



Australian Government
National Emergency Management Agency

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NEMA Emissions Reduction Plan

2024 – 2030

Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation NEMA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and the community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

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i. Document Control

Version	Date	Business Unit	Drafted By	Approved By	Review Date
1	6/02/2025	Business Operations	Assistant Director – Business Operations	Coordinator-General NEMA	6/02/2026

1. Accountable Authority Sign Off



The Australian Government released the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy (the Strategy) in November 2023, setting out the overall approach and action required by Commonwealth entities to achieve the APS Net Zero by 2030 target.

The 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 Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is committed to supporting the Australian Government's APS Net Zero by 2030 target.

We know this will take a whole of agency effort, from reducing electricity usage, improving our energy efficiency, procuring with net zero in mind, and considering the ways in which we travel, to name a few.

This Emissions Reduction Plan describes the priorities and actions NEMA will take to reduce our operational emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero by 2030 target.

Brendan Moon AM

Coordinator-General

National Emergency Management Agency

2. Emissions Reduction Plan

2.1. Purpose

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is responsible for 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 NEMA 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 for NEMA to reduce emissions.

This Emissions Reduction Plan has been developed in accordance with the Strategy, associated guidance and reporting standards for annual emissions reporting.

2.2. 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. Decisions on scope 3 will be made in the future as further data becomes available. 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.

The Strategy is designed to support and integrate with existing Whole of Australian Government (WoAG) policies and frameworks, such as the Commonwealth Procurement Framework, the Australian Government Travel Policy, and the Commonwealth Property Management Framework. Other relevant documents include:

- Public Governance Performance and Accountability Act 2013
- Commonwealth Leasing Strategy
- Commonwealth Procurement Rules
- Australian Government Property Register
- Commonwealth Sustainable Procurement Policy.

2.3. Governance and reporting

Progress against actions identified within this Emissions Reduction Plan, and any additional measures adopted, will be included in NEMA's annual reports. This, combined with annual emissions reporting, will be used as a measure of NEMA'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.

2.4. NEMA Operational context

NEMA's purpose is 'to enable more secure, stronger and resilient communities before, during and after emergencies'. NEMA's vision is to 'work through meaningful partnerships, to build Australia's capacity for disaster resilience and support our communities when they need it most'.

NEMA is the Australian Government's end-to-end enduring national crisis management agency. NEMA plays a national leadership role in supporting the states and territories and our communities to manage disaster and emergency events. We help them reduce risk and prepare before an event, respond during an event, and recover after an event.

NEMA's strategic objectives are:

- Leading and coordinating national action and assistance across the emergency management continuum
- Building scalable, coordinated emergency management capability for nationally significant, cross-jurisdictional and international crises
- Building evidence, intelligence and insights to empower communities, leaders and stakeholders to make effective decisions
- Contributing to saving lives, reducing harm, and maintaining public trust to mitigate the consequences of disasters and build back better through investment in people, capabilities and communities.

NEMA's largest office is located in Canberra. The Agency leases office spaces in all Australian states and territories, with over 500 people working across the nation. NEMA has specialist facilities including the 24/7 Australian Government National Situation Room (NSR), and warehousing facilities for the National Emergency Management Stockpile (NEMS).

NEMA collaborates with states and territories to assist disaster-affected communities. Our Coordination and Planning Officers (CPOs) are located across the country, and during emergencies can deploy to support the Crisis Coordination Team, providing a direct connection back to NEMA. Given the potential remote nature of CPO activities, specialised vehicles and equipment, including diesel-powered vehicles with recovery tools, are essential. Diesel engines are preferred as they are more fuel-efficient than petrol engines, emit lower CO₂ levels, and allow CPOs to travel longer distances to reach remote communities where there is limited access to charging facilities.

2.5. 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 NEMA are presented in our 2022-23 annual report.

Baseline year	Financial year 2022-23
Scope 1 emissions	194,107 tCO ₂ e
Scope 2 emissions	95,026 tCO ₂ e
Total emissions	289,133 tCO ₂ e

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory - location-based method (2022–23 NEMA annual report)

Emission Source	Scope 1 kg C02-e	Scope 2 kg C02-e	Scope 3 kg C02-e	Total kg C02-e
Electricity (Location Based Approach)	N/A	95,026	9,522	104,547
Natural Gas	-	N/A	-	-
Fleet Vehicles	194,107	N/A	47,693	241,799
Domestic Flights	N/A	N/A	98,643	98,643
Other Energy	-	N/A	-	-
Total kg C02-e	194,107	95,026	155,857	444,989

Note: the table above presents emissions related to electricity usage using the location-based accounting method. C02-e = Carbon Dioxide Equivalent.

2.6. Emissions reduction targets

NEMA is contributing to the APS Net Zero 2030 target, as per the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy. The target's objectives covers the entirety of our entity's operations within Australia and its territories for scope 1 and scope 2 emissions described in the Strategy.

3. Priorities and actions

3.1. Actions taken

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

- **Net zero emissions by 2030 - readiness at key sites.** This includes implementing sustainable practices, upgrading infrastructure to improve energy efficiency, and integrating renewable energy solutions. These preparations ensure that facilities can meet strict environmental performance benchmarks and reduce their overall carbon footprint.
- **Green lease schedules incorporated into new lease strategies.** New leasing arrangements will now include green lease schedules, which mandate environmental sustainability measures such as energy-efficient systems, waste reduction initiatives, and environmentally friendly building management practices.
- **Negotiation with landlords to require minimum National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) ratings and/or energy efficiency upgrades as part of lease renewals.** As leases come up for renewal, NEMA will negotiate with landlords to secure a minimum NABERS rating for energy efficiency in buildings, where applicable. Where this is not possible, NEMA will implement energy efficiency upgrades, such as improved lighting systems, ensuring properties contribute to emission reduction goals.
- **Fleet vehicle audit to support LEV strategy development.** The audit includes assessing vehicle usage, fuel consumption, and emissions data, which will inform the development of a strategy for integrating electric or hybrid vehicles into the fleet if appropriate, or further reduction of the fleet as operationally required.
- **Consolidation of office spaces.** This strategy minimises energy consumption by reducing the number of locations requiring heating, cooling, and lighting while promoting more efficient use of resources through shared facilities and improved workplace design.

3.2. NEMA's commitment

For NEMA to contribute effectively 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 across six categories:

- Renewable Electricity
- Building standards and office spaces
- Electric Vehicle charging
- Fleet vehicles
- Sustainable procurement
- Travel.

When considering strategies to implementing NEMA's commitment to Net Zero 2030, decisions will still be based on the value for money principle where the delegates decisions is based on ensuring efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of relevant monies. These terms are defined in the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs) as:

- Efficient relates to the achievement of the maximum value for the resources used;
- Effective relates to the extent to which intended outcomes or results are achieved;
- Economical relates to minimising cost; and
- Ethical relates to honesty, integrity, probity, diligence, fairness and consistency.

Renewable Electricity

To help achieve the APS Net Zero 2030 target, Department of Finance will establish whole of Australian Government (WoAG) electricity arrangements in each state and territory for use by entities.

ACTION: NEMA to 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 as soon as practicable.

Building standards and office spaces

NEMA currently has approximately 7,300 sqm of sub-leased tenancies, having recently consolidated several Canberra office spaces into one. With the increased uptake of flexible working arrangements, the reduction of staff attending the office daily will reduce the total space required in our tenancies.

NEMA will continue to support flexible working arrangements to reduce unoccupied workstations in leased tenancies, including through the use of desk-booking tools to maximise the use of available workstations and measure and report on further potential efficiencies.

ACTION: NEMA will occupy office space that meets the Strategy Target of 5.5 star NABERS ratings by 1 July 2025, wherever possible.

Electric Vehicle Charging

ACTION: NEMA will work with Building owners/ Lease holders towards establishing electric vehicle charging in allocated parking areas to support Electric Vehicle charging by 30 June 2025, where possible.

Fleet vehicles

As at 30 June 2024, NEMA's vehicle fleet included 17 passenger vehicles, consisting of 17 diesel vehicles that meet the operational needs of the agency.

ACTION: In 2025 NEMA will continue to consolidate its fleet vehicles to the lowest possible numbers of internal combustion engine vehicles, and considering LEVs where this aligns with the Agency's operational purposes.

Sustainable procurement

NEMA is committed to integrating sustainability principles into its procurement processes to support emission reductions goals. This will be completed by prioritising environmentally friendly products and services, selecting goods and services with minimal environmental impact or with lower carbon footprints. NEMA will work with vendors who adhere to sustainable practices, including ethical sourcing, waste reduction, and energy-efficient production methods.

ACTION: Through sustainable procurement, NEMA aims to minimise its environmental footprint while supporting broader sustainability goals.

Travel

NEMA is committed to aligning to WoAG travel policies, which require that travel must only be undertaken where other communication tools such as teleconferencing and videoconferencing are not suitable.

To further support the net zero strategy, NEMA is dedicated to integrating environmental considerations into our travel decisions. This includes prioritising online meetings where feasible, opting for sustainable travel options, and minimising the carbon footprint associated with necessary travel. We will endeavour to balance our operational requirements with our responsibility to contribute to environmental sustainability.

ACTION:

NEMA will ensure the Agency's travel policy and guidance supports the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy. NEMA will continue to actively encourage staff to use alternative communication tools, such as videoconferencing before committing to air travel, recognising it forms a significant part of the emissions footprint. In approving travel, NEMA's delegates will continue to be satisfied there is a demonstrated business need for the travel, noting NEMA's operational requirements to manage disaster and emergency events. NEMA will encourage use of low-emission transport options where appropriate, such as electric where possible or hybrid vehicles and public transportation, to further reduce environmental impact. Additionally where possible, NEMA will support selection of accommodation with high NABERS ratings and accommodation options as near to the place of business, where available and suitable and within reasonable expenditure limits.

4. Engagement

In the development of this plan NEMA has worked with:

- The 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
- Evolve FM, NEMAs Property Service Provider
- Neighbouring Tenants to discuss options for shared locations and any associated and relevant outcomes to lower emissions.