



Fuel Disruption Impact Survey – March 2026 – Response Summary

Purpose

To provide a concise overview of the impacts arising from the current fuel disputation, based on recent survey data.

Responses

Farmer / Primary Producer	54.17%	26
Transport Operator / Freight Provider	2.08%	1
Contractor / Service Provider	8.33%	4
Local Business Owner	10.42%	5
Essential Worker (e.g. health, emergency services)	6.25%	3
Resident / Household	18.75%	9
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0

Key Findings

1. Rapid Deterioration

- 85% of respondents report conditions have worsened in the past 3–4 weeks
- 77% are currently experiencing fuel access issues

2. Dual Pressure: Price and Availability

- 56% identified both price and availability as equally problematic
- Demonstrates a compounded impact across operations

3. Immediate Economic Impact

- 73% report increased freight costs and supply delays
- 69% confirm transport cost increases are already being passed on
- Majority experiencing cost increases between 5–20%

4. Operational Disruption

- 67% delaying or cancelling work or activities
- 46% report contractor and service delivery impacts already occurring
- 83% expect significant disruption within the next two weeks

5. Supply Chain Risk

- 60% report delays to critical supplies
- Increasing pressure on agricultural, construction, and service sectors

6. Community and Essential Services Impact

- Early impacts evident in food and grocery supply (29%)

- Emerging risks to health, aged care, and emergency services
- 69% indicate essential services are at risk or will be within two weeks

7. Severity and Escalation

- Approximately 79% report moderate to severe impacts already
- Majority anticipate escalation to significant disruption if the situation continues

Key Risks

- Disruption to business operations and local economic activity
- Reduced access to essential goods and services
- Increased cost of living pressures for residents
- Potential impacts to emergency response and health services

Outlook (Next 2 Weeks)

- Critical escalation period identified
- Strong likelihood of:
 - Further supply chain disruption
 - Increased costs passed to consumers
 - Heightened risk to essential services

Summary

The survey data indicates a rapidly escalating situation with both economic and community impacts. Without intervention or resolution, the next two weeks represent a critical tipping point where disruption is expected to intensify across multiple sectors.

Suggested Next Steps

- Communicate impacts to State and Federal representatives
- Monitor essential service continuity
- Prepare contingency planning for service delivery impacts