



# FAMILY FIRST



Steve Fielding **Family First** Senator for Victoria

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## **GOVERNMENT PROFITS FROM SKYROCKETING PETROL PRICES**

It is scandalous that the government is profiteering from skyrocketing petrol prices.

“Five years ago families in Melbourne were paying 85 cents a litre for petrol, but petrol prices have doubled and now they're paying \$1.70 a litre,” Family First leader Steve Fielding said today.

“The government's petrol tax take has jumped over the last five years by almost 20% to a staggering 54 cents a litre.

“It is outrageous to think that the Government has increased its petrol tax take by 8 cents a litre over the last 5 years, while families continue to buckle under higher petrol prices.

“The Government has to be drunk on petrol tax if it continues to stubbornly refuse to cut petrol tax.

“If petrol prices continue to skyrocket to \$2 a litre, the government will increase its tax take by yet another 2 cents a litre, which is already on top of families being slugged 8 cents more than five years ago.

“For the past two and a half years Family First has been calling for a petrol tax cut to take some of the pressure off struggling families and to put immediate downward pressure on inflation.

“Cutting petrol tax in the short term makes sense, but over the medium to longer term we need to significantly lift our investment in public transport to give people in the outer suburbs and regional areas an alternative to using their cars.

“Lower income people and first home buyers 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.

“A cut in petrol tax would deliver three times the saving, as a proportion of income, to the poorest 20 per cent of households compared to the wealthiest 20 per cent.”

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