



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

# DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN 2024  
v1



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 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.

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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 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is committed to supporting the Government's APS Net Zero 2030 target. DFAT is implementing practical measures in support of the APS Net Zero 2030 target, as per the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Adams', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Jan Adams AO PSM**  
**Secretary**



# EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

## PURPOSE

DFAT has a role in managing and implementing emissions reduction initiatives set by the Australian Government's NZGO 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 is to provide a pathway for DFAT 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 DFAT's domestic operations to reduce emissions.

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

## 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 from DFAT's domestic operations that are within our control.

## GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING

Progress against actions identified within this Emissions Reduction Plan, and any additional measures adopted, will be included in our annual report. This, combined with annual emissions reporting, will be used as a measure of DFAT's progress towards reducing its domestic operations 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.

## 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<sup>1</sup>.*

This Emissions Reduction Plan is focussed on DFAT's Domestic (Australia-based) Operations, representing the smaller portion of DFAT's global operations. Linkages to overseas activities have not been specifically addressed based on this exclusion.

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<sup>1</sup> *Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy (Government leading by example through climate action in government operations)*, page vii

## DFAT'S OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) promotes and protects Australia's international interests to support our security and prosperity. We work with international partners and other countries to tackle global challenges, increase trade and investment opportunities, protect international rules, keep our region stable and help Australians overseas.

Our locations in Australia and overseas  
as at 30 June 2024



DFAT manages Australia's international presence – a network of over 120 embassies, high commissions, consulates-general and representative offices across five continents – and we have over 7,100 staff located in Australia and overseas. These staff are the diplomats, negotiators, consular officers and advisers developing and delivering Australia's foreign, trade and development policy on behalf of Australia and Australians, supported by an extensive network of corporate enabling services.

DFAT provides a global diplomatic and influencing capability, leads the development of Australia's international and strategic policy advice, deepens economic engagement, and delivers international development and humanitarian assistance. DFAT also delivers timely and responsive consular and passport services for travelling Australians and ensures a secure Australian Government presence overseas through the government's network of embassies, high commissions, permanent missions and consulates.

## Domestic Operations

Domestically, DFAT manages a network of national offices supporting consular, passport and trade activities across all states and territories. Head Office operations based in Canberra represent the significant proportion of DFAT's Australia-based operations in a leased property portfolio (total NLA of 65,875 sqm, accommodating over 3,500 work points across four buildings). Our facilities in Canberra incorporate standard office spaces as well as a



number of unique and secure functions (e.g. passport offices, specialist areas to co-ordinate efforts in response to international events, data centres and high security areas).

State based operations include standard office spaces as well as warehousing, specialist passports printing facilities and secure areas. Responding to surge demand for passports post COVID 19 required short-term lease of additional space in State offices (leases for this additional surge space will cease during 2024-25).

## BASELINE DOMESTIC OPERATIONS 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. The complete 2022-23 greenhouse gas emissions inventory tables for DFAT as presented in our 2022-23 annual report were.

Table G4: Greenhouse gas emissions inventory, location-based method, 2022-23

Emission source	Scope 1 kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e <sup>1</sup>	Scope 2 kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e <sup>2</sup>	Scope 3 kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e <sup>3</sup>	Total kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Electricity (location-based approach)	n.a.	7,727,267	660,623	8,387,890
Natural gas	560,408	n.a.	142,467	702,875
Fleet vehicles	30,227	n.a.	7,516	37,743
Domestic flights	n.a.	n.a.	2,240,392	2,240,392
Other energy	—	n.a.	—	—
<b>Total kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e</b>	<b>590,635</b>	<b>7,727,267</b>	<b>3,050,999</b>	<b>11,368,901</b>

kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e = kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent; n.a. = not applicable

- 1 Scope 1 comprises direct emissions that are produced from sources within the boundary of an entity, including its facilities and vehicles, and are a result of that entity's activities.
- 2 Scope 2 comprises indirect emissions that occur outside of the boundary of an entity from the generation of electricity that is consumed by the entity.
- 3 Scope 3 comprises indirect emissions, other than electricity (Scope 2), that occur outside the boundary of an entity as a result of actions by the entity – for example, emissions from business travel, employee commuting, leased assets, and purchased goods and services.

The electricity emissions shown in Table G5 apply the market-based method, which accounts for activities such as GreenPower, purchased large-scale generation certificates, and/or being located in the ACT.

Table G5: Greenhouse gas emissions inventory, market-based method, 2022-23

Emission source	Scope 1 kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e	Scope 2 kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e	Scope 3 kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e	Total kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Electricity (market-based approach)	n.a.	1,522,708	201,535	1,724,243
Natural gas	560,408	n.a.	142,467	702,875
Fleet vehicles	30,227	n.a.	7,516	37,743
Domestic flights	n.a.	n.a.	2,240,392	2,240,392
Other energy	—	n.a.	—	—
<b>Total kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e</b>	<b>590,635</b>	<b>1,522,708</b>	<b>2,591,911</b>	<b>4,705,254</b>

kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e = kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent; n.a. = not applicable

Note: See notes to Table G4 for definitions of Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3.

Table 1- Source: DFAT Annual Report 2022-23

## ENGAGEMENT

In the development of this plan DFAT has been working with

- Climate Action in Government Operations (CAiGO) – to ensure this plan aligns with the NNZGO Strategy, in preparation of this Emissions Reduction Plan and drafting requirements of the Commonwealth Climate Disclosure
- DCCEEW – in undertaking the Climate Risk and Opportunity Management Program (CROMP) to identify climate change related risks to DFAT’s domestic operations.

## EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS

DFAT is committed to supporting the Government’s APS Net Zero 2030 target, as per the NZGO Strategy. The target covers DFAT’s operations within Australia and its territories for scope 1 and scope 2 emissions, as described in the Strategy.

## PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

For DFAT’s domestic operational activities to contribute to the achievement of the APS Net Zero 2030 target, targeted action on existing emissions reduction measures and the introduction of further or new measures is required. These actions are summarised in the following points, with further detail provided below.

DFAT has already embedded its net zero by 2030 emissions pathway in line with the direction set in the Government’s *Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy*. This includes the following key activities:

- Over 80% of DFAT’s procured electricity is sourced from sustainable supply.
- Planning commenced for a sub-tenancy within the National Security Office Precinct (NSOP) campus, achieving an A+ Grade Building and NABERS 5.5 star rating for staff currently accommodated in lower rated, less energy efficient tenancies.
- Intention to consolidate three major Canberra tenancies into a single campus, focussed on achieving an A+ Grade Building and NABERS 5.5 star rating, commencing with an approach to market in 2023.
- Expanded use of cloud-based technology and specialist data centre facilities.
- Sourcing renewable “green” energy for RG Casey Building via Department of Defence arrangements.
- Replacement of ICT products with lower emission alternatives.
- Embedding climate sensitive procurement policies and practices across the Department.
- EV charge points have been installed by the landlord to the exterior of the RG Casey Building.

### Buildings

Improving building standards: DFAT’s strategy for the domestic office portfolio targets A+ Grade buildings delivering 5.5 star NABERS ratings. Combined with consolidation of office spaces and the take up of innovation in workspace design, DFAT is focussed on achieving improved building and tenancy standards and reduced emissions. By 2028, DFAT anticipates over 3,000 current workstations will move into A+ Grade Buildings, at 5.5 star NABERS ratings, delivering a measurable emissions reduction over current accommodation arrangements. This is also anticipated to deliver a reduction in the leased net lettable area, directly reducing emissions.

Consolidation of three current Canberra tenancies into a single campus, incorporating a tenancy in the National Security Operations Precinct in Barton, and delivering the Domestic Property Strategy outcomes will produce more



efficient tenancies and an overall reduction in building related emissions (including removal of Scope 1 Natural Gas emissions).



Savings in emissions could potentially be achieved by consolidating existing tenancies



By optimising the fit-out to achieve a density of 12 sqm or less DFAT could accommodate workforce growth and still achieve a reduction in NLA.



By consolidating into one Campus we could save on the following operational costs:

- Shuttle bus service
- Reduce guard stations/ reception from current 4 to 2 or 3
- Property churn costs associate with block and stack, security uplift, refits and relocations
- Utilities

**Action:** A project is being led by Overseas Property Office and Services Division in the Enabling Services Group, with a view to consolidating to a single campus.

## Electricity

Procuring renewable electricity: DFAT will continue to source renewable energy via the Department of Defence arrangement until the Whole of Australian Government (WoAG) arrangement is available to access. DFAT will consult with the Department of Finance to ensure participation in WoAG electricity procurement as per the Government's NZGO Strategy and will replace all DFAT sourced electricity contracts with renewable electricity. Remaining Scope 2 emissions will primarily reflect landlord sourced electricity under existing leased property arrangements.

**Action:** Overseas Property Office and Services Division will consult with the Department of Finance to ensure participation in WoAG electricity procurement as per the Strategy and replace all non-landlord sourced electricity contracts with renewable electricity.

Reduced demand for electricity: DFAT will develop a method to baseline ICT-related emissions and identify sources of emissions in FY24-25 and FY25-26 to then prioritise, track and demonstrate reduced demand through the deployment of more efficient equipment and influencing changes in work practices.

Within DFAT's domestic operations, our offsite data centres comply with current WoAG NABERS rating requirements.


**Action:** DFAT will remain contemporary with WoAG requirements for data centre sustainability performance requirements and commits to any new data centre arrangements achieving and maintaining 5 star NABERS Energy for Data Centres or equivalent environmental ratings (such as a Power Usage Effectiveness of 1.4 or less).

Solar PV installation / upgrade: DFAT owns one residential property (Thursday Island) in Australia. DFAT will review the opportunities for solar PV installation at the property, in addition to assessing rainwater capture and any opportunities for reducing emissions from the property (including review of window types and internal furnishings). Specific emissions reduction outcomes will not be known until the review is completed.

**Action:** The Overseas Property Office and Services Division will explore the opportunity for Solar PV installation at Thursday Island owned property.

## Fleet

Transitioning the fleet vehicles to low emission vehicles: the small DFAT domestic fleet (approximately nine combustion vehicles) will transition to low, or no emissions vehicles as current lease commitments expire or by end 2029. Any new fleet additions will be leased from the outset as low or no emissions vehicles. Where necessary,



DFAT will adjust existing policy to reflect this target. Current EV charging facilities (provided by landlords and public networks) adequately service the small DFAT domestic fleet.

**Action:** Finance Division will lead on the transition to low or no emission vehicles by 2030.

The requirement for a shuttle bus between office tenancies in Canberra will be removed with the implementation of the combined campus in the domestic property strategy by 2028. These emissions are Scope 3. However, the removal of the service is seen as a positive outcome in DFAT's emissions reduction efforts.

**Action:** Finance Division and Overseas Property Office and Services Division will work to ensure the shuttle bus requirement is reviewed to match the achievement of the office consolidation project.

EV charge points have been installed by the landlord to the exterior of the RG Casey Building, whilst a single EV point is available (specifically supporting the EV courier vehicle) within the tenancy carpark of the RG Casey Building.

**Action:** Overseas Property Office and Services Division will ensure future DFAT tenancies in Canberra will consider requiring EV charge points as part of detailed scoping and design activities, noting the small size of the DFAT domestic fleet.

## Procurement

Sustainable procurement: DFAT has actively engaged in embedding environmentally sustainable procurement practices and processes. DFAT adheres to WoAG procurement directives and leverages WoAG panels in our domestic operations and reflects obligations of the Commonwealth Sustainable Procurement Advocacy Resource Centre (CSPARC) in DFAT's Procurement Policy when assessing value for money. DFAT tender responses have a dedicated section addressing sustainability in complex procurements. Sustainability is a key element when assessing value for money.

DFAT has embedded review stage gates for procurement and variations by centralised procurement specialists to ensure applicable clauses are included in procurement and contract documentation.

Engaging fully with the Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy to be released by Government in January 2025 will ensure DFAT procurement activities are best practice, building on existing efforts to actively assess what we buy to influence reduced emissions.

## Overseas Operations

Although activities that take place outside of Australia or its territories 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, DFAT will act to reduce our emissions in the relevant local context as an aspirational goal for the Australian Government to demonstrate leadership and advance Australia's climate diplomacy objectives.

While DFAT is actively playing its part to reduce its operating emissions within Australia, it is also working in the region to assist with the green energy transition. DFAT seeks to work with global partners to drive ambitious climate action and investment to keep 1.5 degrees within reach, and to realise the economic opportunities for all countries in our transition to a net-zero world. Climate change is the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the Pacific family. We will do more to help the Pacific address what is an existential threat, especially for smaller Pacific nations. For economies across the Indo-Pacific, we will work to close the climate financing gap, and to support the rapid alignment of both private and public finance in support of the Paris Agreement goals.

In relation to its extensive overseas property portfolio, DFAT has commenced implementation of a "Greening the Portfolio" strategy for Commonwealth owned properties and actively pursues inclusion of green lease schedules for new or renewed leased office tenancies.

New construction projects in the overseas portfolio offer a welcome opportunity to implement and showcase Australia's sustainability and emissions management credentials.

The most recent example is the new Washington Embassy, completed in 2023:

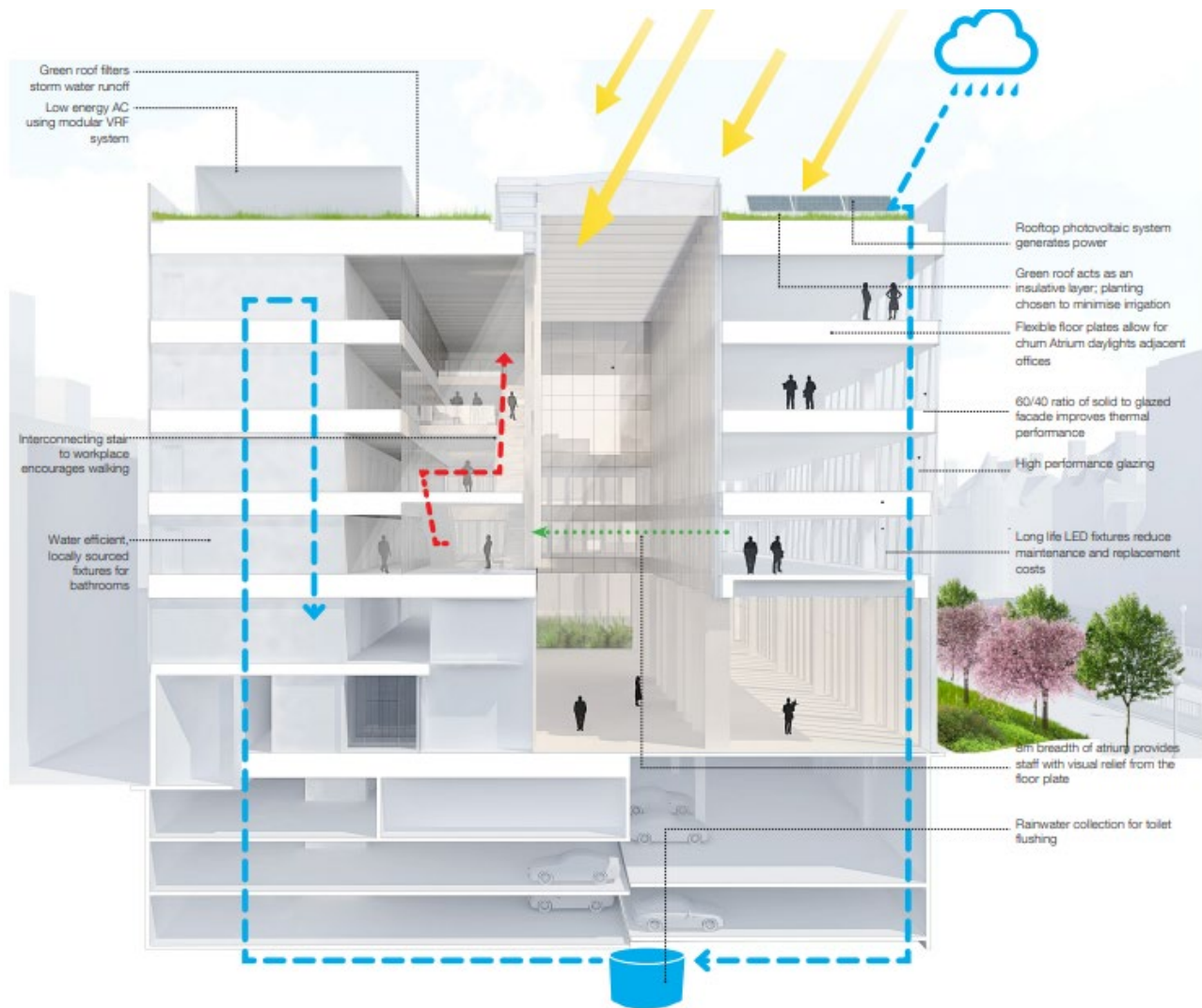


The new Embassy building includes a thermally efficient façade, a green roof with an extensive photovoltaic array, the expansive use of natural light, and the latest building services technologies. It also hosts a rooftop apiary, which can serve as home to approximately 240,000 resident bees.

The building has been awarded prestigious LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certification and is on track to a Green Star rating. It joins a select group of sustainable and innovative buildings around the world that have been recognised for their commitment to a greener world.

The Washington Embassy building incorporates:

- Metering for energy management and tracking and collating energy use data
- Green roof filters for storm water runoff
- Low energy air-conditioning using modular Variable Refrigerant Flow system
- Rooftop photovoltaic system generating power for use in the building
- Atrium promotes natural lighting
- 60/40 ratio of solid to glazed façade improves thermal performance of the building
- Long life LED fixtures reduce maintenance and replacement costs, using a distributed lighting control system
- Rainwater collection for toilet flushing.



## Tracking energy consumption overseas

In 2022, OPO introduced energy-related data capture at posts. DFAT's Canopy system captures building energy (electricity, gas and diesel where it forms a significant portion of power needs) invoices on a regular basis. The majority of posts (83%) are now regularly reporting property energy data, allowing the broad-based calculation and benchmarking of emissions in overseas operations. This data source allows greater understanding of energy consumption at each site, emissions and costs trends can be tracked to support DFAT in addressing greenhouse gas emissions reporting and reductions activities overseas.