

Brincat Anna at Parlament-MT

From: Godfrey Farrugia [farrugiagodfrey@gmail.com]
Sent: 07 December 2017 07:29
To: Muscat Alexander at OPM
Cc: Brincat Anna at Parlament-MT; Scicluna Ray at Parlament-MT
Subject: Request to revisit Fuel Station Policy

Dear Hon Alex Muscat,

We the undersigned are requesting you to call a meeting to discuss and revisit The Fuel Station Policy.

Malta boasts 77 fuel stations, 8 of which are in Gozo. Planning Authority is presently screening a number of applications some of which were submitted before 2015 and has also granted at least one permit in breach of the approved policy.

We note the following short comings in the Policy

- the policy can theoretically allow for a fuel station permit to be issued at every 500 m along a stretch of road passing through rural land.
- once a fuel station application is approved and rural land is disturbed, there is neither supervision nor enforcement while such a project is completed.
- the policy does not fit in a long term national plan and does not support Government's recent declaration that local transport should go electric by 2040
- land speculators are being encouraged to buy relatively cheap agricultural land and turn it into a rural commercial gold mine by utilizing such a policy.
- PA is not actively embarking on what the policy encourages: the relocation of fuel stations from urban areas to non-urban areas, with preferences given to designated Industrial Areas, SME sites, areas of Containment and/or Open Storage Areas. This would alleviate urban traffic congestion and safeguard health and safety interests.

Our concern is publicly supported by numerous eNGOs.

We expect that this is tabled in the Permanent Committee's agenda as soon as possible.

Yours truly

Hon Dr Godfrey Farrugia

Hon Dr Marlene Farrugia