



Australian Government

Department of Home Affairs

**OFFICIAL**

# Department of Home Affairs Emissions Reduction Plan

# Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Home Affairs and the Australian Border Force acknowledge the Traditional Custodians throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and the community. We pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their cultures and to their Elders past and present.

# Table of Contents

Department of Home Affairs Emissions Reduction Plan	1
Acknowledgement of Country	2
<b>Table of Contents</b>	3
Declaration and Sign Off	4
Introduction	4
Commitment to achieving net zero	4
Emissions Reduction Plan	5
Introduction	5
Purpose	5
Net zero greenhouse gas emissions	5
Scope	6
Governance	6
Home Affairs Operational context	6
Baseline emissions	7
Engagement	8
Emissions reduction targets	8
Priorities and actions	9

# Declaration and Sign Off

## Introduction

Climate change will continue to have significant effects on the environment, society and economy, with impacts felt across the Government's operations. To address this, the Government has launched its Net Zero in Government Operations by 2030 Strategy. The Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs) acknowledges that human behaviours, pollution and consumption patterns have both immediate and future impacts on the climate and environment, and that as a Commonwealth entity it is part of our role to mitigate and manage these impacts on our community and ensure as leaders, we are taking a proactive approach to reduce emissions and contribute to the Net Zero in Government Operations 2030 Strategy.

This Declaration establishes our position and commitments to reduce emissions.

Home Affairs supports the environmental, social and economic benefits of addressing climate change immediately. We see an opportunity to demonstrate leadership in emissions reduction.

## Commitment to achieving net zero

Home Affairs is committed to reducing emissions by 2030.

Home Affairs recognises that climate change is occurring, and that climate change will continue to have a significant effect on the Australian environment, society and economy.

We acknowledge the central role of Government in driving a successful climate response. Hence, we declare that we are committed to reducing operational emissions, through the implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Our overall objectives align with the Australian Government's Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy to reduce our operational emissions.

Endorsed by

**Stephanie Foster PSM**

Secretary

Department of Home Affairs

22 July 2024

# Emissions Reduction Plan

## Introduction

International scientific consensus is that climate change is occurring and that it is driven by anthropogenic causes, with human activities having a profound impact on the concentration of greenhouse gas emissions since the start of the industrial revolution. Ultimately these activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels, land clearing and agriculture, have increased greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, leading to changes in the climate system.

For Australia and Home Affairs, projected changes to our climate between now and 2030 include:

- Further increase in temperatures, with more extremely hot days and fewer extremely cool days
- More heat waves that will be longer and hotter and associated bushfires
- Ongoing sea level rise
- Increase in wet season rainfall in the north and associated flooding
- More frequent, longer and more intense droughts across southern Australia
- More intense heavy rainfall throughout Australia, particularly for short-duration extreme rainfall events (storms) and associated flooding
- An increase in the number of high fire weather danger days and a longer fire season for southern and eastern Australia
- Fewer tropical cyclones, but a greater proportion of high-intensity storms, with large variations from year to year

## Purpose

Home Affairs has an essential role in managing and implementing emissions reduction initiatives set by the Australian Government's *Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy* (the Net Zero Strategy) developed by the Department of Finance. The Strategy is the first of many steps in the Australian Government's approach to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions in its operations and reinstatement of public emissions reporting.

This plan sets out the steps that Home Affairs will take to work towards APS Net Zero emissions reductions. It encompasses new and existing initiatives within Home Affairs to reduce emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero target by 2030.

The goal of this plan is to provide a pathway for Home Affairs to meet net zero emissions targets through emissions reduction activities.

## 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. Net zero is achieved when consumption of resources, such as electricity, is reduced as far as possible, and energy is supplied from renewable sources. Where unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions remain, they are balanced through carbon offsetting.

From an organisational perspective, this means minimising the greenhouse gas emissions that are within our control.

## Scope

### Inclusions

Emissions reduction activities will align with the Strategy, with the initial focus on Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions. Future reviews will consider additional inclusions to align with the Strategy and organisational activities, including the consideration for Scope 3.

**Table 1: Scope inclusions**

Scope 1	Emissions from sources owned or controlled by Government
Scope 2	Emissions related to purchased energy
Scope 3	Emissions associated with domestic air travel and the extraction, production and transport of electricity and energy

### Exclusions

Activities by Commonwealth entities that take place outside of Australia or its territories, including international air and marine travel, are not included in Australia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NCD) and are not included in the APS Net Zero 2030 target or subject to the Strategy. Entities that undertake these activities will act as appropriate to reduce their emissions in the relevant local context as an aspirational goal for the Australian Government to demonstrate leadership and advance Australia's climate diplomacy objectives.

## Governance

The Department's Emission Reduction plan will be updated annually, with a summary to be incorporated into Home Affairs' annual report. Progress against actions identified within the Plan will be included in the annual reports. This, combined with annual emissions reporting, will be used as a measure of Home Affairs' progress towards reducing our emissions.

As part of the Net Zero in Government Operations Annual Progress Report, the Department of Finance will aggregate these measures to provide the WoAG aggregated emissions reductions activities.

Future iterations of this plan will align with the Offset strategy and Commonwealth Climate Disclosure requirements that are currently under-development by the Climate Action in Government Operations Unit within Department of Finance.

The Chief Sustainability Officer role has also been established to champion the Department's Emission Reduction plan and other related initiatives. The Performance, Risk and Budget Committee (PRBC) will provide oversight and governance of the plans delivery.

## Home Affairs Operational context

Home Affairs operates across all Australian states and territories, with approximately 14,958 personnel (2023/24 Budget). Home Affairs facilities include District Offices located in regional and remote locations, as well as many operational facilities, such as Container Examination Facilities (CEFs) and Detector Dog Units (DDUs). These facilities and Home Affairs main office sites have been susceptible to impacts from extreme weather events and will continue to be.

Home Affairs has over 500 vehicles, many of which are operational in nature. Where operationally feasible, Home Affairs will change these to Electric Vehicles (EV).

Home Affairs has already commenced its net zero emissions pathway in line with the direction set in the Strategy. This includes the following key activities:

- Continued participation in waste management initiatives such as E-waste, battery recycling, fluorescent light tube recycling, toner cartridge recycling, co-mingled recycling and organic waste management.
- Installation of solar infrastructure to improve reliance on renewable electricity sources.
- Continued participation in National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) energy rating program for the Home Affairs' main offices.
- Working with landlords to introduce green measures to improve NABERS ratings such as LED lighting.
- Negotiating with landlords to install EV charging infrastructure to support the vehicles that can be changed to EVs.
- Progressing orders for EV vehicles where they support the relevant business area.
- Introducing energy efficient initiatives as new capital works or infrastructure projects are undertaken.
- Introducing agile ways of working to enable full floor close down of electricity in future years.
- ICT Data Centres are already outsourced to Service Providers that report on their energy efficiency and meet or exceed the NABERS targets.
- In-house ICT rooms, where new, have been built with metering to record ICT energy usage, and infrastructure platforms are largely virtualised, enabling energy efficiency of hardware deployment. Other energy efficiency measures under consideration include fine-tuning of cooling solution settings.
- Messaging to staff to power down desktops at end of every day to reduce electricity usage.
- Continued participation in the Government Energy Action Response (GEAR) program in efforts to support reduced emissions and reduce strain on the grid.
- Continued application of the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs) with respect to considering environmental sustainability where relevant (including the use of recycled content).

## 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 are the reference point against which emissions reduction can be measured.

At this stage, the APS Net Zero 2030 target includes Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. Decisions on Scope 3 will be made in the future as further data becomes available. The baseline emissions for this plan will focus on those emissions.

**Table 2: Home Affairs baseline emissions**

Baseline year	Financial year 2022-23 (location based emissions)
Scope 1 emissions	1,292 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Scope 2 emissions	18,745 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Total emissions	20,037 tCO <sub>2</sub> e

Time series show historical emissions trends and track the effects of emission reduction strategies. Efforts will be made to calculate the time series using the same methods and data sources in all years. However, as emissions measurements, data collection methods, methodological refinements and reporting requirements are expected to be continually added and improved upon, strategies to ensure time-series consistency are being implemented from the outset. Key to ensuring confidence in time-series consistency will be the diligent documenting of approaches to emission estimated, including methodologies and data sources, in the Net Zero in Government Operations Annual Progress Reports.

## Engagement

In the development of this plan, Home Affairs has commenced engagement with the following key contacts, externally and internally:

- Department of Finance & Climate Action in Government Operations; Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. This has ensured that this plan aligns with the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy, Climate Risk and Opportunity Management Program, National Climate Risk Assessment and the Commonwealth Climate Disclosure requirements.
- Property Branch – National Facilities, Property Contacts and Capital Works and Infrastructure Sections who have roles in managing waste and implementing sustainability initiatives, management of vendors for waste management and reduction and the delivery of capital works and infrastructure projects.
- Procurement & Contracts Support Branch – to assess and incorporate consideration of changing procurement policies.
- Financial Operations Branch - Fleet and Travel team – to incorporate options associated with low emissions vehicles and consideration of changing travel policies.
- Technology Operations Support Branch / Data Centre Team – to incorporate options and considerations for lowering emissions in Data Centres.
- Performance Governance & Risk Branch – to incorporate considerations as they relate to Climate Risk Disclosure and Annual Reporting.
- Australian Border Force Strategy & Capability Branch – to incorporate considerations for operational and capability requirements.
- People Engagement Planning and Innovation Team – to consider impacts on our people.
- Climate Security Policy Branch – to incorporate considerations in relation to climate security.
- Portfolio and border Agencies – to incorporate additional ideas for lowering emissions.

Whilst not yet commenced, Home Affairs will also engage with its Neighbouring and shared Tenants to discuss options for joint approaches which could lower emissions.

## Emissions reduction targets

Home Affairs project that its carbon emissions will decrease over the next six years from 20,037 to 5,050 tCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030. This is a reduction of 75%. Where the market is able to cater to further increases in renewables, Home Affairs expects this target to increase.

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

As per the draft Commonwealth Climate Disclosure requirements, which largely align with the international climate disclosure standard, an entity shall:

- disclose targets set by an entity,



- disclose any targets it is required to meet by law or regulation, to mitigate and adapt to climate-related risks or take advantage of climate-related opportunities,
- include metrics used by the governance body or management to measure progress towards these targets.

*The below details will continue to be updated in future iterations of the Home Affairs Emissions Reduction Plan to reflect the final Commonwealth Climate Disclosure requirements.*

Home Affairs emissions targets have been developed using the following considerations:

- Analysis conducted by Home Affairs of its baseline emissions to ascertain where emissions could be reduced.
- The estimated reductions relate to moving to renewable electricity, relinquishing leased and owned sites, introducing LED lighting at some sites and introduction of low emission vehicles. There are other initiatives that are being introduced, however, associated emissions cannot be calculated without some evidence to support calculations. These are listed under 'priorities and actions'.
- Sites to be relinquished which will contribute to Home Affairs' emissions reductions will occur by 2028. LED lighting will be implemented at select sites by 2026. Additional sites will be assessed and LED lighting will be implemented prior to 2030. EVs will be progressively introduced as vehicle leases end and as charging infrastructure is implemented within Home Affairs' leases or close proximity office infrastructure. Home Affairs expect that 10-15% of its fleet will be replaced with EVs by 2030.
- The above measures relate to scope 1 and 2 emissions.

## Priorities and actions

Home Affairs, as a Security Agency, will make best efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions, considering operational and capability requirements. The sustainability measures outlined above are not sufficient to achieve net zero by 2030. To aim for net zero, targeted action on existing measures and the introduction of further or new measures will be required. These actions include:

### Buildings

#### Improve NABERS ratings

- New office space with fitout greater than \$15m will obtain a 4 star green star certification.
- New office space will mandate electrification over gas.
- Introduction of Agile Ways of Working (AWoW) broadly across the organisation to close floors when not in use OR seek to sublet floors no longer needed by Home Affairs to reduce energy usage in our capital cities.

#### Introduce improved waste management.

- Engage vendors to assist in improving waste management and increase management of recycled content.
- Undertake education regarding waste management across the organisation.

**ACTION:** Property Branch will engage with Home Affairs Property Service Provider (PSP) to ensure vendors are managing waste efficiently and identifying areas for improvement.

Property Branch will produce a communications plan to improve waste management across Home Affairs.

Property Branch will set up Environmental Contact Officer Networks to assist in progressing sustainability measures related to Home Affairs property portfolio.

Property Branch will incorporate requirements for green star certification into project plans for all new fitouts greater in value than \$15m.

Property Branch will seek funding to implement AWOV broadly across the organisation.

#### **Office space with allocated parking and fleet to have an EV charging plan by 1 July 2024.**

*ACTION:* Property Branch will work collaboratively with the Fleet team in Financial Operations Branch and landlords to ascertain sites where EVs are operationally feasible and charging infrastructure can be deployed.

Property Branch to assess the property portfolio in conjunction with the Fleet team to produce Home Affairs EV charging plan by 1 July 2024.

### **Electricity**

#### **Renewable electricity**

Home Affairs will participate in the WoAG electricity procurement to replace all electricity contracts with renewable electricity. This will eliminate emissions from electricity.

*ACTION:* Property Branch to consult with the Department of Finance to ensure participation in WoAG electricity procurement as per the Strategy, and replace all electricity contracts with renewable electricity.

#### **Solar Infrastructure installation / upgrade**

Home Affairs, has already introduced solar infrastructure on around 20 residential houses and a further program of work is underway to introduce solar infrastructure on 38 residential properties by 2023/24.

*ACTION:* Property Branch are currently procuring solar infrastructure, which will be installed by end of 2023/24.

Property Branch will continue delivering solar infrastructure on its owned assets.

#### **LED Light Fittings**

Property Branch to engage with landlords to implement LED light fittings at all major sites. All new sites should include LED light fittings and sensor lights.

*ACTION:* Regular engagement with landlords to progress projects to introduce LED light fittings.

### **Fleet**

#### **Introduce EVs where operationally feasible**

Financial Operations, Fleet team to work in collaboration with Property Branch to introduce EVs where operationally feasible, ensuring that charging infrastructure is available at each site.

*ACTION:* The Fleet team will assess current vehicle fleet to ascertain if EV would be operationally feasible as a replacement so that Property Branch can investigate and implement charging infrastructure prior to lease commencement.

## Procurement

### Assess & provide feedback on proposed WoAG policies

Procurement & Contracts Support Branch to provide input to new or updated WoAG procurement policies lead by Department of Finance and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

**ACTION:** Procurement & Contracts Support Branch to attend workshops relating to new or updated WoAG procurement policies and include in Home Affairs procedures.

Procurement & Contracts Support Branch to update internal documentation aligned to connected procurement policies and educate staff on expected requirements in procurement practice where sustainability and emissions reductions is concerned.

## ICT

### Implement Hardware Virtualisation for end of life legacy hardware

Hardware platforms have been increasingly virtualised to minimise the number of devices drawing power in any one site. Where able, this will continue to occur for end of life legacy hardware.

**ACTION:** ICT will look to implement hardware virtualisation for end of life legacy hardware. Implement energy efficient cooling solutions in legacy ICT rooms

ICT Room design has moved away from energy intensive designs such as large air-conditioning units on raised floors, to more targeted "In-Row" cooling solutions with "Hot Aisle Containment" in larger ICT room builds. This decreases overall ICT room energy usage by increasing the cooling efficiency. At end of life, legacy sites will be replaced with 'in-row' cooling solutions.

**ACTION:** At end of life, ICT will replace energy intensive designs to more targeted 'in-row' cooling solutions at legacy sites.

### Adjusting Temperature Thresholds in ICT rooms

Cooling infrastructure for ICT rooms may be able to have settings adjusted upward. ICT and National Facilities are reviewing the settings in ICT rooms and will test increased temperature settings across ICT rooms to assess impacts on ICT, before committing to permanent changes in default settings.

**ACTION:** Property Branch to work with ICT to increase temperatures by small increments in select ICT rooms to test the impact on energy usage and efficiency, and then prepare a plan to progressively roll this out to all applicable ICT rooms, where this would not present a risk to ICT operations and site business operations.

## People & Culture

### Introduce and utilise the Environmental Contact Officer Network

Property Branch will coordinate an Environmental Contact Officer Network to assist with the introduction of sustainability measures to reduce emissions across the organisation.

**ACTION:** Property Branch to seek nominations across the organisation and set up a regular forum to share and seek ideas relating to sustainability and delivery of APS Net Zero initiatives.