



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

31 May 2005

Windsor welcomes Barnaby Joyce support for mandating ethanol usage

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has welcomed the positive comments for his Private Members Bill to mandate ethanol usage in petrol made by Queensland Nationals Senator-elect Barnaby Joyce.

"I am delighted that Queensland Nationals Senator-elect Barnaby Joyce has been positive about my Private Members Bill to mandate ethanol usage in petrol.

A good idea doesn't care who has it and if Barnaby sticks to his guns in pushing the Queensland National Party policy when he takes up his position after July 1, then I will be the first to sing his praises.

Barnaby's attitude is a breath of fresh air and I would encourage him to continue his stance on this issue and others including his stated opposition to the full sale of Telstra," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Joyce made his comments in a story in the Financial Review on May 31 where he is quoted as saying, "I'm glad that Tony (Windsor) is supporting National Party Policy in Queensland, which is that we support mandating for ethanol, so if we can go about bringing that on, that's a good thing".

The Financial Review story continued Mr Joyce's comments with him being further quoted "Mandating would have to be 'phased in over several years' to ensure the ethanol industry could meet the demand."

"Phasing in over several years is exactly what my Bill sets out with the schedule to be at least 4% from 1 July 2009; at least 7% from 1 July 2012 and at least 10% from 1 July 2015.

I will be sending a copy of my Bill to Barnaby and look forward to working with him to achieve a positive outcome for not only country people but also the broader Australian community," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor expressed disappointment at comments in the same Financial Review story attributed to the Deputy Prime Minister's - John Anderson's - "Office" which 'described Mr Windsor's Bill as poorly constructed because local producers could not produce enough to meet the mandated levels'.

"It appears that the Deputy Prime Minister's - John Anderson's - 'Office' hasn't read the Bill as it is designed to enable Australian ethanol producers to ramp up their production in order to meet the demand.

It will only be the non-support of my Bill and continued inaction by the National Party that will prevent the development of the Australian ethanol industry in order to meet the demand and the benefits that this will bring to country Australia.

Barnaby's entry into the Senate with his current zeal can't come soon enough. It's pleasing to see a National Party member who appears to be listening to his constituency and more importantly is prepared to stand up for them," Mr Windsor said.

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