



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

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Biofuels Industry

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (2.34 pm): I am pleased to provide the House with an update on work by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to assess the carbon performance of biofuels produced in Queensland and the department's work on finalising the sustainability criteria for the biofuels mandate. This work is critical to support the growth of the important biofuels and biofutures sector for clean energy jobs in Queensland's regions. This government has legislated to ensure that biofuels which are used to count towards the mandate are to be sustainably produced.

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection recently received a report on the lifecycle greenhouse gas performance of biofuels produced in Queensland and how they compare to other fuels. I am pleased to advise that the findings are good. The findings show that biodiesels made in Queensland from feedstocks, including wastes such as tallow and ethanol from sugar and grain, produce less carbon when used compared to regular low sulphur diesel and unleaded petrol.

These results highlight that biofuels are good for regional development and can also contribute to our vision for Queensland as a clean energy and low carbon economy. Other benefits include opening up new markets for by-products from our agricultural sector. It opens up new markets for the waste industry as well.

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection is also ensuring that biofuels are produced in a way that are not only good in terms of carbon pollution but also for the environment more broadly. We are currently finalising a sustainability framework to ensure that this is the case, especially considering that some of the feedstocks are grown in environmentally sensitive areas such as Great Barrier Reef catchments.

EHP is consulting with industry and other stakeholders on standards for environmental performance of other inputs such as fertilisers. This work is drawing on internationally recognised standards for managing environmental impacts associated with producing biofuels. The standards will take into account the diverse source and range of biofuel feedstocks and be performance oriented rather than prescriptive. These will be finalised in the near future in time for the mandate's commencement on 1 January 2017. This is good news for everyone—lower carbon energy, environmental standards, jobs, innovation and new economic opportunities for regional Queensland.