

Media Release

Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Monday 4 September 2017

TICKETING MECHANISM FOR FUEL EMERGENCY “NOT GOOD ENOUGH”

Federal Member for Mallee Andrew Broad has spoken out in parliament today about his dissatisfaction with the Liquid Fuel Emergency Amendment Bill.

Mr Broad highlighted his surprise that the Bill had bipartisan support and few Members of Parliament were concerned that Australia doesn't have the fuel reserve to survive a significant global emergency.

“I always take the defence and security of the Australian people very, very seriously, and I am not satisfied that Australia has enough fuel in reserve.”

“We have chosen a ticketing mechanism rather than purchasing the fuel we would need in an emergency, and quite simply I don't have comfort in the system – it's like buying a boat with holes in it in case there's going to be a flood,” he said.

Mr Broad pointed out that the country's we could call for our “ticketed” emergency oil are those within conflict regions.

“When you start thinking it through, out of the list of countries that we source our oil from, there is only one that isn't in the region of a potential conflict zone.” He said.

“There is no point in an emergency reserve if you can't access it in an emergency.”

Mr Broad also noted that our population is in large cities that require diesel power trucks to bring in food, and in an emergency access to fuel is essential for keeping Australians fed.

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While he said he would still be voting in support of the legislation Mr Broad stated he would be seeking a very strong commitment that both sides of the parliament move toward increasing our oil refining capacity because of national security.

“We need our oil refining capacity to be in different geographical locations and we need to make a long term commitment to move toward our obligation to have 90 days of fuel reserve in case of a global emergency.”

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