



Media Release
13 February 2020

Tasmanian motorists still paying too much for petrol

Tasmanian motorists are continuing to pay too much for petrol despite the wholesale price dropping to its lowest point in more than six months.

With the wholesale price currently at \$1.30 per litre, motorists living in Hobart and Launceston are paying up to 25 cents per litre more.

“Tasmanians will be familiar with the price escalating quickly at the hint of any global unrest and taking some time for the price to come down,” RACT General Manager Mobility Services Darren Moody said.

“We believe the retail price should be in the low \$1.40s per litre.

“This would allow retailers to achieve a reasonable profit margin and at the same time ease pressure on Tasmanian household budgets.

“Instead, we are seeing average retail prices of \$1.55 per litre in Hobart and Launceston. That is a price differential of 25 cents per litre.

“Those fuel retailers need to justify to Tasmanian motorists their reasons for consistently charging \$1.55 per litre when the wholesale terminal price has been decreasing over the last few weeks.”

Mr Moody said it was generally the case that lower retail prices for petrol were available in regional areas of the state, particularly from independent operators. He said motorists in the state’s north-west were currently benefiting from the reduction in the wholesale price being passed on by retailers.

Mr Moody said any retailer doing the fair thing and selling petrol at \$1.43 per litre or less deserve the support of motorists.

“This will increase competition in these areas and encourage other retailers to drop their prices in order to maintain their market share,” he said.

Close to 9500 people have signed a petition calling on the State Government to introduce real-time fuel price monitoring. RACT continues to work with the government on introducing a similar system to FuelCheck in New South Wales.

Released by:

Nicolas Turner
Tel: 0418 538 865