

**From:** ACAPMA [communications=acapma.com.au@mail166.atl21.rsgsv.net] on behalf of ACAPMA [communications@acapma.com.au]

**Sent:** Friday, 9 March 2018 2:34 PM

**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** Compliance work workplace law continues as a concern, and more news from ACAPMA

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The latest revelations about non-compliance with workplace law have again put our industry in the spotlight, with the FWO rightly taking action against franchisees that have been found to have breached workplace law. Unfortunately, the sensationalist nature of much of the reporting on this issue has, however, created an impression of a problem that is much larger than is likely to be the reality.

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### **Two suitors to drive new deal for Woolworths should BP walk**

Global private equity firm Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and PetroChina are believed to be lining up to buy Woolworths petrol stations in the event the deal the supermarket has on the table with BP will collapse.

KKR is said to have circles other retail assets in the past, including Wesfarmers stationery business Officeworks, and is thought to be eager to look at Steinhoff's Australian retail businesses including Freedom and Fantastic Furniture when they are anticipated to be placed up for sale.

### **Petroleum Contractor and Services Workshops 2018**

To further the work done within the petroleum contractor and services space last year, ACAPMA will be holding two workshops in April for those businesses involved in the provision of equipment and contracting services. The purpose of the workshops will be to secure industry feedback on the areas that are in greatest need of best practice guidelines and to hear about some of the more general issues that may be impacting adversely on the petroleum contracting industry.

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## Cyber: Understanding the threat and defending your enterprise

Cyber criminals have an armoury of tools at their disposal. They search for a weakness in the security of an organisation's operations.

Awareness among employees is a first line of defence that should be coupled with ironclad verification protocols.

Employees need to understand that demands for money transfers can be from imposters using known identities, via emails that look authentic but are not, using invoices that pay to similar-looking but fraudulent bank accounts; or who are leveraging information about securities or assets.

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## Petrol price probe: Service stations say watchdog doesn't understand market

Service station bosses have launched an extraordinary attack on the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, accusing it of encouraging anti-competitive behaviour and not understanding how the petrol market works.

"By any measure, the Australian fuel industry is doing a great job in ensuring that Australian households and businesses have access to some of the cheapest fuel in the developed world," ACAPMA CEO Mark McKenzie said.

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**From:** Mark McKenzie 73(2)Irrelevant

**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 March 2018 6:21 AM

**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** The Courier Mail

Good morning Talbot,

There are two articles we have contributed to (one that we wrote as an Opinion Piece) on pages 14 and 22 of the CM today.

Might be worth a read before we meet as further background.

Regards,

Mark McKenzie  
Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Talbot Speechley [Talbot.Speechley@ministerial.qld.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 March 2018 8:43 AM  
**To:** Mark McKenzie  
**Subject:** Re: The Courier Mail

Thanks Mark, both intriguing articles. Look forward to our chat at 10am

Sent from my iPhone

> On 14 Mar 2018, at 6:22 am, Mark McKenzie 73(2)Irrelevant wrote:

>

> Good morning Talbot,

>

> There are two articles we have contributed to (one that we wrote as an Opinion Piece) on pages 14 and 22 of the CM today.

>

> Might be worth a read before we meet as further background.

>

> Regards,

>

>

> Mark McKenzie

> Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Mark McKenzie 73(2)Irrelevant  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 March 2018 7:42 AM  
**To:** Talbot Speechley  
**Subject:** What happens if you don't have a petrol cycle?  
**Attachments:** IMG\_0281.PNG; ATT00001.txt

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Talbot,

Thanks for your time yesterday.

I meant to give you the below information yesterday which makes a mockery of RACQ claims that motorists are gouged by the operation of the petrol cycle.

As you can see below, there are two AUSTRALIAN Capitals (neatly omitted from the ACCC's 'five cities' analysis) that don't have an effective petrol cycle - because competition is relatively weak (ie low population density).

As you can see in the RULP price curves for CANBERRA and HOBART below, their prices are considerably higher than those cities that DO have a discount price cycle.

The Canberra and Hobart fuel wholesale price is 1.0 to 1.5 cents higher which obviously doesn't explain the difference.

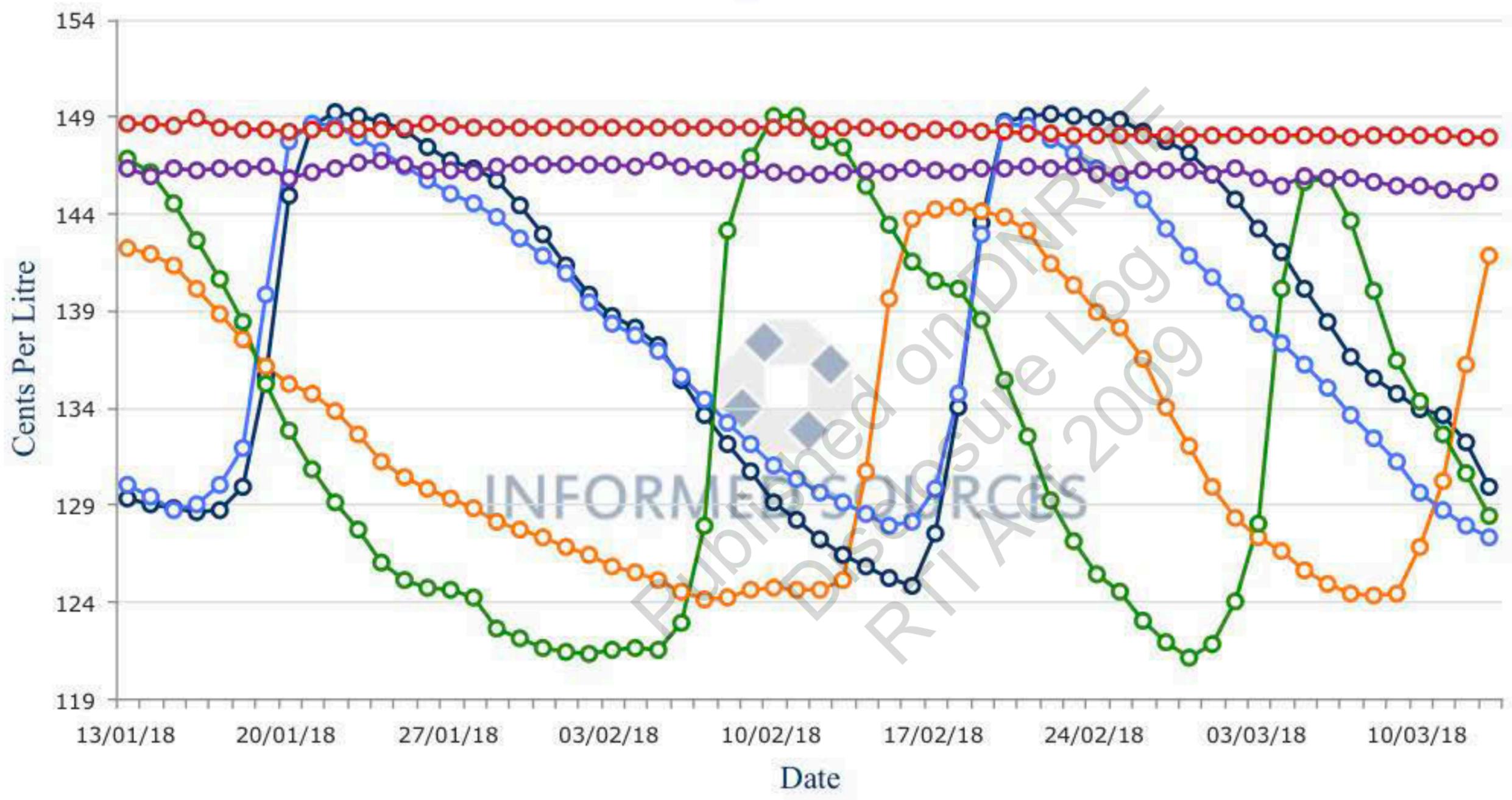
The real difference is prices in these sites are sitting at the returns needed for Serbia to get good returns, giving the reader an indication of where Brisbane prices could be if the competitive price cycle didn't exist.

Regards,

Mark McKenzie  
Sent from my iPhone

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### Daily Average Petrol Prices



- 1. Brisbane-Unleaded
- 2. Sydney-Unleaded
- 3. Melbourne-Unleaded
- 4. Adelaide-Unleaded
- 5. Canberra-Unleaded
- 6. Hobart-Unleaded

**From:** ACAPMA [communications=acapma.com.au@mail135.atl101.mcdlv.net] on behalf of ACAPMA [communications@acapma.com.au]

**Sent:** Friday, 16 March 2018 7:38 AM

**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** Average Brisbane petrol prices (vs the rest), and more news from ACAPMA

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The release of the ACCC report into the Brisbane petroleum market in October last year has largely been responsible for the creation of a heated debate about petrol prices in that City, with much of it being led by the RACQ who appear to believe that the introduction of compulsory fuel price reporting laws (like in NSW and the NT) will somehow fix the 'problem'. But is the ACCC comparison of Brisbane petrol prices with other Australian capital cities a complete one? Or does the ACCC analysis rely on a select use of Australian Capital City petrol price data that ultimately makes Brisbane's average petrol prices look worse than is actually the case?

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### **Opinion: On a fuel's errand we have to ride the price cycle**

The recent release of the petrol price report by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) prompted yet another round of petrol industry bashing.

While the theatre of this debate is possibly more fun than beating the NSW Blues in a State of Origin series, it raises an obvious question — "Is there really a problem with petrol prices?"

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### **Special report: How Sydneysiders are beating petrol price pain with fuel apps**

Savvy motorists are saving hundreds of dollars each year by showing a greater app-reciation for "real-time" cheap fuel searches on their smartphone to beat Sydney's growing bowser pain. A NewsLocal investigation last week found a whopping 42c a litre price disparity for E10 unleaded fuel within a 4km stretch as Sydney's pump prices hit a three-year high.

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## CYBER: Steps to threat mitigation and supply chain risk

The cyber security threat to Australian businesses has never been higher – but adhering to a set of eight key data breach mitigation strategies could reduce the likelihood of successful cyber attacks against you by 85%. Those are figures supplied by the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD), which has prioritised eight control measures from a total list of 40 which focus on patching, application whitelisting and restriction of access.

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## Franchise sector faces potential Senate inquiry

It has been a trying month for Australia's franchise sector, which after a string of scandals is now staring down the barrel of a Senate inquiry.

A spokesperson for Senator John Williams has confirmed that he intends to move a referral to hold a parliamentary inquiry into the franchise sector by 20 March, and that he is confident he has the numbers to move ahead with proceedings.

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**From:** ACAPMA [communications=acapma.com.au@mail186.atl81.rsgsv.net] on behalf of ACAPMA [communications@acapma.com.au]

**Sent:** Thursday, 22 March 2018 4:12 PM

**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** Brace for Easter fuel price nonsense, and more news from ACAPMA

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Its Easter next week and unfortunately, the 2018 Easter holiday period looks likely to be preceded by a change in the petrol price cycles in Adelaide, Brisbane and Melbourne. This means that fuel retailers will likely have to brace for another round of fuel price criticism based on short-term observations about capital city petrol prices. No doubt the hysteria will be greatest in Brisbane where the RACQ will yet again trot out a series of outlandish statements about the timing of the latest cycle based on over-simplistic analysis of petrol prices.

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### **Does NSW fuel monitoring website actually increase petrol prices?**

The NSW opposition has called for a parliamentary inquiry into the impact of fuel monitoring websites, amid revelations they are disadvantaging motorists.

Shadow Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation, Yasmin Catley, questioned the logic of the NSW fuel monitoring website *Fuel Check* this week, pointing to a similar inquiry that recently concluded in Victoria.



### **Petrol prices at lowest levels in four months**

According to the Australian Institute of Petroleum, the national average Australian price of unleaded petrol fell by 0.9 cents to 133.6 cents a litre in the past week – the lowest level in over 4 months.

The metropolitan petrol price fell by 1.0 cents to 132.2 cents per litre and the regional price declined by 0.5 cents to 136.5 cents per litre. The national average Australian price of diesel petrol fell by 0.2 cents to 138.5 cents per litre.

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### Cyber: Risk insurance assessment

Organisations have always had a duty to protect their clients' privacy. Technology has simply altered the means by which sensitive information might be leaked and how a business prevents that from occurring.

As well as the [risk mitigation measures outlined in our last article on this subject](#), factoring in specific cyber liability insurance cover is a sensible measure to take. While it can't prevent breaches from happening, it can cover the costs associated with such attacks, which, as we've seen, can be excessive.

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### Australia's oldest hoon was just trying to save money on petrol

How far would you go to save petrol?

Hopefully not to the dangerous extremes taken by an 80-something-year-old woman from country Victoria driving around the hilly terrain of the Yarra Valley with the car in neutral and coast down the hills to try to recoup the cost.

Until she was caught, the grandmother was quite proud of this nifty fuel-saving technique and called her car, which at the time carried a number plate starting SFO, the "Silver Flying Object".

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**From:** ACAPMA [communications=acapma.com.au@mail250.wdc02.mcdlv.net] on behalf of ACAPMA [communications@acapma.com.au]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 April 2018 11:59 AM

**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** FINAL REMINDER: Petroleum Contractor Workshops in NSW | VIC

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**ACAPMA is hosting another round of Contractor Workshops in an effort to better understand the current issues and priorities for the fuel contracting industry.**

*“Our goal is to secure industry feedback on the areas that are in greatest need of best practice guidelines and to hear about some of the more general issues that may be impacting adversely on the petroleum contracting industry” - ACAPMA CEO Mark McKenzie.*

The workshops will be conducted as a roundtable discussion to maximise input from all attendees.

### **Workshop Objectives**

- To discuss the nature of any key issues currently affecting the delivery of petroleum contracting services to the fuel retail industry
- To discuss areas where there is a clear need for the development of the next set of *Best Practice Guidelines*
- To agree framework for the conduct of the next Contractors Forum in conjunction with the Asia Pacific Fuel Industry Forum 2018 in Auckland (4-6 September 2018)

### **Registration details**

Attendance at the workshop is free and open to all interested parties, but participants must register by emailing Catherine Squire of ACAPMA via [catherines@acapma.com.au](mailto:catherines@acapma.com.au).

Places are limited so book now to avoid disappointment.

## **SYDNEY**

10 April

10am - 1pm

Sir Stamford Circular Quay

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## **MELBOURNE**

11 April

10am - 1pm

File A

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**From:** ACAPMA [communications=acapma.com.au@mail19.suw15.mcsv.net] on behalf of ACAPMA [communications@acapma.com.au]

**Sent:** Friday, 6 April 2018 1:08 PM

**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** Franchise model under the spotlight, and more news from ACAPMA

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Over the last 2 years, there have been an increasing number of media stories highlighting problems with the current operation of the franchise model in Australia. In early March, following the announcement by Retail Food Group of its intent to close as many as 200 franchise stores nationwide, one noted authority on franchising suggested that around two-thirds of the current franchise businesses currently operating in Australia would likely cease to exist in the next 10 years. This article was shortly followed by an announcement by the Australian Government that a Senate Inquiry into the operation and effectiveness of the Franchise Code of Conduct (including the Oil Code) would be established. Given that around 16% of the nation's 6700 fuel retail sites are currently operated by fuel franchise businesses, the Australian fuel retail industry has strong reason to participate actively in the Inquiry and the related national discussion about the future of franchising in Australia.

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### **2018 Senate inquiry into the Franchising Code of Conduct and Oil Code**

On 22 March 2018 the Senate passed a motion made by Senator John Williams to refer a matter to the *Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services* for inquiry and report by 30 September 2018. This is not the first senate inquiry into franchising and



### **Cheaper petrol prices helped push up nation's highway death toll, study finds**

A dramatic fall in petrol prices four years ago is being blamed for adding to the nation's road toll and confounding government efforts to push the death count below 1000 by early next decade.

As another Easter weekend death

likely will not be the last. In 2008 the Senate Joint Committee conducted a similar inquiry and tabled its report in December 2008 entitled “*Opportunity not opportunism: improving conduct in Australian franchising*”.

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count is tallied up by authorities, Australian National University economists have released a study that finds between 1989 and 2017 road deaths rise by about 0.2 per cent whenever prices drop by 1 per cent.

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### **Petrol tanker explodes in fiery crash east of Mount Isa leaving one driver dead**

A truck driver has died after their fuel tanker exploded on impact with a car on the Barkly highway in north-west Queensland.

Sergeant Ross Kirkpatrick said the B-triple tanker caught fire and exploded when it hit the vehicle. “With that much fuel around it’s really caused quite an incident, really there’s not much more they can do other than let the fuel burn out for the time being.”

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### **Petroleum contractor and services workshops 2018 held next week**

Next week, ACAPMA will be holding two workshops for those businesses involved in the provision of equipment and contracting services to the Australian fuel retail and distribution industry.

The workshops are part of ACAPMA’s continued commitment to understanding and championing the needs of petroleum equipment and services businesses.

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**From:** ACAPMA [communications=acapma.com.au@mail143.suw16.rsgsv.net] on behalf of ACAPMA [communications@acapma.com.au]

**Sent:** Friday, 13 April 2018 10:06 AM

**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** ACAPMA Petroleum Contractors Workshops 2018, and more news from ACAPMA

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ACAPMA conducted two workshops with the petroleum contracting, equipment and services industry over the past week to identify industry priorities and discuss the need for developing additional Best Practice Guidelines. These discussions were positive and wide-ranging with strong suggestions that ACAPMA could work to develop a new Guideline for Vapour Recovery and commence work on the development of a national accreditation course for petroleum contractors – with a focus on specific areas of high-risk competencies such as fuel system installation, site commissioning and site decommissioning.

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### **Caltex CEO vents 'frustration' at Fair Work Ombudsman**

Caltex chief executive Julian Segal has hit out at the Fair Work Ombudsman over its handling of the wage underpayment problem plaguing the fuel supplier's franchise network, blaming the regulator for an unconstructive relationship that is harming public confidence in the system.

He also takes aim at the way it has handled the release of its findings, releasing them to select media before alerting the company itself.

### **Australia's emergency fuel supply stocks critical, worst of IEA Nations**

In a damning assessment of the country's internationally mandated fuel stocks, the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security has raised serious concerns about Australia's "vulnerability to regional geo-political instability" such as the South China Sea dispute. It follows a similar assessment from the International Energy Agency which last month raised the same concern in a five-yearly report into Australia's energy sector.

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## Charging ahead in the Sunshine State

Electric vehicles offer a range of social, economic and environmental benefits but one of the key barriers to EV uptake has been a lack of public charging infrastructure which has led the QLD government to recently announce charger stations at Townsville and Carmila.

The first phase of the chargers allows Queenslanders and tourists to travel in EV's to the majority of the states' larger towns and cities.

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## Driver very apologetic after slapping favourite petrol pump

Stroppy and frustrated when his favourite petrol bowser was slow to deliver the needed ingredient to his car, Joel Way gave the bowser a hard slap.

The slap landed him before an Ipswich court magistrate charged with doing wilful damage to a bowser. Way, 26, from Redbank Plains pleaded guilty to committing the offence on January 18.

Police did not what damage, if any, was done.

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**From:** ACAPMA [communications=acapma.com.au@mail238.atl21.rsgsv.net] on behalf of ACAPMA [communications@acapma.com.au]

**Sent:** Friday, 20 April 2018 2:01 PM

**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** Small business financing challenges, and more news from ACAPMA

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A common complaint of many of the smaller businesses in the fuel industry is the difficulty in securing affordable finance to support the continued growth of their business or to successfully navigate a short term cashflow issue. When faced with these issues, most small business owners struggle to secure finance from traditional lenders and are forced to either defer expansion plans and/or find alternative forms of finance. Earlier this week, COSBOA co-chaired a meeting with the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Australian Bankers Association to discuss the current challenges – and what might be done to address them?

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### **Is Australia's fuel supply about to be cut off?**

Amid the escalating Syria conflict, the focus has turned closer to home with some reports suggesting Australia's fuel supply could run dry. SBS News asked the experts if that is likely to happen. Australia is at risk of running out of fuel and its emergency supply is way too low – or at least that was what was reported this week following strikes on Syria by the US and its allies. While it is true Australia has only 23 days worth of petrol in reserve if there were to be a global disruption to



### **Caltex CEO Julian Segan reinvents Caltex business model**

Caltex chief executive Julian Segal wants to give you back 10 minutes of your day. Make that 15. Faced with a slow-growth industry – thanks to more fuel-efficient and electric cars – the chief executive of Australia's largest service station group believes the answer lies in catering to a time-poor population. His plan is to expand its service stations into upmarket convenience stores, where you will pick up your barista coffee, drop off

its oil supply, experts say the country is not heading for an immediate fuel shortage as a result of the Syria crisis.

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### Battle intensifies with controversy over lack of real-time fuel price system

THE battle over petrol prices has intensified with the RACQ accusing some Cairns petrol stations of “ripping off motorists” by hiking prices nine cents to almost 150 cents per litre. The state government said it was “working on possible solutions” to tackle the pressure on Queensland drivers, but rebuffed demands for laws forcing retailers to reveal prices. Energy Minister Anthony Lynham blamed price hikes on a lack of competition.

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your drycleaning, collect a parcel, buy your fresh food for dinner, or pull up a chair and use the free wifi.

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### ACCC cross appointment to the NZ Commerce Commission

Australian Treasurer Scott Morrison and New Zealand Commerce and Consumer Affairs Minister Kris Faafoi have welcomed the cross-appointment of Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) Commissioner Roger Featherston to the New Zealand Commerce Commission (NZCC). ‘Mr Featherston is a leading expert in his field and his cross-appointment will strengthen Trans-Tasman cooperation on competition and consumer issues,’ Mr Morrison said.

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**From:** Talbot Speechley [Talbot.Speechley@ministerial.qld.gov.au]

**Sent:** Friday, 20 April 2018 3:56 PM

**To:** Mark McKenzie

**Subject:** NSW and NT Fuel Price Reports - Modelling (redacted)

**Attachments:** DNRME Griffith Report - NSW Fuel Prices (section 4) REDACTED.pdf; DNRME Griffith Report - NT Fuel Prices (section 3) REDACTED.pdf

Hi Mark

I think you would find the two items attached of interest. They are a slightly redacted version of the modelling section of the NSW and NT fuel price reports completed by Griffith University for DNRME. Please note they are not for distribution.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards

Talbot

**Talbot Speechley**

Policy Advisor & Caucus Liaison Officer

**Office of the Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham MP**

Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

P 07 3719 7367 M 73(2)Irrelevant

Level 36, 1 William Street Brisbane QLD 4000

# DNRME 18018

## The impact of FuelCheck on retail ULP prices in New South Wales

---

*Final report*

Attention:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Department of Natural Resources, Mineral and Energy

March 2018

[REDACTED]

Commercial in confidence  
18-xxx

File A

27

R

## 4. Modelling Results

A model of log monthly ULP retail prices was developed using a number of time series and control variables [REDACTED]. The main explanatory factors used to model retail ULP include:

- International oil prices. We expect a positive and significant influence of international crude oil price on ULP retail prices.
- ULP retail prices of the previous time period. We expect that if oil prices were high in the preceding period, this would have a positive influence on the next period.
- Demand factors (proxied by a time trend). We expect that as demand for ULP price rises over time, this will have a positive impact on ULP prices.
- A dummy variable to capture the effect of FuelCheck (step dummy). If FuelCheck is effective, we would expect this to have a negative and significant impact on ULP prices in NSW.
- A constant term.

These variables were chosen by balancing two key requirements: that the model is effective as it can account for most of the observed variation; that it is parsimonious in the sense that it predicts the ULP prices with as few variables as possible. An intuitive method to check the explanatory model is to compare its fitted values of ULP with actual ULP prices, as well as using it to develop out-of-sample forecasts and comparing these with actual trends. These exercises show that fitted values closely follow actual ULP prices and the model is quite powerful in being able to forecast monthly ULP prices [REDACTED].

This model was used to study the log of ULP retail prices in Sydney, rural NSW, Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide. Table 1 below reports the results. The overall performance of the model is strong. In the case of Sydney, the model can account for 93% of all observed variation (as reported by the Adjusted R<sup>2</sup>). The relatively high percentage in comparison to similar time series models of major economic variables.

In terms of the explanatory variables, both international oil prices and ULP prices of the previous period are found to have a strong positive effect on retail ULP prices across all observed regions (Sydney, Rural NSW, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney). This conforms with our prior expectations.

Variables	Sydney	Rural NSW
Log of ULP Price Monthly Average (cents) (Previous Month )	0.352024*** [0.07727]	0.629004*** [0.04927]
Constant	2.05178*** [0.289]	1.1898*** [0.1945]
Log of Brent Crude Oil Spot Price Monthly Average (AU\$ per Barrel)	0.244997*** [0.02811]	0.142498*** [0.01896]
Step dummy (policy)	-0.0331994** [0.01324]	-0.00485338 [0.007998]
Dummy_1_2015	-0.118245*** [0.00676]	-0.0535392 [0.01897]
Trend	0.00104669*** [0.0003308]	0.000357244 [0.000247]
no. of observations	67	67
Adj R <sup>2</sup>	0.930359	0.96716

\*\*\*Significant at 1%, \*\* significant at 5%, \* significant at 10%. All SEs are calculated using Heteroskedasticity Consistent (HCSE) robust SEs.

**Impact of Fuelcheck.** The results for Sydney show that the step dummy entered from August 2016 onwards to measure this effect was significant and possessed a negative sign (-0.0331994). The effect on ULP prices in Sydney was significant at the alpha = 5 percent level (see Sydney Column in Table above). This means that we can reject with 95% confidence the null Hypothesis that FuelCheck had no significant impact on retail ULP prices in Sydney. Note the magnitude of this effect appears to be small, but this is because retail ULP prices were studied in log form.<sup>2</sup> In normal terms, the magnitude of this impact is about 1.03 cents or 0.7% of the average price.

**Rural NSW.** The same model was used to study ULP price trends in rural NSW (see third column), however the impact of FuelCheck turned out to be insignificant. This is likely due to lower levels of retail fuel competition in rural NSW (Oczkowski et al., 2017).

**Sampling Issues.** Here it is worth pointing out that an alternative explanation for the significance of the step dummy in the Sydney ULP price model could be due to sampling issues in the sense that the data sampling process also changed contemporaneously with the introduction of the FuelCheck. This is unlikely because, if it were the case, then we would expect the step dummy to also be significant for rural NSW as this time series was subject to the same change in sampling methodology. The contrasting results across in Sydney (significant impact of FuelCheck) and rural NSW (insignificant impact of FuelCheck) suggest that there is no major bias in our results due to sampling issues.

**Robustness check 1.** A robustness check involved comparing Sydney ULP model results with those for Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide (see Table 1). In all three of these other major cities, the step dummy turned out to be insignificant. This was in line with expectations as the FuelCheck policy was

<sup>2</sup> Logs models are typically used to study time series when there is heteroscedasticity present in the data.

only introduced in NSW. These results rule out the possibility that some type of nationwide oil shock could explain the significance of the step dummy.

**Robustness check 2.** To further verify our results, a ratio of Sydney's ULP price to the average of ULP price for Brisbane, Perth, Melbourne and Adelaide was calculated (see Figure 3 below). This ratio was then used as a dependent variable in the model and tested for policy effect through the step dummy. The results revealed that policy effect was statistically significant with the expected negative sign, such that the ULP price in Sydney, relative to other cities, was found to have fallen after the introduction of the FuelCheck policy. The magnitude of the decline was similar to our previous results (1.01 cents). However, it is worth noting that the overall model fit was lower relative to the model reported in Table 1. This is because accounting for price differences between major cities is a relatively more complicated exercise and ideally requires more variables to account for cross-city differences in ULP retail prices.

**Figure 3: Ratio of Sydney ULP prices to other major cities (Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide and Melbourne)**



**Robustness Check 3.** We also carried out another estimation where instead of Brent crude oil price, Melbourne ULP prices were used as an explanatory variable in the model. The Melbourne ULP price was used here to control for the effects of all the other omitted variables (any other factors that would have had an influence on the domestic ULP prices). Thus the impact of the policy effect could be better isolated. The results found that the policy step dummy to be statistically significant with an expected negative sign [REDACTED]

Project Update

DNRME 18018 – Variation 1  
The impact of MyFuelNT on  
Retail ULP prices in the Northern Territory

Department of Natural Resources, Mineral and Energy



Know more. Do more.

Nathan campus Griffith University  
170 Kessels Road  
Nathan  
QLD 4111

### 3. Modelling Results

A model of log monthly ULP retail prices was developed using a number of time series and control variables [REDACTED]. The main explanatory factors used to model retail ULP include:

- International oil prices. We expect a positive and significant influence of international crude oil price on ULP retail prices.
- ULP retail prices of the previous time period. We expect that if oil prices were high in the preceding period, this would have a positive influence on the next period.
- Demand factors (proxied by a time trend). We expect that as demand for ULP price rises over time, this will have a positive impact on ULP prices.
- A dummy variable to capture the effect of MyFuelNT (step dummy). If MyFuelNT is effective, we would expect this to have a negative and significant impact on ULP prices in NT
- A constant term.

These variables were chosen by balancing two key requirements: that the model is effective as it can account for most of the observed variation; that it is parsimonious in the sense that it predicts the ULP prices with as few variables as possible. An intuitive method to check the explanatory model is to compare its fitted values of ULP with actual ULP prices, as well as using it to develop out-of-sample forecasts and comparing these with actual trends. These exercises show that fitted values closely follow actual ULP prices and the model is quite powerful in being able to forecast monthly ULP prices [REDACTED]. No seasonality in the monthly ULP prices was observed.

This model was used to study the log of monthly ULP retail prices in Darwin, Alice Spring, Katherine and NT as a whole (where the NT results include Tennant Creek). Table 1 below reports the results. The overall performance is strong in the sense that the forecasting ability of the model is sound [REDACTED]. At the same time it should be noted that results need to be treated with care for three reasons.

1. Working with the monthly data, there exist only 3 observations after the introduction of the MyFuelNT in November 2017 (November, December 2017 and January 2018). This low number of observations implies that we cannot conclude with certainty what the sustained impact of the MyFuelNT scheme is on ULP prices.
2. Important changes took place in the sample size and the number of retailers reporting their prices over time. In particular, after the implementation of MyFuelNT, the data is likely to be more dispersed. This has an observable impact on the data as there appears to be greater variability in the log of monthly prices. We can not rule out the possibility that changes in the sampling strategy may be responsible for variation in the ULP price.

3. The error term exhibits serial correlation which suggest that the results suffer from omitted variable bias.

Table 1: Model Results

Variables	NT	Darwin	Alice Springs	Katherine
Log of ULP Price Monthly Average (cents) (Previous Month )	0.616594*** (0.04642)	0.647295*** (0.05174)	0.689527*** (0.04960)	0.645717*** (0.04322)
Constant	1.12259*** (0.1691)	1.02790*** (0.1640)	0.977580*** (0.1683)	0.901943*** (0.1440)
Log of Brent Crude Oil Spot Price Monthly Average (AU\$ per Barrel) (Previous Month )	0.177177 *** (0.02175)	0.163572*** (0.02388)	0.131757*** (0.02137)	0.107610*** (0.03089)
<b>Step dummy (policy)</b>	<b>0.0794011*</b> (0.01359)	<b>0.0483799***</b> (0.01274 )	<b>0.0964480**</b> (0.01363 )	<b>0.0501788**</b> (0.01179)
Dummy_March 2013		0.00649015** (0.02187)		0.00842109*** (0.01728)
Dummy_1_2015		-0.0617439*** (0.02208)	-0.0816310*** (0.02287)	-0.0393447*** (0.01835)
Trend	0.000295109*** (0.0001954)			0.000817442*** (0.0001796)
no. of obsrevatoins	72	72	72	72
Adj R <sup>2</sup>	0.974669	0.974144	0.970133	0.979106

\*\*\*Significant at 1%, \*\* significant at 5%, \* significant at 10%. All SEs are calculated using Heteroscedasticity Consistent (HCSE) robust SEs.

Note that the dependent variable is ULP fuel price for NT (column 2), Darwin (column 3), Alice Springs (column 4) and Katherine (column 5). Each row reports the parameter estimate for the explanatory variable listed in the first column. The top numbers report the sign and magnitude of the parameter estimate. The stars indicate the alpha level (see table footnote). The bottom number in brackets report the standard error for the parameter estimate. A large standard error implies that that there is low certainty about the size of the parameter estimate.

In terms of the explanatory variables, both international oil prices and ULP prices of the previous period are found to have a strong positive effect on retail ULP prices across all observed regions. This conforms to our prior expectations. In addition the parameter estimate for the trend variable is positive and significant. This captures the influence of dynamic factors on ULP prices, such as growing demand and population growth. It is worth noting that two other events are found to significantly impact NT ULP prices: 1) a negative international oil price shock in January 2015 (see Dummy\_1\_2015), this had a negative impact on NT ULP prices and is consistent with our results on NSW ULP prices (see previous report). 2) Merger activity in March 2013, whereby Puma Energy purchased Ausfuel also led to greater concentration in the retail fuel market (ACCC 2015).

**Impact of MyFuelINT.** The results for Darwin show that the step dummy entered from November 2017 onwards to measure this effect was significant and possessed a positive sign (0.0483799). The effect on ULP prices in Darwin was significant at the alpha = 1 per cent level (see Darwin Column in Table above). This means that we can reject with 99% confidence the null Hypothesis that MyFuelCheck scheme had no significant impact on retail ULP prices in Darwin. Note the magnitude of this effect

appears to be small, but this is because retail ULP prices were studied in log form.<sup>2</sup> In normal terms, the magnitude of this impact is about 1.05 cents. A similar effect was found when examining average monthly ULP prices for NT.

**Other NT regions.** The same model was used to study ULP price trends in Alice Springs, Katherine (see third and fourth column). Here it is worth noting that MyFuelNT was also found to have a significant and positive impact on ULP prices. This suggests that price increases were not just confined to Darwin, but appear to be spread across the Northern Territory. It also suggests that contemporaneous influences are not responsible for the Darwin results. NT media (2017c) reported that one independent retailer closed down in Darwin around the time of the introduction of MyFuelNT. This could be another possible explanation for why we find price spikes upwards around November 2017. Yet the closure of a petrol station in Darwin cannot account for why price spikes were observed in Alice Springs and Katherine as well. This suggests that the price rises are more likely the result of collusion facilitated by the MyFuelNT, bearing in mind the 3 caveats listed above.

**Robustness check.** To further verify our results, a ratio of Darwin's ULP price to the average of ULP price for Brisbane, Perth, Melbourne and Adelaide was calculated [REDACTED]. This ratio was then used as a dependent variable in the model and tested for policy effect through the step dummy. The results revealed that policy effect was statistically significant with the expected positive sign (NTdumm71), such that the ULP price in Darwin, relative to other cities, was found to have risen after the introduction of the MyFuelNT policy. The magnitude of the rise was similar to our previous results (1.01 cents). However, it is worth noting that the overall model fit was lower relative to the model reported in Table 1. This is because accounting for price differences between major cities is a relatively more complicated exercise and ideally requires more variables to account for cross-city differences in ULP retail prices.

[REDACTED]

<sup>2</sup> Logs models are typically used to study time series when there is heteroscedasticity present in the data.

**From:** ACAPMA [communications=acapma.com.au@mail242.atl121.mcsv.net] on behalf of ACAPMA [communications@acapma.com.au]

**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:31 AM

**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** Compliance, navigating the minefield, and more news from ACAPMA

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Getting compliance right in the complex Australian system is difficult, especially so for small businesses. It is easy for small business operators to become so focused on the success of the business that they overlook the growing, changing and manifold requirements that they must comply with. With increasing focus and increasing penalties, now is the time for small businesses to spend time working on the business, not just in the business.

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### **'The price is dictated by the market': Don't blame us for three-year petrol price highs, fuel retailers say**

While the RACQ and other motoring organisations have accused petrol retailers of price gouging to boost their margins above what the “fair price” should be, retailers say they’re simply passing on higher costs. “The price is dictated by the market. We’re at the top of the cycle and tracking higher than we have for quite a while because of two effects. The first is the increase in the world oil price, and we’re also seeing the combined effects of increasing costs for retail business, and I stress that they are businesses.

### **Gallagher: Industry-wide insurance incident report April 2018**

Gallagher (formerly OAMPS) has been ACAPMA’s insurance partner for more than 30 years.

As a specialist broker for the fuel industry and convenience stores sector, Gallagher handles a large number of claims on a monthly basis which can serve as a reminder to other businesses in the industry of the risks they face on a daily basis.

Gallagher’s latest incident report features some major claims events that are relevant to businesses of all sizes right across the sector.

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### EPA inspections help petrol stations to keep it clean

An Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) statewide inspection team has built up a list of tips and traps, to help service station owners protect their business and the environment from the effects of fuel leaks.

EPA Executive Director – Practice & Assurance, Chris Webb, said underground petroleum storage systems (UPSS) constitute a common source of land and groundwater contamination, and a good maintenance and monitoring program is vital.

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### A simple solution, an understatement

A brand new easy-to-use, yet precise, metering delivery system developed by Liquip is changing the way Petrogas delivers its fuel. Using advanced modern technology, the Swift Delivery System is making the company's day-to-day operations much simpler and less physically demanding for operators. Petrogas is an independent supplier of petroleum products. It was formed in 1985, through the merging of two fuel distribution companies. Starting out as a small business with only a few trucks, Petrogas has experienced significant growth.

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**Sent:** Friday, 4 May 2018 11:02 AM

**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** QLD Fuel Price Reporting: More information led to a difference in approach, and more news from ACAPMA

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This week the Queensland Government has announced plans to launch a 2 year trial of mandatory fuel price reporting. The Palaszczuk Government approach will commence as soon as possible but will be formulated with the engagement of an industry task force with representatives from the motoring associations, government, ACAPMA and other industry stakeholders. The announcement follows weeks of vocal calls from the opposition to replicate the NSW Fuel Check system of mandatory real-time price reporting and has been declared by the opposition to be a Government backflip, but the reality appears to highlight the Government has actually undertaken a deeper analysis of the situation and a carefully considered approach.

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### **HR Highlight: Guaranteed hours, what every employer should know**

Engaging staff is a fraught process. There are so many things the business has to get right. Not only do they have to find the right person, who is capable and with fit well within the culture of the business, they also need to ensure the engagement process and documents are correct.

Getting this last part correct is an elusive area for many businesses.



### **Deadline looms for Woolworths \$1.8 billion fuel deal**

Woolworths will be open to consider other options for the sale of its fuel business in the coming months as the deadline for a sunset clause in its deal with BP to sell its service station network for \$1.8bn approaches. Woolworths Group chief revealed that the agreement, which the ACCC knocked back last year, has a sunset clause that expires “towards the middle of the year”, suggesting that a decision will come before the end of FY18.

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### Peregrine swoops on BP petrol stations

Peregrine is tipped to be the frontrunner in the contest to buy about 230 Woolworths petrol stations, with Kohlberg Kravis Roberts now out of the competition.

Earlier, it was understood that Couche-Tard, PetroChina and Peregrine Corporation, partnered with KKR, were in the contest, but sources have suggested that there may now only be one party left in the mix.

The thinking is that others have fallen away and that Peregrine is the only party left.

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### BP confirms transaction delays caused problem with BPme app

BP has confirmed to Which-50 that the problem in its payment app called BPme that resulted in ADMA managing director Ben Sharp getting a please explain letter from the police was caused by a delay in transaction processing.

Sharp received a letter from the police, effectively accusing him of petrol theft after the BPme app he used to fill up his car took 48 hours to process a payment. He shared this experience on LinkedIn, with his post attracting more than a quarter of a million views.

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**To:** Talbot Speechley  
**Subject:** Budget and Business, and more news from ACAPMA

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This week has seen the release of the federal budget and the Opposition reply. There is a lot of talk of winners and losers across the community and while the focus has been on strengthening the economy as a whole aiming for surplus by 2021, business has a large role to play and this budget has some impact for businesses large and small. Businesses will benefit from the extension of immediate tax write-offs, continued moves to lower the overall tax rate and expanded national spending on infrastructure. At the same time, tax loopholes will be closed and reporting requirements increased for some businesses and activities.

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### **Australia's fuel stockpile is perilously low, so why aren't we stocking up?**

Australia depends heavily on imported fuel, but having become used to huge surpluses of coal, gas and uranium, energy security has never been a strong concern.

Australia is an island nation that depends heavily on imported fuel — and our stockpile is critically low. According to [recent reports](#), we have just 22 days' worth of crude oil, 59 days of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), 20 days of petrol, 19 days of aviation fuel, and 21 days of diesel in reserve.



### **Caltex acquisitions filling the gap as Woolworths acquisition uncertain**

Caltex Australia has risen to the challenge of closing the \$150 million earnings gap left by [the expected loss of a large fuels supply contract with Woolworths](#), according to Segal, signalling potential further acquisitions in New Zealand and the Philippines to help complete the task. Mr Segal said that combined with cost savings on operations and debt, recent acquisitions like Milemaker and Gull New Zealand meant Caltex is “very close” to replacing earnings from the 3.6b litres a year wholesale contract.

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## Puma Energy set to pounce on Woolworths petrol stations

A new name has emerged in the competition to buy about 230 Woolworths petrol stations, with Puma Energy said to be giving Peregrine a run for its money. Peregrine had earlier been tipped to be the frontrunner in the competition. PetroChina is now out of the race, as is Kohlberg Kravis Roberts. The French group Couche-Tard may now also be out. Puma is a fast-growing global energy company and in Australia it owns Ausfuel Gull, CCG, Matilda and Neumann Petroleum.

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## NatRoad defends fuel tax credit scheme

The National Road Transport Association (NatRoad) has warned that any move to scrap the fuel tax credit scheme in the upcoming Federal Budget will have long-term negative financial implications for Australia.

“It may seem like a quick, easy way to fill Commonwealth coffers, but removing the fuel tax credit scheme will drive up the cost of road transport and this will flow onto all goods and products that Australians purchase,” said NatRoad CEO, Warren Clark.

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**Sent:** Friday, 18 May 2018 10:01 AM

**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** HR Highlight: When breaching cardinal rules warrant instant dismissal, and more news from ACAPMA

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In a recent case the Fair Work Commission has upheld the dismissal of an employee for using a mobile phone while operating a vehicle once, despite a 27 year “unblemished” record. This case has implications for all businesses engaging professional drivers as well as those who operate vehicles as part of their roles. This weeks HR Highlight will review the case and the learnings that should be considered in the context of the downstream petroleum industry.

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### **Consumer watchdog names Australia's highest-priced petrol retailer**

Shopper discounts may not always be the best way to save on fuel costs, an ACCC report into petrol pricing finds. Coles Express has been named as the most expensive place to buy [petrol](#) despite its shopper loyalty program, a report looking at the state of the industry shows. The [Australian Competition and Consumer Commission](#)'s annual report into fuel prices has this year named and shamed the nation's most expensive fuel retailers in 2017, some of whom tap into new customers via loyalty



### **E10 fuel keeps catching on in Queensland**

One in five QLD passenger vehicles is now using E10 – a carbon reduction comparable to taking approximately 13,000 cars off the road. Energy Minister Dr Anthony Lynham told Parliament today that 2.5 percent of the regular petrol sold in QLD in the last quarter of 2017 was ethanol, up from just 1.5 percent when the Palaszczuk Government's biofuels mandate commenced. “We put the mandate in place to encourage industry to invest, innovate and create jobs as part of a cleaner, greener future for Queensland and a flourishing bio-

discounts.

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### ACCC names and shames most expensive petrol retailers

The ACCC took the unusual step of naming and shaming some of Australia's largest fuel retailers who often use loyalty discounts to drive shoppers to their petrol offerings.

The ACCC's annual petrol report found prices between major retailers across Australia's largest cities varied by as much 10 cents per litre.

Major retailers Coles Express, BP and Caltex had the highest prices on average while independent chains such as 7-Eleven and United generally had prices lower than the market average.

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manufacturing industry," Dr Lynham said.

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### ACT brings forward zero emissions target to 2045

The ACT has accelerated its zero emissions target, even as the federal government that gathers within its boundaries of the nation's capital seems intent on putting a go-slow on climate action. The new target – 2045, instead of 2050 – has been announced by Shane Rattenbury, the minister for climate change and sustainability in the Labor-Greens territory government. Rattenbury has effectively thrown down the gauntlet to other states and the federal government to also increase their efforts, just as Canberra seeks to lock the country into modest efforts over the next 10 years.

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**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** Franchising Inquiry; ACAPMA Submission, and more news from ACAPMA

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The Parliamentary Committee (Corporations and Financial Services) inquiry into the operation and effectiveness of the Franchising Code of Conduct is well underway. The Inquiry includes a review of the Oil Code of Conduct. ACAPMA's submission to the Inquiry has been made public by the Committee.

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### **HR Highlight: Inspectors and Regulators, Tips and Traps**

It is a reality of business that actions, records and activity is monitored and regulated by federal, State and local governments and regulatory authorities. This monitoring role means that sooner or later all businesses will come into contact with inspectors and regulators who will interrogate the levels of compliance within the business.

The businesses interaction with these monitors is often a stressor within the business, but it needn't be. This weeks HR Highlight will explore the best practice for interactions with inspectors and regulators, as well as the very real traps and penalties that await those

### **Boss Pocketed Employee's \$12K Parental Leave Pay**

NSW man who attempted to pocket his employee's government-funded parental leave pay has been ordered to pay \$118,440 following an investigation by the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO).

Kulpreet Singh was the manager of the United Petroleum roadhouse at Marrangaroo, in NSW's central west, and director of Noorpreet Pty Ltd.

In April 2015 when the 29-year-old had a child, the Department of Human Services (DHS) deposited \$11,538 to her employer's company for it to then be transferred to the employee.

FWO Natalie James said the attempt by Mr Singh to take advantage of a

businesses that do not faithfully and fully engage with compliance monitors.

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### Productivity Commission chairman calls for road charging by 2020

Australia needs to bite the bullet on road-user charging in the next few years before the disruptive influence of electric vehicles and more fuel-efficient cars blows a hole in government revenue, according to Productivity Commission chairman Peter Harris.

Describing the [inability of Australia to embrace road pricing](#) as the “greatest failure of my time in infrastructure”, Mr Harris said the failure of successive governments to sell the idea of paying for a quicker trip home or to work was a key reason for user charging always being left in the “too-hard” basket.

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vulnerable employee was truly unacceptable.

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### Scancam millionth plate promotion a success

One lucky winner is \$2,500 richer after being the one-millionth person to have their licence plate scanned during Scancam’s special promotion on Friday, May 18.

The promotion ran across the five Sanzone Retail group stores; BP Beeliar, BP Henley Brook, BP Balcatta and BP Mindarie and BP Beldon.

Onlookers waited in anticipation, knowing the prize would go off at any moment, asking how close it was to happening, until Marie, a local BP Beldon customer rolled into the service station.

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**From:** ACAPMA [communications=acapma.com.au@mail100.wdc01.mcdlv.net] on behalf of ACAPMA [communications@acapma.com.au]

**Sent:** Friday, 1 June 2018 2:03 PM

**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** All service stations are not the same – that is why fuel prices differ, and more news from ACAPMA

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The steady rise of world oil prices since June of last year, and its consequent impact on petrol prices, has reignited a national debate about petrol prices. Unfortunately, much of this debate is premised on assertions that demonstrate a lack of understanding of both the factors that influence retail prices and the nature of Australia's openly competitive retail fuels market. While most stakeholders now accept that the industry is not colluding on fuel prices – given the numerous reports produced by the ACCC over the last 10 years – motoring associations (and the ACCC) are now suggesting that the observed difference between fuel prices between fuel retailers is evidence that some fuel retailers are gouging their customers (sigh). What everyone seems to be missing is that, if all Australian consumers were truly price sensitive, then clearly these retailers would be suffering huge losses. The reality is that consumer behaviour is changing – from one previously dominated by price centric behaviour to one where time poor consumers are seeking fuel outlets sites that offer physical and product convenience. Not just the cheapest fuel

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### **HR Highlight: National wage case increased minimum wage 3.5%**

The Fair Work Commission (FWC) undertakes the National Wage Case each year to determine if, and to what level the minimum wage should be increased. Today the FWC handed



### **Bowser pain continues for motorists as petrol prices remain high**

Ballarat's petrol price has remained stuck for more than three weeks with motorists forced to pay more than 161c per litre for fuel in some instances.

And with wholesale prices heading

down the decision that the minimum wage will be increased by 3.5% from the first pay period on or after the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018. This is the biggest increase since 2011 and higher still than the 3.3% increase that was handed down for the 2017/2018 year and will have an impact on the base rate in all Modern Awards.

The decision will have a flow on effect to all of the Modern Awards and will result in increases in the base rates that are applicable in all Awards. In the coming weeks the FWC will release draft and then final determinations for each of the Awards.

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### **Viva Energy to shake up petrol floats**

Australia's petrol refiners are just weeks away from pulling the trigger on deals worth billions in a shake-up that will also test investor appetite.

Brokers have started sending out pre-float valuations on the Viva Energy business that is being put on the market after four years of ownership by Swiss trader Vitol, with a sale likely by the middle of the year.

At the same time, Woolworths is said to be just weeks away from making a decision on whether to pursue a sale of its petrol stations and convenience stores to BP or consider other options after the competition watchdog blocked the sale in December.

north, there's no reduction in prices expected in the coming weeks.

It comes as the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission released a report naming and shaming the most expensive fuel providers around the country.

The ACCC report listed major retailers Coles Express, BP and Caltex as having highest prices on average while independent chains such as 7-Eleven and United generally had prices lower than the market average.

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### **Australia Unplugged: Why we're still lagging behind on electric cars**

For Brigid Niall and her daughter Queenie it was quite a road trip. Not because of the route they took on their weekend drive – around their inner-Melbourne suburb, through Melbourne's CBD and up to East Brunswick in the inner-north – but for the reaction they received from other motorists and onlookers.

Niall was at the wheel of her brand new car, a BMW i3 electric vehicle (EV), and the "futuristic" car was acting like a magnet for eyes.

"We went right up Collins Street (in Melbourne's CBD) and we went past a tram..."

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**From:** ACAPMA [communications=acapma.com.au@mail113.atl31.mcdlv.net] on behalf of ACAPMA [communications@acapma.com.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 June 2018 11:06 AM  
**To:** Talbot Speechley  
**Subject:** NSW Biofuels Mandate Has Failed

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In 2007, the NSW Government introduced new laws mandating the sale of biofuels (ethanol and biodiesel in NSW). Eight years later, against a backdrop of considerable donations made by the biofuels lobby and in the face of declining market adoption of biofuels, the NSW Government introduced expanded the biofuels laws. After more than 18 months of operation of the new and expanded biofuels laws one thing is clear – the NSW Government’s 11 year effort to force NSW motorists to buy E10 and biodiesel has failed.

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### **HR Highlight: Unpaid work experience, work trials and mentorship arrangements**

Providing young and inexperienced people with the opportunity to learn new skills and see if a particular work environment is suited to them is a tradition within the Australian workplace landscape. Participating in work experience and mentorship programs can be as rewarding to the business as it is to the participants, offering access to motivated and engaged individuals. However, recent cases have highlighted that many



### **Petrol prices near four-year high for many Australian motorists, ACCC says**

Australian drivers are feeling the pinch at the petrol pump, with prices in some cities near four-year highs as international supply concerns drive up oil prices.

A report by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) found average petrol prices across the five largest cities — Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth — have dramatically jumped from April, after being broadly stable

businesses do not understand the restrictions and requirements around the appropriate engagement of staff in unpaid work experience, trial and mentorship arrangements. With high penalties and detailed restrictions, it is imperative that all businesses engaging unpaid workers understand how to do so compliantly.

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### Government should introduce road user charging to replace falling fuel revenue

The federal government needs to adopt road user charging to recover falling fuel excise revenues before electric car drivers get used to paying nothing, the boss of Infrastructure Partnerships Australia has warned.

Speaking at the Australian Financial Review's National Infrastructure Summit, Adrian Dwyer said the next three years are a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" to adopt a road user charging model.

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for the first three months of the year.

"Consumers have recently been paying around \$1.60 [per litre] for petrol," said ACCC chairman Rod Sims.

"These prices are higher than any time since mid-2014 in some cities."

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### Portarlington petrol station to implement pre-pay fuel due to drive-offs

A PORTARLINGTON petrol station owner says his business is so crippled by fuel thefts he has been forced to make all customers pre-pay for fuel.

Tower Road service station operator Muhammad Farid said brazen thieves were robbing his petrol station of more than \$300 of fuel a month.

Mr Farid's decision, posted to his service station's social media page, was made after a \$172 drive-off this week.

"This is destroying my business and livelihood," Mr Farid said.

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**From:** ACAPMA [communications=acapma.com.au@mail73.suw13.rsgsv.net] on behalf of ACAPMA [communications@acapma.com.au]

**Sent:** Friday, 15 June 2018 11:08 AM

**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** Fair Work explains Reasonable Measures for franchise arrangements

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It is incumbent on businesses to ensure that they are complying with employment laws, but also that those businesses they partner with in a franchise or similar arrangement are also complying. The Protecting Venerable Workers changes have enshrined into law penalties and responsibilities for business that do not meet this requirement, leading to a situation where franchisors or controlling partners may be held responsible not only for the underpayments of their franchisees, but also face breach penalties. Franchisors and controlling partners are required to demonstrate that they have undertaken Reasonable Measures to ensure that their franchisees are complying.

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### **HR Highlight: Getting compliance right from day one - engagement documents review**

Ensuring that the conditions of employment and the expectations of the business are clearly and appropriately expressed is an important area of employment compliance, yet it is an area that many businesses struggle with. Engagement documents contain many of the critical elements required to ensure ongoing



### **EPA's cooperative fuel tank program makes for safer service stations**

An innovative, voluntary checklist from Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) that had hundreds of service stations improving the safety of their underground fuel tanks in 2015 is about to return, along with a special survey of 1400 stations across Victoria.

EPA's 2015 program for underground petroleum storage systems (UPSS)

employment compliance. This weeks HR Highlight explores the crucial area of engagement documents.

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approached service station operators with a voluntary *Monitoring for Leaks* checklist and survey that allowed them to check their own compliance with environmental regulations

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### Transport emissions jump: Bring on electric power

The federal government needs to adopt road user charging to recover falling fuel excise revenues before electric car drivers get used to paying nothing, the boss of Infrastructure Partnerships Australia has warned.

Speaking at the Australian Financial Review's National Infrastructure Summit, Adrian Dwyer said the next three years are a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" to adopt a road user charging model.

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### Service station worker makes citizen's arrest on armed offender

A Perth service station worker has made a citizen's arrest overnight after an offender began stealing food.

Police say the man entered a Victoria Park service station at about 11:30pm.

A Coles Express worker confronted the offender who police say pulled out a knife which led to a scuffle at the front of the service station.

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**From:** ACAPMA [communications=acapma.com.au@mail84.atl161.mcsv.net] on behalf of ACAPMA [communications@acapma.com.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 June 2018 9:56 AM  
**To:** Talbot Speechley  
**Subject:** HR Highlight: ACAPMA Wage Guides for 2018/2019 Released

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The Fair Work Commission (FWC) recently handed down a 3.5% increase in the minimum wage as part of the National Wage Case. This morning the FWC handed down the final determinations that vary the modern awards and change the pay rates that are to apply from the first pay period on or after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018. ACAPMA has produced a series of Quick Reference Guides that summarise common areas of the industry awards.

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### **Viva Energy launches its \$5 billion ASX float, but not all of it is for sale**

Fuel refiner and retailer Viva Energy has kicked off its long-awaited \$5.15 billion sharemarket float, expected to be the largest IPO on the ASX since 2014, but a large part of its shares is likely to remain in its current owner's hands.

The Dutch-owned company said its shares will be listed at between \$2.50 and \$2.65 apiece, bringing its total market value to between \$4.86 billion and \$5.15 billion. Viva's parent



### **BP will not proceed with the acquisition of the Woolworths' fuel network**

BP Australia will not continue with the proposed acquisition of Woolworths' retail fuel and convenience business, originally announced on 28 December 2016.

Despite its best efforts, BP has determined the transaction cannot be structured to meet its strategic objectives.

The decision does not deter BP Australia from its strategy to transform the retail convenience sector in

company, UK-based energy group Vitol, is expected to keep between 777.8 million and 972.3 million shares, or around 40 per cent of the newly listed entity, valued at between \$2 billion and \$2.5 billion.

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### Compliance to new petrol price board laws in Tasmania

The Hodgman Liberal Government is working hard to address cost of living concerns in Tasmania.

Petrol is a major household cost and our Code of Practice for Fuel Price Boards is making it easier for Tasmanian motorists to accurately determine the price of fuel.

A Statewide audit of 195 retailers has found full compliance with new petrol price board laws, which require the price of petrol to be displayed before any discounts are applied.

These new laws were introduced on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May this year following a six-month transition period for petrol retailers.

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Australia. BP has a proven track record in delivering leading fuel and convenience offers to millions of customers around the world, through partnerships with strong local brands including Marks and Spencer in the UK and REWE in Germany

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### OPEC enters meeting that could set direction of oil prices

Officials from major oil-producing nations are expected to agree this week to boost output, but just how much they will open the spigot — and the effect on oil prices — remain wild cards.

Ministers from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and non-OPEC nations led by Russia are meeting Friday and Saturday in Vienna, and it could be a difficult and uncomfortable gathering. The cartel's largest producer, Saudi Arabia, wants higher prices but hears President Donald Trump, leader of its most important ally, lobbying openly for lower prices.

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## Third party consultation

## Fact sheet

June 2014

This fact sheet aims to explain to individuals and organisations why they are being consulted by government agency and what their rights are under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*

You have received this fact sheet because an agency has received an application under the GIPA Act that may involve your **personal information, business** or **research interests**.

Your views are required to help agencies make the best decision possible about whether or not to release all or part of the information that has been requested.

This fact sheet is not legal advice and should not be taken as such or relied upon as legal advice. You should always consult a solicitor in the event of needing legal advice on the GIPA Act.

### What is the GIPA Act?

The GIPA Act commenced on 1 July 2010 and gives individuals a right of access to information held by NSW State Government “agencies”, e.g. departments, authorities and local councils. The new system is focused on making government information more readily available.

The GIPA Act does not, however, allow access to all information at all times. An agency may refuse access to information if there is “overriding public interest against disclosure”.

This is determined by seeing whether there are any “public interest considerations against disclosure” and the strength of the considerations. Some of the available considerations against disclosure apply to information that is someone else’s personal information, or affects someone’s business or research interests.

### What are the consultation requirements?

Where an application is received for access to information concerning a third party (that is, someone other than the applicant or the agency that received the application), then the agency is required to take all reasonable steps to consult with the third party to obtain their views. This requirement exists so that sensitive information of third parties is not released without proper consultation and careful consideration.

### What is the process?

An agency is generally required to give access to information that it holds that is not subject to an “overriding public interest against disclosure”. When access to information is refused under the GIPA Act, the applicant must be advised of the reasons why.

To decide whether information should be released, an agency must apply the public interest test. This is done by balancing any public interest consideration in favour of disclosure with any public interest consideration against disclosure. For more information about this see our [Fact sheet: What is in the public interest?](#)

Section 14 of the GIPA Act provides a list of public interest considerations that may be taken into account as considerations against disclosure when applying the public interest test. These include:

#### Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice

There is a public interest consideration against disclosure of information if disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to have one or more of the following effects:

- (a) reveal an individual’s personal information;
- (b) contravene an Information Protection Principle (IPP) under the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (PPIP Act) or a Health Privacy Principle (HPP) under the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002* (HRIP Act);
- (c) prejudice any court proceedings by revealing matter prepared for the purposes of or in relation to current or future proceedings;
- (d) prejudice the fair trial of any person, the impartial adjudication of any case or a person’s right to procedural fairness;
- (e) reveal false or unsubstantiated allegations about a person that are defamatory;
- (f) expose a person to a risk of harm or of serious harassment or serious intimidation;
- (g) in the case of the disclosure of personal information about a child—the disclosure of information that it would not be in the best interests of the child to have disclosed.

## Business and research interests of agencies and other persons

There is a public interest consideration against disclosure of information if disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to have one or more of the following effects:

- (a) undermine competitive neutrality in connection with any functions of an agency in respect of which it competes with any person or otherwise place an agency at a competitive advantage or disadvantage in any market,
- (b) reveal commercial-in-confidence provisions of a government contract,
- (c) diminish the competitive commercial value of any information to any person,
- (d) prejudice any person's legitimate business, commercial, professional or financial interests,
- (e) prejudice the conduct, effectiveness or integrity of any research by revealing its purpose, conduct or results (whether or not commenced and whether or not completed).

Section 54 of the GIPA Act provides the steps to be taken when consulting:

1. An agency must take such steps (if any) as are reasonably practicable to consult with a person before providing access to information relating to the person in response to an access application if it appears that:
  - a) the information is of a kind that requires consultation under this section; and
  - b) the person may reasonably be expected to have concerns about the disclosure of the information; and
  - c) those concerns may reasonably be expected to be relevant to the question of whether there is a public interest consideration against disclosure of the information.
2. Information relating to a person is of a kind that requires consultation under this section if the information:
  - a) includes personal information about the person; or
  - b) concerns the person's business, commercial, professional or financial interests; or
  - c) concerns research that has been, is being, or is intended to be, carried out by or on behalf of the person; or
  - d) concerns the affairs of a government of the Commonwealth or another State (and the person is that government).

## What should I tell the agency?

The agency would appreciate your views about how disclosure of the information would affect your interests. It may be that you do not object to the information in question being disclosed. If, however, you have doubts about the release of the information in question, the more detailed information you can provide to the agency, the better.

## What if I object to the release of information?

You will need to advise the agency in writing about:

- what information, if any, you are happy for the agency to release
- what information you are most concerned about releasing
- whether the information is available through other means
- the way disclosure would adversely affect you or your business or your research, and
- any other information you believe the agency should know prior to making a decision.

## Does the agency have to accept my views?

The agency must take into account your views in making its final decision – but the final decision on release remains that of the agency.

## What if I object, but the agency decides to release the information anyway?

If it is your view that the information should not be released, but the agency proposes to grant access despite your objections, then the agency must inform you of this decision.

If this is the case, you have the following review rights:

### 1. Internal Review

You have **20 working days** from the date of the decision to ask for an internal review, by the agency.

The review must be carried out by an officer not less senior than the person who made the original decision. The review decision must be made as if it was a fresh application.

If a Minister or the principal officer of an agency made the decision, you cannot ask for an internal review, but you can ask for an external review (see below).

There is a \$40 fee for an internal review application.

This fee is not payable (by the person who applied for a review with the Information Commissioner) where an

internal review is recommended by the Information Commissioner under section 93(6).

The agency must acknowledge your application within **five working days** of receiving it. The agency must decide the internal review within **15 working days** (this can be extended by **10 working days** if the agency has to consult further, or by agreement with you).

## 2. External review by the Information Commissioner

If you disagree with the outcome of the internal review, you can ask for a review by the Information Commissioner.

You must seek an internal review before applying for review by the Information Commissioner, unless an internal review is otherwise unavailable (for instance, if the principal officer of the agency decided the application or if the agency is a Minister).

You have **40 working days** from the date of the decision of an internal review to ask for a review by the Information Commissioner.

On reviewing the decision, the Information Commissioner can make recommendations about the decision to the agency.

*Note: You cannot ask the Information Commissioner to review a decision that has already been reviewed by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.*

## 3. External review by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT)

If you disagree with either of the decisions listed above, you can ask for a review by NCAT. You do not have to have the decision reviewed internally, or by the Information Commissioner, before applying for review by NCAT.

You have **40 working days** from the date of the decision to apply to the NCAT for review. However, if you have applied for review by the Information Commissioner, you have **20 working days** from the date you are notified that the Information Commissioner's review is completed, to apply to NCAT.

The agency cannot release the information until you have exhausted all your review rights.

You should also be aware that if the agency agrees with you and denies access to the information, then the GIPA applicant has similar review rights. Fees and charges apply to these review processes.

## If the agency discloses the information, can they publish the information on their disclosure log?

An agency may decide to publish information released in their disclosure log because it may be of interest to other members of the public.

If the agency is considering publishing the information you've been consulted about, the agency must notify you in writing:

- that the information will be included in the agency's disclosure log and that you can object to this,
- that you have a right to request a review of the decision to include information in its disclosure log despite your objection.

You would then have the same review rights as discussed above, and the agency cannot publish the information until the period for seeking a review has expired or any review itself is finalised.

## For more information

Contact the Information and Privacy Commission NSW (IPC):

Freecall: 1800 472 679  
Email: [ipcinfo@ipc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipcinfo@ipc.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.ipc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ipc.nsw.gov.au)



## Your review rights under the GIPA Act

## Fact sheet

June 2014

The right to information system in NSW aims to foster responsible and representative government that is open, fair and effective.

You have the right to request a review of certain decisions made by government agencies about the release of information under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act):

- a) a decision that an application is not a valid access application
- b) a decision to transfer an access application to another agency, as an agency-initiated transfer
- c) a decision to refuse to deal with an access application (including such a decision that is deemed to have been made)
- d) a decision to provide access or to refuse to provide access to information in response to an access application
- e) a decision that government information is not held by the agency
- f) a decision that information applied for is already available to the applicant
- g) a decision to refuse to confirm or deny that information is held by the agency
- h) a decision to defer the provision of access to information in response to an access application
- i) a decision to provide access to information in a particular way in response to an access application (or a decision not to provide access in the way requested by the applicant)
- j) a decision to impose a processing charge or to require an advance deposit,
- k) a decision to refuse a reduction in a processing charge
- l) a decision to refuse to deal further with an access application because an applicant has failed to pay an advance deposit within the time required for payment
- m) a decision to include information in a disclosure log despite an objection by the authorised objector (or a decision that the authorised objector was not entitled to object).

You generally have three review options.

### 1. Internal review

You have **20 working days** after the notice of a decision has been posted to you to ask for an internal review by the agency that made the decision.

If a Minister or their personal staff, or the principal officer of an agency made the decision, you cannot ask for an internal review, but you can ask for an external review (see below).

The review must be carried out by an officer who is no less senior than the person who made the original decision. The review decision must be made as if it was a fresh application.

There is a \$40 fee for an internal review application. No fee applies for an internal review if the decision is a 'deemed refusal' because the agency did not process your application in time or the internal review is conducted because the Information Commissioner has recommended the agency reconsider its decision under section 93 of the GIPA Act. In this case, you cannot be charged any review fee.

The agency must acknowledge your application within **five** working days of receiving it. The agency must decide the internal review within **15** working days (this can be extended by **10** working days if the agency has to consult with a third party, or by agreement with you).

### 2. External review by the Information Commissioner

If you disagree with any of the decisions listed above, you can ask for a review by the Information Commissioner.

If you are the person applying for access to information, you do **not** have to have an internal review of the decision before asking the Information Commissioner to review it.

If you are not the access applicant, you must seek an internal review before applying for review by the Information Commissioner. However, if an internal review cannot be sought (if a Minister or their personal staff, or the principal officer of an agency made the decision), you can seek a review by the Information Commissioner.

You have **40 working days** from being notified of the decision to ask for a review by the Information Commissioner.

On reviewing the decision, the Information Commissioner can make recommendations about the decision to the agency.

**Note:** You cannot ask the Information Commissioner to review a decision that has already been reviewed by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

### 3. External review by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT)

If you disagree with any of the decisions listed above, you can ask for a review by NCAT. You do not have to have the decision reviewed internally, or by the Information Commissioner before applying for review by NCAT.

You have **40 working days** from being notified of the decision to apply to NCAT for review. However, if you have applied for review by the Information Commissioner, you have **20 working days** from being notified of the Information Commission's review outcome to apply to NCAT.

#### For more information

Contact the Information and Privacy Commission NSW (IPC):

Freecall: 1800 472 679  
Email: [ipcinfo@ipc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipcinfo@ipc.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.ipc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ipc.nsw.gov.au)

**From:** ACAPMA [communications=acapma.com.au@mail36.us4.mcsv.net] on behalf of ACAPMA [communications@acapma.com.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 June 2018 1:27 PM  
**To:** Talbot Speechley  
**Subject:** Corporate Tax Uncertainty

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Last year, the Federal Government passed legislation that sought to reduce company tax rates for small to medium businesses – including fuel retailers. As a result, fuel retailers with total revenue less than \$25M enjoyed a reduction in company tax rate from 30% to 27.5% during 2017/18. With the commencement of the new financial year, this concessionary rate is being extended to businesses with total revenue below \$50M. These benefits have been hard fought and largely credited with helping to drive an increase in employment over the past 12 months. Unfortunately, a public statement by the Federal Opposition leader this week, suggests that these lower tax rates may be short-lived with a proposal to increase tax rates for businesses over \$10M if they are elected to Government next year.

[READ MORE](#)



### **HR HIGHLIGHT : New wage rates effective from July 1, 2018**

The new wage rates finalised by the Fair Work Commission recently come into effect on the first full pay period after July 1, 2018. ACAPMA has distributed the ACAPMA Employment Quick Reference Guides on the relevant industry Awards and encourages all members, even if they



### **Hi-tech cameras to scan number plates in bid to stop petrol thieves**

NUMBER PLATES of vehicles entering some service stations, shopping centres and hospitals are to be scanned in an effort to counter petrol thieves and boom-gate runners.

The *Herald Sun* can reveal hi-tech cameras will be installed at several locations in a VicRoads-led trial to thwart drive-offs, which cost retailers

are utilising an Enterprise Agreement, to check these guides and ensure that they are ready for the new rates.

[READ MORE](#)



### E10 petrol rip-off: Pushed motorists to buy premium fuel, doesn't lead to cleaner air

Motorists in NSW and Queensland are being forced to use E10 fuel despite growing doubts about cost savings and environmental benefits.

While other states have so far resisted the temptation to mandate ethanol use, the Federal Government is considering phasing out or upgrading regular unleaded.

“Motorists are not getting a cost saving with E10 compared to regular unleaded because it has less energy density,” says Natalie Roberts, an independent vehicle emissions expert whose company ABMARC does real world fuel-economy testing.

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\$20 million a year.

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### Innovation Fuels Scancam Growth

etrol retailers across the country are beginning to see a solution to an age-old problem of fuel theft.

An estimated \$60 million per year is lost due to this problem, but Scancam is trying to change this for good.

The technology Scancam is providing in Australia is not just an alert or detection system, but a total end-to-end solution bespoke to the fuel retail industry.

This innovation is the driving force behind the growth of Scancam, and is what separates themselves from the other licence plate recognition companies out on the market.

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**Sent:** Friday, 6 July 2018 1:32 PM

**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** Market moves – BP, Woolworths, VIVA/SHELL and Caltex

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Over the last three weeks there have been a series of major announcements that will fundamentally alter the shape of the retail fuel industry in Australia over the next 5 years. First, Viva announced that they were floating their fuel business in Australia. Just days later, BP and Woolworths announced they had abandoned their proposal to join forces in the face of ACCC opposition. And then yesterday, Caltex and Woolworths announced their intentions to deepen their alliance in the face of the earlier BP-Woolworths decision. The number and scale of these industry announcements is unprecedented over recent times, begging the question – what does it mean for the shape of fuel retailing in Australia going forward?

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### **HR HIGHLIGHT : Consultation on Workplace Change**

All businesses face times where they must take stock and assess the business structure, direction and operations. It is important in these situations to ensure that the business understands and complies with the requirements around consultation. The importance of consultation on workplace change will be the focus of this weeks HR Highlight.



### **Woolworth Group enters convenience and loyalty alliance and new 15 year wholesale fuel arrangement with Caltex**

Woolworths Group Limited today announced that it has entered into a long-term strategic alliance with Caltex across convenience, wholesale food, redemption, loyalty and fuel supply. The alliance will increase the network of fuel sites where its customers can redeem their fuel discounts and earn

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## Viva Energy on track for \$2.4bn float

The final pitches on the Viva Energy management roadshow will be made Singapore today, with the company on track to raise at least \$2.4 billion next week in the largest equity capital markets deal in Australia in four years.

DataRoom understands that the retail offering will be worth \$600 million. That figure could have been higher, with demand strong from brokers for the stock.

The commitments mean that the minimum offer size, at a 50 per cent selldown from Viva's current owners, will be \$2.4bn. The capital raising could rise to be as high as almost \$3.1bn

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Woolworths Rewards points, significantly expand Woolworths Group's Metro convenience footprint, and lock in a competitive fuel price for the Woolworths Petrol business for the future.

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## Motorists stung as petrol yearly growth rate highest in almost 10 years

Australian motorists have been stung with the biggest annual growth in unleaded petrol prices in almost a decade.

Visits to the bowser are draining about \$240 a month on average from household budgets, according to CommSec analysts. That's about \$50 a month more than a year ago.

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**Sent:** Friday, 13 July 2018 10:14 AM

**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** The Silent Debit Transaction Rort

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When was the last time you had a look at your merchant fees – particularly for debit transactions? With the move to ‘Tap n Go’ and an increasing trend in customer use of debit cards over credit cards across Australia, many fuel retailers have experienced a sharp increase in total merchant fees in recent years. This cost is coming straight off the bottom line of business profits. But a significant part of this increase is now avoidable.

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### **Viva proves the bowser wowers wrong**

Viva Energy, Australia’s largest sharemarket float since Medibank in 2014, can trace its origins to an unlikely punt made by a Swiss oil trader on the run-down, loss-making Geelong refinery in Victoria.

The decision by Viva’s owner, commodities giant Vitol, to pay \$3 billion for the refinery and a vast petrol station network was a high-risk strategy. Nearly half of Australia’s refining capacity had shut down in the three years before as company business models crumbled in the face



### **Viva Energy looks done at \$2.50. How much higher?**

It’s bookbuild day for the market’s newest top-100 contender Viva Energy, and the question is whether its brokers can get fund managers to cough up more than \$2.50 a share.

Merrill Lynch, Deutsche Bank and UBS’s equities desks will hit the phones on Tuesday morning, making one final pitch to get fundies to buy into the year’s biggest initial public offering.

Fundies know the offer is just about covered at the bottom of the \$2.50 to

of cheaper imports from giant refineries in Asia.

But on the eve of the fuel company's \$4.9 billion debut on the Australian Stock Exchange, Viva chief executive Scott Wyatt said it had proved to be the right call. The refinery, facing closure when Viva bought it in 2014, is now profitable and a strong contributor to Viva's earnings thanks to a string of expansions and upgrades

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### **Woolworth's fuel deal safe, says Caltex**

Caltex's 15-year fuel supply agreement with Woolworths' will not come under any pressure from the supermarket giant's plans to float or sell its petrol business, Caltex boss Julian Segal says.

"Those sites will be supplied by Caltex regardless of ownership for the next 15 years," Mr Segal told Sky News Business yesterday.

"This is a very good outcome for Caltex."

Last week, Woolworths announced it had extended its wholesale fuel supply agreement with Caltex but that it would continue to pursue an initial public offering or sale of the petrol station business.

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\$2.65 a share range.

If the brokers are to be believed – which old heads know is a big "if" heading into any bookbuild although ASIC's new focus on equity capital markets deals is changing behaviours – Viva already has about \$1.9 billion of the \$2.4 billion it needs to hit the ASX-boards thanks to the broker firm offer and cornerstone process.

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### **Petrol Prices: Brisbane's Great Divide**

MOTORISTS on Brisbane's northside are paying more for their fuel than those south of the river, new RACQ data reveals.

The club's Monthly Fuel Price Report found motorists on the northside paid on average 3.6¢ a litre more for unleaded petrol during June.

RACQ spokeswoman Lucinda Ross said the report found those on Brisbane's northside were paying an average of \$1.513 litre, making them the hardest hit by high fuel prices in the southeast.

"North of the river we've seen an increase in ULP retail margins which are now over 15 cents in every litre. It's unfair on northside drivers," she said.

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**Sent:** Friday, 20 July 2018 1:26 PM  
**To:** Talbot Speechley  
**Subject:** APFI FORUM 2018

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With just 6 weeks to go till the opening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Asia Pacific Fuel Industry Forum in Auckland (New Zealand), the conference theme has been announced as **“Fuel retail and changing consumer trends”**. The supporting programme brings together key speakers in the areas of moving social trends, changing retail consumer behaviours, changing vehicle technology timelines, wage underpayment, fuel price transparency and related regulatory developments. The event is being held between 4 – 6 September 2018 and registrations are now being received via the conference website

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### **HR Highlight: Case Review – Business cannot rely on instructions to qualified staff, must check the work is done**

In a recent case a business has been the second business charged over the same safety breach involving a forklift which resulted in a leg crush injury to a subcontractor. In addition to the subcontractors business being issued with fines for not ensuring the safe operations of the facility that they had directed their employee to work at, the primary business has now also



### **Measurement Regulators to place special focus on the accuracy of fuel dispensers**

Assistant Minister for Science, Jobs and Innovation Zed Seselja recently launched the National Measurement Institute’s (NMI) annual plan to ensure Australian consumers and businesses have ‘correct weight’ (and volume, length and number) whenever they buy or sell goods by measurement.

As the national regulator of trade measurement, NMI’s 2018-19 [National](#)

received breach penalties associated with the incident. The penalties have not been issued for a lack of safety systems, processes or personnel, rather the penalties have been issued due to the business not confirming that qualified safety personnel had appropriately implemented the existing safety systems and processes.

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[Compliance Plan](#) outlines a program of compliance activities across the economy, covering both wholesale and retail sales.

These include visits to 8000 businesses, testing 10,000 measuring instruments, inspecting 60,000 lines of packaged goods, and making 1000 'secret shopper' trial purchases.

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### Case Study: One stop shop for environmental risk management

Operating a service station is inherently risky. To minimise environmental and commercial risk, site operators should use multiple forms of leak detection. Otherwise, how do you know? Read on to find out how a Queensland site owner is taking a proactive approach to UPSS risk management.

Trent Turnham owns and operates two retail petrol stations in Queensland. From the beginning, he wanted to take a proactive approach to running the business.

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### Insurance incident report June 2018

Gallagher has been ACAPMA's insurance partner for more than 30 years. As a specialist broker for the fuel industry and convenience stores sector, Gallagher handles a large number of claims which can serve as a reminder to other businesses in the industry of the risks they face on a daily basis.

Gallagher's latest incident report features some major claims events that are relevant to businesses of all sizes right across the sector.

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**Sent:** Friday, 27 July 2018 11:07 AM

**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** Compulsory fuel price reporting in Queensland From December 2018

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Earlier this week, the Queensland Government announced that it will require all fuel retailers to report fuel prices in real time from December 2018. The Queensland approach differs markedly from the schemes previously introduced in NSW and the Northern Territory in terms of both scheme architecture and proposed operation. The different approach will likely make fuel prices even more accessible to Queensland motorists while simultaneously minimising the compliance burden for industry

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### **Real-time fuel prices to be available online in 6 months**

Real-time fuel prices will be available on Queensland motorists' smartphones within six months, with the state government confirming it will launch a two-year trial this year.

From December, price changes will be able to be seen on existing apps and websites within 30 minutes of the alteration being made at the service station.

The announcement comes as Australian Bureau of Statistics data



### **Shock setback for WA's most controversial 'petrol station'**

A three-year stoush over a controversial 24-hour petrol station in the heart of Dunsborough will continue to wade through legal waters for the foreseeable future after opponents lodged further appeals with the Supreme Court.

The Southern Joint Development Assessment Panel rejected the Puma Energy outlet on Dunn Bay Road last year to the delight of many locals and the City of Busselton, who vehemently opposed it, but developers appealed to

shows Brisbane fuel prices have risen 7.4 per cent during the past quarter and 16.6 per cent during the past year.

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### Diesel tanker fire shuts main road amid fears of explosion

Fire crews have managed to contain a blaze that took hold of a diesel tanker south-west of Sydney.

The truck was carrying 32,000 litres of diesel when it burst into flames on Picton Road at Cataract, south of Wilton, this afternoon.

The busy road was closed in both directions for hours amid fears of an explosion, triggering heavy delays for motorists.

An exclusion zone was set up around 500m from the burning truck while crews delicately worked to douse it.

The truck was destroyed in the fire.

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the State Administrative Tribunal and it was approved in August 2017.

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### New petrol drive-off policy means a win for victims: police

A CHANGE of policy means Victoria Police will investigate every petrol drive-off in a bid to ease the burden on victims of crime.

Ballarat Superintendent Jenny Wilson was among the committee which has reversed a 2013 policy which said police did not have to investigate petrol drive-offs unless there was clear evidence of a criminal offence.

The policy originally required officers to only get involved if the vehicle in question was stolen, had fake numberplates or was owned by a known criminal, essentially meaning operators needed to prove a crime had been committed for it to be investigated

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**Sent:** Friday, 3 August 2018 12:50 PM

**To:** Talbot Speechley

**Subject:** The Dynamics of P&C Retailing - APFI Forum 2018

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The Petrol and Convenience Industry is undergoing a significant revolution as fuel retailers seek to diversify their convenience and prepared food offerings to lift revenues and improve business margins. While the theory is good, the practical realisation of this strategy is challenging big and small fuel retailers alike. The Agenda for this year's Asia Pacific Fuel Industry Forum has been developed to provide a two-day discussion of some of the key challenges of this strategy – from building true retail capability in the business to securing affordable capital to finance asset improvements.

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### **EVs up by 160% - Road user tax sought**

Electric vehicle numbers in Australia have risen nearly 160% in the past five years, prompting fears fuel taxes to pay for roads will fall in the next decade.

The motor vehicle census, newly released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, shows registered EVs increased by 159.2% to 8334 between 2013 and 2018, while there are now more than 200,000 cars in the dual-fuel category, which includes petrol-



### **Made a mis-fueling mistake?**

ACQ has warned motorists to take extra care when refuelling their vehicles following a spate of mis-fueling call outs over the last 12 months.

The Club's Fuel Assist patrols had attended 515 call outs to members who had mistakenly put the wrong fuel in their cars since July 2017.

RACQ Head of Technical and Safety Policy Steve Spalding said putting diesel in a petrol car, or vice versa,

electric hybrids, *The Age* reports.  
A fairer road user pricing system is sought by Infrastructure Partnerships Australia chief executive Adrian Dwyer.

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### Albury petrol station not allowed to trade unless soil concerns are addressed

A FORMER Ampol, Caltex, BP and United petrol station will not be able to open as a Mobil until soil contamination is adequately addressed.

The Albury outlet, on the corner of Young and Guinea streets, has been adorned with Mobil livery and new bowsers in anticipation of trading resuming at the site

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could cause significant damage to the vehicle and be a costly mistake.

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### Glenvale tanker clean-up hits technical delay

A meticulous clean-up operation is under way after a diesel tanker rolled, spilling thousands of litres in Glenvale this morning.

About 5900L of diesel has spilled from a punctured tanker trailer on Euston Rd since the truck rolled about 5am.

A 500m exclusion zone remains in place for all residents who were evacuated from their homes by police soon after the traffic incident.

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