Australian Government
IP Australia

Emissions Reduction Plan annual update 2025-2026



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

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

This Emissions Reduction Plan annual update summarises progress against the actions and targets set out in the Emissions Reduction Plan for IP Australia. We maintained open communication channels with the Department of Finance to validate emissions data and action statuses, supported by internal audit as part of our processes for the Annual Report.

IP Australia recorded progress using our emissions data and other indicators relevant to our operations as defined in the ERP, including total Scope 1 and Scope 2 Emissions (tCO_2-e) and the percentage change from our baseline year.

In addition, to be more proactive in tracking progress, IP Australia also monitored electricity consumption (MWh) and energy intensity (MWh/m2) across our leased sites, and the percentage of electricity matched to renewable sources (for example, GreenPower, PPAs, or RECs, where applicable) to more accurately visualise our adherence to the NZGO Strategy Net Zero Buildings NABERS and GLS requirement.

Although Scope 3 emissions are not required under the APS Net Zero 2030 Target, IP Australia voluntarily monitor kilometres travelled and associated emissions as an indicator to compare reduction across different travel modes and inform reporting to the executive for decision making.

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 provide 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.

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

IP Australia's baseline emissions were established using data from 2022-23 financial year and remain the reference point for measuring progress against emissions reduction actions.

In 2023-24, IP Australia recorded an overall reduction in combined Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions relative to the baseline year. The percentage change since baseline for each emissions source is presented in Table 1

As shown in Table 1, electricity-related emissions (Scope 2, market-based) decreased 64% in the reporting year compared to the baseline and decreased 24% since last reporting year. This decrease is primarily attributable to the reallocation of electricity usage after subleasing of vacant space on two floors in Discovery House in late 2024-25 to two Commonwealth entities.

Emissions from base building natural gas in Scope 1 show a consistent reduction of 23% which is consistent with electricity as these are apportioned to the subtenants calculated on the tenancy Net Lettable Area (NLA).

Table 1 – Greenhouse gas emissions inventory and Annual Progress Towards Net Zero Emissions

Emissions Source	FY2022-23 Baseline t CO_2-e	FY2024-25 t CO_2-e (3rd year)	FY2025-26 t CO_2-e (4th year)	Percentage change since baseline	Percentage change year on year (3rd vs 4th year)
Electricity (Market-Based Approach)	98.31	*48.85*	35.35	-64%	-28%
Natural Gas	-	*74.72*	57.67	-23%	-23%
Refrigerants	-	-	-	n/a	n/a
Fleet and Other Vehicles	-	-	-	n/a	n/a
Other Energy	-	-	-	n/a	n/a
Total t CO_2-e	**98.31**	**123.57**	**93.02**	**-5%**	**-25%**

**Note this table only includes Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. Scope 3 emissions are excluded.*

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.

Priorities and actions

Over the reporting period, IP Australia progressed implementation of priority actions identified in its Emissions Reduction Plan Emissions Reduction Plan 2025-26, with a continued focus on electricity and property emissions as the largest sources of operational emissions.

IP Australia also strengthened enabling measures to support ongoing emissions reduction. The included embedding emissions considerations more consistently in procurement and contract management processes, improving the quality and coverage of emissions data, and expanding analysis to better understand Scope 3 emissions sources. These activities have informed identification of additional opportunities to reduce emissions and will support refinement of future actions, particularly where existing measures have not yet delivered the expected emissions reductions.

Buildings: A sublease arrangement was executed with another Commonwealth entity which reduced the vacant office space by 2,075 sqm. In November 2025 an energy NABERS rating of 6 was also gained for the building in Canberra.

Energy: The Canberra office transitioned to the whole-of-Australian Government electricity arrangement. We are also working with our Property Service Provider, JLL, to conduct an energy efficiency assessment for both the Canberra and Melbourne offices to implement the highest impact recommendations in the next reporting period. The solar panel installation project has been delayed due to discussions with the landlord relating their forward sustainability plan for the Canberra office.

Travel and Procurement: Updates have been made to the travel and procurement policies to better align with the NZGO Strategy objectives and staff have been made aware of these changes.

ICT: Reducing data centre footprint, decommissioning UPS room and installing small back-up power supplies in communication rooms.