



Colac Otway
SHIRE

27 October 2014

RECEIVED
31 OCT 2014

Our Ref: TF11/3696 TW

Competition Policy Review Secretariat
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Competition Policy Review

Colac Otway Shire Council covers a significant portion of the western district of Victoria however while Colac represents a major population centre in this district, retail fuel prices are consistently higher than those in adjoining retail centres often in the order of 10 cents per litre.

Council has corresponded with the ACCC on a number of occasions providing evidence of an uncompetitive local fuel retail market and on each occasion the ACCC has indicated that the current regulatory regime provides no mechanism to address this issue in Colac.

Council has noted that the Review's Draft Report makes no findings or recommendations as to fuel retailing and Council is disappointed that the Review has so far failed to address an issue that is of vital importance to many, many regional Australians. Council notes also that the Review has made passing reference to anti-competitive zoning laws that may restrict competition and that these do not apply in Victoria.

Council requests that the Review reconsiders its position in regard to fuel retailing and re-examine this issue with a view to promoting a regulatory and policy environment that addresses localised uncompetitive fuel markets.

If you have any enquiries concerning this matter please contact me on 03 5232 9454

Yours Sincerely

Sue Wilkinson
Chief Executive Officer

