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BUSINESS

Mobile barista frothing over spike in petrol prices



Rodney Stevens | 5th Mar 2015 7:55 AM



TOO MUCH: Paul Moretti, of Xpresso Mobile Coffee, is unhappy about the random price rise of petrol.
Mireille Merete-Shaw

TO COVER Tuesday's 10 cent fuel hike, Paul Moretti would need to sell more than 10 extra coffees per week.

The Xpresso Mobile Coffee owner said the overnight surge in petrol prices would hit his hip pocket to the tune of \$50 weekly.

"It's bloody ridiculous," he said.

Mr Moretti said he was contemplating putting his prices up to cover the increased costs.

"It's hard to know whether to put your prices up because petrol prices fluctuate so much and I believe people shouldn't pay too much for a coffee," he said.

While it took months for petrol prices to plummet, Mr Moretti questioned why price hikes happened overnight.

"The price of fuel in the last 12 days has gone up 15 cents, but it didn't drop 15 cents that fast," he said.

"Service station owners would be still be paying the cheaper price for fuel - it's just price gouging.

"I know the price of oil is going up, but I don't think it's going up that dramatically that they have to put it up 10 cents in a day."

The solution, Mr Moretti said, was for all locals to boycott service stations for a day, to show how much power the community has.

Northern Rivers Social Development Council CEO Tony Davies said transport costs had a very serious impact on people in the Northern Rivers.

Mr Davies said with the disparity between petrol prices in cities and regional areas, it was imperative that public transport costs weren't double those in cities - as they were.

"It highlights the need to improve public transport in the region because petrol prices rises are inevitable as oil is a diminishing resource," he said.

According to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission the price rise was due to a rebound in international oil prices during February.

ACCC chairman Rod Sims said the price rise would narrow the gap between fuel prices in the city and country.

Mr Sims said the watchdog would continue to monitor regional prices for the next three months.