

A significant factor in the cost of living is the price of petrol.

The current state of the fuel market is it is subject to undue influence by a duopoly of Coles and Woolworths.

The duopoly is able to offer discounted fuel prices by way of shopper docket it issues to customers who spend over a certain amount on groceries in duopoly-owned supermarkets.

Why do duopoly supermarkets offer customers fuel discounts instead of a straight-out discount on groceries?

Because Coles and Woolworths also have a duopoly in the fuel market, they can inflate prices to make the discount price neutral.

As fuel is an essential commodity to the whole community, the cost of living is thereby increased by duopoly abuse of market power.

The inexplicable weekly petrol price cycle is a vital ingredient of the duopoly price hiking ruse.

The WA government currently prohibits fuel price changes more frequently than every 24 hours.

The minimum time for price changes should be extended to 1 week and only on the same day (Thursday) for all fuel retailers.

This would put downward pressure on fuel prices as each fuel retailer would not wish to be held to a higher price than competitors for a week.

This would also have an inhibiting effect on the duopoly being able to manipulate fuel prices to accommodate the price inflating shopper docketts.

The duopoly avoids diminishing profit through its ability to cross subsidise between grocery and fuel.

The cost (discount) recovery is best achieved through fuel being a single product essential to the whole community.

The WA government has the opportunity to help bring down the cost of living to all West Australians.

RB Halvorsen