

# National Carbon Offset Standard Carbon Neutral Program Public Disclosure Summary



An Australian Government Initiative

Allens

Reporting period: July 1st 2014 – June 30th 2015




**Australian Government**  
**Department of the Environment**


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## Declaration

To the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this Public Disclosure Summary is true and correct and meets the requirements of the National Carbon Offset Standard Carbon Neutral Program.

 [Sign here]	17 December 2015
Phillip Cornwell	
Partner, Allens	

Type of carbon neutral certification: Organisation
Verification
Date of most recent external verification/audit: 17 December 2015

Auditor:
Auditor assurance statement link:

# 1. Carbon neutral information

## Introduction

Allens is a leading law firm with offices across Australia and Asia, and through our integrated alliance with Linklaters, has a global network spanning 40 offices and 29 countries. We provide access to leading lawyers and resources, covering all commercial issues, from acquisition finance to workplace relations.

Allens has some of the world's longest ongoing client relationships, stretching back more than 150 years. We also work with many of the world's leading organisations - including 55 of the world's top 100 companies and more than 75 of Australia's top 100 companies.

Allens has a longstanding commitment to sustainability. This year, Allens brought together a Community Engagement team and appointed a Community Engagement manager to manage our environmental program. Allens' Community Engagement Program is led by the firm's Director of Community Engagement and is governed at the highest level by a Community Engagement Board, which includes our Chief Executive Partner.

Allens was the first Australian law firm to achieve certification as carbon neutral under the Australian Government's National Carbon Offset Standard.

## Emission sources within certification boundary

### Quantified sources

Allens has assessed all emission sources under its operational control (using the operational control test as specified by the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007). These account for all Scope 1 and 2 emissions (Natural Gas, Refrigerants and Electricity). Other significant sources of Scope 3 emissions have been assessed and these are:

- Water consumption
- Base building services
- Staff commuting to and from work
- IT equipment expenditure
- Paper use
- Business flights
- Food and catering purchases
- Postage services
- Couriers services
- International hotel accommodation
- National hotel accommodation
- Taxis
- Meat products (beef)

- Meat products (poultry)
- Seafood
- Small goods
- Waste to landfill

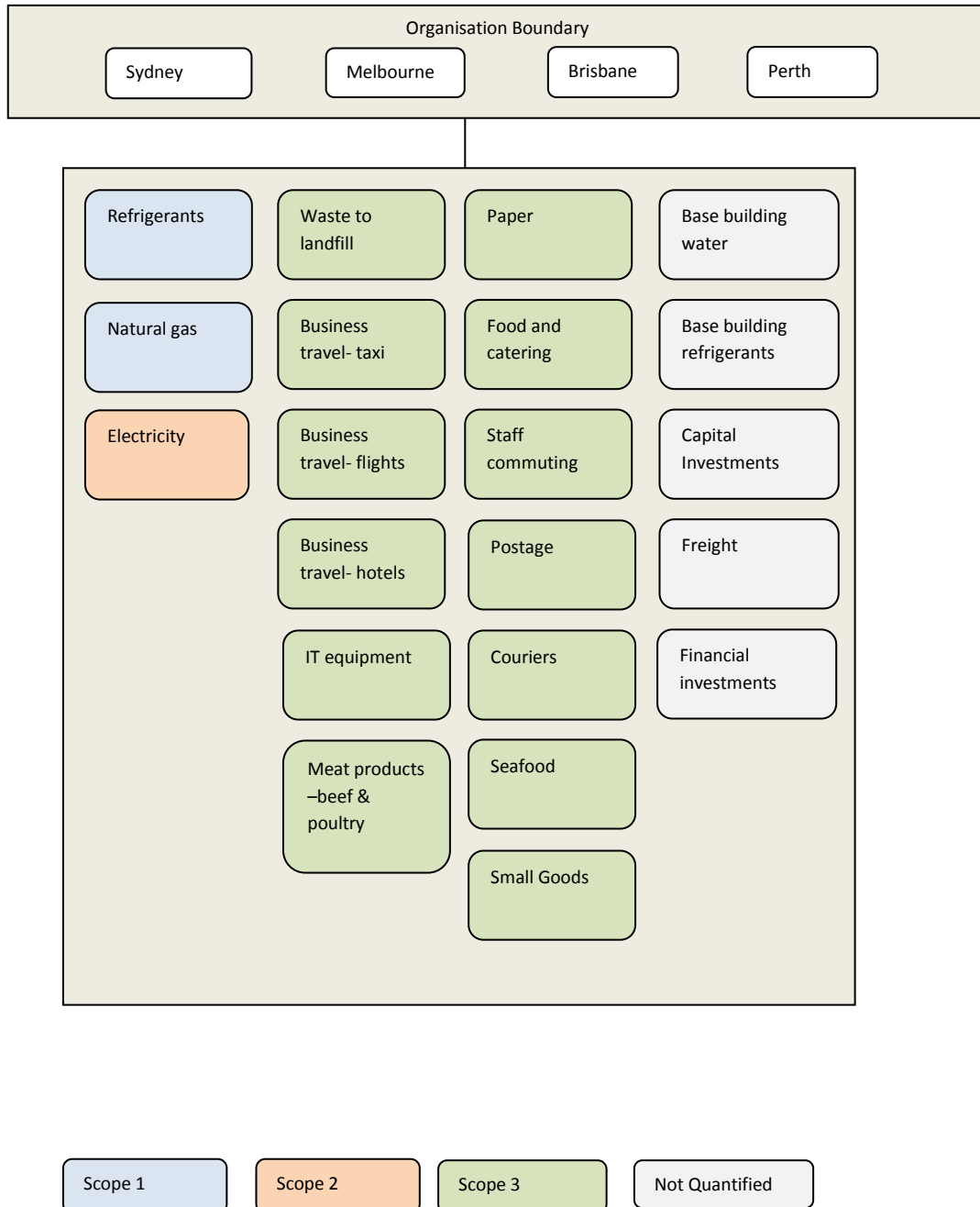
These emissions sources have been included on the basis that they account for a comprehensive overview of all emissions related to Allens' operations and that they would be considered as relevant for a range of key stakeholders. Allens office space, which is sublet to other entities, has been excluded.

## Non-quantified sources

Emissions related to capital investment equipment, base building refrigerants and water, freight, financial investments and contractors have been excluded from the inventory. The exclusion of these emission sources is not expected to materially affect the overall inventory.

- Capital investment equipment - Embodied emissions contained in purchased capital assets have not been included as estimating these emissions is likely to be very difficult relative the contribution of this category to the inventory
- Base building refrigerants and water – These emission sources are excluded on the basis that the information is very difficult to gather and they are likely to have minimal impact relative to scope 1 and 2 emissions
- Freight – Allens does not use freight services directly and emissions from this source are likely to be negligible compared to other scope 3 emission sources
- Financial investments – Determining the emissions associated with financial investments would be very costly relative to their likely significance.

Diagram of certification boundary



## 2. Emissions reduction measures

### Part A. Emissions over time

Overall emissions have reduced by 13.5% (or -2,078.1 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e) since the 2013/14 base year. This has been due to improvements in electricity consumption at the Sydney and Melbourne offices, less long-haul business flights and decreased spending on food and catering.

<b>Table 1. Emissions since base year</b>			
	Base Year (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Current year (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Percentage change
Scope 1	2.6	3.4	31.1%
Scope 2	3,784.3	3,383.1	-10.6%
Scope 3	11,628.1	9,950.3	-14.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,415.0</b>	<b>13,336.8</b>	<b>-13.5%</b>

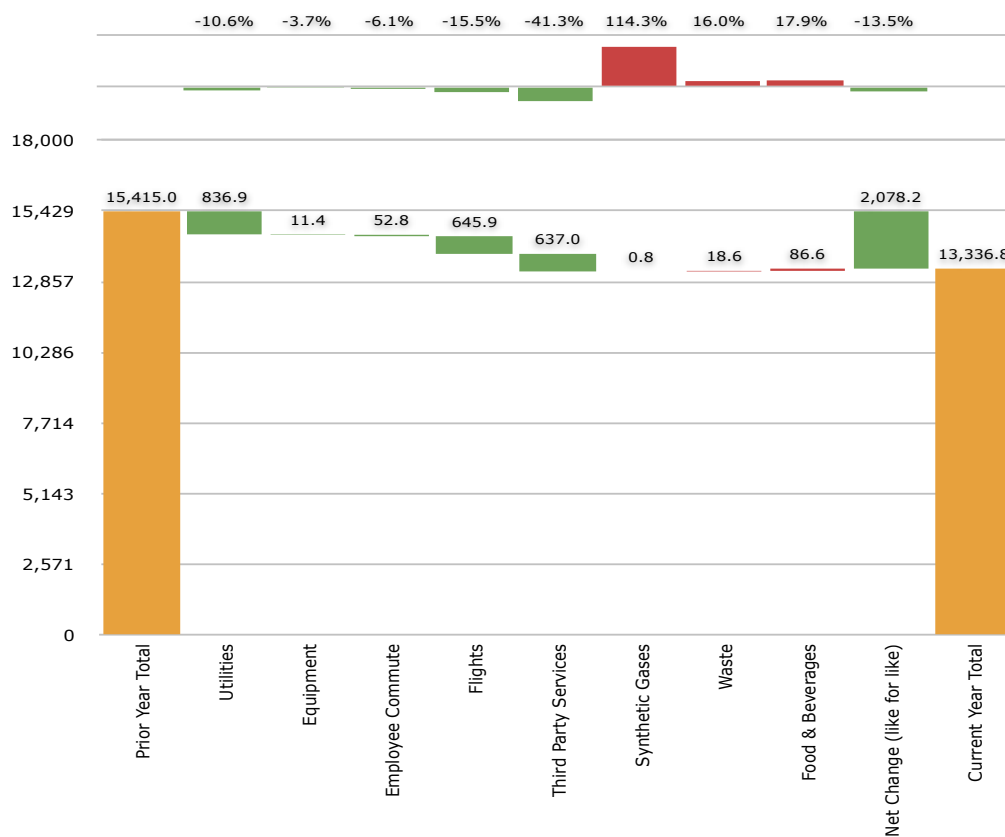


Figure 1: Year on year changes to emissions by activity sector

### Part B. Emissions reduction strategy

Allens' emissions reduction strategy involves:

- measuring and reporting on our energy consumption and carbon footprint;
- setting targets for reducing our emissions;
- acting on opportunities to reduce our emissions by improving operational efficiencies, investing in technological innovation and reducing our resource consumption;
- encouraging our suppliers to reduce carbon impacts in our supply chain;
- educating and engaging our people to reduce emissions generated at work;
- offsetting our residual annual carbon emissions to achieve net-zero emissions, by purchasing offsets that meet the requirements of the National Carbon Offset Standard and align with our community engagement objectives.

### Part C. Emissions reduction actions

<b>Table 2. Emissions reduction measures</b>				
Emission source	Reduction measure and calculation method	Scope	Status	Reduction t CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Electricity	Reduce the number of multi-function devices and upgrade to more energy-efficient models in all of our Australian offices.	2 & 3	Ongoing	Not Estimated
Paper	Introduce 'follow-me' printing on all multi-function devices, with a view to reducing printing volumes and paper use.	2 & 3	Ongoing	Not Estimated
Electricity	Investigate the introduction of a regular, automated computer shut down across all of our Australian offices.	2 & 3	Ongoing	Not Estimated
Electricity	Complete the migration to more energy-efficient, virtual servers for all of our Australian offices.	2 & 3	Ongoing	Not Estimated

Employee commute, Business flights, Electricity, Paper, Waste	Educate and engage our employees to encourage them to reduce their environmental impacts at work and at home (including internal seminars on environmental issues and participation in Ride to Work Day, Earth Hour, World Environment Day and National Recycling Week).	3	Ongoing	Not Estimated
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### 3. Emissions summary

Table 3. Emissions Summary		
Scope	Emission source	t CO <sub>2</sub> -e
1	Refrigerants	1.5
1	Natural Gas	1.9
2	Electricity	3,383.1
3	Natural Gas	0.5
3	Electricity	458.2
3	Electricity – base building	3,236.6
3	Water	7.1
3	IT equipment	160.0
3	Paper	134.1
3	Employee commute	818.9
3	Business flights	3,526.8
3	Food and catering	514.0
3	Postage	13.4
3	Couriers	118.0
3	International hotel accommodation	20.2
3	National hotel accommodation	173.0
3	Taxis	65.0
3	Meat products (beef)	423.0



Table 3. Emissions Summary		
Scope	Emission source	t CO <sub>2</sub> -e
	Meat products (poultry)	21.5
3	Seafood	20.9
3	Small goods	104.0
3	Waste to landfill	135.2
<b>Total Gross Emissions</b>		<b>13,336.8</b>
*Note: Proportion of total emissions calculated using the Input- Output methodology is 10.3%		

Table 4. Summary of emissions by scope and gas type					
Scope	CO <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>4</sub>	N <sub>2</sub> O	HFC	Total
1	1.9	0.0	0.0	1.5	3.4
2	3,376.2	1.4	5.5	0.0	3,383.1
3	9,790.5	138.1	23.1	0.0	9,950.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,168.6</b>	<b>138.2</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>13,336.8</b>

## 4. Carbon offsets

### Part A. Offsets summary

Table 5. Offsets Summary			
Offset type and registry	Year retired	Quantity	Serial numbers
VCUs, APX VCS Registry	2015	1,025	2759-119553422-119554446-VCU-008-MER-TH-4-403-01012010-31122010-0
VCUs, APX VCS Registry	2015	1,369	3816-165739382-VCU-016-APX-PG-14-1122-22052009-31122012-0
VCUs, APX VCS Registry	2015	1,501	4111-175147132-175148632-VCU-016-APX-PG-14-1122-22052009-31122012-0

Table 5. Offsets Summary			
Offset type and registry	Year retired	Quantity	Serial numbers
VCUs, APX VCS Registry	2015	1,435	2285-95269232-95270666-VCU-008-MER-KH-3-181-01012001-31122011-0
VCUs, APX VCS Registry	2015	2,870	3352-150217713-150220582-VCU-006-MER-PE-14-868-01012010-31122012-0
VCUs, APX VCS Registry	2015	1,800	2491-106446459-106448258-VCU-008-APX-VN-1-589-01112010-31032012-0
VCUs, APX VCS Registry	2015	837	411-175148633-175149469-VCU-016-APX-PG-14-1122-22052009-31122012-0
VCUs, APX VCS Registry	2015	2,500	3352-150220583-150223082-VCU-006-MER-PE-14-868-01012010-31122012-0
Total offsets retired			13,337
Net emissions			0
Total offsets held in surplus for future years:			0

### Part B. Offsets purchasing and retirement strategy

Offsets are partially purchased and retired during the reporting period and the remainder purchased once reporting has been completed.

### Part C. Offset projects (Co-benefits)

Allens seeks to buy offsets from projects that align with the firm's community engagement program and objectives and offer additional environmental and community benefits. The example projects described below relate to 68 per cent of the total amount of offsets purchased and retired by Allens for this reporting period.

#### **April Salumei project in Papua New Guinea**

This project protects 177,000 hectares of rainforest, which prevents the carbon stored in the trees from being released into the atmosphere. Without this project, the forest would be harvested for timber and converted to agricultural land. The rainforest protected by this project is considered one of the ten most important biodiversity hotspots on earth. The April Salumei project is also home to 163 communities who depend upon the rainforest for their livelihoods, as they have done for hundreds of years. Due largely to the remoteness of the area, these communities are some of the least developed in Papua New Guinea. To deliver positive social and environmental outcomes, the project works in partnership with the traditional landowners to invest in health, education, communication and accessibility programs that provide essential services alongside conservation efforts.

**Amazonian rainforest project in Peru**

The Peruvian Amazon Project conserves 300,000 hectares of virgin rainforest, which prevents the carbon stored in the trees from being released into the atmosphere. Without the project, the trees would be logged for timber and the area converted to ranch land. The project supports the sustainable harvesting of the Amazon's wild Brazil nuts, as well as biodiversity monitoring and reforestation activities. Money earned from the project helps to provide an alternative revenue stream to logging for the 400 local farming families who own and manage the land covered by the project. The project also creates new training and employment opportunities for the local community of the Amazon project. By helping the local Brazil nut harvesters to improve efficiency, minimise their environmental impact, and protect their forest, these opportunities help to provide vital economic development for both present and future generations.