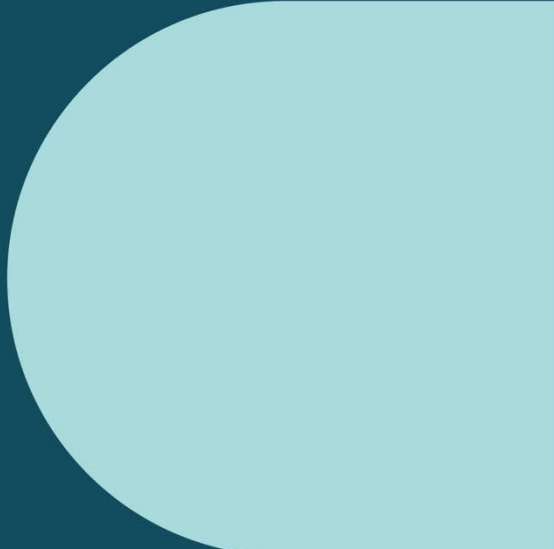
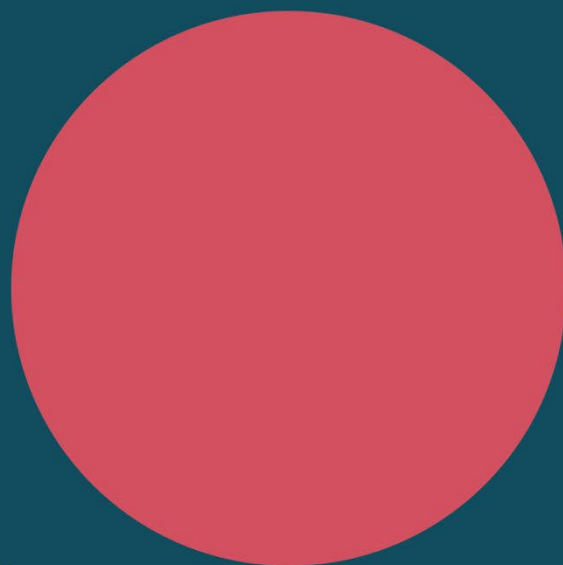




Australian Government  
Office of Parliamentary Counsel

# Emissions Reduction Plan



# Acknowledgement of Country

The Office of Parliamentary Counsel acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of the of the lands on which we work, and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

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



Meredith Leigh

First Parliamentary Counsel

14 August 2024

# Emissions Reduction Plan

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## Purpose

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Office of Parliamentary Counsel 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 Office of Parliamentary Counsel 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 Office of Parliamentary Counsel to reduce emissions.

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

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## Net zero greenhouse gas emissions

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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.

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## Governance and reporting

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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 Office of Parliamentary Counsel'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.

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## Office of Parliamentary Counsel Operational context

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Office of Parliamentary Counsel operates primarily in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) with a small number of staff working remotely. We have a total of approximately 140 personnel. Our facilities are predominantly office spaces and meeting rooms.

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## Baseline emissions

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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 Office of Parliamentary Counsel are presented in our 2022-23 annual report.

Baseline year	Financial year 2022-23 (Location Based Approach)
Scope 1 emissions	N/A tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Scope 2 emissions	103.7 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Total emissions	103.7 tCO <sub>2</sub> e

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## Engagement

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In the development of this plan Office of Parliamentary Counsel 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

- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water website

As we further explore opportunities to achieve Net Zero by 2030 we will continue to consult with:

- Portfolio – where possible shared considerations could be addressed to lower emissions across the portfolio

- Neighbouring Tenants – to discuss options for shared locations and any associated and relevant outcomes to lower emissions.

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## Emissions reduction targets

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Office of Parliamentary Counsel 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.

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## Priorities and actions

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For Office of Parliamentary Counsel 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

Improving building standards

Sustainable procurement

LED lighting planning

Solar PV and LED lighting upgrades

Appointing a Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO)

## Electricity

Renewable electricity

The Office of Parliamentary Counsel is part of the Whole of Australian Government Electricity arrangement.

*ACTION:* Nil

Improve building standards

The Office of Parliamentary Counsel will work in conjunction with the building landlords to ensure that the occupied space is utilised as efficiently as possible.

*ACTION:* Continue working with landlords and our property service provider to ensure we continue to maintain an energy efficient office space.

Solar PV installation / upgrade

The Office of Parliamentary Counsel is one tenant in a shared building and has no control over solar PV installations or upgrades.

*ACTION:* OPC works actively with the landlord to maximise the use of the PV system.

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## Fleet

The Office of Parliamentary Counsel has no fleet vehicles.

*ACTION:* Nil

## Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO)

The Office of Parliamentary Counsel does not have a CSO currently.

*ACTION:* A CSO within OPC has been identified as General Manager Corporate Services.

## Sustainable Procurement

The Office of Parliamentary Counsel will work to align the agency's internal procurement policy with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's (DCCEEW) Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy which came into effect on 1 July 2024.

*ACTION:* Update internal procurement policy to incorporate the sustainable procurement policy with a view to promulgate 1 February 2025.

## Travel

The Office of Parliamentary Counsel will work to align the agency's internal travel policy with the Net Zero policy. OPC will consider teleconferencing as opposed to face to face meetings where appropriate.

*ACTION:* OPC will continue to adopt Government's Net Zero policy in regard to travel.

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## Involved participants

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The following areas of Office of Parliamentary Counsel have been involved in the development of this plan:

Division	Branch
Corporate Services	Business Services
Corporate Services	Finance



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<b>Title</b>	Emission Reductions Plan template			
<b>Created By</b>	Climate Action in Government Operations (CAiGO)			
<b>Date Created</b>	6/12/23			
<b>Maintained By</b>	Climate Action in Government Operations (CAiGO)			
<b>Version Number</b>	<b>Modified By</b>	<b>Modifications Made</b>	<b>Date Modified</b>	<b>Status</b>
1.0	CAiGO	Initial release		Final
1.1	CAiGO	Alteration of words 'carbon emissions' to 'greenhouse emissions' at p.4.	May 2024	Final
2.0	CAiGO	Revisions to streamline the template and align language and approach with other climate action in government operations initiatives.	June 2024	Final