

The Secretary,
Senate Economics Legislation Committee,
Suite SG.64, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senators,

I am writing about two concerns that I wish for the Committee to consider as part of its current inquiry into the price of petrol in Australia, sustainability and price setting.

Firstly sustainability. Petrol is a limited resource and a product that causes pollution. For those reasons, I support any initiatives by governments or the petrol industry to include in the price of petrol, all the necessary costs for research, development and commercialisation of initiatives that will:

- Introduce cleaner production techniques and less polluting fuels in the short to medium term,
- lessen our long term dependence of petrol, well before we run out of accessible oil and
- develop more sustainable alternatives and replacements for the future.

As a father of two young children, I am constantly looking 40 to 50 years ahead and wondering what my legacy will be to them and their children. It breaks my heart to think that when they are my age, they might inherit the consequences oil depletion, smog and climate change, all because we didn't do it when we had the time.

Secondly, as a consumer I am frustrated and annoyed at the daily and weekly fluctuations in the prices I pay for petrol in Sydney. For example, yesterday I drove past the SOLO service station in Five Dock at 9.15am and the price of unleaded petrol was 129.9. When I next drove past at 4.30pm, it was 144.9 (a 10% increase). Two days earlier it had been 133.9. The simple task of filling-up each week has become a frustrating and stressful game of cat and mouse, most days feeling ripped-off and occasionally feeling like you got a bargain.

Surely, for a product that is mass-produced, right here in Sydney and consumed everyday by most people, the price should not fluctuate hourly, daily and weekly. Other locally made products that I purchase regularly by the litre don't suffer this (orange juice).

My concern is not what the price is (see sustainability comments above), I simply expect that there should be a clear and simple explanation to the true price of petrol and that it shouldn't fluctuate daily.

I urge the Committee members to consider my comments as part of the inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Longmuir