



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## AANT calls for a better outcome at the bowser

AANT General Manager Edon Bell will attend the Northern Territory Government's Fuel Price Summit tomorrow in a bid to find the answers to the Territory's fuel pricing dilemma.

"Territorians have been paying too much at the bowser for far too long," Mr Bell said.

"Why is it that NT motorists are paying up to thirty cents per litre more than motorists in other states?"

AANT has been invited by the Chief Minister to sit on the panel at tomorrow's summit; Mr Bell will be joining fuel retailers, government and industry representatives.

"We understand that the fuel companies are in business and need to make a profit, but this should not be at the detriment of Territorians.

"The argument that low volume of fuel sales in the NT results in higher prices does not stack up"

"A good comparison is across Mackay, Townsville, Cairns and Darwin. These cities are all of a similar size and located on the coast with their own terminal. Mackay and Townsville have good competition and low prices around 150cpl compared to Darwin at 173cpl.

"Long term price data from 2004 to 2010 shows that Darwin gross wholesale margins consistently remained between 5 and 15cpl when compared to the terminal gate price. Since 2010 gross wholesale margins in Darwin have increased sharply peaking recently at 35cpl.

"In other capital cities fuel cycles closely follow the terminal gate price, in the Territory retailers have been quick to respond to rises but have failed to pass back the full savings when available, keeping their prices high. This ratchet pricing has resulted in gross margins increasing to 3 to 4 times higher than the national average.

"As a representative of motorists in the NT we are pleased that our questions can finally be tabled. We want to see transparency in pricing and justification for their pricing model.

"Territorians deserve a better outcome."

### **Media enquiries:**

**To arrange an interview with Edon Bell prior to the summit please call Jeannette Button on 0407 727 080.**

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