

Statement by the Australian head of delegation
the Hon Greg Hunt, Minister for the Environment,
to the 27th Meeting of the Parties to the
Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

(check against delivery)

- Mr President, dignitaries, Ministers, ladies and gentlemen
- This is the first time that an Australian minister has attended a meeting of parties since the London Meeting of Parties in 1990 and it is my very great pleasure to be at this Meeting of the Parties of the Montreal Protocol in Dubai.
- Today I would like to speak to you about three things. Firstly the importance of the Montreal Protocol to the global community, secondly Australia's success in reducing ozone and synthetic greenhouse gases and thirdly Australia's support for reducing HFC emissions under the Montreal Protocol and greenhouse gas emissions under the UNFCCC
- **Firstly**, I wanted to recognise the amazing work that the global community has undertaken in the 30 years since the Vienna Convention came into existence.
- From those humble beginnings, with only a few parties at the helm, only a few chemicals being controlled, and a lot of uncertainty about the science, has arisen an amazing example of cooperation, determination and effort from governments and industry alike.
- The 2014 assessment by the Scientific Assessment Panel tells us that the Montreal Protocol is working, that the concentration of ozone depleting substances in the atmosphere is decreasing steadily year by year by 0.6% and that the ozone layer is on track to recover by the middle of this century. Upper stratospheric ozone has increased by 5% since 2000.

- This has measureable effects on ground:
 - on human health, we will have avoided hundreds of millions of skin cancers and eye cataracts from forming and saved countless lives.
 - We will have protected important ecosystems and valuable agriculture systems for future generations.
 - We have significantly helped reduced climate forcing just by the action of phasing out CFCs and HCFCs.
- That is a tribute to governments, to industry, to scientific and technical institutions, and to the UN and Montreal Protocol institutions involved in this amazing Protocol.
- Australian imports of HCFCs have decreased from more than 250 Ozone Depleting Tonnes to less than 2.5 next year
 - This is tribute to the both the strength of the Montreal Protocol and the partnership approach with industry that has been the cornerstone of Australia's HCFC phase-out.
- I am proud that, in recognition of this work and the need to keep measuring our results, the Australian Government has made a contribution to the Ozone Research Trust Fund this year for the first time of \$A40,000.
 - We need to not only do the work to reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances to the stratosphere, but also accurately measure our progress so we know we are hitting our targets.
 - Our contribution will support the global community to improve its measurements and to ensure that we remain on track to meet our goals of ozone layer restoration.
 - The Australian Government, through my Department and the Bureau of Meteorology, stands with the global scientific community to assist them in this vital endeavour.

- **Secondly**, I wanted to note that Australia has met its Montreal Protocol obligations to phase-out HCFCs well ahead of time, and in so doing, has used 60% less HCFC than permitted under the Protocol.
- We are proud of our 100% compliance record of meeting all Montreal Protocol obligations on time or early, and for being active and engaged participants in its ongoing implementation.
- Under Australia's legislation, we already have end use controls that not only prevent emissions of ozone depleting gases and HFCs to air, these controls also support the safety of our workforce by licencing and mandating minimum training standards and by insisting on proper recovery and recycling equipment being used.
- Australia already controls HFCs through our domestic legislation and it is no great leap of imagination to see them being controlled even further by a phase-down.
- **And thirdly**, I wanted to lend the Australian Government's strong support to the HFC phase-down proposals tabled at this meeting.
- At the Roundtable this morning, I spoke about the role that the Montreal Protocol can play in assisting the UNFCCC in mitigating climate change.
- The Montreal Protocol has already mitigated more CO₂ than the first commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol – around 135 billion tonnes - and now has the opportunity to do even more.
- The Australian Government has indicated it will seek to phase down HFCs domestically, even in advance of a global agreement.
 - The Australian Government is seeking to fast track consideration of a phase-down of HFCs in Australia of 85% by 2036. We will work with industry to see if we can be even more ambitious.

- A phase-down of HFCs will make a significant contribution to our UNFCCC climate change target to reduce emissions by 26 - 28 per cent of 2005 levels by 2030 – alongside implementation of this Government's Emission Reduction Fund and Safeguards, our National Energy Productivity Plan, vehicle fuel efficiency measures and technology.
- Our preference is that a global framework for HFC reductions can be agreed so that it provides a global level playing field and creates the right conditions for global industry innovation.
- As a technology taker, Australia understands the difficulties of being subject to the technologies available, but also recognises that a global agreement will provide the best conditions for new, low-GWP and energy efficient technologies to come to market.
 - With this in mind, I announce that Australia will host a low-GWP technology summit in the Pacific during 2016 as a means of highlighting new technologies available on the market and building confidence to import and use these new technologies
 - It is important for Pacific island countries, which also need to improve their energy security, are able to access the latest, most energy efficient technologies.
- The Australian Government has been a supportive and active player in negotiations under the Montreal Protocol and will continue to do what it can to phase down HFC.
- Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today and I look forward to the rest of my time here at this important meeting.