



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Ethanol Red Herring from new Trade Minister

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor couldn't believe what he was hearing the new Federal Minister for Trade, Warren Truss saying about why the Federal Government couldn't mandate the use of 10% ethanol in petrol.

"I was astonished to hear the new Federal Minister for Trade Warren Truss saying that if ethanol was mandated that we would have to import it because we don't produce enough.

This statement is very misleading to say the least. It's a Red Herring. It's as though he has gone to his bag of excuses and picked out one that relates to his new portfolio.

No one is suggesting that a 10% mandate should be introduced overnight.

All proposals that I have seen, except those against it for reasons they camouflage with statements like the Minister's, call for a gradual build up to 10% over a number of years and specifically state that this ramp up period is to allow for the Australian based producers to gear up so that we don't have to import it.

The Trade Minister is just using it as an excuse for the Federal Government's inaction on what most people now recognise as being an important step forward not only to wean us off our dependence on Middle East oil but also for the environmental and regional economic benefits," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor is also astonished to hear at the same time as Warren Truss is giving excuses why ethanol cannot be mandated, his National Party colleague and NSW Deputy Opposition Leader, Andrew Stoner is calling on the State Government to move to mandate it through the NSW Parliament.

"As a member of the newly established NSW E10 Taskforce, it is my understanding that this Taskforce is to develop the process for the NSW Government to mandate 10% ethanol in petrol.

Mr Stoner should perhaps be talking with Mr Truss to have the National Party in Government deliver for their constituents rather than delivering feeble excuses as to why the Federal Government can't mandate it.

Federal Nationals Leader Mark Vaile once said to a group in Tamworth that it was the Labor Party and 'Big Oil' that was preventing the development of the ethanol industry in Australia. Now that Labor is onside for mandating 10% ethanol in petrol, it appears that the National Party has taken their place alongside 'Big Oil' in holding it back," Mr Windsor said.

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