

Thank you for the information you provided the Commerce Commission regarding Queenstown petrol stations.

We assess every complaint we receive, but because we receive thousands of complaints each year we are unable to investigate all of them.

Our decision

We have now considered the information you have provided about pricing at Queenstown petrol stations and alleged price fixing by them. Based on the information available, it is not clear that the petrol stations in Queenstown have breached section 30 of the Commerce Act. In summary, we have no evidence at this stage that the Queenstown petrol stations are agreeing on prices. One of the requirements under Section 30 of the Commerce Act is there is an agreement between the parties that fixes, controls or maintains prices of relevant goods or services. That petrol stations are pricing the same or that price changes occur at similar times is not sufficient evidence of an agreement between the parties.

In relation to the material you provided, until recently we have not had the ability to consider national fuel prices more generally in New Zealand. As you may be aware, the government has recently passed legislation which would allow us to conduct market studies into particular markets in New Zealand. The government has signalled that they intend to ask the Commission to request the Commission to conduct a market study into fuel markets to better understand how the market is functioning. You may also wish to review our webpage on '[Petrol pricing](#)'.

We understand that this may be disappointing, but we do value all complaint information and will keep the information you provided in our complaints database. We use this database to identify business practices of possible concern and may refer to your complaint to help us decide whether to investigate similar behaviour in the future. This database also helps us to decide how we can best assist businesses to understand and comply with the law.

If you want to know more about how we choose our investigations please see our [enforcement criteria](#) on our website.

Thank you for taking the time to contact us, your complaint number 517885 is now closed.