

Australian Government
Carbon Neutral Program
Public Disclosure Summary



An Australian Government Initiative


THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY: **PROTECT GROUP**

REPORTING PERIOD: **FY2018-19**

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.

Signature 	Date 31/10/2019
Name of Signatory Paulo Ramos	
Position of Signatory IT Manager	

Carbon neutral certification category	Organisation
Date of most recent external verification/audit	October 2019
Auditor	RSM Australia
Auditor assurance statement link	



Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy

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1. Carbon neutral information

1A. Introduction

Based in North Melbourne, Protect Group (Protect) is Australia's leading industry severance scheme, employing more than 20 staff who service over 35,000 workers and 1,200 participating employers. Protect represents diverse industries including electrical trades, maritime, construction, service maintenance, manufacturing, rail, power, supply and distribution, and oil and petrochemical.

Protect has been setting the pace for industry severance schemes offering its members superior benefits, including tax-free redundancy payments, income protection and counselling. Protect is the industry scheme preferred by an ever-growing number of workers and employers throughout the nation.

NCOS Organisation Certification

Protect is composed of the Protect Severance Scheme (PSS) and the Protect Services Trust (PST). Employer contributions to the scheme go into PSS while administration services to PSS are provided by PST.

Protect is claiming carbon neutrality under the 'Organisation' certification category with an operational control emission boundary. Under this boundary, most emissions fall under the PST site in North Melbourne, Victoria. As PSS holds the fund which is classified as 'Managed investments and client services', emissions from PSS are excluded in accordance with the GHG Protocol (see 1B).

Protect also has a sales employee based in Western Australia. Due to the nature of the role, Protect does not have any site in Western Australia and that employee works purely on the road or at client sites. The transport fuel for that employee has been captured in the carbon emissions inventory.

The Protect (ANZSIC Code: 7299) carbon emissions inventory has been prepared based on the NCOS standard and accounts for the six Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydro-fluorocarbons (HFCs), per-fluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆). There were no Scope 1 PFC and SF₆ sources identified within the reporting boundary.

1B. Emission sources within certification boundary

Quantified sources

The following emission sources have been included:

- Transport Petrol [Scopes 1 & 3]
- Transport Diesel [Scopes 1 & 3]
- Transport Ethanol [Scope 1]
- Purchased electricity [Scopes 1 & 3]
- Staff commuting [Scope 3]
- Flights [Scope 3]
- Postage and Courier [Scope 3]
- Accommodation [Scope 3]
- Office Consumables [Scope 3]
- Catering [Scope 3]
- IT Equipment [Scope 3]
- Waste - Municipal solid waste [Scope 3]
- Taxis [Scope 3]
- Office Water use [Scope 3]
- Base Building Electricity [Scope 3]
- Paper - Office Use [Scope 3]
- Waste - Paper Recycling [Scope 3]

Non-quantified sources

While the following emission sources are included within the emissions boundary, they have not been quantified in line with the relevant *National Carbon Offset Standard for Organisations* provisions (sections 2.3.1, 2.3.2 & 2.6).:

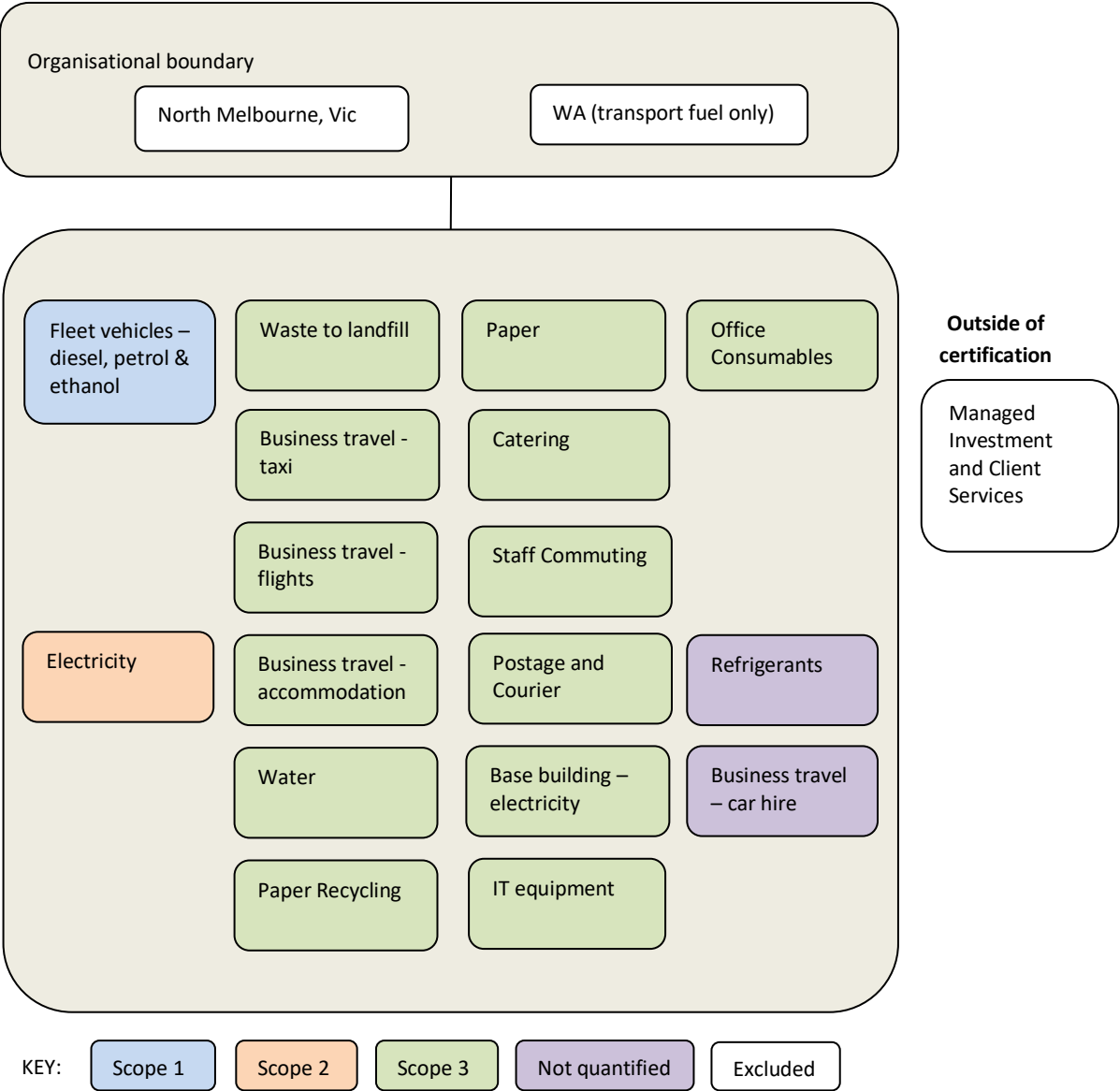
- Refrigerants [Scope 1]
 - While onsite domestic general-use refrigerators could be a potential source of Scope 1 HFCs, the impact on the inventory is estimated to be not material and therefore HFCs were not quantified.
 - The central air conditioner uses HCFC as a refrigerant and therefore it is not covered by the NCOS standard.
- Car Hire [Scope 3]
 - In general, where transport was required, staff were given cab charges and therefore these emissions are already captured under the Scope 3 - Taxis. Car hire during the reporting period that was estimated to be much less than 1% of Protect's overall emissions and therefore below the materiality threshold.

Excluded sources

The following emission sources have been excluded in line with the provisions of the *National Carbon Offset Standard for Organisations*:

- Managed investments and client services [Scope 3]
 - In accordance with the guidance from GHG Protocol's *Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard* (see table 5.10), 'Managed investments and client services' were excluded from Protect's inventory. In addition, as Protect investments are managed by an independent fund manager, the investment data is not directly accessible to Protect.

1C. Diagram of the certification boundary



2. Emissions reduction measures

2A. Emissions over time

Table 1. Emissions since base year			
	Base Year: 2015-16	Year 2: 2017-18	Current year Year 3: 2018-19
Scope 1 (t CO ₂ -e)	45.7	48.9	51.9
Scope 2 (t CO ₂ -e)	89.8	31.7	0.0
Scope 3 (t CO ₂ -e)	70.2	100.9	90.4
Total	205.7	188.8	142.3

2B. Emissions reduction strategy

Over the last 3 years, Protect has gone beyond their target and reduced its emissions by 30% through a combination of projects. The mindset to keep reducing Protect's carbon footprint through a number of different approaches is the key driver for the Protect's Carbon Neutral team. With some projects in the pipeline, Protect has set a new target to reduce its emissions by 10% in the next 2 years.

Protect will review this target each year and adjust as needed to reflect the lessons learnt from that year. At the end of the two year period, Protect will establish new targets for future periods.

2C. Emissions reduction actions

In September 2017, Protect launched a mobile APP, enabling its customers to access their accounts online. This APP has helped Protect to reduce its scope 3 emissions (especially postage, courier and office consumables) by enabling customers to check their balance and make claims online. This emission reduction action was not previously reported and the APP had its first full year of impact over the current (FY2018-19) reporting period.

3. Emissions summary

Table 2. Emissions Summary		
Scope	Emission source	t CO ₂ -e
1	Transport Petrol	40.5
1	Transport Diesel	11.4
1	Transport Ethanol	0.0
2	Purchased electricity-Powershop NCOS certified electricity	0.0
3	Transport Petrol	2.2
3	Transport Diesel	0.6
3	Purchased electricity-Powershop NCOS certified electricity	0.0
3	Staff Commuting	34.7
3	Flights	19.9
3	Postage and Courier	12.2
3	Office Consumables	8.2
3	IT Equipment	0.0
3	Catering	3.2
3	Accommodation	8.3
3	Taxis	0.6
3	Waste - Municipal solid waste	0.3
3	Office Water use	0.2
3	Base Building Electricity-Powershop NCOS certified electricity	0.0
3	Paper - Office Use-Reflex NCOS certified paper	0.0
3	Waste - Paper Recycling	0.0
Total Gross Emissions		142.3
GreenPower or retired LGCs		67.1
Total Net Emissions		75.2

4. Carbon offsets

4A. Offsets summary

Table 3. Offsets Summary						
Projects supported by offset purchase	Eligible offset units	Registry	Cancellation date	Serial numbers (including hyperlink to registry transaction record)	Vintage	Quantity
Banked from previous year	VER	Gold Standard	12 Feb 2018	GS1-1-TL-GS4210-22-2013-6148-400 to 467	2013	68
WithOneSeed Timor Leste Community Forestry Program (GS4210)	VER	Gold Standard	01 Nov 2018	GS1-1-TL-GS4210-22-2015-6146-2022 to 2171	2015	150
Total offsets cancelled						218
Total offsets banked for use future years: (if any)						142
GS1-1-TL-GS4210-22-2015-6146-2096 to 2171						

4B. Offsets purchasing and retirement strategy

During each reporting year, Protect will purchase and retire eligible offsets up-front based on its emissions from the previous year and any 'banked' offset units. At the end of each reporting year, the actual emission inventory for that year will be established and:

- If the actual emissions are larger than the quantity of offset units already retired for that year, a 'true-up' will be formed where additional offset units will be retired to ensure the full inventory has been offset.
- If the actual emissions are smaller than the quantity of offset units already retired for that year, the excess units will be carried forward ('banked') for use in future years.

4C. Offset projects (Co-benefits)

Protect will offset by purchasing Gold Standard Voluntary Emission Reductions (VER) CarbonSocial credits. CarbonSocial credits come from the WithOneSeed program auspiced by the Australian not-for-profit company xpend Foundation.

WithOneSeed works with subsistence farming communities in Timor-Leste to generate income through a community forestry initiative. The reforestation of their land reduces soil erosion, improves soil and water quality, crop yields and nutrition, which improves the health and wellbeing of the community. It also helps to build the local economy, boost education and training and to deliver social and economic participation.

As of October 2016 the program has 450 farmers participating and 80,000 mahogany trees planted on their land in locations of the farmers' choosing. The trees are owned and maintained by the farmers. The farmers receive annual payments for the management of the trees.

The employment of 11 people by the Timor-Leste organisation Ho Musan Ida Foundation is funded by WithOneSeed. Ho Musan Ida grows and distributes WithOneSeed seedlings and supports farmers by facilitating agroforestry education and training. Baguia Farmers Cooperative has been established to represent the interests of participating farmers.

By October 2016, through local salaries, farmer payments, local activities and infrastructure development, WithOneSeed has contributed over US\$250,000 into the Baguia community.

Co-benefits of CarbonSocial credits include:

- Supports 10 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- Improves social and economic outcomes for subsistence farmers in Timor-Leste
- Stabilises and improves the quality of soil
- Improves retention of groundwater
- Improves crop yields and reduces hunger
- Regenerates severely degraded forests
- Currently employs local people in propagation, distribution and agroforestry training
- Generates farmer income through annual payments
- Increases farmer agroforestry skills
- Replenishes the planet

5. Use of trade mark

Table 4. Trade mark register	
Where used	Logo type
Protect's website (main page)	Carbon Neutral Organisation logo
Protect's website (http://www.protect.net.au/CarbonNeutralInitiative)	Carbon Neutral logo
Protect Newsletter for Members	Carbon Neutral logo