



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**TONY WINDSOR MP**  
**INDEPENDENT**  
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## Media Release

7 December 2005

### **Nationals Barwon candidate mishandling of truth proves need for Independent**

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor believes comments made by National Party candidate for Barwon Kevin Humphries about Mr Windsor's support for the ethanol industry and specifically the Primary Energy project in Gunnedah proves that Barwon needs to elect an Independent at the 2007 NSW election.

"Kevin Humphries comment saying that I would not give my support to the Primary Energy project in Gunnedah is at best ill informed and at worst a blatant lie and follows a well worn path established by the National Party.

The comments are easily refuted by a letter from Primary Energy signed by Matthew Kelley thanking me for the 'amazing interest and support shown by you (me) in our project throughout the past 24 months.'

Mr Kelley went on to say, '...you Tony, have provided support for our cause beyond the call of normal duty and have aided in applying pressure to the parties involved to ensure legislation was achieved that will see the development of a strong domestic Renewable Fuels Industry for rural Australia.....We know this has been achieved in the face of adversity and I congratulate you in taking the leadership and strength necessary to achieve this outcome. An amazing result!'

Mr Windsor said that the proponents of the ethanol industry including Mr Kelley spent 18 months working out of his Canberra office to lobby for assistance and they worked very hard to achieve the result they did.

Mr Humphries in his letter says that he 'highlighted the difficulty that Mr Anderson would face in Cabinet gaining support for the industry's development and that this was a good opportunity for him (me) to help provide regional support for such a project.'

"Mr Humphries argument is flawed in that he joined the National Party to get things done then admits that the then Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the National Party that holds the balance of power in the House of Representatives couldn't achieve a result for the ethanol industry in the cabinet without my help.

The number of speeches I made and questions I asked in the Parliament along with media releases put out on my position of support for the ethanol industry and for the Primary Energy project are easily

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**For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868**

obtained and should have left any reader including Mr Humphries in no doubt as to my support for both the industry and the project.

Mr Humphries comments should therefore be seen as nothing more than a political swipe made to divert attention on the issue of taxing water structural adjustment payments – an issue that has been causing a great deal of discomfort for the Member for Gwydir as he has condoned and in fact implemented the practice in the past.

If anyone in Barwon needed a reason to vote for an Independent at the next election, I think this is a good one.

For a prospective candidate to put his name to this untruthful rubbish shows where the National Party has slid to in credibility.

It is a very bad start for someone trying to put themselves forward as a credible individual,” Mr Windsor said.

#### **Attached**

**Copy of the Letter from Mr Kevin Humphries on Moree Nationals Letterhead**

**Copy of Letter from Mr Matthew Kelley – Director - Primary Energy Pty Ltd**

**Copy of Letter from Mr Chris Harrison and Mr Bill Elliott – Dalby Bio-Refinery Limited**



Moree Branch

6.12.2005

Dear Sir,

Tony Windsor's comments in the Land ('Ethanol Activism', December 1, Page 12) is a significant distortion regarding the start up of the ethanol industry in north-west NSW.

The industry has been underpinned by the Energy Grants (Cleaner Fuels) Scheme Bill, which set up the machinery for ethanol producers to access both production grants and participate in the fuel excise rebate of 38 cents per litre.

Achieving this milestone took an enormous amount of work; spearheaded by John Anderson and The Nationals' support to gain Federal Cabinet backing and adequate resourcing to kick-start what will be a significant contributor to our rural economics.

There were significant tax implications regarding this Bill that needed resolving, economic sustainability had to be ensured and environmental benefits that had to be proven before Cabinet gave its eventual sign off. This was no easy task and history will show that the process was at times very heated. None-the-less the outcome was achieved and communities in rural areas will begin to see the benefits as the industry develops over the next two years.

Prior to this Bill being passed, I was the Chair of the New England and Northwest Area Consultative Committee, responsible for the Federal Government's Regional Partnerships Program and funding recommendations.

For some time we had been working with the Gunnedah proponents, Primary Energy, on the possible construction of a major ethanol plant. I visited Mr Windsor in his Tamworth office seeking his support for the ethanol industry and the Gunnedah project.

During our discussion I highlighted the difficulty that Mr Anderson would face in Cabinet gaining support for the industry's development and that this was a good opportunity for him to help provide regional support for such a project.

Mr Windsor would not give his support for the project and wished me all the best. He also indicated he would shake Mr Anderson's hand if he could get a result from Cabinet in support of a biofuels industry.

I walked out of Mr Windsor's office gob smacked that we had a large regional development project on our doorstep that was not being supported by a Federal Member whose constituents would benefit enormously.

Ultimately, the Gunnedah Plant did receive Federal Coalition Government support in bringing it to financial closure.

Achieving new investment in rural industries is hard enough without politicians actively working against us; there are enough of those already.

Mr Windsor has had numerous opportunities to support development projects in our region and has contributed nothing but negative comments and innuendo around legitimate programs such as Regional Partnerships.

The Senate inquiry into Regional Partnerships that he inspired would have cost taxpayers the equivalent of at least five ethanol plant feasibility and business planning projects.

The outcomes of the politically motivated Senate Inquiry reinforced the need to support programs such as Regional Partnerships and the need to vet political opportunism and waste of resources by people such as Mr Windsor whilst in positions of responsibility.

Mr Windsor inspired me to do something following our initial meeting regarding ethanol in 2003 - I joined The Nationals. You could see who was able to make a difference for rural communities through effective political representation and who was relegated to the sidelines as political commentator.

Ethanol will develop as a strong viable industry across north-western NSW and provide significant opportunities for the agricultural sector. The Nationals will support and facilitate this drive through strategies and policy making that can deliver. The Nationals prefer to be in the game not sit on the sidelines.

I look forward to the handshake Tony.

Yours sincerely

**Kevin Humphries**  
**The Nationals' Candidate for Barwon**



**Primary Energy  
Pty. Ltd.**

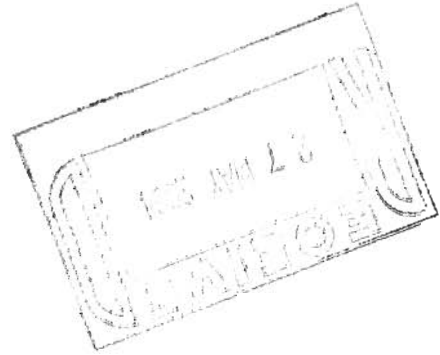
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14<sup>th</sup> May 2004

The Hon Tony Windsor MP  
Federal Member for New England  
PO Box 963  
Tamworth NSW 2340



Dear Tony

### **Energy Grants (Cleaner Fuels) Scheme Bill 2003**

I am writing on behalf of Primary Energy to formally thank you for the amazing interest and support shown by you in our project throughout the past 24 months and for supporting the Energy Grants Scheme Bill that was passed in the Senate during April.

After several visits to Canberra we understand the demands and requests that are placed on our Members and we appreciate the time, efforts and struggles that you and your staff have endured to ensure that our project is given the maximum opportunity for success.

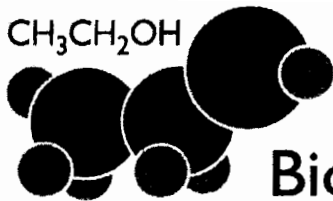
In my opinion, you Tony, have provided support for our cause beyond the call of normal duty and have aided in applying pressure to the parties involved to ensure legislation was achieved that will see the development of a strong domestic Renewable Fuels Industry for rural Australia. The legislation not only ensures a good term of start up assistance but offers an Excise framework that will allow this industry to be viable in rural Australia for the long haul. We know this has been achieved in the face of adversity and I congratulate you in taking the leadership and strength necessary to achieve this outcome. An amazing result!

For Primary Energy from here, it is Upward and Onward! We look forward to continuing our association and discussing the progress of our project as your busy schedule permits.

Yours Sincerely

Matthew Kelley  
Director  
Primary Energy Pty. Ltd.

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# Dalby Bio-Refinery Limited

31<sup>st</sup> March 2004

Mr Tony Windsor MP  
Member for New England  
PO Box 963  
Tamworth NSW 2340

Dear Tony

We would like to express our sincere thanks for your efforts in assisting to bring a successful result for the ethanol industry in general and in particular for the ethanol plants in Dalby and Gunnedah.

As you are aware, we commenced the investment and planning phases of our projects in the light of the Coalition's total excise exemption policy released in 2001. The introduction of the 38 cents per litre excise in 2002 was devastating to our plans. As such, your efforts in pursuing the 8 year excise exemption, has made a significant contribution to our achievement of a suitable economic environment within which to proceed with our project.

We found your political advice and counsel on the debate invaluable and your efforts in working with other members in the Parliament on all sides of the political spectrum to pursue a united stand on ethanol, proved to be very effective.

Your suggestion of bringing together over 50 Mayors from throughout Australia to support the ethanol industry at a meeting in Parliament House in November last year, helped to highlight to the Government the widespread support for the development of the ethanol industry.

Thanks again for all your help.

Best wishes

Chris Harrison  
Director

Bill Elliott  
Ethanol Project Manager

