



## The Bullroarer - Monday 19th May 2008

Posted by [Phil Hart](#) on May 19, 2008 - 7:09am in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

The Age: [Oil firms 'help keep petrol prices down'](#)

"The Singapore unleaded petrol price has now risen 26 per cent since the start of the year, while Australian pump prices have risen just six per cent during the same term, pointing to restraint by oil companies." Oil companies would be willing to help contain the price for only so long, Mr Sebastian warned. "Unfortunately, oil companies can only hold back for so long in passing through higher fuel costs to motorists. "The national average price is on track to hit \$1.50 a litre, with prices likely to lift as high as \$1.60 a litre in the next fortnight."

SMH: [Fuel-efficient vehicles the future: Rann](#)

The future of South Australia's car manufacturing industry lies in the development of new low-carbon, fuel-efficient vehicles, Premier Mike Rann says.

Releasing the state's submission to the federal government's auto industry review, the premier also renewed a call for tariffs on imported cars to remain at 10 per cent rather than fall as scheduled to five per cent in 2010.

Stuff.co.nz: [Petrol prices hit volunteers](#)

Waikato community organisations are feeling the pinch of rising petrol prices, with volunteers like Meals-on-Wheels drivers asking for petrol money to fill up their cars.

As a litre of unleaded-91 petrol soars to around \$1.94, many organisations which rely on volunteers are having to increase budgets to meet the cost of petrol claims.

ABC: [RACT suggests 'user pays' petrol tax](#)

Tasmania's peak motoring body has called for a comprehensive review of Australian petrol tax arrangements. The RACT supports a proposal by the Federal Opposition to cut the fuel excise by five cents a litre. However an RACT spokesman, Vince Taskunis, wants the Federal Government to consider a more targeted 'user pays' taxation system, based on road usage.

ABC: [Nelson under fire over fuel excise](#)

TONY EASTLEY: Brendan Nelson's promise to cut petrol excise by five cents a litre was the headline grabber in his budget reply address last week. But it's now emerged that senior Liberals warned Dr Nelson, before the speech, that the promise was bad policy.

The Australian newspaper reports today that leadership aspirant Malcolm Turnbull emailed Dr Nelson's office, advising him that it wasn't worth putting forward the policy, without acknowledging where the money would come from to pay for such a promise.

Stuff.co.nz: [Voters want petrol, food taxes slashed](#)

Voters are demanding cuts to GST and petrol tax to ease pressure on household budgets - but relief looks unlikely.

National leader John Key confirmed yesterday that the party was unlikely to revive its 2005 election campaign promise to reduce petrol taxes, and said a National government would prefer to see the money go on personal tax cuts.

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Prime Minister Helen Clark moved recently to acknowledge the pain being felt at the petrol pump by delaying the introduction of transport into the emissions trading scheme - pushing off till 2011 the expected 6c to 8c rise in petrol prices that are likely to result.

The Australian: [Shell chief says all energy sources must be tapped](#)

SHELL Australia is best known for its dominance in oil and gas, but chairman Russell Caplan acknowledges that every source of energy needs to be tapped in the future.

That includes Australia's vast reserves of coal as the world enters a new phase of huge demand for energy at a time when the traditional sources are quickly being depleted. "It is the issue for this generation and maybe the next," Caplan tells The Australian. "It looks like every source of energy, wherever, however, it's got to be tapped, including those that are fossil-based."

Caplan says Australia has to find ways of doing this, and there will be technical and economic difficulties. "It is important for Australia, because if we don't, as a country, crack this one then I shudder to think of the prospects for the next generation with all this coal."

The Age: [Transport hazy on cutting emissions](#)

AUSTRALIA'S transport sector is caught in a dilemma: it must drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but the means to do that is years away, according to a climate change specialist.

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Mr Wheaton said mainstream science says emissions need to cut by 2014. "Talk to high emitters in the transport industry and they say, 'We need 25 years to turn the issue around'," he said. "We don't have that time."

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Mr Wheaton said a carbon price of \$40 a tonne would have a big impact on some sectors. "But all the indicators are it would have almost no impact on the transport sector," he said, which was growing rapidly and already coping with massive fuel cost rises.

NZ Herald: [Anthony Doesburg: Oil harvester's secret - going with the flow](#)

As general secretary of the National Party during the Muldoon "Think Big" era, Barrie Leay is no stranger to grand energy projects.

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These aren't refineries of Muldoon's Marsden Point sort. The crude oil they produce for turning into diesel, petrol and jet fuel doesn't come from the depths of the Earth but from sewage settling ponds.

Scoop NZ: [Environment Court: David v Goliath Energy](#)

This week Grahame Sydney and Brian Turner, among other expert witnesses, will testify as to the cultural significance of the Lammermoor landscape, traversed by the historic Old Dunstan Road, that Meridian Energy proposes as the site and route for Project Hayes wind farm.



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