



PRESS RELEASE

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Travel Agency Industry Bodies Called to Protest Against Ticket Fuel Surcharges

At the Travel and Tourism Resilience Forum held in Sydney over the weekend, attendees from the Retail Travel and Distribution sector agreed that travel industry bodies such as AFTA and large retail groups are not placing enough pressure on the ACCC to investigate the ticket fuel surcharges.

Keynote forum speaker Dr Tony Webber (Chief Economist from QANTAS Economic Research Group) predicted that oil will fall to approximately USD30 per barrel, confirmed by US reports early this week, makes the continued imposition of fuel levies by airlines invalid.

Adrian Caruso, CEO of travel and tourism consultancy TA Fastrack who also spoke at the forum said, 'The industry is not putting any pressure onto the ACCC to do something about this. Yes they have done something about petrol prices at the service station but not airline fuel surcharges being imposed on consumers.'

Airlines have in the past argued that the structure of their fuel price hedges involves penalties when the price goes down or up. However Mr. Caruso said, 'Robbing the customer for a bad hedge call is still theft.'

Mr. Caruso also said that industry bodies such as AFTA, large travel retail chains, CATO and every travel agency and supplier in Australia that buys airfares must join forces and place pressure on the ACCC in protest to airline's fuel surcharge.

'There is a deafening silence from Australian carriers and the ACCC on robbery from airlines however its about time the industry speaks up....and very loudly!' Mr. Caruso concluded.

ENDS

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