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**MEDIA RELEASE****6 December 2016****“Australian Refrigeration Council Groups Withdraw Their Support of Prime”**

Australian Refrigeration Mechanics Association (ARMA) CEO Ms Kim Limburg says she is disappointed but not surprised by the decision to withdraw participation in PRIME by Refrigerants Australia, Refrigerant Reclaim Australia, Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration Equipment Manufacturers Association of Australia (AREMA), Consumer Electronics Suppliers Association (CESA), and Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Contractors Association (RACCA).

“While Consumer Electronics Suppliers Association (CESA) is not a member of the Australian Refrigeration Council (ARC), the groups withdrawing their participation are the groups directly representing the HVAC&R industry as participants on the ARC board and advisors to governments.”

“ARMA continues to participate with the ongoing work of PRIME under AIRAH and applaud Australian Manufacturing Contractors Association (AMCA) for their continued support of PRIME.”

“We were little more than 1 week from submitting the proposal for national licencing, a proposal Michael Bennett (RRA) and Greg Picker (RA) had both been vocal about not supporting. The National licence working group will deliver its proposal to the Prime Executive Group early in the new year.”

“I would caution industry and governments to ensure they are accessing information and involving industry participants from all relevant groups representing industry, not the few who have withdrawn from PRIME and make up the HVAC&R representatives within ARC.”

PRIME is the sole vehicle that industry has to work together effectively and transparently, unlike the closed door working groups being conducted by ARC groups, including their national skills based licencing working groups.”

“ARMA believes this is an opportunity for PRIME to move forward without the obstruction these groups were previously providing.”

“2017 is a new year for industry and an opportunity to establish necessary measures ensuring a way forward to transition to natural refrigerants, skills based licencing and energy efficiency.

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