



# FAMILY FIRST



Steve Fielding **Family First** Senator for Victoria

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **STATE GOVERNMENTS HOLDING MOTORISTS TO RANSOM** **Governments are more interested in a** **tax squabble than relieving petrol pain**

It is crazy to think that petrol tax cuts could be scrapped because state governments want compensation for reducing their tax grab.

"Today we have wall to wall Labor governments across Australia and they are squabbling about who pays for petrol tax cuts," Family First leader Steve Fielding said today.

"Clearly the states are drunk on petrol tax. State governments have already had a massive GST tax windfall as petrol prices have continued to skyrocket.

"The Rudd Government has canvassed ending the ridiculous tax on a tax, saying it would consider ending charging GST on the part of the petrol price that is excise tax.

"It is interesting that the only petrol tax cut the Rudd Government is willing to consider is one that does not come out of its own pocket.

"The Rudd government should pitch in and do its fair share and cut petrol excise tax. This would show Australian families the Rudd government is serious about helping families struggling to make ends meet due to skyrocketing petrol prices. All families are pulling in their belts at the moment, so why shouldn't governments share some of that pain?

"At today's average price of \$1.50 a litre in Melbourne, the states are reaping almost 14 cents a litre in GST and this greedy tax grab increases every time petrol prices increase.

"The Federal Government estimates this financial year 18.4 billion litres in petrol will be sold, which means that at today's prices, the states would get \$2.5 billion in GST from petrol.

"It's a Mexican stand-off with the Federal government saying it's not my problem while the State governments are saying no way unless we are compensated – basically holding motorists to ransom.

**For media enquiries phone 0409 550 446**

**[www.stevefielding.com.au](http://www.stevefielding.com.au)**