



**Australian Government**

**Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency**

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# **Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency Emissions Reduction Plan**

# Acknowledgement of Country

The Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of the of the lands on which we work, and we pay our respects to their 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 Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA) is committed to the achievement of the Government's APS Net Zero 2030 target. The ASSEA 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 ASSEA is taking to reduce our operational emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target.



Jodie Deakes

Accountable Authority

30 August 2024

# Emissions Reduction Plan

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## Purpose

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ASSEA 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 ASSEA 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 ASSEA to reduce emissions.

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

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## Net zero greenhouse gas emissions

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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.

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## Governance and reporting

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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 ASSEA 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.

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## ASSEA Operational context

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ASSEA is a micro non-corporate Commonwealth agency with an average staffing level of 21. We occupy office spaces in Canberra and Sydney with another three staff members working remotely; our offices, along with business related travel, represent our main emissions.

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## Baseline emissions

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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 ASSEA are presented in our 2022-23 annual report.

Baseline year	Financial year 2022-23
Scope 1 emissions	n/a tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Scope 2 emissions	8,943 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Total emissions	8,943 tCO <sub>2</sub> e

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## Engagement

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In the development of this plan ASSEA 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
- Property Manager – to access property data and broader community learnings.

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## Emissions reduction targets

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ASSEA 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.

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## Priorities and actions

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For ASSEA 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:

### Buildings

Our Canberra office space, where we are a tenant in a large office building, is already utilising renewable electricity. We will continue to work with our property manager to identify other opportunities to reduce office related emissions.

Our Sydney office space is a sub-tenancy within the Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) office, as such the DTA are responsible for emissions target reductions.

If ASSEA was to enter into any new lease for office space we would endeavour to find a suitable building that has and maintains 5.5 star or higher base building and tenancy NABERS Energy ratings.

## **Business Travel**

Business related travel is the area where ASSEA can possibly reduce its emissions. Whilst the current location of our workplaces and employees results in the majority of our meetings being virtual, some opportunities exist:

- Using emission friendly travel, for example public transport instead of taxi's or similar
- Investigating the use of technology for external meetings and similar, for example pre-recorded keynote presentations for conferences.

## **Energy**

ASSEA will consult with the Department of Finance to ensure participation in WoAG electricity procurement as per the Strategy and replace all existing electricity contracts with electricity sourced from renewable energy sources (either via purchase of 100% GreenPower or LGCs).

## **Fleet**

ASSEA does not operate any vehicles and will continue this practice.