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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**For immediate release**

### **BLIGH LABOR BREAKS ETHANOL PROMISE**

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, has slammed the Bligh Labor Government for breaking yet another election promise to deliver an ethanol mandate in Queensland by December 2010, labelling the decision to defer the mandate as a gutless political cop-out.

Mr Cripps said Treasurer Andrew Fraser had last week cobbled together a set of half-truth excuses and weasel words to try and justify the decision by the Bligh Labor Government to renege on a 2006 and 2009 state election promise to deliver a mandate by the end of 2010.

“The primary excuse put forward by Treasurer Fraser was that there was some uncertainty about federal taxation arrangements for ethanol. However, the Treasurer himself admitted that if the proposed changes were implemented, the new arrangements would extend the competitive advantage for domestically produced ethanol, not reduce it” said Mr Cripps.

“Under the proposed changes, the phase in period for excise to apply to domestically produced ethanol would be extended to 2020 rather than end in 2015. This means that domestically produced ethanol would continue to enjoy the partial excise holiday that was provided to the ethanol industry by the former federal Coalition Government” he said.

“However, if for some reason the proposed changes are not successful, the same phase in period for excise on domestically produced ethanol would apply that has been in place for years, including when the State Labor Government made its commitment to introduce an ethanol mandate by the end of 2010 at the 2006 and 2009 state elections” said Mr Cripps.

“So Andrew Fraser’s feeble excuse is just a political cop-out. At the 2006 and 2009 state elections, Labor stuffed voters’ letterboxes with glossy pamphlets promising an ethanol mandate, supposedly to support the sugar industry. This so-called delay of the ethanol mandate is just another hollow, empty promise from the Bligh Labor Government” he said.

“Three times in eight years, most recently in October 2008, the LNP introduced Private Members Bills into the Queensland Parliament and gave the State Labor Government an opportunity to support an ethanol mandate. Labor has failed every time” said Mr Cripps.

“Only the LNP is fair dinkum about the development of a renewable fuels industry in Queensland. Labor considers ethanol to be a political football to kick around during election campaigns to try and gain some credibility with voters in regional Queensland” he said.

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