



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

27 June 2006

Windsor congratulates Barnaby Joyce on Biofuels stand

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has congratulated National Party Senator Barnaby Joyce and defended him against criticism relating to his role in the Fuel Tax legislation debate in the Senate last Thursday.

“I spent an hour and a half in the gallery of the Senate viewing the debate on the Fuel Tax Bill 2006 that I previously described as the worst I had seen in fifteen years of politics.

Senator Joyce and Democrats Senator Lyn Allison were the only ones who genuinely represented country interests in the renewable energy debate in the Bill,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said that it was less than a fortnight ago at the National Party Conference in Ballina that the Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the National Party, Mark Vaile is widely reported to have made a statement relating to encouraging the ethanol and biodiesel industries.

However, despite this statement, the Government including Mark Vaile and his National Party colleagues passed legislation that essentially is anti the development of the industry and included the following major concerns:

- 1 The ‘encouragement’ transitional fuel excise freedom arrangements for ethanol and biodiesel will be phased down before new producers will be fully established.
2. Biodiesel will be deliberately discriminated against in the heavy vehicle and farm markets which represent 75% of the market.
3. The domestic ethanol production differential will be removed which will see imported ethanol wipe out any local industry development contrary to Government propaganda.

“I congratulate Senator Joyce for his commitment to the development of an Australian biofuels industry and for having the courage to stand up and be counted in the face of much pressure from his own side. Contrary to some reports that Senator Joyce had gone missing in the bathroom, he returned to the floor of the Senate and requested that his vote be recorded in opposition to the legislation.

At least Senator Joyce stood his ground. Unfortunately, the Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile and his other National Party colleagues were flushed away, going missing in action, and aided and abetted by the ALP, they have just failed at the first test of their commitment to develop Australia’s biofuels industry – an industry that could underpin much of rural Australia’s economy through domestic consumption.

Statements of encouragement outside the Parliament by the Leader of the National Party need to be backed up by voting the same way in the Parliament.

Calling for something in the knowledge that they aren’t prepared to deliver even though they hold the balance of power is callous misleading of country people some of whom still believe in the National Party,” Mr Windsor said.

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