



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**CORRS CHAMBERS
WESTGARTH**

**ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION
2019-20**

Australian Government
Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement



An Australian Government Initiative



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY: Corrs Chambers Westgarth

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

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.

Signature  Date 17/05/2021

Name of Signatory Gavin MacLaren

Position of Signatory Senior Partner and CEO



Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources

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1. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

Description of certification

This inventory has been prepared for the financial year from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 and covers all of the Australian operations of Corrs Chambers Westgarth as an organisation.

The operational boundary has been defined based on an operational control test, in accordance with the principles of the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007*. This includes the following locations and facilities:

- Sydney office – Level 17, 8 Chifley Square, Sydney 2000 NSW;
- Melbourne office – Level 25, 567 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000 VIC;
- Brisbane office – Level 42, 111 Eagle Street, Brisbane 4000 QLD; and
- Perth office, Level 6, 123 St Georges Terrace, Perth 6000 WA.

The methods used for collating data, performing calculations and presenting the carbon account are in accordance with the following standards:

- Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Organisations;
- The Greenhouse Gas Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (Revised Edition); and
- National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Measurement) Determination 2008.

Where possible, the calculation methodologies and emission factors used in this inventory are derived from the National Greenhouse Accounts (NGA) Factors in accordance with Method 1 outlined in the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Measurement) Determination 2008.

The greenhouse gases considered within the inventory are those that are commonly reported under the Kyoto Protocol; carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and synthetic gases - hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃). These have been expressed as carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂-e) using relative global warming potentials (GWPs).

“Carbon neutrality is an ongoing priority for the firm. We are paying close attention to our carbon footprint and, while acknowledging the impact that Covid-19 has had, are continuing to seek opportunities to reduce our emissions.”

Organisation description

Corrs Chambers Westgarth is Australia's leading independent law firm.

We provide exceptional legal services across the full spectrum of matters, including major transactions, projects and significant disputes, offering strategic advice on our clients' most challenging issues.

With more than 175 years of history and a talented and diverse team of over 1000 people, we pride ourselves on our client-focused approach and commitment to excellence. Our fundamental ambition is the success of our clients, and this is reflected in everything we do. We advise on the most significant global matters and connect with the best lawyers internationally to provide our clients with the right team for every engagement. We are also at the forefront of some of the most high-profile public international law matters in our region, assisting governments and corporations with the resolution of highly complex cross-border disputes.

We are the firm of choice for many of the world's leading organisations, with our people consistently recognised for providing outstanding client service and delivering exceptional results.

2. EMISSION BOUNDARY

Diagram of the certification boundary

<u>Quantified</u>	<u>Non-quantified</u>	<u>Excluded</u>
<i>Electricity</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Base building electricity</i>		
<i>Natural gas</i>		
<i>Telecommunications</i>		
<i>Water</i>		
<i>IT equipment</i>		
<i>Paper</i>		
<i>Stationery</i>		
<i>Merchandising</i>		
<i>Office furniture</i>		
<i>Employee commute</i>		
<i>Remote working</i>		
<i>Business flights</i>		
<i>Transport fuels</i>		
<i>Cleaning services</i>		
<i>Postage and couriers</i>		
<i>Printing</i>		
<i>Hotel accommodation (international and domestic)</i>		
<i>Taxis and ridesharing</i>		
<i>Food and beverage</i>		
<i>Refrigerants</i>		
<i>Waste (landfill and recycling)</i>		

Non-quantified sources

N/A

Data management plan

N/A

Excluded sources (outside of certification boundary)

N/A

3. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions reduction strategy

Our working groups are exploring options including green power, enhanced technology platforms for communications in order to reduce interstate and international travel, and exploring our waste practices. A strategy will be developed and implemented over the next two years.

Emissions over time

Corrs' total gross CO₂-e emissions for the reporting year was 23.5% lower than the base year. This was primarily achieved by a 23% reduction in electricity and a 16% reduction in business flights. These carbon reductions were mostly a result of the restrictions and policy changes brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the subsequent changes to the working environment, complemented with the emission reducing initiatives described below.

Table 1

Emissions since base year		
	Base year: 2018-19	Current year Year 1: 2019-20
<i>Total tCO₂e</i>	9,804.1	7,490.8

Emissions reduction actions

In this reporting year, Corrs' Melbourne office introduced a co-gen system which has reduced the electrical consumption of base building consumption. Corrs' Perth office introduced a tri-gen system which has also reduced base building consumption. Corrs' Brisbane office moved to green power only, which has removed all CO₂-e emissions from base building consumption.

While Covid-19 was the primary driver for a reduction in travel emissions, it also provided an opportunity for Corrs to implement additional technology to support business collaboration. As a result, Corrs anticipates a reduction in future travel post-pandemic where practicable.

Covid-19 resulted in most of our staff working remotely for four months of the reporting year which reduced employee commute emissions. It is expected that successful 'work from home' strategies developed during the Covid-19 restrictions will result in long term changes to flexible working arrangements as more staff continue to work from home. This will result in the retention of some emissions savings.

Emissions summary (inventory)

All emissions are shared with the child (service) certification.

Table 2

Emission source category	tonnes CO ₂ -e
Accommodation and facilities	160.213
Business flights	2,112.329
Cleaning and chemicals	95.774
Electricity	2,170.781
Employee commute	254.506
Food	434.284
ICT services and equipment	427.453
Merchandise	30.466
Natural gas	356.765
Office equipment and supplies	922.593
Postage, courier and freight	121.002
Printing and stationery	126.553
Refrigerants	3.485
Ride sharing	1.718
Taxis	12.082
Transport fuels	0.056
Waste	38.232
Water	10.800
Remote working	211.728
<i>Total Net Emissions</i>	7,490.822

Uplift factors

Table 3

Reason for uplift factor	tonnes CO ₂ -e
N/A	
<i>Total footprint to offset (uplift factors + net emissions)</i>	7,490.822

Carbon neutral products

Corrs' Brisbane office, located at 111 Eagle Street, has achieved carbon neutral status under Climate Active, covering the base building's electricity, gas, waste and water.

Electricity summary

Electricity was calculated using a location-based approach.

The Climate Active team are consulting on the use of a market vs location-based approach for electricity accounting with a view to finalising a policy decision for the carbon neutral certification by July 2020. Given a decision is still pending on the accounting way forward, a summary of emissions using both measures has been provided for full disclosure and to ensure year-on-year comparisons can be made.

Market-based approach electricity summary

Table 4

Electricity inventory items	kWh	Emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)
Electricity renewables	1,065,779	0.00
Electricity carbon neutral power	0	0.00
Electricity remaining	1,770,191	1,913.753
Renewable electricity percentage	19%	
<i>Net emissions (Market based approach)</i>		1,913.753

Location-based summary

Table 5

State/ Territory	Electricity inventory items	kWh	Full emission factor (Scope 2 +3)	Emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)
ACT/NSW	Electricity renewables	-	-0.90	0.00
ACT/NSW	Electricity carbon neutral power	-	-0.90	0.00
ACT/NSW	Netted off (exported on-site generation)	-	-0.81	0.00
ACT/NSW	Electricity total	891,983	0.90	802.785
VIC	Electricity renewables	-	-1.12	0.00
VIC	Electricity carbon neutral power	-	-1.12	0.00
VIC	Netted off (exported on-site generation)	-	-1.02	0.00
VIC	Electricity total	821,707	1.12	920.312
QLD	Electricity renewables	538,289	-0.93	-500.609
QLD	Electricity carbon neutral power	-	-0.93	0.00
QLD	Netted off (exported on-site generation)	-	-0.81	0.00
QLD	Electricity total	620,032	0.93	576.630
WA	Electricity renewables	-	-0.74	0.00
WA	Electricity carbon neutral power	-	-0.74	0.00
WA	Netted off (exported on-site generation)	-	-0.69	0.00
WA	Electricity total	502,248	0.74	371.664
<i>Total net electricity emissions (Location based)</i>			<i>0.00</i>	<i>2,170.781</i>

4. CARBON OFFSETS

Offset purchasing strategy:

Offsets are purchased annually in arrears after the reporting period and are consolidated for both the organisation and service certifications.

Offsets summary

Table 7

1. Total offsets required for this report				7,491					
2. Offsets retired in previous reports and used in this report				0					
3. Net offsets required for this report				7,491					
Project description	Eligible offset units type	Registry unit retired in	Date retired	Serial number (including hyperlink to registry transaction record)	Vintage	Quantity (tonnes CO2-e)	Quantity used for previous report	Quantity to be banked for future years	Quantity to be used this report
NIHT Topaiyo REDD +	VCUs	Verra	9 Feb 2021	9161-71454283-71461456-VCS-VCU-466-VER-PG-14-2293-01062017-31122019-0 9161-71453083-71453282-VCS-VCU-466-VER-PG-14-2293-01062017-31122019-0 9161-71437866-71437982-VCS-VCU-466-VER-PG-14-2293-01062017-31122019-0	2019	7491	0	0	7491
Total offsets retired this report and used in this report							7,491		
Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports							0		

Co-benefits

NIHT Topaiyo REDD + NIHT Inc. has partnered with the traditional landowners of New Ireland and East New Britain to put an end to deforestation initiated by industrial logging in the region. The preservation of these rainforests is essential to not only the carbon and biodiversity benefits inherent with projects of this nature, but also for the wellbeing and prosperity of the people of New Ireland and East New Britain. The project is located in the forested areas of New Ireland and East New Britain in Papua New Guinea. The project has evolved based on the input and needs expressed by persons living in the region. What began as a traditional timber operation has been recognised as an opportunity with enormous carbon sequestering potential and has evolved into a forest protection project that will provide substantial economic benefits to the people of Papua New Guinea. Through the avoidance of carrying out exploitative industrial commercial timber harvesting in the project area, the project expects to generate nearly 60 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions reductions across the 30 year project lifetime, depending on the number and size of Project Activity Instances (PAIs) added to the project.

5. USE OF TRADE MARK

Table 8

Description where trademark used	Logo type
Website	Certified organisation
Corporate intranet	Certified organisation
Tender documents	Certified organisation
Brochures	Certified organisation

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A

APPENDIX 1

Excluded emissions

To be deemed relevant an emission must meet two of the five relevance criteria. Excluded emissions are detailed below against each of the five criteria.

Table 9

Relevance test					
Excluded emission sources.	<i>The emissions from a particular source are likely to be large relative to the organisation's electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions.</i>	<i>The emissions from a particular source contribute to the organisation's greenhouse gas risk exposure.</i>	<i>Key stakeholders deem the emissions from a particular source are relevant.</i>	<i>The responsible entity has the potential to influence the reduction of emissions from a particular source.</i>	<i>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.</i>

N/A

APPENDIX 2

Non-quantified emissions for organisations

Please advise which of the reasons applies to each of your non-quantified emissions. You may add rows if required.

Table 10

Non-quantification test				
Relevant-non-quantified emission sources.	<i>Immaterial <1% for individual items and no more than 5% collectively.</i>	<i>Quantification is not cost effective relative to the size of the emission but uplift applied.</i>	<i>Data unavailable but uplift applied. A data management plan must be put in place to provide data within 5 years.</i>	<i>Initial emissions non-quantified but repairs and replacements quantified.</i>

N/A