

Australian Law Reform Commission Emissions Reduction Plan

Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Law Reform Commission 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

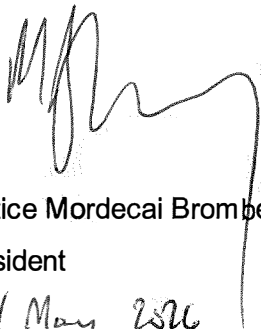
The Australian Government released the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy in November 2023, setting out the overall approach and action required by Commonwealth entities to achieve the APS Net Zero 2030 target.

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 Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) is committed to the achievement of the Government's APS Net Zero 2030 target. The ALRC 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 ALRC is taking to reduce our operational emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target.

SIGNED BY ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY



Justice Mordecai Bromberg
President

14 May 2026
DD Month YYYY

Emissions Reduction Plan

Purpose

The ALRC 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 ALRC 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 ALRC 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 ALRC 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.

ALRC Operational context

The ALRC operates across two sites in Australia, with 20 staff in Melbourne and 4 in Brisbane. The Melbourne CBD office occupies 330sqm NLA in a non-Commonwealth-owned building, while the Brisbane CBD office operates alongside the Queensland Law Reform Commission with a dedicated space of 4sqm.

Most staff work under hybrid working arrangements, with two fully remote working staff members.

Domestic (air and road) travel is only undertaken by staff unless there is a demonstrated business need, such as consulting with stakeholders for inquiry purposes. Travel can be integral to ensuring there is broad engagement without inquiries.

The ALRC owns no fleet cars. The President’s vehicle is managed under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federal Court of Australia, which assumes responsibility for reporting obligations such as annual emissions reporting.

As ALRC outsources its technology and IT service providers, the ALRC does not operate its own data centres or ICT services.

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 the ALRC are presented in our 2022-23 annual report.

Baseline year	Financial year 2022-23
Scope 1 emissions (facilities)	N/A tCO ₂ e
Scope 2 emissions (purchased electricity)	N/A tCO ₂ e
Total emissions	N/A tCO ₂ e

The ALRC no longer occupies the office used in 2022-23 and efforts are underway to obtain a baseline figure for our new office.

Engagement

In the development of this plan ALRC 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

Emissions reduction targets

The ALRC 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 ALRC 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:

- Improving building energy efficiency
- Procuring renewable energy
- Prioritising business-critical travel
- Sustainable procurement

Other actions

- Staff engagement

Buildings

The Melbourne CBD office is currently exempt to NABERS ratings due to its development status. As the ALRC generally leases office spaces under 1000sqm, the energy performance measures outlined in the NZGO Strategy for expiring leases or to enter new lease arrangements does not apply.

ACTION: The ALRC will engage with the Melbourne CBD office's landlord to seek to implement energy efficient actions for lighting, HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning). To support reuse and recycling schemes to prevent items from being sent to landfill, an organic waste bin has been arranged onsite to support sustainable waste management within the Melbourne office building.

Electricity

Renewable electricity

The electricity plan for our Melbourne CBD site is 100% carbon neutral. For every tonne of emissions the office space makes, the energy provider purchases one tonne of emission offsets in the form of certificates from projects that absorb or ease the production of CO₂.

ACTION: Consult with the Department of Finance to ensure participation in WoAG electricity procurement as per the Strategy and look to replace electricity contract with renewable electricity.

Travel

The ALRC prioritises online meetings via video conferencing technology to reduce the need for air and road travel unless there is a demonstrated business need, such as consulting with stakeholders for inquiry purposes.

ACTION: Review and update travel policy to prioritise lower emission modes of transport e.g., giving preference to LEVs and EVs for hire cars, or trains or other land-based transport, or direct flights where air travel is required. Travel policy could also prioritise greener travel choices, such as using the NABERS Energy rating tool for hotels when booking accommodation.

Procurement

ACTION: Review ALRC procurement policy in line with the Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy where appropriate.

Staff engagement

ACTION: The Authority will raise staff awareness through:

- Encouraging staff to support the Emissions Reductions Plan published on the ALRC's internal SharePoint Online page and ALRC's public website,
- Encouraging staff to undertake APSLearn Academy training courses relating to the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy.