

**LIGHT RAIL ABANDONED:****GULL ASKS, 'WHAT HAPPENS TO THE \$150 MILLION PA IN FUELS TAX?'**

Gull, New Zealand's leading innovative energy retailer, today questioned what happens to the Auckland Regional Fuels Tax, levied at 11.5 cents per litre including GST on each litre of petrol and diesel delivered into the Auckland area, with plans for the light rail from Auckland CBD to Auckland Airport abandoned. This tax, introduced in July 2018, raises an estimated \$150 million dollars per year and would be happily welcomed back into the wallets of stretched households and businesses.

Dave Bodger, General Manager Gull New Zealand says, "We support greater investment in public transport, but with one of the largest projects now reported in the media as abandoned, what happens to the tax that was imposed on Aucklanders to help fund this infrastructure? In tough times is this an opportunity to halt the tax while there is no plan? To reduce the tax? If that is not on the cards, then can we have a plan as to where this significant slice of the motorist's pay-packet is now being spent or planning to be spent? "

"All motorists are watching every dollar they spend and with a major economic slowdown looming, returning this into the economy would be a welcome relief for each family's budget," notes Bodger.

He continues, "If the motorist has the opportunity to spend or save this money, people with better abilities than me and access to data could probably estimate how many jobs this type of stimulus boost may create. In our view, Kiwis need every piece of help available right now. Can a change in this tax, that appears to be in the main not needed right now, be part of economic support packages?"