




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 6 May 2015

MOTION: ETHANOL MANDATE

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (6.27 pm): I rise to support the Treasurer's amendment and to oppose the opposition's motion. The question has to be asked: if they are so passionate on the other side of the chamber, why were they so quiet and silent on this issue? With their record majority for three years, they did absolutely nothing on this issue. The party with form in this chamber when it comes to ethanol is Labor. Who introduced ethanol into Queensland? It was Labor. Who, within months of forming government again, announced an ethanol mandate two weeks ago in Sarina? It was Labor. We are the ones with a good track record on this. We have come back to it at the first opportunity.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Nanango, please. We have one motion and two amendments. I will listen to the minister.

Mr BAILEY: What we have is a tepid form of imitation from the opposition. May I point out a few things here. Their motion, for instance, does not mention biofuels. It does not mention first generation or second generation biofuels. It is all about ethanol. This is a cynical move by the opposition to try to ingratiate themselves after being inactive and insincere for three years on this issue. They stand condemned. This is another piece of political trickery. This has nothing to do with their commitment to ethanol or to the environment or even to primary industries in this state.

I note the support of the sugar mills, AgForce and the RACQ to the government's announcement two weeks ago that we would have a mandate on ethanol in Queensland. It must be galling for the opposition to see those groups so vehemently in support of the government's policy. I support the amendment moved by the Treasurer, because we have to make sure that the jobs created by the ethanol and biofuels mandate are Queensland jobs and that this new market is not dominated by imports.

The current capacity of the industries is about 4.7 per cent in terms of a mandate. If we go very quickly to a large mandate, the risk is that we have cheap imports coming into this country and we are not creating Queensland jobs. That is why I support a sustainable mandate—one that grows Queensland jobs and grows capacity as we go. I might add that we support an implementation board. We are open to good ideas from the member for Mount Isa, who has made a significant contribution on this matter. We welcome his support of ethanol in the previous term of parliament, and we continue to commit to working with him and all members who are sincere on this issue and not cynical in trying to bring it here when in opposition and having lost power.