



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

BENDIGO AND ADELAIDE BANK LIMITED

**ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION
FY2019/20**

Australian Government
Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY: Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited

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 03/09/2021

Name of Signatory: Sally Shepherdson

Position of Signatory: Senior Manager Climate Action



Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources

Public Disclosure Statement documents are prepared by the submitting organisation. The material in Public Disclosure Statement documents represents the views of the organisation and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth does not guarantee the accuracy of the contents of the Public Disclosure Statement documents and disclaims liability for any loss arising from the use of the document for any purpose.

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 the Australian business operations of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd, ABN: 11 068 049 178.

Investments managed by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank subsidiary, Sandhurst Trustees are considered to be outside of the boundary of this certification and any associated emissions have not been quantified or offset.

Organisation description

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank is one of Australia's largest retail banks. We provide a full suite of consumer banking, business banking, specialised agribusiness banking and associated financial services to more than 1.9 million customers across Australia. We do this through an extensive branch and mobile banking network, brokers and mortgage managers, through our banking apps, self-service digital lending and other electronic banking capabilities.

Our vision is to be Australia's bank of choice. Our purpose is to feed into the prosperity of customers and communities, not off it. Through its more than 162 years' experience in providing financial services, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank has remained true to its fundamental purpose of helping customers and communities succeed by securing prosperous futures. We believe our business will only be successful when our stakeholders our stakeholders themselves are successful.

The Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Climate Change Policy Statement builds on and replaces the Statement of Commitment to the Environment that the Bank's Executive team adopted in 2010. Our policy commitment is that:

"Bendigo and Adelaide Bank recognises climate change has far-reaching risks for the environment, the economy, society, our customers and their communities. We support the Paris Agreement objectives and the required transition to a low carbon economy. We are committed to playing our part in this transition. We will work to build climate mitigation and adaption into our business and work to assist our customers and their communities to build climate resilience into their futures."

The Bank will review its Climate Change Policy Statement annually and will continue to evolve its approach as science, technology and policy further develop.

"Our purpose is to feed into the prosperity of our customers and communities, not off it. That's why we've committed to further reduce the carbon and environmental footprint of our operations."

The Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Climate Change Action Plan outlines the action the Bank will take to improve its climate outcomes, drive cultural change and engage its people and customers, enhance its climate change governance and risk management framework, and report on its climate change performance.

The Bank will concentrate its efforts on four focus areas of activity, which incorporate the direct and indirect environmental impacts and influence the Bank has through its operations;

- **Reduce our footprint:** We will reduce the carbon and environmental footprint of our own operations.
- **Support our customers:** We will support our customers and communities to mitigate, adapt and respond to climate change.
- **Understand and manage the risks:** We will optimise our climate change risk governance and risk management framework.
- **Be transparent:** We will disclose our climate-related performance.

While the Bank has no lending directly to fossil fuel or native forest logging projects, we understand our residential, business and farming customers are leaving a footprint on the environment. For this reason, we have endeavoured to support our customers to reduce their environmental footprint for some time and were the first Australian bank to offer a green finance product back in 2002. We look forward to the journey ahead as we continue to identify and enact further opportunities to reduce our footprint and support our customers to do the same, as we look to better understand the dependencies we all have on the natural environment.

Our Locations

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank's head office in Bendigo, Victoria is the only Australian bank headquarters located outside a capital city. In addition, we have a presence in more than 500 locations across metropolitan and regional Australia.

Energy ratings for corporate sites

The Bank has major corporate sites in Bendigo and Adelaide, and both buildings were designed and constructed with environmental sustainability and energy efficiency as a priority. Opened in 2008, the Bendigo Centre was the first 5 Star Green Star building in regional Australia, boasting a water treatment plant with the capacity to recycle 15,000 litres of wastewater per day, underfloor air-conditioning for energy efficiency, and solar hot water to reduce reliance on non-renewable energy.

The Bank's Adelaide office building achieved a 5 Star Green Star rating for construction, design and interior fit out and a Green Council of Australia 5 Star Green Star Office Interiors certification. Using about half the energy of a typical office, the building features underfloor air-conditioning and central atria to encourage natural light, while more than 1,200 plants improve the health and wellbeing of staff and guests.

Solar Panel Installation

A pilot project to assess the impact of new installations of PV Solar on energy consumption and costs has been rolled out at seven branches across the Australian states - South Australia, Victoria and Queensland.

To date, the pilot program has delivered annual energy savings of up to 50 percent per site and reduced the Bank's CO2 emissions by more than 200 tonnes annually. More branch and office sites are currently being assessed to expand this project.

In addition to the solar panels on seven corporate branches, at least an additional 23 of our Community Bank partners sites have solar panels installed.

Our Brands



2. EMISSION BOUNDARY

Diagram of the certification boundary



Non-quantified sources

N/A

Data management plan

N/A

Excluded sources (outside of certification boundary)

N/A

“Through our Climate Change Action Plan we seek to reduce and offset our environmental impact, help our customers minimise their impact, and find more efficiency in our business. Climate Active helps to support our commitment to backing long-term strategies that contribute to a more sustainable future for all our stakeholders.”

3. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions reduction strategy

We have committed to reducing the carbon and environmental footprint of our own operations and have set the following targets:

Table 1

Metric	Target
Sourcing renewable energy for our power needs	100% by 2025
Reduce travel associated emissions	25% below 2018/19 levels
Attain and maintain Certification under Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Organisations	By June 2021
Reduce absolute emissions	By 50% by 2030
Reduce paper usage	90% of statements electronic by 2025

While we have been reporting to CDP (formerly Carbon Disclosure Project) for a decade, this is our baseline year with Climate Active. We'll use the data from this to identify further opportunities to implement further emission reduction initiatives, in addition to those already implemented

Emissions summary (inventory)

Table 2

Emission source category	tonnes CO ₂ -e
Accommodation and facilities	637.825
Air Transport (km)	1,164.146
Cleaning and Chemicals	623.787
Electricity	19,911.175
Food	127.967
ICT services and equipment	2,403.219
Land and Sea Transport (\$)	119.834
Land and Sea Transport (fuel)	3,383.599
Land and Sea Transport (km)	5,273.815
Office equipment & supplies	2,734.316
Postage, courier and freight	1,581.492
Products	417.377
Professional Services	645.680
Refrigerants	110.491
Stationary Energy	916.790
Taxi and Uber	3.191
Waste	1,215.762
Water	61.864
Working from Home	761.986
Total Net Emissions	42,094.315

Uplift factors

Table 3

Reason for uplift factor	tonnes CO ₂ -e
N/A	N/A
<i>Total footprint to offset (uplift factors + net emissions)</i>	42,094.315

Carbon neutral products

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank use Winc Carbon Neutral 20% Recycled Copy Paper in both A3 and A4.

This assessment and Climate Active submission was prepared with the assistance of [Pangolin Associates](#) and these services are also carbon neutral.

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. Given a decision is still pending on the accounting method moving 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	3,951,303.24	0
Electricity Carbon Neutral Power	0	0
Electricity Remaining	17,173,290.3	18,566.044
Renewable electricity percentage	18.6%	0
<i>Net emissions (Market based approach)</i>		<i>18,566.044</i>

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	-0.9	0
ACT/NSW	Electricity Carbon Neutral Power	0	-0.9	0
ACT/NSW	Netted off (exported on-site generation)	45,990	-0.81	-37.252
ACT/NSW	Electricity Total	18,70,180	0.9	1,683.162
SA	Electricity Renewables	0	-0.53	0
SA	Electricity Carbon Neutral Power	0	-0.53	0
SA	Netted off (exported on-site generation)	12,211	-0.44	-5.373
SA	Electricity Total	3,154,541	0.53	1,671.907
VIC	Electricity Renewables	0	-1.12	0
VIC	Electricity Carbon Neutral Power	0	-1.12	0
VIC	Netted off (exported on-site generation)	32,475	-1.02	-33.125
VIC	Electricity Total	11,513,611	1.12	12,895.245
QLD	Electricity Renewables	0	-0.93	0
QLD	Electricity Carbon Neutral Power	0	-0.93	0
QLD	Netted off (exported on-site generation)	28,297	-0.81	-22.920
QLD	Electricity Total	3,023,065	0.93	2,811.451
NT	Electricity Renewables	0	-0.71	0
NT	Electricity Carbon Neutral Power	0	-0.71	0
NT	Netted off (exported on-site generation)	0	-0.63	0
NT	Electricity Total	141,264	0.71	100.298
WA	Electricity Renewables	0	-0.74	0
WA	Electricity Carbon Neutral Power	0	-0.74	0
WA	Netted off (exported on-site generation)	0	-0.69	0
WA	Electricity Total	1,027,771	0.74	760.551
TAS	Electricity Renewables	0	-0.17	0
TAS	Electricity Carbon Neutral Power	0	-0.17	0
TAS	Netted off (exported on-site generation)	0	-0.15	0
TAS	Electricity Total	513,133	0.17	87.233
Net emissions (Location based approach)			0	19,911.175

4. CARBON OFFSETS

Offset purchasing strategy: in arrears

Table 6

Arrears purchasing summary	
1. Total offsets previously forward purchased for this reporting period	0
2. Total offsets required for this reporting period	42,095
3. Net offset balance for this reporting period	42,095
4. Total offsets to be forward purchased for next reporting period	0

Offsets summary

Table 7

1. Total offsets required for this report				42,095					
2. Offsets retired in previous reports and used in this report				0					
3. Net offsets required for this report				42,095					
Project description	Eligible offset units type	Registry unit retired in	Date retired	Serial number (including hyperlink to registry transaction record)	Vintage	Quantity (tonnes CO ₂ -e)	Quantity used for previous report	Quantity to be banked for future years	Quantity to be used this report
Parbati Hydroelectric Project Stage III	VCU	Verra	29 Jun 2021	9571-109916484-109958527-VCS-VCU-1491-VER-IN-1-1425-24032014-28122014-0	2014	42,044	0	0	42,044
Parbati Hydroelectric Project Stage III	VCU	Verra	22 Jul 2021	9572-109979518-109979568-VCS-VCU-1491-VER-IN-1-1425-29122014-29032015-0	2015	51	0	0	51
<i>Total offsets retired this report and used in this report</i>								42,095	
<i>Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports</i>								0	

Co-benefits

Parbati Hydroelectric Project Stage III

NHPC Limited's Parbati Hydroelectric Project, Stage III is Greenfield Hydro Power Project located on river Sainj and Jiwa nallah a tributary of Beas River near village Bihali, Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh state of India. It is a run-of-the-river scheme whose design discharge includes the diversion of the tail race releases of Parbati Stage-II Power house as well as inflows from river Sainj and Jiwa nallah. The purpose of the project activity is to generate electrical power using hydel energy, through the operation of run of the river hydro turbines. The hydel energy generated from the hydel power plant is evacuated to the State Grid System which is part of NEWNE Grid. Generating power through hydel plant is a clean technology as no Carbon intensive fossil fuel is burnt during the process. A hydel turbine produces power by harnessing the available potential energy. Thus, there are no GHG emissions associated with the functioning of the hydro turbines. This in result replaces anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG's) estimated to be approximately 1,912,324 tCO₂e per year, thereon displacing 1,975,950 MWh/year amount of electricity from the grid.

Socio-economic well being:

Project activity has generated direct and indirect employment for skilled and unskilled manpower during construction phase as well as during operational stage and thus helped in controlling migration from the region and alleviation of poverty.

The project activity's contribution of power supply towards the NEWNE grid is helping in the upliftment of the social life of the people by ensuring a sustainable and reliable source of power for the region.

The Project activity has improved the infrastructural facilities like water availability, road, and medical facilities in the region.

Environmental well being:

The project activity generates clean and green power thus causing negligible emissions of greenhouse gases. By building and operating the Hydro power project, much pollution is avoided. In the absence of the project activity, equivalent power would have been generated based on the fossil fuels resulting in more Green House Gas emissions into the atmosphere.

The project activity has reduced the dependence on fossil fuels for power generation thus conserving the natural reserves. The project has led to greenhouse gas emission reduction and hence contributed to mitigating climate change.

Greenfleet

We are working to reduce business travel to cut our transport emissions. We also offset our carbon emissions from the business travel that is necessary by partnering with the not-for-profit carbon offset provider, [Greenfleet](#), through their biodiverse revegetation program.

The Bank's contribution to the Greenfleet Program this year resulted in 11,954 trees planted across Australia, not just offsetting our travel emissions but improving water quality, reducing soil degradation and providing essential habitat for native wildlife. Since our partnership began with Greenfleet in 2014, more than 113,500 trees have been planted.

5. USE OF TRADE MARK

Table 8

As 2019/20 is our baseline year, we have not yet used the trademark other than in this PDS. We expect to use the trademark in the following ways:

Description where trademark used	Logo type
Investor communications such as Annual Report, Sustainability Report and associated results presentations	Certified organisation
Websites for Bendigo and Adelaide Bank and Our Brands	Certified organisation
Branch and office locations	Certified organisation
Climate Change Action Team email signatures	Network member

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Uniform recovering and reuse:

While staff in our branch network are given an annual allowance for uniforms, sometimes they change size, find they don't wear an item they've chosen or they leave the Bank.

For over a decade, a long-term staff member of the Bank has sorted through the uniforms returned from our branch network to retrieve good quality garments, launder them and repurpose them for second-hand use.

The staff member established an internal communications message to all staff to advertise these second-hand uniforms and inform staff of the garments available. Interested employees can apply for these uniforms and in return, they are requested to make a gold coin donation to a chosen charity.

Staff sustainability group initiatives

Staff initiated sustainability groups operate in both our Bendigo and Adelaide head office locations. They collaborate to educate employees on sustainability initiatives in the office and work with building management to identify and implement initiatives such as food waste recycling.

For world environment day 2020, staff from these groups shared some ideas on how to reduce environmental footprints while working from home. These included: energy efficient off-grid home, collecting vegetable scraps to make stock, collecting soft plastics to drop at the REDcycle bins, feeding food scraps to chickens and guinea fowl, saving coffee pods for recycling and freezing unwanted fruit to make dehydrated fruit snacks.

Staff discounts to reduce their footprint at home

In June 2020, the Bank partnered with various organisations including Tindo Solar, Upparel and Greenfleet to support its employees to reduce their environmental footprint by offering these employees the opportunity to access staff discounts on solar panels and batteries, textile recycling and emissions offsets via tax deductible donations.

Our Community Bank network supporting local communities to lower their footprint

In FY20, our Community Bank partners supported more than 50 emission reduction or offsetting projects across the country. This included:

- 20 solar panel grants for organisations such as bowls clubs, kindergartens, schools, Mens' Sheds, Scouts and RSL groups
- 11 tree planting projects
- Support for a number of composting and thermal insulation projects as well as community sustainability education sessions.

Emissions reduction initiatives already implemented:

In addition to the energy efficient buildings and solar panel installations, some initiatives already implemented include:

Table 9

Emission reduction initiative	Estimated emission savings tCO₂-e p.a.
The introduction of eStatements in June 2015 which offers customers choice in how they receive banking information, while reducing paper consumption.	200
The reduction in stationary use through the combination of a switch to activity-based working - which reduced the opportunity for staff to store extra stationary in their desks - and actively encouraging staff to reuse and recycle stationary at the Bendigo Centre.	25
Replacement of lighting with LED lighting where possible throughout Corporate sites.	100
Implementation of follow-me printing in 2013 to eliminate the estimated 25 percent of uncollected printing generated. This has helped save approximately 2.9 million sheets of paper being discarded from printers each year.	27
Introduction of electronic communications for eShareholders to reduce the need for printed materials. More than 22 percent of eShareholders now receive annual reports, dividend statements and voting forms electronically. 37 percent of shareholders currently receive documents by email.	25
Replacement of paper-based applications with online applications. This includes loan documentation being provided electronically upon settlement.	25
Replacement of paper brochures with online versions. This has not only removed wastage when providing printed brochures to customers, but has also helped avoid wastage when updating brochures.	50
Reduction of electricity consumption by programming desktop computers to power down overnight and monitors go into standby mode when no input has been detected. This initiative first began in September 2011 and has been maintained and further enhanced since.	100
Procurement of carbon neutral copy paper and lower emission vehicles.	213
Implemented DocuSign - digital signatures on paperwork for various customer transactions which is expected to decrease emissions from postage as we procure carbon neutral copy paper. In addition, trees have been protected, water conserved and waste eliminated.	236
Prompted by the need for more of our staff to work from home, as a result of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, we acquired an additional 2000 Virtual Private Network (VPN) licences to accommodate more staff working remotely. The estimated emissions savings is based on an expectation that this will result in a 25% reduction in our employee commute emissions and the monetary saving is based on the cost to offset the employee commute emissions.	1319

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 10

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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

APPENDIX 2

Non-quantified emissions for organisations

Table 11

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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A