



Speech by

JULIE ATTWOOD

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Hansard 6 September 2000

FUEL PRICES

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (10.16 a.m.): Queenslanders are still being ripped off. Mount Ommaney residents are feeling the pinch of the frequent rise and fall of petrol prices. The petrol price rort continues to get worse. How do petrol companies explain a 10c a litre difference in the price of unleaded petrol at a service station between morning and dusk? What about a 5c a litre difference between a service station on one side of the Centenary Highway and one on the other? Last week petrol was 93.5c a litre at some service stations. This week it is 82.5c a litre.

My team of volunteers collecting information on petrol prices are bewildered and angry as they watch the prices seesaw in the local community. They will not let the matter rest and will continue to provide me as a member of the Petrol Price Watch Committee with the proof we need to stir the Commonwealth Government into action. Many people in the local area want to know what is going on. There is a problem and the Federal Government must take steps to fix it. How can petrol companies justify such price hikes? Where is Queensland's 8.3c per litre fuel subsidy going? Certainly not into the pockets of Queensland motorists! The subsidy should be going back into the pockets of motorists, not into the coffers of the petrol companies.

During the past three years, the oil companies have received \$1.5 billion from the State and little, if any, has been passed on to the people of Queensland. This fuel subsidy scheme was a product of an agreement between the Commonwealth Government and the former Borbidge/Sheldon coalition Government in 1997, who agreed to an increase in Federal fuel excise, and now Queensland motorists are paying the price. The subsidy needs to be paid directly to the service stations for the benefit of motorists and should not be contributing to the huge profit margins of petrol companies. A local independent service station owner says that he cannot compete with the major service stations, which are selling fuel for less than what independents can buy it for.

Time expired.
