

***Media Release – The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP, Premier of NSW, Minister for Western Sydney***

The NSW Government will introduce legislation to ensure motorists can continue to buy regular unleaded petrol, NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell said today.

He said the NSW Government remained committed to promoting ethanol as a long term alternative fuel which will create hundreds of jobs in NSW.

But Mr O'Farrell said he was determined to do everything possible to assist families facing increased cost of living pressures.

"That's why the NSW Government will continue to allow the sale of regular unleaded petrol (ULP)," he said.

"Motorists already pay enough for petrol and I am not going to force people into buying more expensive premium petrol to run their cars and other engine products."

Mr O'Farrell said legislation would be introduced to overturn the former Labor Government's laws which would have made the sale of regular unleaded petrol illegal from 1 July 2012.

He said the six per cent ethanol mandate would remain in place.

"The big oil companies are running a scare campaign about ethanol because they want to push customers into more expensive premium petrol where the margins are higher," Mr O'Farrell said.

"However, our message is the oil companies need to start promoting ethanol so they can meet their targets and ensure we have a strong ethanol industry in NSW.

"I repeat, we are determined to continue to promote ethanol as a clean, viable, alternative fuel product which will assist regional areas and create jobs."

Mr O'Farrell said he was aware of the debate about the availability of ethanol in NSW.

He said the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) would be asked to conduct an examination of the evidence on available production capacity and supply required to meet the mandate for ethanol.

"Labor introduced a policy on ethanol which became a joke because it was never enforced," he said.

"We want IPART to provide advice on the availability of ethanol, which will help to provide input into an exemptions policy. "The time has come to introduce a system which is fair to motorists, fair to the oil companies and fair to those who have invested in the ethanol industry," Mr O'Farrell said.