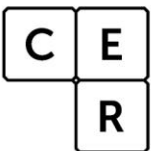




Australian Government
Clean Energy Regulator

Emissions Reduction Plan

2024–25



**CLEAN
ENERGY
REGULATOR**



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connections to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to them, and their Elders past and present.



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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 Clean Energy Regulator is committed to the achievement of the Government's APS Net Zero 2030 target. The Clean Energy Regulator 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 Clean Energy Regulator is taking to reduce our operational emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Williamson', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Mark Williamson
Acting Chair & Chief Executive Officer

Accountable Authority
Clean Energy Regulator
19 September 2024



Emissions Reduction Plan

Purpose

The Clean Energy Regulator (CER) is responsible for managing and implementing emissions reduction initiatives set by the Australian Government's [Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy](#) (the Strategy) developed by 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 CER 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 the CER to reduce emissions.

This Emissions Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with the Strategy, associated guidance and reporting standards for annual emissions reporting.

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 and scope 2 emissions 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 entirety of the 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 the CER's 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 (WoAG) emissions reporting.

Clean Energy Regulator - Operational context

The office of the CER is in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). We sub-lease 5,937 m² of the 'Discovery House' building from IP Australia.

As at 30 June 2024, we have 434 employees and of these, 207 have working from home arrangements. We do not operate a fleet.

Emissions reduction activities undertaken by the CER prior to this plan are outlined in Appendix B.

Baseline emissions

Baseline emissions are a record of greenhouse gases that have been produced in the past and were produced prior to the introduction of any strategies to reduce emissions. The baseline emissions from financial year 2022–23 is 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, shown in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂-e).



Baseline year	Financial year 2022–23
Scope 1 emissions	Nil
Scope 2 emissions	111.35 tCO ₂ -e
Total emissions	111.35 tCO ₂ -e

- The baseline scope 2 emissions figures shown have been calculated using Department of Finance’s Emissions Reporting Tool from data sourced from property service provider data. It is based on an estimated percentage of the building’s electricity usage by the CER as there were no tenanted meters available during 2022–23. Estimates of electricity use, and the resulting scope 2 emissions, may change following installation of sub-metering.
- The baseline data in the table above has been calculated using the location-based approach in line with the APS Net Zero Emissions Reporting Framework, consistent with the WoAG approach as part of the APS Net Zero 2030 policy.
- Using the market-based approach (which accounts for activities such as Greenpower, purchased Large-scale generation certificates (LGCs) and government efforts to offset electricity emissions within the ACT) the baseline scope 2 emissions for the 2022–23 financial year was 9.1 tCO₂-e as the ACT government cancelled 2.2 million LGCs to prove that most electricity consumed in the ACT is from renewable energy.¹

Engagement

In the development of this plan the CER has been working with:

- Department of Finance - Climate Action in Government Operations team – ensuring this plan aligns with the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy.
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and portfolio agencies – to exchange ideas, share experience and where possible, shared considerations addressed to lower emissions across the portfolio.
- IP Australia – to discuss options for the shared location at Discovery House and any associated opportunities to lower emissions.
- Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) – Our property services provider, to obtain property related information and assist with considerations for possible opportunities to improve energy efficiency and reduce missions.

Emissions reduction targets

The CER 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.

¹ Note, the NGER Determination now allows optional reporting of market-based scope 2 emission.



Priorities and actions

For the CER 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.

Commitment

The CER is already zero scope 1 emissions.

The CER commits to be net zero scope 2 emissions in the 2025–26 financial year and beyond.

Actions proposed to achieve net zero scope 2 emissions

1. The CER will reduce its consumption of electricity from the grid (and therefore scope 2 emissions) by:
 - a. Pursuing proposed energy efficiency measures in Appendix A; or
 - b. Partnering with IP Australia (as the lead tenant) in its proposal to install rooftop solar PV on the Discovery House building, noting we cannot pursue such proposal by ourselves should IP Australia not proceed.²
2. The CER will prove the use of renewable energy, for the 2025–26 financial year, for all electricity it consumes from the grid based on submetering using one of the following options:
 - a. Signing an agreement with IP Australia as lead tenant of Discovery House to procure renewable energy (i.e. GreenPower) under the Whole of Government Electricity Contract (WoAGEC) if IP Australia signs up to such arrangement from 1 July 2025;³ or
 - b. If IP Australia does not take the WoAGEC renewable energy option, the CER will prove the use of renewable energy by purchasing and cancelling sufficient LGCs to prove all electricity it is consuming through sub-metering is renewable energy.⁴

² IP Australia has engaged its property service provider to provide Property Management and Managing Contractor Services for the design and installation of rooftop solar PV system at Discovery House. This project is scheduled for completion in calendar year 2024. We are working with IP Australia to support this project, but the CER is not the decision maker on system size or whether this project proceeds.

³ The CER will support IP Australia to consult with the Department of Finance to ensure participation in WoAGEC per the Strategy and replace current grid-sourced electricity with renewable electricity.

⁴ For clarity, we will use the GreenPower approach of assuming 19% of the grid electricity attributable to the CER through submetering, is from large-scale renewable energy based on the statutory Large-scale Renewable Energy Target and we will purchase and cancel LGCs for the remaining 81% of our electricity consumption.



Appendix A – Emissions reduction opportunities

Energy Efficiency

We will continue our analysis of current energy consumption data to identify opportunities to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As all CER emissions are scope 2, energy efficiency is a good opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

ACTION: Working with IP Australia and the building landlord to ensure the efficient running of base building emission producing equipment. This will include:

- Supporting IP Australia to upgrade LED lighting in storage and parking areas.
- Seeking opportunities to minimise our energy consumption by:
 - reviewing the lighting, electrical appliances and air conditioning controls including sensor timings with building management to ensure energy efficient operation
 - undertaking a night audit of electricity use to eliminate unnecessary energy use after hours
 - ensuring that the scheduled preventative maintenance is carried out
 - reviewing schedules to ensure boiler warm up and shut down times are aligned to occupancy
 - streamlining set points to avoid heating and cooling conflicts
 - calibrating the on-floor temperature sensors
 - setting temperature boiler lockouts so that the boiler cannot run when outside air temperature is above a certain level.
- Investigating with IP Australia on possible improvements to insulation and reducing unwanted air flow that may impact the internal conditions and temperature controls
- Investigating settings on ICT equipment to ensure optimum efficiency.

Reviewing our recycling and waste management by:

- working with contractors to ensure the accurate measurement and disposal of our secure, recyclable and organic waste
- undertaking a waste contamination audit to ensure our waste is accurately apportioned from the building tenants.

Comply with the Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy that commences on 1 July 2024 to achieve and demonstrate climate, environmental and circularity outcomes in our procurements.

Investigate electric vehicle charging options at Discovery House with lead tenant, IP Australia.

Actively promoting sustainable travel obligations to CER staff, contractors and external committees.

- Continuing to encourage teleconferencing and videoconferencing as effective options for communicating instead of face-to-face meetings.
- Explore opportunities to offset travel emissions.



Appendix B – Other emissions reduction information and activities

Building

The 'Discovery House' building has a National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) energy rating of 5.5 stars and a 5-star water rating. The CER occupies three floors of the west wing, taking 5,937 m² of the building for staff accommodation. Our property service provider has determined that our tenancy is currently performing as a 6.0 star rated NABERS energy tenancy. While this rating is indicative only, we will explore options for certification during 2024–25.

The office has energy efficient technologies such as light-emitting diode lighting, double-glazed windows and effective lighting and air conditioning controls to ensure energy efficient operation and limit unnecessary energy use after hours.

The building's sustainability features include water conservation methods in bathrooms with motion-active hand basins and 4A-rated dual flush toilets, as well as bike cages and changing facilities to encourage riding to work.

Energy

A recent upgrade of the building's power meters provides us with the ability to accurately analyse energy consumption and identify potential opportunities to improve energy efficiency.

Information and communications technology

The CER's datacentre services are with Canberra Data Centre, procured through the WoAG panel arrangement that requires providers to have sustainable measures in place.

Procurement

We comply with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules and applicable Commonwealth Policies including the Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy to support the environmental sustainability of the procured goods and services.

Matters such as energy efficiency, environmental and climate change impact and the use of recycled products are considered where relevant to the procurement of goods services for the CER. This includes using sustainable high-use office supplies, including 100 per cent carbon-neutral and recyclable print paper, noting the CER has made a significant reduction in the use of print paper in recent years.

Travel

Official travel at the CER is only undertaken if travel is the most effective way to achieve the agency's objectives and where other communication tools, such as teleconferencing and videoconferencing, are not an effective option.

Our travel policy was recently updated in line with the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy to include the consideration of greenhouse gas emissions information when making travel plans. These include selecting low or zero emission vehicle when hiring cars, opting for accommodation that has high NABERS Energy rating in the Online Booking Tool and for air travel:

- direct flights should be the priority where value for money can be demonstrated as take-off and landing are the most fuel-intensive parts of a flight
- take low-emission transport to and from airports.



People, Culture and Capability

The CER's Chief Operations Officer has been appointed as our Chief Sustainability Officer to champion the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy and the related initiatives that support climate action in government operations.

Employee engagement and staff-led initiatives are a critical enabler to achieving net zero grassroots climate action integrated within broader sustainability. Many of our staff are attracted to the agency because of our role in abating carbon emissions. Staff initiatives have put in place measures to encourage sustainability and to reduce energy, waste and water use.

Practical strategies the agency has in place to manage waste and reduce our impact on the environment are:

- promoting the 'think before you print' campaign and electronic record keeping
- setting all printers default to print in Black and White
- providing one paper and cardboard recycling bin for every 55 staff members
- providing organic waste collection bins in our kitchens to help reduce methane emissions
- providing recycling programs for printer toner, ink cartridges and dry-cell batteries.