
INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REPORT ON VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON TE HERENGA WAKA'S GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) STATEMENT

TO THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON TE HERENGA WAKA

Registered address: Kelburn Campus, Kelburn Parade, Wellington 6012, New Zealand

Our Assurance Conclusion

Reasonable Assurance Conclusion – ISO Category 1 & 2 emissions

In our opinion, the gross ISO Category 1 & 2 GHG emissions, and gross GHG emissions methods, assumptions and estimation uncertainty, within the scope of our reasonable assurance engagement (as outlined below) included in the Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka GHG Report for the year ended 31 December 2025, are fairly presented and prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with *ISO 14064-1:2018 Greenhouse gases – Part 1: Specification with guidance at the organisational level for quantification*.

Limited Assurance Conclusion - Scope 3 emissions/ISO Category 3 – 5 emissions

Based on the procedures we have performed and the evidence we have obtained, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the gross ISO Category 3 – 5 GHG emissions, and gross GHG emissions methods, assumptions and estimation uncertainty, within the scope of our limited assurance engagement (as outlined below) included in the Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka GHG Report for the year ended 31 December 2025, are not fairly presented and not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with *ISO 14064-1:2018 Greenhouse gases – Part 1: Specification with guidance at the organisational level for quantification*.

Scope of the Assurance Engagement

We have undertaken an assurance engagement for the reporting period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 at the level of:

- Scope 1/ISO Category 1 Emissions: Reasonable Assurance
- Scope 2/ISO Category 2 Emissions: Reasonable Assurance
- Scope 3/ISO Category 3 Emissions: Limited Assurance
- Scope 3/ISO Category 4 Emissions: Limited Assurance
- Scope 3/ISO Category 5 Emissions: Limited Assurance

It is important to note that the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is considerably lower than that involved in reasonable assurance engagement. Although we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our assurance engagement was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls for emission sources subject to limited assurance.

Boundaries of the Reporting Company

- Operational Control
- New Zealand
- Victoria University of Wellington including Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, Victoria Link Limited (trading as Wellington Uni Ventures), Research Trust of Victoria University of Wellington,

Victoria University of Wellington School of Government Trust, New Zealand School of Music Limited, Wellington Uni Professional Limited and Presbyterian Methodist Halls of Residence Trust.

GHG Emissions Information Covered by the Assurance Report

- GHG Report Reference: 2025 Greenhouse Gas Inventory report.pdf
- GHG Calculations Reference: VUW Carbon Footprint Spreadsheet 2025 FINAL.xlsx

GHG emissions by Category (metric tonnes CO₂e)

Scope	ISO Category		tCO ₂ e
Scope 1	Cat 1: Direct GHG Emissions		3,589.82
Scope 2	Cat 2: Indirect GHG Emissions from imported energy (electricity, location-based)		2,292.01
Scope 3	Cat 3: Transportation and distribution	10,130.34	11,264.73
Scope 3	Cat 4: Products and services used by the organisation	760.02	
Scope 3	Cat 5: Use of products from the organisation	374.37	
Total GHG Emissions (Gross)			17,146.56

Key Matters to the GHG Assurance Engagement

In this section we present those matters that, in our professional judgement, were most significant in undertaking the assurance engagement over the GHG statement. These matters were addressed in the context of our assurance engagement, and in forming our conclusion. We did not reach a separate assurance conclusion on each individual key matter.

There were no applicable Key Audit Matters during this assurance engagement.

Emphasis of Matter

- We draw attention to the excluded emission sources and their justification in Table 1 of the emissions inventory report (EIR). These exclusions will have a material impact on the reported emissions total.
- We draw attention to the data quality/uncertainty assessment documented in Table 2 and 3 of the EIR and the assumptions documented in Section 12 of the EIR. Section 12 describes the key estimates and assumptions made for all emission categories reported.
- We draw attention to Section 5 of the EIR where it is communicated emission inventories back to the base year have not been recalculated using the updated emission factors released by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) in June 2025.
- We draw attention to Section 4 on page 6 of the EIR where it is communicated that electricity consumption for Time-of-Use sites is using 'unadjusted' data from Meridian Energy within the CY25 emissions inventory which is the actual electricity consumption at the meter. This is consistent with the measurement process for the 2017 baseline year. Within the completion of the CY 2023 and CY 2024 emission inventory calculations the 'adjusted' energy data from Meridian Energy was used which materially over-represented electricity consumption related emissions for these periods. The 2023 and 2024 emission inventories have not been re-calculated using the unadjusted electricity consumption.
- Our assurance conclusion is not modified in response of each matter stated above.

Other Matter

- The base year inventory for which comparisons are made was not subject to assurance.
- The language and greenhouse gas related information other than the verified emission totals reported in the Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka annual report and annual sustainability report are not subject to verification by McHugh & Shaw Ltd.

Materiality

Based on our professional judgement, quantitative materiality for the reported GHG Emissions has been determined as 1% for individual emission sources, and not totalling more than 5% of the gross emissions total of the emissions inventory. Qualitative materiality has been determined with due consideration to relevance to users of the GHG statement, as well as the potential impact of omission, misstatement, or obscurement of any information.

Competence and Experience of the Engagement Team

Our work was carried out by an independent and multi-disciplinary team including sustainability assurance and environmental practitioners. The assurance lead retains overall responsibility for the assurance conclusion provided.

Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka Responsibilities for the GHG Statement

Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the GHG statement in accordance with ISO 14064-1:2018 Greenhouse gases – Part 1: Specification with guidance at the organisational level for quantification. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining a data management system relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of GHG statement that is free from material misstatement.

Inherent Uncertainty in GHG Quantification

GHG quantification is subject to inherent uncertainty because of incomplete scientific knowledge used to determine emissions factors and the values needed to combine emissions of different gases.

Our Responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the GHG emissions reported by Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka based on our verification. We are responsible for planning and performing the verification to obtain assurance that the onsite GHG statement are free from material misstatement.

As we are engaged to form an independent conclusion on the GHG statement prepared by management, we are not permitted to be involved in the preparation of the GHG information as doing so may compromise our independence.

Other Relationships

Other than in our capacity as assurance practitioners, and the provision of the assurance for this engagement, we have no relationship with, or interests, in Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka.

Independence and Quality Management Standards Applied

This assurance engagement was undertaken in accordance with *ISO 14064-3:2019 Greenhouse gases – Part 3: Specification with guidance for the validation and verification of greenhouse gas assertions* and is founded on the fundamental principles of Impartiality, Evidence-based approach, Fair presentation, Documentation, and Conservativeness.

Professional and ethical standards are held in high regard and our quality management system aligns with the standards ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14065:2020, and we comply with the Carbon and Energy Professionals New Zealand Code of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct.

GHG Reporting Protocols against which Assurance was Conducted

- ISO 14064-1: 2018 Greenhouse gases – Part 1: Specification with guidance at the organisational level for quantification.
- Ministry for the Environment. 2024. Measuring emissions: A guide for organisations: 2024 detailed guide. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment. (Note: the 2025 guidance is yet to be published to support the 2025 emission factors).
- Carbon Neutral Government Programme – A guide to measuring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions, Version 4.0 March 2025.

Comparative Information (Base Year)

The comparative Gross GHG Emissions (tCO₂e) for the period ended 31 December 2017 (Base Year) have not been subject to assurance by McHugh & Shaw Limited. As such, these emissions are not covered by our assurance conclusion.

Projected Emission Reductions

The reporter did not seek validation of projected emission reductions. There is a reduction strategy in place.

Summary of Work Performed

Reasonable and Limited Assurance Conclusion

Our reasonable and limited assurance verification engagement was performed in accordance with ISO 14064-3: 2019 – *Specification with guidance for the verification and validation of greenhouse gas statements*, issued by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). This requires that we comply with ethical requirements (as outlined above), and plan and perform the verification to obtain reasonable assurance (Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions) and limited assurance (Scope 3 emissions) that the GHG statement are free from material misstatement.

Our verification strategy used a combined data and controls testing approach. Evidence-gathering procedures included but were not limited to:

- Enquiries of management to obtain an understanding of the overall governance and internal control environment, risk management processes and procedures relevant to GHG information;
- Evidence to support the reporting boundaries, organisational and legal structure reported;
- Recalculation of the GHG emissions;
- Strategic analysis of the GHG information;
- Evaluation of relationships among GHG and non-GHG data;
- Interview of personnel involved in data collection;
- Review of emissions factors used within the calculations for source appropriateness;
- Review of uncertainty and data quality;
- Review of information management and record keeping processes; and
- Review of the assumptions, estimations and quantification methodologies.

Reasonable Assurance Procedures	Limited Assurance Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sample testing, tracing and retracing of data trails back to primary data including stationary diesel consumption, natural gas, mobile combustion (petrol and diesel), refrigerants and electricity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited sample testing, tracing and retracing of data trails back to primary data including taxi use, rental car use, staff public transport, air travel, accommodation, reimbursed staff mileage, student commuting, student intercampus travel, staff commuting including working from home, paper and water consumption, waste to landfill, wastewater, and upstream and downstream leased asset electricity and natural gas consumption; and Electricity and gas transmission and distribution losses (TDL) calculations.

The data examined during the verification were historical in nature we believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Environmental Claims

Information regarding your responsibility when making environmental or carbon claims under the Fair Trading Act is available at the New Zealand Commerce Commission website. Guidance for making an environmental claim in Australia is available at the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission website.

If you are making a claim outside of New Zealand and Australia, then check the legal requirements for that Country.



Kent Barrett, Assurance Lead

CEP NZ Certified Carbon Auditor (#CCA1011)
McHugh & Shaw Limited
Wellington, New Zealand
16 March 2026



Dr. Neil Gilbert, Independent Reviewer

Constantia Consulting Limited
On behalf of McHugh & Shaw Limited
Papamoa, New Zealand
16 March 2026

This report including the opinion expressed herein, is issued to the University Council Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka in accordance with the terms of our agreement for the purpose of reporting GHG emissions. We consent to the release of this report by you to interested parties, but we disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report by any other party than for which it was prepared.