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NSW LEADS THE WAY ON HOMEGROWN SUSTAINABLE FUEL

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly today announced the next step on the NSW Government’s path to increase usage of locally produced, sustainable fuel.

Mr Kelly said the Government would triple the State’s ethanol fuel mandate from two to six per cent within two years.

“Under the NSW Government’s biofuels strategy we will also mandate for a 10 per cent ethanol blend in all regular grade unleaded petrol by 1 July 2011 and introduce a biodiesel mandate,” Mr Kelly said.

“The biofuels mandate delivers on our commitment to drive the development of a long-term, sustainable biofuels industry in NSW, generating investment and jobs in regional areas.

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Carmel Tebbut, said that despite recent falls in fuel prices there is no certainty about price stability so there is clearly a need for a cheaper alternative.

“The move towards biofuels is a key means of overcoming our reliance on petroleum.

“We need to embrace bio fuels in a sustainable way, but acknowledge their contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions,” Ms Tebbut said.

Mr Kelly said these new mandates will help to drive the State’s biofuels industry and encourage more use of environmentally-friendly, cheaper, locally made fuels.

“They are clean, green, and can be made right here in Australia,” said Mr Kelly.

“We introduced a two per cent mandate successfully last year and we’re moving forward in reducing our reliance on fossil fuels even further.

“The biofuels mandates will also be expanded to include major retailers as well as primary wholesalers.”

“The volumetric biodiesel mandate will commence at two percent, rising to five per cent as supply is available.”

For more information on the NSW Government’s biofuels strategy, go to www.biofuels.nsw.gov.au.

Media Contact: Alex McGregor on 0404 015 556