Australian Communications and Media Authority

Emissions Reduction Plan

OCTOBER 2025

Canberra
Level 3
40 Cameron Avenue
Belconnen ACT

PO Box 78
Belconnen ACT 2616

T +61 2 6219 5555
F +61 2 6219 5353

Melbourne
Level 32
Melbourne Central Tower
360 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne VIC

PO Box 13112
Law Courts
Melbourne VIC 8010

T +61 3 9963 6800
F +61 3 9963 6899

Sydney
Level 5
The Bay Centre
65 Pirrama Road
Pyrmont NSW

PO Box Q500
Queen Victoria Building
NSW 1230

T +61 2 9334 7700
F +61 2 9334 7799

Acknowledgement of Country

We, the Australian Communications and Media Authority, acknowledge First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Australia. We respect and celebrate First Nations peoples as the original storytellers and content creators of the lands on which we work and honour the enduring strength and commitment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the land, waters, and their communities. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.
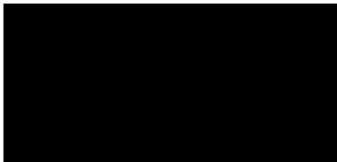
Contents

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, including eSafety, 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

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 696 staff (450 ACMA and 240 staff supporting the eSafety Commissioner) spread approximately even 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

Engagement

In developing this plan, the ACMA 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.
- The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sports and the Arts – to share considerations (where possible) to lower emissions across the portfolio.
- Internal Travel team – to discuss options and considerations for lowering travel emissions.
- 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
- Improving building performance and standards by completing sustainable fit-outs
- Embedding sustainability into procurement activity
- Encouraging low-emission sources of travel

Additional actions

- Uplifting the capability and increasing awareness of sustainability initiatives across the ACMA.

Net Zero Energy

Reducing energy consumption through energy management strategies and improving energy efficiency is recognised as the most effective way for the entities to reduce its scope 2 emissions.

The Department of Finance has been working to establish WoAG electricity procurement arrangements to support a coordinated transition to renewable energy. This initiative will help meet electricity consumption targets of 80% renewable by 2028 and 100% by 2030. These arrangements are being rolled out in a staged approached.

Action	Status
Consult with the Department of Finance to ensure participation in WoAG electricity procurement and look to replace existing electricity contracts as they cease with renewable electricity where applicable. Stay informed on transitions progress through engagement with Property Service Provider.	Ongoing

Net Zero Buildings

Property is the main driver of electricity and natural gas consumption and related emissions. Reducing these emissions by improving energy efficiency and electrification represents the most achievable and cost-effective approach

It is important to note the ACMA's capacity to direct action towards reducing emissions is limited to the ability to influence property service providers and the landlords of the base buildings our office spaces are leased in through ongoing consultation opportunities identified to improve upon.

Action	Status
Continue to work in conjunction with our property service providers to ensure we	Ongoing

continue to maintain, and improve upon, energy efficient office spaces.	
Maintain partnerships and working relationships with our property service providers to influence action to adopt energy-efficient practices and enhance building performance.	Ongoing

Operational Measures

Action	Status
Ensuring scheduled preventative maintenance is carried out to maintain efficient operation. When replacing appliances procure high energy efficiencies rated equipment where applicable.	Ongoing
Reduce power consumption by using energy efficient solutions that automatically switches off when left on and unattended. Using supplementary heating/cooling air conditioning units in meeting rooms only as required to reduce energy consumption	Ongoing

Leases

The ACMA will also ensure net zero building standards are a key consideration in discussions with landlords during any future lease negotiations, including endeavouring to find a suitable building that has and maintains 5.5 star or higher base building and tenancy NABERS Energy ratings as per the Strategy.

Action	Status
Prior to any new leases or lease renewals, the ACMA will perform a comprehensive market analysis to identify properties with a NABERS rating of 5.5 stars or higher, where practical.	Ongoing
Continue to monitor and review office space utilisation, including car park spaces and storage, and explore office consolidation opportunities.	Ongoing
Consider energy efficient initiatives in future office spaces.	Ongoing

Fit-Outs

When fitting out new spaces or undertaking fit-out work of existing tenancies the ACMA will consider sustainability impacts and endeavour to reduce emissions from each stage of the project including the construction works, the ongoing operation of the space and the disposal.

Action	Status
Working with design and construction teams to ensure sustainable practices are followed for the procurement of items and disposal of existing fit outs.	Ongoing
Include sustainable incorporations such as timed LED lighting.	Ongoing
All other components such as workstation frames, chairs, mobile under desk units, and will all be repurposed or reused by other organisations where possible.	Ongoing
The disposal of the existing fit-out and end of life contribution to landfill kept to a minimum.	Ongoing

Net Zero Procurement

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Sustainable Procurement Guide offers guidance for sustainable government, building on amendments to the Commonwealth Procurement Rules in July 2022 to include climate change impacts when considering value for money.

The ACMA will apply the Australian Government's Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy and Reporting Framework, where applicable, to ensure environmentally sustainable procurement practices are included in procurement processes, as well as adhering to socially acceptable practices, all while still getting best value for money.

Action	Status
Purchase 100% recycled content paper for internal printers, photocopiers, and multifunction devices.	Ongoing
Procuring items such as furniture that are crafted from recycled materials where possible.	Ongoing

Net Zero ICT

The Australian Government uses information and communications technology (ICT) within most of its operations including data centres, contributing to electricity usage.

One of the major considerations within ICT is the high rate of product turnover due to rapid innovation and the embodied emissions of the regularly upgraded ICT equipment across the APS. Environmental sustainability more broadly and circular economy principles such as refurbishment, repair, reuse, and recycling should be considered during ICT procurements.

Through proactive adoption of emerging data and digital technology the ACMA will reduce the creation of e-waste and extend the product life, ultimately reducing emissions.

Action	Status
Consider economy principles such as refurbishment, repair, reuse, and recycling should be considered during ICT procurements.	Ongoing
Introduce policy to record approvals electronically where possible, using digital signatures rather than printing documents to be signed.	In progress
Reuse of toner cartridges in the ACMA's printers instead of disposing and sourcing new cartridges ensuring printers are defaulted to print double sided	In progress
Defaulting all electronic items such as printers and laptops to switch to sleep mode after a period to save on energy usage.	In progress

Net Zero Travel

While air travel is not currently part of the 2030 target, the ACMA recognise it forms a significant part of our emissions footprint.

The ACMA endeavour to balance operational requirements with a commitment to reducing emissions resulting from both transport and accommodation components of travel.

Action	Status
Continuing to encourage teleconferencing and videoconferencing as effective options for communicating where appropriate, to reduce the need for travel.	Ongoing
Review the ACMA Travel Policy to ensure consistency with WoAG advice and alignment with the Net Zero in Government	In progress

Operations Strategy and encourages low-emission sources of transport.	

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.

Action	Status
The ACMA will assess the number of vehicles in our fleet and reduce by the end of 2025-26 as applicable.	In progress

People, Culture, and Capability

Employee engagement and staff-led initiatives are a critical enabler to achieving net zero grassroots climate action integrated within broader sustainability.

The ACMA will ensure staff are aware of and have access to the Net Zero in Government Operations guidance and information along with Climate Risk and Opportunity Management Program (CROMP) courses via the APS Academy.

Action	Status
Appoint a chief sustainability officer role to champion the net zero in government operations strategy and related initiatives that support climate action in our operations	Completed
Establish a sustainability working group to deliver on key elements of APS net zero 2030, and coordinate and implement ACMA's emissions reduction and environmental sustainability activities.	Not started
Communicate the Emissions Reduction Plan and use internal communications to promote opportunities for staff to take actions and encourage participation in suitable training opportunities.	Ongoing

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.

Version Control

Version	Date	Description
1.0	August 2024	Document conception
2.0	September 2025	Annual Update
		Restructure the key priorities and activities against subtopics such as; Net Zero Energy, Net Zero Buildings, Net Zero Procurement, Net Zero ICT and Net Zero Air Travel.
		Addition of uplift the capability of ACMA staff. This includes establishing a sustainability working group to coordinate and implement ACMA's emissions reduction and environmental sustainability activities.