



## The Bullroarer - Monday 16th June 2008

Posted by [Phil Hart](#) on June 15, 2008 - 8:25pm in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Call for 10-minute wait limit](#)

TRAIN, tram and bus passengers would never have to wait more than 10 minutes between services under an ambitious proposal put forward by a public transport lobby group. The Public Transport Users Association yesterday launched its Every Ten Minutes To Everywhere campaign at a forum on transport and climate change at Melbourne Town Hall. If the Government was serious about reducing car use in Victoria, it had to make public transport a feasible option for many more people, PTUA president Daniel Bowen said.

*You're going to need to raise the level of the debate Kevin, cause you're not going to win it this way:*

The Australian: [Cut fuel prices Kevin voters say](#)

VOTERS are overwhelmingly unhappy with Kevin Rudd's handling of soaring fuel prices and reject his plan to deal with the problem, a new poll has shown. A Nielsen poll reported in today's Fairfax papers has found more the three-quarters of voters want the Federal Government to intervene to bring down the cost of filling up. And in worrying news for the Prime Minister, most of those back Brendan Nelson's call for a cut in excise over Mr Rudd's national FuelWatch scheme.

*Practical measures?*

The Age: [Rudd welcomes Saudi plan to boost oil output](#)

A spokeswoman for Mr Rudd said: "Calling on OPEC nations to increase the supply of oil is one of several practical measures the Government is taking to help motorists deal with the rising costs of petrol.

SMH: [Homes stuck on road to nowhere](#)

THREE out of every 10 new households in Sydney to 2013 will be vulnerable to rising petrol prices because the State Government has failed to overturn car dependency in western suburbs, a university study has found. Rising petrol and inflation costs are putting large areas of outer western Sydney at risk of social isolation, according to a

report by Griffith University. The study, *Planned Household Risk: Mortgage and Oil Vulnerability in Australian Cities*, found the divide between eastern and western Sydney was deepening when it comes to reliable and efficient public transport.

SMH: [Australian breakthrough snapped up - by eager Americans](#)

FORMER Sydney University professor Dr David Mills couldn't find funding for his giant solar power plants in Australia, but US investors had no qualms wagering at least \$40 million on the idea.

Dr Mills' first factory for the mass production of "solar parks" will open in Las Vegas later this month. It hosted a gaggle of interested Australian politicians last night in Nevada, including the NSW Environment Minister, Verity Firth.

The power plants, conceived in Dr Mills's Sydney University lab, will reflect sunlight with mirrors to boil water and use the steam to spin turbines, generating electricity for a price not much higher than that of a coal-burning power station.

But, unlike some solar power systems, they can function when the sun isn't shining by storing heat in insulated chambers for a rainy day, and continue steadily feeding power into the grid.

SMH: [They build a suburb, then find the buses don't fit](#)

IF YOU think petrol prices are hurting, spare a thought for the residents of Glenmore Park, who live in one of Sydney's transport black holes.

Glenmore Park, opened in 1990, was designed without consideration for public transport, an urban planning expert says. The bus company serving the area says it is difficult to manoeuvre around, and residents say buses are infrequent and unreliable.

SMH: [When is a bike not a bike? When it's electric](#)

THEY might look like a solution to the rising oil price and global warming, but a court ruling has found some motorised bicycles cannot be legally used on NSW roads - even though the Roads and Traffic Authority previously advised owners they could. As many as 10,000 such bikes, known as E-bikes, may have been sold in NSW on the basis that they did not require registration, and all users had to do was wear a helmet and obey the road rules. The law specifies that "pedal cycles" with "one or more auxiliary propulsion motors" up to 200 watts do not require registration.

Sunday feature article in The Age: [Driving towards a changing world](#)

THE oil shock is threatening to change the way Melburnians live, move and spend. Five years ago, a litre of unleaded petrol was hovering at about 80 cents, as oil on the world

market broke the \$US50-a-barrel barrier. Even then, the rise was cause for alarm.

Now, unleaded petrol is tipped to reach \$2 a litre as world oil prices continue to rise. One overseas investment bank says the price could reach \$US200 a barrel in the next two years, while others predict a slide back to about \$US100. Either way, the fuel price is beginning to influence everything we do and the changes seem likely to be permanent.

Stuff.co.nz: [Petrol price inquiry 'a cynical exercise'](#)

LATEST: The Government's inquiry into petrol pricing is a cynical move that would not make a difference to prices, National Party energy spokesman Gerry Brownlee says.

SMH: [Macquarie Park rail links don't add up](#)

A GOVERNMENT plan to make Macquarie Park the fourth-largest CBD in Australia, behind Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, may be undermined by the NSW cabinet's decision to dump the North West Rail Link.

The Age: [Orang-utan plea fails to move panel on palm oil](#)

A WILDLIFE campaigners' bid to force food manufacturers to list palm oil on product labels has been rejected by federal authorities. The campaigners blame the expansion of palm oil plantations across Indonesia and Malaysia for rainforest destruction that is pushing orang-utans towards extinction.

[Asian fuel subsidies are pushing petrol higher, govt says](#)

Asian countries will be pressured to remove fuel subsidies that "distort" the demand for petrol and push up prices, the federal government says. The Rudd government argues subsidies and price caps prescribed by Asian countries to promote development are artificially inflating prices across the region.

*Stop selling **our** oil so cheap!*

The Age: [WA feeling the heat from gas crisis](#)

WESTERN Australia's gas crisis will hit the market hard this week as high energy costs force some businesses to shut down and lay off workers.

The WA Chamber of Commerce and Industry has estimated 14% of 83 companies it has surveyed may shut down or will be shutting down soon.

Apache Energy says it will be two months before partial gas supply is resumed from its

Varanus Island gas plant, where a June 3 explosion cut off one-third of the state's domestic gas supply.

SMH: [Good news month for car-share schemes](#)

WITH petrol prices soaring and public transport overcrowded and unreliable, an increasing number of people are sharing the burden of owning a car.

Charter Drive, a car-sharing operator that enables one car to be used by up to 10 people, is experiencing growth in membership as people try to reduce expenses.

ABC: [Hydrogen forum brings hope to energy industry](#)

Scientists hope an international forum on hydrogen starting in Brisbane today will lead to breakthroughs in energy technology.

Yes, a talk-fest is just as likely to deliver a hydrogen breakthrough as anything else. (Sorry, I'm in a cynical mood today)

[Desperate motorists driven to steal petrol](#)

SKYROCKETING fuel prices have triggered a growing spate of "drive-offs" from service stations across NSW, prompting authorities to consider tougher measures to battle the petrol pump war.

NZ Herald: [What can the Government do to regulate the fuel industry?](#)

Oil companies will have their pricing structures scrutinised by a Government-ordered inquiry. Commerce Minister Lianne Dalziel says she was looking forward to the oil industry explaining to the public, through the inquiry, "why it takes so long for price decreases in crude oil to come through to the New Zealand petrol pump and why it is so quick to get the price increases through".

Stuff.co.nz: [Running out of energy](#)

It is not easy to imagine Energy Minister David Parker attempting a rain dance, but he could be forgiven for a little jig at the prospect of the country finally living up to its pluvial reputation.

News that rain has been falling in the headwaters of the rivers that feed the southern hydro lakes must have been greeted warmly. While Parker has displayed a remarkably good poker face in recent weeks as the Clayton's electricity crisis (the crisis when you're not having a crisis) unfolded, he and the Cabinet must have been close to panic.

Scoop.co.nz: [What happens when the lakes run dry next year?](#)

What happens when the lakes run dry next year and the year after?

New Zealand's electricity consumers have again been left vulnerable by the failure to ensure this country has adequate long term energy supplies, Sustainable Electricity Association New Zealand said today. The launch of yet another winter power saving campaign tonight should be a wake-up call for this country's electricity policy makers, said SEANZ Chairman Brendan Winitana.



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