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SUBMISSION

Impact of Petrol Pricing Select Committee

As requested I am putting my experiences re: petrol prices in writing.

After listening to media reports on what the petrol companies told the committee the following is a recent experience of mine.

On Thursday 8 December I left Beenleigh to go to the Hyperdome. The BP Service Station on Mt Warren Park Blvd price was \$1.06. The BP on the motorway \$1.09. I did my shopping at the Hyperdome between 9:00am and 10:30am and noted on leaving there the Caltex/Woolworths had dropped its price to 99¢ and having Coles vouchers I drove to the Coles Express on Bryants Rd which was also 99¢. While paying for petrol I mentioned the price in Beenleigh was \$1.09. The register attendant said they also were \$1.09 earlier and were told to drop the price to 99¢. These service stations are jointly owned by Shell and Coles Myer in an agreement so the oil companies control the price at the pump.

I have bought petrol at the service stations in Beenleigh that are privately owned and the people who work there have told me that the owners "go for a drive" around the area to see what the other service stations prices are and then chop their price accordingly.

Beenleigh although not a large town has at least 9 different petrol stations including a Woolworths one so the competition is high but their prices are never lower than one another.

When the Caltex at the Hyperdome changed to a Woolworths brand the price difference between Beenleigh and Logan Hyperdome area was 5¢. This was during the high price levels and also during the time the committee has been sitting the prices have dropped to the lowest for months.

No one has explained why when hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans the very next day prices jumped 30¢ to 40¢ a litre. Considering our fuel gets bought in Singapore and at the time no oil company would have paid a high price that would have reached the petrol pump in such a short time, I feel some regulation should be brought to bear on oil companies.

Price rises should be governed by delivery of new petrol to a service station, while lowering of the pump prices is at their discretion also competition I feel plays a part in that side of things.

With reference to the E10 which was mentioned in the paperwork. I drive a 1991 Nissan Pulsar and the company have told me that I can't use this petrol as it perishes the rubber in parts of the motor. Also their technical advisor says that even their newer models have a problem with fuel efficiency in that the car uses more petrol so people have to fill up more.

He did say that 2004/05 are more fuel efficient for E10 but unfortunately I am a pensioner and cannot afford a new car.

Fay Hicks

PS It seems that the NRMA spokesperson for E10 should also say that the manufacturer should be asked if that type of petrol is suitable for your car.