

National Carbon Offset Standard Carbon Neutral Program Public Disclosure Summary



An Australian Government Initiative


GOLDEN WEST HOLDINGS PTY LTD T/A
BLUE MOUNTAINS EXPLORER BUS / FANTASTIC AUSSIE TOURS

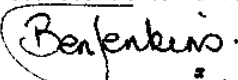
BASE YEAR: FY2016

CARBON NEUTRAL REPORTING PERIOD: FY2016

Declaration

To the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this Public Disclosure Summary is true and correct and meets the requirements of the National Carbon Offset Standard Carbon Neutral Program.

	25 th January 2017
Jason Cronshaw	
Managing Director	

Type of carbon neutral certification: Organisation Verification
Date of most recent external verification/audit: 25 January 2017
Auditor: 
Auditor assurance statement link:



Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy

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1. Carbon neutral information

1A. Introduction

Golden West Holdings operates both Fantastic Aussie Tours and Blue Mountains Explorer Bus, based in an office in Katoomba (238 Bathurst St) and a depot in North Katoomba (91 Barton St). These two businesses provide three different types of transport services for tourists, schools, corporate events and other customers. These services are:

1. Hop-on hop-off Explorer Bus: This service ferries tourists between different sites in the Blue Mountains.
2. Fantastic Aussie Tours: This caters to tourists wanting to take tours in the Blue Mountains as well as other locations (e.g. between Sydney and inter-state destinations)
3. Fantastic Aussie Tours coach charter service: This involves six coaches catering to local schools, Barker College (outdoor education), the International Management School, Corporate transfers (e.g. to restaurants, hotels or to/from Sydney)

Golden West Holdings' National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) Carbon Neutral Program (CNP) certification includes both the business activities of Golden West Holdings (organisational certification), as well as the coach charter and tourist sightseeing services operating in the Blue Mountains (service certification).

To this effect, this greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory covers direct (scope 1) and indirect (scope 2) GHG emissions associated with Fantastic Aussie Tours' and Blue Mountains Explorer Bus's activities over which Golden West Holdings has operational control, as well as other indirect GHG emissions that occur as a result of Golden West Holdings' business activities (scope 3).

Also included in the GHG inventory are lifecycle (embodied) emissions from vehicle manufacture (scope 3) of Golden West Holdings' fleet of 11 buses and coaches, which have been estimated using a lifecycle assessment approach. Most energy in vehicles is consumed during their operational (use) phase. Emissions associated with vehicle maintenance and fuel consumption are accounted for under scope 1, scope 2, and scope 3.

The GHG inventory has been prepared in accordance with the National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS), the NCOS Carbon Neutral Program Guidelines, the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 and supporting legislation and documentation, and the GHG Protocol series.

1B. Emission sources within certification boundary

Quantified sources

The following emission sources have been included in this GHG inventory:

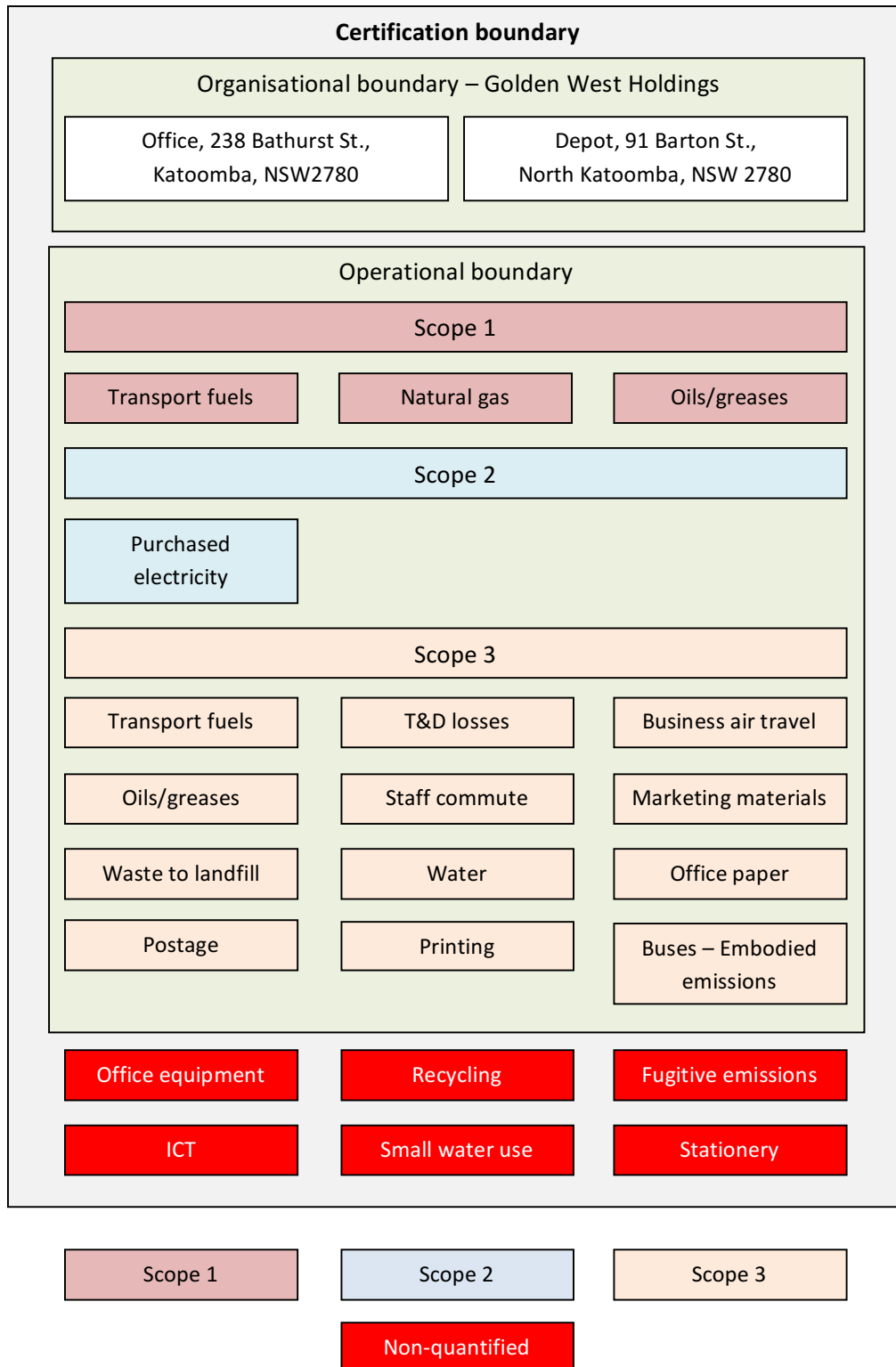
- Transport fuels – buses and business travel
- Natural gas distributed in a pipeline
- Petroleum-based oils and greases
- Purchased electricity, including transmission and distribution losses
- Extraction, production and distribution of fuels, natural gas, as well as oils and greases used
- Waste to landfill
- Water supply and waste water
- Business air travel
- Staff commute
- Marketing materials
- Office paper
- Postage

Non-quantified sources

The following emission sources have not been quantified in line with the provisions in the NCOS:

- Emissions associated with office equipment, telecommunications/Internet and stationery have not been quantified because these are not significant expenditures and not expected to make up a material contribution to total emissions.
- Water use for one toilet and one sink in the Katoomba office has been not been quantified due to immaterial contribution to estimated total emissions.
- Fugitive emissions from refrigerants used in air-conditioning units have not been quantified due to immaterial contribution to estimated total emissions.
- Emissions associated with recycling of waste, filters, oil and mechanical items have not been quantified due to data limitations.

1C. Diagram of certification boundary



2. Emissions reduction measures

2A. Emissions over time

This is GWH's initial application under the NCOS Carbon Neutral Program and FY2016 is the base year. The current GHG inventory can be found in section 3, Emissions Summary.

2B. Emissions reduction strategy

The following activities form part of Golden West Holdings' emissions reduction strategy:

- Annual measurement and reporting of energy consumption and GHG inventory
- Identifying and implementing opportunities to reduce emissions and energy consumption wherever possible and feasible (avoid, reduce, offset)
- Staff engagement, providing staff the opportunity to contribute to the process of reducing emissions

2C. Emissions reduction actions

Golden West Holdings is using the current GHG inventory as a baseline to identify, evaluate and implement potential emission reduction opportunities and against which future efforts and overall environmental performance is evaluated. Future opportunities under consideration include:

- Switching to NCOS-certified carbon neutral products, such as
 - Carbon neutral office paper
 - Carbon neutral marketing materials (printed on carbon neutral paper as a minimum)
 - Carbon neutral electricity products
 - Carbon neutral flight options for business travel
- Installation of rooftop solar at the depot site
- Switching diesel fuel to biodiesel blends
- Driver training
- Energy efficiency opportunities to reduce energy demand, such as switching lights to LEDs, and considering the most efficient options when procuring new equipment
- Improving recycling rate and further reducing amount of waste that goes to landfill

3. Emissions summary

The total tonnes CO₂-e listed this GHG inventory have been rounded to the first decimal place. Due to this rounding, numbers presented in Table 2 may not add up precisely to the totals provided.

Table 2. Emissions Summary		
Scope	Emission source	t CO ₂ -e
1	Diesel for buses	281.4
1	Diesel for company car	0.7
1	Natural gas distributed in pipeline	0.8
1	Petroleum-based oils	0.9
2	Purchased electricity	16.4
2	Diesel - extraction, production & distribution	0.4
3	Buses – embodied emissions	334.9
3	Natural gas - extraction, production & distribution	0.4
3	Petroleum-based oils	0.1
3	Electricity – transmission and distribution losses	2.3
3	Business air travel	0.2
3	Waste to landfill	7.9
3	Water supply and waste water	0.4
3	Staff commute	15.1
3	Marketing materials	11.0
3	Printing & publishing	4.6
3	Office paper	1.4
3	Postage	2.2
Total Gross Emissions		681.1
GreenPower or retired LGCs		N/A
Total Net Emissions		681.1

4. Carbon offsets

4A. Offsets summary

Table 3. Offsets Summary			
Offset type and registry	Year retired	Quantity	Serial numbers
CERs (Gold Standard), UNFCCC CDM Registry	2016	200	IN-5-211596512-2-2-1-8855 to IN-5-211596711-2-2-1-8855
CERs, UNFCCC CDM Registry		335	CN-5-921901218-1-1-1-4744 to CN-5-921901552-1-1-1-4744
VERs (Gold Standard), Markit Registry	2016	200	GS1-1-AU-GS3039-22-2012-4636-1906 to GS1-1-AU-GS3039-22-2012-4636-2105
Total offsets retired			735
Net emissions			681.1t CO ₂ -e
Total offsets held in surplus for future years:			0

4B. Offsets purchasing and retirement strategy

Offsets will be purchased and retired annually in arrears at the end of each reporting year in accordance with the NCOS and NCOS Carbon Neutral Program Guidelines. All offsets will be purchased and retired by the offset provider on Golden West Holdings' behalf.

For the first year of certification, Golden West Holdings has purchased and retired 735 offset units:

- 347 units have been retired to cover the carbon footprint associated with Golden West Holdings' business activities, including fuel used by the vehicle fleet;
- 335 units have been retired to offset the embodied emissions of the vehicle fleet. These emissions represent a one-off occurrence. Golden West Holdings has decided to offset this emission source 100% in the first year of NCOS CNP participation, and will offset any additional embodied emissions from additional vehicles acquired in the future as they join the existing fleet.
- An additional allocation of 53 units has been retired to ensure carbon neutrality (accounting for immaterial emission sources), to minimise the risk of shortfall, as well as to underscore Golden West Holdings' commitment to the principles of the NCOS CNP.

Of the 735 offset units purchased and retired for the first year of certification, 200 CERs are part of Golden West Holdings' commitment to the [UN Climate Neutral Now](#) program.

4C. Offset projects (Co-benefits)

Solar Water Heater Program in India ([PoA 8855](#)) – In addition to the environmental benefits, this project contributes to social development by income and employment generation. The project employs local people for manufacturing, distribution, installation and maintenance of the solar water heaters. It also demonstrates a replicable renewable technology and enhances the commercialisation of renewable energy technology on the level of households and SMEs in India.

[Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Project](#) – From a small scale initial biodiverse planting in 2008 the project has expanded into a 11,700 hectare restoration of uneconomic and partly degraded farmland. It aims to create a connected, biodiverse landscape across the mid-West wheatbelt region, offsetting carbon emissions, and support the conservation of ecological communities of native flora and fauna. The project won the [Banksia Natural Capital Award](#) at the 28th annual Banksia Sustainability Awards.

[Bus Rapid Transit Zhengzhou](#) in China – This is a modern bus-based mass transit system project. The project includes more than 100km of bus-only lanes, an integrated smart ticketing system, a central bus dispatch and real-time information of customers. The project features the largest fleet of hybrid and electric buses worldwide with more than 3,000 large hybrid buses, most of which are gas-electric plug-in hybrids and more than 100 large battery-electric buses with an innovative automated battery interchange system. Even including carbon emissions from electricity production hybrid and electric buses reduce GHG emissions compared to conventional units by 40-60% whilst operating on zero emissions in the city centre. The measures of the project allow for a mode shift from private vehicles and taxis towards public transport with a positive climate impact, improved local air quality, less traffic congestion, less time spent for commuting, and a reduced accident rate.

5. Intended use of trade mark

Table 4. Trade mark register	
Where intended to be used	Logo type
Website	Certified organisation & service
Marketing materials	Certified organisation & service
Email signature	Certified organisation & service
On buses	Certified service
Business cards & stationery	Certified organisation

6. Have you done more?

Golden West Holdings will continuously review available emission factors and methodologies, and update its carbon footprint if there are any significant changes to the data, inventory boundary, methodologies, emission factors or any other relevant factors such as changes to the organisational structure or the discovery of significant errors.