

Name of Inquiry

Submission No: 4
Submitted by: Western Downs Regional Council
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Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

The Western Downs Regional Council supports the proposed Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022. Dalby Bio-Refinery, owned by United Petroleum, was Australia's first grain-to-ethanol facility which has the capacity to produce up to 80 million litres annually. This facility closed in 2020 and remains closed today. A stronger legislated mandate that supports increasing the demand for ethanol in petrol fuel may support the reopening of this facility, other ethanol producers continuing to operate and support Queensland's farmers. This in turn will create more jobs in regional Australia. The reopening of the Dalby Bio-Refinery would create 50 direct jobs at the Plant in Dalby. The Plant has the capacity to convert over 200,000 tonnes of sorghum grain from local producers into fuel-grade ethanol and high value animal feed products. This advanced manufacturing process enables every 1000kg of sorghum grain purchased by the Dalby Bio-Refinery to be converted to 400 litres of ethanol whilst returning 99% of the original protein back into the animal feed supply chain. The intensive agriculture industry is one of the fastest growing sectors in the Western Downs Region and the demand for our high-quality beef and pork is growing. Our livestock industry boasts 42% of the national feedlot occupancy within a 200km radius of Dalby. Manufacturing animal feed products locally further supports the economy of the Western Downs Region and supports the creation of more jobs regionally. In summary, the Western Downs Regional Council is in support of increasing demand for E10 fuel by mandating an increase for a minimum bio-base in blended fuel. Council seeks consideration for the minimum blend mandate to be lifted to 15%. Thank you for providing the opportunity for the Western Downs Regional Council to make a submission in support of the proposed Amendment Bill.