

Graham Marshall
A/g Assistant Secretary
Atmosphere and Sustainable Transport
Environment Australia
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Marshall

**NATIONAL FUEL QUALITY STANDARDS - BIODIESEL DISCUSSION
PAPER 6**

Thank you for your letter of 31 March 2003, seeking submissions on Environment Australia's discussion paper "National Fuel Quality Standards - Biodiesel".


Whilst VicRoads has a strong interest in limiting the environmental impacts of the transportation industry, it has lesser expertise in the technical nature of diesel engine performance and emissions, and accordingly is not in a position to provide comment on some of the more technical issues in the discussion paper.

With respect to specific policy questions asked in the paper, it is VicRoads' view that:

- It is necessary to develop a mandated national fuel quality standard for biodiesel, as this would be in alignment of the principles of the *Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000*;
- It is necessary to harmonise an Australian biodiesel standard with a recognised international specification. As European and American standards are similar, the decision on which standard to adopt should be made after consideration of the fuel and trucking industries points of view;
- The Australian standard for biodiesel should only address the characteristics and composition of the fuel.
- The biodegradability of the fuel is a desirable aspect, and will have some operational advantages to VicRoads in cases where truck accidents result in fuel spillage.

If you require further information with respect to VicRoads response, please contact Ms Sharon MacDonnell, Manager - Environmental Services, (03) 9854 2585.

Yours sincerely


DAVID ANDERSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

14/5/2003



