

EMISSION REDUCTION PLAN

2025-26



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The Reef Authority acknowledges the expertise, wisdom, and enduring connections that have informed the guardianship of the Reef for millennia. We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners as the first managers of this Land and Sea Country, and value their traditional knowledge which continues to inform the current management and stewardship of the Reef for future generations.



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Chief Operating Officer's foreword

Climate change is a real and present threat to the Great Barrier Reef and to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (Reef Authority), which is charged with protecting and managing a global natural icon for current and future generations. The impacts of climate change are already being felt across the Reef and will continue to intensify, affecting the environment, society, and the economy. The Reef Authority [Climate Change Position Statement](#) outlines in detail the Reef Authority's position on climate change.

The Reef Authority recognises that human behaviours, pollution, and consumption patterns both locally and globally are key drivers of climate change. As a Commonwealth entity, we acknowledge our responsibility to lead by example and to actively mitigate and manage the impacts of our own operations on the climate and environment. Reducing emissions is critical to our mission and is fundamental to the long-term resilience of the Reef and the communities that depend on it.

This Emissions Reduction Plan, alongside our Reef Authority [Sustainability Strategy 2024-2027](#) establishes our position and commitments to reduce emissions.

Commitment to achieving net zero

The Reef Authority is committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2030.

The Reef Authority recognises that climate change is occurring, and that climate change will continue to have a significant effect on the Australian environment, society, and economy.

We acknowledge the central role of Government in driving a successful climate response. This Emission Reduction Plan 2025-26 expressed our ongoing commitment to reducing operational emissions, through the implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Our overall objectives align with the Commonwealth [Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy](#) to reduce our operational emissions.



Jameelie Fletchett

Chief Operating Officer / Chief Sustainability Officer

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Emissions Reduction Plan

Introduction

International scientific consensus is that climate change is occurring and that it is driven by anthropogenic causes, with human activities having a profound impact on the concentration of greenhouse gas emissions since the start of the industrial revolution. Ultimately these activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels, land clearing and agriculture, have increased greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, leading to changes in the climate system.

The Reef Authority [Climate Change Position Statement](#) details the Reef Authority's approach to climate change.

For the Reef Authority, projected changes to our climate between now and 2030, which will affect our operations include:

- further increase in temperatures, with more extremely hot days and fewer extremely cool days
- more frequent, longer, hotter heat waves
- more frequent, extensive, intensive, and longer-lasting marine heatwaves
- ongoing sea level rise
- further warming and acidification of the oceans
- increase in wet season rainfall in the north
- more intense heavy rainfall throughout Australia, particularly for short-duration extreme rainfall events (storms)
- an increase in the number of high fire weather danger days and a longer fire season for southern and eastern Australia
- fewer tropical cyclones, but a greater proportion of high-intensity storms, with large variations from year to year
- through a combination of many of these impacts, changes to biodiversity including increased species extinction.

Purpose

The Reef Authority has an essential role in managing and implementing emissions reduction initiatives set by the Australian Government's [Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy](#) (the Strategy) developed by the Commonwealth Department of Finance. The Strategy sets out the Australian Government's approach to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions from its operations by 2030 and the reinstatement of public emissions reporting.

The goal of this Emissions Reduction Plan and the Reef Authority [Sustainability Strategy 2024-2027](#), is to provide a pathway for the Reef Authority to contribute to the achievement of the APS Net Zero 2030 target through emissions reduction activities. This plan encompasses existing and new priorities and actions within the Reef Authority to reduce emissions.

This Emissions Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with the Strategy, associated guidance and reporting standards for annual emissions reporting.

Net zero greenhouse gas emissions

APS Net Zero 2030 is the target set by the Australian Government to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from government operations by the year 2030. It includes scope 1 and scope 2 emissions from activities in Australia and its territories, as described in the Strategy.

The APS Net Zero 2030 target applies at the aggregate level to non-corporate Commonwealth entities and generally covers the entirety of the entity's organisation. From an organisational perspective, this means minimising the greenhouse gas emissions that are within our control.

Governance and reporting

Progress against actions identified within the Emissions Reduction Plan are included in our Annual Report and reported at regular intervals to the Marine Park Authority Board. This, alongside the Reef Authority [Sustainability Strategy 2024-2027](#) and combined with annual emissions reporting, will be used as a measure of the Reef Authority's progress towards reducing its emissions.

As part of the [Net Zero in Government Operations Annual Progress Report](#), Department of Finance will aggregate these measures to provide the whole-of-Australian Government emissions reporting.

Scope

Inclusions

Emissions reduction activities align with the Strategy and the Reef Authority [Sustainability Strategy 2024-2027](#) with the initial focus primarily on scope 1 and scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions.

Future reviews will consider additional inclusions to align with the Strategy and organisational activities, including the consideration for scope 3.

Exclusions

Activities by Commonwealth entities that take place outside of Australia or its territories, including international air and marine travel, are not included in Australia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NCD) and are not included in the APS Net Zero 2030 target or subject to the Strategy. The Reef Authority, through its [Sustainability Strategy 2024-2027](#) will act as appropriate to reduce their emissions in the relevant local context as an aspirational goal for the Australian Government to demonstrate leadership and advance Australia's climate diplomacy objectives.

Reef Authority operational context

The Reef Authority is the lead manager for protecting the environment, biodiversity, and heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef (the Reef).

Our main office is in Townsville, and there are regional offices in Cairns and Yeppoon to maintain a close connection with those communities, as well as a small office in Canberra that provides ministerial, parliamentary and other agency liaison. In addition, we have staff located in shared office spaces owned by the Queensland Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation along the Reef catchment area, as part of the Reef Joint Field Management Program (FMP). Also located in Townsville is the Reef Authority's National Education Centre for the Great Barrier Reef, the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium (currently closed for a major redevelopment).

The Reef Authority primarily operates in Queensland, across the Great Barrier Reef catchment area. On 30 June 2025, the Reef Authority employed 235 people working across all offices. Our offices and the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium are predominantly in north and far north Queensland, which are subjected to extreme temperatures and severe weather events. The Reef Authority also manages some Commonwealth islands. Our activities include the operation of marine vessels along the length of the Great Barrier Reef as part of Reef Joint FMP in partnership with Queensland Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation.

The Reef Authority is committed to protecting the Reef for future generations. We do this through several strategies, including the [Reef Blueprint 2030](#), the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Strategy](#) for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the [Policy and Planning Strategic Roadmap](#). Other programs and activities to protect the Reef include the [Reef Joint FMP](#), and industry engagement. The [Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements \(TUMRA\)](#) are aimed at providing environmental and heritage protection. The Reef Authority's [Policy and Planning Strategic Roadmap](#) helps to better protect key Reef values, further enabling ecologically sustainable use and work with Traditional Owners and partners, including the tourism industry.

The Reef Authority started its emission reduction journey in 2007 and in 2022 formalised its net zero emissions pathway in line with the direction set in the [Reef Authority Sustainability Strategy](#) and the Strategy. This includes the following focus areas:

Strategy, Governance and Reporting

- the Reef Authority has put in place governance arrangements, dedicated staff and specific funding to implement key targets and initiatives.
- has a specific sustainability milestone in its annual operating plan and has opted into voluntary reporting beyond the mandatory requirements, including the Commonwealth Climate Disclosure.
- developed a Sustainable Procurement Framework and Policy available to all Reef Authority staff that aligns with the Department of Climate Change Energy Environment and Water [Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy](#) and [Sustainable Procurement Guide](#).
- has put in place green lease schedules in leasing agreements.
- supports people and culture and partnerships for change.
- has committed to sustainable construction practices.
- has committed to where possible verify sustainability performance through certification schemes such as Green Star and National Built Environment Rating System (NABERS).
- the Reef Authority is committed to lifting sustainable capability in its workforce.

Clean Energy and Clean Air

- all leased buildings are powered entirely by renewable energy sources (GreenPower®).
- all light passenger vehicles (12 vehicles) are Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs).
- electrification of sites and equipment is standard.
- energy efficiency is incorporated in the design of systems and facilities such as our recent 6 Star Green Star interiors rating for our head office.
- new marine vessels for the Reef Joint FMP are designed to incorporate efficiency measures (i.e. modern engines, efficient propellers, use of hybrid technology).

Circular Economy and Waste

- use of raw material plastics have been reduced by avoiding the purchase of plastics, or purchasing products made from recycled content.
- where possible, natural fibre materials for corporate apparel are used.
- where possible, the end of life of products is extended by repairing, using take back programs or re-use programs.

Nature Positive

- incorporate Nature Positive principles into procurements, such as preferring suppliers who engage with regenerative business practices in their operations.
- incorporate connection to nature in office environments, for example including biophilic elements in the recent head office interiors project.
- encourage staff participation in community activities such as beach clean-up events.
- where appropriate, consider carbon offsets (ACCU) for hard-to-abate emissions.

Baseline emissions

Baseline emissions are a record of greenhouse gases that have been produced in the past and were produced prior to the introduction of any strategies to reduce emissions. The baseline emissions from financial year 2022-23 are the reference point against which emissions reduction actions can be measured.

The baseline emissions for this plan focus on scope 1 and scope 2 emissions, consistent with the APS Net Zero 2030 target. Electricity-related emissions were calculated using the location-based method. The complete 2022-23 greenhouse gas emissions inventory tables for the Reef Authority are presented in our [2022-23 Annual Report](#)[^].

Table 1 – Reef Authority’s annual reportable emissions to Department of Finance in FY 2022-23

Baseline year	Financial year 2022-23
Scope 1 emissions	2,152 tCO ₂ -e
Scope 2 emissions (located-based)	958 tCO ₂ e
Total emissions (Scope 1 and 2)	3,110 tCO₂-e

tCO₂-e = tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

[^]Emissions differ from what was reported in the 2022-23 Annual Report following the inclusion of additional data that was not available at the time of reporting.

Engagement

In the development of this Emissions Reduction Plan the Reef Authority has engaged with:

- Department of Finance:
 - Climate Action in Government Operations – to ensure that this plan aligns with the Strategy and the Commonwealth Climate Disclosure requirements.
 - the whole-of-Australian Government fleet services and vehicle fleet teams – to transition to low emissions vehicles.
 - travel team – to discuss options and considerations for lowering travel emissions.
- the Queensland Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation – to coordinate emissions reduction strategies for marine fuels as part of the Reef Joint FMP.
- Reef Authority property services provider – to discuss options for energy efficiency measures and more sustainable management of waste.
- the building managers for each leasing arrangement – to discuss options for energy efficiency measures and renewable electricity generation and storage.

Emissions reduction targets

To achieve net zero emissions by 2030, we have adopted the following carbon reduction targets.

The Reef Authority's past sustainability measures prior to FY 2022-23 have been effective in significantly reducing emissions. For example, initiatives resulted in a 50 per cent reduction in emissions for the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium (formerly Reef HQ Aquarium) from 2007 - 2016.

We project that carbon emissions will be further decreased over the next five years from the current level to net zero emissions by 2030 for scope 1 and 2 emissions. This is ambitious but will be achieved through reduction in direct emissions as much as possible with existing technologies and using offsets (ACCU) for the hardest to abate emissions. We will only use offsets as a last resort, and ensure offsets chosen have co-benefits that align with our values.

The Reef Authority have also committed to reducing our scope 3 emissions to net zero by 2030 beyond the requirements of the Strategy. This includes major sources of scope 3 emissions such as marine fuel use for our Crown of Thorns Starfish (COTS) control program undertaken by marine services contractors.

This Emissions Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with the Strategy, associated guidance, reporting standards for annual emissions reporting.

Priorities and actions

Priorities

The Reef Authority has identified several priority areas where emissions are to be reduced to meet net zero by 2030. These include:

- procurement
- buildings
- sustainable construction practices
- electricity
- vehicle fleet
- marine fuels
- corporate travel
- staff commuting
- waste
- information and communications technology (ICT)
- people, culture and capability.

Progress on actions

The Reef Authority has made significant progress in actioning its initial [Emissions Reduction Plan 2024-2025](#) which has resulted in a significant reduction in emissions over a 12-month period (see Table 3).

A summary of the progress of the FY 2024-25 actions is provided in Table 2 with more detail provided in the subsequent paragraphs, including new actions to further reduce emissions.

Table 2 – Reef Authority’s annual reportable emissions to Department of Finance

Priority Area	Action for FY 2023-24	Progress Update
Procurement	Track procurements to assess what sustainability measures are being included in procurements and where opportunities for improvements exists.	Ongoing - Scope 3 emissions from procurements have been estimated for the FY. Improvements have been made with procurement of stationery, office paper and media materials.
Buildings	Achieve a Green Star Interiors rating for the head office in Townsville	Completed – Awarded a 6-star Green Star Interiors rating (v1.3).
	Achieve a NABERS Energy and a NABERS Waste rating for the head office in Townsville	Ongoing – to be completed in FY25-26 following 12-months of data captured.
Electricity	Purchase 100 per cent renewable electricity (GreenPower®) for all properties owned or leased.	Completed & Ongoing – will continue each year.
	Continue to operate the solar system at the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium while the infrastructure is operational.	Ongoing – will continue into next FY.
Vehicle fleet	As fit for purpose vehicles come into the market for heavy duty field vehicles, these will be assessed and adopted if appropriate.	Ongoing – trial of a hybrid AWD vehicle will be conducted in Q3 2025.
	Prepare our first electrical vehicle charging plan and update at least every two years.	Completed – will update in Q1 2026.
Marine fuels	Work with partners in the Queensland Government through the Reef Joint FMP to find alternatives to the use of marine diesel from fossil fuels.	Ongoing – in the meantime, continuing to focus on fuel efficiency measures for existing fleet.
Corporate travel	Prepare a green travel plan to support and encourage more sustainable commuting options.	Completed – will expand to support other offices.
ICT	Assets will be tracked, and targets set to minimise waste to landfill.	Ongoing – E-waste and battery recycling has been improved across the agency. We aim to reuse/recycle all these materials.

Priority Area	Action for FY 2023-24	Progress Update
Waste	End of life of furniture and 'no-make good' clauses to be included in leases.	Completed – included in the leases for main offices.
	Plastics are avoided for consumable products where possible.	Ongoing – progress made with reduction of plastic purchased in stationery, furniture, cleaning wipes, lanyards and access card holders.
	Establish a system for effectively tracking office waste	Completed – tracking systems now in place for main offices measuring waste to landfill, waste recycled and diversion rates.
People, culture and capability	The Reef Authority will continue to maintain a team dedicated to sustainability.	Ongoing – dedicated team maintained for FY 23-24.
	This team will coordinate internal training, identify possible external training and assist the senior executive team to stay abreast of important matters.	Ongoing – Carbon literacy training provided to executive team and key stakeholders to upskill and uplift capability in achieving net zero APS
	The sustainability and communications teams will continue to promote sustainability, progress and events internally.	Ongoing – Regular resources and communications provided to staff including regular updates on dedicated Intranet page, internal webinars on recycling, Ride2Work Day, and greenhouse gas emissions for FY23-24 shared with staff.
	The Sustainability team will continue participating in focus and working groups with other government entities and key stakeholders to share knowledge and develop solutions for challenges.	Ongoing – Reef Authority shared our experience with preparing Climate Change Disclosures at the APS conference and shared Green Star Interiors project learnings at the Circular Futures Summit in Townsville.

Procurement

A Reef Authority Sustainable Procurement Framework and Policy (internal policy) has been developed to align with Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water [Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy](#) and [Sustainable Procurement Guide](#). This document provides a central document to guide staff on Reef Authority policies and procedures. Links to case studies and other guidance assist staff to incorporate sustainability requirements into procurements and contracts.

Plastics have been avoided for consumable products where possible including corporate uniforms, lanyards and cleaning wipes.

NEW ACTIONS: The Reef Authority will:

- continue work with our internal procurement team and contract managers to assess what sustainability measures are being included in procurements and where opportunities for improvements exist.

- conduct a 'plastic free audit' of our head office in Townsville to identify additional areas for improvement.

Buildings

The Reef Authority's Townsville head office is a high priority building for the Reef Authority to ensure that we show leadership in modelling the principles of sustainability in the built environment. The Stanley Place head office which spans three floors was successful in achieving a [6 star Green Star Interiors rating](#) with the Green Building Council of Australia. This world-leading rating demonstrates sustainability over a range of areas throughout the building fit-out project.

The head office base building currently has a 5-star NABERS Energy rating.

NEW ACTIONS: The Reef Authority will:

- seek a NABERS Energy and NABERS Waste rating for its occupied space in the head office (tenancy ratings)
- investigate the viability for NABERS ratings for our other offices.

Sustainable construction practices

The Reef Authority is committed to demonstrating leadership in sustainable construction across all new builds, refurbishments and major upgrades. Applying sustainability principles during construction ensures that our facilities minimise environmental impact, reduce embodied carbon, and support long-term operational efficiency. Sustainable construction practices also contribute to improved resource management, healthier workplaces, and alignment with national best-practice standards for green buildings.

The Reef Authority has already integrated sustainability considerations into recent refurbishment projects and is working to strengthen these practices across all future construction activities including the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium redevelopment.

NEW ACTIONS: The Reef Authority will:

- embed sustainable construction requirements into all new building, refurbishment and demolition projects, including waste minimisation, water efficiency, material optimisation and low-carbon material selection.
- prioritise certified and responsibly sourced materials, including FSC-certified timber and recycled-content construction products.
- ensure project planning and design phases include sustainability assessments such as embodied-carbon analysis or life-cycle considerations.
- implement construction waste management plans for all major projects to maximise recycling and reduce landfill.

- incorporate nature-positive design principles, including the use of native species in landscaping and avoiding impacts to greenfield sites where possible.
- conduct post-project reviews to evaluate sustainability outcomes and apply lessons learned to future construction activities.

Electricity

Renewable electricity

The Reef Authority purchases 100 per cent renewable electricity (GreenPower®) for all properties owned or leased.

We continue to monitor the viability of installing further on-site renewable systems, including storage, at other owned or leased properties.

ACTION: We are committed to purchasing GreenPower for 100 per cent of the electricity that we use for the 25-26 financial year.

Solar PV installation

The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium is currently fitted with a 260-kW rooftop solar system.

ACTION: It will continue to operate while the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium infrastructure is operational.

Energy efficiency

The number of appliances in office spaces has been consolidated, and upgrades consider the long-term energy usage through the Australian Energy Rating scheme.

Ensure scheduled preventative maintenance is carried out on appliances such as air conditioning units, to maintain efficient operation.

NEW ACTION: Continue to implement energy efficiency upgrades in leased and owned properties to reduce electricity consumption including removing disused appliances and air conditioners, installing LED lights and shade structures. Renewable energy will be incorporated into the design of the redevelopment of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium.

Vehicle fleet

The light passenger fleet (12 vehicles) was maintained as entirely EVs. The remaining vehicles used by the Reef Authority are internal combustion engine 4WDs which are not subject to the current [Commonwealth Vehicle Selection Policy](#) requirements for passenger vehicles.

We have procured a plug-in hybrid AWD utility vehicle (PHEV) to trial the technology and assess its performance in our operations.

An electrical vehicle charging plan has been developed and staff are supported with training materials, journey planning and lists of hotels with charging capabilities.

NEW ACTIONS: To further reduce emissions from our land-based vehicles, the Reef Authority will:

- monitor fleet performance, vehicle utilisation, fuel consumption to identify opportunities for fleet optimisation.
- as more fit for purpose vehicles come into the market for heavy duty field vehicles, these will be assessed and adopted if appropriate.
- revise our electrical vehicle charging plan at least every 12 months.

Marine fuels

Marine fuels (petrol and diesel) are the Reef Authority's hardest to abate emissions. Significant steps have been taken to increase efficiency of existing vessels through modifications to design and operation to reduce marine fuel use.

Reductions in fuel usage have been reported for both the Reef Joint FMP (considered scope 1) and the COTS (considered scope 3) programs since the initial [Emissions Reduction Plan 2024-25](#). High-quality, carbon drawdown, Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) were purchased and surrendered to offset the necessary marine fuel emissions from the Reef Joint JFMP for the 23-24 financial year.

NEW ACTIONS: The Reef Authority will:

- continue to work with partners in the Queensland Government through the Reef Joint FMP to reduce fuel usage through efficiencies and behaviour change.
- continue to investigate viable sustainable fuel sources for marine vessels to reduce reliance on petrol and diesel.
- is committed to offsetting the emissions from the Reef Joint FMP with ACCUs for the 24-25 financial year.
- continue to support the COTS control program in reducing emissions from marine fuels used by our marine services contractors.

Corporate travel

All staff travel requires prior approval. During the approval process, the necessity of attending in person is weighed against the associated emissions. In line with internal policies and the Department of Finance [Domestic Travel Policy](#), meetings, training, and conferences are conducted virtually wherever possible.

Resources have been developed to support staff in choosing more sustainable options for corporate travel where it can't be avoided such as using hybrid or EV hire vehicles, utilising the regional rail network, and choosing direct flights over options with multiple stops.

Over the past 12 months, emissions from domestic corporate travel have reduced by over 50 per cent.

High-quality, carbon drawdown ACCUs have been purchased and surrendered to offset the necessary domestic travel emissions for the 23-24 financial year.

NEW ACTIONS: To further reduce emissions from our corporate travel, the Reef Authority will:

- review our internal Travel Policy to ensure it prioritises lower emissions travel where possible.
- is committed to offsetting the emissions from domestic and international travel with ACCUs for the 24-25 financial year.
- continue to provide education to staff on viable options for lower emissions travel.
- strive to reduce our emissions from domestic travel year on-year.

Staff commute

The Reef Authority developed a green transport plan and travel access guides for our head office that encourages staff to choose low emissions commuting options where possible.

Improvements to the end of trip facilities have also been made to further facilitate alternative commuting options.

Over the past 12 months, the number of single occupant trips have reduced by approximately 20 per cent.

NEW ACTION: The Reef Authority will expand the development of a green transport plan to include the regional offices (Cairns, Yeppoon, Airle Beach and Gladstone).

Waste

Significant improvements have been made in our approach to generating and tracking waste including:

- an Operational Waste Management Plan has been developed for the organisation to standardise and streamline our resource management.
- a system for accurately tracking office waste has been established for our main office.
- introduced multiple new resource recovery streams in our office spaces including food organics, batteries, and e-waste.
- have aligned ourselves with the [National Waste Policy Action Plan](#) of targeting 80 per cent resource recovery, and a 10 per cent reduction in waste generated by 2030
- provided high quality education to staff to ensure a whole-of-Authority capability uplift.

These actions have increased the recycling rate at our head office by over 15 per cent in less than 9 months.

NEW ACTIONS: To further reduce emissions from waste, the Reef Authority will:

- continue to track and monitor our waste generation and recovery rates within our offices.

- improve our tracking methodologies for our regional offices in Cairns and Yeppoon
- introduce new recovery options to offices as they become available.

ICT

Embodied carbon and end of life is considered when choosing digital equipment and systems in accordance with the Digital Transformation Agency [Sustainable Device Management Guide](#), for example, with our recent upgrade of mobile phones.

Take back programs and extension of life programs are utilised where possible.

The number of onsite servers has been reduced resulting in energy efficiency gains.

Collection systems for end-of-life batteries and e-waste have been improved across our offices to minimise these materials going to landfill.

NEW ACTIONS: The Reef Authority will:

- continue work with our internal ICT team to assess what sustainability measures are being included in procurements and where opportunities for improvements exist.
- continue to maximise the repair, reuse and recycling of our digital equipment.

People, culture and capability

The reef authority values its staff and culture.

Certified carbon literacy training was provided to the leadership team and key staff members to improve the organisation's knowledge and capability to achieve net zero. Almost 10 per cent of staff have conducted this training including key teams such as finance, travel and communications.

New actions: the Reef Authority will:

- Continue to maintain a team dedicated to sustainability. This team will coordinate internal training, identify possible external training and assist the senior executive team to stay abreast of important matters.
- The sustainability and communication teams will continue to promote sustainability, progress and events internally.
- The sustainability team will continue participating in focus and working groups with other government entities and key stakeholders to share knowledge and develop solutions for challenges.
- The Reef Authority will continue to share learnings to provide resources for others to access such as [Reef Authority sustainable buildings](#).

Progress on Emissions Reduction

The Reef Authority's greenhouse gas emissions reporting is consistent with the Department of Finance whole of Australian Government approach.

Within this approach, our data demonstrates a **declining trend** in scope 1, while we have **maintained net zero** in scope 2 (purchase of renewable electricity) – refer Table 3.

New measures for scope 3 reporting was introduced by Department of Finance for the 2023-24 including solid waste to landfill, and domestic flights, accommodation and hire vehicles. An initial increase in total emissions was reported from the baseline due to these additional reporting requirements for scope 3. When comparing the total emissions from the past two financial years where scope 3s reporting was consistent, a **declining trend** is observed.

Table 3 – Reef Authority's annual reportable emissions to Department of Finance (tCO₂-e)

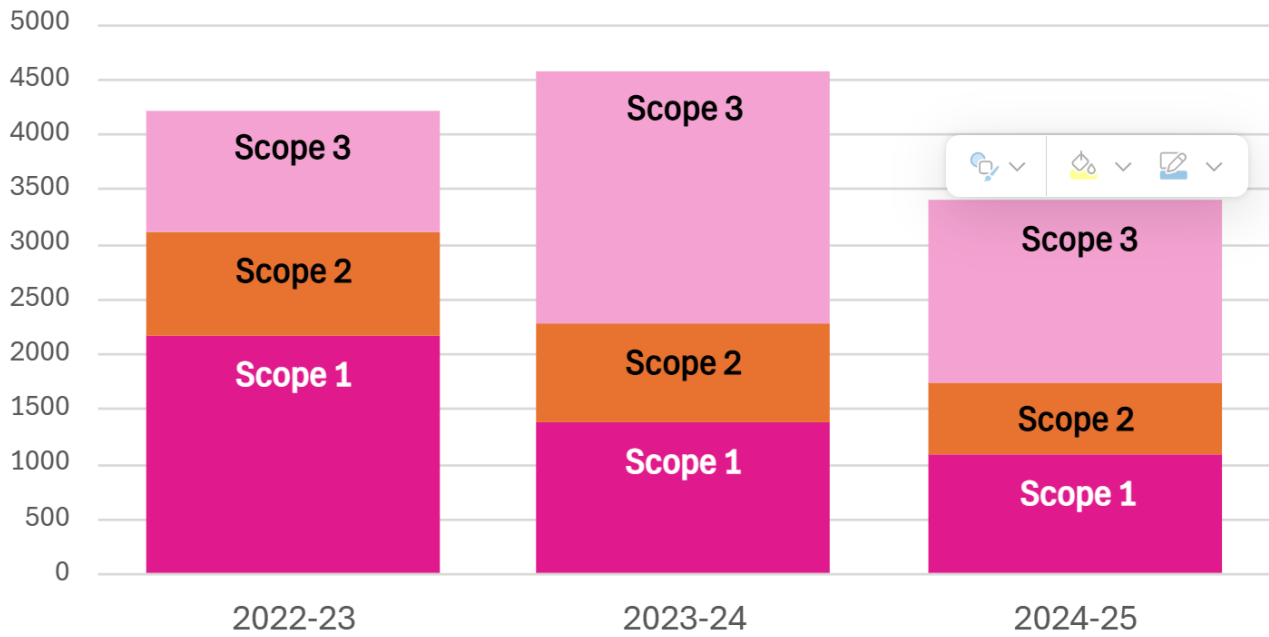
	Baseline year 2022-23 [^]	Financial year 2023-24	Trend %	Financial year 2024-25	Trend %
Scope 1	2,152	1,386	-55	1,088	-27
Scope 2 location-based	958	895	-7	653	-37
Scope 2 market-based*	0	0	-	0	-
Scope 3	1,084	2,286	+53	1,655	-38
Total market-based	3,236	3,672	+12	2,743	-34
Total location-based	4,194	4,567	+8	3,396	-34

*because electricity is purchased from 100% renewable energy sources (GreenPower)

Scope 3 includes – waste to landfill, domestic flights, accommodation, hire vehicles, and marine fuel use for COTS program.

[^]Emissions differ from what was reported in the 2022-23 Annual Report following the inclusion of additional data that was not available at the time of reporting.

Figure 1 – Reef Authority progress on emissions reduction (tCO2-e)



Continuous improvement

The Reef Authority is committed to continuous improvement and reaching further ambitious initiatives and targets. We commit to a system of continuous improvement and will review and revise our Emission Reduction Plan annually.



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