

Now fuel supplier is offering discounts

By ANDREW CARSWELL

FUEL giant Mobil has joined the growing battle to woo motorists with discount petrol programs.

However unlike popular fuel outlets linked to supermarket chains, there will be no need for motorists to store away shopper dockets to earn a discount at the pump.

The deal is simple — spend \$5 in the service station shop and save 4c a litre on the cost of fuel.

Mobil believes that the deal is hassle-free and has been successful in other states.

"We believe Mobil customers will find this offer very competitive and very convenient. There are no coupons or receipts to worry about," Mobil Oil Australia retail fuel manager Matt Bergeron said.

The deal does not exactly equate to savings, but if motorists are already intent on purchasing goods at the store, there are benefits.

At the pumps in Eastern Creek yesterday, motorists reacted with indifference, rather than applauding ingenuity.

"I think it is a rip-off because people will buy unnecessary things that they don't need just to get discounted fuel. They may as well not buy anything at all and save money that way," Campbelltown's Tim James, 25, told the *Daily Telegraph*.

Sharon, of Minchisbury, said the discount was not enough to entice her to the Mobil pumps.

"I just fill up where it is convenient, whoever is closest when I'm near empty," she said.

St Mary's Matthew Corby, 18, puts only \$20 worth of fuel into his small car a week, but admits the lure of a discount would attract him.

"If I didn't have a Woolies docket I would certainly look for it," he said.

Both Woolworths and Coles offer a 4c per litre discount if motorists spend over \$30 in their supermarkets.

For Sydney's cheapest petrol, go to dailytelegraph.com.au

Prisoner hits Abbott

AN inmate punched Federal Health Minister Tony Abbott as he toured a high-security facility for the criminally insane yesterday.

Mr Abbott was attending a day of meetings with Beyond Blue board members and other mental health leaders in Victoria. As part of the meeting, he visited a range of mental health institutions.

At the Thomas Embling House in Fairfield, Victoria, an inmate apparently thought Mr Abbott was a relative and lunged at him.

Staff at the centre had to secure the man.

A spokeswoman for Mr Abbott, who was a boxer at Oxford while on a Rhodes Scholarship, said last night he was not hurt in the incident and was "fine".

It is not clear how the security breach occurred.

League stars charged with lobster poaching



Making waves . . . Terry Hill and Scott Fulton ride the Brisbane Waters on their boat.

Picture: JIM TRIFYLLIS

EXCLUSIVE

By JOSH MASSOUD

FORMER rugby league stars Terry Hill and Scott Fulton will appear in court after being charged with lobster poaching on the Hawkesbury River.

The pair each face 10 charges carrying a total maximum penalty of \$84,700 and a year in jail.

The *Daily Telegraph* revealed late last year that Hill and Fulton — son-in-law and son of league immortal Bobby "Bozo" Fulton — were detained by NSW Fisheries inspectors while tampering with lobster pots.

The brothers-in-law were caught

lifting several lobster pots from the Hawkesbury at Middle Head at dawn on December 29.

After a seven-week investigation, the NSW Department of Primary Industries yesterday confirmed formal charges had been laid.

The former Manly Sea Eagles teammates each face seven counts of "interfering with set fishing gear", carrying a maximum penalty of \$5500.

But the most serious charges relate to lobster poaching via the unauthorised use of commercial fishing traps.

Departmental prosecution lawyers will allege Hill and Fulton used more than the one trap permitted for recreational fishermen.

If guilty, the pair face a \$22,000 fine and six months in jail. They also face

the same maximum punishment for possessing illegally-gained lobsters, as well as a \$2200 fine for failing to pay their fishing fees.

The lobster pots that allegedly caught the contraband haul belong to fisherman Tom Van de Noot.

It is understood Mr Van de Noot complained to officials the day before Hill and Fulton were caught.

The commercial fisherman told *The Daily Telegraph* in December his traps were "pulled all the time by amateurs".

"This is my livelihood. If my lobsters get stolen I'm kaput," he said.

On the basis of Mr Van de Noot's complaint, inspectors conducted a "stake out" of the Middle Head area with a video camera. They didn't have to wait long to strike.

At about 5.30am, enough evidence had been recorded of Hill and Fulton pulling lobster traps from the water for the sting to take place.

But 34-year-old Hill, who is married to Fulton Sr's daughter Kristie, denied taking lobsters when confronted.

Hill — who did not return *The Daily Telegraph's* calls yesterday — claimed he and Fulton pulled traps from the water unaware of what they were.

"I didn't know they were commercial fishing traps. It's not something we do everyday," said Hill, whose Brisbane Waters home is a short boat trip from where they were apprehended.

"There's no drama. It's not as though we were stealing his lobsters."

The pair are due to appear at Gosford Local Court in April.

Split Enz reunion a sell-out

THE revival of New Zealand band Split Enz has sparked huge interest, with their Sydney and Melbourne concerts selling out in less than two hours.

Promoter Michael Gudinski said the sell-outs yesterday proved the band, which broke up 22 years ago and counts Neil Finn (pictured) among its members, had an everlasting popularity.

"The Split Enz legend continues to grow, with the band selling even more tickets today than they did in their heyday," Gudinski said.

The band has added second and final shows in both cities. Split Enz will now also perform at the Sydney Entertainment Centre on June 8 and at the Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne on June 12.



Anthony's anthem a singalong hit

By KATE MURRAY

NO one belts out the national anthem quite like Julie Anthony — and now her version of *Advance Australia Fair* has received the nod from Hurstville Council.

Council last night played a new version of the anthem, featuring Anthony singing with the Sydney Philharmonic Choir, after concerns were raised the old version was too hard to sing along with.

Advance Australia Fair is played before every Hurstville Council meeting but last year councillor Sandy Grekas asked for the instrumental version to be reviewed.

"We had this really crummy copy — it was poor quality and it

was just a really slow, boring version that was terrible to sing to," she said.

"I'd been to presentation days at schools and just the way the kids sang it was great to hear, and then I went to council and I was like, 'This is lame, no one's singing, everyone's mumbling'."

Council staff went through the archives and found four versions of the anthem, ranging from instrumental renditions by the Royal Military College Band and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, to Anthony's version with the words.

It was Anthony's version that won hands down.

"Once she's singing, people can decide to support it and sing along

or just stand to attention," a council spokesman said.

Ms Grekas, an Australian citizen born in the US, said she thought it was a shame the anthem was not sung with the same passion as at sporting events.

"At council meetings it's mumbled through and everyone is playing with papers or looking at their hands, there's no passion there," Ms Grekas said.

"I come from a place where [the anthem] is sung with passion."

Ms Grekas said although she had not heard the Julie Anthony version, she was sure it would be better than its predecessor.

"She's the pinnacle of national anthem singing."

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