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PRESS RELEASE

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Independent Service Stations Under Threat from FuelWatch

The Service Station Association today called on the Federal Government to make sure that the proposed introduction of the WA FuelWatch scheme nationally does not disadvantage independent service station operators. SSA chief executive Ron Bowden made the call following comments from Jim Turnour, MP for Leichhardt this morning when he said during a radio interview, "I am not concerned that FuelWatch is going to reduce the number of independents."

The recent ACCC report into petrol pricing states that the number of independent service stations has actually decreased in Perth since 2001 which includes the period that FuelWatch has been in operation.

"Independent service station operators brought petrol discounting to Australia and their continued existence is vital if consumers are to have access to competitively priced petrol in the years ahead" said SSA chief executive Ron Bowden. "Any initiative that reduces the ability of independents to compete fairly will only worsen the problems they already face in their daily battle with the supermarkets and the oil companies. They need relief, not more problems and comments like these from Jim Turnour are not helpful."

Ends

Authorised by Ron Bowden

For further comment, call Ron Bowden on 0408 601516