

28th April, 2006



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Dear Anne,

Re: Submission to Biofuels Taskforce

On behalf of the Western Australian Sustainable Energy Association (WASEA) Inc., I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the recently established Biofuels Taskforce on ways the State Government could assist in the development of the Biofuels industry in Western Australia. WASEA Inc. fully supports the work of this Taskforce and its underlying aim to develop a Biofuels industry for Western Australia.

WASEA Inc. is the peak body of the Western Australian sustainable energy industry. The Association promotes the development and adoption of sustainable energy technologies and practices that minimise and/or displace fossil fuel use. The Association has over 60 individual and company members representing a broad spectrum of the sustainable energy industry.

WASEA Inc believes that the State Government could assist in the development of the Biofuels industry in WA in the following ways:

- Undertake consultation with the Biofuels industry and relevant stakeholders to identify barriers to entry within the Biofuels industry. Actions should be identified to address each of the acknowledged barriers.
- The Biofuels Taskforce should develop clear objectives, timeframes and deliverable outcomes which support the Commonwealth Government's greenhouse emission reduction targets.
- The Government should impose a regulated minimum B20 policy on all diesel sold. Fuel companies not meeting this target will have to pay a penalty. Any revenue raised would then be used for the promotion of biofuels and other sustainable energy and greenhouse reduction programs. This will enhance consumer acceptance and promote the rapid market introduction of biodiesel.

Mission:

'On behalf of the people of Western Australia, the Association will vigorously promote the development and adoption of sustainable energy so that by the end of this decade, 30% of the State's fossil fuel use is displaced by sustainable energy practices.'

- The Government should establish and implement Quality Assurance measures. These measures would cover the production, intermediate storage and transportation to the fuel station. Important measures would include:
 - * Concept of the quality management
 - * Unannounced checks of the product
 - * QA audit
 - * Round robin tests
 - * Advanced training for QA and laboratory staff
 - * Special information about the handling with Biodiesel

Government should establish and resource an industry body to ensure that all these measures are put in place.

- Government should conduct a lifecycle assessment and assess the environmental impact of Biodiesel from the various feedstocks. For example, we do not want to be stripping rainforests for massive plantations of palm oil. This would also gain support for locally produced biodiesel and not encourage the import of palm oil on mass.
- Government should ensure the required funding is available to develop training programs within the TAFE sector. Training programs must be accredited at the National/State level to gain the maximum funding.
- Sufficient efforts and resources must be committed by the State to develop suitable Road Shows to promote the safe use of Biofuels in remote communities. The workshops/ Training courses/Road Shows must cover the following topics:
 - Quality Control & Quality Assurance
 - Occupational Safety & Health issues
 - Impact on environment
 - Local environment management
 - Land & Water management for Farmers
 - Waste disposal for Biofuels producers
 - Crop management for small farmers
 - Cultural change and new habits
- Government should ensure that industry is represented on any working groups that may be established by the Taskforce.

If you require further information on any of these items, please do not hesitate to contact Johanna Gastevich on (08) 9328 8411 for further information. We look forward to reviewing the outcomes of the Biofuels Taskforce.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Rosser
Chair
Western Australian Sustainable Energy Association (WA SEA) Inc.

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