

# Emissions Reduction Plan

Version 1.0 | August 2024



**Australian Government**  
**Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission**

Engage  
Empower  
Safeguard

# Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Foreword</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Emissions Reduction Plan</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1.	Purpose	5
1.2.	Net zero greenhouse gas emissions	5
1.3.	Governance and reporting	5
1.4.	Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission Operational context	5
1.5.	Baseline emissions	6
1.6.	Engagement	6
1.7.	Emissions reduction targets	7
1.8.	Priorities and actions	7

# 1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of the of the lands on which we work, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

## 2. Foreword

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 Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (The Commission) is committed to the achievement of the Government's APS Net Zero 2030 target. The Commission 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 Commission is taking to reduce our operational emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target.

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. M. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period after the first name and a period after the last name.

ADA89860FB5A432...

Janet Anderson PSM

Commissioner



## 3. Emissions Reduction Plan

### 1.1. Purpose

The Commission 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 Commission 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 Commission to reduce emissions.

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

### 1.2. 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.

### 1.3. 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 Commission'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 emissions reporting.

### 1.4 Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission Operational context

The Commission was established on 1 January 2019, bringing together the functions of the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency and the Aged Care Complaints Commissioner. Additional aged



care regulatory functions were transferred to the Commission from the Department of Health on 1 January 2020. The Commission’s role as the national regulator of aged care services is to uphold the objects of the Commission Act by:

- protecting and enhancing the safety, health, wellbeing, and quality of life of aged care consumers.
- promoting engagement with consumers about the quality of care and services.
- promoting confidence and trust in the provision of aged care.

The scope of its regulatory functions continues to expand. The Commission is focused on strengthening its capabilities, including corporate enabling functions, to better support its regulatory and engagement functions and activities.

## 1.4. 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 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. The complete 2022-23 greenhouse gas emissions inventory tables for the Commission are presented in our 2022-23 annual report.

Baseline year	Financial year 2022-23
Scope 1 emissions	21,921 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Scope 2 emissions	217,351 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Total emissions	239,272 tCO <sub>2</sub> e

## 1.5. Engagement

In the development of this plan, the Commission has been working 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
  - Fleet Team – to discuss options associated with low emissions vehicles.
- Evolve FM (Property Services Provider under the Whole of Australian Government arrangements)
- to discuss options and considerations for lowering building emissions.



## 1.6. Emissions reduction targets

The Commission 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 baseline emissions inventory, established through the APS Net Zero reporting for the 2022-23 financial year, forms a robust foundation for our ongoing analysis. A detailed examination of the emissions data reveals that approximately 72% of the total emissions for financial year 2022-23 are attributed to Scope 2—electricity usage. Three of the Commission's largest tenancies (Brisbane, Melbourne & Canberra) contribute nearly 54% of the total electricity consumption.

## 1.7. Priorities and actions

For the Commission to contribute to the achievement of the APS Net Zero 2030 target, focusing on these key sites presents a strategic opportunity to achieve substantial energy and emissions reductions across the portfolio in the 2024/25 financial year. The following initiatives are proposed to enhance energy efficiency and reduce emissions:

- Level 2 Energy Audit (If feasible)
- NABERS Energy Performance Benchmarking
- LED Lighting Upgrades
- Solar PV Systems Feasibility Study
- Transitioning the fleet vehicles to low emission vehicles
- Sustainable procurement utilising the Sustainable Procurement Guide issued by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

### Buildings

**LED LIGHTING UPGRADES:** We plan to undertake a comprehensive lighting feasibility analysis across all tenancies within the Commission's portfolio. This will involve assessing the types of lighting currently in use, identifying opportunities for upgrades and efficiency improvements, and implementing these upgrades in collaboration with landlords.

**ACTION:** Evolve FM will assist the Commission in conducting a desktop analysis of the current lighting layouts to determine the types of lights and potential upgrade options. Technical feasibility studies will be developed as needed. The Commission will provide detailed tenancy lighting information to Evolve FM.



**SOLAR PV INSTALLATION/UPGRADE:** Given that the Commission tenancies are typically located in multi-tenanted office buildings, installing Solar PV systems for a single tenant can be challenging within landlord-controlled spaces. However, it is common for landlords to install Solar PV systems to reduce base building electricity consumption. The Commission will engage with landlords to explore the potential for using additional space for solar PV feed-in opportunities at high-energy-consuming sites or to assess co-benefits for both parties from such installations.

**ACTION:** The Commission, in partnership with Evolve FM, will negotiate with landlords to identify opportunities for solar PV installations in high-energy-consuming tenancies within the Commission's portfolio.

## Electricity

**RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY:** The Commission will leverage the Whole-of-Australian Government (WoAG) Electricity Services Coordinated Procurement Arrangements to procure renewable electricity in applicable jurisdictions. Participation in this arrangement will enable the offsetting of electricity-related emissions.

**ACTION:** Consult with the Department of Finance to ensure compliance with the WoAG electricity procurement strategy and transition all electricity contracts to renewable sources where available.

## Fleet

From 1 July 2024, all office spaces with allocated parking and fleet vehicles must have an electric vehicle charging plan in place, where feasible.

By 1 January 2025, office spaces with allocated parking should have electric vehicle charging facilities installed, where feasible, especially if the entity operates electric fleet vehicles on-site. Allocated parking should have electric vehicle charging facilities in place, where feasible, if the entity operates electric fleet vehicles on-site. The Commission does not currently have any electric fleet vehicles.

**ACTION:** The Commission and Evolve FM (PSP) will use best endeavours to ensure the EV Charging targets are met as per the requirements of the Net Zero in Government Operations policy.

## Leasing

Effective from 1 July 2025, any lease entered into for four or more years for office space measuring 1,000 square metres or more of net lettable area must ensure that both the office space and the building maintain a 5.5-star or higher base building and tenancy NABERS energy rating

Starting 1 July 2026, contracts entered into by or on behalf of the Commission for the purchase or construction of office space valued at over \$15 million must ensure the space achieves a 6-star NABERS energy rating and a minimum 4-star Green Star rating from the GBCA, including



compliance with the Climate Positive pathway.

From 1 July 2024, when entering into new leases for office space, preference should be given to all-electric buildings, particularly if the Commission is directly responsible for base building services costs.

**ACTION:** The Commission and Evolve FM (PSP) will ensure these strategic targets are met for future lease arrangements.