Sustainability Bond Framework Version 1.0 (February 2022)





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Part A: Introduction

About us

NBN Co Limited (the **Company** or **NBN Co**) is committed to responding to the digital connectivity needs of all Australians, working with industry, governments, regulators and community partners to lift the digital capability of Australia.

As a Government Business Enterprise (**GBE**), the principal responsibility of NBN Co is to build and operate the National Broadband Network (**NBN Co network**) in accordance with the Commonwealth Government's Statement of Expectations, dated 26 August 2021 and released publicly on 31 August 2021¹.

The Company's key objective is to support Australia's digital economy by creating opportunities for communities, governments and industry to drive digital adoption and innovation.

In addition to building and operating a network that is reliable, fast, resilient and secure, NBN Co is committed to meeting the current and future broadband needs of households and businesses, including in regional Australia, fostering productivity and innovation, and supporting the nation to be a leading digital economy and society.

As the network wholesaler, NBN Co provides access to all Retail Service Providers (RSPs) on a non-discriminatory basis. This approach is intended to level the playing field in the Australian telecommunications industry, enhancing competition and innovation, and providing greater choice for customers² across the country. It is through RSPs that customers connect to the NBN Co network for access to high-speed internet. NBN Co is delivering high-speed broadband to customers across Australia over an area of more than seven million square kilometres. Working in collaboration with industry partners, NBN Co is committed to connecting Australian homes and businesses so they can access the positive social and economic benefits that fast broadband enables.



- 1 https://www.nbnco.com.au/corporate-information/about-nbn-co.
- 2 Final downstream customers to NBN Co's Retail Service Providers (RSPs).

Our values

Our values underpin the way in which we act and behave. They describe what is important to us and guide us on how we think and interact with our customers, each other, and our communities.

We are one team

Respect

each other, we create an inclusive environment

Put team above yourself, recognise one another's contribution to create an even greater outcome

Better together, share ideas and resources across the Company, partner effectively with industry We are fearless

Listen, really listen, invite feedback and ask

'why' to genuinely understand

Speak up, knowing it's safe and expected to call things out, share bold ideas

Trust and empower each other to make decisions and get things done

We deliver

Start by asking,

'would this make a positive difference for our customers?'

Set high expectations,

accept accountability and honour our commitments

Strive and adapt,

being innovative and always finding solutions to achieve excellence We care

Uphold the safety and wellbeing

of each other and ourselves

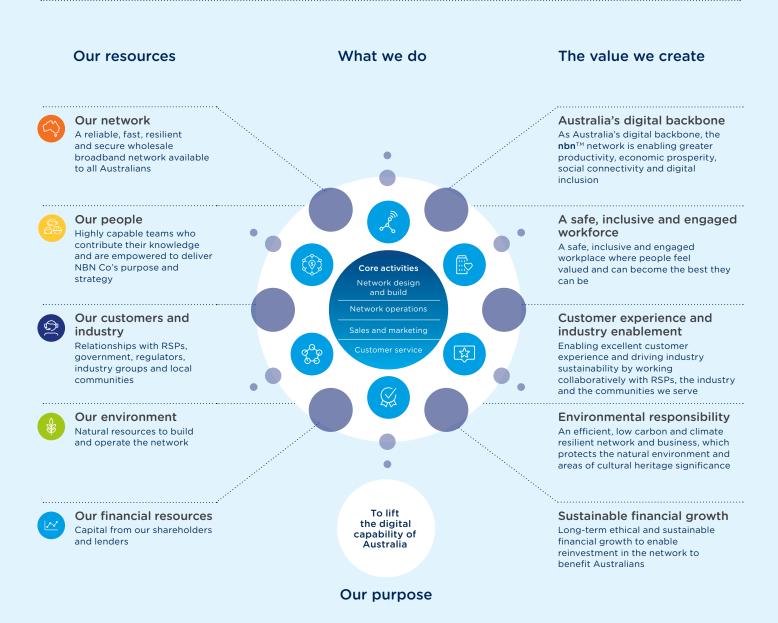
Lead with purpose, do the best for our communities

Be curious,

there's always something to learn so together we can grow

Our value creation model

For NBN Co, sustainability is the intersection of social, economic and environmental risks, issues and opportunities. NBN Co's company-wide Sustainability Program focuses on six material topics, which directly influence the Company and the outcomes created for customers and the communities we serve. Taking action on these topics creates value across all five streams of the Company's value creation model.



Our technology

The NBN Co network is a wholesale-only bitstream multi-technology network, incorporating a mix of Fibre to the Premises (FTTP), Fibre to the Node (FTTN), Fibre to the Building (FTTB), Fibre to the Curb (FTTC) and Hybrid Fibre Coaxial (HFC) fixed-line access technologies as well as fixed wireless and satellite services. This network connects premises across Australia to 121 "points of interconnection" where end user traffic is handed over between the NBN Co network and Retail Service Providers' own networks. The following table illustrates the technology mix of the NBN Co network as at 30 June 2021, including the indicative maximum download speeds available to end users for each technology.

Technology	Description	% of premises ⁽¹⁾	Indicative max. download speed (Mbps) ⁽²⁾
Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP)	Connection through fibre optic cable all the way to premises	17.5	1,000
Fibre-to-the-Node (FTTN)	Fibre connection into neighbourhoods and then makes use of the existing copper into the premises	34.8	100
Fibre-to-the-Building (FTTB)	Fibre connection to a node within a multi-dwelling building, and then makes use of existing copper to individual units	5.3	100
Fibre-to-the-Curb (FTTC)	Fibre connection to the curb and then makes use of the existing copper into the premises	12.5	100
Hybrid Fibre Coaxial (HFC)	Leverages existing networks of fibre and coaxial cable to deliver broadband services into premises	21.1	1,000
Fixed Wireless	Connection predominantly to rural communities and outer metropolitan areas outside the reach of the NBN Co fixed-line network	5.2	75
Sky Muster Satellite	Employs satellite technology to provide services to remote areas at speeds up to 25/5 Mbps	3.6	25(3)

Notes:

- (1) Percentage of ready to connect premises. A premise is ready to connect when an NBN Co service order can be placed, and the service can be connected within an area that has been declared ready for service. In FY21, ready to connect premises included those which were temporarily categorised as HFC supply constrained, where our work on the network was complete but in the short-term an order could not be placed due to a global supply shortage impacting our HFC connections. We recommenced taking orders for new HFC connections on 26 July 2021.
- (2) Indicated speeds are the maximum enabled speeds for each technology. The indicated maximum speed will not be available at all locations. Actual maximum speeds depend on a range of factors including location and, for FTTN, distance from the node.
- (3) Sky Muster Plus can burst upwards towards 50 Mbps but this is not guaranteed.

Why sustainability matters to us

Embedding sustainability in the Company's activities supports NBN Co's purpose to lift the digital capability of Australia. NBN Co's company-wide Sustainability Program focuses on six material topics and their related risks, issues and opportunities:







Economic contribution



Resilient network



Climate



Diversity and inclusion



Transparent and accountable business

UN SDG alignment

NBN Co supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were developed and adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 to achieve a more sustainable future for all by 2030. NBN Co has identified SDGs 7, 8, 9 and 12 most relevant to this Sustainability Bond Framework.









Part B: NBN Co Sustainability Bond Framework

NBN Co has developed this Sustainability Bond Framework (Framework) to demonstrate how the Company intends to enter transactions which support NBN Co's purpose and sustainability program of work. NBN Co will contribute towards sustainable development through Green, Social and Sustainability Bonds (GSS Bonds) by earmarking the proceeds to finance or refinance eligible green and social projects that deliver positive environmental and social outcomes. This Framework describes the eligible green projects and eligible social projects which include assets, investments and other related and supporting expenditures (Eligible Projects).

This Framework has been developed to demonstrate how NBN Co:

- May issue green bonds that are aligned with the Green Bond Principles (GBP)³ (each a Green Bond)
- May issue social bonds that are aligned with the Social Bond Principles (SBP)⁴ (each a Social Bond)
- May issue sustainability bonds that are aligned with the GBP, SBP and Sustainability Bond Guidelines (SBG)⁵ (each a Sustainability Bond)
- May contribute to towards meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)⁶.

This Framework may be subsequently updated as the Sustainable Finance market evolves.

Each GSS Bond issued under this Framework will align with the five core components as described in this Framework:

- 1. Use of Proceeds
- 2. Process for Project Evaluation and Selection
- 3. Management of Proceeds
- 4.Reporting
- 5. External Review.

 $^{3 \}quad \text{https://www.icmagroup.org/sustainable-finance/the-principles-guidelines-and-handbooks/green-bond-principles-gbp/} \\$

 $^{4 \}quad https://www.icmagroup.org/sustainable-finance/the-principles-guidelines-and-handbooks/social-bond-principles-sbp/apple. \\$

 $^{5 \}quad https://www.icmagroup.org/sustainable-finance/the-principles-guidelines-and-handbooks/sustainability-bond-guidelines-sbg/$

⁶ https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/

Use of Proceeds

The net proceeds of each Green Bond issued under this Framework will be exclusively applied to finance or refinance, in part or in full, new and/or existing eligible green projects that meet one or more of the following categories of eligibility as recognised in the GBP (Eligible Green Projects).

The list below includes a sample of Eligible Green Projects which may be considered by NBN Co:

Categories	
Energy efficiency	

Eligible GRD

Green Project Descriptions Deployment of Australia's

broadband network, using a more energy-efficient technology such as a fixed line fibre optic connection instead of legacy technology (i.e. copper), to lift the digital capability of Australia.

Eligibility Criteria

Expenditure and investments related to improvements in energy efficiency of the NBN Co network technologies and infrastructure. To be eligible, NBN Co network technologies deployed must be signficantly more energy efficient as measured by a kilowatt-hour per gigabyte of data (kwh/GB) unit when compared to legacy technology (i.e. copper).

Example projects:

- FTTP
- FTTN
- FTTB
- FTTC
- HFC
- Transit Network Infrastructure including Fibre

Renewable energy

Purchasing renewable electricity to power our network and infrastructure in line with our RE100 Commitment. Expenditure and investments related to renewable energy generation, consumption and energy storage solutions such as batteries.

Example projects:

 Power Purchase Agreements that utlise solar, wind or battery technologies and are longer than five years.

SDG Mapping



Expenditure and investments target improved energy efficiency of the NBN Co network



Expenditure and investments target improved energy efficiency of the NBN Co network



Expenditure and investments related to renewable energy and energy storage solutions supports increasing renewable energy produced



Expenditure and investments related to renewable energy and energy storage solutions supports increasing renewable energy produced and therefore sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

The net proceeds of each Social Bond issued under this Framework will be exclusively applied to finance or refinance, in part or in full, new and/or existing eligible social projects that meet one or more of the following categories of eligibility as recognised in the SBP (Eligible Social Projects).

The list below includes a sample of Eligible Social Projects which may be considered by NBN Co:

Eligible SBP Categories	Target Populations	Social Project Description	Eligibility Criteria	SDG Mapping
Access to essential services and Socioeconomic advancement and empowerment	Underserved Regional and Remote Communities ¹	Deployment of Australia's broadband network for underserved regional and remote communities, using Fixed Wireless or Satellite technology, to lift the digital capability of Australia.	infrastructure, facilities, technologies and solutions to	Expenditure and investments related to NBN Co network infrastructure, facilities, technologies and solutions, support sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and productive employment Expenditure and investments related to NBN Co network infrastructure, facilities, technologies and solutions, support the development of reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure

¹ Underserved Regional and Remote Communities includes those people living in regional and remote communities with low take up of broadband services. Communities are considered to be low take up on the basis of low NBN Co network service penetration (i.e. the number of premises ready to connect compared to number of premises connected to a NBN Co network service) and where it is reported that mobile and legacy broadband services (ADSL/ADSL2) are sub-standard.

The net proceeds of each GSS Bond issued under this Framework will be exclusively applied to finance or refinance, in part or in full, a combination of new and/or existing Eligible Green Projects and Eligible Social Projects.

The eligible categories under the GBP and SBP may be expanded over time. It is expected that where required the list of selected Eligible Green Projects and Eligible Social Projects will be dynamic and reflect NBN Co's priorities.

Given the long-term nature of NBN Co assets and precedents established from comparable issuers, the Company has selected a 36-month look-back period.

Exclusions:

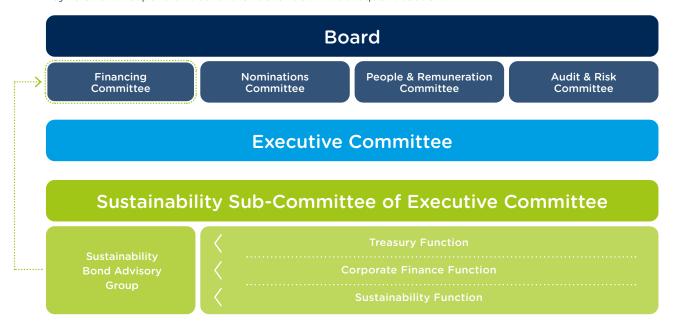
NBN Co is committed to making a positive difference in our communities and caring for our environment and therefore commits to not knowingly being involved in financing any of the following projects or activities using the proceeds from any GSS Bond issued under this Framework: weapons, gambling, tobacco, or fossil fuel production.

The Process for Project Evaluation and Selection

The process for project evaluation and selection will ensure that the net proceeds of each GSS Bond issued under this Framework will meet the criteria set out above. This process and NBN Co's broader approach to sustainability and sustainable finance is described below.

Sustainability and Sustainable Finance Governance structure at NBN Co

NBN Co's sustainability and sustainable finance governance structure is visually represented below with key roles and responsibilities further described in subsequent sections.



The role of the Sustainability Sub-Committee of Executive Committee (ExCo)

NBN Co's executive Sustainability Sub-Committee provides sustainability leadership across the organisation. This Sub-Committee meets quarterly and consists of six ExCo members with the Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer acting as Chair.

The role of the Advisory Group and Financing Committee

NBN Co has formed a Sustainability Bond Advisory Group (**Advisory Group**) to carry out the evaluation and selection process. It considers and makes recommendations in respect of matters relating to GSS Bonds in funding arrangements and Debt Capital Markets.

The role of the Advisory Group is to consider and make recommendations to the Financing Committee in respect of the following matters:

- the establishment of the Framework and where required, any updates, for the issuance of, and investment of proceeds from GSS Bonds;
- the identification of appropriate projects to be funded from proceeds of GSS Bonds; and
- the provision of annual reporting in respect of GSS Bonds and the Eligible Projects to investors.

Members of the Advisory Group serve in an advisory capacity only. Members do not have any executive powers, supervisory functions or decision-making authority in relation to the operations of NBN Co by virtue solely of their membership in the Advisory Group.

The Financing Committee is a Sub-Committee of the Board. Its role is to consider and approve all matters related to NBN Co's debt raising programmes, funding proposals and capital management strategy. This includes programs, proposals and strategies relating to sustainable finance transactions.

The Financing Committee is not bound by advice or recommendations received from the Advisory Group but will consider it appropriately in the context of the overall strategy and direction of NBN Co. The Financing Committee will advise the Advisory Group on the position or decisions taken in respect of the advice and/or recommendations received from the Advisory Group.

The stages of the process by which NBN Co determines how its projects fit within the eligible categories identified above is outlined below.

Step	Details
Asset and project identification	Advisory Group meets monthly
	 Advisory Group assesses Eligible Projects for the GSS Bond
2. Eligibility review	 Eligible Projects are reviewed for compliance with criteria outlined in NBN Co's Sustainability Bond Framework
3. Approval	 Advisory Group approves projects against criteria outlined in NBN Co's Sustainability Bond Framework
	 Advisory Group makes recommendations to the Financing Committee for final approval
4. Reporting established	Reporting on Eligible Projects and management of proceeds established
5. Pre-Issuance Assurance	 Second Party Opinion (SPO) provider or external reviewer completes pre-issuance assurance
	 Advisory Group oversees engagement with external reviewer to ensure the GSS Bond complies with the Sustainability Bond Framework
6. Bond Issuance	• GSS Bonds
7. Post-Issuance Assurance	External reviewer completes post-issuance assurance
8. Annual Assurance and Reporting	Annual NBN Co Sustainability Bond Report completed
	 Annual assurance review for ongoing compliance of the GSS Bond with NBN Co Sustainability Bond Framework

The Advisory Group will work closely with the Sustainability Function within NBN Co to identify and manage potentially material environmental and social risks associated with Eligible Projects. Specifically, the Advisory Group will review any reports NBN Co issues that relate to the Advisory Group's responsibilities, or other relevant information identified by the Treasury, Sustainability and Corporate Finance Functions.

NBN Co's broader approach to risk management supports the management of any environmental and social risks associated with Eligible Projects. NBN Co's Risk Management Standard underpins and supports the implementation of NBN Co's Risk Management Policy by defining the approach, methodology and processes enabling NBN Co to manage the risk (or uncertainty) to achieve its business objectives. NBN Co's Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Standard have been developed in accordance with ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management Guidelines.

Management of Proceeds

Sustainable Bonds Register

To manage the net proceeds of each GSS Bond issued under this Framework, NBN Co will establish a Sustainable Bonds Register.

The proceeds of each GSS Bond will be allocated to one or more Eligible Projects aligned with the eligibility criteria described above and identified in the Sustainable Bonds Register.

The Sustainable Bonds Register will be reviewed annually by the Sustainability Bond Advisory Group to account for any re-allocation, repayments or drawings on the Eligible Projects.

The Sustainable Bonds Register will contain relevant information including:

- Details of each GSS Bond: key information including issue date, principal amount of proceeds, maturity date, interest margin or coupon, ISIN number etc.
- · Details of use of proceeds, including:
 - Summary detail of Eligible Projects to which the proceeds have been allocated in accordance with this Framework, including name, description, location, project categorisation (green, social or sustainability), relevant sustainable finance principles and criteria for example, ICMA Green and Social Bond Principles and key impact metrics evidencing eligibility (for example, energy intensity), and SDG alignment
 - Aggregate amount of proceeds allocated to each Eligible Project category (both in absolute and percentage terms)
 - Confirmation of appropriate delegation authority, i.e. the Sustainability Bond Advisory Group, endorsement that each Eligible Project is considered to be an eligible use of proceeds under this Framework
 - Any proceeds yet to be allocated to Eligible Projects
 - Estimated environmental and social impact (for a list of sample impact indicators see Appendix 2), and
 - Other necessary information.

Internal governance process - tracking allocation of funds towards Eligible Projects

The proceeds of each GSS Bond will be allocated to finance or re-finance Eligible Projects. This includes refinancing of existing debt which has been allocated to Eligible Projects but excludes refinancing debt associated with carbon-intensive activities and/or assets. NBN Co will track the receipt and use of proceeds via its internal reporting systems and leverage these same systems to ensure the proceeds are fully allocated to Eligible Projects. Eligible Projects will be recorded in NBN Co's Sustainable Bonds Register.

NBN Co will monitor the allocation of proceeds from GSS Bonds, on an aggregated basis. This means monitoring that proceeds have been allocated to a single common pool of Eligible Projects, to ensure the aggregate value of the common pool is larger than the aggregate value of the proceeds on issue across all GSS Bonds. Use of proceeds monitoring will be undertaken by NBN Co's Treasury and Corporate Finance functions who will also provide reports to the Sustainability Bond Advisory Group to validate that proceeds have been fully allocated to Eligible Projects.

It is not NBN Co's intention to have any unallocated proceeds as the pool of eligible projects is considerably larger than the aggregate intended issuance volume. However, in the unlikely instance where there are unallocated proceeds, these will be temporarily placed into cash or cash equivalents. NBN Co intends to allocate the net proceeds of each GSS Bond to Eligible Projects within 24 months following receipt.

Reporting

NBN Co understands the importance of transparency and disclosure. All reporting will be in line with the applicable market standards for GSS Bonds, such as the GBP, SBP and SBG. Information will be available as follows:

Item	Frequency	Location
Sustainability Bond Framework	Prior to or at issuance of the first GSS Bond issued under the Framework, then for any subsequent Framework updates	NBN Co Debt Investor Information portal ⁷
Second Party Opinion	Prior to or at issuance of first GSS Bond issued under the Framework and as at the time of any subsequent Framework updates	NBN Co Debt Investor Information portal
Annual Review and Assurance by an appropriate External Reviewer	Annually for all outstanding GSS Bonds	NBN Co Debt Investor Information portal
Sustainability Bond Report	Annually for all outstanding GSS Bonds	NBN Co Debt Investor Information portal

The Sustainability Bond Report will be updated annually and made publicly available on NBN Co's Debt Investor Information portal. The Sustainability Bond Report will contain at least the following details:

- a. A list of all GSS Bonds issued in the reporting period and outstanding at the reporting date and summary terms of each transaction
- b. Details of all GSS Bonds and use of proceeds as per the Sustainable Bonds Register
- c. Impact Reporting: where possible, NBN Co will provide qualitative and/or quantitative reporting of the environmental and social impacts (where relevant) resulting from Eligible Projects. Subject to the nature of Eligible Projects and availability of information, NBN Co will look to utilise the impact reporting guidelines issued by ICMA GBP guidelines set out in the *Harmonized Framework for Impact Reporting*⁸ and ICMA SBP guidelines set out in the *Working Towards a Harmonized Framework for Impact Reporting for Social Bonds*⁹
- d. Confirmation that the use of proceeds of GSS Bonds are in compliance with the NBN Co Sustainability Bond Framework and any other requirements as applicable.

Internal reporting

NBN Co will prepare monthly internal reporting to monitor the Sustainable Bonds Register.

External review

Pre-issuance

NBN Co will engage an appropriate external review provider to issue a Second Party Opinion to confirm the alignment of this Framework with the applicable GBP, SBP, and SBG, and contribution towards the SDGs.

The SPO will be updated in future if any updates are made to the Framework.

Post-issuance

An appropriate external review provider will be engaged to provide an annual review and limited assurance that the Framework continues to align with the applicable GBP, SBP, and SBG, and that each GSS Bond remains in compliance with this Framework. The external reviewer will also provide limited assurance over selected impact indicators included in the Sustainability Bond Report.

- 7 www.nbnco.com.au/debt-investor
- 3 https://www.icmagroup.org/assets/documents/Regulatory/Green-Bonds/Handbook-Harmonized-Framework-for-Impact-Reporting-December-2020-151220.pdf
- 9 https://www.icmagroup.org/assets/documents/Regulatory/Green-Bonds/June-2020/Harmonized-Framework-for-Impact-Reporting-for-Social-BondsJune-2020-090620.pdf

Appendices

1. References

a. NBN Co

- https://www.nbnco.com.au/
- Debt Investor Information portal: www.nbnco.com.au/debt-investor
- Sustainability Reports: https://www.nbnco.com.au/corporate-information/about-nbn-co/corporate-plan/sustainability-reports

b. International Capital Market Association (ICMA)

- Green Bond Principles: https://www.icmagroup.org/sustainable-finance/the-principles-guidelinesand-handbooks/green-bond-principles-gbp/
- Social Bond Principles: https://www.icmagroup.org/sustainable-finance/the-principles-guidelinesand-handbooks/social-bond-principles-sbp/
- Sustainability Bond Guidelines: https://www.icmagroup.org/sustainable-finance/the-principles-guidelines-and-handbooks/sustainability-bond-guidelines-sbg/
- Impact Reporting Metrics and Databases: https://www.icmagroup.org/sustainable-finance/impact-reporting/

c. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/ sustainable-development-goals/

2. Sample Impact reporting

NBN Co will look to utilise potential environmental and social impact reporting indicators summarised below, based on the ICMA GBP guidelines set out in the *Harmonized Framework for Impact Reporting* and ICMA SBP guidelines set out in the *Working Towards a Harmonized Framework for Impact Reporting for Social Bonds* subject to the availability of information and confidentiality requirements.

GBP Category	Impact Metrics (sample)
Energy efficiency	 Improvement in energy intensity of NBN Co network assets compared to legacy technologies (kwh per GB)
	 Annual emissions reduced compared to legacy technologies (tCO₂e)
	 Improvement in energy intensity from NBN Co network assets and associated infrastructure, as enabled by the Transit Network Infrastructure (kwh per GB)
	 Annual emissions reduction from NBN Co network assets and associated infrastructure, as enabled by the Transit Network Infrastructure (tCO₂e)
Renewable energy	Annual GHG emissions reduced in tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent
	Annual renewable energy generation in MWh
	• Additional capacity of renewable energy plant(s) constructed or contracted in MW

SBP Category	Impact Metrics (sample)
Access to essential services/socioeconomic advancement and empowerment	Total number of premises Ready to Connect - cumulative #
	Number of premises Ready to Connect - annual increase
	 Number of premises Ready to Connect – annual increase in Sky Muster Satellite connections from legacy technology
	• Reduction in 'unconnected' people by target group (i.e. increase in connections for FY)
	• Increase in number of remote communities with First Peoples presence connected

3. Key contacts

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