

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

AUSTRALIAN ESSENTIAL SERVICES GROUP

ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION
CY2023

Australian Government

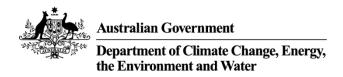
Climate Active Public Disclosure Statement







NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY	Australian Essential Services Group
REPORTING PERIOD	1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023 Arrears report
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. Uane Rosham
	Jane Rosham General Manager 01 August 2024



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Version August 2023.



1.CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	261 tCO ₂ -e
CARBON OFFSETS USED	43% ACCUs; 57% VCUs
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	18.96%
CARBON ACCOUNT	Prepared by: Pangolin Associates Ltd
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	Date: 24/07/2024 Organisation – Pangolin Associates Pty Ltd Next technical assessment due: CY2026

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2. CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

Description of organisation certification

This organisation certification is for the business operations of Australian Essential Services Group Pty Ltd (AESG), ABN 15 096 873 004. The services provided by AESG are not included as part of this certification.

The organisational boundary included the following locations and facilities:

- Head Office, located at Level 1, 77 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe Victoria 3079
- Field Inspectors who operate throughout Victoria, NSW, SA, Queensland, WA, ACT, NT, and Tasmania

This Public Disclosure Statement includes information for CY2023 reporting period.

Organisation description

Australian Essential Services Group is a national independent auditor providing fire safety services. Our specialized audits review the maintenance and compliance of fire equipment, building essential safety measures and building health and safety. Our services extend to compliance consultation for properties under Building Notice Orders, providing insurance reports, in-depth investigation, and management of combustible cladding works, as well as fire door tagging and compliance, evacuation diagrams, slip testing and ten-year maintenance plans.

Our long-standing relationships with our clients extend back to our establishment in 1996 and we now provide services to more than 800 organisations across Australia. We provide our auditing and safety measures services to owners' corporations, property management, aged care, health services, government and semi-government organisations, industrial, retail, and commercial clients.

AESG has auditors located in metropolitan Melbourne and throughout regional Victoria, Sydney and regional New South Wales, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Darwin and in Tasmania. We are committed to supporting regional communities through local employment.

Our operations are based in Melbourne, where our team coordinates the completion and delivery of more than 25,000 inspections and real-time reports each year. Our Quality Management System has been certified with ISO 9001 (2015) accreditation.



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 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 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

Quantified

Accommodation and facilities

Cleaning and chemicals

Climate Active carbon neutral products and services

Construction materials and services

Electricity

Food

ICT services and equipment

Machinery and vehicles

Postage, courier and freight

Products

Professional services

Transport (air)

Transport (land and sea)

Waste

Water

Office equipment and supplies

Non-quantified

Refrigerants

Optionally included

N/A

Outside emission boundary

Excluded

N/A



4. EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

Emissions reduction strategy

Australian Essential Services Group's emission reduction strategy involves:

General Measures

- o Measuring and reporting on our energy consumption and carbon footprint
- o Acting on opportunities to reduce our emissions by improving operational efficiencies.

· Scope 1 emissions will be reduced by:

- o Embracing technologies such as hybrid motor vehicles
 - We aim to have a fleet of hybrid vehicles by the end of 2024.
 - We aim to have a fleet of electric vehicles by the end of 2025.
- This initiative is expected to reduce our footprint by approximately 70 t CO₂e (~32% of the total 2021 footprint) by the end of 2030.

• Scope 2 emissions will be reduced by:

- Transitioning to 100% renewable electricity.
- This initiative is expected to reduce our footprint by approximately 26.8 t CO₂e by the end of 2030.

· Scope 3 emissions will be reduced by:

- o Investing in technological innovations to reduce our resource consumption.
- Continuing to employ locally, to both support regional communities and reduce our travel footprint and significantly reduce air travel.
- Being as close as possible to being a "paperless office" and using carbon neutral paper when we need to print.
- o Reducing waste, and recycling wherever possible.
- o Encouraging our suppliers to reduce carbon impacts in our supply chain.
- o Educating and engaging our team to reduce work-related emissions;

Based on the above initiatives, Australian Essential Services Group commits to a 65% emissions intensity reduction across all scopes 1, 2 and 3 from a base year (CY2021) of 5.9 tCO₂-e per FTE by 2030 as shown below.

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
AESG Emission Reduction Target (Relative to 2021)	35.0%	40.0%	45.0%	50.0%	55.0%	60.0%	65.0%

Australian Essential Services Group will continue to offset our residual annual carbon emissions to achieve carbon neutrality by purchasing offsets that meet the requirements of Climate Active.



Emissions reduction actions

- Purchased 3 hybrid vehicles.
- Commenced purchasing Carbon Neutral electricity from Energy Australia.
- Changed lights in the office to energy saving/efficient globes.
- Changed our technology/computer hardware to more energy efficient and power saving options during 2023.
- We relocated to a workspace/environment that we own outright, giving us greater control for a
 greater reduction strategy. We will not have limitations arising from use of leased workspace.
- All general office waste is sorted and recycled mobile devices are returned for recycling. AESG
 has engaged a commercial recycling service for papers and cardboard; we have a paid recycling
 service for glass; we sort hard and soft plastics and return them to appropriate recycle depots.



5.EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions over time

Emissions since base year						
		Total tCO ₂ -e (without uplift)	Total tCO ₂ -e (with uplift)			
Base year:	2020	193.8	N/A			
Year 1:	2021	219.7	N/A			
Year 2:	2022	184.1	N/A			
Year 3:	2023	260.2	N/A			

Significant changes in emissions

Significant changes in emissions							
Emission source	Previous year emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	Current year emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	Reason for change				
Technical services	1.36	36.65	The main difference in emissions is due to the procurement of professional services in CY2023 that were not present in CY2022. This includes accounting services, banking services, property services, insurance services, among others.				
Short economy class flights (>400km, ≤3,700km)	12.17	33.62	The increase was attributed to the rise in short flights taken in CY2023 compared to CY2022, driven by an increased need for business-related travel.				
Consulting services	-	44.41	Similar to technical services, three different consultancy services were procured in CY2023 to meet new business needs that did not exist in the previous year.				

Use of Climate Active carbon neutral products, services, buildings or precincts

Certified brand name	Product/Service/Building/Precinct used
Energy Australia	Electricity



Emissions summary

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

Emission category	Scope 1 emissions (tCO ₂ -e)	Scope 2 emissions (tCO ₂ -e)	Scope 3 emissions (tCO ₂ -e)	Total emissions (t CO ₂ -e)
Accommodation and facilities	0.00	0.00	5.61	5.61
Cleaning and chemicals	0.00	0.00	0.55	0.55
Climate Active carbon neutral products and services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Construction materials and services	0.00	0.00	5.76	5.76
Electricity	0.00	5.88	8.99	14.87
Food	0.00	0.00	5.79	5.79
ICT services and equipment	0.00	0.00	15.92	15.92
Machinery and vehicles	0.00	0.00	1.18	1.18
Postage, courier and freight	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.20
Products	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.47
Professional services	0.00	0.00	114.37	114.37
Transport (air)	0.00	0.00	33.62	33.62
Transport (land and sea)	31.97	0.00	25.19	57.17
Waste	0.00	0.00	1.57	1.57
Water	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.07
Office equipment and supplies	0.00	0.00	3.10	3.10
Total emissions (tCO ₂ -e)	31.97	5.88	222.39	260.24

Uplift factors

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

Reason for uplift factor	tCO ₂ -e
N/A	
Total of all uplift factors (tCO ₂ -e)	0
Total emissions footprint to offset (tCO ₂ -e) (total emissions from summary table + total of all uplift factors)	260.24



6.CARBON OFFSETS

Eligible offsets retirement summary

Offsets retired for Climate Active certification

Type of offset units	Eligible quantity (used for this reporting period)	Percentage of total		
Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs)	112	43%		
Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)	149	57%		

Project description	Type of offset units	Registry	Date retired	Serial number (and hyperlink to registry transaction record)	Vintage	Stapled quantity	Eligible quantity retired (tCO ₂ -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 (%)
The Karlantijpa North Savanna Burning Project	ACCU	ANREU	2 Nov 2023	8,333,301,655 – 8,333,301,754	2021-22	0	100	93	0	7	3%
Anhui Guzhen Biomass Project in China stapled to Orana Natural Capital Project	VCU Natural Capital Unit	Verra	25 Oct 2023	11775-356401225- 356401424-VCS-VCU- 1317-VER-CN-1-1121- 01012019-31122019-0 25787- 25986	2019	200	200	51	0	149	57%
Jawoyn Fire 2 Project	ACCU	ANREU	15 Aug 2024	8,330,523,440 - 8.330.523.544	2021-22	0	105	0	0	105	40%
Total eligible offsets retired and used to							d for this report	261			
	Total eligible offsets retired this report and banked for use in future reports								0		



Co-benefits

Jawoyn Fire 2

Jawoyn Fire 2 is Jawoyns largest project outside the ALFApartnership. It is carried out on traditional Jawoynland, now held as Aboriginal land Trust or as NT freehold. Jawoyn Rangers have been caring for country and incorporating customary values and culture with the latest in scientific practice since the late 1990s. Based in Katherine, the rangers manage 16,000 square kilometres of land including part of the West Arnhem Land plateau.

Jawoyn Rangers work includes land, fire and weed management, as well as cultural management of one of the world's largest and most significant bodies of rock art. They also work in collaboration with the Nitmiluk National Park rangers in managing ire and conducting rock art surveys in the park.

Karlantijpa North Savanna Burning project

This project involves strategic and planned burning of savanna areas in the low rainfall zone during the early dry season to reduce the risk of late dry season wild fires. The Central Land Council is helping the traditional owners of the Karlantijpa North Aboriginal Land Trust, near Elliott in the Northern Territory, to develop their carbon business. The first such Aboriginal enterprise in its region, the engagement will carry out financially sustainable fire management that meets safety, cultural and environmental needs.

Natural Capital Units - Orana Park

The Yuxian Baiyantuo 49.3 MW Wind Power Project credits are stapled with an Australian vegetation offset from Bendigo, Victoria (see project details on the following page). We have selected Orana Park, to reflect our company's Victorian heritage and large number of regional clients. The project is ambitious, encompassing regenerative farming, threatened species recovery and work into bio-links.



7. RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC) SUMMARY

Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) summary

N/A.

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

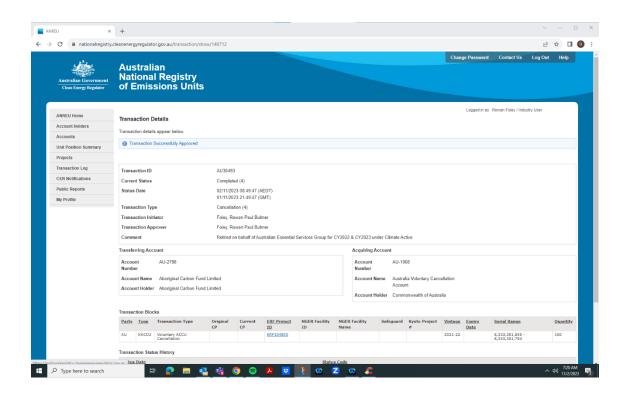
1. Large-scale Generation certificates (LGCs)*	N/A

^{*} 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	Project location	Eligible unit type	Registry	Surrender date	Accreditation code	Certificate serial number	Generation year	Fuel source	Quantity (MWh)	
Total LGCs surrendered	this report	and used in	this report						N/A	



APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION







APPENDIX B: ELECTRICITY SUMMARY

There are two international best-practice methods for calculating electricity emissions – the location-based method and the market-based method. Reporting electricity emissions under both methods is called dual reporting.

Dual reporting of electricity emissions is useful, as it provides different perspectives of the emissions associated with a business's electricity usage.

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.

For this certification, electricity emissions have been set by using the market-based approach.



Market-based approach summary			
Market-based approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kg CO ₂ -e)	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)	0	0	0%
GreenPower	0	0	0%
Climate Active precinct/building (voluntary renewables)	0	0	0%
Precinct/Building (LRET)	0	0	0%
Precinct/Building jurisdictional renewables (LGCS surrendered)	0	0	0%
Electricity products (voluntary renewables)	0	0	0%
Electricity products (LRET)	3,058	0	8%
Electricity products jurisdictional renewables (LGCs surrendered)	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LGCs surrendered)	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LRET) (applied to ACT grid electricity)	0	0	0%
Large Scale Renewable Energy Target (applied to grid electricity only)	3,823	0	11%
Residual Electricity	29,408	26,762	0%
Total renewable electricity (grid + non grid)	6,880	0	19%
Total grid electricity	36,289	26,762	19%
Total electricity (grid + non grid)	36,289	26,762	19%
Percentage of residual electricity consumption under operational control	44%		
Residual electricity consumption under operational control	13,069	11,893	
Scope 2	11,633	10,586	
Scope 3 (includes T&D emissions from consumption under operational control)	1,436	1,307	
Residual electricity consumption not under operational control	16,339	14,869	
Scope 3	16,339	14,869	

Total renewables (grid and non-grid)	18.96%
Mandatory	18.96%
Voluntary	0.00%
Behind the meter	0.00%
Residual scope 2 emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	10.59
Residual scope 3 emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	16.18
Scope 2 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO ₂ -e)	5.88
Scope 3 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO ₂ -e)	8.99
Total emissions liability (t CO ₂ -e)	14.87
Figures may not sum due to rounding. Renewable percentage can be above 100%	



Location-based approach summary						_
Location-based approach	Activity Data (kWh) total	Under operational control			Not under operational control	
Percentage of grid electricity consumption under operational control	44%	(kWh)	Scope 2 Emissions (kgCO ₂ -e)	Scope 3 Emissions (kgCO ₂ -e)	(kWh)	Scope 3 Emissions (kgCO ₂ -e)
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	36,289	16,127	12,740	1,129	20,162	17,339
QLD	0	0	0	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)	36,289	16,127	12,740	1,129	20,162	17,339
ACT	0	0	0	0		
NSW	0	0	0	0		
SA	0	0	0	0		
VIC	0	0	0	0		
QLD	0	0	0	0		
NT	0	0	0	0		
WA	0	0	0	0		
TAS	0	0	0	0		
Non-grid electricity (behind the meter)	0	0	0	0		
Total electricity (grid + non grid)	36,289					

Residual scope 2 emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	12.74
Residual scope 3 emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	18.47
Scope 2 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO ₂ -e)	7.08
Scope 3 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO ₂ -e)	10.26
Total emissions liability	17.34

Operations in Climate Active buildings and precincts

	Operations in Climate Active buildings and precincts	Electricity consumed in Climate Active certified building/precinct (kWh)	Emissions (kg CO₂-e)
	N/A	0	0
- 1	Climate Active earlier neutral electricity is not renewable elec	otricity. Those electricity emissions have been of	fact by another Climate

Climate Active carbon neutral electricity is not renewable electricity. These electricity emissions have been offset by another Climate Active member through their building or precinct certification. This electricity consumption is also included in the market based and location-based summary tables. Any electricity that has been sourced as renewable electricity by the building/precinct under the market-based method is outlined as such in the market-based summary table.

Climate Active carbon neutral electricity products

Climate Active carbon neutral electricity product used	Electricity claimed from Climate Active electricity products (kWh)	Emissions (kg CO ₂ -e)
Energy Australia	16,127	0

Climate Active carbon neutral electricity is not renewable electricity. These electricity emissions have been offset by another Climate Active member through their electricity product certification. This electricity consumption is also included in the market based and location-based summary tables. Any electricity that has been sourced as renewable electricity by the electricity product under the market-based method is outlined as such in the market-based summary table.



APPENDIX C: INSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Non-quantified emission sources

The following emissions sources 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 <u>one</u> 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. <u>Data unavailable</u> 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	Justification reason		
Refrigerants	Immaterial		

Data management plan for non-quantified sources

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



APPENDIX D: OUTSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Excluded emission sources

The below emission sources have been assessed as not relevant to this organisation'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:

- <u>Size</u> The emissions from a particular source are likely to be large relative to the organisation's electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions.
- 2. <u>Influence</u> The responsible entity has the potential to influence the reduction of emissions from a particular source.
- 3. <u>Risk</u> 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.
- 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.



Excluded emissions sources summary

Emission sources tested for relevance	Size	Influence	Risk	Stakeholders	Outsourcing	Justification
N/A						





