

I have observed and have been totally frustrated with previous investigations and inquiries regarding fuel pricing. I am hoping this inquiry, and those directly linked with it, will not show the same contempt. I have seen plenty of representation for businesses; unfortunately I have yet to see someone who is truly representative of people like myself who live fortnight to fortnight on a low wage or government allowance.

The know-alls, who know nothing about surviving in the real world, talk about shopping around for the best fuel price and/or changing one's vehicle to a more a fuel efficient vehicle. Well I'll let them in on a secret or two. When all your local outlets charge the same price, there is no savings to be made. When your wage/allowance is below the poverty line, changing vehicles is not an option.

It is long overdue that these investigations/inquiries should and could achieve sizeable fuel pricing reductions, if the softly-softly approach is boycotted and can-do attitude is adopted. The fact is that companies like Caltex are laughing all the way to the bank. When questioned, there is always a new excuse; hurricanes, wars, northern winters, supply and demand, and the list will ever increase depending on what crap these companies want to feed us. However the profits rise as quickly as the fuel price.

Listed a re a few questions that I would like to see answered:

1. As at 7 pm 1.12.05-
 - a. Legana, Tasmania received petrol from Melbourne, Victoria; shipped from Melbourne to Davenport, Tasmania, then trucked from davenport to Legana – Tasmania has no refinery, and no 8.354 cents per litre subsidy.
 - b. Bundaberg, Queensland received petrol from Brisbane, trucked from Brisbane to Bundaberg – Queensland has a refinery and an 8.354 cents per litre subsidy.
2. Some areas have received considerable falls from all-time highs at the bowser yet Bundaberg has experienced a trickle effect and very little reduction
 - a. Sydney, New South Wales \$1.40 → \$1.13
 - b. Bundaberg, Queensland \$1.29 → \$1.16
3. Deregulation of the fuel industry, deregulation of the banking industry, both have and will continue to gather bigger and bigger profits until someone has the sense to reverse the decision and regulate those profiteering, no-morals thieves. For heaven's sake, show some back bone, call a spade a spade.
4. Only by accident did I learn that this inquiry is taking place. Perhaps in future, important issues like this are advertised far better.
5. (Question?) Have the Australian oil refiners outlived their use-by date in regard to production costs? Now we have all these free-trade agreements, should we be looking overseas, importing?

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