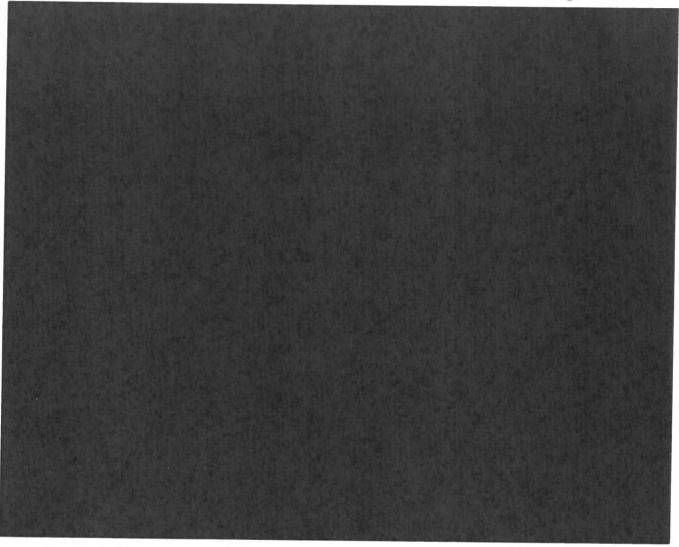
# BRIEF FOR ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES - FEBRUARY 2014: EO ACT

Petrol - enforcement investigations

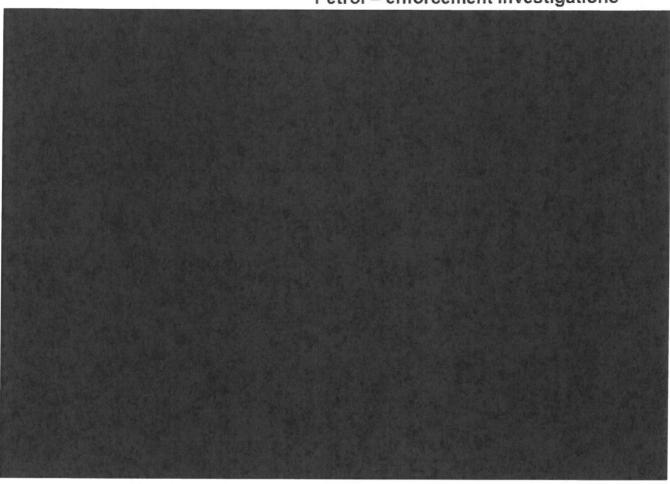


### If asked about making information publicly available

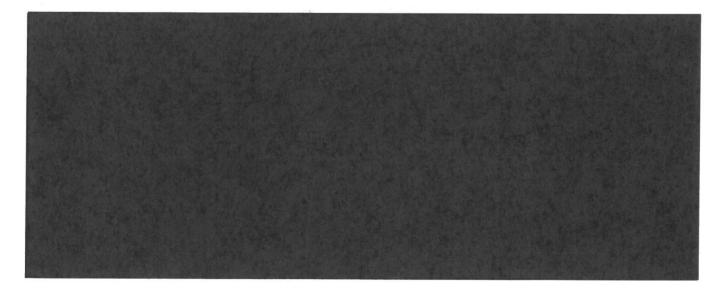
- Providing information to the public on petrol prices is a good thing and can assist motorists.
- However, the source of the information in the current arrangement is an information exchange between petrol companies and it is this exchange which raises competition concerns.
- Making the information public may not necessarily address the competition concerns arising from the information exchange arrangements.

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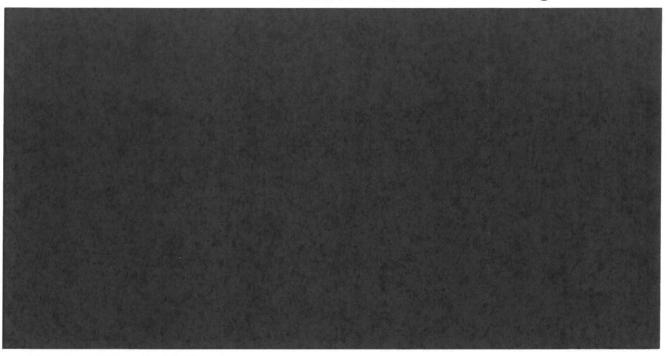


 In response to the ACCC report, the government announced the establishment of a National FuelWatch Scheme to promote competition and transparency in the petrol market. However, the legislation to establish Fuelwatch did not pass Parliament in late 2008.



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#### Previous Senate Estimates

At the Senate Estimates appearance on 29 May 2012 Senator Xenophon queried whether the same concerns would exist should the Informed Sources Data be made public. At the Senate Estimates appearance on 20 November 2013, Senator Pratt also queried whether the ACCC would consider making the Informed Sources information publicly available. Informed Sources may approach members to argue that the ACCC's action will remove petroi price information being available to the public through Motormouth (a website run by Informed Sources). Motormouth publishes petrol price data obtained from the OPW service on a site basis twice a day with a 45 minute delay. This compares to the OPW service which makes prices available to subscribers every 15 or 30 minutes. Consumer groups cannot become subscribers to the OPW service.

#### Petrol price information in Germany

We understand that in Germany, petrol stations are required to report price changes to the competition authority's Market Transparency Unit for Fuels (MTU), within 5 minutes of a price change. That information is then transmitted by the MTU to consumer information providers who make it available to

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consumers on websites or via apps. Petrol retailers do not have access to the data set from the MTU.