

FUELWATCH, FINANCIAL BENEFITS

725. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection:

Does the minister have any evidence of the financial benefit for Western Australian motorists from using the FuelWatch system?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I know the member has made representations on behalf of his constituents who have noticed that when they compare the price they pay for petrol with what is being paid in metropolitan Perth, they see a big discrepancy. We have extended FuelWatch to a range of other regional centres where it is proving to be incredibly popular with motorists because it is delivering petrol at a much lower price. A comparison of prices in Perth, Sydney and Melbourne, particularly the lowest one hundred, and a check of how people can benefit from buying in the price cycle in Western Australia, show that motorists in Western Australia are winners if they use FuelWatch. I will provide a couple of simple examples. Using FuelWatch and looking at the price of fuel in the northern suburbs, a person who drives a six-cylinder car and travels 400 kilometres a week would save \$200 a year, which equates to five weeks of free fuel. Another example involved a case study of a one-tonne ute that travelled 1 500 kilometres a week; the driver would save more than \$700 a year by using FuelWatch. When motorists were given prior warning that fuel prices were going to rise - looking at the prices on nine price alerts - and they bought at the lower price before the cycle started up again, they would save \$97 on their fuel bill for the year.

There are plenty of positive examples of the benefits motorists receive from FuelWatch. They receive a much better deal when they buy fuel due to the action of the Gallop Government.