

# Fact sheet: Road Transport Contractual Chain Order – Fuel Cost Recovery – 2026 commences 21 April 2026

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An Expert Panel for the road transport industry has made a time-sensitive road transport contractual chain order that requires adjustment of rates to ensure that parties in road transport contractual chains can recover the increased cost of fuel caused by conflict in the Middle East.

The order is in force from 21 April 2026.

## What is happening?

On 20 April 2026 an Expert Panel for the Road Transport Industry made the *Road Transport Contractual Chain Order – Fuel Cost Recovery – 2026*. The order relates to increased fuel costs in the road transport industry because of conflict in the Middle East. It covers workers and businesses.

The order was made after 4 days of hearings, an engagement conference, and a consultation process that included public submissions.

## Who does the order affect?

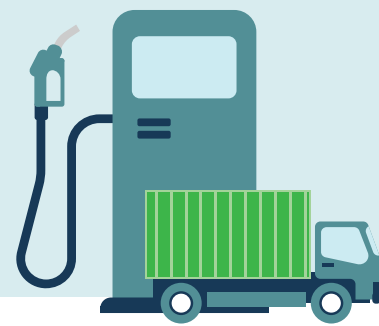
The order covers people in road transport contractual chains that involve the performance of work in the road transport industry. This includes workers and businesses.

The cash in transit industry is not covered.

The *Fair Work Act 2009* excludes some people from being in a road transport contractual chain.

Watch our [video about road transport contractual chains](#) to learn more.

Read more [about Road transport contractual chains](#) on the Fair Work Ombudsman's website.



## When does it start?

The order starts on 21 April 2026.

## What is in the order?

- From 21 April 2026, primary parties and secondary parties in road transport contractual chains must adjust their rates fortnightly, or twice each calendar month, to ensure recovery of the increased cost of fuel.
- Existing rise-and-fall rates already in contracts, industrial instruments or other arrangements, including those commenced before 21 April 2026, may satisfy the rate adjustment obligations.
- Disputes relating to the order that can't be resolved by the parties can be referred to the Fair Work Commission.

Read the [Road Transport Contractual Chain Order – Fuel Cost Recovery – 2026 \(pdf\)](#).

## When does it stop?

The order will stop if the weekly average national terminal gate price for diesel falls below \$2 per litre.

The order will be reviewed after one month of operation, and then every 3 months.

## Who do I contact for help?

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) can provide information and advice on road transport contractual chain orders. They are Australia's workplace relations regulator. They are a separate body from the Fair Work Commission.

The FWO can also investigate and take compliance action to enforce road transport contractual chain orders.

You can find [Other help for regulated workers](#) on the FWO's website.

This document has been prepared by Commission staff and does not interpret or replace the road transport contractual chain order. It aims to provide general information.