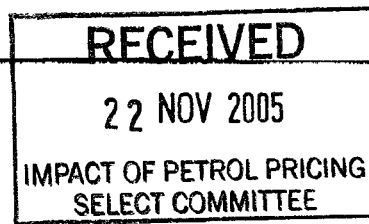


*Tabled at Trills  
meeting 16.11.05  
S.42*



Mr Rob Hansen,  
Research Director  
Impact of Petrol Pricing Select Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dawn B Brown

INGHAM Q

Dear Sir,

I am a cane farmer growing around 20,000 tonnes of cane. All the vehicles on our farm are fuelled by diesel so I would like to stick with what I know.

When I first came into cane farming in 1980 I chose a diesel powered vehicle because the price of diesel was much cheaper than petrol. That is a very different story today. Queensland consumes more diesel than petrol, I wonder if that has anything to do with the reason that diesel prices have gone through the roof over the past 25 years.

In November 2002 diesel was .8912c per litre. By May 2005 it was \$1.951c per litre & in July 2005 (just after our crushing season had commenced it was \$1.3088 per litre. I have included a list of price increases given to me by our Harvester operator. The rise in fuel costs has added in the vicinity of \$7000 to my harvesting bill this year.

Harvesting is not the only area of cane farming that has been affected. All our tractor related costs have gone up. So has fertilizer, chemicals & anything that has to be transported to North Queensland, including food. The fact that much of our fresh produce has to travel to Brisbane before returning to North Queensland is absolutely ludicrous.

One thing really irks me. When we pay for our fuel the excise is added THEN the G.S.T. Isn't that a tax on a tax? Surely something can be done about that.

We are trying to economize by cutting down our trips to town, 26 km away & thinking twice before we go out to do tractor work. The question is always asked "Is it really necessary?"

Thank you for accepting my submission & I pray for some relief from the crippling prices that we have been subjected to over the past 6 months.

Fuel @ \$1.00 per litre

GST= .90c

Rebate= .51c per litre

@ 1.3 litres per tonne= .66c per tonne

NO INCREASE

Fuel @ \$1.10 per litre

GST= .99c

Rebate= .61c per tonne

@ 1.3 litres per tonne= .78c per tonne

.12c INCREASE

Fuel @ \$1.15

GST= \$1.04

Rebate= .65c per litre

@ 1.3 litres per tonne = .84c per tonne

.18c INCREASE

Fuel @ \$1.20 per litre

GST= \$1.08

Rebate= .69c per tonne

@ 1.3 litres per tonne= .90c per tonne

.24c INCREASE

Fuel @ \$1.25 per litre

GST= \$1.12

Rebate= .73c per litre

@ 1.3 litres per tonne= .94 c per tonne

.28c INCREASE

Fuel @ \$1.30 per litre

GST= \$1.17

Rebate= .78c per litre

@ 1.3 litres per tonne= \$1.01 per tonne

.35c INCREASE