



27 June 2016

Refrigerants Australia welcomes the Government's announcement that it will legislate a phase down of HFCs under revisions to ozone protection legislation

Dr Greg Picker, Executive Director of Refrigerants Australia said, "The refrigeration and air conditioning industry actively supports a phase down of the global warming potential of refrigerants over the next two decades: this both guarantees improved environmental outcomes while also giving industry long-term certainty."

"The issue of long term certainty is crucial to the environmental outcome"; Dr Picker said. "It provides industry the opportunity to undertake the research and to develop and deploy new technologies that ensure that requirements to decrease the climate impact of refrigerants can occur while improving energy performance of air conditioning and refrigeration equipment."

Energy use is responsible for over 80% of total emissions from the refrigeration and air conditioning industry.

Today's Government announcement continues the long history the refrigeration and air conditioning industry has in working collaboratively with governments to improve environmental performance.

"By working closely with the Federal Government to shift from ozone depleting substances starting in the 1990s, the refrigeration and air conditioning industry has already delivered more emission reductions than any other sector of the Australian economy" Dr Picker said, "and the regulations announced today will decrease Australia's emissions by the equivalent of another 80 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over the next two decades."

"We have successfully managed the transition away from ozone depleting substances," Picker said, "and we are working with government to deliver a range of additional cost-effective benefits including reduced costs to consumers, better performance of refrigeration and air conditioning equipment, improved energy efficiency and significant emission reductions."

### **Refrigerants Australia**

Refrigerants Australia is the peak organisation representing Australian refrigerant suppliers and users. We represent importers, wholesalers and users of air conditioning and refrigeration equipment and the gases they rely on. We also represent Refrigerant Reclaim Australia, an industry-driven award-winning program that has destroyed used refrigerants equivalent to nearly 10 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Refrigerants Australia was originally established in 1987 to formulate an industry response to the Montreal Protocol, which set out the need to phase-out ozone depleting substances, including chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).

Building on this base, Refrigerants Australia has continued to develop and implement strategies to limit the emissions of all fluorocarbons refrigerants, and has been an active participant in processes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### **The gases and emissions**

HFCs are manmade gases that have a global warming potential from the low hundreds to the mid-thousands.

The refrigeration and air conditioning industry has already reduced the emissions from the gases it uses by the from over 50 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually in the early 1990s to less than 10 million tonnes today.

Most emissions (85 to 90%) come from energy used to run refrigeration and air conditioning equipment. This equipment is far more energy efficient today – about 40% more efficient - than it was a decade ago.

### **Legislation**

The refrigeration and air conditioning industry is regulated by two separate pieces of legislation:

- *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act; and*
- *Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards Act*