



Speech by

**Shane Knuth**

**MEMBER FOR CHARTERS TOWERS**

Hansard Tuesday, 28 October 2008

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## **INDUSTRY INVESTMENT**

**Mr KNUTH** (Charters Towers—LNP) (5.32 pm): One of the biggest concerns for every Australian in the current financial climate is security and certainty for the future. We have inadvertently been given an opportunity to secure the future of Australia. However, it will require the involvement of governments at all levels to ensure its success. It has been proven that we cannot rely on investing just in offshore funds. The situation would be alleviated if financial and superannuation contributions were invested in future Australian industries. The need to encourage and support the growth of future industries with the incentive for super funds to be invested in these industries is paramount.

The federal government has conceded the need to invest in Australian infrastructure. Therefore, it is paramount that we encourage and support the growth of future industries. The case is very strong for investment in biofuels, ethanol and the extraction of oil from coal technologies. Even though oil prices have plummeted, we are still paying an arm and a leg for our fuel. It is paramount that we start investing in our own resources. The federal government can lead the way with oil from coal extraction refineries, ethanol refineries, support to sugarcane and farming industries for biodiesel production and major water infrastructure. The state government can play its part by supporting a 10 per cent ethanol-fuel blend by investing funds in alternative fuel and research and development. Coal to fuel technologies is ready for expansion. There are coal deposits in Australia that could last hundreds of years and it has been reported that it is possible to convert oil from coal at a cost of 17c a litre.

Our demand for energy is ever increasing, so it is paramount that we do something to secure our future energy requirements. If this technology was given the government support and investment it needs to expand, it would make a significant difference to the financial security of this country. Ethanol is the most widely used alternative fuel in the world and has the potential to supply environmentally sustainable and renewable fuel for Australia. In Brazil, where ethanol accounts for up to 40 per cent of the local fuel market, the air is much cleaner than in the cities where petrol based fuel is the norm.

Government backed investment in Australian viable future industries would allow us to become more self-reliant on alternative fuels. We would have a greater chance of being able to ride out future global financial crises if domestic industries were invested in, instead of offshore investments. Most Australians would be keen to see their funds invested in viable new domestic industries, where they can see their taxes and superannuation being utilised for this country's self-sufficiency rather than overseas. It makes good economic sense to invest in solutions to current issues such as the world's diminishing fuel supply and the need for alternative fuels.