



Real time fuel pricing

What is mandatory real time fuel pricing?

RAA has long advocated for mandatory real-time fuel pricing, where service stations must declare their real-time prices for the fuel they sell. Service stations would be required to provide information into a state government database within 15 to 30 minutes of a price change. This up-to-date data could then be published on websites and apps to ensure South Australian motorists have the most accurate information for their purchasing decision.

RAA is urging the State Government to deliver on its election commitment to provide South Australians with a real-time fuel pricing system.

Why do we need mandatory retail fuel price reporting?

In a two-car family, fuel costs can be the largest energy bill a household has. As we have seen in other states, visibility of real-time fuel pricing provides motorists with the best opportunity to compare prices and reduce their bills. Recent reports from The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on fuel cycles estimate that Adelaide motorists could save up to \$75 million per year by buying fuel at the cheapest time. This would be achieved by filling up when fuel is at its cheapest (at the bottom of the price cycle) and only topping up when its more expensive. Motorists would be able to keep an eye on these patterns and adjust their purchasing choices accordingly.

RAA's member surveys tell us that South Australians want the government to deliver real-time fuel prices. Six out of ten RAA members are 'extremely' concerned about fuel prices in SA. Our survey also showed that 15 per cent of respondents report forgoing or delaying vehicle maintenance expenses due to rising fuel costs. We also know members are likely to cut their spending on recreation and/or clothing to compensate for rising fuel costs.

Is real time fuel pricing available in other states?

Yes, New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory already have mandatory real-time fuel reporting laws, which require all service stations to comply. The Queensland and NT governments have gone one step further and partnered with technology specialists to implement their own real-time fuel pricing apps. RAA is calling on the State Government to follow the lead of governments interstate and take action to deliver real-time fuel prices for South Australia.

But aren't there fuel price apps available now?

Yes, and although they can be worthwhile to use, all the current fuel price apps have gaps in information. Data can be inaccurate or even absent, especially in regional SA. These inaccuracies exist because these apps use crowd-sourced prices supplied by consumers. The apps rely on consumers posting the price updates regularly and this does not always happen. Some apps also do not include independent fuel retailer prices (who are often cheaper than the big oil companies).

What is RAA doing to make it happen?

RAA will continue to hold the government to account on its promise to deliver real-time fuel pricing and ease cost of living pressures on hard-working South Australians.