



Australian Government

**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**

2024–2030 Operations Emissions Reduction Plan



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Cataloguing data

This publication (and any material sourced from it) should be attributed as: Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry 2024-2030 Operations Emissions Reduction Plan, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

This publication is available at agriculture.gov.au/publications.

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

Chief Sustainability Officer endorsement

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 Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (the department) is committed to the achievement of the Australian Government's APS Net Zero 2030 target. The department is following the APS Net Zero 2030 target in full, as per the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy.

This Operations Emissions Reduction Plan describes the priorities and actions the department is taking to reduce operational emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target.



Tim Simpson
Acting Chief Sustainability Officer

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1 Purpose

The department 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 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 (the Plan) is to provide a pathway for the department 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 department to reduce emissions.

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

2 Net zero greenhouse gas emissions

APS Net Zero 2030 targets have been 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 a departmental perspective, this means minimising the greenhouse gas emissions that are within our control.

Scope 1: Direct emissions from entity sites consumption of gas and company owned vehicles.

Scope 2: Indirect emissions from purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling for the department's own use.

Scope 3: All other indirect emissions from upstream and downstream operational delivery.

3 Governance and reporting

Progress against actions identified within this Plan, and any additional measures adopted, will be included in the department's annual reports. This, combined with annual emissions reporting, will be used as a measure of the department's progress towards reducing its emissions.

As part of the Net Zero in Government Operations Annual Progress Report, the Department of Finance will combine these measures to provide Whole-of-Australian Government (WoAG) emissions reporting.

4 The department's operational context

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's (DAFF) purpose is 'working together to safeguard and grow sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry for all Australians'.

The department's three strategic objectives are:

- Sector growth - Support Australia's agricultural sector, including the food and fibre industries, to be increasingly prosperous and internationally competitive in an ever-changing world.
- Sector resilience and sustainability – Increase the contribution agriculture, fisheries and forestry make to a healthy, sustainable and low-emissions environment.
- National biosecurity - Strengthen our national biosecurity system to provide a risk-based approach and an appropriate level of protection to Australia's people, our environment and economy.

The department's work is central to the health and prosperity of the nation. Our policies and services protect and span the entire supply chain, helping to grow Australia's economy and enable the Australian agricultural sector to produce high quality, more sustainable products for consumption within Australia and overseas.

The department is a national regulator with portfolio responsibilities that include biosecurity and trade. We work in partnership with all levels of government and with local communities. We have scientific and technical expertise, connections with a range of domestic and international stakeholders and important partnerships across the private sector, from small agricultural businesses to multinational enterprises.

This diversity and operational focus presents a challenge for the department in reducing its emissions. The department is committed to reducing our operational emissions in line with the APS Net Zero 2030 targets, while still achieving our objectives of industry growth, biosecurity and resilience and sustainability of agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

Alignment to the APS Net Zero 2030 targets is important to the department's operations. The department has already commenced its net zero emissions pathway in line with the direction set in the Strategy. This includes the following key activities:

- Net zero emissions by 2030 readiness at key sites.
- Installation and planning for rooftop solar Photovoltaic (PV) where applicable.
- Green lease schedules incorporated into new lease strategies, where required.
- Negotiation with landlords to require minimum (National Australian Built Environment Rating System) NABERS ratings and/or energy efficiency upgrades as part of lease renewals, where required.
- Purchase of Low Emissions Vehicles (LEV) to replace aging passenger fleet vehicles where leases are expiring.
- Fleet audit to support LEV strategy development.

The Strategy is designed to support and integrate with existing WoAG policies and frameworks, such as the Commonwealth Procurement Framework, the Australian Government Travel Policy, and the Commonwealth Property Management Framework. Other relevant documents include:

- Commonwealth Leasing Strategy
- Commonwealth Procurement Rules
- *Public Governance Performance and Accountability Act 2013*
- Australian Government Property Register
- Commonwealth Sustainable Procurement Policy.

Commonwealth Climate Disclosure is the Australian Government's policy for Commonwealth entities to publicly report on their exposure to climate risks and opportunities, as well as their actions to manage them. Under this policy, Commonwealth entities and Commonwealth companies must disclose climate-related information in their annual reports. Under Climate Disclosure, progress towards this Plan forms part of the Metrics and Targets reporting stream. Agencies are to identify their greenhouse gas emissions profiles and the APS Net Zero 2030 target they are working towards for emissions reduction.

5 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 department's 2022-23 emissions (Tables 1 and 2) are a reference point against which reductions are 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 department are presented in our 2022–23 annual report.

Table 1. The department's 2022–23 greenhouse gas emissions (location-based)

| Baseline year | Financial year 2022-23 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Scope 1 emissions | 2,995 tCO ₂ e ¹ |
| Scope 2 emissions | 7,653 tCO ₂ e |
| Total Scope 1 and 2 emissions | 10648 tCO ₂ e |

The electricity emissions reported above are calculated using the location-based approach.

¹ Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e) is the standard unit for counting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions regardless of whether they're from carbon dioxide or another gas, such as methane.

Table 2. The department's 2022–23 greenhouse gas emissions (market-based)

| Baseline year | Financial year 2022-23 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Scope 1 emissions | 2,995 tCO ₂ e |
| Scope 2 emissions | 5,046 tCO ₂ e |
| Total Scope 1 and 2 emissions | 8,041 tCO ₂ e |

The electricity emissions reported above are calculated using the market-based method, which accounts for activities such as Greenpower, purchased Large-scale Generations Certificates (tradable certificates created for eligible large-scale renewable energy power stations) and/or being located in the ACT.

6 Engagement

The development of this Plan incorporated relevant stakeholder consultation activities.

7 Emissions reduction targets

The department is following the APS Net Zero 2030 targets in full, as per the Strategy. The targets cover the entirety of the department's operations within Australia and its territories for scope 1 and scope 2 emissions, as described in the Strategy.

8 Priorities and actions

For the department to contribute to the achievement of the APS Net Zero 2030 target, focused action on existing emissions reduction measures and the introduction of further or new measures is required. These actions are:

- Solar PV installations
- Procuring renewable electricity
- Transitioning passenger fleet vehicles to LEVs
- Sustainable procurement.

Additional planned actions:

- LED lighting upgrades and planning
- Additional Solar PV feasibility assessments and installations
- Degasification and electrification planning.

The department plans to achieve the below APS Net Zero 2030 targets.

8.1 Buildings

Table 3. APS Net Zero 2030 Targets - Buildings

| Strategy Target | Measure |
|--|---|
| <p>Office space leased from 1 July 2025 for four or more years, over 1000sqm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieved the relevant base building and/or tenancy NABERS energy rating of 5.5 star or 4.5 outside metro cities, and • maintained the relevant base building and/or tenancy NABERS energy rating of 5.5 star or 4.5 outside metro cities. | Percentage of leased office space that meets the respective targets. |
| <p>Office space refurbished from July 2026, greater than 1000sqm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieved a 5.5 star or higher NABERS energy rating, and • maintained a 5.5 star or higher NABERS energy rating. | Percentage of office space refurbished in the reporting period that meets the respective targets. |
| <p>From 1 July 2026, office space purchased or constructed by or for the Commonwealth with a value greater than \$15 million must obtain a 4 star Green Star certification using the climate positive pathway and 6 star NABERS rating.</p> | Percentage of purchased or constructed office space that meets the respective targets. |

Source: APS [Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy \(finance.gov.au\)](https://finance.gov.au)

ACTION: The department will undertake office space improvements required to meet the Strategy Targets of 5.5 star NABERS ratings or 4.5 outside metropolitan cities at our sites of 1,000m² or more by 1 July 2025 as applicable.

By 1 July 2026, we will purchase or construct office space with a value of \$15 million or more with a 4 star Green Star certification using the climate positive pathway and 6 star NABERS rating as applicable.

Table 4. APS Net Zero 2030 Targets – Buildings – Electric Vehicle Charging

| Strategy Target | Measure |
|--|---|
| Office space with allocated parking and fleet from 1 July 2024 have an electric vehicle charging plan where possible. | Percentage of office spaces with allocated parking areas that have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EV charging plans • EV charging available. |
| Office space with allocated parking from 1 January 2025 to have facilities to support electric vehicle charging if an entity has electric fleet vehicles on site where possible. | |

Source: APS [Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy \(finance.gov.au\)](https://finance.gov.au)

ACTION: The department will work towards office space with allocated parking and fleet has an electric vehicle charging plan, and allocated parking areas support Electric Vehicle charging by 1 January 2025.

8.2 Electricity

8.2.1 Renewable electricity

Table 5. APS Net Zero 2030 Targets – renewable electricity

| Strategy Target | Measure |
|---|--|
| By 1 January 2028, 80% of the Commonwealth's procured electricity that is generated off-site and purchased by entities, must be renewable where available. | Percentage of electricity consumption generated offsite and purchased, from renewable sources. |
| By 1 January 2030, 100% of the Commonwealth's procured electricity that is generated off-site and purchased by entities, must be renewable where available. | Percentage of electricity generated on-site that is certified renewable energy. |
| 100% of the Commonwealth's procured electricity that is generated off-site and purchased by entities, must be renewable where available. | Percentage of total electricity usage that is renewable. |

Source: APS [Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy \(finance.gov.au\)](https://finance.gov.au)

ACTION: The department will participate in the WoAG electricity procurement.

8.2.2 Buildings – Electrification

Table 6. APS Net Zero 2030 Targets – Buildings – Electrification

| Strategy Target | Measure |
|--|--|
| From 1 July 2024, where a lease is to be entered into for office space, entities should prefer all-electric buildings, particularly if the Commonwealth is directly responsible for base building services costs. | % of leased office space that is all electric. |
| From 1 July 2026, where a contract is entered for the purchase or construction by or for the Commonwealth of office space, the office space must be all-electric where available. This includes building heating, cooling and water heating but excludes backup generation, subject to the 2026-27 review. | % of purchased or constructed office space that is all electric. |
| By 1 January 2040, entities should only lease or own office space that is all-electric. | % of office space that is all electric. |

Source: APS [Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy \(finance.gov.au\)](https://finance.gov.au)

ACTION: Where available, the department will procure office space that is all-electric from 1 July 2026.

8.3 Fleet

Table 7. APS Net Zero 2030 Targets – Fleet

| Strategy Target | Measure |
|---|---|
| 25% of new passenger vehicles orders to be low emission vehicles (LEVs) within 2022-23. | Reporting outside of this strategy – progress against the target is published to Department of Finance’s website. |
| 50% of new passenger vehicle orders to be LEVs within 2023-24. | Reporting outside of this strategy – progress against the target is published to Department of Finance’s website. |
| 75% of new passenger vehicle orders to be LEVs by 2025. | Reporting outside of this strategy – progress against the target is published to Department of Finance’s website. |

Source: APS [Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy \(finance.gov.au\)](https://finance.gov.au)

ACTION: The department will ensure that 75% of all new passenger vehicle orders are LEVs by 30 June 2025.