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Further contact: Robert Verhey  
14 March 2008

Diesel/Biodiesel Blends – Discussion Paper  
Fuel and Used Oil Policy Section  
Department of the Environment and Heritage  
GPO Box 787  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam

We are writing to you regarding the Government's Position Paper, *Setting National Fuel Quality Standards Proposed Management of Diesel/Biodiesel Blends* released in January 2008.

The Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW represent all local councils in NSW. Local Councils are significant fleet managers for heavy vehicles (particularly in the areas of waste management and council operations, engineering and landscaping). These vehicles are potential users of biodiesel and councils are at various stages of trialling and using biodiesel, in a variety of concentrations. There is an increasing level of interest and commitment to the use of biodiesel.

We are concerned at the very short time frame being allowed for consultation on this Position Paper, and we have received concerns from member councils regarding the uncertainty of supply of biodiesel, particularly in blends of 20% (B20) and greater. The issue of biodiesel supply is also of great interest to rural councils, as the growing of biodiesel – source crops is of potential and current importance in terms of local economic viability, in a scenario of uncertainty in the more traditional areas of agriculture.

The Local Government and Shires Associations, on behalf of member councils, are supportive of incentives for the use of alternatives to fossil fuels, and the potential social, economic and environmental benefits arising from the use of these fuels.

We request therefore that there be an extension of time to allow full consultation on the position paper. The time allowed (effectively 8 weeks) is insufficient, particularly in light of the time of year of release of the Position Paper.

We seek the opportunity to provide the Department of the Environment, Heritage, Water and the Arts with some constructive feedback on the Position Paper, however we will need a more reasonable timeframe (perhaps until June 2008) to undertake this consultation and communicate our findings to you.

We hope that you will be able to consider this request and we look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Genia McCaffery in black ink.

Cr Genia McCaffery  
**President**  
Local Government Association of NSW

Handwritten signature of Bruce Miller in black ink.

Cr Bruce Miller  
**President**  
Shires Association of NSW

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