



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES



DPS Emissions Reduction Plan

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Approved: Secretary

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Parliamentary Services acknowledges the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people, the traditional custodians of the land on which Australian Parliament House is situated, an area where people have met for thousands of years.

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.

DPS is committed to the achievement of the Government's APS Net Zero 2030 target. DPS is following the APS Net Zero 2030 target where possible, as per the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy.

This Emissions Reduction Plan describes the priorities and actions Department of Parliamentary Services is taking to reduce our operational emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target.

Rob Stefanic

Secretary, Department of Parliamentary Services

Emissions Reduction Plan

Purpose

The Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) 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 the 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 DPS 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 DPS 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 DPS 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.

Department of Parliamentary Services operational context

DPS is established under the *Parliamentary Services Act 1999 (PS Act)*. The Australian Parliamentary Service (which comprises of all four parliamentary departments) provides professional support, advice and facilities to Parliament and parliamentarians. DPS undertakes its work independently of the Executive Government of the Commonwealth.

DPS supports the Australian Parliament and parliamentarians through innovative, unified and client and community focused services. We are proud to be custodians of Parliament House, as the preeminent symbol of Australian parliamentary democracy and as a significant visitor destination.

DPS provides a broad range of services and products to support the functions of the Parliament and the work of Parliamentarians. DPS collaborates with other parliamentary departments to provide or facilitate:

- library and research services
- information and community technology products and services around the nation
- broadcast and Hansard services
- physical and cyber security services
- building, grounds and design integrity
- health and wellbeing services
- art collection and exhibition services
- furniture and asset management services
- visitor services and the Parliament Shop
- catering and event management services
- licensed retail, banking, and childcare services, and
- corporate, administrative and strategic services for DPS.

Since 1988, Parliament House has been the meeting place of the Parliament of Australia and is also a workplace where over 5,000 people are accommodated during Parliamentary sittings.

Parliament House and its landscape covers 32 hectares on Capital Hill, Canberra. There are 4,500 rooms with a total area of 250,000 square metres, distributed over a basement and three above ground floor levels. The basement predominantly houses plant and equipment and services distribution.

Baseline emissions

DPS reports annually on its environmental performance consistent with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. DPS' annual reports also provide information in relation to waste management, energy efficiency related works and Greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2022-23, the Department of Finance developed a tool to calculate baseline emissions for the purpose of establishing a reference point against which emissions reduction actions can be measured. The baseline emissions focussed 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 DPS are presented in our 2022-23 annual report as follows.

| Baseline year | Financial year 2022-23 |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Scope 1 emissions | 3,435 tCO ₂ e |
| Scope 2 emissions | 18,165 tCO ₂ e |
| Total emissions | 21,600 tCO ₂ e |

Engagement

In the development and implementation of this plan, DPS will engage with:

- Department of the Senate
- Department of the House of Representatives
- Parliamentary Budget Office
- retail, media and other tenants, and
- Department of Finance
 - Ministerial and Parliamentary Services – as relates to the ministerial wing
 - 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.

Emissions reduction targets

DPS is following the APS Net Zero 2030 target where possible, 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.

Priorities and actions

For DPS 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. Some of these actions (including actions already completed) are summarised in the following points, with further detail provided below:

- Procuring renewable electricity
- Building infrastructure and asset renewal with energy efficient alternatives
- Transitioning motorised vehicles to low emissions models
- Sustainable procurement
- Interior and exterior lighting replacement with LED technology and

- Expansion of solar photovoltaic power generation.

Renewable electricity

DPS is currently a participant in the Whole of Australian Government arrangement for supply of electricity that is facilitated by the Department of Defence. Parliament House is supplied by 100% renewable electricity sources.

ACTION: DPS will endeavour to include the West Block office building under this arrangement when it is occupied.

ACTION: DPS will participate in the arrangement to be established by Department of Finance from 1 July 2025, subject to value for money considerations.

Building

Parliament House building energy use comprises:

- natural gas for heating and hot water
- electricity to power lighting, cooling and infrastructure, and
- diesel for emergency back-up generators and landscape service machinery.

DPS is undertaking a Fire Compliance and Building Services Renewal program at Parliament House. As part of this work, there is a planned upgrade of heating, ventilation and cooling systems with more contemporary and energy efficient equipment.

ACTION: DPS has established a project to undertake Fire Compliance and Building Services Renewal work that will deliver more energy efficient building services.

In 2019, six main gas boilers that heat and supply hot water throughout Parliament House were replaced. The new boilers are 20% more energy efficient than the end-of life equipment.

Refurbishment of the 42 lifts at Parliament House was completed in 2021 and now use 30% less energy.

Through 2021-2022, refurbishment and upgrade of five commercial kitchens at Parliament House was completed, including equipment and appliance upgrades. This work has realised energy and water efficiencies. For example, the new large commercial dishwashers use 40% less water and 55% less energy.

Electric Vehicle Charging

Electric Vehicle charging points have been installed at Parliament House across six carparks. Of the 58 charging points, 10 were launched on 13 November 2023 in the main public carpark, including two in accessible parking bays.

Fleet

The department's machinery fleet is used by Landscape Services. Other transport energy includes fuel used in onsite maintenance and loading dock vehicles, many of which operate on electric power to reduce emissions.

ACTION: Machinery replacement with electric vehicles, will occur as appropriate alternatives are available.

Sustainable procurement

The [Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy](#), which is administered by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, aims to improve environmental sustainability across three focus areas – climate, the environment and circularity. The policy was implemented with application to construction services at or above \$7.5 million from 1 July 2024. The other categories will be introduced from 1 July 2025 for procurements at or above \$1 million. These are:

- furniture, fittings and equipment
- information and communication technology goods, and
- textiles.

ACTION: DPS will ensure that DPS procurement policies and guidelines align with the [Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy](#).

LED Lighting

Lighting upgrades at Parliament House are underway with original incandescent (filament-based) or fluorescent lights being replaced with more energy efficient LED lights. Light sensors have also been installed across the building.

ACTION: DPS has established a project to undertake lighting upgrades throughout Parliament House.

Solar Photovoltaic installation / upgrade

Since 2010, Parliament House has generated a portion of its energy needs directly from solar panels within the precincts.

234 roof-top solar panels were installed and integrated into the building systems in 2011. There are 192 on the roof of the Senate Wing and 4 on the roof of the gardener's compound.

With solar technology and distribution advancing considerably since the installation in 2010, DPS is investigating options for future expansion of the use of PV generated solar power at Parliament House.

ACTION: DPS has established a project to explore options for expanding solar photovoltaic capacity.

Document control

| Title | | Emissions Reduction Plan template | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------|
| Created By | Climate Action in Government Operations (CAiGO) | | | |
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| 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 |
| 3.0 | DPS | Accountable Authority endorsement. | August 2024 | Final |