SUSTAINABILITY – REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

OUR GOAL: TO DO MORE FOR OUR CUSTOMERS WHILE ACTIVELY MANAGING AND MINIMISING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND RESOURCE INTENSITY

WE ACTIVELY MINIMISE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OUR OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT OUR CUSTOMERS TO ENHANCE THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE.

This year, we developed an Environment White Paper to provide strategic direction for Telstra's environmental activities for the next three to five years. The paper identifies short, medium and long term environmental risks and opportunities for our business. In the coming year, we will use the insights provided by this paper to develop a whole of company environment strategy.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CARBON EMISSIONS

In 2012, we set a target for a 15 per cent reduction in emissions intensity – tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per terabyte (tCO_2e/TB). We surpassed this, reducing carbon emissions intensity by 36 per cent. We expect continued improvements in our carbon emissions efficiency due to better utilisation of network equipment and a continued dedicated investment in energy and carbon efficiency projects, and have set a 15 per cent reduction target for emissions intensity for next year.

Total energy consumption increased by 2.4 per cent, and total carbon emissions (Scope 1, 2 and 3) increased by one per cent since last year, driven primarily by increasing data loads carried over our networks. Since 2010, energy consumption and carbon emissions have remained relatively stable, despite this continued growth in data load. This is the result of better utilisation of infrastructure and the energy efficiency measures we have implemented. Next year, we have committed $14 million to improve the energy efficiency and carbon intensity of network facilities.

HELPING OUR CUSTOMERS TO REDUCE THEIR CARBON EMISSIONS

This year, we developed our first customer Green ICT Management Plan. It describes how we will identify, manage, monitor and minimise the environmental impacts of our services for one of our largest enterprise customers. The plan follows a life-cycle approach to environmental management and outlines specific actions from service design through to procurement, construction, operation and end-of-life management.