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## **Petrol prices and road safety at Christmas**

An increasing terminal gate price (wholesale price) over the past week is expected to push retail petrol prices into the mid to high 140cpl range this Christmas break, the RACT says.

Group chief executive Harvey Lennon said if motorists could buy petrol currently for under 140 cpl, his advice was to fill up now.

“Regardless, motorists should shop around to identify the best price and to support those offering cheaper fuel,” he said.

“The RACT’s GasBuddy app will help with this as it allows motorists to find the cheapest fuel across the state at no cost day or night.”

Once the petrol tanks were full and ready for holiday travelling, Mr Lennon said it was important that your vehicle was well maintained and “summer-ready”.

“There are a number of vehicle safety checks required, including tyre condition, tread and depth, windscreen wiper rubber and windscreen condition, battery strength, lights (including rear lights and brake lights), fan belt condition and engine oil level,” he said.

“Then, once you are ready to go, it is important to remember that travelling during holiday periods can be more risky because of increased traffic volumes, tiredness and people driving in unfamiliar environments.

“Many motorists make longer trips at this time of year to visit family and friends.

“While most people keep to the speed limit most of the time, any speed limit should be regarded as the upper limit, not necessarily the speed that is safe to travel at for the full length of the road.”

Mr Lennon said if you were out celebrating, leave your car at home and get a taxi or Uber vehicle, appoint a designated driver or arrange for someone who has not been drinking to pick you up to take you home.

Released by:  
Nicolas Turner Tel: 6210 5206 or 0418 538 865