



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Media Release

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# Turnbull sees the new age light but won't see the new age fuel

## Govt mandates environment friendly light bulbs but what about an environment friendly ethanol mandate

With incandescent light bulbs being 'mandated' out of existence in Australia and replaced by more energy efficient bulbs like compact fluorescents, the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor is calling on the Commonwealth Government to continue to boost its green credentials by mandating 10% ethanol in Australia's petrol.

Mr Windsor, a member of the NSW Government's E10 Taskforce would like the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Malcolm Turnbull to explain to the community what the difference is between 'mandating' what light bulbs people can put in their light sockets in the name of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and not mandating what petrol they will put in their cars which would have even more impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"Malcolm Turnbull's 'World First' claims about Australia slashing greenhouse gas emissions from inefficient lighting by phasing out inefficient light bulbs should be compared with Australia's virtually last place in moving to mandate the use of ethanol in our petrol.

Mr Turnbull says that 'mandating' out the inefficient light bulbs will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 4 million tonnes by 2012 and then by 4 million tonnes per annum by 2015.

Whilst this is an admirable result, if 10% ethanol was mandated for our petrol, our greenhouse gas emissions would be reduced by 8.75m tonnes per annum – more than double the impact of changing our light bulbs.

I'm sure that Mr Turnbull, now in charge of the Environment portfolio would agree, that this result when combined with the 'World First' phasing out of our current light bulbs would have an enormous benefit to Australia's greenhouse gas emissions and he will now become a strong advocate for the mandating of 10% ethanol in our petrol," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes Mr Turnbull's policy on energy efficient standards should be applied to a number of technologies not just to light bulbs.

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“Mr Turnbull indicated on the ABC AM program that ... ‘energy efficiency standards will apply across the board but we have to be very sure that there is an effective energy efficient alternative.’

There is that much research and proof on ethanol being an ‘effective energy efficient alternative’ fuel, that given Mr Turnbull’s policy, he should now be leading the charge for mandating its 10% use in our petrol.

With the US President recently nearly doubling their ethanol usage mandate, what more evidence does Mr Turnbull want,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor moved to allay fears of having to import ethanol to meet the demand if it was mandated unlike Australia’s need to import the new energy efficient light bulbs.

“Mr Turnbull indicated that “The Government will also work with the world’s largest manufacturers of light bulbs, including China, to broaden the benefits beyond Australia” and concluding his media release with “The climate change challenge is a global one. I encourage other countries to follow Australia’s lead and make the switch to more energy efficient products like compact fluorescent light bulbs.”

“Australia won’t have to import ethanol to put in our petrol as it is proposed to phase in the mandate to 10% over a number of years which will enable the Australian ethanol industry to develop at the same pace as the demand.

From Mr Turnbull’s statement, Australia will be importing these new light bulbs from day one so the economic benefit to Australia as a net importer of light bulbs will not be as great as being a self sufficient ethanol producer.

If China is the country from where our light bulbs will be imported, then the Chinese energy sources will have to be cleaned up or we will be just adding to the overall world greenhouse gas emissions,” Mr Windsor said.