



# **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**AUSTRALIAN CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION**

**ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION  
FY 2019-20**

Australian Government  
**Climate Active**  
**Public Disclosure Statement**



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY: Australian Consumers' Association

REPORTING PERIOD: Financial year 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Alan Kirkland".

Signature

Date 18 June 2021

Name of Signatory

Alan Kirkland

Position of Signatory

Chief Executive Officer



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Industry, Science,**  
**Energy and Resources**

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# 1. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

## Description of certification

The carbon neutral certification is for the operation of Australian Consumers' Association ("CHOICE"), ABN 72 000 281 925.

## Organisation description

The Australian Consumers Association ("CHOICE") is a not for profit organisation located in Marrickville, NSW. CHOICE is Australia's largest consumer organisation. Independent and member-funded, CHOICE's purpose is to work for fair, just and safe markets that meet the needs of Australian consumers.

CHOICE owns its facilities at 57 Carrington Road, Marrickville. In this building, a childcare centre is co-located, but not separately metered. The carbon inventory for CHOICE thus encompasses emissions relating to the childcare centre for refrigerants, electricity, waste, and water consumption. CHOICE can influence electricity-consuming equipment like lights and air conditioning for the childcare centre.

*"CHOICE is committed to maximising our social impact and minimising our environmental impact. That's why participating in the Climate Active program is important to CHOICE."*

## 2. EMISSION BOUNDARY

### Diagram of the certification boundary



## Non-quantified sources

There are no non-quantified emission sources in the boundary

## Data management plan

N/A

## Excluded sources (outside of certification boundary)

The following are the excluded emission sources from the certification boundary and the reasons for their exclusion. Please refer to Appendix 1 for the relevance test.

- Capital investment equipment has been excluded as it has been assessed as not relevant according to the relevance test

*“CHOICE is committed to maximising our social impact and minimising our environmental impact. That’s why participating in the Climate Active program is important to CHOICE.”*

### 3. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

#### Emissions reduction strategy

There is a constant focus at CHOICE to look for ways of reducing its emission sources and generally its impact on the environment. Emission reduction opportunities are identified via energy audits, engaging staff and keeping abreast of new market developments. CHOICE focuses on the following environmental impact categories

- Electricity
- Water
- Paper consumption
- Air travel
- Waste
- Staff commuting
- Communication about activities to staff and the public.

CHOICE is currently implementing a strategy for 2021-24 which includes the emissions reduction opportunities identified in the Sustainable Business Consultation report developed by 100% Renewables. The following opportunities will be included in the strategy:

- HVAC optimization
- Additional solar PV system
- Submetering of the childcare centre
- Efficiency options for ICT equipment
- Recycling of onsite and staff batteries

#### Emissions over time

The table below shows the absolute emissions since the base year.

**Table 1**

Emissions since base year				
	Base year: 2015-16	Year 3: 2017-18	Year 4: 2018-19	Current year Year 5: 2019-20
<i>Total tCO<sub>2</sub>e</i>	1,105.09 t CO <sub>2</sub> e	912.23 t CO <sub>2</sub> e	855.64 t CO <sub>2</sub> e	1,198.21 t CO <sub>2</sub> e

The increase in the current year is due to the quantification of the following additional emission sources:

- Food and catering
- IT software
- IT equipment
- Office equipment
- Freight
- Advertising

- Business services

There has also been a change in the methodology and emissions factor used for 'internal paper use' and 'paper for magazine printing', except for CHOICE Magazine.

## Emissions reduction actions

CHOICE wants to minimise its impact on the environment as much as possible.

A sustainable business consultation was carried out in January 2019 by 100% Renewables to identify any potential targets to reduce our electricity usage.

The market-based approach was used as CHOICE will explore other electricity emissions reduction measures such as additional solar PV capacity which might result in some exported solar, LGCs, or renewables purchasing in the next three years. This will allow CHOICE to account for the electricity emissions reduction from these measures and at the same time, be consistent in the accounting approach.

## Emissions summary (inventory)

Table 2

Emission source category	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Stationary energy	0.62
Refrigerants	44.14
Electricity (market-based)	277.67
Water	1.38
Waste	50.35
Food	19.65
ICT services and equipment	190.35
Office equipment & supplies	108.87
Postage, courier and freight	118.58
Professional services	319.06
Accommodation and facilities	5.02
Land and sea transport (km)	94.08
Air transport (km)	0.00
Land and sea transport (fuel)	0.59
Taxi and Uber	0.60
Carbon neutral products and services	0.00
Work from home	-32.75
<i>Total Net Emissions</i>	1,198.21



## Uplift factors

Table 3

Reason for uplift factor	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e
N/A – no uplift factors have been applied	
<i>Total footprint to offset (uplift factors + net emissions)</i>	

## Carbon neutral products

- Aspire Carbon Neutral Copy Paper 80gsm 500 sheets (A4)
- Aspire Carbon Neutral Copy Paper 80gsm 500 sheets (A3)
- Planet Ark 100% Recycled Paper 80gsm 500 sheets (A4)
- All air travel

## Electricity summary

Electricity was calculated using a Market-based approach.

A summary of emissions using the market and location-based approach measures have 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 <sub>2</sub> e)
Electricity Renewables	157,212	0.00
Electricity Carbon Neutral Power	0	0.00
Electricity Remaining	256,842	277.67
Renewable electricity percentage	38%	
<i>Net emissions (Market based approach)</i>		277.67

## Location-based summary

Table 5

State/ Territory	Electricity Inventory items	kWh	Full Emission factor (Scope 2 +3)	Emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)
ACT/NSW	Electricity Renewables	98,523	-0.90	-88.67
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	414,054	0.90	372.65
	<i>Total net electricity emissions (Location based)</i>		0.00	283.98

## 4. CARBON OFFSETS

**Offset purchasing strategy:** in arrears

## Offsets summary

Table 6

<b>1. Total offsets required for this report</b>				1,199					
<b>2. Offsets retired in previous reports and used in this report</b>				231					
<b>3. Net offsets required for this report</b>				968					
Project description	Type of offset units	Registry	Date retired	Serial number (and hyperlink to registry transaction record)	Vintage	Quantity (tonnes CO2-e)	Quantity used in previous report	Quantity banked for future years	Quantity used in this report
Bundled Wind Power Project in Rajasthan by Orange Renewable Power Private Limited  Energy industries (renewable/nonrenewable sources)	VCU	Verra	24/11/2019	5806-260946548-260946778-VCU-034-APX-IN-1-1465-01042017-31122017-0 <sup>1</sup>	2017	231	0	0	231

<sup>1</sup> A hyperlink is unable to be provided. Evidence of the offset retirement has been provided to Climate Active.

150 MW grid connected Wind Power based electricity generation project in Gujarat, India.  Energy industries (renewable/non-renewable sources)	VCU	Verra	28/04/2021	9088-67279027-67279994-VCS- VCU-1491-VER-IN-1-292-18062016- 31122016-0  <a href="https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=130874">https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/ /myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=130874</a>	2016	968	0	0	968
150 MW grid connected Wind Power based electricity generation project in Gujarat, India.  Energy industries (renewable/non-renewable sources)	VCU	Verra	28/04/2021	9088-67279995-67282026-VCS- VCU-1491-VER-IN-1-292-18062016- 31122016-0  <a href="https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=130957">https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/ /myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=130957</a>	2016	2,032	0	2,032	0
Total offsets retired this report and used in this report									1,199
Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports									2,032

## Co-benefits

### Orange Bundled Wind Power Project, Rajasthan, India.

The project activity is a 59.4 MW (39.9MW in Bhesada & 19.5 MW in Dolat) bundled wind power project consisting of 32 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs). The project is promoted by Orange Renewable Power Private Limited & Orange Jaisalmer Wind Energy Private Limited of which the “Orange Renewable Power Private Limited” is the representative of promoter of this bundled project. The purpose of the project activity is to generate clean electricity with utilization of wind energy.

### 150 MW grid connected Wind Power based electricity generation project in Gujarat, India

<https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/VCS/292>

The project activity is a 150 MW wind power project. The main purpose of the project activity is to generate electrical energy through sustainable renewable energy means using wind power and feed the generated output to the local grid in Gujarat and contribute to climate change mitigation efforts. Apart from generation of renewable energy-based electricity, the project has also been conceived for the following: To enhance the propagation of commercialisation of wind power generation in the region: To contribute to the sustainable development of the region, socially, environmentally and economically

## 5. USE OF TRADE MARK

Table 7

Description where trademark is used	Logo type
In-house:	
Banners; internal TV advertising screens, email signatures, business cards	Certified organisation
External:	
Article in the CHOICE magazine, Annual Report, email signatures and other correspondence to members (EDMs). On CHOICE webpage. At the front of the building. On campaigns websites, Tablet Magazine, Online banner advertising, Consumer Pulse online (survey sent out), CHOICE Recommended scheme, CHOICE Test Research reports.	Certified organisation

## 6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Currently, CHOICE has an environmental group that introduced the BinTrim program to the organisation. We have also added composting, soft plastics, battery and cosmetic packaging recycling options as well.
- Once our current waste contract expires, we plan on moving to a contractor for waste removal that can add more plastic types to their remit.
- CHOICE takes part in Clean Up Australia volunteer days for the local area (CHOICE sponsors its workers to take a half-day to clean up the nearby river system).
- CHOICE attempted to source from Climate Active-accredited suppliers and Climate Active-accredited external labs, prompting current labs to think about entering the scheme.
- CHOICE has arranged for all air travel on behalf of CHOICE to be booked by a single contact who always carbon offsets the flights.
- CHOICE is always investigating how it can improve its sustainability performance, in particular its electricity-related emissions.

# 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 8**

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>
Capital investment equipment	No	No	No	No	No

## APPENDIX 2

### Non-quantified emissions for organisations

Table 9

Non-quantification test				
Relevant-non-quantified emission sources	<i>Immaterial &lt;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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A