



Department of Consumer & Employment Protection

## FuelWatch

### Client

The Department of Consumer & Employment Protection is responsible for ensuring that the marketplace is fair and consumer's interests are protected. The Department has responsibility for many Acts, which allow for the regulation of specific industries, such as real estate, finance broking, settlements and motor vehicle sales.

<b>Project</b>	FuelWatch
<b>Project Duration</b>	January to March 2001
<b>Brief Description</b>	Enables update, display and search of fuel prices in WA. Key Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Secure data uploads</li> <li>- Cold Fusion</li> <li>- Oracle data base</li> <li>- Sun Solaris</li> </ul>
<b>Web Site URL</b>	<a href="http://www.fuelwatch.wa.gov.au">www.fuelwatch.wa.gov.au</a>

**FuelWatch**  
PETROL PRICING UNIT

Welcome to FuelWatch - an initiative of the WA Government, administered by the Department of Consumer & Employment Protection.

FuelWatch is an innovative program which not only informs the community of fuel prices in advance, but monitors the compliance of fuel retailers to ensure a better deal for WA motorists.

*New!* - Consumer Protection is now listing the Metropolitan averages for each product.

Thursday, 28th December 2000

Best prices today	
Metropolitan Area	Non-metropolitan Area
LPG 83.2	LPG 83.2
LRP 84.1	LRP 84.1
ULP 82.9	ULP 82.9
PULP 87.0	PULP 87.0
Diesel 85.6	Diesel 85.6

### The Need

In response to a report of the Select Committee on Petroleum Products Pricing, the Department was tasked with responsibility for implementing a

price monitoring system to collect pricing details from petrol retailers and make that information available to the public of Western Australia.

To support this requirement, legislation was enacted that required fuel retailers to inform the Department of the fuel prices that they would be charging the next day.

A web-based solution was recognised as the most efficient way to both collect the pricing data from the retailers and to disseminate the results to the public. In addition, acknowledging that the Department would have ongoing requirements to collect and disseminate data over the web, the assessment and recommendation for a scalable infrastructure to support these future requirements was required.

### **The Solution**

FuelWatch displays fuel prices for most retail sites in Western Australia. Both historical data and the next day's prices are displayed. Various search criteria can be used to identify the cheapest fuel available in an area. This feature permits users to select the most competitive prices in their area and to compare prices charged as functions of retailer, wholesaler or region.

This functionality is provided by the Quick Search, Advanced Search (see screen shot), Top 100 Metro and Top 50 Non-Metro pages.

Fuel prices have to be submitted by the retailers and wholesalers on a daily basis. The price submission of the next day's prices is restricted and confidential. A logon and security system allows retailers to enter and view their own data only. This functionality is supported by the Logon/Logout, Update Prices, Upload Prices, Upload Prices Summary and Maintain Client Details (see screen shot) pages.

The Home, Contact Information, Links and Home pages provide context information for the site.

Sun Solaris hardware, the Iplanet web server, Cold Fusion and the Oracle 8i database were recommended and accepted as the infrastructure.

### **The Result**

FuelWatch was successfully designed and developed within a tight timeframe to meet the Minister's commitment of providing a price monitoring system to the public of Western Australia. The project has been a success for the public with the site receiving weekly hits of 100,000 and above.