

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS

REVIEW OF THE AUSTRALIAN COMPETITION AND CONSUMER COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT  
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**9QON:** Petrol prices: Increasing transparency for consumers

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**CHAIR:** Could you give us, **on notice**, the tools that you might seek to put forward as a way of giving consumers greater transparency and access to competitive prices, if you would be happy to do so?

**Mr Sims: Sure.**

**Answer:** The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) believes that fuel price data from websites and apps can empower price-sensitive consumers, and help drive more competitive markets in petrol retailing.

Since 2016, fuel price data has been readily available to motorists from an increasing number of websites and apps. These include: State Government schemes, such as the NSW FuelCheck website and app, the Northern Territory MyFuel NT website and app, and the WA FuelWatch website, as well as commercial operations, such as the MotorMouth website and app, and apps operated by GasBuddy, the NRMA, 7-Eleven and Woolworths.

The ACCC has not endorsed one type of system of fuel price transparency, or made a judgement on whether it should be privately or government run. However, it believes that, while having many website and app providers can be a good thing, the timeliness and completeness of the price data is very important.

The availability of petrol price data to consumers may promote competitive market behaviour, by rewarding those retailers that are prepared to compete actively on price, because their pricing behaviour can be seen, and acted on, by motorists.