




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

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

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (8.22 pm): I rise to support the Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill 2015. I would like to congratulate the minister and the Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee for their work on this valuable bill. I note that the inquiry report from the committee and debate so far demonstrates the broad support for this bill.

Submissions to the inquiry largely reinforced the view that the mandate in the bill provides certainty to the biofuel industry so that it can invest, innovate, grow and importantly create jobs. The mandate will contribute to regional growth, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage innovation in biofuel production technologies. We have learned from the experiences of biofuel schemes around the world that sustainability criteria are important to avoid unintended environmental impacts from an expansion in biofuels production. This is particularly important given the amount of work underway at the moment to reduce the impact of broadscale agriculture on the Great Barrier Reef.

In this bill, only biofuels that meet sustainability criteria will be able to count towards meeting the mandate. These sustainability criteria will be prescribed by regulation. Robust sustainability criteria will take time to develop. Before the sustainability criteria are finalised, an interim regulation will be drafted to clarify that existing biofuels will be eligible until the sustainability criteria are prescribed. This will ensure industry certainty and investment in Queensland's biofuel industry from the start.

The sustainability criteria and the compliance model are being developed in consultation with stakeholders including feedstock growers, biofuel producers, fuel wholesalers and retailers, and associated interest and community groups such as the RACQ. The first such consultation meeting has already been held with biofuel producers, and further groups will be consulted in the next few months and throughout the development of the sustainability criteria.

The objectives of the sustainability criteria intersect with the key environmental priorities and commitments of this government such as the health of the Great Barrier Reef and climate change. High level principles for the criteria were set out in the June 2015 discussion paper for the biofuels mandate. There are also international standards and regimes that will need to be considered.

The government is aware that parties in the supply chain for biofuels already participate in a range of industry led and government accredited schemes, environmental regulation and sustainability programs. The development of the sustainability criteria will look to enable these to be used to demonstrate compliance with the biofuels sustainability criteria where they are relevant and meet the government's environmental requirements.

The objective is to establish an environmental outcome in regard to biofuels and to articulate how stakeholders can demonstrate their compliance with that outcome. What form this takes is central to

consultation that is currently underway for the development of the criteria. Alongside this work, there will be modelling for a life cycle analysis of greenhouse gas emissions from various biofuels compared to conventional fuels. With these measures, the House can be confident that the biofuels mandate contained in this bill will be implemented without unforeseen environmental impacts or jeopardising the good work underway to improve water quality in the Great Barrier Reef. I commend this bill to the House.