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Ethanol mandate bad news for Qld motorists

RACQ has expressed disappointment at the Queensland Parliament's vote overnight to introduce a three percent mandated ethanol level which could lead to an increase in fuel costs for many motorists.

The introduction of an ethanol mandate would mean an increase of E10 across Queensland fuel stations, particularly in Brisbane and the south east where fuel sales volumes were high.

The State Government's decision to introduce an ethanol mandate could lead to many motorists being unable to buy regular unleaded fuel (ULP) at their local service station.

RACQ Executive Manager Public Policy Michael Roth said the motoring body supported the previously proposed increase to two percent but warned this legislation, and Katter Australia Party amendments, could cost motorists dearly.

"This is a triumph of politics over policy. This should be about offering motorists choice rather than a political deal to force them into buying E10 or premium," Mr Roth said.

"This mandate is too high and could force fuel stations to completely remove regular ULP, as we have seen in parts of New South Wales.

"The mandate in New South Wales has been an absolute disaster. We can only hope that the Queensland experience does not mirror the train wreck over the border.

"We estimate up to 15 percent of vehicles in Queensland are not compatible with E10 and if regular unleaded is unavailable they'll be forced to pay extra for premium unleaded, at 12 cents per litre more than regular ULP."

Mr Roth said it was a sad indictment of the failure of the New South Wales mandate that premium fuel was now the top selling fuel in that State.

"It's essential that the State Government undertakes an extensive public information campaign over the next 12 months to educate motorists on who can use E10 in their vehicles," he said.

**Media inquiries: Executive Manager Public Policy Michael Roth 0447 155 547;
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RACQ is Queensland's largest club and peak independent motoring organisation. We were formed in 1905 to represent the interests of the State's first motorists and today campaign for safer drivers, vehicles and roads on behalf of the 1.2 million members who own the Club. We offer those members a vast range of motoring, insurance, finance, entertainment and travel services and benefits, and each year respond to more than a million calls for roadside assistance.