

Media release

16 June, 2009



Fuel price hike hits Queenslanders \$2 million harder than expected

Consumers of electrical services in Queensland will pay an additional \$2 million every year as a result of the State Government's decision to end its fuel tax rebate scheme on July 1.

Queensland electrical contractors will feel the pain of the extra 8 cents per litre at the bowser, and they will be forced to pass the additional cost on to their customers.

Master Electricians Australia national workplace policy manager Paul Daly said despite efforts to control fuel expenses, contractors would be left with no choice but to raise their fees to cover the additional expense.

"Fuel is a significant operating cost to members of our industry and they cannot afford to absorb the costs of higher fuel prices themselves," Mr Daly said.

"Other small businesses across Queensland will also be affected – forcing the price of many home services to rise.

"This in turn will have a knock-on effect throughout the building and construction industry." Master Electricians' parent organisation, the Electrical and Communications Association (ECA), currently offers members a fuel plan to help ease operating costs.

"The ECA fuel plan works in conjunction with the State Government fuel rebate to give contractors a better deal at the bowser," Mr Daly said.

"These operators rely heavily on their vehicles, with some contractors having a fleet of work vehicles that need refuelling several times a day. The 8 cent tax rebate currently makes a great difference."

The Queensland State Government cut the tax rebate to save \$2.4 billion over four years from the state budget.

"Unfortunately, this is a direct transfer of costs from the Government to individuals – effectively a new tax for families and businesses alike. The savings made by the Government will be felt by households and small business owners right across the state.

"Contractors' vehicle registration and electricity costs will also rise on 1 July with consumers again forced to absorb this increase in expenses," Mr Daly said.

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