

Increasing the use of ethanol blended fuel in the Queensland Government vehicle fleet: Retail fuel purchases

Background to the Biofuels Mandates

The *Liquid Fuel Supply Act 1984* requires fuel retailers and wholesalers to sell a mandated percentage of bio-based fuel in each calendar quarter.

The mandates commenced on 1 January 2017 and set minimum requirements for liable fuel retailers for the sale of sustainable bio-based petrol and sustainable bio-based diesel. The bio-based petrol mandate requires a minimum of 4 per cent of all regular unleaded petrol and ethanol blended petrol (E10 and E85) sales by fuel retailers to be ethanol. The bio-based diesel mandate is to be met by fuel wholesalers and requires a minimum of 0.5 per cent of all diesel and bio-based diesel blends sold to be bio-based diesel.

To encourage the demand for biofuels, the Government undertook an education campaign and must lead by example in its own fuel use. It is doing this by a requirement that all drivers of Queensland Government vehicles refuel using ethanol blend petrol where practical¹.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is for the use of biofuels in all Queensland Government vehicles.

Requirement

All compatible Queensland Government petrol vehicles are to be refuelled using E10 where it is practical to do so. It is deemed to be practical to use E10 if the vehicle is compatible with E10 and E10 is available at the service station where the fuel is intended to be purchased or at a suitable alternative service station.

Compatibility

To determine whether E10 is suitable for the vehicle please visit qld.gov.au/e10ok or check the owner's manual for the vehicle. QFleet has advised that the majority of QFleet petrol fuelled vehicles are compatible with E10.

Availability

It is expected that a biofuel blend will be used if E10 is available at the service station where a vehicle is generally fuelled or at the service station chosen when fuel is required. If E10 is not available at the closest station, the driver should visit qld.gov.au/e10ok to determine whether the fuel is available at an alternative service station in the vicinity.

¹ Recommendation 12 of the Committee Report recommended that the Government "lead by example" by including a requirement in *the QFleet Efficiency and Utilisation Policy* for the Queensland Government motor vehicle fleet that drivers of QFleet cars refuel using ethanol blend (E10) where practicable.

There are also a number of smartphone apps and websites for fuel prices that can be used to find fuel retailers that sell E10 at:

<https://www.dnrme.qld.gov.au/energy/initiatives/fuel-price-reporting-trial/information-for-motorists>

To maximise value for money, it is recommended that fuel is purchased from suppliers on the Queensland Government Standing Offer Arrangement for card fuel.

Other exceptional circumstances

In a limited number of cases there may be other exceptional circumstances which limit an agency's ability to apply this policy. In such cases, the agency fleet manager is to contact the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to discuss the applicability of this policy to the agency's fleet.

Application

This policy applies to the drivers of all vehicles owned and/or operated by Queensland Government agencies.

Further guidance

Further guidance regarding the biofuels mandates can be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy: biofuels@dnrme.qld.gov.au .

Further information regarding the standing offer arrangement for card fuel and associated services can be accessed via the Queensland Contracts Directory (QCD) at <http://qcd.govnet.qld.gov.au/Pages/Details.aspx?RecID=1674> or Queensland Government Procurement within the Department of Housing and Public Works: mick.brazil@hpw.qld.gov.au.

Further guidance regarding QFleet vehicles can be obtained from QFleet within the Department of Housing and Public Works: qfleet@hpw.qld.gov.au.

Guidance for vehicles owned by other agencies should be sought from the relevant agency fleet manager.