

The energy efficiency requirements for data centres are changing.

From 1st July 2025...

A minimum NABERS Energy rating of **5-Stars**, or **PUE of 1.4 or less**, will be required by **new** data centres used by the Australian Government.

The requirements are part of the *Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy* released in 2023. This outlines the pathway towards net zero government operations by 2030 as part of the Paris Agreement.



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Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy

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Net Zero ICT

The Australian Government uses information and communications technology (ICT) within most of its operations including data centres, contributing to electricity usage. Typical ICT equipment includes computers, servers, monitors and mobile phones.

The Data and Digital Government Strategy has a vision that "The Australian Government will deliver simple, secure and connected public services for all people and business through world class data and digital capabilities." Through proactive adoption of emerging data and digital technology, the Digital Transformation Agency will incorporate net zero principles within its Data and Digital Government Strategy.

Data centre and ICT panel arrangements

In May 2023, the Australian Government's new Data Centre Panel was established with strengthened measures for data centre providers to identify, manage and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Future panels will incorporate net zero considerations to enable entities to identify, report and reduce their emissions from ICT usage.

maintain a rating of 5 stars or equivalent environmental rating, such as a Power Usage Effectiveness of 1.4 or less. Existing data centres run by an entity must obtain a NABERS Energy for Data Centres infrastructure rating. If the facility cannot be improved to meet the 5 star rating, the entity should optimise the data centre's energy efficiency in its setup and operation.

Circular economy considerations

One of the major considerations within ICT is the high rate of product turnover due to rapid innovation and the embedded emissions of the regularly upgraded ICT equipment across the APS. Environmental sustainability measures broadly and circular economy principles such as refurbishment, repair, reuse, and recycling should be considered during ICT procurements.

NABERS Data Centre minimum standards

The National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) ratings for data centres provide an indication of the operational energy efficiency and environmental impact of data centres, with a rating from one to 6 stars. The rating is based on the facility's actual operational data, not design. To be included on the new Data Centre Panel, all providers are required to have a 5 star NABERS Energy for Data Centres rating or equivalent environmental rating, such as a Power Usage Effectiveness of 1.4 or less.

From 1 July 2025, new data centre facilities that are sourced outside of the Panel arrangement, whether owned or leased by the Commonwealth, are also required to achieve and

Key success

Improve ability to procure and manage through consistent change of the NABERS Data Centre rating tool.

Increase in suppliers who are attesting the NABERS based rating on a baseline of January 2023 and measured against July 2025.



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Currently...

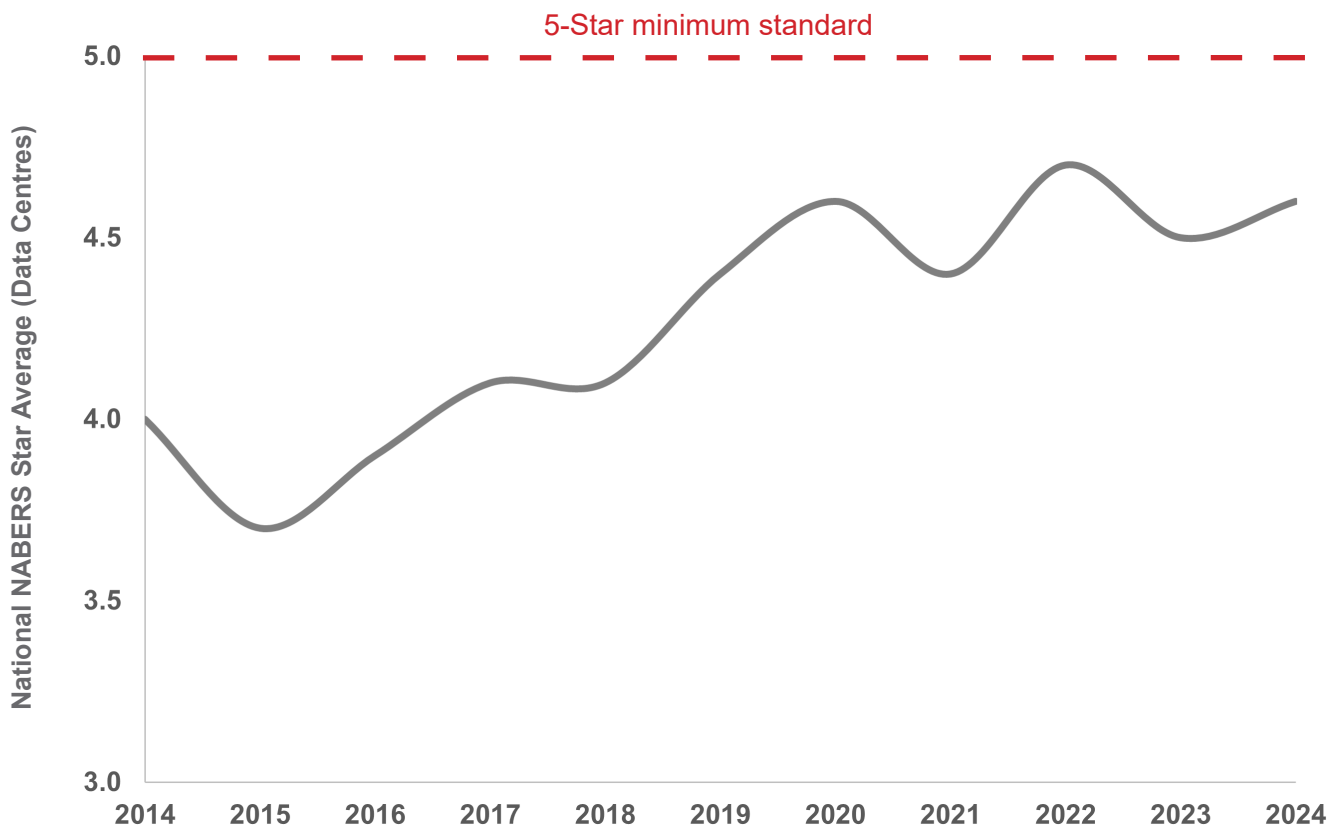
For the 2024 financial year:

9 NABERS Energy for Data Centres ratings completed

3 achieved 5-Stars or higher

4.6-Stars was the national average rating

There has been continued improvement in data centre ratings since launch in 2014. The national average is however below the forthcoming 5-Star minimum standard.



Opportunity

Step 1: Benchmark

Undertake NABERS Energy ratings for your data centres.

Step 2: Improve

Assess strategies to improve energy efficiency to agreed targets.

Step 3: Track

Monitor your improvement towards meeting and maintaining targets.



Contact us to start your NABERS journey.

info@zapdit.com

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