




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Biofuels Mandate

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.09 am): This government is demonstrating its commitment to regional growth and the development of a cleaner energy future for Queensland through the expansion of the state's biorefining and biomanufacturing sectors. On 1 January 2017, the biofuels mandate commenced requiring liable fuel retailers and wholesalers to sell biobased petrol, including E10, and biobased diesel. The policy is already seeing strong results. In September of last year, Queensland had 367 service stations selling E10. I am pleased to advise that, based on information provided by fuel retailers, this number has now increased by a further 82 sites to 449, with more to follow over the next few months.

While fuel sellers are doing their part to comply with the mandate, the Palaszczuk government is playing an important role in educating motorists about E10. The E10 OK consumer education campaign began in September last year with the launch of the E10 OK compatibility checker app and has been coupled with extensive advertising. Since its launch, the education campaign has seen over 356,000 vehicle checks on the E10 OK compatibility checker. Additionally, in the first three months of the campaign launch, the consumption of ethanol blended fuel in Queensland increased by over seven per cent according to the Australian Petroleum Statistics for December 2016. As well as checking the E10 OK website to find out whether their vehicle can use E10, Queensland motorists can visit the site to find out which service stations are selling E10. This information is displayed on a map which is updated as more and more sites start selling E10.

While the mandate and commencement of the education campaign are important for increasing sales of locally blended E10, the Palaszczuk government is also very committed to leading by example by using E10 in government vehicles where practical. I thank my colleague the Minister for Housing and Public Works for his support there. I use E10 and I hope every member in this House uses E10 in their cars as well.

With the rise in demand for E10, we are now seeing positive results for the biofuels industry, with a recent media report on the Dalby bioethanol refinery stating that it is now operating at peak capacity. This will secure jobs for not only those at the refinery but also the feedstock suppliers in the surrounding region—which the opposition does not seem to care about—and across the industry as the biofuels sector grows. It also demonstrates that there is demand for new biorefinery developments.

These success stories and visible results are an encouraging start to the mandate. We have been able to ensure a solid foundation for broader government plans, such as the Advance Queensland plan. Through the increase in demand, we have given the industry the confidence to invest in Queensland and this will, in turn, drive growth and jobs in regional areas, as well as investment in research and development sectors. In only two years with a minority government, the Palaszczuk

government has made biofuels economic opportunities for regional Queensland a priority. This comes after three years of inaction by the previous LNP government with their record majority. We are getting things done.