



The Bullroarer - Friday 6th June 2008

Posted by [aeldric](#) on June 5, 2008 - 10:40pm in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

The Age - [Rudd calls for better public transport](#)

Better public transport is part of the answer to soaring petrol prices, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd says.

Mr Rudd said he had already raised the issue of working with the automotive industry to manufacture hybrid fuel-efficient cars in Australia, producing more savings for motorists and more fuel-efficient transport.

"Secondly, hasn't the time come for some decent, decent public transport systems, invested in by the national government across our major cities so people don't burn their petrol prices on the way to work," he told the Nine Network.

Stuff.co.nz - [The economy: Good, bad and ugly](#)

Home lending rates have started to fall, with the Reserve Bank having signalled official cash rate cuts could come before Christmas.

But it is a rare ray of sunshine in an otherwise gloomy economic outlook, which foresees falling house prices, high inflation and a big surge in unemployment.

Governor Alan Bollard held official interest rates steady yesterday at 8.25 per cent but told a parliamentary committee there could be room for two cuts this year.

[.....]

He also announced one of the worst inflation forecasts in 20 years, saying there would be "unpalatable" results in June and in September when oil and food price rises would help to push inflation to 4.7 per cent - well above the bank's 1 to 3 per cent target range.

News.com.au - [Fuel, rates bite at construction industry](#)

THE construction industry's woes continued in May due to high interest rates and the soaring cost of fuel, a survey says

SMH - [Household energy use soars](#)

HOUSEHOLDS are gobbling up more and more power and will use an extra 50 per cent by 2020, thanks to the combination of a growing population, bigger houses and an ever-increasing appetite for new appliances, particularly televisions.

Stuff.co.nz - [Fuel cost tipped to bite at airports](#)

Upheaval in the airline sector looks likely to result in a tougher 2008-09 for New Zealand's big airports.

Both Air New Zealand and Qantas have signalled they will reduce capacity on long-haul routes because of sky-rocketing jet fuel prices.

NZ Herald - [Virgin Blue must lift fares to survive: analysts](#)

Record fuel prices meant the "ideal scenario" was for Brisbane-based Virgin Blue to implement a 10 per cent price rise immediately, analysts Matt Crowe and Russell Crichton-Browne said in a report to clients. Increasing fares 5 per cent this year and in 2009 would save Virgin Blue although leaving the company with a "not very attractive" growth profile.

Scoop.co.nz - [New Hybrid Fuel Cell franchise launches](#)

OctaFuel's environmental fuel-saving Hybrid Fuel Cell retro-fits to 99.9% of all vehicles – provides up to 40% savings at the pump.

At a time when motorists are seriously tired of escalating petrol prices, OctaFuel's timing couldn't be better, suggests Michael Fresnel, General Manager, OctaFuel New Zealand.

“Research shows the \$2 mark is the tipping point when 21% of consumers will change their behaviour – and here we are, through that barrier. That same research suggests the next barrier is just around the corner at \$2.20 – when 51% of consumers will be ready for change. The OctaFuel alternative is the obvious choice.”

The Age - [500 jobs to go at Holden](#)

[.....]

Record fuel prices have turned many consumers away from the traditional six-cylinder sedans built in Australia by Holden, Ford and Toyota, the remaining local car makers. Higher interest rates are also denting demand for new cars in general.

The Age - [Petrol price's silver lining](#)

RECORD oil prices could deliver an unexpected bonus to Australians, with proposed rules to tackle climate change now likely to be less costly for businesses and consumers.

The Rudd Government's climate change adviser, Ross Garnaut, says price rises for electricity and petrol that will follow the launch of carbon trading in 2010 may not need to be as harsh as first thought.

Professor Garnaut said rising prices for oil, coal and gas were all starting to do the work of the emissions trading scheme — that is, curbing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Stuff.co.nz - [Power-saving campaign nears as station fails](#)

One of the country's biggest gas-fired power stations has failed just days before electricity companies are expected to call a nationwide energy savings campaign because of the drought in the South Island.

Carbon News - [Clean energy attractive to investors](#)

International corporate responsibility expert Anne-Maree O'Connor is predicting that the shift to green investing is here to stay.

Stuff.co.nz - [Kaipara tidal energy project gathers momentum](#)

AN ENERGY farm harnessing the power of strong tidal currents at the entrance to the Kaipara Harbour in Northland looks likely to be the first new marine energy kid on the block by winning the government's initial funding package for a new field of renewables.

TV NZ - [Food crisis could hit Pacific hard](#)

Across the Pacific, where so many already depend on aid to survive, governments are nervously planning how to best fight the looming threat of hunger.

They are grappling with the issue facing so many developing countries - food security, at a time when food prices are at 30-year highs.

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Riots over high food and fuel costs have already broken out in countries as far flung as Cameroon, Indonesia and Mexico.

News.com.au - [Drivers changing habits to save fuel](#)

MORE than 40 per cent of motorists have changed their behaviour in a bid to save fuel, a survey shows.

SMH - [Green-car fund to hurt economy](#)

THE Federal Government's \$500 million plan to subsidise Australian car manufacturers to build green cars is unlikely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and would hurt the economy, says the Productivity Commission.

ABC - [Fishing tourism hit by fuel costs](#)

Fishing tour operators are struggling with the rising cost of fuel.

While commercial fishermen use diesel engines, which entitles them to a government rebate, many fishing tour operators use unleaded petrol, which doesn't receive the subsidy.

Victorian tour operator Wayne Sharrock says the fish are biting farther out this year, and combined with the rising cost of fuel, it's costing him an extra \$100 a day.

The Age - [The climate of climate opinion](#)

THE Rudd Government is beginning to reap the effects of unrealistic expectations created by its own election grandstanding on climate change.

All too often, the debate in Australia drifts off into a fantasyland of no oil, no coal, no nukes; a naive, childlike vision of a future with just the sun and wind in our faces ... and sackcloth on our backs.

But now, thanks to the petrol price furore, the issue of energy security has leapt into the mainstream.



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