MINISTER CONGRATULATES RUTHERFORD BIODIESEL COMPANY

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly was in Rutherford today with Member for Maitland, Frank Terenzini, to congratulate local company, Biodiesel Industries Australia (BIA), on their operation following the NSW Government’s announcement on the new mandate on biofuels.

Mr Kelly announced the next step on the NSW Government’s path to increase usage of locally produced, sustainable fuel last week.

“I can announce here today that the two percent target mandate will be introduced from next year.

“At the BIA site here today in Rutherford, we see a company that has been operating for the past five years to become a leader in this technology.

“BIA is the only significant biodiesel plant in NSW. It has a current capacity for 20 million litres per annum, and employs up to 32 people both directly and indirectly”, Mr Kelly said.

Managing Director, BIA, Andrew Hill, said the company is continually working on developing new processes and products and works with both rural and academic communities.

“The biodiesel industry is limited at this point in time by available feedstock priced competitively with the petroleum market.

“This is why we are supporting developments of alternative crops that co exist in a positive way to deliver NSW and Australia both future fuel security and low carbon fuels”, Mr Hill said.

Member for Maitland, Frank Terenzini, 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 such as the Hunter.

“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”, Mr Terenzini 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.

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