



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

9 December 2003

Coalition Factionalism Threatens Ethanol Industry

The Independent Member for New England, Mr Tony Windsor today attacked the deliberate leaking of a draft report that is reported to attack policy changes supporting the establishment of a sustainable ethanol production industry.

Mr Windsor said, "It is time regional communities understand how deeply entrenched the anti regional development lobby is within some sections of the Liberal Party."

"The acting Prime Minister John Anderson has my full support as he attempts to introduce some vital changes to coalition policy on ethanol production at the cabinet meeting next Monday and Tuesday."

"The changes that need to be introduced include excise exemption to commence from the start of production and to extend for at least seven years with a significant ramp down period of at least seven years after that to allow investment security."

"The health benefits that ethanol will achieve as an aromatic ester replacement are clear. Leading research professionals agree that there is a direct link between the use of aromatic esters as vital octane boosters and increases in lung disease fatalities in heavy emission areas. Ethanol is a non carcinogenic octane booster and adds oxygen to the fuel burn reducing the fine particle exhaust emissions that lodge in lung tissue."

"These changes if introduced will favour new entrants and will actually provide competition to the Manildra group. The anti Manildra lobby needs to fine tune their attacks and stop threatening health outcomes for city communities and investment opportunities for regional communities."

"People need to fully appreciate the difficulty John Anderson has endured in trying to maintain coalition loyalty at the same time as senior liberals leak dubious appraisals of the CSIRO's report to the media in an attempt to carry the day next week."

"My information is that the figure of \$504,000 subsidy per job as reported in the Australian is not a finding of the report yet the leak has presented it as such. The liberal ideologues are offended that ethanol is staking a policy claim as encouraged within the Coalition's 2001 renewable fuels policy. Unfortunately the basis for their disquiet appears to be their resistance to establishing new regional industries."

"Previous reports on ethanol production prepared by the same reported contributors to this latest leaked document have contained glaring inaccuracies easily refuted by the real experts in this emerging industry, i.e. those who are putting their money where their mouth is."

"To send this latest draft report to cabinet without the benefit of independent peer review smacks of a factional hatchet job," finished Mr Windsor.

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