

INQUIRY INTO PETROL PRICING

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SUBMISSION

Being in my 81st year, I am appalled at the effect the cost of petrol is having on working people.

It would appear that irrespective of any inquiries or attempts to prevent profiteering, the world situation particularly in the middle East, dictates that the price of oil will always remain high. Governments can only do so much with only attempts to legislate to control the price would be a logistical nightmare under the current situation where prices change on a daily basis. What governments can do is to look at the taxing structure on fuel which currently is a financial bonanza for the federal government. Perhaps consideration could be given to imposing a freeze on those taxes when they reach a certain level.

It is inevitable that world demand will multiply and where in the past western nations were happy to see asian nations using rickshaws

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as their principal mode of transport, these nations are developing at a rapid pace, wishing to enjoy similar living standards that we take for granted, such as owning their own motor vehicles. This development is responsible for our record budget surplus which could be used to reduce fuel taxes.

Current fuel prices are having a detrimental effect on family budgets and with public transport leaving a lot to be desired, the car is usually the main conveyance to reach the work place, particularly in the country where long distances have to be travelled. Much of this work is of a casual nature, sometimes only involving a couple of hours at a time, and often 1 in the hospitality industry having to travel twice in the one day.

Assistance in this area could be given by the federal government by allowing the costs incurred travelling to work as an allowable deduction for taxation purposes. With the spiralling cost of fuel tipped to reach \$5 a litre in a couple of decades, it is essential to realize that it is not an infinite

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commodity making it an urgent priority to find serious alternatives. If not the two motor vehicle will only be affordable by the wealthy, like it was when I was a child, and workers might have to resort to necklows.

DAVID J BLACKWOOD
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Sorry I do not have access to
E mail. at my age I am
flat out mastering the mobile phone
D. J. B.