




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

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ADJOURNMENT

Ethanol

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (7.24 pm): The rollout of the four per cent ethanol mandate has been very disappointing because at this stage the most recent figures are 1.73 per cent and it should be at four per cent. This requires the government to make strong moves and crack down on fuel companies to stop practices like fuel gouging and price gouging consumers. Fuel companies play around with the market and deliberately market E10 to make it look like it is an inferior product so that people are turned away from it. It needs to be pushed by government.

In the United States, 98 per cent of all unleaded petrol sold contains 10 per cent ethanol. There are 64 countries in the world that mandate it and enforce it, but it is not enough to mandate it without enforcement. We had the LNP campaigning federally in Ingham the other day saying that they are going to build an NQBE plant. Nothing is stimulated unless there is strong force from the government and investors know that there is a strong government that is going to push a mandate and force the fuel companies to take it on board.

People ask me, 'What do you do about climate change? What action can you take?' I say that I would push an ethanol mandate, because 10 per cent ethanol in your fuel can reduce your tailpipe emissions by up to 30 per cent. It is more likely around 20 to 26 per cent, but close to 30 per cent. If we did that for every car in Queensland not powered by diesel it would be a fantastic contribution to making cleaner air. That is why the Australian Medical Association supports it so strongly. They know that in the cities where you have urban congestion it can help save lives by reducing the inhalation of particulates.

We know that farmers are begging for a floor price. Sugarcane farmers are coming under more and more threat from the government as we speak. They need a floor price, which is why Brazil competes so heavily in ethanol. It is a wonderful policy objective that we can enforce, but it needs to be pushed by the government. We cannot passively sit back and hope that fuel companies play nice. They will not unless they are forced to adopt it and unless we tell drivers like we did when we changed from leaded petrol to unleaded petrol all those years ago. That was a much more abrupt adaptation for drivers and consumers around Queensland, but we did that because it was in the national interest. This is much more in the national interest than introducing unleaded petrol, but we are not forcing it on both sides of this House and federally. It was absolute nonsense saying that in Ingham the other day, because they voted against a mandate which is the catalyst for starting the uptake that is needed for investment. They voted against it in the federal parliament; then they say they support NQBE. We need to support investment and development in Queensland. We need this for the drivers and we need this to provide cleaner air, but it needs to be driven by the government.