




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 11 November 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Ethanol Industry

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (2.50 pm): What a huffy, puffy performance from the member for Surfers Paradise. The Palaszczuk government is committed to building a biofuel production sector here in Queensland by expanding our ethanol industry and growing jobs in the regions. As members are aware, our ethanol mandate is proposed to commence at two per cent from 1 July next year. We acknowledge a longer term vision is needed to stabilise and expand the biofuels and biomanufacturing industries in Queensland to give investors confidence.

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. We have a biofuels bill before the House.

Mr BAILEY: This is not about the bill.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I would urge you not to refer to a bill that is before the House.

Mr BAILEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am speaking about a longer term vision, if those opposite would actually like to listen to my speech. A longer term vision is one reason the Premier launched the *Queensland Biofutures 10-year Roadmap: Consultation paper* last week. Today I can advise the House that the Palaszczuk government is now seeking industry and community feedback on possible pathways for increasing the ethanol and biobased diesel mandates over time. Consistent with our approach to government to listen to industry—

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, that is very much in the bill to be debated in the House.

Mr BAILEY: It is not part of the bill. It is separate to the bill.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I have not studied the bill. I am being guided by your advice that this is not contained in the bill that is currently before the House. If it is contained in the bill that is currently before the House, you do run the risk of—

Mr BAILEY: I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that this is separate to the bill.

Mr SPEAKER: Okay.

Mr BAILEY: The public consultation will canvass two options for increasing the ethanol mandate between now and 2020. The first proposed option would see the mandate rise to four per cent by 2019. There would be a step change between 2018 and 2019 when the mandate would rise from two per cent to four per cent. The second option would see the mandate rise gradually, increasing by half a per cent annually, reaching four per cent in 2020. For biobased diesels, there are also two proposed pathway options canvassed. The first would see the mandate volume increase to two per cent by 2019, with a large step up from a half a per cent in 2018. Option 2 proposes a more gradual increase—

Mr POWELL: I rise to a point of order. My point of order is consistent with the point of order from the Leader of Opposition Business. This is consistent with the bill that is before the House. The minister is referring to elements of the public committee hearing that was held during the last sitting on the Wednesday, including discussions about where the mandate that is in the bill will be trending over the coming years. He is referring to the bill that is before the House.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Glass House. Minister, it is not appropriate for you to refer to a bill that is currently before the House.

Mr BAILEY: That is right.

Mr SPEAKER: If you are not referring to the bill that is before the House—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I am speaking about a discussion paper that is launching today for public comment and input over the next four weeks. That clearly goes beyond the time frame of the bill. It is a very simple matter for the opposition to understand and it is separate from the bill in that it is asking for pathways.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. I invite you to continue if you believe that you are not contravening those principles, but no doubt members will be studying the *Hansard* when it is available.

Mr BAILEY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Option 2 proposes a more gradual increase of half a per cent in July 2019 and July 2020, reaching 1.5 per cent in relation to biodiesels. There are of course other pathway options and I welcome the feedback on other alternatives through the consultation process. Consultation will be open for four weeks and I encourage industry and the community to share their views with us. The feedback provided will assist government in considering its options for supporting this important industry. Building a vibrant bioindustry in Queensland and the jobs that go with it is a priority for the Palaszczuk government. Those opposite had three years to advance in this area and yet we saw nothing from them. We are uniquely placed as a tropical and subtropical First World economy with considerable natural resources, first-rate skills and research capabilities and proximity to the increasingly prosperous growing Asian region.

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I can refer you to standing order 231 in relation to anticipating discussion. It states—

The Speaker when determining whether a discussion is out of order on the ground of anticipation, shall have regard to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before the House within a reasonable time and the degree to which debate of that matter is likely to be anticipated.

Mr Speaker, in my submission to you on the standing order, the entire content of the minister's contribution has been all around an ethanol mandate, all of which can be reasonably considered to be the subject of debate on a bill which is on the *Notice Paper* of which the committee has had a hearing and which within a reasonable time will be debated by the House. Mr Speaker, in my submission to you, it is incumbent on you to make a ruling in relation to that standing order.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. I have already indicated that I have not studied the bill. The minister is familiar with the bill, more so than anyone else in this chamber. If it turns out that the member is contravening that principle, I have no doubt that someone from the opposition or I will make a ruling and decide the matter. At the moment I am being guided by the minister's assurance to me that he is not contravening those principles in the standing orders and we will all study the *Hansard*.

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Yes. What is your further point of order?

Mr NICHOLLS: I understand your comment there, but, Mr Speaker, your role, if I might suggest it, is that you are to determine the outcomes of points of order based on your understanding of it, not what the minister tells you might be in or out of the bill.

Mr SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr NICHOLLS: It is about the anticipation of the debate of a matter that is on the *Notice Paper* that is likely to be debated in the very near future. The *Notice Paper* clearly has on it a bill in relation to the ethanol mandate. The minister is clearly speaking about ethanol mandates. It is a matter that is reasonably likely to be discussed in the near future with respect to the matter on the *Notice Paper*. With respect, Mr Speaker, it is not up to the minister to say what is in the bill; it is in fact obviously within your realm to make that particular call. Even though you may not have yet studied the bill, it is reasonable to anticipate that the minister—

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Clayfield. I have listened to all members' contributions this afternoon. I will study *Hansard*. The minister has given an assurance as the minister responsible for this bill. I will consider *Hansard* and I will make a considered decision. Minister, do you have anything further to add?

Mr BAILEY: Yes, Mr Speaker. Over 60 nations across the world have ethanol mandates. The bioindustry has the potential to deliver jobs for Queenslanders now and into the future and the Palaszczuk government is backing this industry and the jobs that go with it.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I will certainly be studying *Hansard* and if the minister has breached that standing order appropriate action will be taken.