PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

JOHN BRAND & CO. PTY LTD (TRADING AS)
BRAND ARCHITECTS

ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION

FY2023–24

Australian Government

Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement

An Australian Government Initiative

Brand Architects

NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY	John Brand & Co Pty. Ltd, (trading as Brand Architects)
REPORTING PERIOD	Financial year 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024
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.* 
	Name of signatory Laurence Robinson Position of signatory Director Date

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

Version 9.

1.CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	91 tCO_2-e
CARBON OFFSETS USED	45.05% VER, 54.95% VCU
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	91.73%
CARBON ACCOUNT	Prepared by: Shahin Chandriyakat Sustainability Lead Brand Architects
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	Date 08 November 2024 Organisation Cundall Next technical assessment due: FY 2027 report

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2. CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

Description of organisation certification

This organisation certification is for the Australian business operations of John Brand & Co Pty Ltd, trading as Brand Architects, ABN 320 63 361 786.

The certification has been prepared for the period of 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 using actual data from the period and covers the business operations of our offices located in Victoria. Our business operations include all activities under our operational control that support the delivery of our core architectural services but do not include the architectural services themself.

The operational boundary of this assessment includes the following locations:

- Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country, Level 8, 176 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne, Victoria, 3002
- Wadawurrung Country, Level 4, 60 Moorabool Street, Geelong, Victoria, 3220

This Public Disclosure Statement includes information for FY2023-2024 reporting period.

Organisation description

Brand Architects (ABN 320 63 361 786) is an architecture firm established in 1993 that specialises in a broad range of public infrastructure projects including education, children's services, sport and recreation, health, aged care, transport, cultural and community buildings. We have our main office based in East Melbourne with many of our architectural projects located all over Victoria. Since June 2023, we have also leased out a small workspace located in Geelong which has been covered under this certification. As a firm we are deeply committed to the delivery of services that respect the environmental, social and cultural aspirations of the community we serve. We are a firm of around 50 people with a common commitment to designing functional and sustainable spaces that are both future focused and contextually informed by the global climate emergency. We continually strive to a make coordinated effort to reduce the overall environmental and social impact of our business operations as well as our architectural projects.

The organisation's boundary for the purpose of carbon accounting has been set using the operational boundary approach.

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

Electricity

Food

ICT services and equipment

Office equipment and supplies

Postage, courier and freight

Professional services

Stationary energy

Transport – air

Transport – land and sea

Waste

Water

Working from home

Non-quantified

Refrigerants

Outside emission boundary

Excluded

N/A

4.EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

Emissions reduction strategy

Brand Architects continue to follow a strategy to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with our operations and our architectural services. We have been Climate Active certified since 2020. Last year we introduced our Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) to provide a framework for our commitments while this year we are working to implement those commitments across our business operations and architectural projects and as of May 2024, we are also proudly BCorp certified. The SAP and BCorp certification are part of our ongoing efforts to ensure we are walking the talk when it comes to monitoring, reporting and improving our social and environmental performance.

This year, we also included the emissions from our workspace in Geelong – a 9m2 workspace that is occasionally used by our staff.

As part of implementing the SAP and achieving BCorp certification, we introduced a Sustainable procurement policy to improve our internal operational procurement and ensure our purchases are guided by best practice sustainability criteria. The objective of the policy is to regularly monitor and improve our purchasing decisions and consequently our carbon performance.

Our overall emissions have decreased by 21.20% this year, attributed mainly to reduced emissions from electricity consumption and purchase of ICT services and professional services. The electricity consumption of our base building was greatly also reduced this year on account of energy efficiency upgrades by the building management, while changes in the purchase of ICT services and professional services are due to organic fluctuations in business services needed to support our operations.

An increase in the number of staff has meant that our waste-related emissions this year increased an average by 64%. However, 100% of our food waste is disposed in Green Bins. This year we also introduced a collection box to collect containers eligible under the Victorian Container Deposit Scheme (CDS). As a result of this initiative, we have also managed to divert a significant portion of drink bottles and cans used in the office and accrued over $100 so far.

This year we logged a 13.21% increase in our commuting emissions related to Transport (land and sea) compared to our previous reporting year due in part to the increase in staff numbers and a reduction in working from home hours. Although we are still committed to providing flexible work arrangements to support our staff, our work from home numbers decreased due to the need for a collaborative, in-office approach brought on by an increase in projects with shorter delivery timeframes. The yearly fluctuations in our staff numbers have also caused us to consider a year-on-year emissions-intensity reduction strategy for our commute instead of an overall emissions reduction approach, as this would provide a better picture of our reduction efforts. This year our commuting emissions intensity measured in tCO2-e/Km increased by 11.43% compared to previous years, and in the next 5 years we hope to reduce our emissions intensity by around 5% compared to our baseline of 2020 emissions intensity of 0.37 tCO2-e/Km. We hope to achieve this by continuing to encourage our staff to use low emission transport modes where feasible, stressing the importance of operational emission reduction.

This year we also updated our calculation method for the analysis of commuting and WFH habits by including more accurate details on staff employment periods. We have developed an internal questionnaire to be circulated at regular intervals to get a more accurate picture of our staff's commuting and WFH habits.

We are currently in the process of finalising our environmental commitment letter to be issued to all our sub-consultants. The letter outlines our expectations of our sub-consultants regarding their environmental performance, with an expectation that they will either commit to carbon neutral operations or at the least the presence of an environmental policy and monitoring system as a pre-requisite to entering into a contractual agreement with us. We hope this will further reduce the emissions associated with the general consulting services engaged by the firm.

Although our emissions this year were about 34.24% less than our baseline emissions of 2020, as noted earlier, a large contribution to the reduction this year were factors not directly influenced by our efforts including organic fluctuations in the need for support services and base building efficiency upgrades. Next year, however, we will focus our efforts on reducing the emission intensity of our staff commute, advocate for better environmental purchasing decisions by the staff in relation to their home office set up through our recently instated 'Virtual Office Stewardship' policy and aim to reduce the emissions associated with the products and services purchased through the implementation of our internal 'Sustainable Procurement' policy. Considering these measures, we hope to achieve a steady year-on-year reduction of around 2-5% at least, and an overall emissions reduction of around 5%-10% in the next 5 years compared to our baseline emissions of 2020.

Emissions reduction actions

The following actions were taken during the 23/24 financial year:

Our transition last year to a 100% Hybrid or Electric fleet and better commuting choices by staff means that the proportion of total transport attributed to EV/ Hybrid vehicles has increased by 2.11% and the proportion of distance covered by low emission transport modes like walking, cycling and public transportation has remained constant at about 67.03% despite the increase in employees commuting to office.

This year the emissions from our base building were reduced by 70.67% partly due to energy efficiency upgrades to the building by the building management including achieving a 5-star NABERS rating and partly due to other unspecified factors.

5.EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions over time

Emissions since base year			
		Total tCO_2-e (without uplift)	**Total tCO_2-e** (with uplift)
Base year:	2019–20	124.7	137.3
Year 1:	2020–21	111.3	116.9
Year 2:	2021–22	130.8	137.3
Year 3:	2022-23	104.25	109.42
Year 4:	2023-24	85.98	90.28

Significant changes in emissions

Significant changes in emissions			
Emission source	**Previous year emissions** (t CO_2-e)	**Current year emissions** (t CO_2-e)	**Reason for change**
Computer and technical services	14.65	9.53	Decrease in IT support services purchased this FY.

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

No climate active products or services were used in the 2023-24 financial year.

Emissions summary

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

	Sum of Scope 1 emissions (tCO2-e)	Sum of Scope 2 emissions (tCO2-e)	Sum of Scope 3 emissions (tCO2-e)	Sum of Total emissions (t CO2-e)
Accommodation and facilities	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.47
Cleaning and chemicals	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.72
Electricity	0.00	3.40	0.42	3.82
Food	0.00	0.00	4.19	4.19
Horticulture and agriculture	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ICT services and equipment	0.00	0.00	11.32	11.32
Office equipment and supplies	0.00	0.00	2.11	2.11
Postage, courier and freight	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03
Products	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.21
Professional services	0.00	0.00	22.21	22.21
Stationary energy (gaseous fuels)	4.37	0.00	0.31	4.67
Transport (air)	0.00	0.00	3.10	3.10
Transport (land and sea)	0.00	0.00	26.95	26.95
Waste	0.00	0.00	2.15	2.15
Water	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.37
Working from home	0.00	0.00	3.68	3.68
Grand Total	**4.37**	**3.40**	**78.21**	**85.98**

Uplift factors

An uplift factor is an upwards adjustment to the total carbon inventory to account for relevant emissions that cannot be reasonably quantified or estimated. This conservative accounting approach helps ensure the integrity of the carbon neutral claim.

Reason for uplift factor	**tCO_2-e**
5% uplift factor has been applied to overall emissions data to account for data assumptions and refrigerants	4.30
Total of all uplift factors	4.30
Total emissions footprint to offset *(total emissions from summary table + total of all uplift factors)*	**91**

6. CARBON OFFSETS

Eligible offsets retirement summary

Offsets retired for Climate Active certification

Type of offset unit	Quantity used for this reporting period	Percentage of total units used
Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)	50	54.95%
Verified Emissions Reductions (VERs)	41	45.05%

Project name	Type of offset unit	Registry	Date retired	Serial number	Vintage	Total quantity retired	Quantity used in previous reporting periods	Quantity banked for future reporting periods	Quantity used for this reporting period	Percentage of total used this reporting period
CO2OL Tropical Mix	VER	Gold Standard Impact Registry	30/10/2024	GS1-1-PA-GS2940-22-2020-26691-79992-80032 https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1796	2020	41	41	0	41	45.05%
Katingan Peatland Restoration and Conservation Project	VCU	Verra Registry	3/11/2024	12730-VCS-VCU-263-VER-ID-14- 1477-01012020-31122020-0 431177604 431177653 https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&h=268743	2020	50	50	0	50	54.95%

Co-benefits

- The Katingan Mentaya Project protects vital peatland in Central Kalimantan Indonesia from being destroyed. This also secures vital habitat for five critically endangered species including the Bornean Orangutan, Proboscis Monkey and Southern Bornean Gibbon. In partnership with 34 local villages, the project also builds community capacity and sustainable development through employment and education. By fostering inclusive partnerships and a culture of sustainability in local communities, the project serves to reduce poverty, enhance the well-being of communities and eliminate drivers of deforestation.

- The Biodiversity Planting project in Panama introduces sustainable timber production while reforesting degraded pastureland with a mix of native tree species and teak. The resulting forests offer a natural habitat for native animals and plants, protect and enrich the soil, save and filter water and contribute to the mitigation of climate change. The project provides long-term employment for the local population. So far, the Forest Finance Group has **created 150 jobs**, through their reforestation projects in Panama. The training and further education of the native population leads to an improved living standard.

  Knowledge transfer around the use of sustainable and innovative forest management technologies, GIS and monitoring-systems in Panama lays the ground for future projects.

  All employees **receive a wage above the legal minimum**, **health insurance** and a **pension fund**. Furthermore, they receive additional optional benefits such as a life insurance as a security for their families, an internal credit programme, training and further education and special seasonal bonuses.

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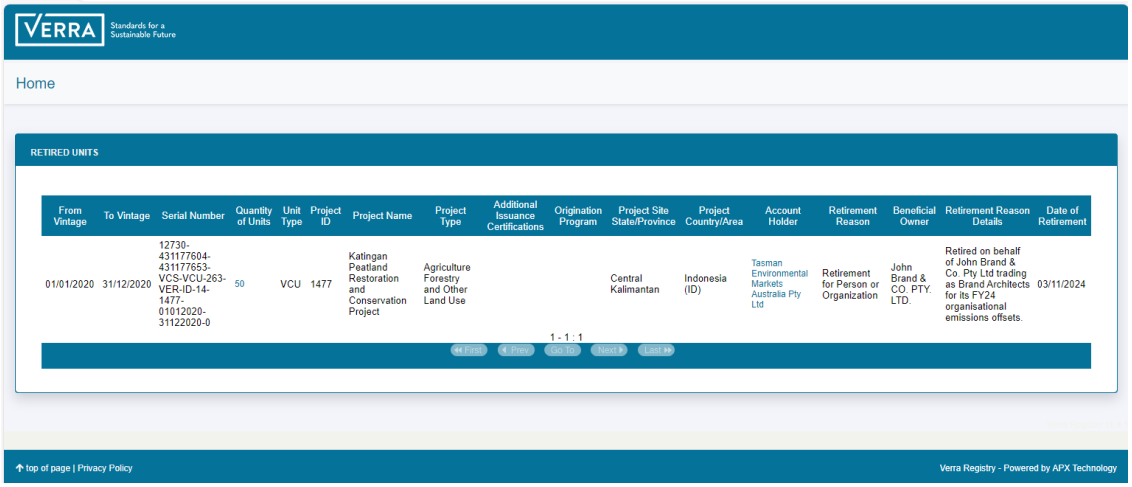
7. RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC) SUMMARY

Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) summary

N/A

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Katingan Peatland Conservation and Restoration project



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RETIRED UNITS

From Vintage	To Vintage	Serial Number	Quantity of Units	Unit Type	Project ID	Project Name	Project Type	Additional Issuance Certifications	Origination Program	Project Site State/Province	Project Country/Area	Account Holder	Retirement Reason	Beneficial Owner	Retirement Reason Details	Date of Retirement
01/01/2020	31/12/2020	12730-431177604-431177653-VCS-VCU-263-VER-ID-14-1477-01012020-31122020-0	50	VCU	1477	Katingan Peatland Restoration and Conservation Project	Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use			Central Kalimantan	Indonesia (ID)	Tasman Environmental Markets Australia Pty Ltd	Retirement for Person or Organization	John Brand & CO. PTY. LTD.	Retired on behalf of John Brand & Co. Pty Ltd trading as Brand Architects for its FY24 organisational emissions offsets.	03/11/2024

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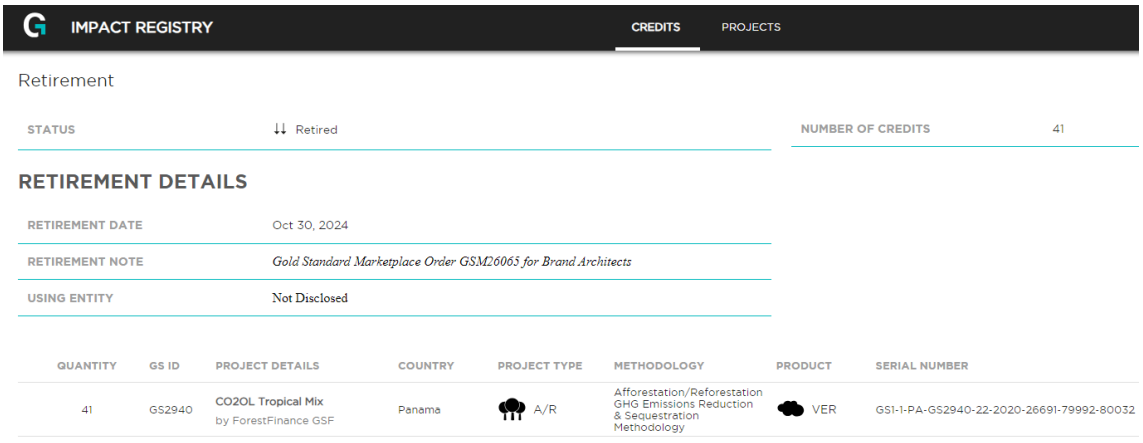
- CO2OL Tropical Mix



IMPACT REGISTRY CREDITS PROJECTS

Retirement

STATUS	Retired	NUMBER OF CREDITS	41

RETIREMENT DETAILS

RETIREMENT DATE	Oct 30, 2024
RETIREMENT NOTE	*Gold Standard Marketplace Order GSM26065 for Brand Architects*
USING ENTITY	Not Disclosed

QUANTITY	GS ID	PROJECT DETAILS	COUNTRY	PROJECT TYPE	METHODOLOGY	PRODUCT	SERIAL NUMBER
41	GS2940	CO2OL Tropical Mix by ForestFinance GSF	Panama	A/R	Afforestation/Reforestation GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Methodology	VER	GS1-1-PA-GS2940-22-2020-26691-79992-80032

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	37,037	0	73%
Climate Active certified - Precinct/Building (voluntary renewables)	0	0	0%
Climate Active certified - Precinct/Building (LRET)	0	0	0%
Climate Active certified - Precinct/Building jurisdictional renewables (LGCs surrendered)	0	0	0%
Climate Active certified - Electricity products (voluntary renewables)	0	0	0%
Climate Active certified - Electricity products (LRET)	0	0	0%
Climate Active certified - 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)	9,496	0	19%
Residual electricity	4,195	3,818	0%
Total renewable electricity (grid + non grid)	**46,533**	**0**	**92%**
Total grid electricity	**50,729**	**3,818**	**92%**
Total electricity (grid + non grid)	**50,729**	**3,818**	**92%**
Percentage of residual electricity consumption under operational control	100%		
Residual electricity consumption under operational control	**4,195**	**3,818**	
Scope 2	3,734	3,398	
Scope 3 (includes T&D emissions from consumption under operational control)	461	420	
Residual electricity consumption not under operational control	**0**	**0**	
Scope 3	0	0	

Total renewables (grid and non-grid)	**91.73%**
Mandatory	**18.72%**
Voluntary	**73.01%**
Behind the meter	**0.00%**
Residual scope 2 emissions (t CO_2-e)	**3.40**
Residual scope 3 emissions (t CO_2-e)	**0.42**
Scope 2 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO_2-e)	**3.40**
Scope 3 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO_2-e)	**0.42**
Total emissions liability (t CO_2-e)	**3.82**

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 (kg CO_2-e)**	**Scope 3 Emissions (kg CO_2-e)**	**(kWh)**	**Scope 3 Emissions (kg CO_2-e)**
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	50,729	50,729	40,076	3,551	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)	**50,729**	**50,729**	**40,076**	**3,551**	**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)	**50,729**					

Residual scope 2 emissions (t CO_2-e)	**40.08**
Residual scope 3 emissions (t CO_2-e)	**3.55**
Scope 2 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO_2-e)	**40.08**
Scope 3 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO_2-e)	**3.55**
Total emissions liability (t CO_2-e)	**43.63**

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
Refrigerants	Cost effective - Quantification is not cost effective relative to the size of the emission but uplift applied

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

N/A

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