

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 833

asked on Tuesday, 11 August 2020

MR S ANDREW ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the rest of Australia having legalised and enjoying the cost-saving benefits concerning the use of hydrocarbon refrigerant and taking into consideration that Minister Lynham has been made aware of its economical benefits earlier this year—

Will the Minister explain why hydrocarbon refrigerant has been banned by the current Labor government in Queensland?

ANSWER:

The use of hydrocarbon refrigerant is not banned in Queensland.

A flammable refrigerants position paper was developed by the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities in November 2018 to which the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy was a contributor and signatory. This position paper was adopted by the various states and territories as the instrument outlining the obligations of work health and safety duty holders in the use of flammable refrigerants.

As of 13 August 2020, the Queensland Government has approved 2800 refrigeration devices that use hydrocarbon refrigerant. In addition, there are 159 hydrocarbon refrigerant gas work licence holders in Queensland approved to carry out the specialist work required to service and maintain this type of equipment

There are many hydrocarbon refrigerant gas work licence holders approved to carry out the specialist work required to service and maintain this type of equipment.

Refrigeration devices using hydrocarbon refrigerant are approved based on test reports from accredited testing laboratories, or independent approving authorities, and must meet the safety requirements of the relevant Australian Standards and other legislative requirements in all jurisdictions to ensure public safety.

By this approach, the people of Queensland are able to enjoy the economic benefits of refrigeration devices that use hydrocarbon refrigerant and know the highest safety standards are being maintained.