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# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2022



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## Our Purpose

Enabling people in infrastructure construction to push forward with confidence.

For our clients, we help them make better informed timely decisions. For our co-workers and those we support in our community, we foster an environment aimed at making the impossible possible.

Institutek makes a conscious effort to contribute to a better world together with our customers, partners, and stakeholders, carrying these values throughout our brand.

Improving the world in the small ways we can is at the core of how Institutek runs, transforming our purpose into a reality.

## Institutek's progress towards sustainability goals

Overall, we spent just over 3% of our work time contributing to our community, a notional contribution of \$34.5K.

## Supporting our Business Community

We have stepped up our mentoring efforts, in the broader business community and also within the BCorp community.

Robin Power is both a mentor with the [Mentoring for Growth Program](#), managed by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training in Queensland and the ANZ BCorp community mentorship program. He's challenged the thinking of several smaller businesses and provided guidance and support.

## Empowering our People and Using our Voice

Institutek have recognised that around 70% of greenhouse gas emissions come from infrastructure development and operations and civil construction touches all of it. However, many in civil construction find it difficult to make the connection between their work and addressing global environmental and sustainability issues.

We have done much research and brought together a diverse group of sustainability and civil engineering related professionals, all passionate and actively making a contribution to delivering more sustainable outcomes in their projects. At the end of the year, Robin Power established the Sustainability Taskforce, assuming the role of inaugural chair. We are in the process of forming what our work will be and the contribution we will make.

We are very excited to see how the emerging Sustainability Taskforce develops.

## Partnering for Change

This year we have partnered with the [Mama Earth Foundation](#). Our interest was in supporting their work with blue carbon (mangroves specifically) in the Philippines. We chose the Philippines as our director and team have strong family ties in the country.

Blue carbon refers to the carbon that's stored in coastal and marine ecosystems, such as mangroves, seagrasses, and tidal marshes. These ecosystems have a unique ability to sequester and store large amounts of carbon in their biomass and sediments.

Mangroves are trees and shrubs that grow in saltwater or brackish water along estuaries, lagoons, and mudflats. One of the most important benefits of mangroves is their ability to sequester large amounts of blue carbon from the atmosphere. Current studies suggest that mangroves and coastal wetlands annually sequester carbon at a rate ten times greater than mature tropical forests. They also store three to five times more carbon per equivalent area than tropical forests.

Mangroves have a complex root system that can trap sediment and organic matter, allowing them to accumulate significant amounts of blue carbon over time. Mangroves store carbon in both their biomass (leaves, stems, and roots) and the soil surrounding their roots. The amount of blue carbon stored in mangrove ecosystems can be massive, with estimates up to 1,000 metric tons per hectare.

In addition to their carbon sequestration capabilities, mangroves provide a range of other ecosystem services that are important for our well-being. Mangroves provide important habitats for a wide range of species, including fish, birds, and invertebrates. They also offer coastal protection by buffering against storm surges and erosion. Mangroves are also important for fisheries, providing breeding grounds and nurseries for many species of fish.

Protecting and restoring mangrove ecosystems is therefore critical for us all both in terms of biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation. There are a range of strategies that can be used to protect these ecosystems, including establishing protected areas, encouraging sustainable aquaculture practices, promoting sustainable tourism, supporting community-based conservation, reducing coastal pollution, addressing climate change, and restoring degraded mangrove ecosystems. This is the work of [Mama Earth Foundation](#).

Our support for Mama Earth Foundation was both financial with a \$12.5K contribution and time with one of our team dedicating significant hours to researched and contacted companies that offers remote carbon stock measuring in mangrove areas.

## Decarbonization

### Insitutek's scope 1,2 and 3 emissions

According to the GHG-Protocol, emissions are classified to 3 scopes: Scope 1 emissions cover all direct emissions from a company's activities or activities under their control, including fuel combustion on site, e.g. from burning coal and own vehicles. Scope 2 emissions cover indirect emissions from electricity and heat purchased and used by the company. Scope 3 emissions are defined as all other indirect emissions from activities of the organization, occurring from sources that they do not own or control and covering emissions along the value chain, for example purchased goods and services such as chemicals and logistics.

We have continued to buy 100% GreenPower for Origin Energy. GreenPower is a government-accredited program. Origin match your energy use by sending the same amount of renewable energy back into the energy grid.

### Insitutek's Carbon Footprint

Insitutek measure outputs that we have identified and defined to assess our progress toward achieving our social and environmental goals. A key focus area includes measuring our carbon footprint and implementing measures to offset carbon emissions.

Our carbon footprint tracking included business travel such as flights and vehicle travel. We then collated all relevant information on packages we had sent out or received, coming in or being delivered domestically or internationally, calculating the distance that the package travelled via truck or plane as well as considering its size/weight.

We used the following calculators to determine the offset emissions for these deliveries and travel distance:

Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps>

Distance Calculator: <https://www.distance.to/>

Cargoson CO2 Calculator: <https://www.cargoson.com/en/tools/co2-calculator>

Carbon Positive Australia Calculator: <https://carbonpositiveaustralia.org.au/carbon-footprint-calculator/>

Our carbon footprint record keeping has improved again over the last 12 months, resulting in the need for estimations being minimised.

## 2022 Calendar Year Carbon Footprint:

### *Flight travel:*

TOTAL: 88,461.34 km

**21.04t** CO2

\*13.17t more than previous year

### *Car travel:*

TOTAL: 33,200.73 km

**0.09t** CO2

\*0.04t less than previous year

### *Package deliveries:*

TOTAL: 399,794 km

**31.15t** CO2

\*18.88t less than previous year

### *Energy usage: Origin energy*

TOTAL: 7,222 kWh

**0.00t** CO2

\*0.00 less than previous year

Total House Footprint = **52 tonnes** of CO2

\*6 tonnes of CO2 less than previous year (2021)

## Carbon Offsetting

At Insitutek, we uphold respect for the environment as one of our core values in managing our business. We are dedicated to operating with a purpose that transcends profit, focusing on generating benefits for all stakeholders, including employees, clients, suppliers, communities, and the environment. Our decisions are driven by the desire to make a positive impact while meeting the highest standards of social and environmental performance, transparency, and legal accountability. By balancing purpose and profit, we leverage the power of business to build a better, more sustainable economic system that puts people and the planet first.

As part of this commitment, we are pleased to offset our remaining carbon footprint through emissions reduction and the purchase of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU). We have engaged in the Extended Impact initiative **by Tasman Environmental Markets (TEM)**, which combines carbon credits from the April Salumei Rainforest Conservation project in Papua New Guinea with Biological Diversity Units (BDUs) from various conservation efforts across Australia. These initiatives encompass the Budgerum Grassland Protection project in Victoria, the Alleena Woodland Protection project in New South Wales, and the Coorong Lakes Protection project in South Australia.

The **April Salumei project** conserves **603,712 hectares** of tropical rainforest in Papua New Guinea, preventing the release of approximately **22.8 million tonnes** of greenhouse gas emissions. This project not only addresses climate change but also supports local indigenous communities and protects vital biodiversity in the region. By purchasing carbon credits from this **REDD+ certified project**, Insitutek ensures that our emissions are fully offset while also contributing to the preservation of critical ecosystems.

In Victoria, the **Budgerum Grassland Protection project** safeguards the critically endangered Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains, home to over **107 plant species**, including the threatened **Chariot Wheels** and **Bristly Love-grass**. This conservation effort also protects vulnerable bird species such as the **Plains-wanderer** and **Little Button-quail**, along with other fauna like the **Fat-tailed Dunnart** and **Tree Goanna**.



*Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley. Image sourced from Tasman Environmental Markets (TEM).*

In New South Wales, the **Alleena Woodland Protection project** conserves **497.58 hectares** of woodland in the Riverina region. This area serves as a designated conservation reserve that provides habitat for threatened bird species such as the **Brown Treecreeper** and **Dusky Wood swallow** while preserving vital ecological communities. By ensuring permanent protection through a Conservation Agreement with the **NSW Biodiversity**

**Conservation Trust (BCT)**, this project enhances biodiversity and habitat connectivity for endangered species.



*Alleena Woodland. Image sourced from Tasman Environmental Markets (TEM).*

In South Australia, the **Coorong Lakes Protection project** is managed by Cassinia Environmental in collaboration with the **Ngarrindjeri people**. This initiative actively conserves the unique wetlands and ecosystems of the Coorong Lakes region, offering legal protection and sustainable management practices that safeguard the region's biodiversity.



*Coorong Lakes. Image sourced from Tasman Environmental Markets (TEM).*

Through these projects, Insitutek has offset **100%** of its greenhouse gas emissions. We purchased and retired **175 units** of certified carbon credits, ensuring that our environmental impact is neutralized. In doing so, we align with Australia's **Climate Active Program** and TEM's **VERRA Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS)** requirements, further demonstrating our commitment to both environmental stewardship and community development. As we continue our environmental journey, Insitutek remains dedicated to using business as a force for good, ensuring that the decisions we make benefit all stakeholders and contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future.

Read more here:

[https://online.tasmanenvironmental.com.au/product/png\\_vic\\_forests/](https://online.tasmanenvironmental.com.au/product/png_vic_forests/)  
<https://wilderlands.earth/projects/budgerum/>  
[https://online.tasmanenvironmental.com.au/product/png\\_nsw\\_forests/](https://online.tasmanenvironmental.com.au/product/png_nsw_forests/)  
<https://wilderlands.earth/projects/alleena/>  
[https://online.tasmanenvironmental.com.au/product/png\\_sa\\_forests/](https://online.tasmanenvironmental.com.au/product/png_sa_forests/)  
<https://wilderlands.earth/projects/coorong-lakes/>



This certificate verifies that

# Institutek Pty Ltd

has protected

# 175m<sup>2</sup>

of critical habitat for biodiversity by purchasing and retiring  
**175 Biological Diversity Units**

16/07/2024

Date of Issue



Registrar Certification

*Biodiversity Units supplied by*



## WILDERLANDS

Our vision is a world where people value earth's natural ecosystems and work together to nurture biodiversity so that future generations can continue to be enriched, enlightened and inspired by Nature.

[wilderlands.co](http://wilderlands.co)

## Certificate Details

**Units purchased and retired by:** Insitutek Pty Ltd

**Number of units:** 175

**Registrar:** Vegetation Link Pty Ltd

**Units supplied by:** Wilderlands

**VegetationLink Order ID:** 243c5e12-2721

**Date and time of issue:** 16/07/2024 11:57 AM AEST

**Serial number(s):**

Grasslands Unit(s):  
C1662\_03-1C-70795-70859

Wetlands Unit(s):  
NVS-2022/4004/182-7-187247-187304

Woodlands Unit(s):  
CA0507\_1A-25556-25607