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# Your Say

YOUR VOICE IN THE TERRITORY

EDITORIAL  
NT News

## We need to do our bit on fuel

BY THE sound of it, when it comes to fuel prices, if we want something done we are going to have to do it ourselves.

At least that is part of the message of United's David Szymczak. He says motorists must shop around if they want to force fuel prices down. He says there are three types of motorists — those who buy for convenience, those who chase the best price and those who don't care.

At some point we've been all three. But if we want change then we need to shop on price and use whatever tools are available to force pressure at the bowser.

In this instance, a local tool available is joining AANT to gain access to the six cents per litre saving offered at United service stations. It is time to start rewarding those who pass on the savings in a timely and fair manner.

It is crazy to be buying diesel at 132.9 cents per litre when someone else is selling it five cents cheaper up the road.

It is unconscionable behaviour to watch terminal gate prices tumble and then not adjust your bowser prices to reflect the savings.

A third of the NT's registered vehicles are diesel, however, it might be the majority of these are on fuel card contracts with major suppliers like Puma Energy, Caltex or Shell.

This means the impact at the bowser is lessened, until we start to shop at the cheapest so those who aren't coming to the party and moving on price start to feel the impacts.

Territory motorists have suffered enough. Fuel prices were too high for too long, and now it seems natural market forces are driving them down — but the savings are not being passed on.

The Giles Government has threatened legislation. The window for action is closing. It's not just the fuel companies on notice.

## ...and another thing

CONGRATULATIONS to the eight graduates who celebrated the completion of their high school studies at Gunbalanya School yesterday.

The red carpet was quite literally rolled out for the girls at the graduation ceremony, a beautiful demonstration of the pride the community rightfully feels in their achievements. The girls' teachers, families and the whole community should also be proud of themselves for the support they've given the new graduates.

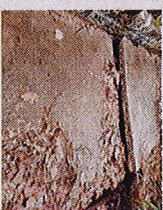
## The Fixer

WHAT: Footpath on the corner of Playford and Wells Street in Luderilla is damaged.

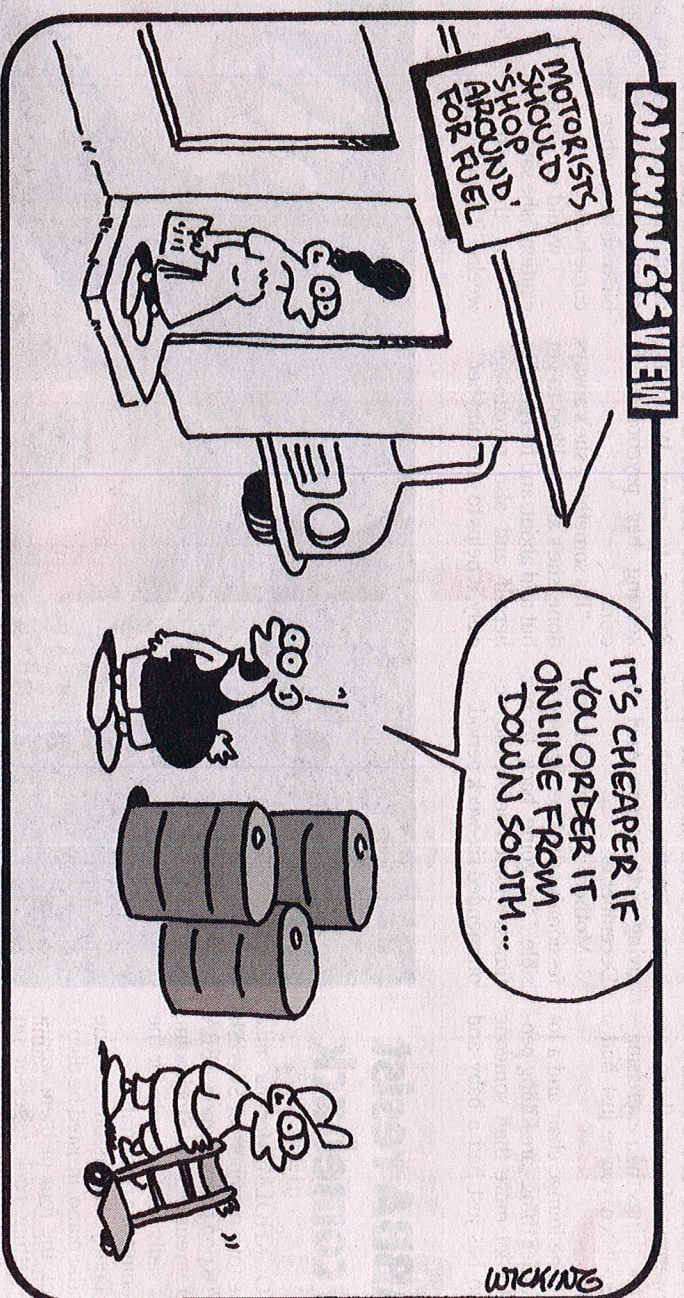
WHO'S RESPONSIBLE: Darwin Council general manager for infrastructure Luccio Cercarelli

CONTACT: (08) 89300581

Do you know of something in the Territory that needs fixing? Give the Fixer a call on 8944 9750, email [thefixer@ntnews.com.au](mailto:thefixer@ntnews.com.au) or follow on Twitter @NTNTTheFixer



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## Letters

### Expensive wait

CITIZENS of Darwin, this is a true story.

Last Friday I rang Jacana to get the power turned on at Flinders St, Stuart Park. I hung on to the phone until my legs were numb, so we did it in re-lays, sitting on the kitchen floor.

My friend tried for 2½ hours to phone me — engaged. In the end we all gave up.

Saturday morning I rang to get the power put on.

"That will be \$760. Jacana don't work weekends and it goes to private enterprise".

No wonder people are leaving in droves.

Leonie Sullivan, Darwin

### The Abbott effect

IS it just me or has it never occurred to anyone else that the Northern Territory has a Tony Abbott problem?

The NT has an enviably low unemployment rate, it's a great place to do business and is now safe enough to bring the family on holidays.

Good as it is, this counts for nothing because of the Abbott factor in the form of your unpopular Adam Giles.

Unless you are all lemmings, the Liberal Country party should ditch him — either that or lose government and then pay for a by-election for his seat when he tosses in the towel.

It is flawed logic to think

It is hard enough for vulnerable people — don't make it worse. Demonisers are not helping the situation. — SEE BELOW

you can't have another change of leadership, given the guaranteed outcome if he stays.

Len Lucan, Enfield, SA

### It doesn't add up

THE Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) CEO Dr Malcolm Roberts has stated in a letter published in the NT News on January 18 that the well-respected June Tapp of Katherine has muddled the facts in an earlier letter ('Fracking returns', NT News, January 12).

APPEA commissioned the highly regarded Deloitte Access Economics to conduct a survey of the onshore gas mining industry in the NT. The Deloitte Report concluded the NT Government would receive \$920 million in royalties for the 2020 to 2040 period. This equates to \$46 million per annum.

Dr Roberts now claims royally returns to the Government will be at least \$236 million per annum and up to \$460 million a year.

Perhaps Dr Roberts simply has a decimal point out of place from \$46 million to \$460 million. On the other hand, it may be a matter of APPEA using deceptive figures in an

endeavour to convince the public that fracking should be permitted.

Dr Roberts certainly has his figures muddled.

Bruce Francis, Katherine

### Silence deafening

FIFTEEN months ago the NT News reported that three unnamed people had died in a house fire in the Kulaluk community, with another critically injured. ("A third body in burnt out house", NT News, November 3, 2014).

There was no follow-up report identifying the victims or giving more details, although the above report mentioned that "a group of people was seen running from the blaze". Despite the lack of media curiosity, one would think that such a tragic loss of life would warrant a full and open coronal investigation at a later date.

How did these people die? Were there smoke detectors? Was the fire deliberately lit or preventable? Who were the people running from the scene? Or is it that Aboriginal lives are not valued by the authorities?

Due to the lack of information available, the public must assume the latter.

### Don't demonise

TO all those people out there who demonise the poor, the homeless, the mentally ill and Centrelink beneficiaries you're not helping the situation.

Demonisers only make things worse, so don't complain when your house gets broken into or your car or wallet gets stolen.

You demonisers have created this in our society. If you keep judging the vulnerable in a bad way, then bad things happen life.

It is hard enough for vulnerable people — don't make it worse. Demonisers are not helping the situation. Wake up to yourselves. Don't complain when the status quo breaks down because it's your fault.

We want a break to get ahead, not a break to fall apart.

David Nicholls, Gray

## On this day IN THE TERRITORY

**10 YEARS AGO:** Opposition health spokesman Richard Lim attacked the Martin Labor Government's expansion of the hospital-in-the-home program. He said it was a Bandaid solution to the nurse shortage at Alice Springs Hospital.

**20 YEARS AGO:** The NT Greens have given a commitment to providing health services and housing in their Aboriginal Affairs policy launched this week. Greens Senate candidate Margie Friel said, "It took three years to rebuild the city of Darwin after Cyclone Tracy".

**25 YEARS AGO:** Middle Point in Darwin Harbour has been renamed Wickham Point. The new name was designed to end confusion with Middle Point near Fogg Dam.