Australian Government
IP Australia

Emissions Reduction Plan

2026-2027

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Acknowledgement of Country

IP Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

Accountable Authority Sign Off

The Australian Government released the Net Zero in Government Operations (NZGO) Strategy in November 2023, setting out the overall approach and action required by Commonwealth entities to achieve the APS Net Zero 2030 target (2030 Target). The NZGO Strategy represents a commitment by the Australian Government to lead by example on emissions reduction and contribute to the decarbonisation of Australia's economy.

IP Australia is committed to the 2030 Target in full, as per the NZGO Strategy.

The 2030 Target is the target set by the government to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from government operations by the year 2030. It includes Scope1 and Scope 2 emissions from activities in Australia and its territories, as described in the NZGO Strategy. It applies at the aggregate level to non-corporate Commonwealth entities and those Commonwealth entities and companies who opt-in 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. IP Australia is committed to the achievement of the government's 2030 Target.

This Emissions Reduction Plan describes the priorities and actions IP Australia is taking to reduce our operational emissions and contribute to the 2030 Target.

ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY



Margaret Tregurtha

A/g Director General, IP Australia

Emissions Reduction Plan

Purpose

IP Australia is implementing emissions reduction initiatives in line with the Australian Government's Net Zero in Government Operations (NZGO) Strategy, developed by Department of Finance. The NZGO Strategy sets out the Australian Government's approach to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions from its operations by 2030, including the reinstatement of public emissions reporting.

The purpose of this Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) is to provide a pathway for the IP Australia to contribute to the achievement of the APS Net Zero 2030 Target through emissions reduction activities. This ERP encompasses existing and new priorities and actions within IP Australia to reduce emissions.

This ERP has been developed in accordance with the NZGO Strategy, associated guidance and relevant reporting standards for annual emissions reporting.

Governance and reporting

The Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) sets our emissions reduction targets, outlines the actions IP Australia will deliver to meet them, and defines ow we will monitor and report progress each year through annual updates to ERP.

IP Australia monitored progress using Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions (t CO2-e) and the percentage change from our baseline years as measures.

Operational indicators include estimated emissions from hire car and air travel, and electricity consumption.

IP Australia Operational context

IP Australia operates across all Australian states, with approximately 1,200 personnel located nationwide. Our Head Office (Discovery House), located in Canberra, has approximately 649 personnel allocated, the Melbourne Office (MIPO) has approximately 103 personnel allocated, with the remaining personnel on fulltime flexible working arrangements working from home across all Australian states and territories. Our facilities also include hosted office spaces in Adelaide and Sydney, and two data centre spaces located in Canberra, all locations subject to extreme temperature conditions.

Operationally, IP Australia provides services primarily through online channels.

Discovery House has a Net Lettable Area (NLA) of 20,797 square metres (sqm) with the following subtenants:

- Gowrie Childcare Centre subleasing 503sqm on the ground floor;
- Gizmos Café subleasing 79.5sqm on the ground floor;
- The Clean Energy Regulator (CER) sublease 5,937.2sqm on the West Wing's ground, first and second levels.

- The Australian Digital Health Authority (ADHA) sublease 2,100sqm on the West Wing's third level; and
- The Australian Research Council (ARC) sublease 2,075sqm on the West Wing's fourth level.

The current NABERS Energy rating is 6 and the NABERS Water rating is 4 due for reassessment in November 2026. The lease term for Discovery House expires 20 September 2032 with a five-year extension option.

Melbourne (MIPO) has an NLA of 946sqm on part of level 5 in a multi-tenancy building. Base building NABERS Energy rating is 4. The MIPO lease expires 30 April 2028 with no option to extend. In line with the Commonwealth Leasing Strategy, IP Australia are participating in a Joint Approach to Market for a new leasing arrangement prior to the current lease expiring.

Sydney office space is hosted within the Department of Health and Aged Care's office space, consisting of 6 workstations, under a Memorandum of Understanding arrangement.

Adelaide office space is hosted within the Department of Industry, Science and Resources consisting of 4 workpoints in a Service Schedule arrangement, under the existing Memorandum of Understanding arrangement for shared services.

IP Australia leases a minimum of 25sqm of servers and server rack space at the Canberra Data Centre in Hume and Fyshwick locations to house our data offsite and enable ICT backup as part of our Disaster Recovery Plan. This arrangement was necessary following the relocation of our on-site data centre at Discovery House as part of the Future Way Of Working (FWOW) program of works completed in 2020.

IP Australia is continuing its net zero emissions pathway in line with the direction set in the Strategy. This includes the following key activities:

Net Zero Energy

- The installation of a rooftop solar PV system at Discovery House for tenant's energy usage and metering, was delayed and is now scheduled to be completed in financial year 2025-2026.
- Scope 2 – electricity:
    - Canberra's electricity contract is under Defence's electricity panel. IP Australia will transition to the WoAG Electricity Panel arrangements once Department of Finance has finalised the procurement.
    - Melbourne's electricity is purchased from the landlord through connection to an embedded electricity network which means a private electricity distribution network in the building (that forms part of the national grid), is used to supply electrical energy to tenants within the building.
    - Sydney and Adelaide's electricity is included as part of the workpoint hosting expense.
    - Usage data is provided through IP Australia's Property Management Provider's environmental management dashboard, Envizi.

Net Zero Buildings

- Canberra (Discovery House):
    - Base building Energy NABERS rating of 6 and Water NABERS rating of 4.
    - Existing Green Lease Schedule.
    - Tenant's office operations are electrified however, base building uses gas for boiler, and the sub-tenant Café and Childcare also have gas cooking facilities.
    - LED lighting.
    - Sustainable Business Program - Waste Minimisation accreditation 2026.
- Melbourne (HWT Tower):
    - Base building Energy NABERS rating of 4. IP Australia occupies partial floor on level 5 with an NLA of 946sqm which is currently under the 1,000sqm threshold.
    - LED lighting.
- Sydney (Centennial Plaza A):
    - Base building has an Energy rating of 4.5. IP Australia hosts 6 workstations from the Department of Health and Aged Care which equates to an NLA of approximately 84sqm which is under the 1,000sqm threshold.
    - The Department of Health and Aged Care's Head Lease has a Green Lease Schedule
- Adelaide
    - IP Australia hosts 4 workpoints from the Department of Industry, Science and Resources which equates to approximately 56sqm which is under the 1,000sqm threshold.

Net Zero Procurement

- IP Australia has incorporated the Environmentally Sustainable Procurement (ESP) Policy into our procurement planning processes for all procurement activities captured in this policy.

Net Zero Fleet

- IP Australia does not have fleet vehicles.

Net Zero Travel

- IP Australia uses the WoAG Travel arrangements for domestic and international flights, domestic car hire and domestic accommodation for travel. When approving requirement for official travel:
    - delegates take into consideration whether any other communication tools can be used as an alternative for travelling,
    - where practical and appropriate for the destination, direct flights are booked to support efficient travel, and
    - travellers are encouraged to use hybrid or electric vehicles where hire cars are required and available.

Net Zero ICT

- IP Australia's Data Centres have been engaged under the Australian's Government's Data Centre Panel.

People, Culture and Capability

- IP Australia has existing governance and framework in place for people, culture and capability. These include:
    - A Chief Sustainable Officer – to drive emissions reduction activity and capability uplift across the organisation.
    - An Environmental Management Sub-Committee (EMSC) – The EMSC meets on a quarterly basis to discuss quarterly performance reporting, engagement, and initiatives. The EMSC reports to the Management Committee (MCM).
    - Engagement with staff via intranet content, group's relevant EMSC representative, and Viva Engage Communities. EMSC minutes, and quarterly performance reports are published on the intranet.
    - IP Australia's EMS training module was updated in January 2026 with our commitment to the NZGO Strategy 2030 Target.

APS Net Zero Emissions Reporting Framework

- IP Australia has had an Environmental Management System (EMS) since 2008.
- IP Australia's EMS captures and monitors performance data which is reported to the EMSC on a quarterly basis for:
    - Electricity
    - Business air travel
    - Waste and recycling
    - Paper usage
    - Water consumption
    - Other performance data captured includes:
        - E-waste
        - Container Deposit Scheme
        - Collection containers for spectacles, mobile phones, toner cartridges, and other reusable items.
        - Commonwealth property rehomed via GovTree marketplace.

Engagement

In developing this Emissions Reduction Plan, IP Australia collaborated with a range of internal and external stakeholders including:

- Department of Finance and the Climate Action in Government Operations unit, to ensure alignment with the *Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy* and Commonwealth Climate Disclosure.
- Internal travel team to consider options and approaches for reducing emissions associated with official travel.
- Procurement to provide information on recent WoAG Policy changes and internal initiatives.
- Data and Technology Group (DTG) to discuss future considerations and approaches for reducing emissions.

- Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) –shared considerations and aligning the calculation of targets where possible.
- Subtenants to discuss opportunities relating to shared facilities and location and any associated outcomes that may contribute to emissions reduction.
- Building Management to discuss their sustainability plan and considerations for improvements on building standards and relevant outcomes to lower emissions.

The following groups and teams within IP Australia were involved in developing the Emissions Reduction Plan:

- Property and Services Team
- Financial Policy and Operations Team
- Procurement and Contract Management Team
- Data and Technology Group

Emissions inventory

Baseline emissions record greenhouse gas emissions before emissions reduction measures were introduced. The baseline emissions form 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 and market-based methods. The complete 2022-23 greenhouse gas emissions inventory tables for IP Australia are presented in the IP Australia Annual Report 2022-23.

Table 1: Baseline Emissions

APS Net Zero 2030 Target emission sources	**Baseline t CO_2-e**	**Baseline year**
Total Scope 1	**74.72**	
Natural gas	74.72	*Baseline year is 2024-25*
Fleet and other vehicles	-	*N/A*
Refrigerants	-	*N/A*
Other energy	-	*N/A*
Total Scope 2	**1,019.26**	
Electricity (market based)	109.81	*Baseline year is 2022-23*
Electricity (location based)	909.45	*Baseline year is 2022-23*
Total Scope 1 and Scope 2	**1,068.11**	

Net Zero targets

IP Australia is following the APS Net Zero 2030 target (2030 Target) in full (detailed within the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy).

The metric used to set the 2030 Target is t CO_2-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.

Our specific interim targets are detailed within this Emissions Reduction Plan.

The 2030 Target is an absolute target. The 2030 Target forms part of Australia's international climate commitment, including Australia's Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.

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.

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 derived using a sectoral decarbonisation approach.

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 the ERP.

Interim targets

Reduce combined Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 30 June 2028, relative to the baseline, as an interim milestone towards achieving net zero emissions by 2030.

The target will be achieved through a combination of actions, including increasing on-site and contracted renewable electricity, improving energy efficiency across leased buildings, reducing vacant office space, and embedding emissions considerations into procurement and investment decisions.

Progress against the interim target will be monitored and reported in annual updates to the ERPs. Where emissions reductions are not tracking as planned, the entity will review underlying assumptions, adjust actions or timelines, and identify additional opportunities to reduce emissions to remain aligned with the long-term net zero target contained in the ERP.

Table 2 – Interim targets show IP Australia's current targets, measures and timelines.

Table 2 – Interim target actions

Category	Measure	Responsible Business Unit	Timeframe	Status
Electricity	Increased power efficiency within tenancies – engage JLL sustainability team to conduct an assessment of IPA tenancies to identify where we can increase power efficiency. The outcome of this would assist in the reduction of emissions and feed into IPA's Emissions Reduction Plan as future targets in emission reduction.	Property and services team with assistance from the Property Service Provider (PSP), JLL.	Start: 2025-26 End: 2026-27	On Track
Electricity	Reducing the data centre footprint.	Data and Technology Group	Start: 2026-27 End: 2026-27	On Track
Electricity	Replacing the UPS room at Discovery House with smaller back up power supplies in comms rooms.	Data and Technology Group	Start: 2026-27 End: 2026-27	On Track
Electricity and e-waste	Reducing peripherals (monitors, keyboards, mice and associate hardware) from underutilised workstations by 25% across both Canberra and Melbourne offices.	Data and Technology Group	Start: 2026-27 End: 2026-27	On Track
Buildings (leased)	Landlord forward planning for works to improve overall building functionality, safety and sustainability. • Joint initiative with IPA to install solar PV at Discovery House. • Façade rectification works at Discovery House to improve insulation, window seals, etc around the building. This will take several years to complete however, when completed this	Discovery House base building in coordination with the Property and services team	Start: 2025-26 End: 2027-28	

	should see an increase in energy efficiency within the building.			
Electricity	Reduction in energy use due to subleasing vacant floorspace in Discovery House.	Property and services team	Start: 2025-26 End: 2025-26	Completed
Buildings (leased)	Reduction of vacant floorspace in Discovery House by subleasing to another entity.	Property and services team	Start: 2025-26 End: 2025-26	Completed
Water	Reduction in main water usage with base building reinstating the rainwater catchment tanks to manage the garden area at Discovery House	Base building	Start: 2025-26 End: 2025-26	Completed

Broader climate-related targets

In addition to the 2030 Target, IP Australia has set broader climate-related targets to support reduction in operations emissions and enable delivery of the Emissions Reduction Plan. The targets focus on key emissions drivers both within and outside of scope from the NZGO Strategy, including electricity use, buildings, fleet, procurement, travel and organisational capability. While not all targets are expressed as absolute emissions reductions, they are expected to deliver measurable emissions abatement over time and support progress towards net zero.

Delivery of these targets is supported through coordinated actions such as transitioning to renewable electricity, investigating improvements to the energy performance of leased buildings, and embedding emissions considerations into procurement and travel decisions.

Table 3 – Broader climate-related targets outline IP Australia's broader climate-related targets, including key measures, timeframes, and responsible business areas as defined in the Strategy with progress monitored and reported annually through Emissions Reduction Plan annual updates.

Table 3 – Broader climate-related targets

Category	Measure	Responsible Business Unit	Timeframe	Status
Electricity	Transition all applicable sites to the whole-of-Australian Government (WoAG) electricity coordinated arrangement	Property and services team, supported by Property Service Provider JLL	Start: 2025–26 End: On commencement of WoAG electricity coordinated arrangement	Completed
Buildings (leased)	Confirm NABERS ratings for all leased office accommodation and, for non-compliant leases, identify alternatives which meet NZGO Strategy targets	Property and services team	Start: 2025-26 End: 2025-26	Completed
Buildings (leased)	Engage landlords on opportunities to improve NABERS ratings through base building upgrades (e.g. HVAC optimisation)	Property and services team	Start: 2025-26 End: Ongoing	On Track
Travel	Update travel guidance to prioritise virtual meetings and lower-emissions travel options where operationally feasible	Finance policy and operations team	Start: 2025-26 End: 2025-26	Completed
Travel	Monitor and report business travel emissions annually to inform future reduction measures	Property and services team	Start: 2025-26 End: Ongoing	On Track
Water	Identify opportunities to reduce water consumption in offices	Property and services team	Start: 2026-27 End: 2027-28	Not Started

	(e.g. flow restrictors, improved monitoring)			
Procurement	Embed emissions reduction considerations into relevant procurement processes and contract management	Procurement team	Start: 2025-26 End: Ongoing	On Track
Engagement	Build internal awareness of emissions reduction priorities and actions through targeted staff communications	Property and services team with support from Corporate communications.	Start: 2025-26 End: Ongoing	On Track

Priorities and actions

Our priorities for reducing emissions over the reporting period focus on accelerating reductions in electricity, and property, which represent largest sources of operational emissions. Key actions include increasing the proportion of renewable electricity through the whole-of-Australian Government purchasing arrangements, improving energy efficiency in leased buildings, and reducing vacant office space.

Further measures to be introduced include strengthening emissions considerations in procurement processes, expanding data collection to support improved Scope 3 management, and identifying additional opportunities to reduce emissions where existing measures are not delivering expected reductions.