



Speech by

**Dr LESLEY CLARK**

**MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER**

---

Hansard 13 November 2003

### ETHANOL

**Dr LESLEY CLARK** (Barron River—ALP) (7.18 p.m.): The Australian transport sector accounts for 16 per cent, or 74 million tonnes, of Australia's total net greenhouse gas emissions. It is also the fastest growing emissions sector in Australia and, as such, provides significant opportunities for greenhouse gas abatement. The Queensland government, through Q-Fleet's 13,000 motor vehicles, is meeting this challenge with two significant initiatives. The first is through its support of the ethanol blended fuel, or E10 trial, being run by Caltex in Cairns and Mareeba introduced in May and October this year.

I congratulate Ministers Wells and Schwarten on their support for the Caltex E10 trial. I now fill up with E10, along with many other motorists who, like me, want to support the development of a local ethanol industry that can assist our canefarmers and at the same time reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Sales of E10 in Cairns stand at approximately 30 per cent.

Among the motorists filling up with E10 are drivers of the 385 Q-Fleet vehicles in Cairns. Q-Fleet has encouraged all its fleet managers in Cairns to participate in this trial and I am pleased to report that as of last Friday, six departments have Caltex accounts for E10 in Cairns. They are the departments of Premier and Cabinet, State Development, Families, the Cairns Sexual Health Service, the Tropical Public Health Unit and Q-Fleet itself. I urge the fleet managers from other departments in Cairns to follow this example, get on board and support the Caltex E10 trial so that E10 fuel becomes permanently available in far-north Queensland service stations and is extended to Caltex customers and the rest of Queensland.

The second Q-Fleet green initiative that I would like to commend the minister for is the contract with Greenfleet, a not-for-profit organisation that provides a simple and effective way to reduce motor vehicle emissions. For \$30—tax deductible—Greenfleet will plant and maintain 17 native trees on people's behalf. These trees will absorb the greenhouse gases that the average car produces in a year. Since 1997, Greenfleet has planted over 1.3 million trees across Australia on behalf of individual motorists and corporate and government fleets. The contract with Q-Fleet will result in more than 114,000 trees being planted in Queensland in the next 12 months. This commitment also makes Q-Fleet the nation's biggest supporter of Greenfleet.

I am currently working with the Barron River Catchment Management Association to prepare a submission for a Greenfleet planting in my electorate that will see some 20 hectares of land along the banks of the Barron River revegetated as part of an ambitious and much larger green corridor project to restore vegetation along the entire length of the Barron River from its source in the tablelands to the Cairns coast.

The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is only one of the benefits of this project, which will also reduce soil erosion, increase habitat for endangered species and improve river health and water quality. I would like to commend the members of BRCMA for their commitment, in particular: coordinator, Helen Adams; chair, Councillor Margaret Cochrane; Jax Bergeson of Enviro Care; and Tim Anderson, who is preparing the funding submission for Greenfleet.