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SUBMISSION

I am a single mother of a 16 year old child, and I live in Charters Towers in north Queensland, approximately 135km inland of Townsville. AT this date, 29th November, the cheapest fuel I can buy in the town is \$1.11 per litre, and this is the cheapest it has been for many many months.

Even when prices were dropping, the fuel price here didn't budge and has in fact only dropped from \$1.29.9 per litre in the last few weeks.

I have to use my vehicle in order to drive us around town, also to drive to the coast to see specialist doctors (not available here), and also for my work.

The impact of the high fuel prices has been that we have had to cut out many things, the most notable of these is that we will have absolutely no money for Christmas. There is no spare cash, and we have not been able to save anything, because I have been spending all money on fuel for the car. Maybe we will be able to spend a small amount on presents for the family, but apart from that, we will have nothing for xmas food etc.

My question is: why is the fuel so expensive here still? 4 weeks ago, I paid \$1.29.9 a litre here and then down the road in Townsville later in the same day, I paid \$1.10 a litre. 19 cents a litre difference over 135 km. Why is this so????? And now, the fuel is under \$1.00 a litre on the coast, and still hovering around \$1.12 here.