

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

President Bush in his last State of the Union address placed ethanol as a key component in the global quest to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The world has heard the message. The State of Queensland welcomes it.

Queensland is the single biggest contributor to Australia meeting its greenhouse gas reduction target. My Government did this by putting in place a total ban on broad scale land clearing.

Queensland has Australia's largest coal reserves and is its largest sugar producer.

Our aim is to become a world leader in clean coal technology and ethanol production.

Queensland is perfectly placed at the doorstep of Asia to supply the booming Chinese and Indian economies.

Although our ethanol industry is in its early days, we see a big future ahead for this fuel.

We have already mandated that by 2010 at least five percent of car fuel be ethanol.

Our plan is to grow the ethanol industry in stages, starting with sugarcane. In the meantime, we are encouraging the development of new technologies to enable the use of sugar cane and by-products in the production of ethanol.

This would give Queensland a competitive edge as a reliable producer of ethanol all year round.

Queensland has the feedstock, world class public infrastructure and a government actively encouraging investors to kick start this industry.

Queensland prides itself on being a Smart State.

On behalf of the people of Queensland I thank you for inviting us to join the Governors' Ethanol Coalition. We look forward to a constructive partnership.

**PETER BEATTIE MP
PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE**