and antenna
Attwood, Vic	Near Tullamarine airport	Monitoring site	Cupboard inside another agency's building
South Morang, Vic	Directly outer north of Melbourne	Monitoring site	Single-level building and antenna
Beechmont, Qld	Inland south of Gold Coast	Monitoring site	Single-level demountable and antenna
Montville, Qld	Inland of Sunshine Coast	Monitoring site	Single-level demountable and antenna
Mount Petrie, Qld	Outer suburbs of Brisbane	Monitoring site	Single-level demountable and antenna
Bowen Hills, Qld	Brisbane city north	Monitoring site	Antennas on top of multi-storey building
Torrens Island, SA	North-west of Adelaide	Monitoring site	Single-level demountable and antenna
Brooklyn Park, SA	Outer north suburbs island	Monitoring site	Single-level building and antenna
Gooseberry Hill, WA	East of Perth	Monitoring site	Single-level demountable and antenna
Quoin Ridge, Tas	Between Hobart city and airport	Monitoring site	Single-level building and antenna

We operate 12 specialised vehicles used for monitoring, which are custom designed to fit the specifications required for the ACMA. These vehicles are located across Australia to provide easy access to all areas that require monitoring. The vehicles are all petrol/diesel vehicles.

Baseline emissions

Baseline emissions are a record of greenhouse gases that have been produced in the past and were produced before the introduction of any strategies to reduce emissions. The baseline emissions from financial year 2022–23 are the reference point against which emissions reduction actions can be measured.

The baseline emissions for this plan focus on scope 1 and scope 2 emissions, consistent with the APS Net Zero 2030 target. Electricity-related emissions were calculated using the location-based method. Our complete 2022–23 greenhouse gas emissions inventory tables are presented in our 2022–23 annual report.

Baseline year	Financial year 2022–23
Scope 1 emissions	38,212 tCO ₂ e
Scope 2 emissions	692,503 tCO ₂ e
Total emissions	730,715 tCO ₂ e

Table 2: Emissions summary: location-based approach, 2022–23

Emission source	Scope: 1 kg CO₂-e	Scope: 2 kg CO₂-e	Scope: 3 kg CO₂-e	Total
Electricity	n/a	692,503	58,267	750,770
Natural gas	–	n/a	–	–
Fleet vehicles	38,212	n/a	9,389	47,601
Domestic flights	n/a	n/a	137,758	137,758
Other energy	–	n/a	–	–
Total kg CO₂-e	38,212	692,503	205,414	936,129

Table 3: Emissions summary: market-based approach, 2022–23

Emission source	Scope: 1 kg CO₂-e	Scope: 2 kg CO₂-e	Scope: 3 kg CO₂-e	Total
Electricity	n/a	343,908	45,517	389,425
Natural gas	–	n/a	–	–
Fleet vehicles	38,212	n/a	9,389	47,601
Domestic flights	n/a	n/a	137,758	137,758
Other energy	–	n/a	–	–
Total kg CO₂-e	38,212	343,908	192,664	574,784

Engagement

In developing this plan, we worked with:

- Department of Finance:
 - Climate Action in Government Operations – to ensure that this plan aligns with the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy and the Commonwealth Climate Disclosure requirements
 - Travel team – to discuss options and considerations for lowering travel emissions.
- Portfolio – to share considerations (where possible) to lower emissions across the portfolio.
- Landlords of all buildings and workplaces used by the ACMA.
- Property service providers, which liaise between the ACMA and the building owners and landlords.

Emissions reduction targets

The ACMA is following the APS Net Zero 2030 target in full, as per the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy. The target covers the entirety of our entity's operations within Australia and its territories for scope 1 and scope 2 emissions, as described in the Strategy. The targets of the APS Net Zero 2030 are:

- A commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 43% below 2005 levels by 2030, implemented as a single-year point target.
- A multi-year emissions budget for the period 2021 to 2030, with an indicative value of 4,381 million tonnes CO₂-e, corresponding to the 43% target.
- Achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

Priorities and actions

For ACMA to contribute to the achievement of the APS Net Zero 2030 target, targeted action on existing emissions reduction measures and the introduction of further or new measures is required. These actions are summarised in the following points, with further detail provided below:

- Procuring renewable electricity by adhering to the whole-of-Australian-Government (WoAG) electricity arrangements.
- Improving building standards – liaising through the ACMA's property service providers to ensure leased buildings are sustainable and meet the required National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) energy ratings for Commonwealth-leased buildings.
- Sustainable procurement – including developing an ACMA Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy and assessing scope 3 emissions from the use of products and services provided by suppliers.
 - The sustainable policy meets the optimal outcome of achieving the best result across the 3 factors: social, economic, and environmental.
 - The policy aims to adhere to the government's environmental sustainability targets, as well socially acceptable practices, all while getting best value for money.

- Ensuring the agency considers sustainable procurement practices including recycling, reusing and or upcycling, such as:
 - procuring items such as furniture that are crafted from recycled materials for our office re-fits within the agency, and only procuring recycled paper for use in all printers.
- IT solutions, including:
 - reusing toner cartridges in printers instead of disposing and sourcing new cartridges
 - ensuring printers are defaulted to print double-sided, black and white
 - defaulting all electronic items such as printers and laptops to switch to sleep mode after a period of time to save on energy use
 - recording approvals electronically where possible, using digital signatures rather than printing documents to be signed.
- Fleet vehicles – The current fleet vehicles used by the ACMA have been assessed in terms of a transition to a fleet of EVs. Several factors currently prevent this transition, such as:
 - the distance the vehicles are expected to travel cannot be undertaken in an EV due to the remoteness of many of the locations, and the lack of charging facilities
 - the weight of the monitoring equipment would use the battery charge too rapidly
 - the terrain in some cases is off-road, and the EV vehicle types are not equipped for this.
- Air travel – The agency recommends all travellers re-assess the need to travel between offices and sites for meetings/conferences if the discussion can be had via virtual technology. This policy helps reduce the carbon emissions that result from such travel.

Buildings

All ACMA buildings are leased, with all improvements and sustainability targets met by liaising with the landlords and the property service providers. Solar panels were installed by the building owners on the Canberra office by the landlord. The savings from the panels are for the base building power and does not reduce the ACMA's electricity cost. Energy efficient LED lighting on timers were installed in the Canberra office as part of the new fit-out. The Sydney fit-out will also include timed LED lighting and consider sustainable practices as part of the project, including reusing monitor arms and existing equipment where appropriate. The disposal of the existing Sydney fit-out and contribution to landfill has been kept to a minimum, with only the workstation tops and minimal construction materials being sent to landfill. All other components such as workstation frames, chairs, mobile under-desk units, and cabling will be repurposed or reused by other organisations.

Consideration for sustainable procurement practices and reusing existing equipment will also be factored in to the future Melbourne fit-out project.

Actions:

- Ongoing discussions will be undertaken by the ACMA with the landlords of all office premises, to ensure all requirements are met in terms of the emissions targets.
- Working with design and construction teams to ensure sustainable practices are followed for the procurement of items and disposal of existing fit outs.

Electricity

Renewable electricity

The Department of Finance will be conducting a coordinated procurement of electricity across the country in accordance with the Net Zero Government Operations Strategy. The project aims to put in place a WoAG electricity procurement that will benefit each agency in its emission reductions, as well as provide a uniformed pricing structure across government.

Action

Consult with the Department of Finance to participate in WoAG electricity procurement as per the Strategy and replace all electricity contracts with renewable electricity.

Involved participants

The following areas of ACMA have been involved in the development of this plan:

- Corporate Services Division
- Finance, Reporting, and Operations
- Digital and Technology Services
- eSafety
- Technology and Strategy.

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