



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT


REA GROUP PTY LTD

ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION

FY2020–21

Australian Government
Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY	REA Group Pty Ltd
REPORTING PERIOD	Financial year 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021 Arrears report
DECLARATION	<p><i>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.</i></p>  <p>Owen Wilson Chief Executive Officer 2 December 2021</p>



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

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Version September 2021. To be used for FY20/21 reporting onwards.



1. CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	6,331
OFFSETS BOUGHT	6,331
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	0
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	15/10/2021 Jessica Boekhoff Point Advisory Next technical assessment due: October 2024
THIRD PARTY VALIDATION	Type 1 04/10/2021 Alex Stathakis Conversio

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2. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

Description of certification

REA Group's Climate Active carbon neutral certification relates to REA Group's owned and operated business operations in Australia and internationally, including Malaysia, Hong Kong, Thailand, and India.

Organisation description

[REA Group](#) was founded in 1995 in Australia and is a digital advertising business, specialising in property, with a team of over 2,500 people, across Australia and Asia.

The certification boundary applied for our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reporting under Climate Active comprises of the overall REA Group's (ABN 54 068 349 066) operations and activities, including all of our Australian and international activities that sit under the subsidiaries over which the REA Group has operational control¹.

Our boundary accounts for the GHG emissions from the offices² and other business activities associated with these operations. Table 1 provides a summary of the business entities that sit within the certification boundary and where their offices are located.

“At REA Group, everything we do is driven by our purpose to ‘change the way the world experiences property’. We recognise the large impact the property sector has on global emissions and want to take responsibility for our operational carbon footprint. Climate Active is a great way to demonstrate our commitment to minimising our impact.”

Table 1. REA Group's business entities included in the certification boundary

Business name	Country of operation
Realestate.com.au	Australia
Realcommercial.com.au	
Flatmates.com.au	
Spacely.com.au	
Smartline Home Loans Pty Ltd	
PropTrack Australia Pty Ltd	
Flatmate.com.au	
Myfun	India
Elara Technologies	
iproperty.com.my	Malaysia
squarefoot.com.hk	Hong Kong
ThinkofLiving	Thailand

¹ These subsidiaries are summarised in our annual report.

² In FY20 REA Group operated out of 29 offices across multiple regions.

3.EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Inside the emissions boundary

All emission sources listed in the emissions boundary are part of the carbon neutral claim.

Quantified emissions have been assessed as relevant and are quantified in the carbon inventory. This may include emissions that are not identified as arising due to the operations of the certified entity, however are **optionally included**.

Non-quantified emissions have been assessed as relevant and are captured within the emissions boundary, but are not measured (quantified) in the carbon inventory. All material emissions are accounted for through an uplift factor. Further detail is available at Appendix C.

Outside the emissions boundary

Excluded emissions are those that have been assessed as not relevant to an organisation's or precinct's operations and are outside of its emissions boundary or are outside of the scope of the certification. These emissions are not part of the carbon neutral claim. Further detail is available at Appendix D.

Inside emissions boundary		Outside emission boundary
<p><u>Quantified</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diesel fuel used in back-up generator Electricity at leased offices and REA operated data centres Upstream production of fuel and energy Cloud services Paper consumption REA Group's share of base building services Waste and wastewater Business travel including flights, accommodation, taxis & rental cars Employee commuting and working from home Fuel and electricity use at franchises Investment in associate arrangement with 99.co 	<p><u>Non-quantified</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<p><u>Excluded</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business services (e.g. accounting, legal, research) SMART Expo events Manufacturing of REA Group merchandise Postage, freight and courier services IT equipment Investments in Move inc, and ScaleUp Media Fund 2.0 Pty Limited

Data management plan for non-quantified sources

There are no non-quantified sources in the emission boundary that require a data management plan.

4. EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

Emissions reduction strategy

REA's purpose is to change the way the world experiences property. We recognise that carbon emissions from the property sector, including the construction and operation of residential and commercial buildings, contribute to global carbon emissions. To deliver on our purpose, we need to account for climate change in our own operations and consider the broader property sector's share of carbon emissions. Our emissions reduction strategy is driven by our purpose and desire to grow as a sustainable business.

In FY20 we published our first Climate Change Policy and reported on our carbon footprint for the first time. We engaged an independent sustainability consultancy to establish emissions reduction targets that are aligned with science-based methodologies. These targets mean that the Group must reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 42%, and scope 3 emissions by 25%, by 2030 (compared with a 2020 base year).

In FY21 we progressed our carbon emissions reduction action plan, through cross-functional squads, to address the six largest contributors to the Group's base year footprint, including electricity consumption, energy efficiency, business flights, base building emissions, employee commuting and car fuel.

The acquisition of REA India (previously known as Elara) in FY21 and the impacts of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic has had a material impact on our carbon emissions. The calculation of our FY21 footprint, has enabled us to refine our action plan based on emissions sources with significant changes over the last 12 months. In FY22 we have identified the following focus areas:

- Improving energy efficiency in office tenancies by working with our providers and behavioural change campaigns for our employees.
- Internal campaigns to educate employees on reducing carbon emissions while working from home.
- Encouraging employees to continue to prioritise virtual meetings over travel and support this with inclusion in our hybrid working guide.
- Work with our cloud storage suppliers to reduce associated cloud storage emissions.
- Education campaigns for REA India employees on carbon emissions reduction actions.

REA Group we will develop associated action plans over the coming year.

Emissions reduction actions

In FY21 we took the following actions to progress against our carbon emissions reduction plan:

- Green Power Agreements are in place in 10 of our Australian offices. In FY22 we plan to extend green power agreements to more of our premises including the Smartline and Mortgage Choice offices.
- Transitioned office lighting to energy saving LEDs as they reach end of life.
- Added a pop-up notification in our online travel booking portal that outlines the carbon emissions resulting from each travel booking to encourage flight reduction.
- Internal campaign to encourage employees to consider electric vehicle purchase, including the inclusion of electric vehicles in our novated leasing plan and the installation of electric vehicle charging stations in our Albert St office in Melbourne. Two additional charging stations are planned for installation in FY22.
- Provision of key waste streams – general, recycling and organic waste - in each of our Australian offices and an internal education campaign on correct recycling processes.
- Encouraged use of our eco-friendly end of trip facilities for employee commuting.
- Our myki Commuter Club provided discounted public transport passes for all Melbourne based REA Group employees.
- Forward planning for the future introduction of solar panels to our head office in Richmond, Melbourne.
- Explored options with an external provider to switch all our meeting rooms to energy saving 'Sleep Mode' after hours.

In FY22 we will focus our efforts on material reduction in our Scope 1 and 2 emissions to progress towards meeting our 2030 goals.

5. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Base year recalculation

In FY21, a base year recalculation was triggered for REA Group under the Climate Active Organisation's standard due to the acquisition of the Elara business (now known as REA India) with approximately 1,200 employees across various locations in India.

Emissions over time

This section compares emissions over time between the base year and current year, as well as comparing current year with the previous year.

Emissions since base year		Total tCO ₂ -e
Base year:	2019-20	6,543
Year 1:	2020-21	6,330

Significant changes in emissions

Emission sources that contribute to more than 5% of the total inventory and that have changed more than +/-5% from the previous year are summarised below. The acquisition of Elara business in India is the main driver for the increase in several emission sources (e.g. staff commuting, working from home, cloud storage, and electricity consumption). However, the impact of Covid-19 restrictions also has had a compounding impact regarding staff commuting and working from home emissions.

Emission source name	Current year (tCO ₂ -e)	Previous year (tCO ₂ -e)	Detailed reason for change
Cloud Storage emissions	777	334	Organic growth from acquisition of Elara business in India.
Work from home (International)	507	174	Combination of impact from Covid-19 lockdowns resulting in more FTE working from home and acquisition of Elara business in India.
Work from home (Victoria)	888	423	Impact from Covid-19 lockdowns resulting in more FTE working from home in Victoria.

Use of Climate Active carbon neutral products and services

N/A

Organisation emissions summary

The electricity summary is available in the Appendix B. Electricity emissions were calculated using a location-based approach.

Emission category	Sum of total emissions (tCO ₂ -e)
Accommodation and facilities	54.1
Air Transport (km)	267.8
Carbon neutral products and services	-
Cloud Storage`	777.4
Electricity	2,360.3
Franchise	285.5
Land and Sea Transport (fuel)	354.4
Land and Sea Transport (km)	690.9
Office equipment & supplies	1.5
Stationary Energy	27.8
Waste	37.6
Water	2.4
Working from home	1,470.6
Total	6,330.4

6. CARBON OFFSETS

Offsets strategy

Offset purchasing strategy: In arrears	
1. Total offsets previously forward purchased and banked for this report	0
2. Total emissions liability to offset for this report	6,331
3. Net offset balance for this reporting period	6,331
4. Total offsets to be forward purchased to offset the next reporting period	1
5. Total offsets required for this report	6,331

Co-benefits

This section provides a brief description of the carbon offset projects purchased and retired for REA Group's FY21 carbon neutral claim.

Wind bundle project in Maharashtra by Sispara

This project represents 63% of the total amount of offsets purchased and retired for this reporting period. This small-scale project involves the installation of 35.5MW capacity of wind power across four locations in India. Clean energy generated by the project will be exported to the local electricity grid in Maharashtra, displacing the fossil-fuel generated electricity on the Northern, Eastern, Western and North-Eastern regional grids (NEWNE) grid of India.

Link: <https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/VCS/1660>

Guttigoli Solar Power Project in Karnataka

This project represents 21% of the total amount of offsets purchased and retired for this reporting period. The Guttigoli Solar Power Project is a 100MW Solar project in Guttigoli village in Belgaum district in Karnataka. The purpose of the project activity is to generate electricity power through operation of solar photovoltaic power plant, comprising of crystalline solar PV modules. The electricity generated is exported to the Indian electricity grid displacing an equivalent amount of electricity which would have otherwise been generated by fossil fuel dominant electricity grid.

Link: <https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1775>

Bundled Rice Husk Based Cogeneration Plant by M/s Milk food Limited (MFL) in Patiala (Punjab) & Moradabad (U.P) Districts

This project represent 16% of the total amount of offsets purchased and retired for this reporting period. The purpose of the project activity is to utilize rice husk available in the region for Steam and electricity generation for captive consumption. The project undertaken is a bundle of two cogeneration plants of capacity 1.0 MW and 0.6 MW located at Bahadurgarh, Patiala in the state of Punjab and Mugalpur, Moradabad in the state of Uttar Pradesh respectively.

Link: <https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/VCS/784>

In addition to the carbon benefits associated with the offsets projects above, REA Group also purchased and retired an additional 1,031 Australian Biodiversity Units (ABUs) that support a local biodiversity project in Australia which provides significant conservation of native flora and fauna.

The **Watchbox Australian Biodiversity Project** is located in central Victoria, Australia and supported two of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 13 Climate Action and 15 Life on Land. This small-scale biodiversity project helps to protect several engaged species including the brush-tailed phascogale, which is protected under a 'Trust for Nature' covenant in perpetuity. The site is predominantly made up of grassy dry forest and healthy dry forest. This project produces ABUs that are registered and retired on the Native Vegetation Credit Register (and then subsequently moved to a voluntary register run by Vegetation Link – for voluntary purposes). Each ABU represents 1.5m² of high conservation value native habitat.

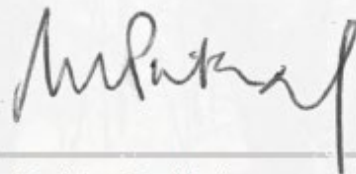
- Project name: Watchbox Conservation Project
- Location: Central Victoria, Australia
- Serial numbers: 16821-17851
- Date retired: 27 October 2021
- Protection: Trust for Nature covenant (perpetuity)
- Registry: Native Vegetation Credit Register (AU)
- NVCR allocation reference: location Reference: C1854_VOL003

Watchbox Conservation Project

1,031

Australian Biodiversity Units
(1546.5 square metres)
were cancelled on behalf of:

**REA GROUP PTY LTD to support its carbon
neutral claim against the Climate Active Carbon
Neutral Standard for FY2021.**



Registrar Certification

Date: 27 October 2021

NVCR Allocation Reference: C1854_VOL003

Serial Numbers 16821-17851

Procurement Partner:



An Australian biodiversity unit (ABU) represents the permanent protection of 1.5 square meters of high conservation value native habitat.

Offsets summary

Proof of cancellation of offset units

Offsets cancelled for Climate Active Carbon Neutral Certification										
Project description	Type of offset units	Registry	Date retired	Serial number (and hyperlink to registry transaction record)	Vintage	Eligible quantity (tCO ₂ -e)	Quantity used for previous reporting periods	Quantity banked for future reporting periods	Quantity used for this reporting period claim	Percentage of total (%)
Guttigoli Solar Power Project in Karnataka	GS VER	G Impact Registry	27/10/2021	GS1-1-IN-GS6760-2-2020-20778-71829-73129	2020	1,301	0	1	1,300	21%
Wind bundle project in Maharashtra (India) by Sispara	VCU	VCS Registry	27/10/2021	8456-21848088-21852087-VCS-VCU-997-VER-IN-1-1660-01092018-31122018-0	2018	4,000	0	0	4,000	63%
Bundled Rice Husk Based Cogeneration Plant <i>stapled to</i>	VCU	VCS Registry	27/10/2021	10169-190832026-190833056-VCS-VCU-291-VER-IN-1-784-01012019-05052019-0	2019	1,031	0	0	1,031	16%
Watchbox Australian Biodiversity Project	ABU	Native Vegetation Credit Register	27/10/2021	16821-17851	n/a	0	0	0		
Total offsets retired this report and used in this report									6,331	
Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports								1		

Type of offset units	Quantity (used for this reporting period claim)	Percentage of total
Verified Emissions Reductions (VERs)	1,300	21%
Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)	5,031	79%

6. RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC) SUMMARY

N/A

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A

APPENDIX B: ELECTRICITY SUMMARY

Electricity emissions are calculated using a location-based approach in REA Group's inventory.

Location-based approach

The location-based method provides a picture of a business's electricity emissions in the context of its location, and the emissions intensity of the electricity grid it relies on. It reflects the average emissions intensity of the electricity grid in the location (State) in which energy consumption occurs. The location-based method does not allow for any claims of renewable electricity from grid-imported electricity usage.

Location-based approach summary

Location-based approach	Activity data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO ₂ -e)
ACT	0	0
NSW	236,767	213,090
SA	72,673	37,790
Vic	1,214,614	1,323,929
Qld	109,332	101,679
NT	0	0
WA	90,551	63,386
Tas	0	0
Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)	1,723,936	1,739,874
ACT	0	0
NSW	0	0
SA	0	0
Vic	0	0
Qld	0	0
NT	0	0
WA	0	0
Tas	0	0
Non-grid electricity (behind the meter)	0	0
Total electricity consumed	1,723,936	1,739,874
Emission footprint (tCO₂-e)	1,740	

Market-based approach

The market-based method provides a picture of a business's electricity emissions in the context of its renewable energy investments. It reflects the emissions intensity of different electricity products, markets and investments. It uses a residual mix factor (RMF) to allow for unique claims on the zero emissions attribute of renewables without double-counting.

Market-based approach summary

Market-based approach	Activity data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO ₂ -e)	Renewable % of total
Behind the meter consumption of electricity generated	0	0	0
Total non-grid electricity	0	0	0
LGC purchased and retired (kWh) (including PPAs & Precinct LGCs)	0	0	0
GreenPower	0	0	0
Jurisdictional renewables (LGCs retired)	0	0	0
Jurisdictional renewables (LRET) (applied to ACT grid electricity)	0	0	0
Large Scale Renewable Energy Target (applied to grid electricity only)	326,255	0	0
Residual electricity	1,397,681	1,499,825	0
Total grid electricity	1,723,936	1,499,825	0
Total electricity consumed (grid + non grid)	1,723,936	1,499,825	0
Electricity renewables	326,255	0	
Residual electricity	1,397,681	1,499,825	
Exported on-site generated electricity	0	0	
Emission footprint (kgCO ₂ -e)		1,499,825	

Total renewables (grid and non-grid)	18.93%
Mandatory	18.93%
Voluntary	0.00%
Behind the meter	0.00%
Residual electricity emission footprint (tCO₂-e)	1,500

Figures may not sum due to rounding. Renewable percentage can be above 100%

APPENDIX C: INSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Non-quantified emission sources

The following sources emissions have been assessed as relevant, are captured within the emissions boundary, but are not measured (quantified) in the carbon inventory. These emissions are accounted for through an uplift factor. They have been non-quantified due to one of the following reasons:

1. **Immaterial** <1% for individual items and no more than 5% collectively
2. **Cost effective** Quantification is not cost effective relative to the size of the emission but uplift applied.
3. **Data unavailable** Data is unavailable but uplift applied. A data management plan must be put in place to provide data within 5 years.
4. **Maintenance** Initial emissions non-quantified but repairs and replacements quantified.

Relevant-non-quantified emission sources	(1) Immaterial	(2) Cost effective (but uplift applied)	(3) Data unavailable (but uplift applied & data plan in place)	(4) Maintenance
N/A				

APPENDIX D: OUTSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Excluded emission sources

The below emission sources have been assessed as not relevant to an organisation's or precinct's operations and are outside of its emissions boundary. These emissions are not part of the carbon neutral claim. Emission sources considered for relevance must be included within the certification boundary if they meet two of the five relevance criteria. Those which only meet one condition of the relevance test can be excluded from the certification boundary.

Emissions tested for relevance are detailed below against each of the following criteria:

1. **Size** The emissions from a particular source are likely to be large relative to the organisation's electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions
2. **Influence** The responsible entity has the potential to influence the reduction of emissions from a particular source.
3. **Risk** The emissions from a particular source contribute to the organisation's greenhouse gas risk exposure.
4. **Stakeholders** Key stakeholders deem the emissions from a particular source are relevant.
5. **Outsourcing** 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

Emission sources tested for relevance	(1) Size	(2) Influence	(3) Risk	(4) Stakeholders	(5) Outsourcing	Included in boundary?
Purchased goods and services: Smart Expo events	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Purchased goods and services: Merchandise (clothing) for distributing to employees	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Purchased goods and services: Business services	No	No	No	No	No	No
Capital goods: Owned and leased IT equipment (computers, laptops and monitors)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Upstream transportation and distribution: Freight, postage and courier services	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Investments: Move Inc. and ScaleUp Media Fund 2.0 Pty Limited	Yes	No	No	No	No	No



An Australian Government Initiative

