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Backflip at the bowser in Cairns

The State's peak motoring body has slammed some Cairns service stations for ripping off motorists after hiking fuel prices a whopping nine cents per litre (cpl) in a week.

RACQ spokesperson Renee Smith called out the offending retailers who were selling unleaded fuel for around 149.9cpl, earning them 18cpl in indicative retail margins.

"This is a joke. Caltex, Coles, Woolworths and Puma are the main offenders ripping off drivers. It's just not on," Ms Smith said.

"Just last week we were praising Cairns for having cheap fuel, but sadly there's been a backflip at the bowser.

"Drivers are once again going to have to put in the leg work to get a fair deal, and let their purses do the talking."

Even considering the global oil price, Ms Smith said there was still no reason for prices to have jumped so significantly in such a short amount of time.

"Around half of the servos in Cairns are still offering cheaper fuel. If you can fill up for less than 139cpl then you'll avoid getting punished at the bowser," she said.

Ms Smith said last year's Australian Competition and Consumer Competition which investigated high fuel prices in Cairns, showed there was a lack of competition in the city.

"Thankfully, since then we've seen new independent service stations enter the market, so reward those cheaper servos with your business."

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RACQ is Queensland's largest club and peak independent motoring organisation. We were formed in 1905 to represent the interests of the State's first motorists and today campaign for safer drivers, vehicles and roads on behalf of the 1.7 million members who own the Club. We offer those members a vast range of motoring, insurance, banking, entertainment and travel services and benefits, and each year respond to more than a million calls for roadside assistance.