



The Bullroarer - Tuesday 4th March 2008

Posted by [Phil Hart](#) on March 3, 2008 - 4:56pm in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Radical plan to drive cars from key roads](#)

SPEED limits will be dropped on key routes, lanes removed and traffic lights changed to favour public transport and pedestrians under a new strategy for Melbourne's inner north to be launched by Public Transport Minister Lynne Kosky today.

Darebin Council's new transport plan — the first in Melbourne to explicitly give priority to trams, pedestrians and cyclists on key roads — could lead to the removal of clearways on some routes in a bid to discourage drivers.

[Climate gets cold shoulder](#)

THE fundamental contradiction between good intentions on climate change and hip pocket reality was deliciously captured on facing pages in the paper yesterday.

The answer to the Vox Pop question whether Australia should make sacrifices in reducing greenhouse gases, received a resounding, unanimous endorsement. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. And yes, of course! The answer to the Voteline question, whether you'd be happy to pay a 10 a litre carbon tax on petrol, was - as shown above - just as emphatically, no, no. no.

[Solar energy bill on the backburner](#)

Labor MLA Mick Gentleman has delayed the introduction of his private members bill aimed at boosting the economic return from generating solar power in the A-C-T.

[New push to develop South West gas field](#)

The Perth-based owner of the Whicher Range gas field near Busselton has secured a joint venture partner to help develop the potentially lucrative resource.

[Agriculture expert eyes food shortages](#)

Stock-market jitters, a possible US recession and the credit crunch are reverberating around the world. But for Kiwi venture capitalist Arama Kukutai it's business as usual.

"The world's got to feed itself, it keeps getting bigger," Kukutai said.

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Kukutai and co-managing director Jay Brumfield, 46, were in New Zealand last week hunting for new ideas and visiting sister firm Finistere Partners, which typically took the lead with local opportunities.

[Plan to produce biofuel from wood](#)

Forestry and research interests aiming to set up a pilot plant in two years to produce biofuel from wood grown in New Zealand plantations.

A feasibility study found there are no significant technical barriers to producing ethanol from New Zealand's most common plantation species, softwoods such as *pinus radiata*.

[Government closes oil company tax loophole](#)

The Government is closing a tax loophole to ensure oil companies pay their fair share of tax.

Under present law companies can offset their spending in other countries against the profits they make in New Zealand, cutting the amount of tax they pay here.



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