

# **Department of Veterans' Affairs Emissions Reduction Plan**

# Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Veterans' Affairs 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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# Environmental and Sustainability Policy Statement

## Our Commitment

Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) is committed to leading by example in reducing emissions and promoting sustainable operations in line with the Australian Government's Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy (released November 2023). We fully support and adopt the APS Net Zero 2030 target, which requires all Commonwealth entities to achieve net zero emissions from operations by 2030.

## Our Approach

We recognise our responsibility to contribute to the decarbonisation of Australia's economy and to embed sustainability into all aspects of our operations. This commitment reflects our role in supporting national climate goals and ensuring a resilient, low-emissions future.

## Our Actions

To achieve these objectives, we will:

- Implement the APS Net Zero 2030 target in full, as outlined in the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy.
- Develop and maintain an Emissions Reduction Plan that sets clear priorities and actions to reduce operational emissions.
- Integrate sustainability principles into procurement, asset management, and service delivery.
- Monitor and report progress transparently, ensuring accountability and continuous improvement.
- Engage staff and stakeholders to foster a culture of environmental responsibility and innovation.

## Our Goal

Through these actions, DVA will contribute meaningfully to the Australian Government's leadership in emissions reduction and help accelerate the transition to a sustainable, net zero economy.

# 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 Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is committed to the achievement of the Government's APS Net Zero 2030 target. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) 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 DVA is taking to reduce our operational emissions and contribute to the APS Net Zero 2030 target.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allison Frame', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Allison Frame

Secretary

# Emissions Reduction Plan

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## **Purpose**

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The goal of this Emissions Reduction Plan is to provide a pathway for the Department of Veterans' Affairs 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 Department of Veterans' Affairs 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. Net-zero is achieved when greenhouse gas emissions are reduced as much as possible through efficiency and clean technologies, and any remaining emissions are balanced by carbon removal or offsets. 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 reported to the People and Cultural Committee and the Executive Board. These actions and progress will also be included in our annual reports. This, combined with annual emissions reporting, will be used as a measure of Department of Veterans' Affairs 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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## Department of Veterans' Affairs Operational Context

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The purpose of DVA is to support the wellbeing of those who serve or have served in the defence of our nation, and their families, by:

- Partnering with organisations and individuals to help design, implement and deliver effective policies, programs and benefits, which enhance the wellbeing of veterans and their families.
- Providing and maintaining war graves and delivering meaningful commemorative activities to promote community recognition and understanding of the service and sacrifice of veterans.

DVA achieves its purpose through three **outcomes**:

- Maintain and enhance the financial wellbeing and self-sufficiency of eligible persons and their dependants through access to income support, compensation and other support services, including advice and information about entitlements.
- Maintain and enhance the physical and mental wellbeing and quality of life of eligible persons and their dependants through health and other care services that promote early intervention, prevention and treatment, including advice and information about health service entitlements.
- Acknowledgement and commemoration of those who served Australia and its allies in wars, conflicts and peace operations through promoting recognition of service and sacrifice, preservation of Australia's wartime heritage, and official commemorations.

DVA operates 50 properties nationally, principally office space, but also including veterans counselling suites, shop fronts, and file repositories. Additionally, the Office of Australian War Graves, part of the DVA portfolio, operate a number of depots and small offices in war cemeteries. DVA has approximately 4,000 employees, mainly located in the major capital cities in office spaces.

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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.

## Emission Reporting 2022–23

| Emission source                       | Scope 1<br>kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e | Scope 2<br>kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e | Scope 3<br>kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e | Total<br>kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Electricity (location-based approach) | N/A                              | 1,760,281                        | 218,365                          | 1,978,646                      |
| Natural gas                           | N/A                              | N/A                              | N/A                              | N/A                            |
| Fleet vehicles                        | 67,428                           | N/A                              | 16,794                           | 84,222                         |
| Domestic flights                      | N/A                              | N/A                              | 1,288,774                        | 1,288,774                      |
| Other energy                          | 0                                | N/A                              | 0                                | 0                              |
| <b>Total kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e</b>      | <b>67,428</b>                    | <b>1,683,836</b>                 | <b>1,513,184</b>                 | <b>3,264,448</b>               |

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## Engagement

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In the development of this plan DVA 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.
  - Fleet Team – to discuss options associated with low emissions vehicles.
- SG Fleet
- Cushman & Wakefield (Strategic Property Provider)

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## Emissions reduction targets

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DVA 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 DVA 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:

- Procuring renewable electricity
- Improving building standards
- Transitioning the fleet vehicles to low emission vehicles.

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## Implementation Plan

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This section outlines 8 key actions in DVA's first Emissions Reduction Plan, reflecting its commitment to climate action. Implementation may vary based on technology, budgets, and service priorities.

Each action has been categorized (Impact, Influence and Innovate) as to whether it directly reduces the DVA's carbon emissions, influences other action, or innovates by enabling the integration of new or emerging technologies.



**Impact:** An action that directly results in reduction carbon reduction.







**Influence:** An action that seeks to influence or encourage emissions reduction of contractors,



**Innovate:** An action that enables the use or implementation of technologies that drive net zero outcomes.



## Buildings and Governance

The organization is committed to strengthening its sustainability governance, recognizing that improved oversight and strategic planning directly support its net-zero goals by driving reductions in utility consumption and promoting the use of renewable energy.

| Action Detail   | Action type  | Progress                              |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| The DVA Emissions Reduction Plan will be added to the DVA Strategic Property Plan and updated annually  |    | Expected commencement: July 2026      |
| Update the DVA Environmental Policy to reflect new targets for building sustainability (Q4 2024 Property & Sustainability Section).   |    | Expected commencement: July 2026      |
| Update the Leasing Decision Framework (part of the DVA Strategic Property Plan) to reflect new targets for building sustainability (Q4 2024 Property & Sustainability Section). |    | Expected commencement: July 2026      |
| Develop Electric Vehicle Charging Plan (as part of the Strategic Property Plan) for in-scope buildings (Q3 2024 Property & Sustainability Section).                             |  | Expected commencement: September 2026 |

## Electricity;

Approximately 23.3% of DVA's electricity emissions are attributed to embedded networks which are currently out-of-scope for transition to WOAG electricity purchase arrangements. Non-embedded electricity networks will transition to WOAG renewable electricity as contracts become available. Additionally a NABERS Energy ratings for properties over 1000m<sup>2</sup> to assess and reduce emissions will also be performed.

| Action Detail   | Action type  | Progress                         |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Consult with the Department of Finance to ensure participation in WoAG electricity procurement as per the Strategy (Q4 2024 Property and Sustainability Section). |  | Expected commencement: July 2026 |
| Replace electricity contracts with new WOAG contracts as described in the table below (Property and Sustainability Section).                                      |  | Expected commencement: July 2026 |

Ensure office space leased for four or more years and over 1000m2 maintains a NABERS rating of at least 5.5 (from 1 July 2025 Property and Sustainability Section).




Expected commencement: July 2026

## Reduction Timeline

| Date                         | Locations                              | Estimated CO <sub>2</sub> Emission Reduction              |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 December 2024              | 39 Reynolds Rd, Mt Pleasant WA         | Approximately 55t CO <sub>2</sub><br>(2.0% reduction)     |
|                              | 18 Goddard St Rockingham WA            |   |
| 1 January 2025               | 254-286 Liverpool St Hobart TAS        | Approximately 205t CO <sub>2</sub><br>(7.4% reduction)    |
|                              | 287 Charles St Launceston TAS          |   |
|                              | 3 Gurd St Farrar NT                    |   |
|                              | 40 Molle St Hobart TAS                 |   |
|                              | 14 Winnellie Rd Winnellie NT           |   |
| 1 July 2025                  | 17 Conway St Lismore NSW               | Approximately 1,506t CO <sub>2</sub><br>(54.1% reduction) |
|                              | 300 La Trobe St Melbourne VIC          |   |
|                              | 6-8 Auckland St Newcastle NSW          |   |
|                              | 260 & 280 Elizabeth St Surry Hills NSW |   |
|                              | 81 Hume St Wodonga VIC                 |   |
|                              | 21 Genge St ACT                        |   |
|                              | 12 Furzer St Phillip ACT               |   |
| 303 Collins St Melbourne VIC |  |   |
| 1 October 2026               | 129 Horton Pde Adelaide SA             | Approximately 50t CO <sub>2</sub><br>(1.8% reduction)     |
|                              | 245 Fullarton Road Eastwood SA         |   |
| 1 January 2029               | 340 Ross River Rd Aitkenvale QLD       | Approximately 318t CO <sub>2</sub><br>(11.4% reduction)   |
|                              | 996 Wynnum Rd Cannon Hill QLD          |   |
|                              | 520 Flinders St Townsville QLD         |   |
|                              | 274 Stafford Rd Stafford QLD           |   |

## Fleet

DVA operates a small fleet of 37 vehicles. It includes 15 light commercial utility vehicles used for War Graves Maintenance, often in remote locations, with the 22 other vehicles service DVA office spaces and client facing services. The Office of Australian War Graves vehicle requirements cannot currently be met by Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) technology as servicing of very remote War Graves sites can be well outside the range of current light commercial BEVs with no charging infrastructure available in remote locations. However, the use cases for the remaining 22 vehicles make them suitable for BEV replacement.

| Action Detail   | Action type  | Progress   |
|---|--|--|
| Replace fleet vehicles with BEVs as described in the table below (Property and Sustainability Section). |  | Ongoing depending on availability and contract expiry dates. |

## Replacement Table

| Date    | Action   |
|---------|--|
| Q3 2024 | Toyota Corolla Hybrid (1GKL747) replaced with new Toyota Corolla Hybrid (1IJQ488)            |
| Q4 2024 | Nissan X-Trail (036CW8) replaced with Tesla Model Y (307LO5)                                 |
|         | Nissan X-Trail (219AI9) replaced with Tesla Model Y (328KB9)                                 |
| Q3 2025 | Nissan X-Trail (1WD1TT) replaced with Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV* (2CH8YO)                    |
|         | Toyota Camry Hybrid (YPZ63Q) contract extended to 13/09/2026                                 |
|         | Toyota Camry Hybrid (DD09HP) contract extended to 18/09/2026                                 |
|         | Toyota Camry Hybrid (DF76DG) contract extended to 19/09/2026                                 |
| Q4 2025 | Nissan X-TRAIL Internal Combustion (DE59TR) replaced with Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV (840OF3) |
|         | Toyota Camry Hybrid (DF89DG) contract extended to 11/09/2026                                 |
|         | Toyota Camry Hybrid (DF91DG) contract extended to 11/09/2026                                 |
|         | Toyota Corolla Hybrid (558FZ7) contract extended to 20/06/2026                               |
| Q1 2026 | Toyota Corolla Hybrid (YQA04M) contract extended to 13/09/2026                               |
|         | Nissan X-Trail Internal Combustion (1HVJ288) contract extended to 22/09/2026                 |
| Q2 2026 | Subaru Outback Internal Combustion (CF14PV) contract extended to 29/11/2026                  |
|         | Toyota Camry Hybrid (1XW8PM) contract extended to 30/09/2026                                 |
|         | Nissan Leaf BEV (S574CWB) contract extended to 27/09/2026                                    |
| Q3 2026 | Toyota Camry Hybrid (1YD9ZA) contract extended to 06/07/2026                                 |
|         | Tesla Model Y BEV (865HQ5) contract extended to 09/07/2026                                   |
|         | Toyota Corolla Hybrid (535HG6) contract extended to 11/07/2026                               |
| Q4 2026 | Toyota RAV4 (Wagon) Hybrid (J25VM) contract extended to 14/10/2026                           |
|         | Toyota Camry Hybrid (S447CXT) contract extended to 29/11/2026                                |
| Q3 2027 | Toyota Corolla Hybrid (1IJQ488) will be replaced with small BEV                              |

\*PHEV stands for Plug In Hybrid Electric Vehicle.

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## Involved participants

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The following areas of Department of Veterans' Affairs have been involved in the development of this plan:

| Division                                 | Branch                            |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Chief People Officer Division            | Integrity, Security, and Property |
| A/g Director Risk & Emergency Management | Portfolio Management              |
|  |                                   |

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## Version History

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| Version | Date        | Updated By        | Details   |
|---------|-------------|-------------------|---|
| 0.1     | 20/8/24     | Dave Binny        | Initial draft   |
| 1.0     | 28/8/24     | Dave Binny        | Final draft, incorporating COO's comments                       |
| 1.1     | 15/12/2025  | Jason Evans       | Initial draft – review and amalgamation of Environmental Policy |
| 1.2     | 04/.05/2026 | Mohamed El-Hassan | Final Draft for presented for endorsement by the Secretary      |
|         |             |                   |   |
|         |             |                   |   |
|         |             |                   |   |