Australian Government

Net Zero Economy Authority

Emissions Reduction Plan

Australia's energy transition is a significant source of economic opportunity for our industries, regions and workers.

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Net Zero Economy Authority acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Foreword by Accountable Authority

The Australian Government released the Net Zero in Government Operations (NZGO) Strategy, which establishes the framework for Commonwealth entities to achieve the APS Net Zero 2030 Target.

As a non-corporate Commonwealth entity, the Net Zero Economy Authority (NZEA) is committed to supporting achievement of the target. As a new entity, NZEA has managed to embedding emissions reduction considerations into its operations, governance and decision making from commencement.

The Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) outlines NZEA current emissions profile, governance arrangements, emissions reduction priorities and planned further actions. It reflects the evolving operational context as NZEA transitions from operations still partly supported by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to operating as a standalone entity.

NZEA's is focused on taking informed decisions to minimise our emissions footprint. Where we cannot avoid or optimise our operations, we take practical and achievable emissions reduction initiatives across accommodation, procurement, ICT, travel and operational practices.

As NZEA's operational capability and emissions reporting process continue to mature, this ERP also establishes a foundation for strengthening emissions reporting capability, governance oversight and continuous improvement over time.

Dr Iain Ross AO

Chair

Emissions Reduction Plan

Purpose

This Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) outlines NZEA’s approach to supporting the APS Net Zero 2030 Target through operational emissions reduction activities and governance arrangements.

The ERP has been developed in accordance with the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy (NZGO), associated guidance and Commonwealth emissions reporting requirements.

The ERP establishes NZEA’s:

- Emissions reporting approach
- Baseline emissions position
- Emissions reduction priorities and actions
- Governance and monitoring arrangements
- Areas for ongoing capability uplift and continuous improvement

Governance and reporting

This ERP provides an annual update on NZEA's progress against emissions reduction priorities and actions established under the NZGO. The ERP will be reviewed and updated annually as part of NZEA's corporate planning and reporting cycle.

NZEA has adopted the Commonwealth Emissions Reporting Framework to support consistent and transparent emissions reporting and monitoring. Reporting within this ERP is aligned with the Commonwealth Climate Disclosure (CCD) framework, including relevant metrics and targets requirements.

NZEA currently monitors:

- Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions
- Electricity and consumption across leased office accommodation
- Renewable electricity usage
- Operational indicators relevant to emissions reduction activities, such as office occupancy and utilisation trends.

Operating within shared services and subleasing arrangements, some emissions data remains dependant on information provided by partner entities and accommodation providers. NZEA’s emissions reporting capability, systems and methodologies will continue to mature over time.

While Scope 3 emissions are not currently mandated under the APS Net Zero 2030 Target, NZEA intends to progressively strengthen visibility of travel and operational emissions where practicable.

Operational context

NZEA is a non-corporate Commonwealth entity established on 11 December 2024 by the *Net Zero Economy Authority Act 2024.* NZEA is part of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources portfolio and has been operating under transitional arrangements partially supported by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C).

As at 30 April 2026, NZEA had 159 PM&C employees seconded to NZEA, located across Canberra, Sydney, Newcastle and remote locations nationally.

NZEA currently operates from subleased accommodation arrangements with the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), and Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

The single desk office space arrangement with Austrade in Brisbane continues, but the similar arrangement in Melbourne ceased in March 2026. Similar to last year, given the very small size, these spaces are accounted for in the Emissions Reduction Plans prepared by ASIC and Austrade.

The NABERS Energy Base Building rating for the Canberra office is 5.5 stars, and NZEA is working with NIAA to implement relevant actions in its Emissions Reduction Plan.

The NABERS Energy Base Building rating for Sydney is 6 stars, but for Newcastle the rating is just 4.5 stars. The Newcastle presence is small with just 4 desks and an office, and a temporary arrangement for up to 12 months (till April 2027) to support NZEA's work in the Hunter region.

NZEA's operating model requires regular engagement with regional communities, workers, local government, industry and First Nations stakeholders across priority regions. This includes travel to support delivery of NZEA's statutory functions and engagement responsibilities. Establishing regional presence helps reduce incidental travel from capital cities.

As NZEA transitions to standalone operations, opportunities to strengthen sustainability considerations across accommodation, procurement, travel and operational practices will continue to be assessed.

Engagement

Development of this ERP involved consultation across relevant internal business areas and engagement with external stakeholders supporting NZEA's operational and reporting arrangements.

This included engagement with:

- the Department of Finance regarding alignment with Commonwealth reporting and disclosure requirements
- NIAA and Austrade regarding emissions-related building initiatives and operational arrangements
- internal corporate, finance, ICT, governance and property functions responsible for implementation activities and reporting inputs.

Emissions Data

NZEA reports operational greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the Commonwealth Emissions Reporting Framework and associated reporting requirements.

NZEA operates within shared accommodation and service arrangements, meaning our current emissions profile is primarily derived from electricity consumption associated with leased office space.

NZEA recognises that emissions reporting capability and data quality will continue to mature over time and may require future refinement or recalculation as systems, methodologies and operational arrangements evolve.

Figure 1.1 Baseline data table

APS Net Zero 2030 Target emission sources	Baseline t CO_2-e	Baseline year
Total Scope 1	—	
Natural gas	—	Baseline year is 2025-26
Fleet and other vehicles	—	N/A
Refrigerants	—	Baseline year is 2025-26
Other energy	—	Baseline year is 2025-26
Total Scope 2	91.42	
Electricity (market based)	11.39	Baseline year is 2024-25
Electricity (location based)	80.03	Baseline year is 2024-25
Total Scope 1 and Scope 2	91.42	

2024-25 Emissions tables

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory - Location-based method table below (Figure 1.2), includes gross GHG emissions generated during the reporting year, expressed as metric tonnes of CO_2 equivalents (t CO_2-e). These are classified as scope 1 GHG emissions, scope 2 GHG emissions (location-based method) and scope 3 GHG emissions, for select scope 3 GHG emissions as per the Framework.

Figure 1.2 Greenhouse gas emissions inventory (location-based approach) 2024-25

Emissions source	Scope 1 *t* CO_2-e	Scope 2 *t* CO_2-e	Scope 3 *t* CO_2-e	Total *t* CO_2-e
Electricity (location-based approach)	N/A	75.46	4.57	80.03
Natural gas	–	N/A	–	–
Solid waste#	–	N/A	–	–
Refrigerants	–	N/A	N/A	–
Fleet and other vehicles*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Domestic commercial flights	NZEA’s domestic travel arrangements were managed through the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Emissions from NZEA’s travel arrangements for this financial year are reported in PM&C’s annual report.			
Domestic hire car				
Domestic travel accommodation				
Other energy	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total kg CO_2-e		**75.46**	**4.57**	**80.03**

Reporting on refrigerants is being phased in over time as emissions reporting matures and may be an optional source in 2025–26 emissions reporting. See the Emissions Reporting Framework for more details.

* The Authority does not have any fleet vehicles.

Note: The table presents emissions related to electricity usage using the location-based accounting method.

CO_2-e = carbon dioxide equivalent

Market-based scope 2 and scope 3 GHG emissions for electricity-related GHG emissions are shown in the table below (Figure 1.3):

Figure 1.3 Greenhouse gas emissions inventory (market-based approach), 2024–25

	Scope2*t* CO2-e	Scope 3*t* CO2-e	Total *t* CO2-e	Electricity kWh
Location-based electricity emissions	75.46	4.57	80.03	114,329.56
Market-based electricity emissions	10.03	1.36	11.39	12,377.44
Total renewable electricity consumed^	N/A	N/A	N/A	101,952.12
Renewable power percentage#	N/A	N/A	N/A	20,802.26
Jurisdictional renewable power percentage*	N/A	N/A	N/A	81,149.85
Green power	N/A	N/A	N/A	–
Large-scale generation certificates	N/A	N/A	N/A	–
Total renewable electricity produced	N/A	N/A	N/A	–
Large-scale generation certificates	N/A	N/A	N/A	–

Note: The table above presents emissions related to electricity usage using both the location-based and the market-based accounting methods. CO2-e = Carbon dioxide equivalent. Electricity usage is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh).

^ Excludes behind-the-meter solar other than generation used to create large-scale generation certificates (LGCs).

#The renewable power percentage (RPP) accounts for the portion of electricity used, from the grid, that falls within the Renewable Energy Target (RET).

*The Australian Capital Territory is currently the only state with a jurisdictional renewable power percentage (JRPP).

For the 2025-26 financial year, NZEA's systems and processes were largely tied to other Commonwealth entities. This includes the subletting of our office spaces. For both the 2024-25 and 2025-26 reporting periods, NZEA has been apportioned its share of the emissions data from those entities, calculated in accordance with the Government's Emissions Reporting Framework.

The emissions data we can reliably report for our Sydney and Canberra offices has been established based on the net lettable area of our office space that is subleased from Austrade (Sydney) and the NIAA (Canberra). These emissions categories include electricity, natural gas and solid waste and are reported in the tables above and in the 2024-25 Annual Report.

NZEA 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.

Following the finalisation of our baseline data, we expect to be able to achieve a reduction in our scope 2 emissions, which will largely be achieved through the procurement of electricity through the new whole of Australian Government (WoAG) Electricity procurement arrangements.

NZEA will continue to consider how to mature operations in alignment with APS Net Zero 2030 and pursue practicable opportunities for decarbonisation, including utilising low emissions travel where possible, through considering sustainability in our procurement practices, and by working with Austrade and NIAA regarding relevant energy and waste measures depending on feasibility and availability.

As we move closer to 2030, NZEA aims to achieve net zero emissions through emissions reduction measures and, where required, credible offset arrangements consistent with Commonwealth policy settings.

Net Zero targets

As an entity that is in scope of the 2030 target, we have the Commonwealth Climate Disclosure (CCD) requirements. See the table below for our metrics:

Figure 1.4 Climate Disclosures - Metrics

CCD Category	Response
M1(c) Targets set by the entity including metrics used to measure progress towards these targets	The APS Net Zero 2030 Target (2030 Target) (details within the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy).
M5(a) The metric used to set the target	The metric used to set the 2030 Target is t CO2-e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent). The 2030 Target is defined in the NZGO Strategy as: A target set by the Australian Government to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from government operations by the year 2030. The objective of the 2030 Target is to reduce emissions to mitigate further impacts of climate change. It applies to all non-corporate Commonwealth entities, and any corporate Commonwealth entities or Commonwealth companies that opt-in. The organisational boundary is the whole entity, unless an exemption has been agreed for security or other reasons. The timeframe for achieving the net greenhouse gas emissions target is from 16 June 2022 to 30 June 2031. The initial baseline as per the NZGO Strategy is the 2022-23 financial year. The initial baseline may change as additional emissions sources are included in the future.
M5(b) The objective of the target	
M5(c) The part of the entity to which the target applies e.g. entity in its entirety or only a part of the entity, such as a specific divisional unit or geographical region	
M5(d) The period over which the target applies	
M5(e) The base period from which progress is measured	
M5(f) Any milestones and interim targets	

M5(g) If the target is quantitative, whether it is an absolute target or an intensity target	Interim actions and implementation measures are detailed within this Emissions Reduction Plan. The 2030 Target is an absolute target. The 2030 Target forms part of Australia's international climate commitments, including Australia's Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.
M5(h) How the latest international agreement on climate change, including jurisdictional commitments that arise from that agreement, has informed the target	
M6(a) Whether the target and the methodology for setting the target has been validated by a third party	The 2030 Target methodology has not been reviewed by a third party. In 2026-27, the Department of Finance will undertake a mid-term review of the NZGO Strategy to consider overall progress to date, domestic expectations and any recommended changes to the 2030 Target and associated NZGO Strategy. Interim metrics used to monitor performance are detailed within this ERP and our annual climate disclosure. Progress against the aggregated 2030 Target for the Australian Public Service, including metrics, is detailed within the [Climate Action in Government Operations Annual Progress Report] prepared by the Department of Finance. During the reporting period there were no changes to the 2030 Target.
M6(b) The entity's processes for reviewing the target	
M6(c) The metrics used to monitor progress towards reaching the target	
M6(d) Any revisions to the target and an explanation for those revisions.	
M8(a) Which greenhouse gases are covered by the target	The following greenhouse gas emissions are included in the APS Net Zero Emissions Reporting Framework and 2030 Target: • carbon dioxide (CO_2); methane (CH_4); nitrous oxide (N_2O); hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs); perfluorocarbons (PFCs); sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6); and nitrogen trifluoride (N_3). The 2030 Target includes Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions and is a net greenhouse gas emissions target. It was not derived using a sectoral decarbonisation approach.
M8(b) Whether Scope 1, Scope 2 or Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions are covered by the target	
M8(c) Whether the target is a gross greenhouse gas emissions target or net greenhouse gas emissions target	
M8(d) Whether the target was derived using a sectoral decarbonisation approach	

M9(a) Disclose information on the APS Net Zero 2030 Target (set out in the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy), as well as any other obligatory or voluntary targets set out in the entity's Emissions Reduction Plan	As part of our commitment to the 2030 Target, we also commit to the relevant targets in the NZGO Strategy. This includes: developing an ERP and publishing our annual progress towards the 2030 Target, as measured by percentage of overall emissions reduction each year, in the annual updates to the ERP. Additional interim targets are detailed within this ERP and subsequent ERPs. The published locations of our previous ERPs are also included in this ERP.

Priorities and actions

The NZEA has made progress on the identified priorities and actions from the 2024-25 ERP. The table below details how we have progressed against those priorities and actions, and also includes further commitments that consolidate our efforts to meet the 2030 Net Zero targets:

Priorities	Actions	Progress Updates	Stakeholder
Energy	NZEA will seek to ensure alignment with whole of Australian Government requirements for renewable electricity and to utilise contracts where available and permitted under leases and market conditions in relevant States and Territories.	Procurement policy (para 3.3) directs staff to employ sustainable procurement practices when undertaking procurement, such as promoting reduced energy consumption and minimising waste, with a link to the Department of Finance's sustainable procurement site, including model clauses to be used.	Finance
Buildings	For any future approach to market for office space to be leased for two or more years, NZEA will include a requirement to achieve the best possible NABERS Energy Base Building ratings and opportunities for energy efficiency improvements and incentives such as rooftop solar, electrification, EV charging statements, and end of trip facilities.	We included this requirement in the recent process to seek suitable accommodation options in Upper Hunter – subject to market availability and operational feasibility. Our temporary location in Newcastle only has 4.5 stars.	Property
Buildings	Collaborate with building owners and main tenants to improve office fit outs to reduce energy consumption, including by installing LED lighting, insulation such as block out blinds and electrifying services that fall outside of landlord responsibility where possible.	We are collaborating with NIAA to make energy performance improvements.	Property
Buildings	NZEA will continue to monitor and review office space utilisation by staff arising from flexible working arrangements to support greater efficiency of office space and to support any future requirement for additional leased or sub-leased tenancies.	We are continuing to monitor office utilisation and will prepare an accommodation strategy on 2026-27.	Property

Priorities	Actions	Progress Updates	Stakeholder
Buildings	NZEA supports reuse, recycling and donation initiatives to minimise landfill waste. For example, supporting building waste provisions for recycling paper, plastics and organic waste. NZEA is also part of a recycling program for printer toner cartridges.	Embedded within current operational arrangements.	Property
Travel	NZEA is currently developing its own staff travel policy that is in line with the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy. It will mandate consideration of greenhouse gas emissions and guide staff through options for low emissions travel .	NZEA has prepared its own staff travel policy that is in line with the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy. This is due to be implemented from mid-2026.	Finance
ICT	Once the Authority has off-boarded from PM&C in 2025, we will be operating via Microsoft 365 and Azure cloud based services that have their own sustainability program.	NZEA laptops, monitors, multi-function devices and video conference systems are programmed to use low-power and standby modes when not in use. NZEA laptops and iPhones have been configured with remote re-build capabilities, reducing shipping of faulty and replacement assets to regional offices and locations.	ICT
Procurement	NZEA's Procurement Policy aligns with the Government's Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy that commenced on 1 July 2024 to achieve and demonstrate climate, environmental and circularity outcomes in the NZEA's procurements.	Procurement policy (para 3.3) directs staff to employ sustainable procurement practices when undertaking procurement, with a link to DoF's sustainable procurement site.	Procurement
People, Culture and Capability	The Authority will raise staff awareness through: Encouraging staff to undertake APS Academy training courses relating to the Net Zero in	Mandatory induction programs are currently being finalised, and relevant training modules may incorporate sustainability related content.	People

Priorities	Actions	Progress Updates	Stakeholder
	Government Operations Strategy.		
	The integration of sustainability education into existing programs, for example through mandatory induction programs.		

Continuous Improvement

NZEA is continuing to strengthen its climate reporting capability, governance maturity and operational understanding of emissions education requirements.

A Chief Sustainability Officer has been appointed to support implementation of the NZEA's emissions reduction and reporting activities.

NZEA is also exploring opportunities to strengthen governance and oversight and cross-functional coordination of climate and emissions reporting activities, including though alignment with broader climate risk and disclosure initiatives.

NZEA acknowledges that emissions reporting and capability and data maturity will continue to evolve over time. Future reporting methodologies, data quality and operational visibility are expected to continue evolving over time.

NZEA remains committed to maintaining transparent, credible and progressively improving emissions reporting practices.

Australian Government

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