



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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‘Fuel Tax Bill worst legislation I have seen in 15 years’ - Windsor

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has labelled the Fuel Tax Bill to be debated in Parliament next Tuesday as the worst piece of legislation he has seen in 15 years in Parliament.

Mr Windsor will be opposing the Bill if it proceeds unamended.

“The Fuel Tax Bill 2006 is one of the worst pieces of legislation that I have seen in 15 years in Parliament.

I can’t believe that country Members of Parliament from the Liberal and National Parties could allow such a Bill to be introduced.

The only Government MP making any sense on this at all is Senator Barnaby Joyce.

I cannot understand why the Government is introducing such an anti-renewable fuel piece of legislation when the Prime Minister is talking about the long term energy needs of the nation,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes that the Fuel Tax Bill 2006 has a number of negative aspects especially for country people. These include:

1. The removal of the city-country GST equalisation scheme known as the Fuel Sales Grant Scheme (FSGS) will cause country fuel prices to rise between 1-3 cents per litre whilst city prices will not be affected.
2. Farmers will be caused cash flow problems through the introduction of a system where the diesel fuel rebate will be paid via the BAS system.
3. The so called ‘encouragement’ arrangements for ethanol and biodiesel will be phased down.
4. Biodiesel will be deliberately discriminated against in the heavy vehicle and farm markets which represent 75% of the market.
5. The domestic ethanol production differential will be removed which will see imported ethanol wipe out any local industry development contrary to Government propaganda.

“I would encourage Senator Joyce and other country MPs to oppose the legislation or amend it to put in place a policy document that does not discriminate against ethanol, biodiesel and other renewable energy sources.

Words are not enough to encourage the development of renewable energy sources.

Words must be backed up by a supportive policy framework that gives incentive and certainty to investors.

These will be severely undermined if this Bill passes the Parliament,” Mr Windsor said.

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