FUEL WATCH NEEDED TO BRING DOWN PRICE OF PETROL

The Territory Opposition is calling on the Martin Government to set up a fuel watch website as a means of sharpening competition in the petrol retailing market in Darwin and other regional centres.

Under the proposal the price of petrol at service stations covered by the proposal would be logged, on a Government operated website, twice a day.

"Fuel watch would enable consumers to quickly compare the various prices on offer in the Territory and buy accordingly," says Jodeen Carney, Leader of the Opposition.

"People are very price sensitive about petrol so I’m sure consumers will head to the stations offering the best price for petrol.

“A greater price awareness amongst consumers will provide a powerful incentive for retailers to offer a lower price.

“Fuel is an essential part of modern life and governments have a responsibility to ensure it is available at the best possible price.

“In a high inflation economy like the Northern Territory the need to keep petrol prices as low as possible is even greater.

“Family budgets are already bowing under the weight of the high cost of living without paying through the nose for fuel.

“Such a constant watch on the price of fuel at the various outlets will also give anyone considering collusion on petrol prices reason to pause.

“A fuel watch website would be a direct, effective and inexpensive means of influencing the price of petrol in the Territory.

“We are pleased the Martin Government has finally recognised the importance of the price of petrol but further action is needed.”

To arrange further comment : Greg Charter 04000 14 059