

Comment on the proposed Standard for Fuel Parameters (Ethanol)
Commonwealth Position - April 2005

Northern Territory Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment

1) There is merit in Australia developing a fuel standard; from the material presented in the paper, the current Australian manufacturers of ethanol largely meet most of the international requirements.

2) The ability of ethanol to absorb water is an issue that needs to be addressed particularly for tropical areas with high humidity. The paper does not identify tropical areas as being of particular concern but it is a question that should be answered if petrol and diesel blends are to be used in these areas.

Does this suggest that the allowable level of fusel oil should be higher in areas that experience high humidity?

3) Similarly, the electrical conductivity of ethanol raises a concern for areas with high numbers of lightning strikes - Darwin has one of the world's highest incidence of lightning strike, the paper makes no comment as to whether this would be safety issue or not (mainly from the point of view of motorists filling a vehicle at a service station that suffers a lightning strike).