

The Mercury
Att: Charles Waterhouse

PETROL PRICING

Coles should stop treating Hobart consumers with contempt over petrol prices.

At the Coles petrol station in North Hobart, Coles petrol prices are consistently higher than at the Coles site at Glenorchy, which is close to the Woolworths Petrol Plus site.

Yesterday (28/4/05) for example, Woolworths Petrol Plus at Glenorchy was selling unleaded at 109.9c and 105.9 discounted; coincidentally the Coles station just down the road was matching that price, but Coles North Hobart site was selling unleaded at 114.9 or 110.9 discounted; 5 cents more per litre.

It is not just today that this happens. I have regularly compared prices in this way at these same sites and I have consistently found similar results, that is Coles follows Woolworths at Glenorchy, but Coles charges more in North Hobart where, by coincidence, there is no Woolworths site.

It seems to me that unless Coles is prepared to stop treating Hobart consumers with contempt in this way, then Hobart consumers should likewise

treat Coles with contempt by shopping at Woolworths and Big W instead of Coles and Kmart.

I would like Coles to publicly declare whether it intends to continue this type of exploitation.

I have also noticed that over several weeks now Coles in North Hobart has stopped displaying its prices on its large driveway sign. This generally means that consumers are unaware of the price being charged until the pump is turned on by the operator.

Is this a deliberate attempt to cover up what appears to be an exploitive pricing policy?

HON DOUG PARKINSON MLC
Member for Wellington