

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA
Chair, Select Committee on Fuel Pricing

Via email: LACommitteeFP@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Ms Cheyne,

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the *Interim Report on Inquiry into ACT Fuel Pricing*, particularly as it relates to addressing impacts on low-income households.

Our [submission](#) and evidence to the Inquiry highlighted that the impact of fuel prices is greatest on low-income households in the ACT as fuel accounts for a greater proportion of their income and is the most significant component of their transport costs compared to average and high-income households.

We highlighted the need to view the impact of fuel prices within the broader context of transport affordability and transport disadvantage in the ACT. Consistent with the Committee's Terms of Reference, the possible recommendations in the Interim Report are based on a much narrower view. We encourage the Committee to include commentary and recommendations that address the broader context of transport disadvantage in its final report.

We note that *Possible Recommendation 9* aims to address impacts on low-income households through fuel subsidies. ACTCOSS recommends framing this or a separate recommendation in the Committee's final report in line with our recommendation to:

Improve the fairness and adequacy of transport related concessions. This should include: concessions for learner, probationary and restricted driver's licenses and aligning the discount on license fees for Health Care Card holders (currently 50% of costs) with Pension Card Holders (100%).

We argue that it is essential that the Inquiry addresses this broader context based on the Interim Report finding that fuel prices are largely dependent on external factors and that, consequently, there are limited levers available to the ACT Government to address fuel prices directly and significantly especially in the short- to medium-term. Our recommendations seek practical, systemic responses that address the impact of fuel prices on the ACT community based on mechanisms that are within the ACT Government's control.

We would be happy to discuss this further with the Committee, including if you wish to recall ACTCOSS as a witness.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Susan Helyar.

Susan Helyar
Executive Director

Email: 

31 July 2019