



# **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**YARRA CITY COUNCIL**

**ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION**

**FY2021–22**

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



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY	City of Yarra
REPORTING PERIOD	1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 Arrears report
DECLARATION	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Michael Oke</i></p> <p>Michael Oke Sustainability Unit Manager 19/01/23</p>



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Climate Change, Energy,  
the Environment and Water**

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Version March 2022.



# 1. CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	5,837 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e
OFFSETS BOUGHT	100% VCUs
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	100%
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	25/10/2021 Ajit Padbidri South Pole Australia Pty Ltd Next technical assessment due: 2023/24

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## 2. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

### Description of certification

The Australian business operations of Yarra City Council (ABN 98 394 086 520) is the subject of this carbon neutral certification as defined by the Organisational and Operational boundaries detailed on the following pages.

### Organisation description

The Yarra City Council (ABN 98 394 086 520) is an inner metropolitan municipality of Melbourne, Victoria. Originally formed in June 1994, it is home to a diverse community of approximately 100,000 people. The municipality is 19.5 square kilometres and is located on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people. The City of Yarra acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra.

The organisation has a total capital and operating budget of \$219 million, which is used to deliver a wide range of community services and maintain essential community infrastructure.

The council operates numerous facilities and delivers a broad range of services across the municipality. The facilities include five libraries, three leisure centres, a golf course, childcare and maternal health centres, depots and sporting facilities. The services delivered include care for elderly and disabled residents, food security, collection of domestic rubbish and recycling, as well as sustainability, biodiversity and urban agriculture programs and projects. Council also manages community infrastructure including the construction of new community assets, maintenance of parks, gardens and street trees, and redevelopment and maintenance of existing community assets.

*“Responding effectively to the climate emergency requires a collective effort across all levels of government, business, and the community. By rapidly reducing carbon emissions from our own operations and operating as a carbon neutral organisation, we are demonstrating our commitment to responding to the climate emergency.”*

## 3. EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

The City of Yarra's greenhouse gas emissions inventory has been prepared in accordance with the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard.

Council uses the operational control approach for measuring and reporting on the organisation's emissions. The organisation boundary includes emissions from all activities over which we have the ability to introduce and implement the operating policies

The reported emissions inventory includes direct emissions sources (scope 1), indirect emissions from purchased energy (scope 2) and other measurable indirect sources (scope 3) that are material and relevant to council's operations.

### Inside the emissions boundary

All emission sources listed in the emissions boundary are part of the carbon neutral claim.

**Quantified emissions** have been assessed as relevant and are quantified in the carbon inventory. This may include emissions that are not identified as arising due to the operations of the certified entity, however are **optionally included**.

**Non-quantified emissions** have been assessed as relevant and are captured within the emissions boundary, but are not measured (quantified) in the carbon inventory. All material emissions are accounted for through an uplift factor. Further detail is available at Appendix C.

### Outside the emissions boundary

**Excluded emissions** are those that have been assessed as not relevant to an organisation's or precinct's operations and are outside of its emissions boundary or are outside of the scope of the certification. These emissions are not part of the carbon neutral claim. Further detail is available at Appendix D.

Inside emissions boundary		Outside emission boundary
<p><b><u>Quantified</u></b></p> <p><i>Electricity (incl. non-contestable electricity)</i></p> <p><i>Natural gas</i></p> <p><i>Transport fuels</i></p> <p><i>Transport fuels – Contractors</i></p> <p><i>Waste (incl. from employees working from home)</i></p> <p><i>Fugitive emissions</i></p> <p><i>Paper</i></p> <p><i>Business Travel of Employees</i></p> <p><i>Water</i></p> <p><i>Construction materials and services – Asphalt and concrete</i></p> <p><i>Working from home</i></p> <p><i>Employee commuting</i></p>	<p><b><u>Non-quantified</u></b></p> <p><i>Oils and Lubricants purchased via third parties</i></p> <p><i>Outdoor Events</i></p> <p><i>Chemicals and cleaning</i></p>	<p><b><u>Excluded</u></b></p> <p><i>Municipal waste</i></p> <p><i>Community emissions</i></p> <p><i>Investments</i></p> <p><i>Contractor electricity and gas</i></p> <p><i>Offsite ICT services</i></p> <p><i>Council-owned buildings leased to commercial or community groups</i></p>

### Data management plan for non-quantified sources

There are no non-quantified sources in the emission boundary that require a data management plan.

## 4. EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

### Emissions reduction strategy

#### Climate Emergency Plan and Organisational Roadmap to Zero Emissions by 2030

The City of Yarra is the second council in Australia to endorse a [Climate Emergency Plan](#) (CEP) (2020). The plan provides the strategic pathway for decarbonising the council's operations and supporting the local community to take climate action.

Yarra's Climate Emergency Plan aspires to achieve zero-net emissions across the entire Yarra community by 2030, while also bolstering resilience to future pressures such as those caused by extreme weather events.

The [Organisational Roadmap to Zero Emissions by 2030](#) builds upon the commitments in the Climate Emergency Plan, with the key objective to work towards achieving gross zero organisational emissions by 2030 (i.e., without the use of offsets).

Some of the key actions which Council aims to implement to reduce emissions are:

- continuing to purchase 100% renewable electricity through our award-winning [Melbourne Renewable Energy Project](#) 10-year power purchase agreement;
- transitioning all council buildings off gas, to be all-electric and powered by 100% renewable energy;
- continue transitioning our entire vehicle fleet to zero emissions vehicles as soon as practical, noting we already have several electric passenger vehicles and are leading in the uptake of electric trucks;
- working with our contractors – notably those who deliver our kerbside waste collections - to transition to zero emissions vehicles before 2030;
- maximising solar installations on our buildings, including those used by community groups;
- upgrading and optimising Building Management Systems to improve energy efficiency;
- upgrading streetlighting to high efficiency LED, with smart controls included on main roads (although this will not directly reduce emissions, as our electricity is 100% renewable, this is an essential project to balance our electricity demand against the underlying increased demand from the electrification of our buildings and vehicle fleet. This one project is projected to result in a 25% reduction in our overall electricity consumption.).

## Emissions reduction actions

Council has contracted to purchase 100% of its electricity from renewable sources via our award-winning Melbourne Renewable Energy Project – a 10-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Tango Energy and Pacific Hydro. In 2021/22, this saved ~3,900tCO<sub>2</sub>-e.

All the projects and actions listed below were in progress or completed during the 2021/22 reporting year.

Project Title	Action
Solar on council- and community-operated buildings	<p>Facilitating solar installations and energy upgrades of Yarra facilities, including through assisting community groups with access to financial support. In 2022, 7 community-managed sites received energy upgrades – including electrification and solar panel installations – through co-funding by Yarra and Sustainability Victoria (Community Climate Change and Energy Action Program).</p> <p>As of June 2022, 823kW of solar capacity has been installed across 42 sites, with 108kWh of battery capacity across 7 sites.</p>
Get all buildings off gas (small sites)	Progressively transitioning facilities off gas, initially focusing on sites with relatively simple gas systems (i.e., hot water systems and domestic-type heating). In 2021/22 18 Yarra sites were transitioned off gas.
Get all buildings off gas (large sites)	Transitioning sites with highly complex, building integrated gas systems (i.e., leisure centres and town halls) off gas by 2030 and where feasible. Two of three cogeneration assets at Yarra’s leisure centres have been switched off, with the third system being turned off in 2023/24.
Energy efficiency and building optimisation	Investigating and implementing where appropriate best-practice energy efficiency and building optimisation by: utilising smart control and monitoring technologies to operate buildings at the highest possible energy and building performance standards; identifying and investing in priority building energy efficiency upgrades, and; ensuring energy efficiency outcomes are factored into all building project works.
Residential streetlights to upgrade	Reviewing residential streetlights to upgrade from T5 to LED when appropriate, based on emerging technology and management practices
Switch vehicle fleet to EVs	Taking further steps towards converting Council’s entire vehicle fleet to zero emissions by 2025, subject to availability of suitable vehicles and charging infrastructure/capability. As of June 2022, ~15% of Yarra’s fleet are zero emissions vehicles
Switch diesel fleet to EVs	Converting Council’s diesel fleet (i.e., tipper trucks) to electric as soon as possible. Four electric trucks have replaced diesel trucks.



## 5. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

### Emissions over time

Emissions since base year		Total tCO <sub>2</sub> -e
Year 1 (Base year):	2011/12	14,462.0
Year 2:	2012/13	13,923.0
Year 3:	2013/14	13,947.0
Year 4:	2014/15	13,123.9
Year 5:	2015/16	12,787.2
Year 6:	2016/17	12,396.2
Year 7:	2017/18	11,988.0
Year 8:	2018/19	7,852.5
Year 9:	2019/20	5,147.3
Year 10:	2020/21	4,634.9
Year 11:	2021/22	5,836.5

### Significant changes in emissions

The significant majority of the emissions increase in this financial year is due to the inclusion of several previously excluded emissions sources: working from home, employee commuting, and concrete.

Emission source name	Current year (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Previous year (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Detailed reason for change
Working from home	262.5	0	Inclusion of previously excluded emissions source
Concrete	300.5	0	Inclusion of previously excluded emissions source
Employee commuting	538.3	0	Inclusion of previously excluded emissions source
Waste	84.2	15.2	Expanding waste emissions to include staff working from home
Water supply and wastewater treatment	385.97	416.7	Ongoing impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on site usage and occupancy
Contractor fuel (diesel)	1,489.7	1,418.5	Increased provision of contractor services since the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

## Use of Climate Active carbon neutral products and services

Council procured carbon neutral flights equating to 1,880 passenger-kilometres in 2021/22.

In 2021/22, Council purchased 4,923.3 kg of the certified carbon neutral paper products:

Certified brand name	Product or Service used	Total Weight (kg)
Mandura	Carbon Neutral 100% Recycled Copy Paper A4 80gsm White Carton 5 Reams	49.88
Reflex	Carbon Neutral 100% Recycled Copy Paper A3 80gsm White Carton 3 Reams	29.94
Winc	Carbon Neutral 100% Recycled Copy Paper A4 80gsm White Carton 5 Reams	3,341.96
Winc	Carbon Neutral 20% Recycled Copy Paper A3 80gsm White Carton 3 Reams	44.91
Winc	Carbon Neutral Copy Paper A3 80gsm White Carton 3 Reams	359.26
Winc	Carbon Neutral Copy Paper A4 80gsm White Carton 5 Reams	1,097.36
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>4,923.30</b>

## Organisation emissions summary

The electricity summary is available in the Appendix B. Electricity emissions were calculated using a market-based approach.

Emission category	Sum of Scope 1 (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Sum of Scope 2 (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Sum of Scope 3 (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Sum of total emissions (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)
Accommodation and facilities	0.00	0.00	0.65	0.65
Climate Active carbon neutral products and services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Construction Materials and Services	0.00	0.00	515.73	515.73
Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Office equipment & supplies	0.00	0.00	41.35	41.35
Refrigerants	47.40	0.00	0.00	47.40
Stationary Energy (gaseous fuels)	1,670.20	0.00	129.65	1,799.84
Transport (Land and Sea)	2,040.45	0.00	658.44	2,698.88
Waste	0.00	0.00	84.20	84.20
Water	0.00	0.00	385.97	385.97
Working from home	0.00	0.00	262.47	262.47
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,758.04</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,078.45</b>	<b>5,836.49</b>

## Uplift factors

N/A.

An uplift factor is an upwards adjustment to the total carbon inventory to account for relevant emissions, which can't be reasonably quantified or estimated. This conservative accounting approach helps ensure the integrity of the carbon neutral claim.

## 6. CARBON OFFSETS

### Offsets procurement approach

The City of Yarra's offset procurement is guided by the following principles:

- Compliance with Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard
- Compliance with Yarra Ethical sourcing commitment
- The confidence in carbon reduction, determined by:
  - Additionality
  - Appropriate estimation
  - Permanence of emissions reduction
  - Minimisation of double counting
- Associated co-benefits and avoidance of harm

### Offsets retirement approach

In arrears		
1.	Total number of eligible offsets banked from last year's report	0
2.	Total emissions footprint to offset for this report (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	5,837
3.	Total eligible offsets required for this report	5,837
4.	Total eligible offsets purchased and retired for this report	5,837
5.	Total eligible offsets banked to use toward next year's report	0

## Offset procurement strategy and co-benefits

100% of the carbon offsets purchased relate to the installation of two 7MW hydro turbines at the run-of-river Pamir I hydropower station near Khorog in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast region of Tajikistan. The project is restoring reliable, renewable electricity to a region of Tajikistan which has experienced prolonged energy insecurity.

The hydro turbines generate ~94,000MWh of electricity annually from a renewable source, displacing high-emissions electricity which would otherwise have been produced by fossil-fuel powered sources (principally diesel-powered generators).

The project contributes to the sustainable development of one of the poorest regions in Tajikistan by providing reliable electricity. This is particularly important during the winter months, when frequent interruptions to the power supply would impact schools, hospitals, and small businesses. As part of the project, the poorest households are offered affordable tariffs and a social protection scheme.

Indirect emissions reductions occur through a reduction in the use of firewood and kerosene for cooking and heating. As of 2009, 70% of the forests in the region had been cut down, principally for use as firewood. By providing affordable and reliable electricity to the population, this project provides an alternative to deforestation.

An interrelated co-benefit is the improvement of the health of the local population as indoor air pollution is reduced by switching from burning kerosene, wood, or dung to electrical appliances.

This project helps to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 13.



## Eligible offsets retirement summary

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	Stapled quantity	Eligible quantity (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Eligible quantity used for previous reporting periods	Eligible quantity banked for future reporting periods	Eligible quantity used for this reporting period	Percentage of total (%)
Pamir I Hydropower Generation	VCU	Verra	28 Oct 2022	<a href="https://registry.verra.org/projects/12021-375682041-375687877-VCS-VCU-259-VER-TJ-1-98-01032014-31122014-0">12021-375682041-375687877-VCS-VCU-259-VER-TJ-1-98-01032014-31122014-0</a>	2014	N/A	5,837	0	0	5,837	100%
<b>Total offsets retired this report and used in this report</b>										5,837	
<b>Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports</b>									0		
Type of offset units		Quantity (used for this reporting period claim)				Percentage of total					
Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)		5,837				100%					

## 7. RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC) SUMMARY

### Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) summary

The following RECs have been surrendered to reduce electricity emissions under the market-based reporting method.

<b>1. Large-scale Generation certificates (LGCs)*</b>	4,716
<b>2. Other RECs</b>	0

\* LGCs in this table only include those surrendered voluntarily (including through PPA arrangements), and does not include those surrendered in relation to the LRET, GreenPower, and jurisdictional renewables.

Project supported by LGC purchase	Eligible units	Registry	Surrender date	Accreditation code (LGCs)	Certificate serial number	Generation year	Quantity (MWh)	Fuel source	Location
Crowlands Wind Farm	LGC	REC Registry	01 April 2022	WD00VC32	195792 - 196969	2021	1178	Wind	VIC
Crowlands Wind Farm	LGC	REC Registry	01 April 2022	WD00VC32	216110 - 217131	2021	1022	Wind	VIC
Crowlands Wind Farm	LGC	REC Registry	March 2023	WD00VC32	38266-39426	2022	1161	Wind	VIC
Crowlands Wind Farm	LGC	REC Registry	March 2023	WD00VC32	94137-95491	2022	1355	Wind	VIC
<b>Total LGCs surrendered this report and used in this report</b>							4,716		

## APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A.

## APPENDIX B: ELECTRICITY SUMMARY

Electricity emissions are calculated using a **market-based approach**.

Location-based method:

The location-based method provides a picture of a business's electricity emissions in the context of its location, and the emissions intensity of the electricity grid it relies on. It reflects the average emissions intensity of the electricity grid in the location (State) in which energy consumption occurs. The location-based method does not allow for any claims of renewable electricity from grid-imported electricity usage.

Market-based method:

The market-based method provides a picture of a business's electricity emissions in the context of its renewable energy investments. It reflects the emissions intensity of different electricity products, markets, and investments. It uses a residual mix factor (RMF) to allow for unique claims on the zero emissions attribute of renewables without double-counting.

Market-based approach summary			
Market-based approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Renewable percentage of total
Behind the meter consumption of electricity generated	803,469	0	14%
<b>Total non-grid electricity</b>	<b>803,469</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14%</b>
LGC Purchased and retired (kWh) (including PPAs & Precinct LGCs)	4,716,461	0	80%
GreenPower	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LGCs retired)	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LRET) (applied to ACT grid electricity)	0	0	0%
Large Scale Renewable Energy Target (applied to grid electricity only)	940,215	0	16%
Residual Electricity	-599,039	-596,022	-10%
<b>Total grid electricity</b>	<b>5,057,636</b>	<b>-596,022</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>Total electricity consumed (grid + non grid)</b>	<b>5,861,105</b>	<b>-596,022</b>	<b>110%</b>
Electricity renewables	6,460,144	0	
Residual Electricity	-599,039	-596,022	
<b>Exported on-site generated electricity</b>	<b>172,301</b>	<b>-125,780</b>	
Emissions (kgCO <sub>2</sub> -e)		0	
<b>Total renewables (grid and non-grid)</b>	<b>110.22%</b>		
<b>Mandatory</b>	<b>16.04%</b>		
<b>Voluntary</b>	<b>80.47%</b>		
<b>Behind the meter</b>	<b>13.71%</b>		
<b>Residual electricity emission footprint (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b>	<b>0</b>		

*Figures may not sum due to rounding. Renewable percentage can be above 100%*

Location-based approach summary



Location-based approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Scope 2 Emissions (kgCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Scope 3 Emissions (kgCO <sub>2</sub> -e)
ACT	0	0	0
NSW	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0
VIC	5,057,636	4,602,449	505,764
QLD	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0
<b>Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)</b>	<b>5,057,636</b>	<b>4,602,449</b>	<b>505,764</b>
ACT	0	0	0
NSW	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0
VIC	803,469	0	0
QLD	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0
<b>Non-grid electricity (Behind the meter)</b>	<b>803,469</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total electricity consumed</b>	<b>5,861,105</b>	<b>4,602,449</b>	<b>505,764</b>
<b>Emission footprint (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b>	<b>5,108</b>		
<i>Scope 2 Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e)</i>	4602		
<i>Scope 3 Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e)</i>	506		

Carbon neutral electricity offset by Climate Active product	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO <sub>2</sub> -e)
N/A	0	0

*Climate Active carbon neutral electricity is not renewable electricity. The emissions have been offset by another Climate Active member through their product certification.*

# APPENDIX C: INSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

## Non-quantified emission sources

The following sources emissions have been assessed as relevant, are captured within the emissions boundary, but are not measured (quantified) in the carbon inventory. They have been non-quantified due to one of the following reasons:

1. **Immaterial** <1% for individual items and no more than 5% collectively
2. **Cost effective** Quantification is not cost effective relative to the size of the emission but uplift applied.
3. **Data unavailable** Data is unavailable but uplift applied. A data management plan must be put in place to provide data within 5 years.
4. **Maintenance** Initial emissions non-quantified but repairs and replacements quantified.

Relevant-non-quantified emission sources	(1) Immaterial	(2) Cost effective (but uplift applied)	(3) Data unavailable (but uplift applied & data plan in place)	(4) Maintenance
Oils and Lubricants purchased via third parties	Yes	No	No	No
Outdoor Events	Yes	No	No	No
Chemicals and cleaning	Yes	No	No	No

# APPENDIX D: OUTSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

## Excluded emission sources

The below emission sources have been assessed as not relevant to an organisation's or precinct's operations and are outside of its emissions boundary. These emissions are not part of the carbon neutral claim. Emission sources considered for relevance must be included within the certification boundary if they meet two of the five relevance criteria. Those which only meet one condition of the relevance test can be excluded from the certification boundary.

Emissions tested for relevance are detailed below against each of the following criteria:

1. **Size** The emissions from a particular source are likely to be large relative to the organisation's electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions
2. **Influence** The responsible entity has the potential to influence the reduction of emissions from a particular source.
3. **Risk** The emissions from a particular source contribute to the organisation's greenhouse gas risk exposure.
4. **Stakeholders** Key stakeholders deem the emissions from a particular source are relevant.
5. **Outsourcing** 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.

Emission sources tested for relevance	(1) Size	(2) Influence	(3) Risk	(4) Stakeholders	(5) Outsourcing	Included in boundary?
Municipal waste	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Community emissions	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Investments	No	No	No	No	No	No
Contractor electricity and gas	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Offsite ICT services	No	No	No	No	No	No
Council-owned buildings leased to commercial or community groups	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

## Justification of excluded emission sources

Emission source	Justification for exclusion
Municipal waste	<p>Waste generated through the operations of the City of Yarra have been included in the emissions boundary.</p> <p>Emissions associated with waste generated by residents and business are not included as they are not under council's operational control and do not meet the relevance test.</p>
Community emissions	<p>Despite the City of Yarra having a community emissions reduction ambition, this emissions source has been excluded as it has been assessed as not relevant according to the relevance test above.</p>
Investments	<p>This emission source has been excluded as it has been assessed as not relevant.</p>
Contractor electricity and gas	<p>Emissions from contractor electricity and gas have been excluded as they have been assessed as not relevant according to the relevance test. The City of Yarra has limited ability to influence these emissions. Further, there is a significant challenge in capturing accurate data.</p>
Offsite ICT services	<p>This emission source has been excluded as it has been assessed as not relevant. This emissions source will continue to be monitored for opportunities to quantify emissions as <i>optionally included</i>.</p>
Council-owned buildings leased to commercial or community groups	<p>Emissions from council-owned buildings leased to commercial or community groups have been excluded as they are deemed not relevant. This emissions source is not likely to be large relative to the City of Yarra's energy-related emissions. Despite its exclusion, Council is working towards reducing emissions at leased facilities.</p>



An Australian Government Initiative

