

Mission, advocacy and membership

2022



The AFCCC is a professional industry association covering a vertical slice of the cold food chain including food producers, equipment manufacturers, service providers, transport companies and others.

Its mission is to advocate for and advance innovation, compliance, waste reduction and safety in the Australian food cold chain for a better and sustainable world.

Initiatives update:

Connected

AFCCC gains meaningful audiences with senior government ministers and advisers, including:

- Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Hon Chris Bowen and his advisors
- Minister for the Environment and Water, Hon Tanya Plibersek MP and her advisors
- monthly meetings with senior officials in the Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water up to Deputy Secretary level.

These engagements are not one-offs, but part of an ongoing consultation strategy, carried out by AFCCC Executive Director Dr Greg Picker and supported where necessary by the Chairman, Mr Mark Mitchell and appropriate directors.

Effective

- The AFCCC has taken on responsibility for development of a new code of conduct and best practice in the Australian cold chain, with the first of a planned five-section code being released in February 2021 and now available with its associated training at <https://afccc.org.au/cold-food-codes.html>
- Such a code is in urgent need as a significant tool to stop or reduce adverse behaviour in the Australian domestic market, and to bring Australia's compliance level up to international standards for food exports. A re-education campaign covering all cold chain practitioners is a key component of the code.
- AFCCC is working closely with the Australian government's AusIndustry on a unique benchmarking project aimed at improving cold chain awareness, training and development. It has been heralded as one of the most effective means to achieve cold chain improvement at a national level to date. AFCCC chairman Mark Mitchell has overseen the building of the benchmarking tool now used by AusIndustry to help participants to benchmark their business against best practice and compliance in the handling of food for human consumption. The tool is used by AusIndustry as a qualifying prelude for those businesses seeking funding and other incentives through its entrepreneurs program.

Effective (continued)

- As a result of the success of the benchmarking initiative, AFCCC has an agreement with AusIndustry to develop a duplicate process for the AFCCC website which will deliver a detailed report on the standard and validity of processes used by businesses and will help them to identify areas where improvement might be beneficial. AFCCC offers the Cold Chain Benchmarking Program as a public service in line with its charter to improve all practices across the cold chain in Australia. It is expected to go live before the end of 2022.
- In July 2019, the AFCCC identified the growing interest within the Montreal Protocol negotiations on the cold food chain and food waste. As a result, the AFCCC convinced the Federal Government and industry to co-fund a study focused on these topics and it was released in May 2020. It is providing a valuable road map for many initiatives by government and industry.
- The AFCCC is engaged in the Food Waste CRC and is an active and critical participant in the new organisation Fight Food Waste Australia.

Engaged

- Representatives from the AFCCC chaired one of the working groups for the National Food Waste Steering Committee and was part of the National Food Waste Strategy implementation committee. The AFCCC is currently a Partner of Stop Food Waste Australia.
- The AFCCC has participated as Australian industry representatives for APEC meetings on food waste, as well as a member of the Global Food Cold Chain Council. Chairman Mitchell and Executive Director Picker have delivered key papers on temperature compliance and related issues to the APEC forum.
- The AFCCC is engaged as part of the CRC on Food Waste and the Centre for Supply Chain Logistics (Deakin University)

Professional

- The AFCCC has a professional board covering a broad swathe of the food and transport industry, as well as an experienced Executive Director with close ties across the national government and numerous international bodies.
- To ensure probity and strict adherence to Trade Practice Legislation, the AFCCC has engaged Price Waterhouse Coopers to manage funds and more importantly to ensure the strictest standards of probity, transparency and independence are met.

A critical platform for industry

Although a young organisation (August 2017), it is already making a difference, identifying for the first time the many issues that need to be addressed to improve cold chain processes and performance that can reduce food wastage and meet the moral obligation by industry to provide fresh and nutritious food to the Australian public.

As a by-product of its existence and lobbying power, it has created a platform for industry leaders to make things better within the whole industry, at the same time providing avenues for regular engagement with Government, kindred associations, regulatory and training bodies.

For all and specific players in the food supply industry, membership of AFCCC opens avenues to be proactive, rather than reactive to food supply issues. To achieve its mission, AFCCC must rely on the additional effort, support and engagement by major participants in the industry.

Membership

- Against a growing national dialogue on food wastage, involvement in an influential group such as AFCCC would be seen as a significant and appropriate role for all companies involved in the cold chain. It reflects a social consciousness that is always a public relations plus for those involved.
- AFCCC is not out to build another monolithic authority. Within the group, there is sufficient expertise to be able to achieve results quickly and within very low budgets and timeframes. The AFCCC doesn't need to hire a fleet of experts to do its bidding because we are our own experts and we have the ability to carry out our mission without massive impact on any one participant – we are used to operating lean and mean and getting things done.
- All Australian companies need to commit some time and expertise to protection of the environment which will be a key beneficiary of better cold chain standards. The AFCCC is an appropriate corporate platform of like-minded people who are all in senior levels within their industry sectors. This means we are not in a competitive or aggressive forum arguing the minutiae of climate change or global warming. Applying best practice to all enterprises within the cold chain will have its own environmental reward.

Annual fees

Individual – not connected to, nor an executive of an existing entity engaged in the cold chain industry = \$495.00

SME

< 5 employees	\$1,000	10-20 employees	\$2,500
5-10 employees	\$1,500	20-30 employees	\$4,500

Corporation (publicly listed or operational from multiple locations, and > 30 employees) \$7,500



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