



Hon Tony Kelly MLC  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for Infrastructure  
Minister for Lands  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **STREAMLINED BIOFUELS ASSESSMENT OPENS DOOR TO MORE JOBS**

Proposals for biofuel manufacturing facilities will be given a guaranteed three-month assessment time by the NSW Government, opening the way for increased jobs and investment in regional NSW.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the guaranteed assessment time was part of a series of planning changes to ensure NSW benefits from the need to create additional biofuel capacity over the next 15 months.

The measures include:

- Declaring all biofuel manufacturing facilities with a production capacity of 50 megalitres/year (ML/yr) or more as critical infrastructure, delivering increased legal certainty for investors;
- Waiving critical infrastructure fees for biofuel projects;
- adopting a three month assessment and approval period for biofuel projects under the State's major projects assessment system;
- Appointing a biofuels project delivery manager within the Department of Planning to assist proponents through the planning assessment process; and
- Preparing planning guidelines to further assist proponents with detailed information on planning issues specific to biofuels.

Mr Kelly said the measures announced today, part of the government's 10-year biofuels strategy, boost the potential for significant investment in regional areas where the biological feed stocks necessary for biofuel production are grown.

"Regional NSW is well-placed to benefit from new biofuel manufacturing facilities, which produce fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel, by processing raw materials such as waste starch, sugar cane, maize, canola and waste cooking oil," the Minister said.

"These new provisions will ensure those wanting to invest in biofuel production in NSW will benefit from an efficient passage through the State's planning system.

"However, all biofuel projects assessed by the Department of Planning will, of course, continue to be subject to a rigorous assessment process.

"This includes a minimum 30-day public exhibition period and the requirement for proponents to actively address concerns raised in public submissions."

In 2007, the NSW Government introduced the Biofuel Act, which helps create a more sustainable future for NSW by mandating the use of biofuels such as ethanol and biodiesel in petrol.

The minimum biofuel ratio in fuel has gradually increased since this time, with all regular grade petrol in NSW needing to be 10% ethanol by 1 July, 2011.

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Mr Kelly said the increased 2011 ethanol mandate will create the need for at least one and preferably two new ethanol plants and NSW needs to ensure its planning system is well-placed to assess these projects in a timely manner.

“These are important steps in achieving a sustainable future for NSW and will clearly depend on a reliable and ongoing supply of biofuels such as ethanol,” the Minister said.

“I look forward to seeing new proposals come forward for biofuel projects in NSW as we embrace more renewable and sustainable methods of fuel production.”

### **Biofuels – Facts and figures**

- Biofuels are fuels made from renewable biological feed stocks, either crops or waste.
- The most common biofuels currently available are biodiesel and ethanol.
- Biofuels are generally blended with petroleum – B5 is diesel containing 5% biodiesel and E10 is petrol containing 10% ethanol.
- Biodiesel is diesel fuel produced from tallow, waste cooking oil or other vegetable oils. It may be blended in petroleum diesel at up to 5%, sold as a higher biodiesel blend (e.g. B20 at 20% biodiesel) or even used straight as B100 (100% biodiesel).
- Biodiesel quality is currently regulated by the Federal Biodiesel Fuel Quality Standard.