

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS PRICING AMENDMENT BILL 2019

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr J.R. Quigley (Minister for Commerce)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

Second Reading

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Minister for Commerce) [12.59 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

Today I introduce the Petroleum Products Pricing Amendment Bill 2019 to amend 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.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms L. Mettam**.