PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

BLUE CONNECTIONS PTY LTD (TRADING AS BLUE CONNECTIONS IT)

ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION

FY2022–23

Australian Government

Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement

An Australian Government Initiative

NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY	BLUE CONNECTIONS PTY LTD (trading as Blue Connections IT)
REPORTING PERIOD	1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023 Arrears report
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.*  Erica Smith Head of Marketing and Vendor Alliance 9th October 2023

Australian Government
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Version August 2023.

1.CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	1261 tCO_2-e
OFFSETS USED	100% VCUs
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	19%
CARBON ACCOUNT	Prepared by: Pangolin Associates
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	Next technical assessment due: FY 2026

Contents

2. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

Description of certification

This inventory has been prepared for the Financial year from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 and covers the Australian business operations of Blue Connections IT, ABN: 66 630 573 349

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:

- Melbourne HQ
- Gippsland Office

The methods used for collating data, performing calculations and presenting the carbon account are in accordance with the following standards:

- Climate Active Standards
- The Greenhouse Gas Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (Revised Edition)
- 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" from 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).

Organisation description

Blue Connections IT (ABN: 66 630 573 349 / ACN: 630 573 349) is a provider of best-in-class IT solutions and has served some of Australia’s best-known and established companies as well as organisations navigating the challenges of business growth.

Blue Connections has locations in Melbourne HQ (1B Dalmore Drive, Scoresby VIC 3179), Gippsland (3/107 Marine Parade, San Remo VIC 3925) and in Sydney (postal address only).

Blue Connections IT has a strong commitment to operating sustainably. The organisation’s partners and customers also have a deep connection to the environment, driving Blue Connections IT to achieve more sustainable practices. It’s important to Blue Connections IT to continue to take steps towards reducing its impact on the environment and help its customers and partners meet their emissions targets.

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 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

Quantified

Accommodation and facilities

Cleaning and chemicals

Climate Active carbon neutral products and services

Construction materials and services

Electricity

Food

ICT services and equipment

Postage, courier and freight

Products

Professional Services

Refrigerants

Transport (air)

Transport (land and sea)

Waste

Water

Working from home

Office equipment and supplies

Non-quantified

N/A

Outside emission boundary

Excluded

N/A

4.EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

Emissions reduction strategy

Achieving Climate Active certification enables Blue Connections IT to demonstrate leadership, innovation, and deep commitment to a more sustainable future. As a leading Australian solutions integrator and managed service provider, Blue Connections IT has established a strong commitment to sustainability through its go-to-market strategy and climate-focused initiatives. In recognition of the urgency to act on climate change, we have committed to becoming a certified carbon-neutral organisation. An important aspect of ongoing certification is to demonstrate that in addition to calculating and offsetting emissions, there is an ongoing, concerted and effective effort to reduce operational emissions.

Certification, as part of broader sustainability ambition and endeavour, assists in the delivery of Blue Connections IT strategic priorities, and in fact, informs them into the future. While these processes are underway, there is an opportunity to establish a suite of engagement programs in tandem, to actively involve all staff in sustainable practices, building on operational change to generate long-term cultural change within the organisation.

Blue Connections IT has invested in measuring and reporting on our energy consumption and carbon footprint, and our reduction initiatives include:

Scope 1 emissions will be reduced by:

- Power & Cooling upgrade to Scoresby office in 2023. Upgrade was implemented and we reduced our infrastructure footprint by a third and optimised the efficiency of our server room by installing a hot and cold aisle.

Scope 2 emissions will be reduced by:

- Embracing technologies such as electric motor vehicles via government offset initiatives and increased installation of EV charging stations in 2023. Blue Connections decided to not increase installations in FY2023, but will scale as to when we are fully utilising our current EV chargers. This reduces the requirement of installing unutilised EV chargers until needed.

- Seek out solar company initiatives for home installation for our employees in 2023. Education was done throughout FY2023, this saw an uptick of employees being empowered and more employees opted for solar installations for the home.

Scope 3 emissions will be reduced by:

- Educating and engaging our team to reduce work-related emissions including reduce, reuse & recycle in 2023. This policy has been created and implemented in FY2023. Blue Connections IT will however continually update this policy to further improve the strategy.

- Continuing to employ locally, to both support regional communities and reduce our travel footprint as well as embracing a flexible WFH strategy, this strategy will be completed in 2023. This policy has been created and implemented in FY2023. Blue Connections IT will however continually

update this policy to further improve the strategy.

- Acting on opportunities to reduce our emissions by improving operational efficiencies – including maximizing e-waste contributions by 2024

- Encouraging our suppliers to reduce carbon impacts in our supply chain by working with them to measure and reduce their emissions. And by seeking out vendor and supplier relationships with likeminded suppliers who already measure and offset their emissions by 2025

To be an industry leader, it is essential that Blue Connections takes relevant steps to reduce our operational carbon footprint. As such, we have defined a company goal to reduce emissions by 30% by 2030 relative to FY2021-22. To achieve this, we will adopt the above listed initiatives.

Emissions reduction actions

The following actions were taken in FY2023 reporting period, which has seen overall emissions drop by 19% since the base year.

- Recycling: Installing more recycle bins throughout the business, additionally increasing awareness on recycling options.

- Education: education to our customers of what vendors have options for including reduced packaging, purchasing carbon offsets, consolidated shipments. Employee awareness on recycling, the benefits of EV's, solar education policies, waste warriors,

- Policies: WFH and Education policies were implemented and will continue to be policies within organisation – will also be refined and adapted for any changes or new initiatives.

- Solar installation: the reason we haven't yet met is that we are doing our due diligence and making sure we have the right solution, it will be implemented FY 24.

- Power and cooling: We have continued to drive efficiencies in our internal IT and power and cooling requirements.

- EV charging stations: Blue Connections decided to not increase installations in FY2023, but will scale as to when we are fully utilising our current EV chargers. This reduces the requirement of installing unutilised EV chargers until needed.

5.EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions over time

		Emissions since base year	
		Total tCO_2-e (without uplift)	Total tCO_2-e (with uplift)
Base year/ Year 1:	2021–22	1559.8	1559.8
Year 2:	2022–23	1259.5	1259.5

Significant changes in emissions

Emission source name	Previous year emissions (t CO_2-e)	Current year emissions (t CO_2-e)	Detailed reason for change
Electricity (market-based method, scope 2)	154.7	174.8	Increased office activities as we go back to business as usual post-pandemic
Air freight (short haul)	0	401.0	Emissions associated with freight in the previous year was disclosed as a $ amount, Due to improvements in data collection Blue Connections was able to give more accurate data in the forms of t.km.

Use of Climate Active carbon neutral products, services, buildings or precincts

Certified brand name	Product/Service/Building/Precinct used
Opal Australian Paper	Product
Pangolin Associates	Service

Emissions summary

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

Emission category	Sum of scope 1 (tCO_2-e)	Sum of scope 2 (tCO_2-e)	Sum of scope 3 (tCO_2-e)	Sum of total emissions (t CO_2-e)
Accommodation and facilities	0.00	0.00	8.84	8.84
Cleaning and chemicals	0.00	0.00	9.49	9.49
Climate Active carbon neutral products and services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Construction materials and services	0.00	0.00	15.89	15.89
Electricity	0.00	174.83	22.53	197.35
Food	0.00	0.00	22.18	22.18
ICT services and equipment	0.00	0.00	29.82	29.82
Office equipment and supplies	0.00	0.00	9.02	9.02
Postage, courier and freight	0.00	0.00	431.23	431.23
Products	0.00	0.00	84.79	84.79
Professional Services	0.00	0.00	156.49	156.49
Refrigerants	1.68	0.00	0.00	1.68
Transport (air)	0.00	0.00	42.02	42.02
Transport (land and sea)	0.00	0.00	193.94	193.94
Waste	0.00	0.00	34.22	34.22
Water	0.00	0.00	1.14	1.14
Working from home	0.00	0.00	21.39	21.39
Total emissions	**1.68**	**174.83**	**1082.98**	**1259.49**

Uplift factors

N/A

6. CARBON OFFSETS

Offsets retirement approach

This certification has taken an in-arrears offsetting approach. The total emission to offset is 1260 t CO_2-e. The total number of eligible offsets used in this report is 1261. Of the total eligible offsets used, none were previously banked and 1261 were newly purchased and retired. None are remaining and have been banked for future use.

Co-benefits

The project preserves 53,528 hectares in a critical region of the eastern amazon biome. A region where there is high deforestation risk. The project has quantifiable CCB benefits, as it provides full time employment, training and access for the families that live in and around the project area, to be self-empowered in a region where there are few job opportunities. The project also provides cookstoves with chimneys to help mitigate lung cancer and more efficiently burn fuel for cooking.

Eligible offsets retirement summary

Offsets retired 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 retired (tCO_2-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 (%)**
Floresta Verde REDD+ Project	VCU	Verra	17/10/2023	9166-72240229-72241489-VCS-VCU-1531-VER-BR-14-1953-01012017-31122017-1	01/01/2017 31/12/2017	0	1261	0	0	1261	100%
									Total eligible offsets retired and used for this report	1261	
									Total eligible offsets retired this report and banked for use in future reports	0	

Type of offset units	Eligible quantity (used for this reporting period)	Percentage of total
Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)	1261	100%

7. RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC) SUMMARY

Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) summary

N/A

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A

APPENDIX B: ELECTRICITY SUMMARY

There are two international best-practice methods for calculating electricity emissions – the location-based method and the market-based method. Reporting electricity emissions under both methods is called dual reporting.

Dual reporting of electricity emissions is useful, as it provides different perspectives of the emissions associated with a business's electricity usage.

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.

For this certification, electricity emissions have been set by using the market-based approach.

Market-based approach summary

Market-based approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kg CO_2-e)	Renewable percentage 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)	0	0	0%
GreenPower	0	0	0%
Climate Active precinct/building (voluntary renewables)	0	0	0%
Precinct/Building (LRET)	0	0	0%
Precinct/Building jurisdictional renewables (LGCS surrendered)	0	0	0%
Electricity products (voluntary renewables)	0	0	0%
Electricity products (LRET)	0	0	0%
Electricity products jurisdictional renewables (LGCs surrendered)	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LGCs surrendered)	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LRET) (applied to ACT grid electricity)	0	0	0%
Large Scale Renewable Energy Target (applied to grid electricity only)	47,846	0	19%
Residual Electricity	206,653	197,353	0%
Total renewable electricity (grid + non grid)	**47,846**	**0**	**19%**
Total grid electricity	**254,498**	**197,353**	**19%**
Total electricity (grid + non grid)	**254,498**	**197,353**	**19%**
Percentage of residual electricity consumption under operational control	100%		
Residual electricity consumption under operational control	**206,653**	**197,353**	
Scope 2	182,498	174,286	
Scope 3 (includes T&D emissions from consumption under operational control)	24,154	23,067	
Residual electricity consumption not under operational control	**0**	**0**	
Scope 3	0	0	

Total renewables (grid and non-grid)	**18.80%**
Mandatory	**18.80%**
Voluntary	**0.00%**
Behind the meter	**0.00%**
Residual scope 2 emissions (t CO_2-e)	**174.29**
Residual scope 3 emissions (t CO_2-e)	**23.07**
Scope 2 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO_2-e)	**174.29**
Scope 3 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO_2-e)	**23.07**
Total emissions liability (t CO_2-e)	**197.35**

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

Location-based approach summary

Location-based approach	Activity Data (kWh) total	Under operational control			Not under operational control	
Percentage of grid electricity consumption under operational control	**100%**	**(kWh)**	**Scope 2 Emissions ($kgCO_2$-e)**	**Scope 3 Emissions ($kgCO_2$-e)**	**(kWh)**	**Scope 3 Emissions ($kgCO_2$-e)**
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	254,498	254,498	216,323	17,815	0	0
QLD	0	0	0	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)	**254,498**	**254,498**	**216,323**	**17,815**	**0**	**0**
ACT	0	0	0	0		
NSW	0	0	0	0		
SA	0	0	0	0		
VIC	0	0	0	0		
QLD	0	0	0	0		
NT	0	0	0	0		
WA	0	0	0	0		
TAS	0	0	0	0		
Non-grid electricity (behind the meter)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**		
Total electricity (grid + non grid)	**254,498**					

Residual scope 2 emissions (t CO_2-e)	**216.32**
Residual scope 3 emissions (t CO^2-e)	**17.81**
Scope 2 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO_2-e)	**216.32**
Scope 3 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO_2-e)	**17.81**
Total emissions liability	**234.14**

Operations in Climate Active buildings and precincts

Operations in Climate Active buildings and precincts	Electricity consumed in Climate Active certified building/precinct (kWh)	Emissions (kg CO_2-e)
N/A	**0**	**0**

Climate Active carbon neutral electricity is not renewable electricity. These electricity emissions have been offset by another Climate Active member through their building or precinct certification. This electricity consumption is also included in the market based and location based summary tables. Any electricity that has been sourced as renewable electricity by the building/precinct under the market based method is outlined as such in the market based summary table.

Climate Active carbon neutral electricity products

Climate Active carbon neutral product used	Electricity claimed from Climate Active electricity products (kWh)	Emissions (kg CO_2-e)
N/A	**0**	**0**

Climate Active carbon neutral electricity is not renewable electricity. These electricity emissions have been offset by another Climate Active member through their electricity product certification. This electricity consumption is also included in the market based and location-based summary tables. Any electricity that has been sourced as renewable electricity by the electricity product under the market-based method is outlined as such in the market based summary table.

APPENDIX C: INSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Non-quantified emission sources

The following emissions sources have been assessed as relevant, are captured within the emissions boundary, but are not measured (quantified) in the carbon inventory. 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	Justification reason
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.

APPENDIX D: OUTSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Excluded emission sources

The below emission sources have been assessed as not relevant to this organisation'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.

Excluded emissions sources summary

Emission sources tested for relevance	Size	Influence	Risk	Stakeholders	Outsourcing	Justification
N/A						

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