

September from \$3 in 1975 to \$4.35 in 1976 and \$5.25 in 1977.

The Government had our interests in mind and this policy aimed to provide 'maximum practical incentive' for exploration for new fields while looking after producers of known oil fields by giving them a fair return on their investment so that all economically recoverable oil could be produced.

The policy changed again in August 1978 in response to another sharp rise in the international oil price and it was decided to raise the price of domestically produced oil to full import parity. This was complemented by an extension to the excise arrangements that provided for 'appropriate sharing of the import parity price' between producers and Government. This was implemented by the addition of a crude oil levy on local production from fields discovered before August 1976. New oil fields were not subject to any levy and received full import parity price. It seems the Gippsland producers were being ripped off in this 'framework within which conservation, new fuel substitution, exploration and development as well as research into alternative fuels could flourish'.

Can you spot the trend in this brief history of crude oil pricing? Firstly, the Government encourages an industry with subsidies and then, over time, reduces the subsidies and increases taxes while fixing prices to protect the consumer and finally, the industry pays 'its fair share' and the general public gets used to paying the world parity price.

The current gas situation is not quite the same but price management by the Government is again being used to ensure the domestic consumer is not paying too much for gas (for now).

## Sources

Most of the information in this article was obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Year Book Australia (various issues between 1960 and 1980).

## Webwaves



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## Continuing work on the ASEG website

Much of the work on the website over the past two months has been administrative and evolutionary. Two of the state branches have asked for more detail to be added to the appropriate pages. Currently Members who are travelling interstate can check general details of upcoming Branch meetings in NSW and Western Australia. WA's current Branch page offers a guide to other branches interested in acknowledging sponsors or committee members.

One issue that continues to cause concern is access to *Exploration Geophysics*. Currently, this is provided to Members from a page that can only be accessed after they have logged in. In rare circumstances Member's details have not been passed on to CSIRO Publishing, where the journal is hosted, and the result is that legitimate Members are charged to access articles. Adding to the confusion, some Members have tried to log in to CSIRO Publishing's website. The intermittent issue appears to be unrelated to browser or platform. The Web Committee has found that rightful access can be restored through the following steps:

- log off [aseg.org.au](http://aseg.org.au) (click on 'Logout' at the top right of the screen or through the hamburger on a mobile device)
- clear your browser's cache
- clear cookies related to ASEG and CSIRO
- login to [aseg.org.au](http://aseg.org.au)

Needless to say, methods of accessing *Exploration Geophysics* that maintain security and are easier than current methods are under active investigation by the Web Committee, and we expect to be able to implement these in the next few months.

One addition to the website in the past month has been details of collected papers (<http://www.aseg.org.au/collected-papers>). This page is an initiative of the History Committee (and Kim Frankcombe) and is designed to put interested parties in touch with those who have agreed to act the custodians of the libraries of notable non-practising or deceased Members. The History Committee will be responsible for determining whether a collection is notable, therefore Members seeking to make their libraries available to the wider community are urged to contact the History Committee at [history@aseg.org.au](mailto:history@aseg.org.au).

Following the publication of this column in the April issue of *Preview* (PV 187), and the reference therein to making conference workshops and seminars available online, some Members contacted the Webmaster ([webmaster@aseg.org.au](mailto:webmaster@aseg.org.au)) with more material. Currently, material from two workshops is available to interested parties.

Other web-related developments over the next few months are the provision of various documents to appropriate parties. Currently, these documents are stored on an FTP server graciously provided by Kim Frankcombe. One factor contributing to the design of the new website was making these documents more easily available.