



## **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**

## **Fuel Cooperatives Recommended for Assessment**

The Queensland Parliament's Impact of Petrol Pricing Select Committee has recommended that the government examine the feasibility of fuel cooperatives in rural and remote Queensland to help lower fuel prices.

True, effective and sustainable competition is vital in ensuring petrol prices are delivering low petrol prices.

In some parts of Queensland there is a complete lack of competition at the wholesale and retail level.

Because security of supply is the foremost concern, retailers are large volume customers in these areas may feel there is little opportunity for them to negotiate on price and retailers are forced to accept a given price from distributors.

The committee heard from retailers at the Julia Creek hearing that they do not know how much they are charged for a load of fuel at the time it is delivered. The cost is billed in invoices some weeks or days later.

The retailers were consistently charged a higher price than retailers in Mount Isa which is further along the same freight route out of Townsville.

With evidence suggesting possible savings of up to 5 cents per litre, the committee concluded that fuel cooperatives, involving local businesses and local government, should be contemplated for introduction in areas where competition is lacking.

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*For further information see Chapter 6 of the report of the Impact of Petrol Pricing Select Committee. The report is available at [www.parliament.qld.gov.au/petrol](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/petrol)*

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### **For interviews:**

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