
Auditing and Assurance Standards Board Emissions Reduction Plan

August 2024

Acknowledgement of Country

The Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB) 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.

Acknowledgement of Country	i
Accountable Authority Sign Off.....	iii
Emissions Reduction Plan	1
Purpose	1
Net zero greenhouse gas emissions.....	1
Governance and reporting	1
AUASB Operational context.....	1
Baseline emissions	2
Engagement	3
Emissions reduction targets.....	3
Priorities and actions.....	3
Involved participants	4

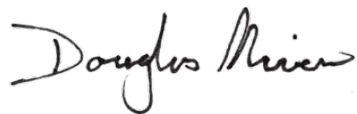
Accountable Authority Sign Off

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 AUASB is committed to the achievement of the Government's APS Net Zero 2030 target. The AUASB 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 AUASB is taking to reduce our operational emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target.



SIGNED BY ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY

Douglas Niven
Chair and Chief Executive Officer

Emissions Reduction Plan

Purpose

The AUASB 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 AUASB 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 AUASB 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 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 reports. This, combined with annual emissions reporting, will be used as a measure of the AUASB 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.

AUASB Operational context

The AUASB is an Australian non-corporate Government Entity responsible for making auditing standards under section 336 of the Corporations Act 2001 for the purposes of the corporation's legislation. The AUASB also formulates auditing and assurance standards for other purposes and participates in and contributes to the development of a single set of international auditing standards for worldwide use.

The AUASB's work contributes critical to the economic, sustainability, and social well-being of the nation, as it seeks to develop, issue and maintain in the public interest, Australian auditing and assurance standards and guidance that aid in reducing the cost of capital and enable

Australian entities to compete effectively, both domestically and internationally, by enhancing audit and assurance consistency and quality.

This includes developing standards for assurance over climate-related financial information and other sustainability information.

The AUASB operates through offices located in the Melbourne CBD under a shared services arrangement with the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

The AUASB has implemented a range of measures to reduce its impact on the environment. This Plan builds on these key achievements and provides a more holistic approach to achieve sustainability and net zero carbon emissions across all areas and functions of AUASB including facilities and operations. Measures include:

- Policies and procedures to ensure compliance with government waste, energy, and travel policies
- Encouraging hybrid working to minimise staff commute
- Commingled and organic recycling programs
- Energy efficient lighting, air-conditioning and computers
- Where possible, water usage is limited through high efficiency outlets
- Leasing a 5-star Green Star and Platinum rated WELL Building office to drive long term sustainability outcomes
- Holding a Waste Wise accreditation from Eco Recycle Victoria
- Limiting travel to essential obligations, promoting teleconferencing and videoconferencing where possible

The AUASB does not own or manage any fleet vehicles and has sought the assistance of the Corporate Travel Management (CTM) organisation responsible for Whole of Australian Government Travel (WoAG) procurement to procure offsets in relation to domestic and international air travel and accommodation. According to CTM there is currently no facility to undertake this.

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 AUASB are presented in our 2022-23 annual report.

Baseline year	Financial year 2022-23
Scope 1 emissions	0 tCO ₂ e
Scope 2 emissions	12 tCO ₂ e

Total emissions	12 tCO ₂ e
-----------------	-----------------------

Engagement

In the development of this plan the AUASB 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
 - Travel Team – to discuss options and considerations for lowering travel emissions
- Portfolio – where possible shared considerations could be addressed to lower emissions across the portfolio

Emissions reduction targets

The AUASB 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.

Priorities and actions

For the AUASB 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:

- Procuring renewable electricity under WoAG Processes
- Sustainable procurement

Buildings

Ensure that any future office building locations are considered in light of further reducing emissions, and would offer a higher level of reductions than achievable in the current building location.

ACTION: Chair and CEO consider as appropriate

Electricity

Renewable electricity

Participate in WoAG sustainable electricity procurement to optimise the use of electricity from renewable sources.

ACTION: 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.

Travel

Travel to be undertaken only where necessary.

ACTION: The need for travel and alternatives to be considered at the time of approval.