



# Media Release

**SHARON BIRD MP**

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CUNNINGHAM

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## Labor forces petrol inquiry on Howard Government

A Senate inquiry on petrol price setting has been forced on the Howard Government by the Labor Party, Federal Member for Cunningham, Sharon Bird, announced this afternoon.

“Labor has been calling on this out-of-touch Howard Government to give the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) a reference to specifically deal with petrol price settings, particularly in regional areas.

“At every opportunity the Howard Government stubbornly refused to give the ACCC the power to investigate petrol prices.

“As a result motorists have paid ludicrous petrol prices in the lead-up to weekends and holidays, which are having a tremendous impact on the family budget”, Ms Bird said.

The inquiry will be conducted by the Senate’s Economics Committee. The terms of reference for the inquiry include examining the price of petrol in Australia and:

- a. The relationship between the landed price of crude oil, refining costs, the wholesale price and the retail price of petrol;
- b. Regional differences in the retail price of petrol;
- c. Variations in the retail price of petrol at particular times;
- d. The industry’s integrated structure; and
- e. Any other related matters.

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**Contact: Sharon Bird MP - 6277 4717**