



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
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Media Release

6 June 2005

Historic week for Ethanol industry

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has described last week as an 'historic week' for the ethanol industry in Australia with a number of significant steps taking place.

"The ethanol industry can look back at the last week of May/first week of June 2005 as an historic week in its development.

Whilst much of the spotlight was on other Federal issues, the events that took place with regard to the ethanol industry were very significant and should be seen as major breakthroughs in having ethanol use in petrol mandated thereby giving Australian ethanol producers the comfort to invest in increasing our production capacity and the flow on that will bring to our grain and cane farmers," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor highlights the significant events of the week.

- On Monday 30th May – Tony Windsor introduced his Private Members' Bill to mandate 10% ethanol use in petrol
- Following the introduction of this Bill, the Prime Minister announced the appointment of a Biofuels taskforce to report back to him by the end of July on the use of Biofuels including ethanol
- Also on Monday the Brazilian Minister for Agriculture was in the Parliament urging Prime Minister Howard to incorporate ethanol in the Australian fuel mix stating that the ethanol industry in Brazil was growing at the equivalent of one Australian sugar industry per year.
- Barnaby Joyce, the Queensland Nationals Senator-elect indicates his support for the mandating of ethanol use in petrol saying that it is Queensland Nationals 'policy' to do so.
- On Tuesday, a CSIRO Report on the proposed Primary Energy ethanol plant in Gunnedah was released indicating that annual reduction in greenhouse gases from just one ethanol plant is the equivalent of removing up to 70,000 cars from Australian roads.
- On Tuesday the Labor Party lodged a notice of motion supporting the use of ethanol in petrol recognising health, environmental and economic benefits from its mandating (See attached notice of motion)
- On Thursday, a meeting was held with representatives of the big oil companies, ethanol producers and the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources the Hon Ian Macfarlane

"As can be seen from these events, the ethanol industry is gaining momentum in its acceptance and I look forward to the wave continuing to build so that we can create a very valuable industry for Australia's health, environment and economy.

The Labor Party's notice of motion is a particularly significant step as in the past their negative position has been used by the Government as an excuse for not being able to proceed down the mandating of ethanol path due to not being able to pass such legislation through the Senate.

It therefore removes that excuse and the ball is now really at the foot of the Government and it should now move forward without delay," Mr Windsor said.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 668868

Notice of Motion given 31 May 2005

- 38 **MR PRICE (LABOR CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP):** To move—That this House:
- (1) notes the valuable role that oxygenated biofuels can play in fuelling Australian passenger and commercial motor vehicles given that they offer the following benefits when blended at approved levels with conventional fuels:
 - (a) reducing the significant deaths and injury caused by fine particulate matter pollution from vehicle exhaust in our major cities;
 - (b) cut greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector which is a major source of Australian GHG output;
 - (c) boost employment in rural and regional Australia where biofuels are grown and processed; and
 - (d) reduce our national dependence on imported petroleum products at a time when the trade deficit in this sector has reached record levels; and
 - (2) acknowledges that, as in the United States and Europe, the public benefits of blending oxygenated biofuels with conventional fuels at approved levels are such that the use of such fuels should be mandated as part of the standard fuel mix in Australia. (*Notice given 31 May 2005. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 20 June 2005.*)