The Territory Government has welcomed news its lobbying of the consumer watchdog has delivered results with the announcement of a new probe into Darwin petrol prices.

“I’m pleased to see that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has just announced Darwin as the first regional location to be the subject of a petrol price investigation,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“The ACCC will use its information-gathering powers to acquire critical cost information at all stages in the fuel supply chain. This is the first time the ACCC has conducted an investigation of this kind and I hope it will deliver the answers Territory motorists deserve.

“This investigation is something I wrote to the ACCC requesting last December. I also met with the ACCC Chairman Rod Sims to discuss this issue in February. I’m pleased to see the watchdog listened to what we had to say on behalf of Territory motorists.”

“I hope this probe will give us a better understanding of factors influencing our petrol prices and what can be done to drive them down even further. But I want to challenge the ACCC to ensure that the investigation delivers real action for motorists and not just more talk.”

This is the latest in a range of levers pulled by the Territory Government to put downward pressure on prices.

“I know that consumers are pleased to see the difference between prices in Darwin and the rest of the country has dropped substantially since the Government’s Fuel Price Summit last year,” Parliamentary Secretary Nathan Barrett said.

“According to the Australian Institute of Petroleum, the average difference between the Territory and the national average is now 11.5 cents a litre. A year ago, Territory prices were 20.3 cents per litre higher.”
The Government is also in the final stages of talks with four companies shortlisted to develop a discount fuel stop in Berrimah.

Mr Barrett is also on a cross bench Parliamentary Committee scrutinising the Government’s proposed Fuel Price Disclosure Bill which sets out a framework for retailers to report their costs and profits.

“We’ve come a long way in the past year but there is still room for improvement on both prices and transparency. This ACCC investigation is another step in the right direction,” Mr Barrett said.

**Media Contact: Danielle Parry 0413 081 801**