




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

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**LIQUID FUEL SUPPLY (ETHANOL AND OTHER BIOFUELS MANDATE)
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (8.17 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill 2015. I commend the state government on its initiative to make these things happen and for there to be tangible legislation in this House. For many years we have seen this debate. I think there have been three or four private members' bills on the issue. There have been token gestures and rejection. Sometimes it has been a rock show when it comes to ethanol.

I commend the government. As the Treasurer indicated, it has been a steady approach. They have all the stakeholders on board. They have communicated with the industry that needs to invest in this area. They have spoken to those who have concerns. They have been able to convey the message of the importance of the industry to Queensland and probably Australia. I believe that this is going to be an emerging industry from here on.

The KAP have pushed this issue in two different areas: one is the environment with regard to clean energy and renewable energy and the second is cheaper fuel. There are going to be great benefits. We see an emerging fuel industry as well. The member for Mount Isa mentioned before that \$23 billion of fuel is exported from the Middle East. So we see this as an opportunity. I know that in the United States of America 250 million cars run on 10 per cent ethanol. I know that there is a lot of scaremongering out there but, if it can be done in the United States of America, it can be done here. I believe that the grain industry is a very powerful and prosperous industry in America. So this is an opportunity.

Being a member from a rural electorate, I see the opportunities. We have billions of megalitres of water running into the ocean every year. This is an opportunity for us to own our own fuel. We do not know the percentage that the mandate will get to one day. Our goal is probably 10 per cent. It might be pie in the sky to others, but the fact is that it is happening overseas and they are prospering quite well. We can work towards that. We have the mandate starting at three per cent. We commend the minister for moving it from two to three per cent. We have indicated very strongly that we would like to see the mandate at four per cent. The reason is that there are a lot of industries out there that want to invest but feel that three per cent may be not enough. We have always been determined to have that four per cent mandate. But we commend the minister for his initiative in moving it from two to three per cent. I have read the committee's report, and it says—

The Committee strongly supports an increase in the mandate level, as soon as practicable, to encourage further investment in the industry. It is therefore in favour of option 1 for the proposed mandate pathway (4 percent from 1 July 2019) and would support a 4 per cent mandate being implemented even earlier if this is determined to be achievable.

At the public hearings where the government heard from different communities and different stakeholders, there was much talk about increasing the mandate from two per cent to possibly four per cent. The KAP will be moving an amendment to that effect, but we are not moving an amendment to

say move it to four per cent now or within 12 months. We want to be smart about this too. We will be moving an amendment to increase the mandate to four per cent by mid-2018. That is very close to the time frame that the committee was talking about.

I commend both the opposition and the government. This is supported by all parties—the government, the opposition and the crossbenches. That is good. I commend the government for taking the initiative and making it happen. It is actually happening tonight, and I am very proud and greatly honoured to be a part of this parliament where we will see this come to fruition. I commend the bill to the House.