



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## MEDIA RELEASE

3 March 2004

### Nationals Vote Against Ethanol Industry

The Independent Member for New England, Mr Tony Windsor, has expressed amazement that the National Party has voted against the ethanol industry in the Federal Parliament.

Mr Windsor said “National Party Senators, including Tamworth based Senator Sandy Macdonald, yesterday voted against their own ministerial taskforce’s recommendations and against the recommendations of proponents of the ethanol industry in an act of hypocrisy.”

“The ‘Ethanol Confidence Working Group’, which included the principal of Primary Energy, Matthew Kelley, was set up by the Coalition to investigate ways of promoting confidence in the industry which focussed on the labelling issues relating to ethanol advertising at the bowser.”

“This taskforce was established by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Anderson, to promote ethanol by removing incorrect and negative perceptions.”

“The Deputy Prime Minister has been scathing in his attacks on the ALP, claiming the ALP has entered into a deliberately misleading misinformation campaign in regard to ethanol, yet the same John Anderson has rejected the recommendations of a committee that he helped set up to counter the negative campaign against ethanol”

Mr Anderson, in speaking of the need for sensible labelling, and in effect promoting the work of the Ethanol Confidence Working Group, stated in Parliament on 11 September 2003:

*Mr ANDERSON—Motorists have no difficulty in determining the types of fuel that are best suited to their own motor cars. They have no difficulty in working out whether to put lead replacement petrol or unleaded petrol in their cars. I do not see why it should be any different at all if we give people sensible labelling in relation to ethanol.*

“Yesterday the committee’s recommendations were rejected by the Coalition in the Senate, having been overruled in the party room by the Liberal Party’s Environment Minister, and once again the National Party has capitulated and voted against the industry and the taskforce that he helped set up.”

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**For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080**

The label as recommended by the Ethanol Confidence Working group says:

**ETHANOL BLEND PETROL**

**Contains up to 10% ethanol**

**For automotive use**

**Check your handbook or contact your manufacturer regarding use of this fuel in non-automotive applications.**

The label as directed by the Liberal Party Minister for the Environment says:

**ETHANOL BLEND PETROL**

**Contains up to 10% ethanol**

**For motor vehicle use**

**Suitable for most post-1986 vehicles**

**Check with your manufacturer before using this fuel in your motor vehicle, motorcycle or in small engines such as chainsaws or outboards.**

**May cause a small increase in fuel consumption.**

**DO NOT USE in any aircraft.**

“In a last ditch effort to have the Working Group’s label recommendation accepted, Democrats Senator Lyn Allison moved a disallowance motion in the Senate yesterday. This motion was defeated by National Party and Liberal Party Senators.”

“Senator Allison summed up the impact of this defeat in the following statement recorded yesterday in Senate Hansard”:

*“The fact that the minister has not taken the advice of the working group set up for this purpose is an indication that this government is not serious about improving confidence in this fuel.”*

Mr Windsor continued, “What was the point of involving the industry and community on a ministerial taskforce?”

“This latest capitulation reinforces the commonly held view of regional communities that the National Party is essentially a poodle of the Liberal Party,” Mr Windsor concluded.