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Emissions Reduction Plan

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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.

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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 Australian Communications and Media Authority (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

Emissions Reduction Plan

Purpose

The ACMA is responsible for managing and implementing emissions reduction initiatives in the agency under 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 (ERP) 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 brings together existing commitments, current priorities and planned actions to reduce operational emissions.

This ERP has been completed in accordance with the Strategy, associated guidance and annual emissions reporting standards. It covers the operations of the ACMA, including the eSafety Commissioner (eSafety).

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 direct emissions from sources an organisation owns or controls, and scope 2 emissions, which are indirect emissions from the electricity and other energy an organisation purchases and uses. These emissions are from activities in Australia and its territories, as described in the Strategy. The APS Net Zero 2030 target applies to activities in Australia and its territories and is measured at the aggregate level across non-corporate Commonwealth entities. For the ACMA, this means reducing operational emissions within its control.

Governance and reporting

Progress against actions identified within this ERP, together with any additional measures adopted, will be reported through the ACMA's annual report. This information, combined with annual emissions reporting, will demonstrate ACMA's progress in 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. The ACMA's Chief Financial Officer (CFO), who is also the Executive Manager of the Finance, Reporting and Operations Branch, is the agency's Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO). The CSO provides executive oversight of ERP implementation and the ACMA's progress towards the APS Net Zero 2030 target.

ACMA operational context

People

As at 30 June 2026, the ACMA, including eSafety, operated from offices in Canberra, Melbourne, and Sydney, with approximately 745 staff across the three locations.

Buildings and facilities

The ACMA's facilities include office spaces, data centres and monitoring sites across the country. Table 1 summarises the ACMA's offices and monitoring sites.

Table 1: ACMA's buildings and monitoring sites

Site	Location	Site type	Site inclusions
Canberra office, ACT	North Canberra	Office and monitoring sites	Single floor in multi-tenanted building
Melbourne office, Vic	Melbourne CBD	Office and monitoring sites	2 floors in multi-tenanted building
Sydney office, NSW	Sydney city	Office and monitoring sites	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	Outer 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	Adelaide Airport precinct	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

Energy

The ACMA's office operations are supported through a combination of direct electricity procurement, landlord-supplied electricity arrangements and WoAG renewable electricity supply arrangements. The ACMA also seeks to reduce energy use through efficient facilities management, energy-efficient equipment and lighting. These arrangements support the transition towards lower-emissions operations and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target.

Vehicle fleet and travel

The ACMA operates 12 specialised monitoring vehicles across Australia. These custom-designed vehicles are currently petrol or diesel powered. While the ACMA has assessed opportunities to transition its fleet to electric vehicles (EV), operational requirements currently limit their suitability, including:

- travel to remote and regional areas with limited EV charging infrastructure
- the weight and power demands of specialised monitoring equipment, and
- off-road operations where suitable EV options are not yet available.

The ACMA will continue to monitor developments in EV technology and assess future transition opportunities.

The ACMA undertakes official travel in accordance with WoAG travel arrangements administered by the Department of Finance. Where operationally appropriate, videoconferencing and teleconferencing are used as alternatives to travel, helping reduce travel-related emissions while supporting collaboration across its geographically dispersed workforce.

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 covers scope 1 and scope 2 emissions, consistent with the APS Net Zero 2030 target. Electricity-related emissions were calculated using the location-based method. The ACMA's complete 2022–23 greenhouse gas emissions inventory is published in the 2022–23 annual report.

Table 2: ACMA baseline emissions

Baseline year	Financial year 2022–23
Scope 1 emissions	38.212 tCO_2e
Scope 2 emissions	692.503 tCO_2e
Total emissions	730.715 tCO_2e

Engagement

The ACMA consulted internal and external stakeholders as part of the annual review of this plan. This is to ensure that the updated actions have been confirmed in consultation with relevant areas across the ACMA, and the plan aligns with the Strategy.

Emissions reduction targets

The ACMA is committed to achieving the APS Net Zero 2030 target in accordance with the Strategy. The target covers the entirety of ACMA's operations within Australia and its territories for scope 1 and scope 2 emissions.

The ACMA will continue to strengthen its emissions data, reporting and governance arrangements to support continuous improvement and future emissions reduction planning. Progress against the actions outlined in this Plan will be monitored and reported annually.

Priorities and actions

To contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target, the ACMA will continue existing emissions reduction measures and implement further actions where practical and operationally appropriate.

In alignment with the Strategy, the ACMA's actions focus on the areas of greatest emissions impact and opportunity, including:

- Buildings
- Energy
- Procurement
- Information and communications technology
- Travel and fleet

The detailed actions for this ERP are listed in the table below.

Table 3: Emissions Reduction Action

Buildings

Action No.	Action description	Timeframe	Delivery status	Progress Summary
1.1	Work with property service providers and landlords to identify and implement opportunities to improve the energy efficiency and environmental performance of ACMA workplaces.	Ongoing	In progress	Sustainability and energy performance considerations have been incorporated into discussions with property service providers and landlords across ACMA office locations.
1.2	Incorporate sustainability into leasing and accommodation decisions. For new leases or renewals, prioritise buildings with a National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) rating of at least 5.5 stars where practical and appropriate.	2026-2028	In progress	Office accommodation requirements are regularly reviewed to support efficient space utilisation, with sustainability criteria considered in leasing decisions where feasible. The selection of a new Sydney office for 2028 will leverage sustainability criteria including utilisation, energy efficiency and landlord sustainability commitments.
1.3	Incorporate practical sustainability and energy-efficiency measures into new office accommodation, fit-outs and refurbishments.	2025-2027	In progress	Sustainability considerations have been incorporated into recent office upgrade and refurbishment projects. Through the Melbourne office accommodation project, sustainability outcomes have been supported through the optimisation of the office footprint, reducing HVAC servicing requirements, the installation of energy-efficient LED lighting, the use of window treatments to reduce solar heat loads, and the adoption of enclosed ceiling designs to improve thermal performance and reduce energy consumption associated with heating and cooling. The project has also considered workplace utilisation, hybrid working arrangements and future workforce requirements to ensure the

Action No.	Action description	Timeframe	Delivery status	Progress Summary
				accommodation footprint remains fit-for-purpose while minimising environmental impacts. The Melbourne office upgrade is currently underway and is expected to be completed by December 2026.
1.4	Maintain and improve the energy performance of existing ACMA office locations through preventative maintenance, energy-efficient equipment and lighting, automated building controls and other building-efficiency improvements.	2025-2026	In progress	Automated lighting controls and equipment shutdown arrangements are in place across office locations. LED lighting upgrades have been completed in the Canberra and Sydney offices. Other energy-efficient equipment continues to be incorporated through ongoing maintenance and equipment replacement programs.
1.5	Minimise waste from office operations, relocations, fit-outs and refurbishments by prioritising the reuse, repurposing, donation and recycling of furniture, equipment and materials, supported by responsible disposal practices.	2025-2027	Completed and ongoing	Surplus furniture and equipment continue to be assessed for reuse, repurposing or recycling before disposal, reducing waste associated with office changes and upgrades. During the Melbourne office refurbishment, existing furniture, joinery, partitions, tiling and other fit-out components were retained or reused wherever feasible, reducing construction waste, extending asset life and avoiding the environmental impacts associated with procuring replacement items.

Energy

Action No.	Action description	Timeframe	Delivery status	Progress Summary
2.1	Participate in WoAG electricity procurement arrangements and transition to renewable electricity as existing electricity contracts expire, where applicable. Engage with the Property Service Provider to monitor progress and identify opportunities to support the transition.	2026-2029	In progress	No material change during the reporting period.

Procurement

Action No.	Action description	Timeframe	Delivery status	Progress Summary
3.1	Prioritise the purchase of recycled and recycled-content products and materials, where fit for purpose, represent value for money, and support circular economy outcomes.	Ongoing	In progress	Recycled-content products are considered in procurement activities where appropriate.
3.2	Where required, embed sustainability and emissions reduction into procurement planning and decision-making by considering whole-of-life costs, emissions, resource efficiency, asset reuse opportunities, and sustainable supplier solutions.	Ongoing	In progress	Sustainability considerations continue to be incorporated into procurement planning and decision-making.

Information and communications technology

Action No.	Action description	Timeframe	Delivery status	Progress Summary
4.1	Ensure devices have energy saving settings applied. Printers set to print default double-sided and black and white. Used printer cartridges are recycled through a dedicated printer consumables recycling program to reduce waste and support resource recovery.	Ongoing	Completed and ongoing	Energy-saving settings and default print configurations remain in place. Printer cartridge recycling arrangements continue.
4.2	Continue to expand the use of digital workflows and electronic approvals, including digital signatures, to reduce paper consumption and printing requirements.	Ongoing	In progress	Digital workflows and electronic approvals continue to be used across the organisation, reducing reliance on paper-based processes.

Travel and fleet

Action No.	Action description	Timeframe	Delivery status	Progress Summary
5.1	Promote, encourage and support virtual collaboration tools, where appropriate, to minimise travel demand and support sustainable business operations.	Ongoing	In progress	Virtual collaboration tools continue to be utilised across the ACMA, where operationally feasible.
5.2	Encourage officials to opt for lower-emission transport options, including rail and other land-based travel, where practical and consistent with business and operational requirements.	Ongoing	In progress	Lower-emission transport options continue to be promoted where practical and operationally feasible.
5.3	Incorporate sustainability considerations into travel arrangements by encouraging the use of direct flights, accommodation with recognised sustainability, and zero-emission rental vehicles, where practical and consistent with value for money and operational requirements.	Ongoing	In progress	Sustainability considerations have been incorporated into the ACMA travel policy to support lower-emission travel practices across the organisation.
5.4	Review fleet requirements and vehicle utilisation to identify opportunities to reduce the size of the ACMA fleet, where operationally feasible	Ongoing	In progress	No major updates

People and Culture

Action No.	Action description	Timeframe	Delivery status	Progress Summary
6.1	Communicate the ERP and promote staff participation in sustainability initiatives, guidance and training opportunities, including Climate Risk and Opportunity Management Program via the APS Academy.	Ongoing	In progress	Sustainability initiatives and training opportunities continue to be promoted.
6.2	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.	2026-2027	Not started	No material change during the reporting period

Version Control

Version No.	Date	Description
1.0	August 2024	Document conception.
2.0	October 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.
3.0	September 2026	Annual Update. Updated the ERP to reflect changes to the ACMA's operational context, revised actions across key priority areas, and progress against each action.