



DEPARTMENT OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Emissions Reduction Plan

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of the House of Representatives acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands on which we work, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

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.

While not a department of the Australian Government, the Department of the House of Representatives recognises its role in contributing to emissions reductions. The department is committed to working with the other parliamentary departments—the Department of Parliamentary Services, Department of the Senate and the Parliamentary Budget Office—to reduce emissions where appropriate.

This Emissions Reduction Plan describes the priorities and actions the Department of the House of Representatives is taking to reduce operational emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target, as appropriate for its particular setting.

Claressa Surtees
Clerk of the House

Emissions Reduction Plan

Purpose

All commonwealth agencies have a role in 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 Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy advises that the Government will work with the Australian Parliament's Presiding Officers to determine appropriate consideration of Parliament House for this initiative. Noting the particular setting it operates in, the Department of the House of Representatives (the department) has prepared a high-level statement of intention to work with the other parliamentary departments—the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS), Department of the Senate, and the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO)—in accordance with tailored guidance in applying the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy.

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

This plan will be updated annually. The department will ensure it complies with reporting requirements as set out in the relevant legislation and guidance, including the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), and as determined under the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy.

Operational context

The department's purpose is to support the House of Representatives, and the wider Parliament, in the role of a representative and legislative body, primarily by providing advice and services, and through engaging with the community and other parliaments.

The department is located entirely within Parliament House in Canberra, and currently employs around 180 staff. DPS is responsible for providing a range of services to parliamentary departments within Parliament House and the parliamentary precincts, which includes building management, facilities management, and ICT provision. The department also works with the Department of the Senate and PBO to support the Parliament.

Much of the work of the department is driven by the work of the Parliament, including fleet requirements and matters that might require travel such as support for the activities of parliamentary committees.

The department already undertakes activities to reduce emissions where it has control of its operations, in line with the direction set in the Strategy. This includes the following activities:

- Observing the requirements in the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs), including consideration of climate impacts.
- Considering alternatives to travel where possible, and encouraging efficient travel arrangements where travel is required.

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 department reported the following emissions from its operations in its 2022–23 Annual Report. The APS Net Zero emissions reporting for the department includes staff and business activities incorporating flights and fleet vehicle usage (see Table 1). Emissions attributed to the running of Parliament House and the parliamentary precincts, including for departmental staff working in the building, are separately reported by DPS in its annual report.

Table 1: Emissions inventory for the Department of the House of Representatives (location-based approach for electricity emissions), 2022–23

Emission source	Scope 1 kg CO2-e	Scope 2 kg CO2-e	Scope 3 kg CO2-e	Total kg CO2-e
Electricity (location-based approach)	N/A	-	-	-
Natural gas	-	N/A	-	-
Fleet vehicles	3,499	N/A	890	4,389
Domestic flights	N/A	N/A	56,586	56,586
Other energy	-	N/A	-	-
Total kg CO2-e	3,499	-	57,475	60,974

Engagement

The department will work with the following agencies to implement this plan and to draft future plans:

- DPS
- Department of the Senate
- PBO.

Emissions reduction targets

The department will collaborate with DPS, Department of the Senate and PBO to identify actions that accord with applicable requirements and guidance, and reflect its particular operating context.

Priorities and actions

For the department to contribute to the achievement of the APS Net Zero 2030 target, it will collaborate with DPS, Department of the Senate and the PBO to identify action in accordance with advice from Department of Finance on implementation of the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy for Parliament House.