

Senate Select Committee on Fuel and Energy

Terms of Reference

1. That a select committee, to be known as the Select Committee on Fuel and Energy, be established to inquire into and report by **21 October 2009** on:
 - a. the impact of higher petroleum, diesel and gas prices on:
 - i. families,
 - ii. small business,
 - iii. rural and regional Australia,
 - iv. grocery prices, and
 - v. key industries, including but not limited to tourism and transport;
 - b. the role and activities of the Petrol Commissioner, including whether the Petrol Commissioner reduces the price of petroleum;
 - c. the operation of the domestic petroleum, diesel and gas markets, including the fostering of maximum competition and provision of consumer information;
 - d. the impact of an emissions trading scheme on the fuel and energy industry, including but not limited to:
 - i. prices,
 - ii. employment in the fuel and energy industries, and any related adverse impacts on regional centres reliant on these industries,
 - iii. domestic energy supply, and
 - iv. future investment in fuel and energy infrastructure;
 - e. the existing set of state government regulatory powers as they relate to petroleum, diesel and gas products;
 - f. taxation arrangements on petroleum, diesel and gas products including:
 - i. Commonwealth excise,
 - ii. the goods and services tax, and
 - iii. new state and federal taxes;
 - g. the role of alternative fuels to petroleum and diesel, including but not limited to: LPG, LNG, CNG, gas to liquids, coal to liquids, electricity and bio-fuels such as, but not limited to, ethanol;
 - h. the domestic oil/gas exploration and refinement industry, with particular reference to:
 - i. the impact of Commonwealth, state and local government regulations on this industry,
 - ii. increasing domestic oil/gas exploration and refinement activities, with a view to reducing Australia's reliance on imported oil, and
 - iii. other tax incentives; and
 - i. the impact of higher petroleum, diesel and gas prices on public transport systems, including the adequacy of public transport infrastructure and record of public transport investment by state governments.