



## Australian Petrol: Very \*\*\*\*ing Expensive (GetUp! does FuelWatch)

Posted by [Phil Hart](#) on June 19, 2008 - 6:00pm in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Policy/Politics](#)

Tags: [australia](#), [fuelwatch](#) [[list all tags](#)]

It's time to put your money where your mouth is folks - help get this ad across the country's TV screens - it doesn't get any better than this! (*Explanation for international guests below*)

*Here's the message from GetUp!*

You have to see this video: it's a hilarious parody of fuelwatch, and it has a really great message about funding renewables.

You can watch it at the website below, and you can also chip in to put the ad on air!

<https://www.getup.org.au/campaign/FuelWatch&id=357>

We need Rudd and Nelson to start focussing on serious climate action, and this message could really change the debate. The fundraiser is going strong, but with more contributions we can get the message out to millions of viewers.

*For international guests, here's some of the context:*

In market behaviour which seems to be unique to Australia, petrol (gasoline) prices vary by as much as 10% in a weekly cycle, increasing dramatically late on Wednesday's and steadily dropping through the rest of the week. While the oil companies claim that retailing is not profitable (largely true), you can't blame consumers for feeling ripped off by such a manipulated price environment.

Now the newly elected Federal Rudd Labor Government is feeling the pressure on oil prices, after the 'Aussie Battlers' ditched the antiquated John Howard at the election last year.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's response to high oil prices has been to promise to introduce a FuelWatch scheme, whereby oil companies will have to publish on a website the prices they plan to charge for petrol the following day. A similar scheme has been found to smooth out the 'weekly price cycle' in Western Australia, although there's debate about whether it makes a tiny difference to average prices or no difference at all.

Struggling opposition leader Brendan Nelson has promised to cut excise on petrol by 5c/litre, while his senior colleagues have not bothered to hide their disagreement with the idea. Their internal bickering was trumped by leaks from several Government departments advising Rudd against FuelWatch scheme, but he chose to go ahead anyway. Presumably he didn't have any better ideas?

As elsewhere in the world, the public wants the politicians to do something about oil prices. In typical GetUp! campaign style, this ad humiliates their current response. Help them spread the word to millions of Australians with a donation!



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