



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## MEDIA RELEASE

24 August 2006

### States gazumping of Feds on mandating ethanol in petrol applauded

Moves to mandate ethanol in petrol by both the Queensland and New South Wales State Governments have gazumped the Federal Government according to the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor has applauded the two State Governments and is encouraging them to work together to ensure any cross border issues don't interfere with progress. He is also encouraging the other States to take similar action.

"The Queensland and New South Wales State Governments have gazumped the Federal Government with their announcements to mandate 10% ethanol in petrol refined in their State.

The States have the power to introduce the requirement to blend ethanol into petrol and I would encourage the two States to work together to enact the same legislation so that there can't be any constitutional challenges under the guise of 'free trade between States' to scuttle the process.

I also encourage the other States to follow suit. If all the States of Australia move to mandate ethanol in petrol, they will effectively get around the Federal Government's inertia on this matter.

In doing so, the States will spotlight how much the Federal Government is captive of the major oil companies," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor points to the example of the United States of America, where the States took the lead and left only the role of ensuring fuel quality and standards to the US Federal Government.

"Having just returned from a study tour of the United States where it was the States that took up the challenge to mandate ethanol in petrol, I can say that in doing so they took control of their own destiny.

The oil companies held great sway with the US Federal Government which appears to be the same here in Australia.

Once the individual States in America decided to act, the oil companies had to embrace the idea leaving the US Federal Government with only the role of legislating for fuel quality and standards.

Whilst it would be simpler and cleaner for the Australian Federal Government to legislate a 10% ethanol mandate in petrol, if all Australian States enact the same legislation to mandate ethanol in petrol, the same will happen here and our ethanol industry will get the kick start it needs with the flow-on effects being felt not only at the bowser by all motorists but also significantly by the farming sector supplying the biomass to make the ethanol," Mr Windsor said.

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