

National Indigenous Australians Agency Emissions Reduction Plan

Acknowledgement of Country

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the 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 National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) is committed to the achievement of the Government's APS Net Zero 2030 target. The NIAA 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 NIAA is taking to reduce our operational emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target.



Jody Broun
Chief Executive Officer
National Indigenous Australians Agency

5 August 2024

Emissions Reduction Plan

Purpose

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) 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 NIAA 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 NIAA 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 NIAA'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.

NIAA Operational context

The NIAA works in genuine partnership to enable the self-determination and aspirations of First Nations communities. We lead and influence change across government to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a say in the decisions that affect them.

The NIAA has an average staffing level of approximately 1,300 staff working across all Australian states and Territories. Our staff work closely with communities in urban, regional and remote locations.

Our facilities include office spaces at 37 locations in metropolitan and regional Australia. We also operate 46 Government Engagement Centres. These are offices and accommodation quarters

located in remote Aboriginal communities, predominantly in the Northern Territory (NT). The NIAA also owns 90 houses in regional towns where there is a limited or constrained private residential housing market. The provision of temporary housing assistance to staff is necessary to support the NIAA achieve its strategic objectives and meet business requirements.

To support our engagement activities we operate 104 fleet vehicles. The majority of these are off-road passenger vehicles. There are also a small number of sedans and wagons. Fleet vehicles are predominantly used to travel to regional and remote locations enabling the NIAA to engage directly with community.

The NIAA has already commenced its net zero emissions pathway in line with the direction set in the Strategy. This includes the following key activities:

- Installation of a solar battery system at Ceduna, South Australia (SA) consisting of a 50 kWp rooftop solar coupled with a 50 kWh battery energy storage.
- Incorporation of green lease schedule and active participation in building management committees at the two current Green Lease properties.
- Establishing procedures to ensure plant and equipment does not run outside of core operational hours.
- Replacement of internal combustion engine vehicles with electrical vehicles or hybrid options where appropriate.
- Reduction in office space occupied by the NIAA at Charles Perkins House in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).
- Utilising LED lighting in new office fitouts, including at Port Augusta (SA) and Tennant Creek (NT) offices.
- Reviewing our housing stock and selling housing stock excess to requirement.
- Surrendering of remote office sites in the NT and Western Australia that are no longer required or where an alternative operating model is appropriate.

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 NIAA are presented in our 2022-23 annual report.

Location based method	
Baseline year	Financial year 2022-23
Scope 1 emissions	108 tCO ₂ e
Scope 2 emissions	1,524 tCO ₂ e
Total emissions	1,632 tCO₂e

Market based method	
Baseline year	Financial year 2022-23
Scope 1 emissions	108 tCO ₂ e
Scope 2 emissions	1,303 tCO ₂ e
Total emissions	1,411 tCO₂e

Engagement

In the development of this plan the NIAA 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
 - Fleet Team – to discuss options associated with low emissions vehicles
 - 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
- Neighbouring Tenants – to discuss options for shared locations and any associated and relevant outcomes to lower emissions.

Emissions reduction targets

The NIAA 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.

- We project that Scope 1 carbon emissions will decrease by 7 tCO₂e over the next 3 years, from 108 tCO₂e to 101 tCO₂e.
 - This will be achieved by reducing the number of fleet vehicles and replacing combustible vehicles with electrical vehicles or hybrid options where appropriate. Reductions are constrained by the timing of when leases expire.
 - Natural gas usage contributing to Scope 1 carbon emissions is expected to reduce to 0 by 2025-26
 - The timing of further reductions to Scope 1 carbon emissions will be influenced by technology improvements, specifically the development of suitable electric or hybrid off-road passenger vehicles that can safely travel long distances in remote Australia.

We project that Scope 2 carbon emissions will decrease over the next year by 519 tCO₂e, from 1,303 tCO₂e to 784 tCO₂e¹. This is a reduction of 40 per cent. This target will be achieved by:

- procuring electricity through the new whole of Australian Government Electricity procurement arrangements when commenced;
- surrendering 15 Government Engagement Centres in the NT that are no longer required by 1 July 2025.
- These targets will be revised annually and updated to reflect new initiatives and technological advancements.

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

Priorities and actions

For the NIAA 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
- Solar PV and LED lighting upgrades
- LED lighting planning
- Improving building standards
- Transitioning the fleet vehicles to low emission vehicles
- carbon modelling

Electricity

Renewable electricity

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.

Solar PV installation / upgrade

ACTION: Rooftop solar benefitting the NIAA will be a focus in future lease negotiations as part of lease incentives

LED lighting planning

ACTION: LED lighting benefitting the NIAA will be a focus in future lease negotiations as part of lease incentives.

¹ Calculated on market based methodology.

ACTION: Future office fitouts will include strategies to reduce energy consumption, including by installing LED lighting.

Buildings

NABERS Ratings and Energy Efficiency

The NIAA is committed to occupying energy efficient office space. Currently, leases for two tenancies include a green lease schedule (GLS), which requires an annual NABERS Energy tenancy or whole building rating with a target of 4.5-stars.

The NABERS Energy Tenancy rating for both tenancies (16 Bowes Place Phillip, ACT and 39 Woods Street Darwin, NT) are performing at 5.0 stars.

The NABERS Energy Base Building rating required as part of the leases, for the single property with this requirement (16 Bowes Place Phillip) meets the target with a 5.5 stars rating.

The current lease at 16 Bowes Place Phillip commenced in 2017 and expires in 2032.

The current lease at 39 Woods Street Darwin commenced in 2024 and expires in 2029.

ACTION: The NIAA will seek to incorporate green leases and NABERS Energy targets of 5.5 stars in future office leases, for office space of 1,000m² or more from 1 July 2025, in accordance with the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy requirements.

Better utilisation of office space

The NIAA will look to reduce our office footprint by relocating to smaller office spaces, redesigning office spaces to accommodate more staff per square metre and progressing opportunities to share office space with other Agencies.

ACTION: In future office leases, or lease renewals, the NIAA will prioritise opportunities to reduce the amount of office space leased and/or progress co-location opportunities with other Agencies.

Electrification

The NIAA will preference fully electrified buildings as part of its leasing strategy including for landlord services which generally use gas as part of HVAC heating.

ACTION: The NIAA to prioritise electrification of landlord services of future tenancies (or current tenancies for lease renewals) with landlord as part of future lease negotiations.

The NIAA is responsible for gas consuming assets at three residential properties in Kalgoorlie, WA.

ACTION: Investigate electrification options to replace the existing domestic hot water heaters into electric equivalents.

Fleet

Transitioning fleet vehicles to low emission vehicles

Uptake of low emission vehicles in the coming years is anticipated to be slow, due to current charging availability constraints outside of metropolitan and regional Australia. Uptake will also be dependent on technology developments, namely the market delivering suitable vehicles for use on remote roads where 4WDs are a necessity.

ACTION: The NIAA will continue to explore opportunities to transition fleet vehicles to low emission vehicles.

Offset of residual emissions

ACTION: Residual emissions will be identified closer to the target year of 2030 and will be addressed through the purchase of carbon offsets.

Title	Emission Reductions Plan NIAA			
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