

Deputy premier opens fuel blending facility

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MORE reliable supply at the pump for Mackay users of ethanol blend fuel will hit the road when Deputy Premier Anna Bligh opens a new fuel blending facility in Mackay today.

The new \$240,000 facility at the Reliance BP terminal at the harbour has been funded by the company and the State Government.

"Previously the blending (by adding 10% ethanol to normal petrol) had to be done in Brisbane and the fuel shipped to Mackay," a BP spokesman said yesterday.

"This doesn't now mean cheaper

ethanol fuel — it will just ensure more reliable supplies are available to distributors."

The commissioning of the blending plant coincides with CSR announcing this week that it will spend \$15 million to produce 32 million litres of fuel-grade ethanol at its Sarina bio-still.

General manager of CSR Ethanol Gavin Hughes will be at today's blending plant launch.

Both Federal and State Governments have indicated strong support for bio-fuel development.

Canegrowers see the fuel as a critical value-added product for their industry.