



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

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Ethanol Mandate a boost for grain growers and climate change solutions – Congrats to Holden E85

The NSW Government decision to proceed with mandating 10% ethanol in regular unleaded petrol from 2011 is a boost for grain growers and also a positive step in reducing greenhouse gas emissions according to the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor applauded the actions of the NSW Minister for Lands (including natural resources), Tony Kelly who was responsible for the NSW Cabinet adopting the policy.

“I am very pleased that Minister Kelly has been able to convince his NSW colleagues of the benefits of mandating ethanol in regular unleaded petrol.

For too long now Australia has been lagging behind in its commitment to renewable fuel and if the other States follow, indeed if the Federal Government gets behind a national mandate, Australia could significantly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

When combined with other alternatives like solar, geothermal and wind power, the overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions will be very useful in the targets needing to be achieved to meet our commitments under the Kyoto Agreement,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes that grain growers would also benefit from the mandate giving them another domestic market for their product.

“Grain growers have always been at the mercy of the world market and to have another domestic market available to them will help to boost their returns.

This would be of particular opportunity in circumstances like that which we are currently experiencing.

Much of the wheat crop that was looking like bringing in high protein top food grade quality will now be rain affected and therefore drop in protein but not in starch – the main component needed for ethanol production.

In fact in Canada, some ethanol plants are deliberately located in areas that are more likely to produce weather damaged grain.

Therefore having an ethanol industry will help grain growers get a better price for their grain than they would have without such another domestic market,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor was also pleased to hear of GM-Holden’s announcement to release an E85 Commodore in 2010.

“GM-Holden’s decision to market an E85 Commodore is also very welcome. It’s a very significant step to meet the growing community desire to act on climate change.

Other manufacturers will follow and in doing so we’ll see oil companies having to offer E85 petrol alongside E10, diesel and LPG,” Mr Windsor said.

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