

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 135

asked on Thursday, 14 February 2019

MR S ANDREW ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister require Queensland service stations to display the prices of all fuel grades on road-side signage that is visible to passing traffic, illuminated where appropriate?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government implemented new regulations relating to fuel signage on 31 January 2018. These regulations prohibit the display of a discounted fuel price on any fuel price board, and require all fuel sellers to follow certain procedures for coordinating the change of display of fuel prices displayed on a fuel price board when increasing or decreasing the price of fuel. Fuel sellers are not required to have a fuel price board.

These regulations are consistent with regulations in South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and the Northern Territory. The Australian Capital Territory government is currently considering implementing similar regulations.

Requiring fuel retailers to display prices on an illuminated board would cost at least \$30,000 to \$40,000 per service station and it is a concern that this cost would be passed onto consumers in the form of higher prices, which is unacceptable to this government. This requirement would be particularly onerous on regional fuel retailers.

To make it easier for motorists to find the cheapest fuel, the Queensland Government kicked off its two-year fuel price reporting trial on 3 December 2018 with more than 1400 fuel retailers now reporting fuel prices, and eight apps and websites publishing fuel prices for consumers. This trial requires all fuel retailers to report the price of all their fuels within 30 minutes of a price change.

This makes it easier for motivated motorists to save money at the bowser by shopping around to find the cheapest fuel in town. Motorists can search before they leave home and not rely on reading a fuel price board as they drive past.