

NSW Biofuels Petition

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this petition being made?

From 1 July 2012, the NSW Government is removing unleaded petrol (ULP) from sale and replacing it with E10. The fuel industry and motorists of NSW are making this petition to bring to Parliament's attention concerns relating to the *Biofuels Act 2007 (NSW)* (the Act) and the Regulation.

This means your choice will be restricted. By removing ULP the NSW Government is removing your choice and options when refueling.

You may also be forced to pay more. With no ULP motorists will be left with the option of using E10 or paying over 10 cents per litre more for premium unleaded¹. E10 is not recommended for use in many marine and small equipment engines, as well as many popular modern and older model vehicles, so these motorists will have no choice but to pay more.

Why should I sign the petition?

You should sign the petition if you agree with the statements made and you would like the NSW Parliament to suspend the Act and investigate the concerns raised.

These statements include:

1. In NSW the supply of biofuels is limited to a few supply points and may be subject to industry-wide shortages adversely affecting the price at which fuel wholesalers and retailers are reasonably able to obtain product.
2. The NSW Biofuels Taskforce reported that the cost to industry of compliance with a Biofuels Mandate would be in the range of \$276 million. This cost, combined with the removal of ULP, may have an adverse effect on the retail price of petrol or diesel fuel for motorists.
3. Unregulated interstate businesses operating across state borders will be able to deliver fuel products NSW fuel wholesalers and retailers are not able to supply, creating the extraordinary result of an unbalanced competitive environment for NSW businesses.

What will you do with my details?

Completed petition sheets will be sent to the Australasian Convenience and Petroleum Marketers Association (ACAPMA), who will collate them before sending them to the Parliament. Your details will not be recorded, photocopied or stored in any way by the Association. All original sheets are submitted to Parliament and then handled according to the Parliaments Standing Orders.

Where can I get more information on this petition?

This petition has been put together by ACAPMA on behalf of members, the industry and motorists of NSW. You can logon to www.acapma.com.au/acapmaction/biofuels_petition or email assist@acapma.com.au for more information on the petition.

Where can I get more information on the Association?

ACAPMA is an industry Association representing wholesale petroleum distributors and petrol convenience retailers (service stations) across Australia. You can get more information on the Association at www.acapma.com.au

¹Based on a major oil companies notified wholesale price for E10 and Premium Unleaded Petrol, 1 December 2011.

What should I do if I have a complaint about this petition?

This petition has been put together by ACAPMA on behalf of members, the industry and motorists of NSW. If you have any complaints about this petition please forward them to assist@acapma.com.au

When will the Act and the Regulation take effect?

Petrol wholesalers and major retailers have already had to comply with some sections of the Act. That is why some service stations have converted to E10 and have stopped selling (ULP).

From 1st July 2012, all ULP is to be replaced with E10. This will require service stations to convert to selling E10 only, removing from motorists the choice of purchasing ULP.

Who is affected by the Act and the Regulation?

The Act directly affects all purchasers of fuel in NSW, including motorists. By removing ULP from sale the Act will involve motorists, who are either unable or unwilling to use E10, by requiring them to purchase a premium unleaded fuel at a higher price compared to ULP.

What will the affect be on service stations?

Changing over from selling ULP to E10 is not a simple process. The change requires the cleaning and in some cases the replacement of tanks, as well as the upgrading of other equipment. The NSW Government Biofuels Taskforce reported that the changes required to meet the E10 Mandate would cost industry up to \$276 million. The NSW Government has ignored this cost expecting operators to pay for the cost of implementation, which in some cases may affect the viability of the service station.

Where can I get more information on the legislation?

More information can be obtained by visiting www.biofuels.nsw.gov.au

Will E10 work in my vehicle?

Regardless of the date a vehicle was built, certain makes and models are recommended by the manufacturer not to use E10. You may void your warrantee by using E10 in a vehicle that is not recommended to use E10. It is suggested that you check with the vehicle manufacturer before using E10 in your vehicle. For more information consult your vehicle manufacturer or go to www.fcai.com.au/environment/can-my-vehicle-operate-on-ethanol-blend-petrol-

Important: The standard E10 that is available in NSW is a blend of 90% regular grade (91RON) unleaded petrol with 10% ethanol. Although E10 may have a higher octane rating than straight ULP, it is not a substitute for premium unleaded petrol (PULP) which is 95RON or super premium 98RON. If your vehicle requires PULP, you should continue to use 95RON or 98RON petrol as recommended by the vehicle manufacturer.

Will E10 cause problems to my vehicle?

If E10 is suitable for use in your vehicle, depending on your vehicle's engine management system, you may experience an increase in fuel consumption of 1% to 3% when using E10.

If you have an older vehicle that is suitable for E10 you should ensure that your tank is clean and free of water before filling with E10. If you do have water in your tank E10 will "clean it out" and the vehicle may run rough until it is used up. If problems persist, you may have rust or other material clogging your fuel filter.