

Welcome to ACCI's daily fuel supply briefing.

Key developments:

The Prime Minister will convene the National Cabinet on Monday.

The Sydney Morning Herald reports talks are underway in the federal government to bring states together to create light-touch measures to conserve fuel, which could include voluntary measures on work-from-home, using more public transport, and voluntary measures like those introduced by South Korea.

In Parliament:

Energy Minister Chris Bowen updated members on the fuel shortages state-by-state, noting a reduction in the number of service stations without fuel to 400 nationwide.

Minister Bowen yesterday ruled out rationing at this stage, as well as a \$40 price cap. "There's a range of government measures," he said, "Rationing would be the absolute worst case".

The Australian reports on a variety of impacts:

An AUSVEG survey of 150 growers this week found 27 per cent had reduced or stopped planting schedules, and a further 13 per cent were considering their options.

Reports of apprentices being laid off in the building industry.

The Australian Public Service Commission has written to departments to approve ad hoc changes to work-from-home arrangements.

Port operators are seeking an upgrade to priority status in order to secure the diesel needed to keep moving shipping containers on and off Australia's docks.

The Liberal state Premier in Tasmania, and the Liberal Opposition leaders in NSW and Victoria have called for a cut in fuel excise.

Some economists have criticised the proposal, saying that it would be a poor targeting of resources, and would deepen shortages through increased demand.

Japan's Ambassador to Australia, Kazuhiro Suzuki, yesterday said that Japan may be willing to help out in a fuel swap: petroleum products for LNG.

The Ambassador also criticised the prospect of new taxes on LNG exports, which would affect Japan.