



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Media Release

26 May 2004

### **High fuel prices give Governments a windfall – motorists pay**

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor believes the State and Commonwealth Governments have a vested interest in increased fuel prices and has called for a greater effort in terms of promoting alternate energy sources.

“Australia’s reliance on petroleum products as a form of taxation into the future has to stop.

Not only does it have a negative impact on key domestic economic factors but it also effects Australia’s ability to compete internationally.

The 20c/litre price hike that has been experienced in many areas has resulted in a massive windfall for the State Governments.

An increase of this magnitude is the equivalent of \$700m a year extra to State Government coffers in GST alone.

To put it into perspective, the Commonwealth only spends \$400m annually on new national highway construction,” Mr Windsor said.

In light of the skyrocketing fuel prices, Mr Windsor wants a review of the fuel taxation regime.

“The Commonwealth Government raises nearly \$14 Billion from motorists at the bowser and returns only 15% of the tax take to road infrastructure.

If we are serious about the development of Australia, the dependence on fuel taxation needs urgent review,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor also wants to see more effort put into developing and using alternate energy sources.

“Many within the Government fought tooth and nail to prevent the ethanol industry from getting started due to their addiction to fuel excise and GST revenues, but it is high time that we looked further ahead than the next election and took a long term view of our dependence on foreign produced oil.

The more we can make and use of our own energy sources, the less we will be impacted on by events outside of Australia and the better we will be placed to ride out international storms.

We will therefore be far more competitive in the global market – something the Government continues to tell our industries we have to be and yet continues to hinder through this sort of negative tax regime,” Mr Windsor said.

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