



# **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**S AJITKUMAR & OTHERS (CORRS  
CHAMBERS WESTGARTH)**


**ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION  
FY 2021-2022**

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



An Australian Government Initiative



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY	Corrs Chambers Westgarth
REPORTING PERIOD	Financial year 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 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>Gavin MacLaren Senior Partner &amp; CEO 3 July 2023</p>



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

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# 1. CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	3,772 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e
OFFSETS BOUGHT	100% VCU's
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	57.83%
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	5/10/2022 Mylene Turban Pangolin Associates Next technical assessment due: FY2025

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## 2. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

### Description of certification

This inventory has been prepared for the financial year from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 and covers all of the Australian operations of Corrs Chambers Westgarth (ABN - 89 690 832 091) as an organisation (parent certification). Corrs Chambers Westgarth' services are also certified carbon neutral as part of Climate Active service certification (available [here](#)).

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 37, Quay Quarter Tower, 50 Bridge Street, 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 (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) and synthetic gases - hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF<sub>3</sub>). These have been expressed as carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>-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.

## 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.

The boundary below includes Corrs Chambers Westgarth's services, which are also certified carbon neutral under a separate Climate Active service certification.

**Inside emissions boundary**

**Quantified**

- Electricity
- Base building electricity
- Natural gas
- Telecommunications
- Water
- IT equipment
- Paper
- Merchandising
- Office furniture
- Employee commute
- Remote working
- Business flights
- Cleaning services
- Postage
- Couriers
- Printing and stationery
- Accommodation – domestic and international
- Advertising
- Taxis
- Car Hire
- Food and beverage
- Refrigerants
- Waste (landfill and recycling)

**Non-quantified**

N/A

**Optionally included**

N/A

**Outside emission boundary**

**Excluded**

N/A

## **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

We have formed working groups to develop strategies to reduce our carbon footprint, and are working hard to build on our emissions reduction strategy, including setting targets to achieve a carbon net zero position.

The following initiatives have been in progress to reduce our scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions:

### Scope 1:

- Most of our scope 1 emissions are from the estimated leakage of synthetic gas from the fridges and air conditioning units installed in our office spaces. Each time an asset needs to be replaced, Corrs will invest in a replacement asset with a low global warming potential.

### Scope 2:

- Our scope 2 emissions have already reduced by 76.5% compared to a FY2018/19 baseline.
- We are working through a plan to move all of our Australian tenancies' electricity contracts to 100% accredited Green power and reduce our Australian based scope 2 emissions to zero. Moving to green Electricity in the Melbourne and Sydney offices has already resulted in a substantial saving in emissions. We are now focusing on collaborating with our base building managers in Brisbane and Perth to do the same, since they supply our tenancy electricity;
- implementing energy saving lighting plans in Perth and Sydney offices to reduce our electricity consumption by 2023;
- implementing reduced energy usage across all of our printers by turning off auto-wake up by February 2021;

### Scope 3:

- Working with respective landlords to move the base building electricity supply to green electricity as part of our strategy to reduce our scope 3 emissions (electricity not under our operational control);
- Using only carbon neutral paper in all of our printers and copy centers;
- Moving our infrastructure to Data Centres powered by renewable energy;
- Ongoing education in all our offices to increase awareness of each building's waste streams driving positive behaviour that will continue to reduce waste volume going to landfill, and our scope 3 emissions related to waste treatment. Part of this strategy is to implement compostable wares and re-usable Simply Cups in all our office Cafés to reduce landfill waste;
- Developed a partnership with RenewIT to keep technology out of landfill by re-purposing as much technology as possible and then partnering with Surface Mine to mine raw materials from e-Waste and keeping it out of landfill; and

- Upgrading our video conference platform and technology to help reduce the need for some travel combined with developing a sustainable travel policy.

In the next financial year we plan to review the Science Based Targets initiative program and may use this to define a path to reduce emissions in line with Paris Agreement goals. This will be defined by FY2024.

## Emissions reduction actions

There have been widespread emissions reductions as a result of COVID-19 with less people in each office and long periods of reduced travel. These reductions are difficult to accurately measure as a YoY comparison given the changes throughout the period, however the following actions have also reduced our carbon footprint:

- Moving to green electricity in the Melbourne and Sydney offices has resulted in a substantial saving in emissions. Emissions have decreased from 1,933.90 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e in the previous reporting period to 857.44 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e in the current reporting period;
- Moving to carbon neutral paper in our printers (implemented in May 2020) and in our copy centre (implemented in May 2021); The follow through of this initiative in 2022 has seen a reduction in Office equipment and supplies from 927.04 on the previous period to 264.78 in the period 2021-2022;
- Reducing energy usage in our printers by turning off the auto wake up sensors (implemented in February 2021); and
- Improvements were made to our waste management through implementation of compostable wares in the office café's, supported by signage and education in all offices. While this is an ongoing change we have seen improvements in our waste audits.

## 5. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

### Emissions over time

Emissions since base year		Total tCO <sub>2</sub> -e
Base year/Year1:	2018-19	9,804.1
Year 2:	2019-20	7,490.8
Year 3:	2020-2021	4,760.3
Current Year (year 4):	2021-2022	3,771.3

### Significant changes in emissions

Emissions over time have decreased by 61.5% compared to our FY2019 baseline and by 20.8% compared to our FY2021 assessment.

The main changes are summarised in this table:

Emission source name	Current year (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e and/ or activity data)	Previous year (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e and/ or activity data)	Detailed reason for change
Computer and electrical components, hardware and accessories	378.421	91.696	Companywide IT laptop replacement program
Total net electricity emissions (Market based)	857.440	1,933.801	Changed some energy contracts to 100% GreenPower.
Printing and stationery	264.337	910.028	Change paper provider to carbon neutral paper
Transport (Air)	739.10	282.3	Travel returning to pre-COVID 19 level

### Use of Climate Active carbon neutral products and services

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.

## Organisation emissions summary

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

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>

Emission category	Sum of total emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)
Accommodation and facilities	21.58
Cleaning and Chemicals	78.77
Climate Active Carbon Neutral Products and Services	0.00
Electricity	857.44
Food	262.36
ICT services and equipment	543.82
Office equipment & supplies	264.78
Postage, courier and freight	60.20
Products	0.00
Professional Services	5.07
Refrigerants	17.15
Stationary Energy (gaseous fuels)	319.32
Transport (Air)	847.22
Transport (Land and Sea)	388.31
Waste	13.96
Water	17.44
Working from home	43.00
Bespoke – Land and Sea Transport (km)	9.82
Bespoke – Land and Sea Transport (\$)	21.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,771.3</b>

## Uplift factors

N/A.

## 6. CARBON OFFSETS

### Offsets retirement approach

In arrears	
1. Total number of eligible offsets banked from last year's report	0
2. Total emissions footprint to offset for this report	3,772
3. Total eligible offsets required for this report	3,772
4. Total eligible offsets purchased and retired for this report	3,772
5. Total eligible offsets banked to use toward next year's report	3,956

The details of offsets relating to this certification are the same as those found in the Corrs Chambers Westgarth Service PDS, 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions across the 30 year project lifetime, depending on the number and size of Project Activity Instances (PAIs) added to the project.

## Eligible offsets retirement summary

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	Stapled quantity	Eligible quantity (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Eligible quantity used for previous reporting periods	Eligible quantity banked for future reporting periods	Eligible quantity used for this reporting period	Percentage of total (%)
NIHT Topaiyo REDD +	VCUs	Verra	05/12/2021	<a href="#">10514-223960351-223962589-VCS-VCU-466-VER-PG-14-2293-01062017-31122019-0</a>	2019		2,239	0	0	2,239	29%
NIHT Topaiyo REDD +	VCUs	Verra	12/10/2022	<a href="#">9895-156961593-156962149-VCS-VCU-466-VER-PG-14-2293-01062017-31122019-0</a>	2019		557	0	0	557	7%
NIHT Topaiyo REDD +	VCUs	Verra	12/10/2022	<a href="#">9895-156962181-156962499-VCS-VCU-466-VER-PG-14-2293-01062017-31122019-0</a>	2019		319	0	0	319	4%
NIHT Topaiyo REDD +	VCUs	Verra	12/10/2022	<a href="#">10695-239579110-239579766-VCS-VCU-466-VER-PG-14-2293-01062017-31122019-0</a>	2019		657	0	0	657	9%
NIHT Topaiyo REDD +	VCUs	Verra	12/10/2022	<a href="#">8799-46516177-46516363-VCS-VCU-466-VER-PG-14-2293-01062017-31122019-0</a>	2019		187	0	187	0	0%

NIHT Topaiyo REDD +	VCUs	Verra	12/10/2022	<a href="#">8799-46515174-46516163-VCS-VCU-466-VER-PG-14-2293-01062017-31122019-0</a>	2019		990	0	990	0	2%
NIHT Topaiyo REDD +	VCUs	Verra	12/10/2022	<a href="#">9895-156959637-156960049-VCS-VCU-466-VER-PG-14-2293-01062017-31122019-0</a>	2019		413	0	413	0	13%
NIHT Topaiyo REDD +	VCUs	Verra	12/10/2022	<a href="#">10695-239579767-239582132-VCS-VCU-466-VER-PG-14-2293-01062017-31122019-0</a>	2019		2,366	0	2,366	0	5%
<b>Total offsets retired this report and used in this report</b>										3,772	
<b>Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports</b>									3,956		

Type of offset units	Quantity (used for this reporting period claim)	Percentage of total
Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)	3,772	100%

## 7. RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC) SUMMARY

### Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) summary

N/A



## APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A

## APPENDIX B: ELECTRICITY SUMMARY

Electricity emissions are calculated using a market-based approach.

### Location-based method

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.

### Market-based method

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 <sub>2</sub> e)	Renewable Percentage of total
Behind the meter consumption of electricity generated	0	0	0%
<b>Total non-grid electricity</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
LGC Purchased and retired (kWh) (including PPAs & Precinct LGCs)	0	0	0%
GreenPower	801,711	0	39%
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)	379,859	0	19%
Residual Electricity	861,780	857,440	0%
<b>Total grid electricity</b>	<b>2,043,350</b>	<b>857,440</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>Total Electricity Consumed (grid + non grid)</b>	<b>2,043,350</b>	<b>857,440</b>	<b>58%</b>
Electricity renewables	1,181,570	0	
Residual Electricity	861,780	857,440	
<b>Exported on-site generated electricity</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Emissions (kgCO <sub>2</sub> e)		857,440	
<b>Total renewables (grid and non-grid)</b>	<b>57.83%</b>		
<b>Mandatory</b>	<b>18.59%</b>		
<b>Voluntary</b>	<b>39.24%</b>		
<b>Behind the meter</b>	<b>0.00%</b>		
<b>Residual Electricity Emission Footprint (TCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	<b>857</b>		

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

## Location Based Approach Summary

Location Based Approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Scope 2 Emissions (kgCO2e)	Scope 3 Emissions (kgCO2e)
ACT	0	0	0
NSW	743,833	580,190	52,068
SA	0	0	0
Vic	605,473	550,980	60,547
Qld	394,213	315,370	47,306
NT	0	0	0
WA	299,831	200,887	2,998
Tas	0	0	0
<b>Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)</b>	<b>2,043,350</b>	<b>1,647,427</b>	<b>162,919</b>
ACT	0	0	0
NSW	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0
Vic	0	0	0
Qld	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0
Tas	0	0	0
<b>Non-grid electricity (Behind the meter)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Electricity Consumed</b>	<b>2,043,350</b>	<b>1,647,427</b>	<b>162,919</b>
<b>Emission Footprint (TCO2e)</b>	<b>1,810</b>		
<i>Scope 2 Emissions (TCO2e)</i>	1647		
<i>Scope 3 Emissions (TCO2e)</i>	163		

## Climate Active Carbon Neutral Electricity summary

Carbon Neutral electricity offset by Climate Active Product	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO2e)
N/A	0	0

*Climate Active carbon neutral electricity is not renewable electricity. The emissions have been offset by another Climate Active member through their Product certification.*

## 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.

No emission sources in Corrs Chambers Westgarth's organisation boundary were non-quantified in FY2021 - 22.

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	N/A	N/A	N/A	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.

No emission sources in Corrs Chambers' organisation boundary were excluded in FY2021 - 22.

Emission sources tested for relevance	(1) Size	(2) Influence	(3) Risk	(4) Stakeholders	(5) Outsourcing	Included in boundary?
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



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