



# FAMILY FIRST



Steve Fielding Family First Senator for Victoria

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **STAGGERING \$300 MILLION PETROL SAVING FOR FAMILIES**

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd could save families a massive \$300 million a year at the bowser by adopting a national FuelWatch scheme.

"Family First has been calling for action on the skyrocketing cost of petrol for more than two years and urges the Prime Minister to implement FuelWatch," Family First leader Steve Fielding said.

The Prime Minister was asked about FuelWatch on radio this morning, but would not commit to the scheme until he had "independent verification".

"Australian Competition and Consumer Commission analysis published in its *Petrol Prices and Australian Consumers* report in December last year found that motorists in Western Australia have saved 2 cents a litre from the FuelWatch scheme," Senator Fielding said. "I think we would all agree the ACCC is pretty independent.

"Under FuelWatch petrol retailers have to notify consumers of their pump prices a day in advance and keep prices constant for a 24 hour period. They are also required to publicise the price of petrol on a website and in the media.

"Any reduction in petrol prices will help Australian families struggling to make ends meet. Families in the outer suburbs and regions have been hardest hit by skyrocketing petrol prices. Lower income and first homebuyers tend to live in the outer suburbs where housing is cheaper. But poor public transport means they depend on their cars, which means they suffer more from punishing petrol prices.

"We know the model works in Western Australia resulting in Perth moving from having the most expensive fuel of any capital city to the cheapest.

"With Easter just around the corner, prices are tipped to climb towards \$1.50 a litre.

"If Mr Rudd is genuinely concerned about financial strain on household budgets that are already stretched, he would immediately implement this new plan nationally for the benefit of all Australian families."

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