



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
INDEPENDENT
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Shop 5
259 Peel Street
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

All Mail: PO Box 963
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Ph: (02) 6761 3080
Toll Free: 1300 301 839
Fax: (02) 6761 3380
e-mail: Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au
Web Page: www.tonywindsor.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

30 May 2005

Windsor introduces Bill to Mandate Ethanol use in petrol

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has today introduced a Private Members Bill into the Federal Parliament to mandate the inclusion of 10% ethanol into petrol.

“The ethanol industry requires this mandate to give the necessary guarantees of production take off to ensure the long term viability of not only the ethanol industry but also provide the grains and sugar industries with a domestic market not impacted on by corrupt world markets.

The Bill will allow for the growth in production of ethanol to keep up with the demand for its inclusion in fuel by having the mandated volume increase to 10% over a number of years,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor says that there will be spin offs to other sectors of the community as a result of Bill.

“There will also be major spin offs to the environment in the use of ethanol in fuels which include less harmful emissions into the atmosphere as well as being a renewable energy source.

The mandating of ethanol in petrol will also provide major economic benefits to both local and national economies through the creation of a bigger domestic market for our grain and sugar industries underpinning local jobs and the communities that provide services to these people as well as being an import replacement product which will help Australia’s balance of payments,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor also points out that the use of ethanol in fuels also appears to be gaining better political support of late.

“It appears from comments in the media that both the Coalition and the Labor Party are becoming more positive to the inclusion of ethanol in petrol with the Minister for Trade, Mark Vaile stating recently that it was “big oil and the Labor Party” that had prevented the inclusion of ethanol in petrol up till now.

Labor Leader Kim Beazley is also now on record as warming to supporting the use of ethanol in petrol so there should not be any further hurdles to support for the mandating of ethanol in petrol and thereby provide country Australia with a developing industry opportunity.

I look forward to support for my Bill from both the Government and Labor when it comes before the Parliament,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor’s introduction speech is attached

Introduction Speech by Tony Windsor MP – Member for New England for the Fuel Quality Standards (Ethanol Content) Amendment Bill 2005 - 30th May 2005

Mr WINDSOR (New England) (12.32 pm)—The **Fuel Quality Standards (Ethanol Content) Amendment Bill 2005** is a very important bill and I am hoping that both sides of the parliament will recognise the significance of mandating ethanol in our petrol supplies. I think it is time that Australia caught up with the rest of the world in relation to renewable energies. Ethanol is one of those energy sources that I believe we can use to start to address some of the renewable energy, social, economic, environmental and, in particular, health issues in relation to fuel emissions. I am sure there are many on both sides of the parliament who have over recent years seen the benefits of the use of ethanol within our fuel sources. The issues are becoming plainly clear to advocates of ethanol in this House. I want to place on the record my thanks to the member for Kennedy, Hon. Bob Katter, for his assistance in this matter and for his almost incessant campaigning on behalf of the sugar and grain growers of Queensland in his electorate on this issue.

The health issue has not been raised as much as it possibly should have been. The health issue of small particle emission problems occurring across our community at the moment are the subject of constant debate. There are also a number of economic and social issues. I think it is one of those issues where we really can start to address some of the underlying problems that our communities face. The Minister for Trade has been in my electorate in recent weeks and, in my view, he made a very important point. When asked about what is stopping the production of ethanol in Australia, the Minister for Trade said, ‘Big oil,’ and then made a political comment casting some aspersions on the Australian Labor Party.

I think the Australian Labor Party—and the Leader of the Opposition was on radio in Tamworth recently—have shifted their position quite dramatically. I now ask them publicly to shift their position even further and to support a mandate of 10 per cent that is scaled up over the next 10 years. The bill articulates the scale-up to at least four per cent by 1 July 2009, to at least seven per cent by 1 July 2012 and to at least 10 per cent by 1 July 2015. That is put in place to allow the investment and oil industries to absorb the change. It can and should be done.

...2/

It is time Australia moved with the rest of the world. There is an ethanol plant being built in the United States every 23 days. They recognise the significance of the changes that are happening in renewable resources, the problems that we may have in the Middle East and with oil supplies, and the US oil price per barrel. This bill is an enormous opportunity for regional development too. The investment that would take place in country areas to achieve 10 per cent in our fuel mix would be enormous. It would have a triple bottom line effect. It would have the impact of using some of the grain and sugar cane that is currently exported to corrupt markets from which the farm sector has to accept very low prices. In Australia we export grain and sugar cane et cetera at very low prices to corrupt markets internationally. We then use some of that cash to access another corrupt market, that being the world oil market.

Here is an opportunity for this parliament to vote for a bill that stands up in a very real sense for regional development, regional investment and country support—particularly at a time of drought. One problem is the prices being received by our farm sector so that it can get through this period of drought. This is an enormous opportunity, and I call upon the House to put aside the divisions that have occurred in relation to ethanol use in our petrol in the past and look to the future of this nation, to embrace what the rest of the world is doing and to support the bill.

Bill read a first time.

The SPEAKER—In accordance with standing order 41, the second reading will be made an order for the day for the next sitting.