



"Water and Oil" in Mike Kelly's Maiden Speech in Parliament

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Topic: [Policy/Politics](#)

It has been a good week for peak oil in Australian politics. Andrew MacNamara (ASPO Australia Patron) launched a [peak oil policy in Queensland](#), and Australian Democrat Sandra Kanck proposed a ['peak oil select committee'](#) in the South Australian Legislative Council (although I fear for the motion's chance of success - write to your local member if you're in SA!).

Now, we have our first positive mention of peak oil by a Member of the House of Representatives, with a new MP shining a light for his new Federal Labor Government. With the Green Senators leading the campaign in the Senate, we now have at least positive indications from three of the four main parties. That leaves the Liberal/National Coalition out in the cold - with no advocates for peak oil awareness and no longer in Government anywhere in the country. Perhaps there is a lesson in that?

Below the fold is the relevant extract from Mike Kelly. Welcome to the club Mike!



The Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM, MP, Member for Eden-Monaro (NSW) First Speech To Parliament - 13/2/2008

"I believe the future of this country will largely be shaped by our response to the challenges posed by two liquids: water and oil. We cannot grow and will find it difficult to sustain our current lifestyle if we do not come up with a major national effort on our water resource management. We must give thought to whether we are selecting the appropriate land usage in tune with our various regions. We should reach out more vigorously to countries like Israel to collaborate on the development of water management and agricultural technology.

With regard to oil, I view the threat posed by the future dependency of this country on overseas and dwindling supplies as a critical strategic vulnerability. I believe we must follow the lead of the Swedes in taking a proactive approach towards eliminating this substance from our economy. The future oil shocks that we are facing will have the greatest impact on communities like Eden-Monaro and, for their sake, I intend to keep this issue in the forefront of our thinking. **One of the primary purposes of government is to anticipate future threats and take appropriate risk management measures, so we cannot turn from this challenge."**

Read the [speech in full](#) or a [biography of Mike Kelly](#). He may even have some oil industry

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knowledge - while working his way through university, Colonel Michael J. Kelly, AM (BA LLB, PhD) worked as a storeman and packer at an oil refinery!



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