Greater choice in fuel for consumers

A partnership between Holden and Caltex Motorists will see a greater choice of fuel for motorists with the introduction of a new choice of biofuel available from today.

Holden is to begin production of flex-fuel vehicles designed to use up to 85% ethanol with the vehicles in the new Commodore range in the coming months.

Caltex will offer Bio E-Flex fuel designed for these vehicles at 31 metropolitan service stations in New South Wales and the other eastern states this year, increasing to 100 service stations in 2011.

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, congratulated Caltex and Holden for their initiative.

“A high ethanol blend fuel has been used in the V8 Supercars racing for a number of seasons so it is a great boon to motorists that Caltex and Holden are bringing Bio E-Flex to mainstream Australian motorists.”

“Biofuels, such as ethanol, make a lot of sense – they’re good for the environment, create jobs in the bush, as well as new markets for farmers,” Mr Kelly said.

“Bio E-Flex can only be used in specially-designed vehicles, such as the new Commodores, but the great majority of cars made since 1986 can use a 10% ethanol blend.

“Bio E-Flex has been tested extensively in the United States and has been shown to substantially reduce carbon monoxide, particulate emissions, and other pollutants.

“Even the E10 that almost all of us can use reduces exhaust particles by over 30%, providing significant air quality improvement and health benefits.

“Since the commencement of the NSW Government’s biofuels mandate in 2007, more than the 3 billion litres of E10 has been used by NSW motorists, and now more than 30% of all petrol in the state is an E10 biofuel blend.

Mr Kelly said that there are currently three major biofuels projects under way in regional centres with total capital investment of $460 million.

“The biofuels industry is providing close to 1000 jobs across NSW,” said Mr Kelly.

Member for Drummoyne, Angela D’Amore welcomed today’s announcement.

“The NSW Government biofuels mandates were designed to build up a biofuels industry which would allow the supply chains to deliver more economical, cleaner, greener fuel to NSW motorists,” Ms D’Amore said.

“Biofuels also reduce our reliance on foreign fuel imports and help to secure our energy future.

For more information on biofuels in NSW go to www.biofuels.nsw.gov.au