



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

CORRS CHAMBERS WESTGARTH

**ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION
FY 2020 - 2021**

Australian Government
**Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement**



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY: Corrs Chambers Westgarth

REPORTING PERIOD: Financial year 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

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.



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

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Version number February 2021



1. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

Description of certification

This inventory has been prepared for the financial year from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 and covers all of the Australian operations of Corrs Chambers Westgarth (ABN - 89 690 832 091) 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 we 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



Non-quantified sources

N/A

Data management plan

N/A

Excluded sources (outside of certification boundary)

N/A

3. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions reduction strategy

In our first year of being carbon neutral we formed working groups to develop strategies to reduce our carbon footprint. The strategy is now in the implementation phase and includes:

- moving all office electricity to green power to ensure zero emissions from office electricity by the end of 2022;
- developing a plan related to energy saving lighting technology for all offices, currently being piloted in our Perth office;
- moving to carbon neutral paper in our printers (implemented in May 2020) and in our copy centre (implemented in May 2021);
- reducing energy usage in our printers by turning off the auto wake up sensors (implemented in February 2021); and
- implementing improvements to our waste management signage and education in each office by aligning with the respective building management waste processes and to drive positive behaviour that will lead to lower emissions by the end of 2021.

As these strategies are implemented our working groups continue to explore additional opportunities.

Emissions over time

Corrs' total gross CO₂-e emissions for the reporting year was 52.8% lower than the base year. This was primarily achieved by a 31% reduction in electricity and an 89% 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 by the emission reducing initiatives described below. In comparison to the previous year, FY2020-21, electricity emissions have decreased by 17% due to a reduction in usage and using GreenPower. However, there was an increase in natural gas emissions due to the Sydney building having a Co-gen system which has meant an increase in gas consumption however this has led to a reduction in the electricity consumption. There was also an increase in the emissions associated with working from home due to COVID and flexible working arrangements.

Table 1

Emissions since base year			
	Base year Year 1: 2018-19	Year 2: 2019-20	Current year Year 3: 2020-21
<i>Total tCO₂-e</i>	9,804.1	7,490.8	4,760.3

Emissions reduction actions

We have reduced our carbon footprint by implementing energy saving lighting technology in our Perth office. Part of our strategy is to roll this out in our other offices by the end of 2022 should this pilot be successful.

We commenced using carbon neutral printing paper in all printers in May 2020 and similarly in all copy centres in May 2021.

Improvements were made to our waste management through signage and education in all offices.

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 many of our staff, particularly in Victoria and New South Wales, working remotely for, on average, nine months of the reporting year which significantly reduced employee commute and travel emissions. It is expected that successful 'work from home' strategies developed during COVID-19 restrictions will result in long term changes to flexible working arrangements as more staff continue to work from home. Corrs is investing in collaboration tools to reduce the need for travel post-pandemic. This will result in the retention of some emissions savings.

Emissions summary (inventory)

All emissions are shared with the child (service) certification. See here for more details:

<https://www.climateactive.org.au/buy-climate-active/certified-members/corrs-chambers-westgarth>

Table 2

Emission source category	Tonnes CO ₂ -e
Accommodation and facilities	30.81
Air transport (km)	357.81
Cleaning and chemicals	64.89
Electricity	1,933.80
Food	117.82
ICT services and equipment	266.69
Land and sea transport (\$)	13.75
Land and sea transport (km)	230.53
Office equipment and supplies	927.04
Postage, courier and freight	85.77
Products	3.59
Professional services	13.80
Refrigerants	3.37
Stationary energy	400.99
Waste	34.98
Water	23.97
Working from home	250.67
<i>Total Net Emissions</i>	4,760.28

Uplift factors

Table 3

Reason for uplift factor	Tonnes CO ₂ -e
N/A	
<i>Total footprint to offset (uplift factors + net emissions)</i>	4,760.28

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.

Corrs uses Winc carbon neutral office paper.

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 market-based approach. The location-based approach is provided below for full disclosure and to facilitate year-on-year comparison only.

Market-based approach summary

Table 4

Market-based approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO ₂ -e)	Renewable %
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	146,058	0	7%
Jurisdictional renewables (LGCs retired)	0	-	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LRET) (applied to ACT grid electricity)	0	0	0%
Large Scale Renewable Energy Target (applied to grid electricity only)	454,751	0	19%
Residual Electricity	1,802,103	1,933,801	0%
Total grid electricity	2,402,912	1,933,801	25%
Total Electricity Consumed (grid + non grid)	2,402,912	1,933,801	25%
Electricity renewables	600,809	0	
Residual Electricity	1,802,103	1,933,801	
Exported on-site generated electricity	0	0	
Emission Footprint (kgCO ₂ -e)		1,933,801	

Total renewables (grid and non-grid)	25.00%
Mandatory	18.93%
Voluntary	6.08%
Behind the meter	0.00%
Residual Electricity Emission Footprint (tCO₂-e)	1,934

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

Location-based approach summary

Table 5

Location-based approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO ₂ -e)
NSW	827,821	745,039
VIC	662,300	721,907
QLD	495,328	460,655
WA	417,463	292,224
Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)	2,402,912	2,219,825
NSW	0	0
Vic	0	0
Qld	0	0
WA	0	0
Non-grid electricity (Behind the meter)	0	0
Total Electricity Consumed	2,402,912	2,219,825
Emission Footprint (tCO₂-e)	2,220	

4. CARBON OFFSETS

Offsets strategy

Table 6

Offset purchasing strategy:	
In arrears	tCO ₂ -e
1. Total offsets previously forward purchased and banked for this report	0
2. Total emissions liability to offset for this report	4,761
3. Net offset balance for this reporting period	4,761
4. Total offsets to be forward purchased to offset the next reporting period	0
5. Total offsets required for this report	4,761

The details of offsets relating to this certification also cover Corrs Chambers Westgarth's Service certification. The relevant PDS can be found [here](#).

Co-benefits

NIHT Topaiyo REDD + NIHT Inc. has partnered with the traditional landowners of New Ireland, East New Britain and Papua New Guinea 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.

Offsets summary

Proof of cancellation of offset units

Table 7

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 (%)
NIHT Topaiyo REDD +	VCUs	Verra	22 Nov 2021	9629-113185077-113188168-VCS-VCU-466-VER-PG-14-2293-01062017-31122019-0 10514-223958523-223960191-VCS-VCU-466-VER-PG-14-2293-01062017-31122019-0	2019	4,761	0	0	4,761	100%
Total offsets retired this report and used in this report									4,761	
Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports								0		

Type of offset units	Quantity (used for this reporting period claim)	Percentage of Total
Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)	4,761	100%

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

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				



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