

From: [Judy Bamberger](#)
To: [LA Committee - FP](#)
Cc: [Judy Bamberger](#)
Subject: Submission to the ACT Select Committee on Fuel Pricing
Date: Sunday, 5 May 2019 5:55:18 PM

I appreciate Committee Secretary Snedden pointing me to this Committee, and I appreciate the Committee for taking its time to read and consider my submission.

I advocate that the ACT Government stay *out* of petrol pricing. I do not want the ACT Government using my hard-earned tax dollars to subsidise petrol or petrol-providers.

ACT remains a captive market - captive to the duopoly of Coles and Woolworth, captive to our petrol-consuming vehicles, captive to a life-style where we first grab our car keys versus choosing to walk, bike, or transit - captive by our choices. I am guilty of this, too ... and I should pay for the privilege of having petrol at a relatively low price (compared to world prices) when and where I want it.

We *all* would pay if ACT gave tax breaks or financial concessions [CTimes, 1 May]; non-drivers, drivers of electrical vehicles, and those who mindfully limit petrol use would all pay for gas-guzzling vehicles and mindless drivers.

If the ACT Government wants to intervene, perhaps it should consider revenue-producing constraints on duopoly-affiliated petrol stations; let them pay for the "privilege" of their duopoly. The rest of us can boycott the duopoly and buy petrol elsewhere, taking our market strength to Metro or Costco (13-20 cents lower than the average). [CTimes, 1 May]

I realise that my life and living circumstances are different to others'; I believe that many (most?) people can choose at least some of our circumstances. I choose to be a Costco member for many reasons. I buy petrol at Costco, and save my membership fee annually. I forego the 24-by-7 availability and plan my fill-ups. I use PetrolSpy on-line to source the least expensive petrol when filling-up away from Costco ... and PetrolSpy invariably finds an independent dealer with a locally best price.

I also realise that I "cannot have everything I want" - lowest price, convenience, close-to-home, 24-by-7; sometimes I must make trade-offs. That is reality in life, not just petrol purchasing.

...

Just for fun, I am checking PetrolSpy [petrolspy.com.au] now as I type (Sunday, 5 May, 5:00pm-ish). Presented in a table, in case your formatting is different from mine, with columns of: Location, Type of Petrol, Price per Litre.

ACT:

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|---------------|
| Costco Majura | U91 | 139.7 |
| Metro Fyshwick | E10 | 139.9 |
| United Sutton | E10 | 140.9 |
| 2 places Fyshwick | E10 | 142.5 |
| Mobil Queanbeyan | U91 | 142.9 |
| many across ACT | E10 | 142.9 - 145.9 |
| many across ACT | U91 | 147.9 |

South coast:

| | | |
|---------------------|-----|---------------|
| Mogo Village Centre | E10 | 136.9 |
| Broulee Supermarket | U91 | 145.9 |
| Bateman's Bay | U91 | 143.9 - 149.7 |

Sydney (extremes on one view):

| | | |
|----------------|-----|-------|
| Rockdale | U91 | 133.9 |
| Chatswood West | U91 | 157.9 |

From this singular data point, it does not appear that ACT is that far off area prices.

If the ACT Government feels impelled to become involved, then it must begin with an investigation and analysis of petrol prices, an investigation and analysis performed by an independent third party, one with no ties to the motoring industry or to either member of the duopoly. The results of such a study should be published widely, with analysis to determine the degree to which the ACT market is being overcharged ... or not.

This is the most the ACT Government should do. I believe the ACT Government should stay *out* of petrol pricing. Period.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate.

Peace,
Judy

Full contact information below.

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