



NEWS RELEASE

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FUEL 'WATCHDOG' CALLS FOR CAP ON PETROL PRICE HIKES

Independent fuel price monitoring company, FuelWatch, has called for the introduction of a seven-cent per litre cap on petrol price rises in any twenty-four hour period.

This recommendation was included in the company's response to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (ACCC) discussion paper entitled "Reducing Fuel Price Variability".

FuelWatch National Manager Matt Forman said that the volatility of fuel prices is a major point of frustration for Australian motorists.

"While motorists are concerned with the average high price of fuel, our research shows that fuel price variability is also a source of tremendous frustration," Mr Forman said.

"People are sick of driving home from work to find the same petrol station has increased the price of fuel up to 12 cents per litre from the morning."

"Our recommendation is for the ACCC to strongly encourage petrol companies to agree to a seven cent cap on price rises per litre in any twenty-four hour period for a trial period of one year.

"We believe that the introduction of a seven cent per litre cap will greatly assist with reducing the variability of fuel prices.

"The level of the cap can be reviewed after the twelve month trial period," he said.

In its submission to the ACCC, FuelWatch also recommended that an extensive consumer education program be developed to educate consumers on petrol price cycles and the retail petrol market in general.

"In our view, the difficulty in educating the public is not so much a lack of information, but rather the multiple avenues that a member of the public or the media must traverse to acquire the relevant information," Mr Forman said.

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“We need to ensure that all Australians can easily access information that will assist with their petrol purchasing habits.

“Information such as the cheapest days of the week over the past month to buy fuel in your city; price comparisons between fuel companies and petrol prices in other countries will all enable consumers to make more informed petrol purchasing decisions.

“FuelWatch can play a key role in this education campaign in that it can coordinate, package and distribute information on a consistent and regular basis from a totally independent viewpoint.

“FuelWatch commends the ACCC in their endeavour to reduce fuel price variability and believes the discussion paper is a great way to start this important process,” Mr Forman said.

FuelWatch is an independently owned company that reports unleaded fuel prices once each weekday from 1,500 petrol stations across Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

The information is made available to the public through the website at www.fuelwatch.com.au.

To register log on to: www.fuelwatch.com.au

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