

# National Carbon Offset Standard Carbon Neutral Program Public Disclosure Summary



An Australian Government Initiative



meridian

Meridian Energy Australia

## **Public Disclosure Summary**

Certification: Organisation

Period: 1 July 2017 – 31 December 2018



**Australian Government**

**Department of the Environment**

## Summary

Meridian Energy Australia Pty Ltd (**MEA**) has a proud heritage of harnessing our earth's energy in generating affordable electricity through the Mt Millar and Mt Mercer wind farms, as well as the Hume, Burrinjuck and Keepit hydroelectric dams. Combined these assets generate approximately 874 GWh of electricity, enough to supply approximately 174,000<sup>1</sup> homes.

MEA's retail arm Powershop Australia Pty Ltd (**Powershop**) seeks to drive investment in renewable energy through Powershop's Your Community Energy electricity product, partnership with the community owned Hepburn Wind Farm and three Power Purchasing Agreements with renewable energy generators. In 2018 Powershop commenced retailing gas to its Victorian customer base.

This Public Disclosure Statement (**PDS**) supports Powershop's ongoing accreditation under the National Carbon Offset Standard, Carbon Neutral Program that covers MEA's Carbon Neutral corporate 'Organisation' accreditation. It details for the July 2017 to December 2018 period:

- All emissions associated with the operation of the business, except for the electricity and gas product sold by Powershop;
- how we define and measure those emissions; and
- how we use Carbon Emissions Reduction certificates (**CERs**) to neutralise the impact made by business operations.

As touched on above, the Powershop retail business is also accredited under the NCOS program for the electricity and gas 'Product' retailed to customers. The two 'Product' accreditations have a separate PDS's for the period.

### This reporting period

During the FY18 reporting period MEA/ Powershop applied for and were granted permission to change its reporting period from financial year to calendar year. MEA did this to align National Carbon Offset Standard (**NCOS**) reporting periods with other reporting periods, primarily GreenPower reporting, which operates on a calendar year basis.

In addition to aligning the aforementioned reporting requirements, MEA also wanted to align its new gas 'Product' accreditation with its existing electricity 'Product' and corporate 'Organisation' accreditations.

Due to this change in reporting periods, this reporting period is one-off 18 month report. Moving forward all three accreditations will be on a 12 month calendar year reporting period.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.powershop.com.au/our-generation/>

## 1. Organisation and Product Information

**Table 1: Organisation and Product Information**

<b>Organisation Name</b>	Meridian Energy Australia <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Name of the subject of certification</b>	Meridian Energy Australia Corporate Group	
<b>Type of certification (tick all applicable)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Part of organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> Product/service <input type="checkbox"/> Event
<b>Reporting year period</b>	From: 1 July 2017	To: 31 December 2018
<b>Emissions in this reporting year</b>	Total Emissions: 1,757 Total Offsets: 2,334 Net Emissions: (577)	
<b>Base year period</b>	1 July 2014	30 June 2015
<b>Emissions in the previous year</b>	305 t CO <sub>2</sub> -e (reduced to 0 t CO <sub>2</sub> -e by offsets)	

## 2. Description of Organisation Activities

The MEA group of companies undertakes Meridian Energy Limited's electricity generation, electricity and gas wholesale trading and retail activities in the Australian market.

There are five companies trading in this group that are sources of emissions:

- Meridian Energy Australia Pty Ltd;
- GSP Energy Pty Ltd (owns and operates 3 hydro power stations);
- Mt Mercer Windfarm Pty Ltd;
- Mt Millar Wind Farm Pty Ltd; and
- Powershop Australia Pty Ltd.

The group also includes several special purpose and non-trading legal entities that do not generate emissions.

<sup>2</sup> Meridian Energy Australia comprises all companies incorporated in Australia which share a parent company with Meridian Energy Australia Pty Ltd.

Further information about the MEA corporate structure can be found at Appendix 1 and also at [www.meridianenergy.com.au](http://www.meridianenergy.com.au).

### 3. Organisational & Geographic Boundary/ Scope & System Boundary

The organisational boundary determines the parameters for GHG reporting in the MEA Group GHG inventory. The boundaries were set with reference to the methodology described in the ISO14064-1 standard. The boundary encompasses the operations owned or controlled by MEA, its subsidiaries, and associate companies in the MEA Group.

#### 3.1 Consolidation approach

MEA applies the operational control consolidation approach to the MEA Group emissions inventory. This consolidation approach allows us to focus on those emission sources over which we have control and can therefore implement management actions, consistent with MEA's corporate responsibility objectives.

Included in the consolidation are all the operational activities of Powershop, MEA's wholly owned electricity retailer. However, we have excluded from this organisational boundary the actual electricity bought and sold by Powershop to meet its customers' requirements as this is subject to its own NCOS Accreditation in the Product category.

The table in Appendix 1 sets out how each entity in the MEA Group is treated in terms of its purpose and emissions contribution.

#### 3.2 Defining MEA "facilities"

MEA's diverse activities and resulting emissions are categorised into "facilities" in line with Annex A of ISO 14064-1 which requires that the data should be retained in its disaggregated form to aid transparency and to provide maximum flexibility in meeting a range of reporting requirements.

A facility is an operation which, by the nature of its processes or geography, can be separately accounted for. ISO 14064-1 defines a Facility as:

*"a single installation, set of installations or production processes (stationary or mobile), which can be defined within a single geographical boundary, organizational unit or production process".<sup>3</sup>*

#### 3.3 Defining the Individual components of the Facility

There are five trading entities which are sources of emissions in the MEA Group facility. The MEA Group undertakes renewable electricity generation, wholesale and retail activities in Australia and employed an average of 61 full time employees (FTE) at end of 2018. A summary of the activities of each of these entities is provided in Table 2. There are also a number of non-trading and special purpose entities in the MEA Group as described in Appendix 1.

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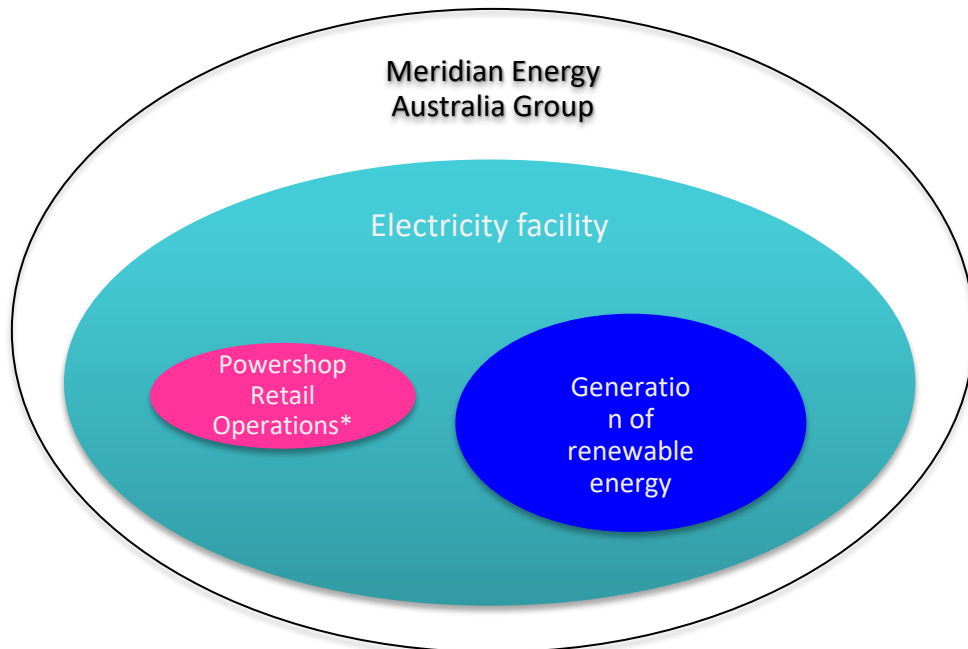
<sup>3</sup> ISO 14064-1, section 2.21 pg. 3

**Table 2 - Meridian Energy Australia Facility – Operational Companies**

Facility	Description
<b>Meridian Energy Australia Pty Ltd</b>	Meridian Energy Australia Pty Ltd provides corporate and wholesale market services to the MEA Group.
<b>GSP Energy Pty Ltd</b>	MEA purchased GSP Energy Pty Ltd which is comprised of three hydroelectric power stations Hume, Burrinjuck and Keepit in New South Wales.
<b>Mt Mercer Windfarm Pty Ltd</b>	Mt Mercer Wind Farm Pty Ltd owns and operates the Mt Mercer Wind Farm which is located approximately 30kms south of Ballarat in Victoria. The wind farm can generate up to 400 GWh of renewable energy which is sufficient to meet the needs of about 80,000 typical households.
<b>Mt Millar Wind Farm Pty Ltd</b>	Mt Millar Wind Farm Pty Ltd owns and operates the Mt Millar Wind Farm which is located approximately 100kms southwest of Whyalla in South Australia. The wind farm can generate up to 180 GWh of renewable energy which is sufficient to meet the needs of about 36,000 typical households.
<b>Powershop Australia Pty Ltd</b>	Powershop Australia Pty Ltd operates the Powershop retail electricity business in Victoria, NSW and Queensland which has grown to include over 130,000 electricity and gas customers. Further information about Powershop can be found at <a href="http://www.powershop.com.au">www.powershop.com.au</a> .

#### 4. Diagram of the Boundary of the Subject of Certification

Figure 1: Facility comprising the Meridian Energy Australia Group



\*Excludes the purchase and sale of electricity and gas for Powershop customers' usage which is the subject of separate Product accreditations.

## 5. Purchase of GreenPower and Retirement of GreenPower Eligible Large-Scale Generation Certificates (LGCs)

MEA purchased GreenPower from its retailer Powershop and surrendered Certified Emissions Reduction Certificates (CERs). In future years MEA may continue to purchase GreenPower, voluntarily surrender eligible LGCs, surrender CERs, or a combination of each to offset its own emissions.

**Table 3: GreenPower**

Corporate office GreenPower electricity usage: 107,000 kWh.

Type	Volume	Unit	tCO <sub>2</sub> -e	Status
GreenPower	107,000	kWh	114.49	Purchased

MEA used the Scope 2 Victorian Emission factor of 1.07 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e/kWh to determine emissions.

## 6. Purchase of NCOS Carbon Neutral Products

In the reporting period Powershop purchased NCOS accredited Planet Ark paper for the office when at the time of ordering NCOS accredited paper was available.

In addition to the office paper, MEA / Powershop purchased 100% GreenPower electricity for its office in Melbourne from the Powershop brand which is NCOS accredited for their electricity Product.

## 7. Total Carbon Footprint

**Table 4 – Emissions in reporting period**

Scope	Category	Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)
<b>Direct Emissions (Scope 1)</b>	Stationary Combustion	3
	Mobile combustion	342
	Gas holdings	36
<b>Indirect Emissions (Scope 2)</b>	Site electricity consumption (net of GreenPower purchases)	806
<b>Indirect Emissions (Scope 3)</b>	Site based emissions	223
	Waste emissions	54
	Business Travel and accommodation	292
<b>Total Emissions</b>		1,757
<b>Surrender of CERs</b>		2,334
<b>Balance (Cr) or Db</b>		(577)

## 8. Carbon Offset Purchases and Retirement for this Reporting Period

MEA will utilise NCOS eligible carbon offsets for off-setting all included Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions constituting our group corporate emissions.

Offsets will also be purchased for use in all of our Australian electricity sales under the Powershop brand, which is separately described in our Powershop Carbon Neutral Electricity Product Public Disclosure Statement.

Only NCOS eligible carbon offsets will be utilised in this activity.

### 8.1 Offset Cancellation

Table 5: CERs Voluntarily Surrendered for MEA 'Organisation'

Details of CERs Voluntarily Surrendered				
Quantity	Serial numbers	Project	Vintage	Date of surrender
989	22,601,975 - 22,602,963	Project 0258: Nueva Aldea Biomass Power Plant Phase 1 Link: <a href="https://cdm.unfccc.int/Projects/DB/DNV-CUK1138279173.34/view">https://cdm.unfccc.int/Projects/DB/DNV-CUK1138279173.34/view</a>	2013	13 May 2019
1,345	21,684,000 – 21,685,344	Project 0259: Trupan Biomass Power Plant in Chile Link: <a href="https://cdm.unfccc.int/Projects/DB/DNV-CUK1138289069.87/view">https://cdm.unfccc.int/Projects/DB/DNV-CUK1138289069.87/view</a>	2013	13 May 2019

**Registry:** Australian National Registry of Emissions Units (ANREU).

**Project information:** For detailed information on the project please use the project number (stated in the above 'Project' column) and search at: <https://cdm.unfccc.int/Projects/projsearch.html>

### 8.2 Surplus Cancelled Offsets

Table 6: Surplus CER's – banked for future use

Details of CERs Voluntarily Surrendered				
Quantity	Serial numbers	Project	Vintage	Date of surrender
577	22,602,386 - 22,602,963	Project 0258: Nueva Aldea Biomass Power Plant Phase 1 Link: <a href="https://cdm.unfccc.int/Projects/DB/DNV-CUK1138279173.34/view">https://cdm.unfccc.int/Projects/DB/DNV-CUK1138279173.34/view</a>	2013	13 May 2019



**Registry:** Australian National Registry of Emissions Units (ANREU).

**Project information:** For detailed information on the project please use the project number (stated in the above 'Project' column) and search at:

<https://cdm.unfccc.int/Projects/projsearch.html>

## 9. Emission Reduction Results

Air travel target: MEA is seeking to reduce air travel emissions per FTE to 1.28 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e. As this is an 18 month report, the targets and results do not align, but on a pro rata basis the results are 2.35 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e. MEA's result over the 18 month period was 3.52 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e.

Car travel target: MEA is seeking to reduce car travel emissions per FTE to 2.4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e. As this is an 18 month report, the targets and results do not align, but on a pro rata basis the results are 1.92 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e. MEA's result over the 18 month period was 2.88 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e.

## 10. Emission Reduction Measures

On a year to year controllable basis, key targets for improved management are waste management, air travel and car travel.

Air travel target: MEA is seeking to reduce air travel emissions per FTE to 2.20 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e.

Waste management: MEA is seeking to reduce head office waste by, 1 tonne through a separate organic waste bin.

The MEA business will continue to surrender LGCs to comply with RET obligations and will continue to purchase 100% accredited GreenPower for the office. Both of the measures aim to reduce the emissions associated with operations.

In addition to offsetting all emissions associated with this organisational boundary, the Powershop retail arm encourages emission reductions through the following measures:

- Powershop's smartphone application and online portal is available free of charge for all Powershop customers. These tools allow customers to easily track their electricity usage and make informed decisions to reduce their electricity usage and therefore reduce emissions.
- Hepburn Wind is a partnership between Powershop and Hepburn Wind Community Project. The partnership began in late 2016 and means that MEA will assist in the management of the day-to-day operations of Hepburn Wind's two wind turbines. Powershop will also facilitate Hepburn Wind's interaction with the NEM enabling Hepburn Wind to sell electricity and Renewable Energy Certificates, delivering value to community shareholders.
- Your Community Energy electricity product is a power pack available in Powershop's online store. This initiative gives Powershop customers the chance to help raise funds for community renewable energy projects. When customers choose to purchase this pack they pay a small premium. The amounts raised as a result of customers paying the premium are pooled and distributed to community renewable energy projects.

## **11. Exclusions of emissions relating to the MEA Group Facility**

The emission sources below have been identified and excluded from the GHG emissions inventory as they are considered not material to stakeholders, not material in the context of the inventory, and/or neither technically feasible nor cost effective to be quantified at the present time. The detailed work done by MEA in previous years to assess emissions impact in each category has determined the estimated % of each excluded category as a % of the total inventory.


Table 7: Meridian Energy Australia Exclusions

Scope	Category	GHG emissions	Reason for exclusion	% of category excluded	% of total est. inventory
1	Fugitive emissions	Fugitive emissions from fridges, air-conditioning systems and vehicle AC systems	Estimated to be <i>de minimis</i> due to small number of domestic refrigeration appliances owned their relatively recent model and there being no recharges required in the reporting period. As for air-conditioning, building management at our corporate office at 357 Collins street, Melbourne advised that they have not added any R410A to the base building plant during the reporting period.	100%	>0.01%
3	Downstream transportation and distribution	Electricity Transmission and Distribution Networks	Losses that produce GHG emissions in electricity Transmission and Distribution Networks are factored into the NGA emission factors used here to calculate GHG emissions from electricity sold, purchased and consumed.	Not applicable	Not applicable
3	Upstream transportation and distribution	Freight – courier packages and minor materials	As an online retailer of electricity Powershop rarely has need to send material via courier and almost all postage is in electronic form estimated to be <i>de minimis</i> .	100%	>0.1%
3	Purchased goods and services	Professional services, IT services and maintenance services.	Current service arrangements do not require the disclosure of the GHG emissions created by the service providers in providing service to our organisation, as such the data is unavailable. This will be reviewed for future reports.	Not applicable	Not applicable
3	Employee commuting	Employee commuting	Meridian does not provide parking at our corporate offices so almost all employees travel to work on public transport. The data for travel is not captured as it would be impractical and would not be cost effective compared to emissions which are estimated to be <i>de minimis</i> .	Not applicable	Not applicable
3	Forklift	Gas to fuel forklift	The emissions associated with gas bottle replacement is minimal (0.57873 CO <sub>2</sub> -e)	100%	>0.01%

3	Office paper	Office supplies	The emissions associated with the use of office paper is immaterial to the overall emissions (0.9089 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	100%	0.06%
<b>Total % excluded</b>					0.12%

## 12. Declaration

To the best of my knowledge and having implemented the quality controls and standards required under the NCOS Carbon Neutral Program and made all appropriate inquiries, the information provided in this Public Disclosure Summary is true and correct.

<b>Name:</b>	Lynne Sutton
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Position:</b>	General Counsel
<b>Date:</b>	30 September 2019

## Appendix 1 – Corporate Group

Table 4 - Meridian Energy Australia Corporate Group

Company Name	Emissions Source	Legal structure	Economic Interest Held	Country	Operational Control	Comment
<b>Three Rivers Holdings (No 2) Ltd</b>	No (holding company)	Group company	NZ parent to Meridian Energy Australia Corporate Group	NZ	Yes	No activity, no emissions
<b>Meridian Energy Australia Pty Ltd</b>	Yes	Group company	100% via Three River Holdings (No2) Ltd	AUS	Yes	Included
<b>Meridian Finco Pty Ltd</b>	No	Group company	100% via Meridian Energy Australia Pty Ltd	AUS	Yes	No employees, no physical assets, no emissions. Trading counterparty only.
<b>Meridian Energy Markets Pty Ltd</b>	No (AFSL licensee company only)	Group company	100% via Meridian Energy Australia Pty Ltd	AUS	Yes	No activity, no emissions
<b>Meridian Wind Monaro Range Holdings Pty Ltd</b>	No (holding company)	Group company	100% via Three River Holdings (No2) Ltd	AUS	Yes	No activity, no emissions

Company Name	Emissions Source	Legal structure	Economic Interest Held	Country	Operational Control	Comment
<b>Meridian Wind Monaro Range Pty Ltd</b>	No(non-trading entity)	Group company	100% via Meridian Wind Monaro Range Holdings Pty Ltd	AUS	Yes	No activity, no emissions
<b>Mt Millar Wind Farm Pty Ltd</b>	Yes	Group company	100% via Meridian Wind Monaro Range Pty Ltd	AUS	Yes	Included
<b>Meridian Australia Holdings Pty Ltd</b>	No (holding company)	Group company	100% via Three River Holdings (No2) Ltd	AUS	Yes	No activity, no emissions
<b>GSP Energy Pty Ltd</b>	Yes	Group company	100% via Meridian Energy Australia Pty Ltd	AUS	Yes	Included
<b>Meridian Wind Australia Holdings Pty Ltd</b>	No(non-trading entity)	Group company	100% via Meridian Australia Holdings Pty Ltd	AUS	Yes	No activity, no emissions
<b>Mt Mercer Windfarm Pty Ltd</b>	Yes	Group company	100% via Meridian Wind Australia Holdings Pty Ltd	AUS	Yes	Included
<b>Powershop Australia Pty Ltd</b>	Yes	Group company	100% via Three River Holdings (No2) Ltd	AUS	Yes	Included