



The Bullroarer - Tuesday 1st April 2008

Posted by [Phil Hart](#) on March 31, 2008 - 5:28pm in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

The Age - [Stuck in our cars on the highway to hell](#)

CLIMATE change, peak oil, mounting traffic congestion and planning inertia have given Melbourne a transport headache. For half a century, we have hitched our hopes to an impossible dream — the dream of automobility. The freedom to drive when, where and as often as we like has become almost a sacred right. Now our dream has become a nightmare. As petrol prices rise and the environmental costs of maintaining a car-based city hit home, we may wonder how we got ourselves into this jam. And whether we can get out of it.

Herald Sun - [At the crossroads](#)

IF you had \$12 billion to spend on transport around this city, where would you put your money?

Two major inquiries are due to report, which will have a huge impact.

Tomorrow there's the Eddington Inquiry into Melbourne's east-west transport connections, and there's also the ongoing federal Garnaut Review on climate change policy.

For Melbourne's transport planning these inquiries signpost opposite directions.

News.com.au - [Shock prediction on Australian power prices](#)

ENERGY costs could spiral up to 10 times current levels within a decade, Reserve Bank board member and ex-Woolworths chief Roger Corbett has warned.

His gloomy prediction came yesterday as new figures showed the price of petrol and food continued to soar and as St George became the third bank in the past week to raise its interest rates.

Stuff.co.nz - [Leaders argue over fuel tax](#)

The Auckland Regional Council's proposed five cents a litre petrol tax has generated varied reactions from North Shore leaders.

MP Wayne Mapp considers the timing of the ARC proposal "unfortunate".

Dr Mapp says imposing an additional burden will not sit well with Shore taxpayers.

"We're on the verge of a recession and the last thing our people need now is new taxes," he says.

"With petrol prices going up, interest rates skyrocketing and house prices plummeting, imposing another tax is quite disastrous to our people.

The Age - [Market vigilance and a gas starter industry will help fuel an automotive renaissance](#)

THE two factors that have caused the local car industry's sudden fall from grace are all too apparent. The problem is that the Government has no power over either.

The appreciation of the Australian dollar and the sharp rise in oil prices have transformed the Australian car industry from a success story in the early years of this century to a basket case now.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States License](#).