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**From:** Reginald West [reggiwest@dodo.com.au]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 15 July 2007 6:18 PM  
**To:** Petrol Price Inquiry  
**Subject:** Petrol Price Inquiry

It is more than mere coincidence when service stations are selling fuel at the same price, particularly in the same areas.

There are glaring discrepancies in pricing fluctuations.  
When oil goes up petrol increases immediately, yet when oil goes down it takes far too long before they are passed on to the consumer at the bowsers.

According to oil companies price increases have been due to:

Oil prices set by OPEC  
The situation in Iraq

Australia produces its own oil so it could be refined here with the infrastructure already in place.

Petrol increased to an unprecedented \$1.00 a litre during the first Gulf war in the 90's and had steadily went up and down until the current conflict when it climbed to almost \$1.30 per litre.  
It has reached nearly \$1.50 a litre in some areas in recent times.

Collusion and price gouging between oil companies is a very real possibility.

Offences should be judged for what they are, larceny.

Stronger penalties such as gaol sentences of up to 10 years for individuals are required as fines aren't always an effective deterrent.

Fines from \$10,000,000.00 should be applied to oil companies for each offence.

Reginald West  
8 Highview Street  
Blacktown NSW 2148