

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND VEHICLES - USE OF HYDROCARBONS AS REFRIGERANTS

1770. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for the Environment

- (1) What is the Government's policy on the use of hydrocarbons as a refrigerant instead of R410a?
- (2) Will the Government consider the use of alternative hydrocarbons as refrigerants in Government air conditioning units?
- (3) What might inhibit the Government's use of hydrocarbon as a refrigerant in Government buildings and vehicles?
- (4) What greenhouse gas rating is given to R410a and R134a refrigerants, and how does this compare to other available refrigerants?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

The Minister for the Environment; Climate Change has provided the following response:

- (1) The Government's policy is given effect through the Environmental Protection (Ozone Protection) Policy 2000. This Policy may be found on the EPA's website www.epa.wa.gov.au.
- (2)-(3) The Government will consider this matter, noting that the Environmental Protection (Ozone Protection) Policy 2000 is due for its statutory review this year.
- (4) The Global Warming Potential (GWP) for R410a is 1725 and the GWP for R134a is 1,300. GWPs for other available refrigerants range between less than 10 to over 12,000. GWP is an index used to convert relevant non-carbon dioxide gases to a carbon dioxide equivalent.