




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

MOTION: ETHANOL

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (5.40 pm): I support the motion moved by the member for Condamine. I also congratulate the member for Burdekin for her passionate pursuance of this push to get ethanol in fuel to 10 per cent across Queensland. That is what the motion says—to take all measures possible to mandate unleaded petrol sold in Queensland to have a 10 per cent ethanol blend.

I acknowledge and am inspired by the LNP's push to double agricultural production. I believe that agricultural production drove us through the global economic crisis. As we see a nation struggling in many different fields, I believe that agriculture is an area that we can push through in regard to job creation. We have seen only recently the federal government provide \$2.5 million to the Townsville Enterprise to support funding of a program that will investigate the investment in agriculture, sugarcane and grain farming and water infrastructure in the area of Pentland to be used for cogeneration that will see a combination of an ethanol blend in fuel and power generation. That will not only create 40,000 to 5,000 jobs but also provide cheaper power to consumers who are struggling with the increase in power prices.

This is a win-win for everyone and I have great confidence in members of the LNP such as the member for Bundaberg, who was passionate about pursuing this while in opposition and believed that this was going to be their first priority when they came to government. No doubt this is something that I believe the LNP will support and should support because it is about job creation. It is about industry. It is about the survival of this nation. It is about nation building. When we look back to the time of Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, we saw the cranes moving equipment, the farmers ploughing their fields, the sugar pouring onto the ships. That is what this is about. It is about having the intestinal fortitude to step forward. It is not about sacking 16,000 workers. This is about the Public Service and industry working together to get an outcome. I am sure the LNP support this. I will read from a press release of the Minister for Health when he was in opposition. It states—

... ethanol mandate needed.

With crude oil prices soaring past \$US72 (\$97) a barrel and motorists facing pump prices of \$1.30/litre and more, the State Coalition has renewed its calls for the State mandate for ethanol in petrol.

Opposition Leader Lawrence Springborg said the record crude price was already being felt by Queensland motorists, but was likely to spike next week.

"With the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) giving every indication it intends to keep prices above \$US60 a barrel, the days of \$1 a litre have gone and it's time we started supporting our ethanol industry," Mr Springborg said.

That was in 2006. That was when there was a concern about the prices being \$1 a litre. Had a mandated 10 per cent ethanol blend been brought in at that time, had there been the intestinal fortitude from the Beattie government and the push from the LNP at that time—and he would have embraced it—we would not see the situation that we have now of the combined high electricity prices and high fuel prices. The press release continued—

Mr Springborg said it was time the Beattie Government turned its back on the shameful anti-ethanol campaign waged by Federal Labor and took the simple step of using existing provisions in current State laws ... to mandate a 10 per cent blend.

I will also read from an article 'Talking politics with Jeff Seeney MP, member for Callide'. He said that, with crude oil soaring past \$US72 a barrel and motorists paying pump prices of \$1.30 a litre, it is time the state government introduced a mandate for a 10 per cent ethanol blend in fuel and it is time for the Beattie government to take action. That was from the LNP. I also table 20 media statements. It is time to take action. It is time to get a bit of intestinal fortitude. It is time to invest.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 21 April 2006, titled '\$1.30/l for petrol—ethanol mandate needed' [\[2650\]](#).

Tabled paper: Media release, undated, titled 'Talking Politics with Jeff Seeney MP: Article for paper week ending 12 May 2006' [\[2651\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Parliamentary Library Client Information Brief, dated 21 May 2013, for Mr Shane Knuth MP titled 'LNP support for ethanol use in petrol in Queensland—Media releases, policies and articles, 2004-2013' [\[2652\]](#).

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