



Australian Government
**Asbestos and Silica Safety
and Eradication Agency**

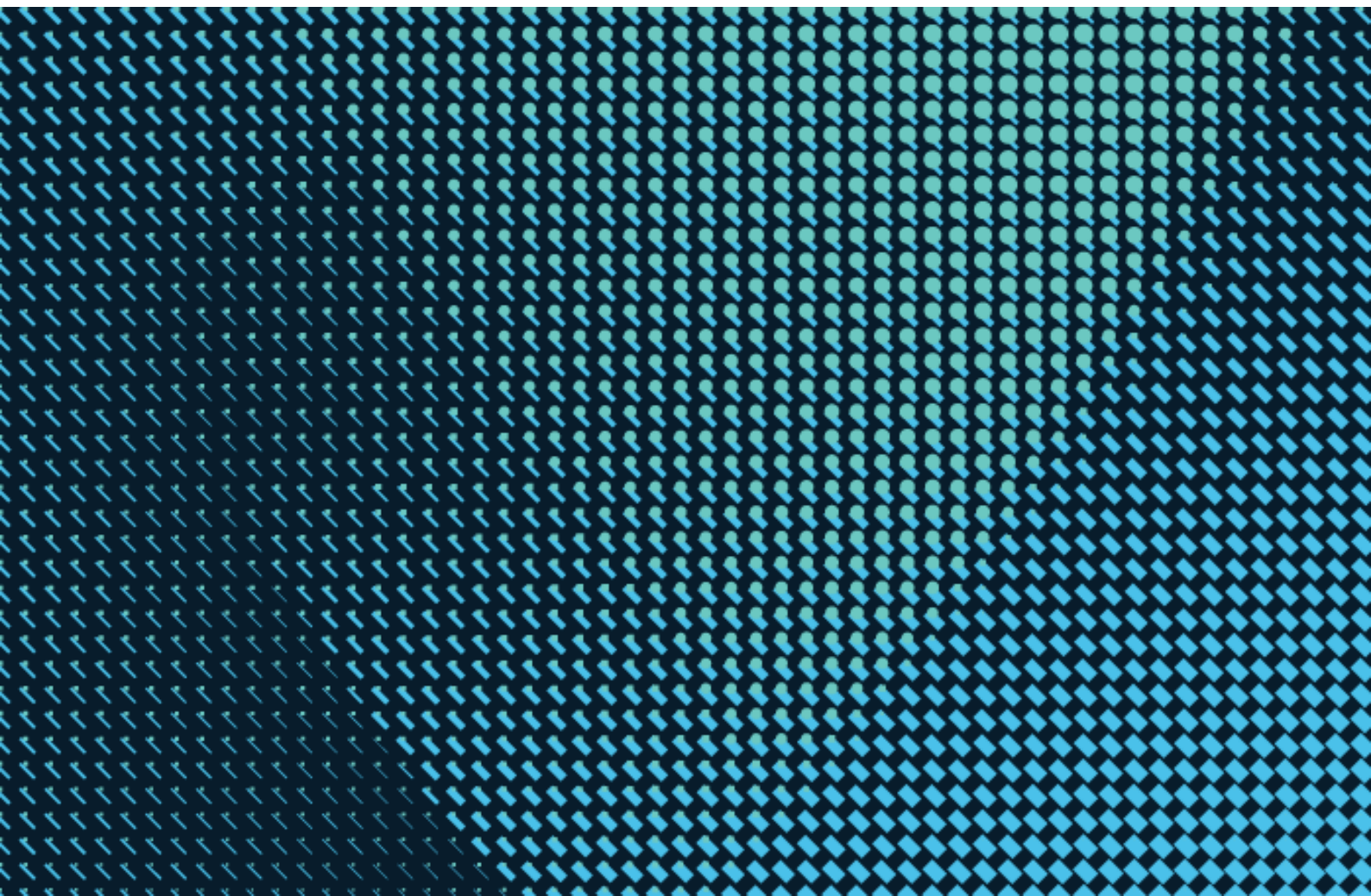


**ASBESTOS AND
SILICA SAFETY**

Emissions Reduction Plan

2025-26 – Annual Update

asbestossafety.gov.au | silicasafety.gov.au



Acknowledgement of Country

The Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA) acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

Declaration of targets and Accountable Authority sign-off

The Australian Government released the [Net Zero in Government Operations \(NZGO\) Strategy](#) in November 2023, setting out the overall approach and action required by Commonwealth entities to achieve the APS Net Zero 2030 Target (2030 Target). The NZGO Strategy represents a commitment by the Australian Government to lead by example on emissions reduction and contribute to the decarbonisation of Australia's economy.

ASSEA is committed to the 2030 Target in full, as per the [NZGO Strategy](#).

The 2030 Target is the target set by the government to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from government operations by the year 2030. It includes Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions from activities in Australia and its territories, as described in the NZGO Strategy. It applies at the aggregate level to non-corporate Commonwealth entities and those Commonwealth entities and companies who opt-in and generally covers the entirety of the entity's organisation. From an organisational perspective, this means minimising the greenhouse gas emissions that are within our control. ASSEA is committed to the achievement of the government's 2030 Target.

This Emissions Reduction Plan describes the priorities and actions ASSEA is taking to reduce our operational emissions and contribute to the 2030 Target.

Stephen Blackburn
Acting Chief Executive Officer and Accountable Authority
20 October 2026

Purpose

ASSEA is implementing emissions reduction initiatives in line with the Australian Government's Net Zero in Government Operations (NZGO) Strategy, developed by the Department of Finance. The NZGO Strategy sets out the government's approach to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions from its operations by 2030, including the reinstatement of public emissions reporting.

The purpose of this Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) is to provide a pathway for ASSEA to contribute to achievement of the APS Net Zero 2030 Target through emissions reduction activities. The ERP encompasses both existing and new priorities and actions within ASSEA to reduce emissions.

This ERP has been developed in accordance with the NZGO Strategy, associated guidance and relevant reporting standards for annual emissions reporting.

Governance and Reporting

This Emissions Reduction Plan annual update summarises progress against the actions and targets set out in the Emissions Reduction Plan for ASSEA.

Progress against actions identified within this Emissions Reduction Plan, and any additional measures adopted, will be included in our annual reports. This, combined with annual emissions reporting, will be used as a measure of ASSEA progress towards reducing its emissions.

As part of the Net Zero in Government Operations Annual Progress Report, the Department of Finance will aggregate these measures to provide whole-of-Australian Government emissions reporting.

Operational Context

ASSEA is a small non-corporate Commonwealth agency with an average staffing level of 21, and total annual appropriation of less than \$6.0 million.

We lease a small office in Canberra, sub-lease office space in Sydney from the Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) and have a small number of staff working remotely.

We do not operate any vehicle fleets and our main emissions are generated by our Canberra office or business travel. Emissions generated by our Sydney office are included within the reporting by the DTA.

Engagement

In developing this Emissions Reduction Plan, ASSEA collaborated with a range of internal and external stakeholders, including:

- Department of Finance and the Climate Action in Government Operations unit, to ensure alignment with the *Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy* and Commonwealth Climate Disclosure requirements.
- Department of Finance Travel team and internal staff, to consider options and approaches for reducing emissions associated with official travel.
- ASSEA's property services provider to access property data and broader community learnings.

Emissions Inventory

ASSEA's baseline emissions were established using data from the 2022-23 financial year and remain the reference point for measuring progress against emissions reduction actions.

In 2025-26, ASSEA recorded an overall reduction in combined Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions relative to the baseline year. The percentage change since baseline for each emissions source is presented in the following table.

Emission Source	FY 2022-23 Baseline t CO ₂ -e	FY 2024-25 (3rd year) t CO ₂ -e	FY 2025-26 (4th year) t CO ₂ -e	Percentage change since baseline	Percentage change year on year (3rd vs 4th year)
Electricity (location-Based Approach)	8.94	8.91	6.00	-33%	-33%
Natural Gas	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Fleet and Other Vehicles	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Domestic Flights	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other Energy	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total t CO₂-e	8.94	8.91	6.00	-33%	-33%

Net Zero Targets

ASSEA is following the APS Net Zero 2030 target in full, as per the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy. The target covers the entirety of our entity's operations within Australia and its territories for scope 1 and scope 2 emissions, as described in the [Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy](#).

The objective of the 2030 Target is to reduce emissions to mitigate further impacts of climate change. The metric used to set, and measure, the 2030 Target is t CO₂-e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent).

The timeframe for achieving the net greenhouse gas emissions target is from 16 June 2022 to 30 June 2031.

The initial baseline as per the NZGO Strategy is the 2022-23 financial year.

The 2030 Target is an absolute target. The 2030 Target forms part of Australia's international climate commitments, including Australia's Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.

In 2026-27, the Department of Finance will undertake a mid-term review of the NZGO Strategy to consider overall progress to date, domestic expectations and any recommended changes to the 2030 Target and associated NZGO Strategy.

Progress against the aggregated 2030 Target for the Australian Public Service, including metrics, is detailed within the [Climate Action in Government Operations Annual Progress Report](#) prepared by the Department of Finance.

During the reporting period there were no changes to the 2030 Target.

The following greenhouse gas emissions are included in the APS Net Zero Emissions Reporting Framework and 2030 Target:

- carbon dioxide (CO₂); methane (CH₄); nitrous oxide (N₂O); hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs); perfluorocarbons (PFCs); sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆); and nitrogen trifluoride (N₃).
- The 2030 Target includes Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions and is a net greenhouse gas emissions target.

It was not derived using a sectoral decarbonisation approach.

As part of our commitment to the 2030 Target, we also commit to the relevant targets in the NZGO Strategy.

This includes:

- developing an ERP and
- publishing our annual progress towards the 2030 Target, as measured by percentage of overall emissions reduction each year, in the annual updates to the ERP.

Interim Targets

ASSEA has not set any interim targets to reduce combined Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2025-26, emissions decreased relative to the baseline; key actions delivered since the initial Emissions Reduction Plan included transitioning the Canberra office to the renewable energy and improvements in building management system settings for our tenancy.

Broader climate-related Targets

In our initial Emissions Reduction Plan we committed to broader actions on emissions reduction:

- Use of higher NABERS rated buildings for our offices: since the initial plan opportunities to seek improved rated accommodation have not occurred.
- Increased use of virtual meeting technology and ground public transport for business and stakeholder related travel: travel is not within scope 1 or 2, however our emissions have reduced 27% over 2025-26.

Priorities and Actions

Our priorities and actions are covered in the sections above.