COST OF LIVING — FUEL PRICES

712.   Hon WILSON TUCKER to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the latest data from FuelWatch, which reveals unleaded petrol prices have risen overnight by up to 48¢ per litre, with many metropolitan fuel stations charging $1.89 per litre.

(1)   Given that more than two in three Western Australians drive to work, does the Premier, who is also the Treasurer, have a plan to address rising fuel costs as a major contributor to the cost of living?

(2)   With the fuel excise reduction ending next month, will the Premier commit to providing immediate relief to commuters through the reduction of government fees and charges?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

(1)–(2)   The state government recognises that it is a difficult period for everyone across Australia and the world. International factors are involved and are impacting on the price of fuel and other goods, particularly the war in Ukraine. State government household fees and charges, however, are decreasing by 3.8 per cent in 2022–23, going beyond the McGowan government's election commitment to keep any increases to household fees and charges below inflation. In relation to relief for commuters, the McGowan government's election commitment to cap public transport fares is now in effect. All public transport travel is now capped at $5 one-way, which could equate to savings of as much as $3 000 a year for one person and thousands more for a family. For example, a journey to the Perth CBD for a person living in Dawesville has reduced by $8.20 one-way, allowing them to save up to $82 a week. The McGowan government has also capped the price of airfares for regional Western Australians travelling to and from Perth at $199 for locations under 1 000 kilometres from Perth, and $299 for locations more than 1 000 kilometres from Perth. These capped airfares have already saved regional residents thousands of dollars in the short time period they have been in place.