



# The Fire Protection Industry Board

Scheduled Extinguishing Substances &  
the Ozone Protection Permit Scheme



# The Montreal Protocol

(Ratified 1987)

## Purpose

Protect the Ozone Layer and shrink increasing holes in the Earth's stratosphere

## Global cooperation

Signed by 197 countries

## Importance

Environmental and health benefits

## Key objectives

Phase-out ozone-depleting substances

## Challenges

Enforcement and compliance issues

## Successes

Significant reduction in ODS production and consumption



# Ozone & fire protection



In the 1980's the World learnt of the damage being done to the stratospheric ozone and the enhanced greenhouse gas effect (leading to global warming).

Gaseous fire extinguishers agents used in fire systems and equipment are strongly linked to the damages in the Ozone layer. These are referred to as Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and Synthetic Greenhouse Gases (SGG).

Gaseous fire extinguishers agents used in fire systems and equipment are used across a range of different industries: including Facilities Management / Construction, Mining, Aviation and Maritime.

*The Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989 (the Act)* was created to reduce and eventually stop the use of these gases.



# The gases

## ODS

### Ozone Depleting Substances

Damage the ozone layer, allowing more ultra-violet radiation from the sun to pass through, causing harm to human health. **The most well-known ODS is halon**, used on virtually every airplane.

## SGG

### Synthetic Greenhouse Gases

Often used to replace ODS in refrigeration, fire fighting and other systems. SGGs do not damage the ozone layer, but as greenhouse gases, they contribute to climate change and must be controlled and managed.

**FM-200 is the most used SGG** in fire protection.



# Where the FPIB comes in

*The Act* is actioned by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment, and Water (DCCEEW).



**The Department** co-regulate with the FPIB.



**FPA Australia** is contracted by the Department to facilitate the services of the FPIB.



**The FPIB** enact the permit scheme.

# Where the FPIB comes in



# The Fire Protection Permit Scheme Industry Advisory Group (FPPSIAG)



The FPPSIAG provides expert advice to the **DCCEEW** on a range of fire protection permit scheme issues and enhancement projects to support the scheme towards regulatory maturity prior to the commencement of Environment Protection Australia (EPA).



The FPPSIAG work collaboratively to provide information and expert advice to the department, to inform its administration of the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gases permit scheme.



The FPPSIAG provide advice on several topics, including:



Improvements or changes to permit and training requirements to reduce the risk of emissions of ozone depleting substances (ODS) and synthetic greenhouse gases (SGG).



Proposed regulatory changes and possible industry implications.



Industry trends and developments.



Introducing alternative gases or equipment used in the Australian industry.

# Ozone & fire protection



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,  
the Environment and Water

The Department of  
Climate Change,  
Energy, Environment  
and Water (DCCEEW)  
invested in the  
environment and an  
expanded program to  
make a difference.



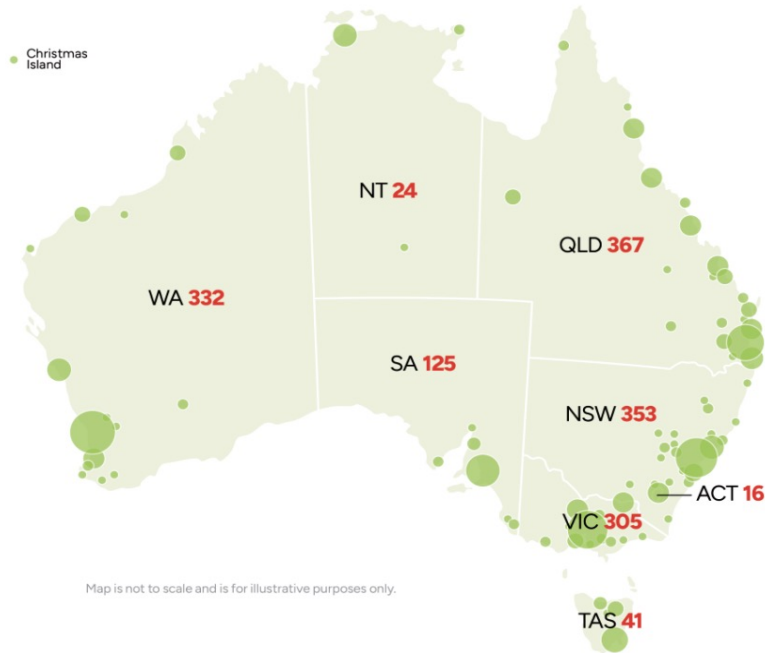


# Field engagement program



## Total Permits

All permit and licence types



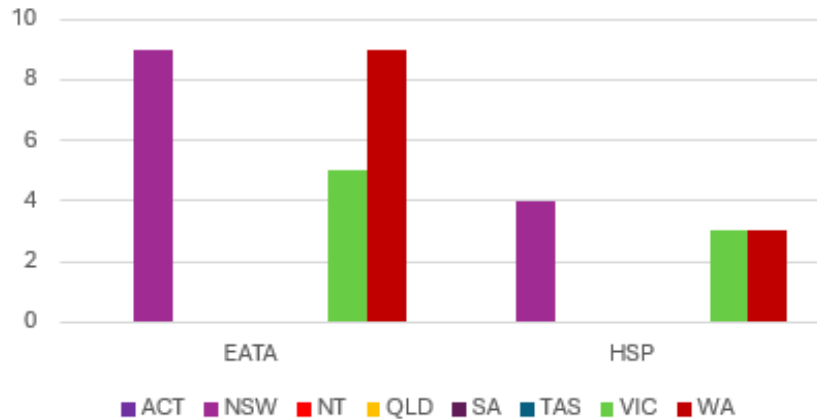
## The core aims of the program are:

- Ultimately reduce all avoidable emissions!
- Increase education among current permit holders.
- Prevent and stop acts of non-compliance.
- Facilitate engagement and greater collaboration with stakeholders and permit holders.
- Capture people working outside the permit system and bring them in.
- Enhance discharge report capture.

# Field engagement program



Nationwide Visits by Permit Type  
Pilot Program (2022) and  
Initial FEP Roll Out (2023)



## Program Launch

After a successful pilot program conducted in 2023, the Field Engagement program was successfully launched on the 5th February 2024, with instant results.

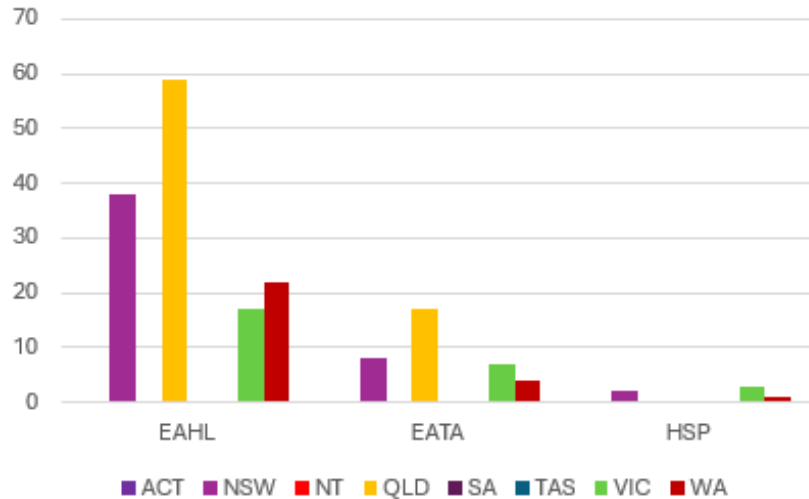
## Positive reception

Most permit holders visited have enjoyed the face-to-face engagement and enjoyed opportunity to discuss the permit scheme.

# Field engagement program



Nationwide Visits by Permit Type 2024



## Word is spreading

The industry is small and workers speak to each other frequently. We have found that the message has got out about the program across the country.

## Venturing out

The FEP team has so far worked across NSW, VIC, QLD, WA and SA with plans to visit NT and TAS.

# Common instances of non-compliance



## Outcomes

- The focus of the field team is to take note of all and any “outcomes” from these visits.
- Many outcomes have been uncovered during on-site visits, more than what we were expecting: ranging from excellent compliance, record-keeping, and an interest in environmentally friendlier alternatives, to non-compliance in reporting and licence entitlement types.

## How to counter this?

- Education is key with everything we do. Large amounts of education regarding discharge reporting and responsible surrendering of extinguishing agent for safe disposal has been paramount.
- The FEP team have been pleased to offer support to our industry and impart further knowledge on best practice in fire safety and the safe handling of scheduled extinguishing agents.

**The FEP team are essentially discovering at least one outcome at 50% of permit condition checks.**

# Multiple stakeholders – Working across industries



# Gold standard – COP28

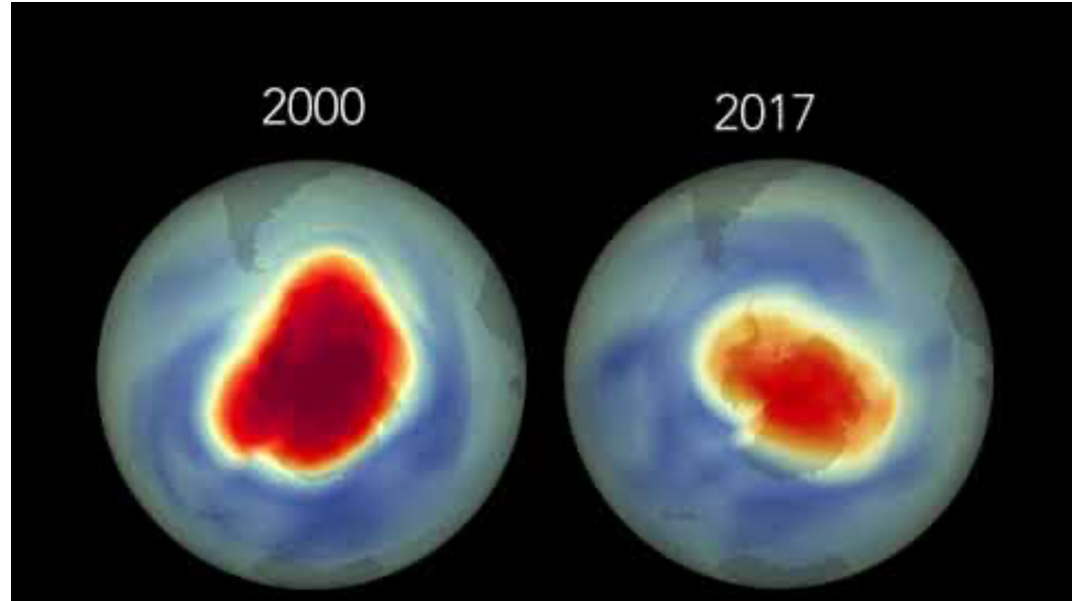
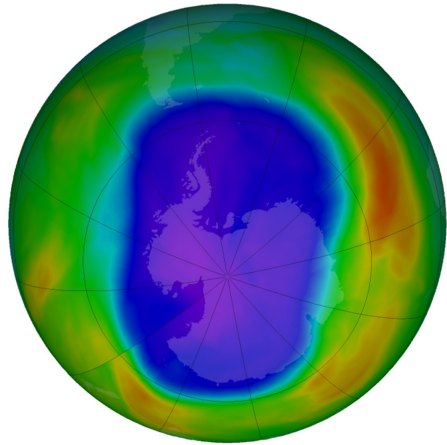


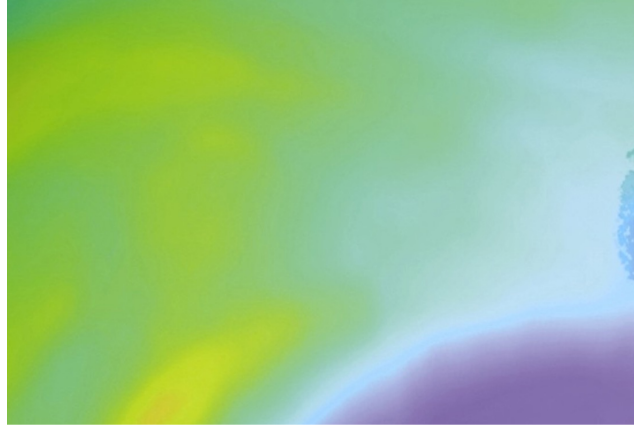
Whilst in attendance at COP28, the FPIB Fire Protection Permit Scheme received high levels of positive feedback and was considered amongst international colleagues as being the Gold Standard.

- **The benchmark and world leading scheme for fire protection & ozone standards.**
- **Incorporates best practices and expertise.**
- **Adaptable and Scalable**  
Designed to be flexible enough to accommodate varying regulatory environments and local conditions.
- **Transparency and Accountability**  
Provides clear guidelines and procedures, fostering trust among stakeholders.



# The Montreal Protocol – It's working!





**Fire Protection Industry  
(ODS & SGG) Board**



[fpib.com.au](http://fpib.com.au)

