

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS PRICING AMENDMENT BILL 2019

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by **Hon Alannah MacTiernan (Minister for Regional Development)**, read a first time.

Second Reading

HON ALANNAH MacTIERNAN (North Metropolitan — Minister for Regional Development) [6.45 pm]:
I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Petroleum Products Pricing Amendment Bill 2019 amends the Petroleum Products Pricing Act 1983 to ensure that motor fuel retailers that sell motor fuel at standard retail prices to members and customers are captured under the FuelWatch scheme.

The amendments are required because a new entrant to the Western Australian retail fuel market will begin operating later this year—that is, Costco. Costco sells a range of goods, including motor fuel, to its members, and membership business models are exempt from reporting under the FuelWatch scheme.

FuelWatch is designed to promote price transparency, encourage competition and empower consumers so that Western Australian motorists can access fuel price information and make informed purchase decisions. The regulatory regime requires fuel retailers to notify the Commissioner for Consumer Protection of any changes in retail fuel prices for the following day by 2.00 pm, with retail prices fixed for 24 hours from 6.00 am each day. This information is recorded on FuelWatch’s website, which is updated on a daily basis and can be accessed electronically by members of the public.

The current terminology used in the act states that the FuelWatch scheme does not apply when a fuel sale is made in accordance with “an existing agreement or arrangement between the customer and the retailer”. This has the unintended consequence of excluding from the scheme new market entrants that sell fuel to members but operate primarily in the consumer market and would undermine the integrity of FuelWatch. The bill addresses this and makes several amendments that will clarify the circumstances in which the FuelWatch regime will apply and when the sale of motor fuel is exempt from the regulatory regime. Exemptions include businesses involved in the hiring out, leasing out or sale of motor vehicles; motor fuel that is sold in bulk to be delivered or collected by a tanker; and motor fuel that is sold for fuelling a motor vehicle that is used for a business but not for any other purpose.

The bill introduces a definition of “business” to ensure that a range of businesses and business models are covered by the scheme, including businesses not carried out for profit, trades and professions, and public bodies and organisations.

This outcome will meet community needs by helping Western Australian consumers, and their families, save money when purchasing motor fuel.

Pursuant to standing order 126(1), I advise that this bill is not a uniform legislation bill. It does not ratify or give effect to an intergovernmental or multilateral agreement to which the government of the state is a party; nor does this bill, by reason of its subject matter, introduce a uniform scheme or uniform laws throughout the commonwealth.

I commend the bill to the house and table the explanatory memorandum.

[See paper 3424.]

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

House adjourned at 6.48 pm
