



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Media Release

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Windsor welcomes 2% ethanol mandate for NSW

Wants ACCC to monitor oil companies after Caltex warning of likely price hike

The announcement that NSW would have a 2% ethanol mandate for its petrol by September this year made by NSW Premier Morris Iemma is a good start down the path of increasing the use of renewable fuels according to the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor, a member of the NSW Government E10 Taskforce said that the benefits of renewable fuels and their lower emissions cannot be underestimated as we seek solutions to climate change.

“Not only do ethanol and other alternative and renewable fuels assist with addressing environmental concerns, but they can also be economic drivers for rural communities creating another domestic market for grains, creating on-farm jobs and jobs in the ethanol production.

I am pleased to be part of the NSW E10 Taskforce that has been investigating the mandating of ethanol in petrol following being nominated by Member for Northern Tablelands Richard Torbay and Member for Tamworth Peter Draper.

I am also still encouraging the Commonwealth Government to take up the challenge to mandate ethanol nationally however they are still saying no.

It would certainly be easier if they did but I'm pleased that States are showing leadership on this issue and not being held captive by the oil companies,” Mr Windsor said.

Following the Premier's announcement of the 2% ethanol mandate, oil company Caltex issued a media release titled “Caltex predicts price rise for motorists from NSW ethanol mandate”.

“A media release from Caltex after the Premier's announcement appears to be a case of scaremongering again as they continue to resist any moves to mandate ethanol, a commodity that they don't control.

One of the reasons for their 'prediction' is that “A monopoly supplier and a shortage of ethanol mean high prices for ethanol.”

What this statement fails to recognise is that more ethanol producers will be set up if there is a market for the product however without a mandate new producers of ethanol will not be able to establish as the oil companies won't be forced to add it.

In light of this media release, I am calling on the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to closely monitor the pricing of E10 petrol following the introduction of the mandate in September,” Mr Windsor said.

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