

11 March 2026

Hon Scott Simpson
Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

By email

Dear Minister Simpson

Re: Expectations regarding fuel markets

Thank you for your letter of 10 March 2026 requesting that the Commission increase the frequency of our fuel price monitoring and conveying your expectations for our work in fuel markets in light of the current conflict in the Middle East.

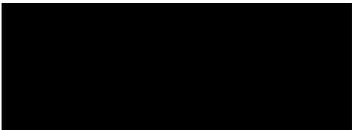
I am pleased to advise that we have increased the frequency of our monitoring and are now publishing weekly fuel price movements compared to global prices. Our first publication was on 12 March and can be found [here](#). We will use our monitoring to call out publicly, and directly with fuel companies, any pricing behaviour that causes us concern.

We have excellent working relationships with other government agencies operating in the fuel sector (particularly the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment) and will work closely with them, including through sharing data and insights, to ensure we can both deliver on our functions.

There has already been a substantial increase in the number of concerns reported to us about conduct in the fuel sector. We will be considering these carefully and, should it become clear that there may have been breaches of the Commerce Act 1986, Fair Trading Act 1986, or Fuel Industry Act 2021, we will act swiftly and decisively in response.

We will raise any urgent policy considerations with you as they become apparent, as well as in our regular reporting. We note recent announcements in Australia to increase penalties for their equivalent of the Fair Trading Act 1986 as a response to the current situation, and that you currently have a bill in development with similar policy objectives. We look forward to that bill progressing to ensure that consumers are protected by penalties that are a meaningful deterrent for large businesses.

Yours sincerely



Dr John Small
Chair