

# Media Release

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## Farmers question increase in mandatory ethanol targets

The NSW Farmers' Association supports the availability of ethanol blended petrol at service stations throughout NSW, and believes that this should be determined by market forces, not Government intervention by mandating the percentage of ethanol in petrol.

NSW Farmers' Association Business, Economics and Trade Committee Chair Susan McLeish says there is no doubt that Australia needs alternative fuel sources and liquid biofuels may well play an important role in this mix.

"This is especially the case in a year when a wet harvest has led to an oversupply of weather damaged grain, ideally suited to ethanol production," Mrs McLeish said.

The NSW Government recently announced that the State's ethanol fuel mandate would increase from two per cent to six per cent within two years and that 10 per cent ethanol blend would be included in some types of regular grade unleaded petrol by 2011.

Under the new arrangements, consumers will continue to have the choice of which petrol they use, as both petrol containing ethanol and petrol not containing ethanol will still be available.

The Association fully supports increased research and development into economically efficient alternative fuels.

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