



14 January 2014

The Honourable Barnaby Joyce  
Minister for Agriculture  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
PO Box 6022  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

PO Box 3961  
Manuka ACT 2603



Dear Minister Joyce

I am writing to you in relation to the development of a White Paper on the competitiveness of Australia's agricultural sector.

While not always acknowledged, refrigeration is essential for food production and security. It is also a cornerstone of modern Australian life and business. As the recently released Federal Government study entitled Cold Hard Facts 2 reveals, the refrigeration and air conditioning industry:

- Consists of more than 20,000 businesses employing 173,000 people.
- Represents at least 1.7 per cent of Australia's GDP.
- Had overall expenditure of about \$26.2 billion in 2012.
- Supports many essential uses, *including \$30 billion worth of perishable food per annum from farm to domestic refrigerator;* and
- Accounts for about 20% of energy consumed in Australia.

Despite the importance of refrigeration to agricultural industries, it is not often a focus of attention by primary producers. For Australia to be a cost-effective and competitive producer of much of Asia's food, we need to ensure that refrigeration is cost effectively and efficiently delivered.

Refrigerants Australia is ready to work with the Federal Government to ensure that Australian companies have a commercial advantage due to efficient refrigeration. We suggest that the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper contain a short, practically focused section on cost-effective access to refrigeration. We would be pleased to work with you, your Department and wider industry in pursuit of this goal. I would be grateful if you could let me know how we can best meet Government's needs in this process.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg R Picker".

Gregory R Picker  
Executive Director