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**IMPACT OF PETROL PRICING
SELECT COMMITTEE**

25th November 2005

Attn Mr Rob Hansen
Impact of Petrol Pricing Select Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane. Qld 4000

Dear Mr Hansen,

I am writing to you as a small business owner in Townsville and I wish to share with you my experience with my recent learning of the Queensland Governments Fuel Subsidy Scheme.

Two months ago I received a letter from the Office of State Revenue advising me that there was a Fuel Subsidy for Queensland motorists in place since July 2000.

Prior to receiving this letter I had not even heard of the Queensland Governments fuel subsidy scheme within the last five years.

You could imagine my initial shock once I had read the letter and ascertained that I was not eligible for the fuel subsidy, at having to pay back every litre of fuel at 8.254 cents for the last five years. I felt very upset and very frustrated to say the least that the Government had let myself and many other businesses down all over Queensland by not having an adequate awareness program prior to and for a period of time after July 2000. Apparently there were notices in newspapers, however not everyone reads newspapers so I find this a very poor effort in informing Queenslanders of the scheme.

The main question that I find myself and I am certain many other businesses are asking is why wait five years to inform us directly?

Five years is a lot of fuel for my business and if I had of been informed of this fuel subsidy scheme five years ago or even within the last five years then I would have adjusted my cost structure to incorporate the extra fuel charge. As a business owner I am honest and I pay my taxes therefore I believe the Government should and must fulfil it's role and properly inform people of these important changes. But certainly not five years down the track.

I am not claiming ignorance as there is no excuse for ignorance, but my main argument is that I was never informed by the Government or the retail fuel outlet of the fuel subsidy scheme therefore I believe the Government should not expect us to pay back five years worth of fuel as a direct result of inadequacy to inform people properly, I think this is too harsh.

I have written letters to my local state and federal members which I have enclosed copies of and I have also included a copy of the very vague and easily misinterpreted poster which was displayed at the retail fuel outlet where I purchase all of my fuel.

I am hoping that what I contribute may help in the Governments understanding of how unfairly I and many other Queensland businesses have been treated.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JP' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

John Pittman
Company Director