



# **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY**

**ORGANISATION  
CY2020**

Australian Government  
**Climate Active**  
**Public Disclosure Statement**



An Australian Government Initiative



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY: Charles Sturt University

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020

**Declaration**

To the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this Public Disclosure Statement is true and correct and meets the requirements of the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard.

Signature



Date

10/06/21

Name of Signatory:

John Germov

Position of Signatory:

Interim Vice Chancellor and President

Charles Sturt University



**Australian Government**

**Department of Industry, Science,  
Energy and Resources**

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Version number February 2021

# 1. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

## Description of certification

This certification is for CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY (ABN 83 878 708 551) Australian business operations including its registered businesses, THE COMMUNICATION EXCHANGE, KAJULU COMMUNICATIONS, CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENTAL AND ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES, AGRIPARK and AGRISCIENCES RESEARCH AND BUSINESS PARK.

## Organisation description

Charles Sturt University (Charles Sturt) is a multi-campus regional NSW University established in 1989. It has six multi-faculty campuses operating from Albury-Wodonga, Bathurst, Dubbo, Orange, Port Macquarie and Wagga Wagga. It has several specialist campuses including in the ACT and Study Centres located in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

The Office of Governance and Corporate Affairs is located at The Grand Chancellery, Panorama Avenue, Bathurst, NSW, 2795. Charles Sturt's registered businesses principal place of business is Bathurst excepting for Charles Sturt University Environmental and Analytical Laboratories which is Wagga Wagga.

As a national university, Charles Sturt attracts more than 29,000 on-campus and more 5,000 distance education students. It also offers courses through on-shore and off-shore partner institutions which attracts approximately 9,000 students.

The University's regional locations enables it to make a distinctive contribution in such fields as health sciences, food and water security, environmental sustainability and economic prosperity. It is through this regional network of campuses that Charles Sturt is committed to maintaining a course and research profile that meets the needs and supports the aspirations of its communities and contributes to the enrichment of inland Australia.

The University has three Faculties (Faculty of Arts and Education, Faculty of Business, Justice & Behavioural Sciences, Faculty of Science) which operate across campuses and are responsible for developing and delivering courses. The faculties comprise more than 25 Schools and Centres for specific areas of study and research. Schools are generally located on a specific campus and carry responsibility for teaching subjects.

The University has four Centres of Research Excellence comprising:

- Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation
- National Wine and Grape Industry Centre
- Institute for Land, Water and Society
- Centre for Public and Contextual Theology.

*“Carbon Neutrality is one of the pathways for Charles Sturt University to address its commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to protect the planet. Through its own actions Charles Sturt aims to inspire others”.*

## 2. EMISSION BOUNDARY

### Diagram of the certification boundary

The quantified emission sources are set out in the table below. All Relevant emissions sources were quantified. Also a number of emission sources were classified as Excluded Sources as assessed by the Relevance Test. These are itemised as Excluded Emission Sources

<u>Quantified Sources</u>	<u>Non-quantified Sources</u>	<u>Excluded Emission Sources</u>
<p><i>Electricity (Market Based)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NSW</li> <li>▪ ACT</li> <li>▪ Study Centres</li> <li>▪ Data Centre</li> <li>▪ Exported Solar</li> </ul> <p><i>Stationary Energy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Natural Gas (NG)</li> <li>▪ LPG</li> <li>▪ Petrol/Gasoline</li> <li>▪ Diesel Oil</li> <li>▪ Petroleum based Oils</li> </ul> <p><i>Construction</i></p> <p><i>Agriculture - Livestock</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cattle</li> <li>▪ Sheep</li> <li>▪ Horses</li> </ul> <p><i>Capital Goods</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Computer Equipment</li> <li>▪ Telecommunications</li> <li>▪ Motor vehicles</li> <li>▪ Office Equipment</li> </ul> <p><i>Business Travel - Accommodation &amp; Facilities</i></p> <p><i>Business Travel – Air</i></p> <p><i>Business Travel – Transport Fuel</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Petrol / Gasoline</li> <li>▪ Diesel Oil</li> <li>▪ Ethanol</li> <li>▪ Private Car</li> <li>▪ Taxi</li> </ul> <p><i>Water (Urban Supply &amp; Waste)</i></p> <p><i>Waste (General Municipal)</i></p> <p><i>Office Supplies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Business / Copy paper</li> <li>▪ Tissue Papers</li> </ul> <p><i>Employee Commuting (To Work)</i></p> <p><i>Chemicals</i></p> <p><i>Working From Home (WFH)</i></p>	<p>Nil</p>	<p><i>Use and end-of-life sold products</i></p> <p><i>Facilities not under operational control (and not scope 3)</i></p> <p><i>Franchises</i></p> <p><i>Investments</i></p> <p><i>Postage Courier &amp; Freight</i></p> <p><i>Food</i></p> <p><i>Professional Services</i></p>

## Non-quantified sources

All Relevant Emission sources were quantified within the Activity data hierarchy classification levels 1 to 4. No Uplift factors (data classification level 5) were applied.

(Refer CA Technical Guidance Manual, p47).

## Data management plan

Two emission sources, Staff Commute and Capital Goods were classified under the Technical Guidance Manual, Activity data hierarchy as Level 4, Estimated data. While these are not large emission sources in relation to scope 1&2 and a data improvement plan is not required, a data improvement plan for these 2 items will be developed.

## Excluded sources (outside of certification boundary)

The following emission sources are classified as Excluded Sources, having been assessed against the Relevance Test.

They include:

- Investments
- Facilities not under operational control and not Scope 3
- Use and end-of-life sold products
- Franchises
- Postage Courier and Freight (External Services)
- Professional Services (Other External).

*“Through becoming Australia's first and only carbon neutral university, Charles Sturt is living out the Wiradjuri phrase Yindyamarra Winhanganha, or 'the wisdom of respectfully knowing how to live well in a world worth living in'”*

## 3. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

### Emissions reduction strategy

Building on our achievement of being Australia's first certified carbon neutral university in 2016, Charles Sturt continues to drive the best practice model in sustainability and by doing so affects change for the greater benefit of society.

Included in this model is a target to derive all of our energy needs from renewable sources by 2030. Also Charles Sturt has adopted the Learning in Future Environments (LiFE) index as a key element of the University's strategic management process.

LiFE is a structured process for evaluating current practices and with cross-organisational engagement allows the development of improvement plans to progress the sustainability model.

Charles Sturt's [Sustainability Statement](#), which is part of the broader University Strategy sets out commitments for Charles Sturt in the long term. A summary of the emissions reduction strategy and opportunities is available online at: <https://about.Charles Sturt.edu.au/sustainability/clean-energy>

### Emissions over time

Emissions over time are compared between the Base Year (2014), Year 5 (2019) and current year (Year 6, 2020). (Refer Table 1 below).

In 2020 overall emissions have reduced by 5% compared to Base Year. This emission reduction overrides the general underlying trends.

From 2014 to 2019 emissions increased by 14%. This was principally attributable to increases in Electricity emissions (+5%) and Natural Gas (+24%) which collectively contributed to 6% of the increase while new emission sources including Livestock and Urban Water contributed the remaining 8% increase.

(Note: As Charles Sturt's approach in the short term is to trade much of its Solar Generation as LGCs, the above figures are gross of solar generation which in 2020 was 15% of total electricity consumption.)

From 2019 to 2020 emissions decreased by 17%. However, 2020 was an untypical year. The overall result in 2020 reflects the reduced operations / activities arising from interventions taken to minimise the impact of the COVID Pandemic.

Major emission reductions included Electricity (-24%) and Natural Gas (-34%) which collectively contributed to a reduction of 25% overall. These reductions in particular overshadow the increase in new emission sources including Employee Commute (to work) and Capital Goods which collectively accounted for 6% of emissions in 2020.

Table 1

Emissions since base year			
	Base Year 2014	Year 5 2019	Year 6 2020
Total t CO <sub>2</sub> e	43,624	49,824	41,322

## Emissions reduction actions

Charles Sturt University is proactively reducing the emissions associated with its operations through discrete and targeted programs.

In 2020, while these primarily focused on campus energy other emission sources were also targeted.

The projects in 2020 included:

- Solar Energy

Continuing installation and commissioning of Solar Array installations including:

- Bathurst Campus - Stage II
- Port Macquarie - Stage II.

In 2020 solar generation across Charles Sturt campuses was more than 4,000 MWh which was 15% of total electricity consumption.

With the additional Solar Energy installed in 2020 this is expected to increase to about 6,500 MWh once fully commissioned

While Charles Sturt's approach is to trade much of these as LGCs in the initial stages, solar energy generation is integral to delivering on the strategy of deriving all energy needs from renewable resources by 2030.

- Building Energy Efficiency

Installation of higher efficiency lighting and air-conditioning technologies and improved monitoring and practices are the focus for building energy efficiency improvements.

- GONG (Get-out-of Natural-Gas. One pillar of the Charles Sturt Clean Energy strategy).

Replacement of Natural Gas fired equipment with other technologies including heat pumps as assets are retired.

- Vehicles

Purchase of hybrid vehicles as replacements for retiring fleet vehicles.

- Waste

Diversion strategies to reduce the waste-to-landfill streams.

- Urban (Towns) Water Usage.

Focus on water savings including reduction of irrigated turf. Projects included replacing turf areas with low or zero irrigated water landscapes.

## Emissions summary (inventory)

The summary of emissions by emission category is tabulated as follows:

**Table 2**

Emission source category	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e
<i>Accommodation and Facilities</i>	130
<i>Bespoke (Construction, Livestock, Other)</i>	10,150
<i>Carbon neutral products and services</i>	0
<i>Cleaning and Chemicals</i>	1
<i>Electricity (Market Based)</i>	24,445
<i>Land and Sea Transport (fuel)</i>	352
<i>Land and Sea Transport (km)</i>	10
<i>Stationary Energy</i>	5,391
<i>Waste</i>	666
<i>Working from home</i>	177
<i>Total Net Emissions</i>	41,322

## Uplift factors

**Table 3**

Reason for uplift factor	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Nil	0
<i>Total footprint to offset (uplift factors + net emissions)</i>	41,322

## Carbon neutral products

Climate Active carbon neutral products used included:

Australian (Business/Copy) Paper.



## Electricity summary

### Market-based approach summary:

Market-based approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Renewable %
Behind the meter consumption of electricity generated	366,860	0	1%
<b>Total non-grid electricity</b>	<b>366,860</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1%</b>
LGC Purchased and retired (kWh) (including PPAs)	0	0	0%
GreenPower	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables	107,386	0	0%
Residual Electricity	22,687,865	24,462,068	0%
Large Scale Renewable Energy Target (applied to grid electricity only)	5,429,454	0	19%
<b>Total grid electricity</b>	<b>28,224,705</b>	<b>24,462,068</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Total Electricity Consumed (grid + non grid)</b>	<b>28,591,565</b>	<b>24,462,068</b>	<b>21%</b>
Electricity renewables	5,903,700	0	
Residual Electricity	22,687,685	24,462,068	
<b>Exported on-site generated electricity</b>	<b>21,842</b>	<b>-17,037</b>	
Emission Footprint (kgCO <sub>2</sub> e)		24,445,031	

<b>Emission Footprint (TCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	<b>24,445</b>
<b>LRET renewables</b>	<b>19.31%</b>
<b>Voluntary Renewable Electricity</b>	<b>1.59%</b>
<b>Total renewables</b>	<b>20.90%</b>

### Location-based approach summary:

Location-based approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO <sub>2</sub> e)
ACT	107,386	96,647
NSW	26,033,037	23,430,363
SA	0	0
Vic	1,914,136	2,086,408
Qld	169,446	157,585
NT	0	0
WA	0	0
Tas	0	0
<b>Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)</b>	<b>28,224,705</b>	<b>25,771,004</b>
ACT	0	0
NSW	366,860	0
SA	0	0
Vic	0	0
Qld	0	0
NT	0	0
WA	0	0
Tas	0	0
<b>Non-grid electricity (Behind the meter)</b>	<b>366,860</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Electricity Consumed</b>	<b>28,591,565</b>	<b>25,771,004</b>

<b>Emission Footprint (TCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	<b>25,771</b>
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# 4. CARBON OFFSETS

## Offsets strategy

Charles Sturt has established a series of four principles to help guide decisions associated with the procurement of carbon offsets.

These principles are as follows:

1. Support for locally-based projects to the extent that is deemed financially viable
2. A preference for projects that align with Charles Sturt’s values and offer high engagement value
3. Consideration of projects that offer regional connectivity with Charles Sturt’s international partners, a number of which are listed here: <https://www.csu.edu.au/division/global-engagement-and-partnerships/partnerships/international-linkages>
4. The unit cost of the offset option.

Charles Sturt purchases and retires offsets in arrears of the reporting period, once its annual inventory has been established and the total quantity of offsets is known.

Offset purchasing strategy:	
In arrears	
1. Total offsets previously forward purchased and banked for this report	Zero
2. Total emissions liability to offset for this report	41,322 t CO <sub>2</sub> -e
3. Net offset balance for this reporting period	41,322 t CO <sub>2</sub> -e
4. Total offsets to be forward purchased to offset the next reporting period	zero
5. Total offsets required for this report	41,322 t CO <sub>2</sub> -e

## Co-benefits

Charles Sturt University has selected offsets which have co-benefits that address some of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Otherwise known as the Global Goals, these are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

The Goals that are specifically addressed by the offsets include SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 13, and SDG 15.



The projects selected for the purchase and retirement of offsets for this reporting period are as follows:

**The Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve Project: Indonesia.**

This project relates to 10 percent of the total amount of offsets purchased and retired for this reporting period.

The project is an initiative by InfiniteEARTH, which aims to reduce Indonesia's emissions by preserving some 64,000 hectares of tropical peat swamp forest. This area, rich in biodiversity including the endangered Bornean orangutan, was slated by the Provincial government to be converted into four palm oil estates. Located on the southern coast of Borneo in the province of Central Kalimantan, the project is also designed to protect the integrity of the adjacent world renowned Tanjung Puting National Park, by creating a physical buffer zone on the full extent of the eastern border of the park.

**Energising-India using Solar Energy Projects: India**

This project relates to 84 percent of the total amount of offsets purchased and retired for this reporting period.

The project targets to reduce India's carbon emissions and take an ambitious step to move toward a clean energy future started in 2010 with the launch of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM). The Mission had set up an ambitious target of deploying 20 GW of grid connected solar power by 2022.

**Arnhem Land indigenous savannah fire management Projects: Australia**

This project relates to a total of 6 percent of the total amount of offsets purchased and retired for this reporting period.

Greenhouse gases emitted from savanna fires make up 3% of Australia's total emissions. Savanna burning projects undertaken by Traditional Owners and Aboriginal rangers reduce GHG emissions by undertaking cool, lower intensity fires in the early dry season when the vegetation still contains some moisture from the wet season. This reduces the GHG emitted from high intensity, unmanaged fire in the late dry season when the country is dry.

In addition to the carbon abatement the project is delivering 'core benefits' to country including:

- Managing country the right way
- Revitalising connection to country
- Improving corridors to take pressure off wildlife
- Building new fire skills and experience for rangers.

## Offsets summary

Proof of cancellation of offset units.

Offsets cancelled for Climate Active Carbon Neutral Certification										
Project description	Type of offset units	Registry	Date retired	Serial number (and hyperlink to registry transaction record)	Vintage	Eligible Quantity (TCO2-e)	Quantity used for previous reporting periods	Quantity banked for future reporting periods	Quantity used for this reporting period claim	Percent of total (%)
Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve Project, Indonesia.	VCUs	APX	13/05/2021	7561-407429131-407433130-VCU-016- MER-ID-14-674-01072014-31122014-1 ( <a href="https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=114251">https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=114251</a> )	2014	4,000	0	0	4,000	10%
Energising-India using Solar Energy Projects, India.	VCUs	APX	13/05/2021	7387-391605670-391640491-VCU-034-APX-IN-1-1931-01012019-30062019-0 ( <a href="https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=114252">https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=114252</a> )	2019	34,822	0	0	34,822	84%
Arnhem Land indigenous savannah fire management Projects, Australia.	KACCU	ANREU	13/05/2021	3,786,065,876 - 3,786,068,018 ( <a href="http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/Pages/Emissions%20Reduction%20Fund%20project%20and%20contract%20registers/Project%20register/ERF-Project-Detailed-View.aspx?ListId=%7b7F242924-BF02-45EE-A289-1ABCC954E9CE%7d&amp;ItemID=709">http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/Pages/Emissions%20Reduction%20Fund%20project%20and%20contract%20registers/Project%20register/ERF-Project-Detailed-View.aspx?ListId=%7b7F242924-BF02-45EE-A289-1ABCC954E9CE%7d&amp;ItemID=709</a> )	2019/20	2,143	0	0	2,143	5%

Arnhem Land indigenous savannah fire management Projects, Australia.	KACCUs	ANREU	13/05/2021	3,782,917,286 - 3,782,917,642	2018/19	357	0	0	357	1%
				<a href="http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/Pages/Emissions%20Reduction%20Fund%20project%20and%20contract%20registers/Project%20register/ERF-Project-Detailed-View.aspx?ListId=%7b7F242924-BF02-45EE-A289-1ABCC954E9CE%7d&amp;ItemID=186">http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/Pages/Emissions%20Reduction%20Fund%20project%20and%20contract%20registers/Project%20register/ERF-Project-Detailed-View.aspx?ListId=%7b7F242924-BF02-45EE-A289-1ABCC954E9CE%7d&amp;ItemID=186</a>						
								<b>Total offsets retired this report and used in this report</b>		41,322
								<b>Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports</b>		0
								<b>Additional offsets cancelled for purposes other than Climate Active Carbon Neutral certification</b>		0

Type of offset units	Quantity (used for this reporting period claim)	Percentage of Total
Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs)	2,500	6%
Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)	38,822	94%

## 5. USE OF TRADE MARK

**Table 8**

Description where trademark used	Logo type
Charles Sturt Website (inclusive of Sustainability at Charles Sturt website sections)	Certified Organisation
Carbon Neutral Flyer prepared by Charles Sturt	Certified Organisation
Presentations on Charles Sturt's journey to carbon neutrality	Certified Organisation
Charles Sturt and Sustainability at Charles Sturt Facebook Pages	Certified Organisation
Staff electronic signatures	Certified Organisation
Charles Sturt Sustainability Scorecard Report	Certified Organisation

## 6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information: Nil

# APPENDIX 1

## Excluded emissions

To be deemed Relevant an emission must meet two of the five relevance criteria. Excluded emissions are detailed below against each of the five criteria.

**Table 9**

Relevance test					
Excluded emission sources	<i>The emissions from a particular source are likely to be large relative to the organisation's electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions</i>	<i>The emissions from a particular source contribute to the organisation's greenhouse gas risk exposure.</i>	<i>Key stakeholders deem the emissions from a particular source are relevant.</i>	<i>The responsible entity has the potential to influence the reduction of emissions from a particular source.</i>	<i>The emissions are from outsourced activities previously undertaken within the organisation's boundary, or from outsourced activities typically undertaken within the boundary for comparable organisations.</i>
<b>Investments</b>	No	No	No	Yes	No
<b>Facilities not under operational control and not Scope 3</b>	No	No	No	Yes	No
<b>Use and end-of-life of sold products</b>	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Franchises</b>	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Postage Courier and Freight (External services)</b>	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Professional Services (Other External)</b>	No	No	No	No	No

## APPENDIX 2

### Non-quantified emissions for organisations

All Relevant emissions have been quantified. There are no non-quantified emissions.

**Table 10**

Non-quantification test				
Relevant-non-quantified emission sources	<i>Immaterial &lt;1% for individual items and no more than 5% collectively</i>	<i>Quantification is not cost effective relative to the size of the emission but uplift applied.</i>	<i>Data unavailable but uplift applied. A data management plan must be put in place to provide data within 5 years.</i>	<i>Initial emissions non-quantified but repairs and replacements quantified</i>
Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A





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