



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **LATHAM TO MEET WITH ETHANOL PROPONENTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY)**

Member for New England, Tony Windsor, said the meeting with the Developers of the Ethanol Plant at Gunnedah and Dalby and the Leader of the Opposition, Mark Latham MP, could be crucial to the future of the Industry.

Mr Windsor organised the meeting with Mr Latham during his visit to the region last week.

Mr Windsor said he would be raising the key issues of excise relief and labelling.

“These issues are currently before the Parliament and are paramount to the development of ethanol.”

Mr Windsor said the Government legislation before the Senate allowed for a 5 year excise exemption from September 2003 and was not good enough for the industry to develop.

“Obviously the lead time for production to commence would mean new entrants would only get 2-3 years exemption from excise and hence would not be able to attract finance to develop the industry.”

“We need to ascertain the ALP’s position on ethanol, since the change of leadership and in particular, see if Labor is interested in supporting the Democrat amendment in the Senate that allows for 7-10 year excise freedom.”

“A 7 year excise free period from start up of production is the bottom line for the industry.”

“To see the ethanol industry flourish, either the Government or the Opposition will have to change their current positions.”

“Today’s meeting will give the industry a chance to flesh out the issues away from the political hype that has embraced this issue.”

Mr Windsor said he saw the ALP’s response as a test of Mr Latham’s sincerity in relation to country jobs, environmentally favourable fuel and import replacement issues as well as an enormous boost to agricultural communities, some of whom have been left behind in the recent Free Trade Agreement with the United States.

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