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# Truck drivers steamrolled by budget tax change

By [Shane Wright](#)

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Truck drivers face going to the wall and consumers are unlikely to see a fall in the cost of their groceries after the federal government failed to act on pre-budget warnings that its cut to fuel excise would not help the industry.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg is standing by his decision not to cut road-user charges imposed on truck drivers despite conceding there may be cash-flow issues caused by the government's budget decision.



Truck drivers face cash-flow problems and only a small fall in excise due to the government's decision to halve the fuel excise in the budget. MICHAEL CLAYTON-JONES

“As a result, vehicles subject to the charge will be 4.3¢ per litre (or 16 per cent) better off once the cut has flowed through to the bowser.”

While making no change to its excise arrangement, the Australian Tax Office is aware of possible cash flow problems and has been told to show “flexibility” to drivers’ Business Activity Statement liabilities. But the industry believes some drivers will not survive through the six-month period of the halved excise.

Shadow treasurer Jim Chalmers said the government had been “tricky” in its treatment of truck drivers.

“This is classic Scott Morrison, taking credit but not responsibility, giving with one hand while taking away with the other,” he said.

“Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg have been sprung being tricky, pretending they’re handing out 22¢ in relief when it’s more like 4¢ if you drive a truck.”

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