

The Chairman
Senate inquiry Oil Industry
Parliament House
Canberra

Dear Sir,

I wish to bring the following to your attention and respectively suggest that they warrant further investigation as they are clear examples of inappropriate actions on the part of the oil industry.

1 **Profiteering in Queensland by not passing on savings provided by the State Government through subsidy.**

To my certain knowledge, in May 2006 the price of fuel at service stations in Melbourne was the same as it was in Brisbane. It is my understanding that the Queensland Government provides a subsidy of 8.4 cents per litre. It must follow that the subsidy was not being passed on to consumers in Queensland. This is a clear case of inappropriate behaviour as the subsidy was designed to make the price of petrol less expensive in Queensland than the price in other states. In September the price of fuel in Sydney was lower than the price in Brisbane.

2 **Failure to pass on savings generated by movement in the exchange rate AUS / US\$**

In September last year the oil price per barrel was around the US\$70 with the exchange rate in the area of 70USC. The consumer price of fuel in Brisbane was around 105c. Since that time there has been an improvement in the exchange rate where we now find the AUS / US\$ at 76c with the price of crude oil below US\$ 69. In effect the price of petrol at service stations should be below \$1. This is a clear cut case of profiteering and requires firm action on the part of the Government and warrants a full investigation.

11 SEP 2006

I trust that you will consider the above points when you make your final report to the parliament.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Robert Maher', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Maher
