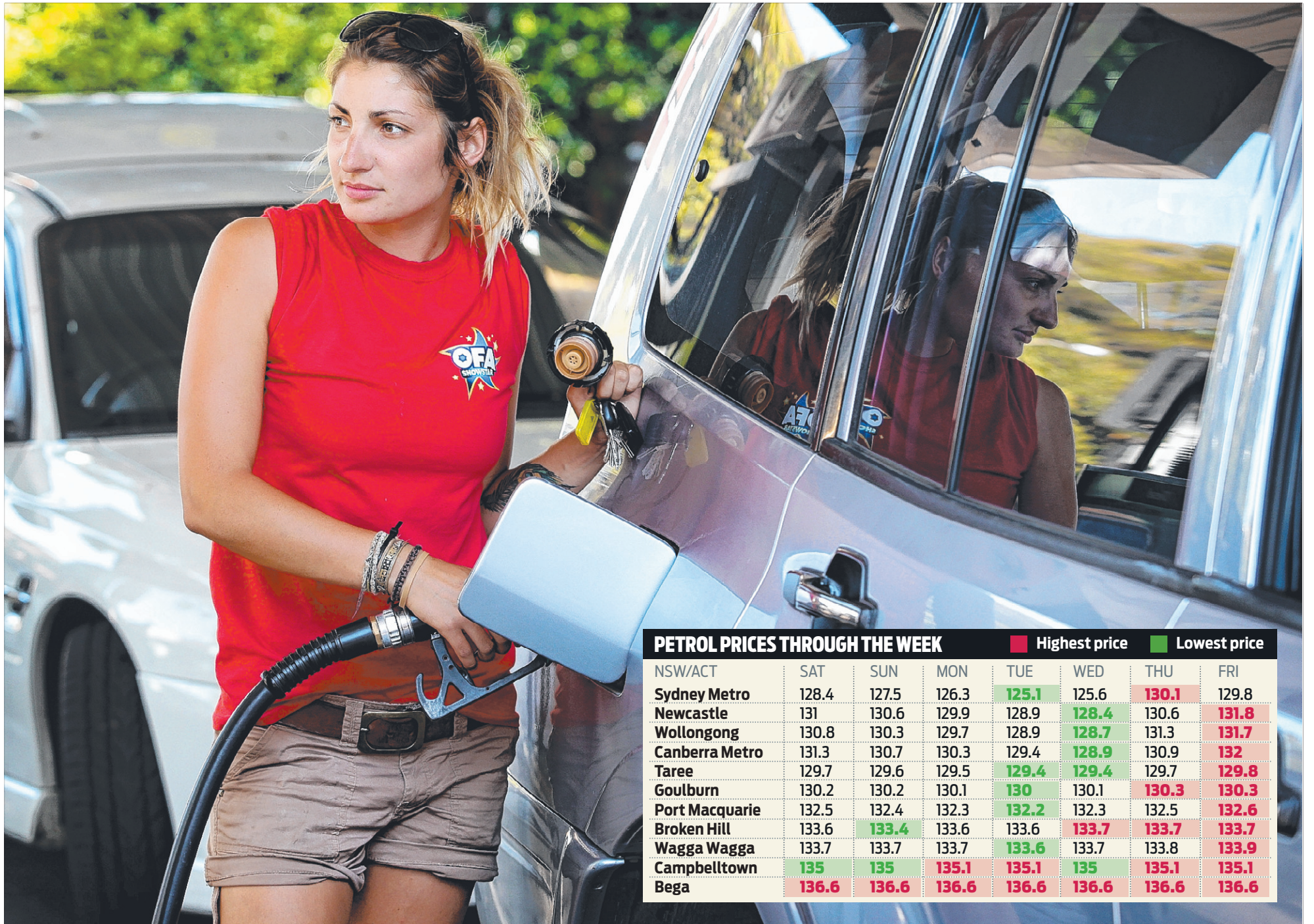


# Call for bowser boycott

Drivers advised to avoid high-priced Thursdays and Fridays and save cash



	PETROL PRICES THROUGH THE WEEK						
	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
NSW/ACT							
Sydney Metro	128.4	127.5	126.3	125.1	125.6	130.1	129.8
Newcastle	131	130.6	129.9	128.9	128.4	130.6	131.8
Wollongong	130.8	130.3	129.7	128.9	128.7	131.3	131.7
Canberra Metro	131.3	130.7	130.3	129.4	128.9	130.9	132
Taree	129.7	129.6	129.5	129.4	129.4	129.7	129.8
Goulburn	130.2	130.2	130.1	130	130.1	130.3	130.3
Port Macquarie	132.5	132.4	132.3	132.2	132.3	132.5	132.6
Broken Hill	133.6	133.4	133.6	133.6	133.7	133.7	133.7
Wagga Wagga	133.7	133.7	133.7	133.6	133.7	133.8	133.9
Campbelltown	135	135	135.1	135.1	135	135.1	135.1
Bega	136.6	136.6	136.6	136.6	136.6	136.6	136.6

Canadian traveller Kasey Hitch is shocked at expensive Australian petrol prices but a new report has found how we can save at the bowser. Picture: Cameron Richardson

JOHN ROLFE & TAYLOR AUERBACH

MOTORISTS could save as much as \$200 a year on fuel by boycotting the bowser on Thursday and Fridays.

One of the most comprehensive independent studies of petrol prices ever undertaken in this country revealed the end of the working week was the peak in 90 per cent of 114 cities and towns analysed.

There was not a single place where either Thursday or Friday was the cheapest day to fill up, yet that was when demand peaked, the study's author,

University of New England economics professor Abbas Valadkhani, said.

The ACCC found Thursday was the day of highest demand in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide in 2012.

By shifting purchases to the cheapest days "motorists can counter-attack" against petrol retailers, Professor Valadkhani said: "Everyone in Australia, avoid Thursday and Friday — that is the message."

In nearly two-thirds of locations, the cheapest day to buy fuel was Tuesday. Sunday was best in one in five places.

Publicly funded and pub-

## SEE THE FULL LIST

Find out which is the cheapest day to fill up your tank near you online at

[theTelegraph.com.au](http://theTelegraph.com.au)

lished in the journal *Energy Policy*, Professor Valadkhani's analysis of seven years of data to 2012 identified 16 locations with significant potential savings. In NSW they included Sydney, Newcastle and Wollon-

gong. Canberra was also on the list. The largest price differentials identified by Professor Valadkhani offered an annual saving of as much as \$200 if filling a family-sized car weekly.

"Motorists can certainly get

a better deal if they are conscious of the fuel price cycle," Australian Automobile Association executive director Andrew McKellar said.

Mr McKellar said the "constraint" on Professor Valadkhani's findings was that the price cycle had "changed substantially in 18 months".

The cycle was now less predictable. Rather than being seven days in length, it tended to be 10 to 12 days long.

Professor Valadkhani said his research showed motorists in rural areas never enjoy the discount day. And he found the price impact of long weekends

and public holidays were "insignificant" when compared to day-of-week differences.

The Australian Institute of Petroleum — which represents BP, Mobil, Caltex and Shell — did not respond to requests for comment.

Though five months into her Australian working holiday, the shock of Sydney's petrol prices hasn't worn off for 21-year-old Kasey Hitch.

The hospitality worker from Calgary, in Canada, said there was much to love about the Harbour City but not petrol prices: "Petrol here is very, very expensive".

## BILLY JOEL SWAN SONG

PIANO man Billy Joel (right) has revealed his upcoming concert in Australia may signal the end of his decades-long touring career.

Joel will headline at the inaugural Stonefest in Sydney next month and the 63-year-old says the show "will be a big test" for his playing future.

"I want to see if it's time for me to get off the stage," Joel said. "There's a time when an athlete says I can't swing the bat any more. So I get to feel it out. This will be a big test for me." Joel said he does not "want to be that guy" who keeps touring despite not being able to physically carry the performance.

Read Kathy McCabe's full interview with Billy Joel in this weekend's *The Sunday Telegraph*.



## KIDS DIED SCARED AND ALONE

TWO-THIRDS of children who died in NSW in 2010 and 2011 as a result of abuse, neglect or while in care had a history with Community Services.

NSW Ombudsman Bruce Barbour said the department failed to respond despite the risk of significant harm.

"In some cases families had been the subject of frequent reports," he said.

"We found that risk was not adequately assessed, or not assessed at all, because of competing priorities."

Mr Barbour tabled his

biennial report to parliament yesterday into the deaths of 77 children in 2010 and 2011.

Twenty-seven died as a result of abuse, another 21 died as a result of neglect and 29 children died in care.

"This report highlights a lack of capacity within Community Services leading up to these deaths to respond to children at risk of significant harm," Mr Barbour said. "Just over half of the offenders in abuse-related deaths of children showed some level of mental health concern."

## DENYER'S DEPARTURE

SUNRISE weatherman Grant Denyer (pictured) is expected to announce he is quitting breakfast TV today.

The Channel 7 star, who has held the position on and off for the past 10 years, is believed to be leaving the show due to a fatigue-related illness that has left him unable to fulfil the demanding role.

It's expected that *Weekend Sunrise* weatherman James Tobin will fill in until the network can find a permanent replacement for the popular breakfast TV personality.

Seven refused to comment when contacted last night.



➔ SYDNEY CONFIDENTIAL PAGE 31