



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

GILBERT + TOBIN

**ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION
FY2020-21**

Australian Government
Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY: Gilbert + Tobin

REPORTING PERIOD: Financial year 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

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 9/2/2022

Name of Signatory Eloise Schnierer

Position of Signatory Head of Corporate Social Responsibility



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 inventory has been prepared for the financial year from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 and covers all of the Australian operations of Gilbert + Tobin as an organisation (ABN: 77 458 970 098).

The operational boundary has been defined based on an operational control test, in accordance with the principles of the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007. This includes the following locations and facilities:

- Levels 32-35, Tower Two, International Towers Sydney, 200 Barangaroo Avenue, Sydney, NSW 2000
- Levels 24 and 25, 101 Collins Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000 (15 March 2021 to 30 June 2021)
- Level 22, 101 Collins Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000 (1 July 2020 to 13 March 2021)
- Suites 12.01 and 12.02, Level 12, 90 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic, 3000 (1 July 2020 to 13 March 2021)
- Level 16, Brookfield Place Tower 2, 123 St Georges Terrace, Perth, WA 6000
- Suite 1B, 165-167 Phillip Street, Lawson Place, Sydney, NSW

This inventory does not include emissions related to the investment portfolio of Gilbert + Tobin as the associated emissions are outside the operational control of Gilbert + Tobin.

The methods used for collating data, performing calculations and presenting the carbon account are in accordance with the following standards:

- Climate Active Standards
- The Greenhouse Gas Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (Revised Edition)
- National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Measurement) Determination 2008

Where possible, the calculation methodologies and emission factors used in this inventory are derived from the National Greenhouse Accounts (NGA) Factors in accordance with "Method 1" from the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Measurement) Determination 2008.

The greenhouse gases considered within the inventory are those that are commonly reported under the Kyoto Protocol; carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and synthetic gases - hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃). These have been expressed as carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂-e) using relative global warming

“Climate Active carbon neutral certification is part of our contribution to addressing the climate emergency.”

potentials (GWPs).

Organisation description

Gilbert + Tobin is a leading Australian law firm, advising clients on their most significant corporate transactions, regulatory matters and disputes. We provide commercial and innovative legal solutions for ASX 100 leading companies, major infrastructure and services providers as well as government and public authorities across Australia and around the world.

An international leader in M&A, private equity, capital markets, competition and regulation and technology and digital, we work on complex issues that define and direct the market.

Gilbert + Tobin is committed to being an outstanding corporate citizen and has a long and proud track record of taking action on environmental issues as well as monitoring, improving and reporting on its own environmental performance.

As a member of the Australian Legal Sector Alliance, the firm has been publicly reporting its environmental impacts since 2013 and implemented its first Environmental Management System (EMS) in 2015. Our second EMS 2018 – 2020 was audited and recertified by the Australian Legal Sector Alliance in 2019 and we are currently developing our third EMS for 2020-2022.

For more information about Gilbert + Tobin, its lawyers and publications please visit www.gtlaw.com.au

The certification includes all operations within Australia over which Gilbert + Tobin has operational control. Activities within all our offices (located in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth) fall within the organisational boundary, however investments are not included.

2. EMISSION BOUNDARY

Diagram of the certification boundary



Non-quantified sources

Refrigerants have been non-quantified due to being immaterial.

Data management plan

N/A

Excluded sources (outside of certification boundary)

N/A

“We joined Climate Active to be part of a community of like-minded Australian corporates demonstrating responsible business leadership through taking ownership of their carbon emissions.”

3. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions reduction strategy

Gilbert + Tobin participates in the AusLSA Environmental Management System (AEMS), which provides AusLSA Members with an EMS framework that is customised for the legal industry. The EMS is comprised of a Sustainability Policy, Environmental Impact Register, Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and our ongoing process of internal review.

Our Sustainability Policy is available to the public [here](#).

As part of the EMS process Gilbert + Tobin developed an environmental impact register by:

- consulting with staff,
- identifying ways that we impact the environment, and
- rating and prioritising impacts.

From this register we develop our Environmental Management Plan, which includes measures to reduce GHG emissions. Gilbert + Tobin is also a City Switch signatory in Sydney and Perth. We undertake NABERS Energy (Tenancy) assessments for both our Sydney and Perth offices and have achieved 5-stars in both offices in FY2021. In FY2020 we committed to source our ongoing tenancy electricity needs using 100% Greenpower accredited renewable energy.

Emissions over time

Emissions over time have decreased by 75% when comparing to the base year (FY2016/17) and 55% compared to the previous year (FY2020/21). The changes are mainly due to the following:

- (1) **Barangaroo South carbon neutral certification** – The Barangaroo South precinct became Australia's first carbon neutral precinct in 2019. G+T's headquarters are in Tower Two of International Towers Sydney (ITS) within the Barangaroo South precinct. Since day one of this tenancy we have been required to pay to offset emissions. The precinct certification FY2016-FY2019 became effective from 7 December 2019. The precinct certification covers the tenancy and base building electricity, natural gas, waste, water and employee commute for the Sydney office.
- (2) **Renewable energy** – In FY2020 we began sourcing 100% of our tenancy electricity consumption from renewable Greenpower for all our offices. The over offsetting of the Sydney office tenancy electricity has meant all the base building electricity is also covered by the renewable electricity.
- (3) **COVID-19** – Our operations during FY2021 were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Business travel was significantly reduced throughout the year and many of staff have been working from home. COVID-19 has also led to an increase in emissions associated with working from home, printing & stationery and IT equipment.

Over the past year there has been an increase in other food & beverage spend due to not being able to breakdown the catering spend into the separate food categories however overall there has been a decrease in the food & catering spend.

Table 1

Emissions since base year				
	Base year: 2017-18	Year 2: 2018-19	Year 3: 2019-20	Current year Year 4: 2020-21
<i>Total tCO₂-e</i>	6,346.6	7,412.8	3,627.5	1,615.8

Emissions reduction actions

The emissions reductions actions undertaken in FY2021 include:

- Continuing to purchase 100% of our tenancy electricity from renewable sources (GreenPower),
- Relaunching our firm travel policy aimed at keeping business travel down post COVID-19,
- Sustainable fit out of our new tenancy at 101 Collins Street Melbourne, and
- Launching the firm’s first Procurement Policy that emphasizes purchasing carbon neutral products and services.

The main reason for the significant reduction in emissions in FY2021 is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on business travel and the closure of our offices during successive lockdowns.

Emissions summary (inventory)

All emissions are shared with the child (service) certification. See here for more details:

<https://www.climateactive.org.au/buy-climate-active/certified-members/gilbert-tobin>

Table 2

Emission source category	tonnes CO ₂ -e
Accommodation and facilities	7.7
Air Transport (km)	163.1
Cleaning and Chemicals	52.0
Electricity	0.0
Food	337.7
ICT services and equipment	235.4
Land and Sea Transport (\$)	24.3
Land and Sea Transport (km)	13.4
Office equipment & supplies	453.2
Postage, courier and freight	35.8
Professional Services	10.3
Stationary Energy	14.5
Waste	3.4
Water	1.9
Working from home	262.9
<i>Total Net Emissions</i>	1,615.8

Uplift factors

Table 3

Reason for uplift factor	tonnes CO ₂ -e
N/A	
<i>Total footprint to offset (uplift factors + net emissions)</i>	1,615.8

Carbon neutral products

The Sydney office is located in the Barangaroo Precinct which is carbon neutral and covers the tenancy and base building electricity, waste, water and employee commute.

Gilbert + Tobin use Bibbulmun and Reflex carbon neutral office paper.

This assessment and Climate Active submission was prepared with the assistance of Pangolin Associates and these services are also carbon neutral.

Electricity summary

Electricity was calculated using a market-based approach.

Market-based approach summary

Table 4

Market-based approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO ₂ -e)	Renewable %
Behind the meter consumption of electricity generated	0	0	0%
Total non-grid electricity	0	0	0%
LGC Purchased and retired (kWh) (including PPAs)	1,076,565	0	69%
GreenPower	801,618	0	51%
Jurisdictional renewables	0	0	0%
Residual Electricity	-604,528	-648,707	-38%
Large Scale Renewable Energy Target (applied to grid electricity only)	297,304	0	19%
Total grid electricity	1,570,960	-648,707	100%
Total Electricity Consumed (grid + non grid)	1,570,960	-648,707	138%
Electricity renewables	2,175,488	0	
Residual Electricity	-604,528	-648,707	
Exported on-site generated electricity	0	0	
Emission Footprint (kgCO ₂ -e)		0	

Emission Footprint (tCO₂-e)	0
LRET renewables	18.93%
Voluntary Renewable Electricity	119.56%
Total renewables	138.48%

Location-based approach summary

Table 5

Location-based approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO ₂ -e)
NSW	1,095,984	986,386
Vic	338,428	368,886
WA	136,548	95,583
Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)	1,570,960	1,450,856
Non-grid electricity (Behind the meter)	0	0
Total Electricity Consumed	1,570,960	1,450,856

Emission Footprint (tCO₂-e)	1,451	0
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4. CARBON OFFSETS

Offsets strategy

Table 6

Offset purchasing strategy:	
In arrears	
1. Total offsets previously forward purchased and banked for this report	197
2. Total emissions liability to offset for this report	1,616
3. Net offset balance for this reporting period	1,419
4. Total offsets to be forward purchased to offset the next reporting period	197
5. Total offsets required for this report	1,616

The details of offsets relating to this certification also cover the Gilbert + Tobin's Service certification. The relevant PDS can be found [here](#).

Co-benefits

CECIC HKC Danjinghe Wind Farm Project

The project is located in Zhangbei County, Hebei Province, and is developed by CECIC HKC Wind Power Co.Ltd. Based on the condition of the project site, the proposed project is to install and operate 54 wind turbines of 750kW, 100 wind turbines of 800kW and 53 wind turbines of 1500kW. The proposed project is expected to generate approximately 438,550 MWh per year at the full capacity, which will be sold to the North China Power Grid. Following the methodology, the emission reductions are estimated to be on average 471,661 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e) per year.

NIHT Topaiyo REDD +

NIHT Inc. has partnered with the traditional landowners of New Ireland and East New Britain to put an end to deforestation initiated by industrial logging in the region. The preservation of these rainforests is essential to not only the carbon and biodiversity benefits inherent with projects of this nature, but also for the wellbeing and prosperity of the people of New Ireland and East New Britain. The project is located in the forested areas of New Ireland and East New Britain in Papua New Guinea. The project has evolved based on the input and needs expressed by persons living in the region. What began as a traditional timber operation has been recognised as an opportunity with enormous carbon sequestering potential and has evolved into a forest protection project that will provide substantial economic benefits to the people of Papua New Guinea. Through the avoidance of carrying out exploitative industrial commercial timber harvesting in the project area, the project expects to generate nearly 60 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions reductions across the 30 year project lifetime, depending on the number and size of Project Activity Instances (PAIs) added to the project.

Offsets summary

Proof of cancellation of offset units

Table 7

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 (tCO ₂ -e)	Quantity used for previous reporting periods	Quantity banked for future reporting periods	Quantity used for this reporting period claim	Percentage of total (%)
CECIC HKC Danjinghe Wind Farm Project	VCUs	Verra	17 Nov 2020	6498-324165179-324166678-VCU-034-APX-CN-1-1839-29122015-31122015-0	2015	1,500	1,303	0	197	12%
NIHT Topaiyo REDD +	VCUs	Verra	2 Nov 2021	9629-113183461-113185076-VCS-VCU-466-VER-PG-14-2293-01062017-31122019-0	2019	1,616	0	197	1,419	88%
Total offsets retired this report and used in this report									1,616	
Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports								197		

Type of offset units	Quantity (used for this reporting period claim)	Percentage of Total
Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)	1,616	100%

5. USE OF TRADE MARK

Table 8

Description where trademark used	Logo type
Website https://www.gtlaw.com.au/	Certified organisation
Sustainability Reports	Certified organisation

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A

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>

N/A

APPENDIX 2

Non-quantified emissions for organisations

Table 10

Non-quantification test				
Relevant-non-quantified emission sources	<i>Immaterial <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>
Refrigerants	Yes	No	No	No



An Australian Government Initiative

