

Urgent: Request to Declare National Liquid Fuel Emergency – Reserves at 34/36/32 Days

Dear Minister Bowen (and CC recipients),

Australia's liquid fuel reserves are critically low, with recent parliamentary statements confirming only 34 days of diesel, 36 days of petrol, and 32 days of jet fuel on hand – far below the International Energy Agency's 90-day benchmark and dangerously vulnerable to global disruptions, including ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

As a concerned Australian citizen deeply worried about our nation's resilience, I urge the Government to immediately assess and declare a National Liquid Fuel Emergency under the Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984. Failure to act proactively risks catastrophic consequences for our economy, essential services, defence capabilities, food supply chains, and everyday Australians.

Inaction in the face of clear and present risks could be viewed as a grave dereliction of duty.

To safeguard our country, we must activate the National Liquid Fuel Emergency Response Plan (NLFERP) without delay.

Key immediate actions should include:

Prioritising fuel allocation to essential users (emergency services, defence, hospitals, critical transport, agriculture, and utilities).

Securing replacement stocks urgently from reliable, non-conflict-affected suppliers and allies.

Implementing fast-tracked domestic fuel replacement and production programs, including:

- Expanded ethanol production from grain and sugar crops.
- Accelerated coal-to-liquids (CTL) technologies where viable.
- Scaled-up biodiesel production from canola, tallow, and used cooking oil (building on existing plants like Eco Tech and Just Biodiesel).
- Promoting natural gas conversions for liquid-fuelled vehicles and fleets.
- Supporting rapid electric vehicle adoption and infrastructure to reduce long-term liquid fuel dependence.

Additionally, we must fast-track oil and gas exploration by streamlining approvals and removing unnecessary environmental restrictions that delay development.

For example, the Great Australian Bight (Southern Bight) holds estimated potential reserves of 5–9 billion barrels of oil (based on Geoscience Australia and industry assessments). Unlocking such resources could dramatically improve domestic supply and energy sovereignty.

Australia cannot afford to wait for the current unfolding crisis to expose our vulnerabilities further.

Declaring the emergency now would enable coordinated government-industry action, boost domestic capabilities, and send a strong signal of resolve to protect our people.

I respectfully request a prompt response outlining the Government's assessment of current reserve levels against declaration criteria, and any planned steps to invoke the Act and NLFERP.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter of national importance.

Yours sincerely,

Brett Murrell

Moral Majority Party - MMP - Australia

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