



**Frances  
Bedford**

*Independent State  
MP for Florey*

**MEDIA  
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## **Fuel Watch scheme one step closer with private member's bill**

Independent member for Florey, Frances Bedford, with support from the cross-bench, will today move to introduce legislation to help South Australian motorists grappling with rising fuel prices.

“It is now 2 years since the last election when South Australian motorists were promised real-time fuel price monitoring by both major parties during the campaign,” Ms Bedford said.

“Meanwhile, the spike in fuel prices over the past 12 months has made the cost of missing out on cheap petrol on any given day in the cycle an even bigger problem for the motoring public.”

“The Fuel Watch Bill I am introducing will provide an opportunity for the Parliament to get on with helping motorists to know when petrol is cheapest so they can take advantage and fill up.”

In the past 12 months fuel prices in South Australia have surged by up to \$30 a tank, according to the RAA, with prices regularly staying high for 5 rather than 2 or 3 days.<sup>1</sup>

Ms Bedford said her private member's bill had been drafted based on similar Fuel Watch schemes operating in New South Wales, the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia.

“We don't need to reinvent the wheel when there are interstate models perfected over recent years.”

“In addition to real-time price reporting, the bill will also introduce a 24 hour price guarantee for metropolitan service stations on a similar basis to the long-running and successful WA scheme.”

“With clear evidence that Adelaide motorists can save up to \$300 a year by shopping around for cheap petrol, now is the time for action—not delay.”

If only a third of motorists take advantage of the Fuel Watch scheme, total yearly savings would amount to \$75 million a year based on Australian Competition and Consumer Commission data.<sup>2</sup>

Ms Bedford indicated her bill included flexibility to cater for any recommendations that may come from the Productivity Commission investigation initiated by the government just before Christmas.

“I'd be more than happy for the government to take carriage of this bill if it means we can deliver the Fuel Watch scheme sooner rather than later,” she said.

“In the meantime, the cross-bench is determined to make sure this Parliament delivers—bringing down cost of living pressures and putting money back in people's pockets.”

<sup>1</sup> Average fuel prices have continued to rise over the 2019–2020 spring and summer period: RAA, ‘Petrol price pain adds up to \$30 to the cost of filling a fuel tank’, media release, 21 January 2020 available at [www.raa.com.au](http://www.raa.com.au).

<sup>2</sup> Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, *Report in the Australian petroleum market, December quarter 2018*, February 2019, pages 45–46 available at [www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au).