



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**S AJITKUMAR & OTHERS (CORRS
CHAMBERS WESTGARTH)**

**SERVICE CERTIFICATION
FY2021-22**


Australian Government
Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement

**CORRS
CHAMBERS
WESTGARTH**



An Australian Government Initiative



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY	S Ajitkumar & Others (trading as Corrs Chambers Westgarth)
REPORTING PERIOD	Financial year 1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022
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></p> <p>Gavin MacLaren Senior Partner & CEO 3 July 2023</p>



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

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Version March 2022. To be used for FY20/21/CY2021 reporting onwards.



1.CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	3772 tCO ₂ -e
THE OFFSETS BOUGHT	100% VCUs
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	57.83%
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	5/10/2022 Mylene Turban Pangolin Associates Next technical assessment due: FY2025

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2. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

Description of certification

This inventory has been prepared for the financial year from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 and covers all the legal services provided by Corrs Chambers Westgarth (ABN - 89 690 832 091) in Australia in the following locations and facilities:

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:

- Sydney office – Level 37, Quay Quarter Tower, 50 Bridge Street, Sydney 2000 NSW;
- Melbourne office – Level 25, 567 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000 VIC;
- Brisbane office – Level 42, 111 Eagle Street, Brisbane 4000 QLD; and
- Perth office, Level 6, 123 St Georges Terrace, Perth 6000 WA.

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

- Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Organisations;
- The Greenhouse Gas Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (Revised Edition); and
- 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 outlined in 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 potentials (GWPs).

“Carbon neutrality is an ongoing priority for the firm. We are paying close attention to our carbon footprint and we are continuing to seek opportunities to reduce our emissions.”

Service description

Corrs Chambers Westgarth is Australia's leading independent law firm.

We provide exceptional legal services across the full spectrum of matters, including major transactions, projects and significant disputes, offering strategic advice on our clients' most challenging issues.

With more than 175 years of history and a talented and diverse team of over 1000 people, we pride ourselves on our client-focused approach and commitment to excellence. Our fundamental ambition is the success of our clients, and this is reflected in everything we do. We advise on the most significant global matters and connect with the best lawyers internationally to provide our clients with the right team for every engagement. We are also at the forefront of some of the most high-profile public international law matters in our region, assisting governments and corporations with the resolution of highly complex cross-border disputes.

We are the firm of choice for many of the world's leading organisations, with our people consistently recognised for providing outstanding client service and delivering exceptional results.

In this submission, we certify our legal services (full coverage) from cradle-to-grave as carbon neutral under the Climate Active program.

The functional unit is Full Time Equivalent Employees (FTE), with emissions expressed in terms of tCO₂-e per FTE.

3. EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

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 'attributable processes' that become the product, make the product and carry the product through its life cycle. These have been quantified in the carbon inventory.

Non-quantified emissions have been assessed as attributable 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

Non-attributable emissions have been assessed as not attributable to a product or service. They can be **optionally included** in the emissions boundary and therefore have been offset, or they can be listed as outside of the emissions boundary (and are therefore not part of the carbon neutral claim). Further detail is available at Appendix D.

Inside emissions boundary

Quantified

- Electricity
- Base building electricity
- Natural gas
- Telecommunications
- Water
- IT equipment
- Paper
- Merchandising
- Office furniture
- Employee commute
- Remote working
- Business flights
- Cleaning services
- Postage
- Couriers
- Printing and stationery
- Accommodation – domestic and international
- Advertising
- Taxis
- Car Hire
- Food and beverage
- Refrigerants
- Waste (landfill and recycling)

Non-quantified

N/A

Optionally included

N/A

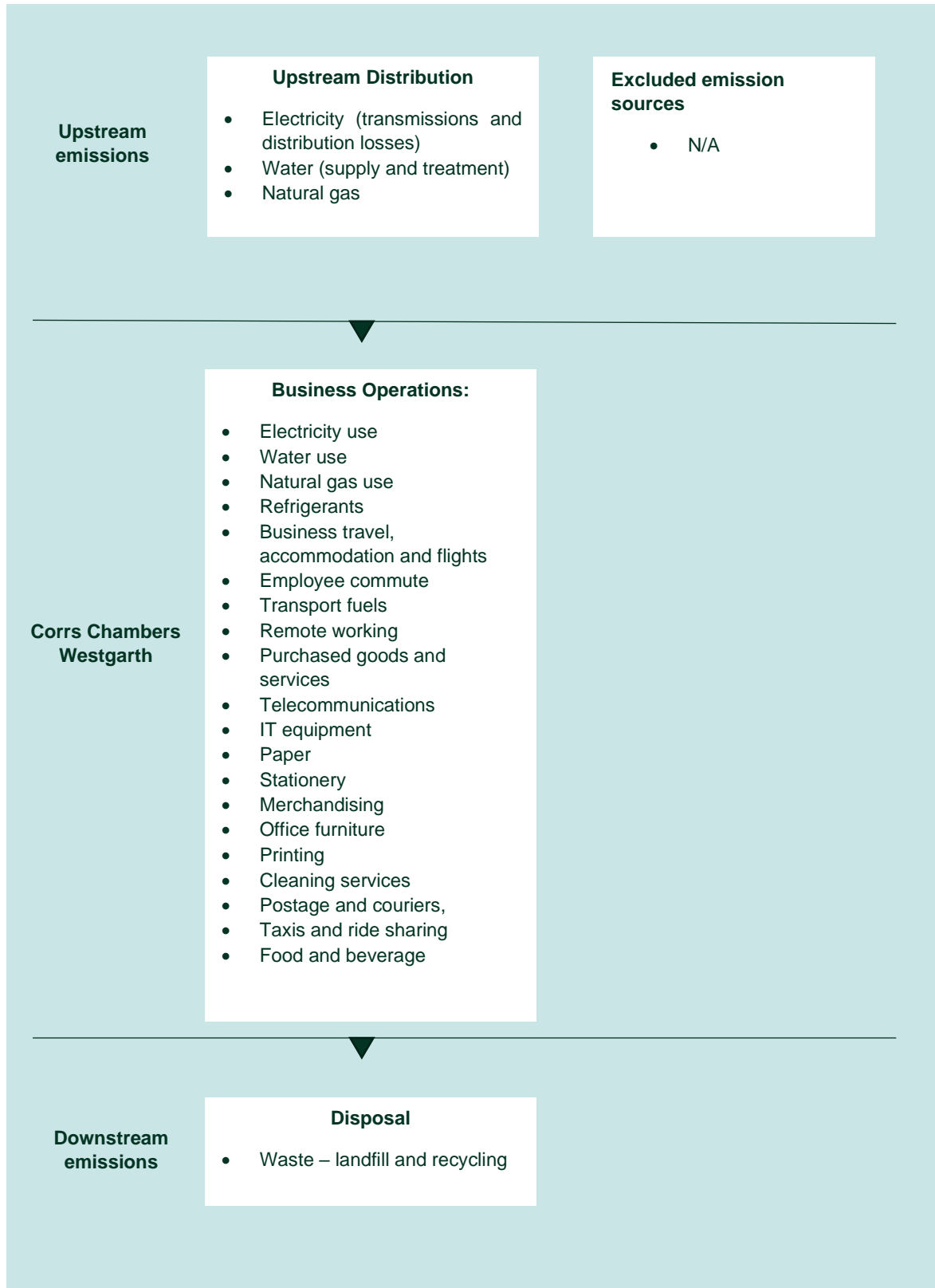
Outside emission boundary

Non-attributable

N/A

Service process diagram

The following diagram is cradle to grave. The following diagram is cradle to grave. It includes all the operations of Corrs Chambers Westgarth to deliver their legal services in Australia in FY2022. The boundary is the same than the one applied in the Organisation submission.



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

In our first year of being certified carbon neutral by Climate Active we formed working groups to develop strategies to reduce our carbon footprint. A number of initiatives have been in progress including:

- working through a plan to move all of our Australian tenancies' electricity contracts to 100% accredited Green power and reduce our Australian based scope 2 emissions to zero;
- working with respective landlords to move the base building electricity supply to green electricity as part of our strategy to reduce our scope 3 emissions;
- implementing energy saving lighting plans in each of our offices to reduce our electricity consumption;
- using only carbon neutral paper in all of our printers and copy centers;
- implementing reduced energy usage across all of our printers by turning off auto-wake up;
- moving our infrastructure to Data Centres powered by renewable energy;
- ongoing education in all our offices to increase awareness of each buildings waste streams driving positive behaviour that will continue to reduce waste volume going to landfill, and our scope 3 emissions related to waste treatment. Part of this strategy is to implement compostable wares and re-usable Simply Cups in all our office Café's to reduce landfill waste;
- developed a partnership with RenewIT to keep technology out of landfill by re-purposing as much technology as possible and then partnering with Surface Mine to mine raw materials from e-Waste and keeping it out of landfill; and
- upgrading our video conference platform and technology to help reduce the need for some travel combined with developing a sustainable travel policy.

We are now working hard to build on our strategy, including setting targets to achieve a carbon zero position. We are reviewing the Science Based Targets initiative program and may use this to define a path to reduce emissions in line with Paris Agreement goals.

Emissions reduction actions

There have been widespread emissions reductions as a result of COVID-19 with less people in each office and long periods of reduced travel. These reductions are difficult to accurately measure as a YoY comparison given the changes throughout the period, however the following actions have also reduced our carbon footprint:

- Moving to green electricity in the Melbourne and Sydney offices has resulted in a substantial saving in emissions. Emissions have decreased from 1,933.90 tCO₂-e in the previous reporting period to 857.44 tCO₂-e in the current reporting period;

- Moving to carbon neutral paper in our printers (implemented in May 2020) and in our copy centre (implemented in May 2021); The follow through of this initiative in 2022 has seen a reduction in Office equipment and supplies from 927.04 on the previous period to 264.78 in the period 2021-2022;
- Reducing energy usage in our printers by turning off the auto wake up sensors (implemented in February 2021); and
- Improvements were made to our waste management through implementation of compostable wares in the office café's, supported by signage and education in all offices. While this is an ongoing change we have seen improvements in our waste audits.

5. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions over time

Emissions since base year				
	Base year Year 1: 2018-19	Year 2: 2019-20	Year 3: 2020-21	Year 4: 2021-22
<i>Total tCO₂-e</i>	9,804.1	7,490.8	4,760.3	3,771.3

Significant changes in emissions

Emissions over time have decreased by 61.5% compared to our FY2019 baseline and by 20.8% compared to our FY2021 assessment.

The main changes are summarised in this table:

Emission source name	Current year (tCO ₂ -e and/ or activity data)	Previous year (tCO ₂ -e and/ or activity data)	Detailed reason for change
Computer and electrical components, hardware and accessories	378.4	91.7	Companywide IT laptop replacement program
Total net electricity emissions (Market based)	857.4	1,933.8	Changed energy contracts to 100% GreenPower.
Printing and stationery	264.3	910.0	Change paper provider to carbon neutral paper
Travel (air)	739.10	282.3	Travel returning to pre-COVID 19 level

Use of Climate Active carbon neutral products and services

Corrs' Brisbane office, located at 111 Eagle Street, has achieved carbon neutral status under Climate Active, covering the base building's electricity, gas, waste and water.

Corrs uses Winc 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.

Service emissions summary

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

<https://www.climateactive.org.au/buy-climate-active/certified-members/corrs-chambers-westgarth>

Emission category	Sum of total emissions (tCO ₂ -e)
Accommodation and facilities	21.58
Cleaning and Chemicals	78.77
Climate Active Carbon Neutral Products and Services	0.00
Electricity	857.44
Food	262.36
ICT services and equipment	543.82
Office equipment & supplies	264.78
Postage, courier and freight	60.20
Products	0.00
Professional Services	5.07
Refrigerants	17.15
Stationary Energy (gaseous fuels)	319.32
Transport (Air)	847.22
Transport (Land and Sea)	388.31
Waste	13.96
Water	17.44
Working from home	43.00
Bespoke – Land and Sea Transport (km)	9.82
Bespoke – Land and Sea Transport (\$)	21.06
Total	3,771.3

Emissions intensity per functional unit (tCO₂-e/FTE)	3.5
Number of functional units to be offset (FTE)	Commercial-in-confidence
Total emissions to be offset	3,771.3

6. CARBON OFFSETS

Offsets retirement approach

The details of offsets relating to this certification are the same as those found in the Corrs Chambers Westgarth Organisation PDS, found [here](#).

7. RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC) SUMMARY

Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) summary

N/A

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 (kgCO2e)	Renewable Percentage of total
Behind the meter consumption of electricity generated	0	0	0%
Total non-grid electricity	0	0	0%
LGC Purchased and retired (kWh) (including PPAs & Precinct LGCs)	0	0	0%
GreenPower	801,711	0	39%
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)	379,859	0	19%
Residual Electricity	861,780	857,440	0%
Total grid electricity	2,043,350	857,440	58%
Total Electricity Consumed (grid + non grid)	2,043,350	857,440	58%
Electricity renewables	1,181,570	0	
Residual Electricity	861,780	857,440	
Exported on-site generated electricity	0	0	
Emissions (kgCO2e)		857,440	
Total renewables (grid and non-grid)	57.83%		
Mandatory	18.59%		
Voluntary	39.24%		
Behind the meter	0.00%		
Residual Electricity Emission Footprint (TCO2e)	857		
<i>Figures may not sum due to rounding. Renewable percentage can be above 100%</i>			

Location Based Approach Summary

Location Based Approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Scope 2 Emissions (kgCO2e)	Scope 3 Emissions (kgCO2e)
ACT	0	0	0
NSW	743,833	580,190	52,068
SA	0	0	0
Vic	605,473	550,980	60,547
Qld	394,213	315,370	47,306
NT	0	0	0
WA	299,831	200,887	2,998
Tas	0	0	0
Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)	2,043,350	1,647,427	162,919
ACT	0	0	0
NSW	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0
Vic	0	0	0
Qld	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0
Tas	0	0	0
Non-grid electricity (Behind the meter)	0	0	0
Total Electricity Consumed	2,043,350	1,647,427	162,919

Emission Footprint (TCO2e)	1,810
Scope 2 Emissions (TCO2e)	1647
Scope 3 Emissions (TCO2e)	163

Climate Active Carbon Neutral Electricity summary

Carbon Neutral electricity offset by Climate Active Product	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO2e)
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 attributable, are captured within the emissions boundary, but are not measured (quantified) in the carbon inventory. These emissions are accounted for through an uplift factor. 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.

No emission sources in Corrs Chambers Westgarth’s service boundary were non-quantified in FY2022.

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
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Excluded emission sources

Attributable emissions sources can be excluded from the carbon inventory, but still considered as part of the emissions boundary if they meet **all three of the below criteria**. An uplift factor may not necessarily be applied.

1. A data gap exists because primary or secondary data cannot be collected (**no actual data**).
2. Extrapolated and proxy data cannot be determined to fill the data gap (**no projected data**).
3. An estimation determines the emissions from the process to be **immaterial**.

No attributable emissions were excluded in this submission.

APPENDIX D: OUTSIDE EMISSION BOUNDARY

Non-attributable emissions have been assessed as not attributable to a product or service (do not carry, make or become the product/service) and are therefore not part of the carbon neutral claim. To be deemed attributable, an emission must meet two of the five relevance criteria. Emissions which only meet one condition of the relevance test can be assessed as non-attributable and therefore are outside the carbon neutral claim.

There is no non-attributable emissions in this submission.

Relevance test					
Non-attributable emission	<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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



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