

Comment on the Australian Government's position on
Proposed Fuel Quality Standard for Fuel Grade Ethanol – July 2005

Bioenergy Australia

In response to the paper 'Proposed Fuel Quality Standard for Fuel Grade Ethanol' I would like to reiterate the view provided in my original submission that the mooted Ethanol Standard should relate to bio-ethanol, and not ethanol synthesised from fossil fuels. While it is appreciated that there is a preference in the paper to not differentiate between ethanol of various origins, the whole rationale for fostering an ethanol industry is to diversify feedstocks to renewable resources with improved greenhouse gas characteristics. Accordingly it is suggested that either the Standard, or other instruments give active support to bio-ethanol.

Another issue that may be problematic in the future is setting a Denaturant level in fuel ethanol. Fuel Cell technologies are being developed for use with various fuels, including ethanol. It is likely that the denaturing agent (mainly petrol) may cause technical problems within fuel cells. The current Standard will presumably be written around internal combustion engines. It is suggested scope be provided to accommodate emerging technologies, such as fuel cells which could operate on ethanol.

Please note that my comments may not necessarily represent the view of all Bioenergy Australia members.