

Unleaded petrol hit 229.9 cents a litre in Nedlands, above, in Wembley and across the western suburbs on Thursday.



War is fuel for the fire

By LLOYD GORMAN

Petrol prices at local service stations rocketed this week as America and Israel's war on Iran entered its second week and disrupted global oil supplies.

Drivers filling up their vehicles on Thursday were slugged 229.9 cents a litre for unleaded petrol or 265.9 for diesel at bowzers across the western suburbs.

Motorists here were paying an average of \$1.65 a litre for petrol

and \$1.76 for diesel between February 23 and March 1, according to a weekly fuel price report from FuelWatch.

After the war started on February 28 those prices jumped to \$180.6 and \$183.1 respectively for the week from March 2 to 8, the latest price report published on Tuesday shows.

Since Monday the cost of petrol – and other petroleum-based supplies – has increased daily and dramatically, hitting drivers and consumers already facing a cost-of-living crisis.

Hodsdon vows to stay home

By BEN DICKINSON

A former Nedlands councillor who represented Hollywood ward from southeast Asia for part of last year has pledged to stay in WA if re-elected.

Ben Hodsdon, who has family connections in Thailand, was in the Nedlands council chambers for just four of the final 12 meetings before the council was dismissed last July.

He attended another four meetings online and missed the remaining four.

He told the POST this week that he was no longer living between Perth and Thailand.

“We are now in Western Australia full-time and hence I will not be using the online option unless sick,” he said.

“The meetings I missed were ones called at the last minute, most within hours and were

shambolic at best.

“Over the period I had many ratepayers say I returned calls within 24 hours and tried to resolve their issues.”

Mr Hodsdon was one of four councillors whose resignations forced the council into administration.

He is up against Glenn Ruscoe, Henry Kemp, Helen Grzyb and Rachel Kristensen in the race for two Hollywood ward seats.

Govt backs e-bike findings

By JACK MADDERN

The state government supports 32 of 33 recommendations made by an e-rideable safety inquiry, but has provided no timeline on when they would take effect.

Shared path infrastructure upgrades and designated dismount

zones, at the local council's discretion, were options not stalled by the wait for a national framework.

Police Minister Reece Whitty said enforcement of the sale, tampering and riding of illegal e-bikes and e-scooters would continue to be a focus of the state's response.

Audit finds assets blown away

— THE —
**LISTENING
POST**

Have you seen the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board's missing leaf blowers?

The MCB, which runs Karrakatta Cemetery, was one of five state agencies targeted by Auditor General Caroline Spencer for an audit of the “portable assets” last year.

The audit found a trove of portable equipment went missing in recent years, including a \$3500 ice-cream machine from North Metropolitan TAFE and a \$4830 vital-signs monitor from the WA Country Health Service.

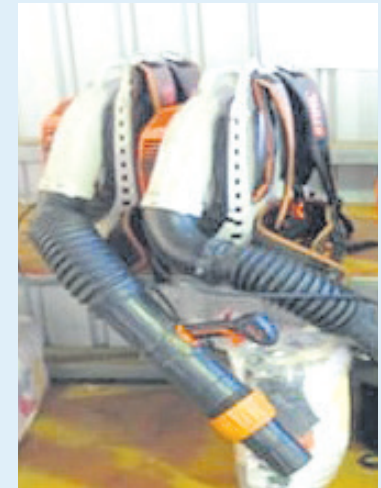
MCB staff were unable to find 108 items in their inventory when they carried out a stocktake in September 2024.

They included backpack leaf blowers, a telescopic pole pruner, a lawn edger, brush cutters and box trailers.

The MCB told auditors it had been unable to complete regular stocktakes due to staff shortages.

Ms Spencer said more than a third of items sampled by her office across the five agencies were not at their recorded locations.

The worst offender was the Forest Products Commission, which Ms Spencer said “did not know what portable assets they had and were not conducting



Blown away ... Some of the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board's leaf blowers are missing.

stocktakes”.

“These assets represent a significant investment of government funds and are at high risk of loss or misuse as they are easily moved and are often attractive for theft for personal use or gain by on-selling,” she said.