



# FAMILY FIRST



Steve Fielding Family First Senator for Victoria

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **ACCC SHOULD HAVE PHONE TAPPING POWERS TO END PETROL PRICE GOUGING**

Family First leader Steve Fielding today called on the Government for additional powers to be given to Australian Competition and Consumer Commission head Graeme Samuel in order to stop once and for all possible petrol price gouging.

ACCC chair Graeme Samuel revealed in a Senate Estimates hearing recently that he was not convinced by the explanations from petrol company executives to his questioning on petrol prices differences. "I am not convinced that I am convinced as to the explanations provided," Mr Samuel said.

"This is just unbelievable," Senator Fielding said today. "The ACCC is seen by the public as the 'cop on the beat' on petrol gouging and yet when the Commission gets answers that it thinks are less than satisfactory obviously the ACCC needs more powers to investigate.

"Not enough is being done to get to the bottom of petrol gouging. The ACCC should call for more powers if it needs them. If it needs the power to tap phones to find out why we are paying so much for petrol then give it to them.

"Families are being hit the hardest at the moment with all these interest rate rises. They are the ones being squeezed and with Easter just around the corner, prices are tipped to climb towards \$1.50 a litre.

"The ACCC should not stop until it gets answers that we can all believe in."

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