

Australian Skills Quality Authority Emissions Reduction Plan

Plan



Version 3 | August 2024



Australian Government
Australian Skills Quality Authority

ASQA

(Working together)

Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Skills Quality Authority 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.

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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 Australian Skills Quality Authority (**ASQA**) is committed to the achievement of the Government's APS Net Zero 2030 target. ASQA 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 ASQA is taking to reduce our operational emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target.



Saxon Rice

Chief Executive Officer and Accountable Authority

Emissions Reduction Plan

Purpose

ASQA 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 ASQA 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 ASQA 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 ASQA progress towards reducing its emissions.

ASQA Operational context

As the national regulator of Australia's vocational education and training (VET) sector, ASQA's purpose is to ensure quality VET so that students, employers, governments and the community can have confidence in the integrity of national qualifications issued by training providers. Achieving our purpose is critical to enabling the sector's role in supporting our nation's economy and future growth and prosperity.

Engagement

In the development of this plan ASQA 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 Service Providers (JLL) – to obtain property related information.

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 ASQA are presented in our 2022-23 annual report.

Baseline year	Financial year 2022-23
Scope 1 emissions	0 tCO ₂ e
Scope 2 emissions	91.8 tCO ₂ e
Scope 3	102.8 tCO ₂ e
Total emissions	194.6 tCO ₂ e

Emissions reduction targets

ASQA 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.

Priorities and actions

For ASQA 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:

- Lighting Upgrades
- Electrification
- Sustainability requirements in new leasing events
- Sustainable Fit outs
- Right-sizing office space
- Procuring renewable electricity

Buildings

Lighting Upgrades

Lighting upgrades will be implemented strategically where they have the greatest impact on energy reduction. In evaluating replacements ASQA will assess the lighting type, lighting control strategies and future considerations around office right sizing. As part of fit out projects ASQA will preference the reuse of existing lights where these are of an acceptable standard to minimise embodied carbon

emissions. Where replacements are deemed necessary these will be high energy efficiency lighting with sensor control.

ACTION:

- Review existing lighting in future office requirements.
- Undertake identified lighting upgrades as leading to meaningful energy reductions sufficient to offset the embodied carbon impacts.
- Ensure all lighting upgrades undertaken as part of fit out works to stipulate energy efficient lighting with energy efficient lighting controls.

Electrification

ASQA does not currently procure any gas directly. This will involve both leveraging lease events and maintaining regular communication with landlords regarding electrification plans. ASQA will prefer all-electric buildings when seeking new leases – in accordance with the Net Zero In Government Operations Strategy.

ACTION:

- Do not procure or install any gas using equipment for direct use by ASQA.
- Establish and maintain communication with existing ASQA landlords to understand their electrification plans.
- When seeking new leases, preference all electric buildings where feasible.

New Leases

Many of ASQAs leases are less than 1000m2 and as such are not bound by the NABERS rating requirements in the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy. Nonetheless, when seeking new leases, ASQA will incorporate the principles of the Strategy into decision making processes. and will preference buildings with a NABERS base building rating of 5.5 stars or more where practical.

ACTION:

- Seek information on building energy efficiency as part of all market sweeps for new leases.
- Value high energy efficiency ratings when making leasing decisions.

Sustainable Fit outs

When fitting out new spaces or undertaking fit-out work of existing tenancies ASQA will consider sustainability impacts and endeavour to reduce emissions from both the fit out works and the ongoing operation of the space. The use of flexible design principles and multipurpose spaces will make the fit-out more adaptable to changing use patterns, improving the longevity of fit-out and reducing the frequency of future fit-out works.

ACTION:

- Re-use existing elements and consider warm-shell fit-outs where practical.
- Seek products and materials that are both responsibly sourced and have a responsible disposal path at end of life.
- Procure appliances with high energy efficiency ratings and high water efficiency ratings (where applicable).
- Preference flexible and adaptable design principles.

- Require responsible waste disposal practices for all construction waste and minimise waste to landfill.
- Where a project includes replacing lighting, require energy efficient lighting and energy efficient lighting controls.
- Continue to explore office consolidation opportunities including sub-leasing excess space and co-location with other government agencies.

Electricity

Renewable electricity

ASQA will transition all electricity accounts that are not part of embedded networks into the Whole of Australian Government (WoAG) bulk electricity procurement. This will be done as per the WoAG procurement timeline and will lead to renewable energy procurement at all applicable sites. For sites that are part of embedded networks, ASQA will work with landlords to transition towards the purchase of renewable energy where possible. This will be done both as part of leasing negotiations and during existing lease terms.

ACTION:

- Consult with the Department of Finance to ensure participation in WoAG electricity procurement as per the Strategy and replacement of all electricity contracts with renewable electricity.

Title	Emission Reductions Plan template			
Created By	Climate Action in Government Operations (CAiGO)			
Date Created	6/12/23			
Maintained By	Climate Action in Government Operations (CAiGO)			
Version Number	Modified By	Modifications Made	Date Modified	Status
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	ASQA Corporate & Enabling	Plan template populated to include ASQA specific information.	August 2024	Draft