



## The Bullroarer - Thursday 19th June 2008

Posted by [aeldric](#) on June 18, 2008 - 9:54pm in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

Otago Daily Times - [Fuel pricing](#)

The scheme being used in Western Australia called "FuelWatch" has some potential benefits for New Zealand motorists, if it can be adapted for local conditions and introduced here with the support of all the oil companies.

ABC - [Oil imports fall as drivers change road behaviour](#)

The rising cost of fuel is forcing drivers to find more fuel-efficient modes of transport or go off the road altogether, according to the latest petroleum import figures.

The fall in petroleum imports is paralleled by other trends, such as growing demand for smaller vehicles, hybrids and gas-powered engines, and growing numbers opting to catch or train or take a bus.

The Age - ['Fuel excise should be cut by 10 cents'](#)

The fuel excise should be cut by 10 cents a litre to give motorists instant relief from high petrol prices, a Liberal backbencher says.

Victorian MP Chris Pearce says the Rudd government should cut the excise by twice as much as opposition leader Brendan Nelson proposed in his budget reply speech.

"I want Kevin Rudd to go inside to the House of Representatives this morning and I want him to introduce legislation that would cut the fuel excise by 10 cents a litre," Mr Pearce told reporters in Canberra.

ABC - [Oil prices climb despite US drilling debate](#)

The US oil drilling debate is having little effect on oil prices, which have headed back up overnight.

The spot price for West Texas crude has jumped \$US2.55 a barrel overnight to \$US136.54.

The latest weekly measure shows a dip in US stockpiles of crude.

And there are fresh worries about a strike in the key African oil-producing nation of Nigeria.

In Australia, petrol prices hit record highs yesterday, and the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria's David Cumming says there could be more pain to come for motorists.

"We still haven't peaked, the Singapore wholesale price is still higher than what our wholesale prices are in Australia, there's a bit more to flow through," he said.

NZ Herald - [Are you annoyed at the old style, cheap light bulb is being phased out?](#)

The Government wants to cut lighting energy consumption by 20 per cent by 2015 and from late next year incandescent lightbulbs will be banished.

Radio NZ - [Bush urges Congress to end offshore oil drill ban](#)

US President Bush has urged Congress to end a ban on offshore oil drilling, to reduce dependence on imports.

Mr Bush said opening federal lands off the US coast, where oil drilling has been banned by both a presidential executive order and a congressional moratorium, could yield about 18 billion barrels of oil.

That would meet current US consumption for about 2½ years, though it would be likely to take a decade or more to find the oil and produce it.

Stuff.co.nz - [Power crisis is over, so let's tackle real issues](#)

If you really want something to worry about, can I recommend forgetting about the power "crisis" and concentrating instead on the recession we are living through.

ABC - [WA could seek emergency fuel](#)

The Premier, Alan Carpenter, says the Western Australian Government may seek access to national emergency fuel supplies if the gas crisis worsens.

The Age - [Oil climbs as output to stay steady](#)

Crude oil futures rose for the first time in four days after a statement that US President George W. Bush is not expecting announcements of increased oil production at a June 22 conference in Saudi Arabia.

"No one is expecting to see announcements of increased production," White House spokesman Tony Fratto said. The meeting to discuss ways to stabilize prices will be held in the Red Sea port of Jeddah and involve producers, major industrial nations and banks.

Scoop.co.nz - [Remarks By John McCain On Energy Security](#)

*For those who have wondered if presidential candidates have the least clue about energy issues:*

[.....]

But to make the great turn away from carbon-emitting fuels, we will need all the inventive genius of which America is capable. We will need as well an economy strong enough to support our nation's great shift toward clean energy. And this gives us only further incentive to protect ourselves from the sudden shocks and ever-rising prices that come with our dependence on foreign oil.

Up to a point, these sudden rises in the price of oil are explainable in the terms of basic economics. When demand exceeds supply, prices always rise, and this has happened very dramatically in the demand for oil. Two powerful forces in the oil market today are China and India, nations in which a third of humanity is suddenly entering the industrial era -- with all the cars, construction, and consumption of oil that involves.

[.....]

Stuff.co.nz - [No oil - what happens next?](#)

A move to establish the Bay of Islands as a group of 'Transition Towns' is gathering momentum.

The thrust is to promote a lifestyle which will build a community that is in a strong position to face challenges ahead.

The group wants people to think seriously about key factors:

Herald Sun - [Petrol passes \\$1.70 in Melbourne](#)

News.com.au - [Petrol pain hits mortgage belt](#)

BATTLERS in outerlying suburbs are being hit the hardest by rising fuel prices, as their distance from the city leaves them little option in curbing fuel use, an economist says.

Westpac senior economist Matthew Hassan says the impact of the latest round of fuel hikes had left two distinct groups of households - those that can and are cutting back on fuel consumption and those that can't.

Mr Hassan says the second group is facing a "fuel-constrained" world in which they have less to spend on other household items as their petrol bill increases.

The Age - [Petrol producers warn against drilling](#)

Petroleum producers have warned drilling new offshore oil reserves in Australia is likely to be risky and costly.

Soaring global oil prices is prompting producers to consider exploration of new reserves.

But the Australian Petroleum and Production Association is warning that exploration and drilling costs also are rising and new reserves are likely to be found in deep water.

#### NewsTalk ZB - [Transport Group Wants Motorway Projects Shelved](#)

Public transport proponents want all motorway projects in the Auckland region put on hold and funds diverted to the electrification of the rail network as a way to combat soaring petrol prices.

Cameron Pitches from the Campaign for Better Transport says the Manukau Harbour crossing and the \$2 billion Waterview project should be shelved.

He claims the Government does not have a contingency plan at all and it needs to think of ways to reduce the reliance on oil.

#### Stuff.co.nz - [Concrete revival as steel hits the roof](#)

Unprecedented cost and supply pressures on building materials such as steel girders could soon fuel a boom in concrete-dominant projects, says the management of construction giant Fletcher Building.

Infrastructure chief executive Mark Binns said the surge in oil prices continued to drive up raw material costs to such an extent that fixed-price contracts were fast becoming extinct and concrete-heavy designs more cost-effective.

[.....]

"Concrete relative to steel is fast becoming a more cost-effective option. People will be too scared to keep designing in steel. Then there's the knock-on effect, so I wouldn't be surprised to see a modest increase in concrete."

Any material that is petroleum-based or reliant on long-distance transport is subject to cost pressures during periods of rising oil prices.

#### Otago Daily Times - [Rising fuel prices hurting tourism](#)

#### ABC - [Rail boss warns train lines reaching capacity](#)

The Chief Executive of Connex is warning that Melbourne's train lines are rapidly reaching capacity.

CEO, Bruce Hughes, says the Sydenham train line will reach capacity before the end of this year. And eight other lines will be in the same predicament in five years.

There has been a 33 per cent increase in patronage since 2005.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/).