

Read 13/6/83.

Hills Bazaar,
BENDIGO. 3550.

22nd March, 1983.

The Minister for Finance,
The Hon. J. Dawkins,
Port Cinema Building,
70A Adelaide Street,
FREMANTLE. W.A. 6160.

Dear Minister,

Re: Rebate of Duty Paid on Diesel Fuel - Primary Production

I have received representations from certain primary producers concerning anomalies within the diesel fuel rebate policy introduced by the previous Government.

In particular, my constituents have brought to my attention the quite unsatisfactory position in which primary producers purchasing less than 1,000 litres per annum and not eligible for the rebate, whereas all other primary producers are eligible.

The imposition of such a limit on qualification for rebate unnecessarily, and unfairly, discriminates against small farmers.

It is my view that Government rebate policy ought to apply equally to all primary producers, and that our Government should not be party to Government policy which advantages larger farmers at the expense of small farmers.

Distillate cannot be stored over long periods of time, and consequently, arguments advanced by some that small farmers should buy two years supply in bulk are not tenable.

I would appreciate your earliest consideration of this matter and believe:

1. that small farmers should be treated as domestic users, or
2. the rebate policy should apply equally to all farmers, irrespective of annual purchase quantity.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN BRUMBY,
Federal Member for Bendigo.