

Impact of Petrol Pricing Select Committee

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The Impact of Petrol Pricing Select Committee was appointed by the Queensland Parliament on 25 August 2005 to examine a range of issues regarding petrol pricing in Queensland.

Media Release

Skyrocketing fuel prices to have domino effect on Queensland hip pockets

Consumers have yet to feel the full brunt of high fuel prices and the domino effect on other prices, warns the chair of the Queensland Parliament's petrol pricing select committee.

Member for Mount Coot-tha, Andrew Fraser MP, chairs an all-party committee examining the impact of high fuel prices in Queensland.

"We are paying extra at the pump at the moment," Mr Fraser said, "but it is only a matter of time before a second wave of flow-on effects start to inflate the prices of food and other goods and services."

"This could have a devastating impact on struggling families and pensioners who are already living below the poverty line."

"Farmers and other businesses surviving on thin profit margins will have little choice but to pass on their extra freight and transport costs to consumers. Rural and regional communities could be hardest hit by rising prices."

The Impact of Petrol Pricing Select Committee has started its far-reaching inquiry. The committee will conduct hearings across Queensland and is calling for public submissions, particularly from people in rural and regional communities.

The committee will look at the effects of high fuel prices on consumers and businesses across Queensland, as well as the viability of E10 ethanol blend and other alternative fuels. The committee will also investigate whether consumers are benefiting from the State Government's 8.35 cents per litre fuel subsidy, and ways consumers can save on fuel bills.

The committee will report to Parliament in March.

Information about the inquiry is available from the committee's web pages at www.parliament.qld.gov.au/petrol or by calling the committee's secretariat staff on **1800 504 022**.

Submissions close 11 November 2005. ENDS

For media comment contact Andrew Fraser MP at the listed contact details. For background information contact Rob Hansen at the committee secretariat.