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From: Chalmers DLO <ChalmersDLO@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
Sent: Thursday, 18 August 2022 12:28 PM
To: Cass-Gottlieb, Gina
Cc: Chalmers DLO
Subject: Letter from the Treasurer of Australia [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Ltr - Treasurer to ACCC Chair - End of Fuel Excise Reduction.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Good afternoon,

Please find attached correspondence from the Treasurer of Australia to the Chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), regarding ACCC oversight of fuel prices in the lead up to and following the end of the temporary excise.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] — Departmental Liaison Officer
Office of the Hon Jim Chalmers MP, Treasurer
[REDACTED] E.ChalmersDLO@treasury.gov.au
MG.47, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

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THE HON JIM CHALMERS MP
TREASURER

Ref: MB22-000320

Thursday, 18 August 2022

Ms Gina Cass-Gottlieb
Chair
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Cass-Gottlieb

I am writing to you to set out the Government's expectations of Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) action in the lead up to, and following, the re-introduction of the full excise and excise equivalent customs duty rates for petrol, diesel and all other fuel and petroleum-based products (except aviation fuels) from 29 September 2022.

The ACCC will play a critical role in ensuring that market participants do not take advantage of the expiry of the fuel excise reduction to penalise consumers. As you know there is an existing Direction to the ACCC to monitor prices, costs and profits relating to the petroleum industry in Australia. I expect the ACCC to intensify these efforts in the period preceding and after 29 September and, as the independent regulator enforcing Australia's competition and consumer laws, to investigate any concerns arising about misrepresentations regarding petrol prices, false and misleading conduct or anti-competitive conduct in fuel markets, and to take appropriate action.

In addition, and as when the fuel excise was reduced, I expect that the ACCC will engage with major retailers and wholesalers to ensure that they do not mislead Australian consumers about the rationale for any price rises.

The ACCC continuing its consumer outreach efforts will also be vital, including through provision of information to consumers and by recommending that consumers take advantage of the cheapest fuel options.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Chalmers', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

The Hon Jim Chalmers MP