



The Bullroarer - Thursday January 10

Posted by [Big Gav](#) on January 10, 2008 - 8:38am in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

SMH - [Coal port will be one of world's biggest](#)

Coal companies are clamouring for a new \$3.5 billion export facility in central Queensland which will be one of the world's biggest when it is complete, Acting Premier Paul Lucas says.

The Wiggins Island Coal Terminal, to be built just north of Gladstone, would eventually handle up to 84 million tonnes a year, most of it coking coal used in steel making, Mr Lucas said. It will also help streamline the state's lucrative coal exports. "The coal industry is going gang-busters at the moment and prices are at record highs," Mr Lucas told reporters.

The Australian - [Canberra mulls tax relief for exploration](#)

Despite high commodity prices and big returns on oil and gas investments, the level of exploration in the past decade has fallen.

The Australian yesterday confirmed the new federal Government's decision to move towards introducing the proposal after Western Australia's Opposition Leader, Paul Omodei, under pressure to perform, used last week's gas plant failure on the Burrup Peninsula to call for an early introduction of flow-through share schemes. Flow-through share schemes, in which individual investors receive tax relief for their investment in companies that have specific exploration budgets, have been promoted as an offset to the low level of exploration spending in Australia. ...

Mr Omodei yesterday said WA needed to secure more gas supplies for the domestic market - a fact highlighted by the gas shortage caused by the temporary closure of Woodside's Pilbara processing facility after an electrical fault. While the gas shortage did not lead to electricity blackouts - roughly half of WA's electricity generation capacity runs on gas - many operations using gas for heating and processing were forced to reduce production.

The Australian - [Booming gas price relights Warro's flame](#)

The Australian - [India on target for SA uranium exports](#)

The Australian - [Palm oil crisis driven by ethanol fuel push](#)

SMH - [Garrett's historic flight to big freeze](#)

SMH - [Plastic bags join endangered list](#)

HE days of the plastic bag are numbered, with the Environment Minister, Peter Garrett, likely to impose either a levy on each bag handed to shoppers, or to ban them outright within 12 months.

Mr Garrett has confirmed he will move to phase out bags "by the end of the year", after consulting state governments in March. "He is committed to working co-operatively but with a legislative ban if necessary," a spokeswoman for Mr Garrett said.

Banning plastic bags, which are made from polluting petrochemicals and known to be deadly to wildlife, has been Labor policy since 2004, when it was announced by the former leader Mark Latham.

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