



Thursday, June 29, 2023

Brad Archer  
Chief Executive Officer  
Climate Change Authority

### **A National Cooling Action Plan can play a vital role in setting, tracking and achieving Australia's emissions reduction targets**

Dear Brad,

The Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating (AIRAH) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the *Setting, tracking and achieving Australia's emissions reduction targets* issues paper.

AIRAH is a peak body for engineers and technicians working in heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC&R) and building services. For perspective, Australia has **60 million pieces of HVAC&R equipment** that account for more than **25 per cent of all electricity consumption** and produce approximately **12 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions**<sup>1</sup>. Although often hidden, our **300,000 Australian HVAC&R professionals** have the ability to reduce emissions dramatically. AIRAH members will play a leading role.

In the coming years, HVAC&R is set to grow strongly, driven by factors such as climate change and the significant push to electrification across the states.

As a member of ASBEC, AIRAH supports ASBEC's response to the issues paper. The built environment is a distinct and critical sector that merits its own long-term strategy and sectoral pathway with respect to Australia's climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. We are acutely aware of this, as cooling and heating constitutes about half the energy use for both [residential](#) and [commercial](#) buildings.

At the same time, HVAC&R plays a key role in other sectors too: in transport via mobile air conditioning and the food cold chain; in fugitive emissions via direct refrigerant emissions; and in all sectors of manufacturing via industrial heating and cooling. Because of HVAC&R's cross-sectoral nature and its huge potential to help Australia reach our emissions reduction targets, we believe it requires a holistic approach.

Such an approach is recommended by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). A [National Cooling Action Plan](#) assists countries in identifying pathways to integrate comprehensive action to reduce energy consumption and related emissions from HVAC&R, aligned with plans related to emissions from refrigerant transition. Several countries have already published a National Cooling Action Plan, and many more are developing plans now.

AIRAH is committed to net zero, and on behalf of the HVAC&R industry, we are committed to finding the right pathways across all sectors to achieve this goal. We believe a National Cooling Action Plan for Australia will assist at all levels, guiding education, skills development, practice improvement and behaviour change. In the meantime, AIRAH will continue our work, but if industry and government work to a collaborative plan, it will accelerate progress to our emissions reduction targets.

If you would like to know more, we would welcome the opportunity to speak to our recommendation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trish Hyde".

Trish Hyde  
CEO  
AIRAH

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<sup>1</sup> [Cold Hard Facts 2022](#)