



The Bullroarer - Tuesday 22 July 2008

Posted by [Big Gav](#) on July 22, 2008 - 10:02am in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

Qantas CEO Geoff Dixon - [Preparing Australian aviation for a new world](#)

Oil, of course, is a finite natural resource and whether or not the world has reached "peak oil" is a matter of debate. But there is no question that the cost of finding and extracting oil will continue to climb. Today's fuel prices also derive from a long period of sustained global economic growth, notably in China, India and the Middle East. And this, of course, is the result of globalisation. Everyone in this room today is feeling the impact of high fuel prices. And while we welcome last week's sudden drop in prices, there is no guarantee that this trend will last.

Right now airlines around the world are cutting routes and capacity, grounding and retiring aircraft, and shedding staff - it is likely that 100,000 jobs worldwide will be lost before this calendar year is out. In the past six months alone 24 airlines have closed down completely. The major US carriers are now planning to ground 465 aircraft - that is more than twice the size of the QANTAS fleet.

SMH - [Flicking the switch from hot air to usable heat](#)

In centralised power stations, two-thirds of the energy generated is dispersed into the atmosphere as heat, and further losses occur in transmission and distribution across the grid. Fifty per cent of Britain's water resources are used to evaporate this waste heat.

In Woking, we installed a gas-fired system (far less polluting than coal), which generates electricity locally. Heat from the generation process is captured and piped underground to supply heating and hot water. This is cogeneration, and in some countries such as Denmark and the Netherlands, more than 50 per cent of their energy comes from cogeneration.

In a further step - trigeneration - waste heat is converted to chilled water for air-conditioning and refrigeration. Trigeneration has a huge impact in reducing carbon dioxide emissions since it displaces electricity that would otherwise be consumed by conventional air-conditioning, generates more low-carbon electricity and does not use greenhouse gas or ozone-depleting refrigerants.

In Woking, trigeneration - supplemented by fuel cells and renewable energy such as solar panels - enabled the town to produce 80 per cent of its own power by 2004 and to drop its CO₂ emissions by 77 per cent in 14 years. The power and heat was also cheaper for customers.

The Australian - [Alternative fuel will strengthen Australian security: Jamison's](#)

OIL production in Australia has peaked and the alternative fuels industry needs to be significantly expanded in response, an expert research group says. Australia is fast running out of time to cut its dependence on crude oil, much of which is imported, and the stop-start approach to ethanol production has not helped provide a feasible alternative.

These are the findings of the Jamison Group, which is funded by NRMA Motoring. "Oil production in Australia has already peaked," the group warns in its report, A Roadmap for Alternative Fuels in Australia.

The Australian - [Big gas find on the NW Shelf](#)

US energy firm Hess Corporation has made a significant natural gas discovery off the Western Australian coast on the rich North West Shelf. The discovery was the second for Hess in the 780,000 acre (31,500ha) permit area it bought last February for a record \$500.9 million. Hess holds a 100 per cent interest in the WA-390-P Permit, which borders the \$15 billion Gorgon gas project, and has an estimated gas resource of 2-15 trillion cubic feet.

SMH - [Rudd sails through greenhouse test despite lack of green flagellation](#). Gittins a peak oiler too now ?

Of course, in the case of petrol the compensation will be linked directly to consumption. The inclusion of petrol in the scheme means that, at the illustrative initial carbon price of \$20 a tonne, the notional rise in price is about 5.5c a litre. But this would be offset by a cut in the petrol excise of 5.5c a litre. So isn't this a glaring case of political expedience eliminating the price incentive to reduce petrol use?

Given the 40c a litre increase in petrol prices we've seen in the past year, I hardly think so. A price signal is a price signal. The precise source of that signal doesn't matter much. And if an extra 40c a litre doesn't encourage conservation, why imagine a further 5.5c would make all the difference?

It's possible, of course, the world price of oil will have fallen significantly by July 2010. If so, that will be a problem, but it's more likely to have risen even further by then. If you think there may be something in the "peak oil" contention, we'll be getting all the price signals we need to reduce petrol consumption.

ABC - [Cloncurry mayor up-beat over geothermal find](#)

The Cloncurry Mayor says the discovery of a new, clean, energy basin in north-west Queensland could mean more significant growth in the region. The Queensland

Government has announced the discovery of the Millungera Basin, where hot geothermal rocks have been found about 100 kilometres east of Cloncurry.

The Australian - [Orica says shortage of ammonium nitrate looming](#)

EXPLOSIVES, chemicals and paint maker Orica says a shortage of ammonium nitrate is looming and new manufacturing plants are required. Ammonium nitrate is a key ingredient in the manufacture of explosives.

Orica managing director Graeme Liebelt said today that supplies of ammonium nitrate from China and Russia had been easily available until the last few months. But in the past three or four months, China had moved to stop exports of ammonium nitrate by way of increasing taxes on exports.

The Australian - [Soaring oil prices contribute to record revenue at Oil Search](#)

OIL Search said today its first half revenue rose 52 per cent on year to a record \$US466.8 million on the back of soaring oil prices.

The Age - [No sense in allowing emissions to rise: Wong](#)

The federal government has ruled out a climate change model that lets pollution levels rise, saying it makes no sense to allow an emissions increase to accommodate industry expansion.

Brisbane Times - [The even greater global warming swindle](#)

THE controversial documentary The Great Global Warming Swindle misrepresented several leading climate scientists to try to convince people that human-induced climate change is a fraud, Britain's broadcasting regulator, Ofcom, has found.

The film, which claimed it would expose "the biggest scam of modern times" and was aired by the ABC last July, had been hailed by some commentators as a definitive counterpoint to Al Gore's film An Inconvenient Truth.

But Ofcom found the film to have unfairly represented the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and mangled the views of several leading climatologists. The final report, released in London last night, says the film breached several broadcasting guidelines in Britain.

The Age - [River towns brace for water crisis](#)

MORE than 50 Victorian towns would be affected if dire drinking-water predictions for

the Murray Darling Basin prove accurate. Drinking supplies in towns along the Murray have been assured for the next 12 months, but the uncertainty of supply beyond that was causing concern for thousands of Victorians yesterday in towns such as Mildura, Swan Hill, Wodonga and Echuca.

Peak Energy - [The London Array Is Back On](#)

Peak Energy - [Damming The Amazon](#)

Peak Energy - [GM's Solar Rooftop](#)

Peak Energy - [Peak Oil Goes "The Full Monty"](#)

Peak Energy - [Amory Lovins On Nuclear Power](#)

Peak Energy - [Iraqi Prime Minister Backs Obama Troop Exit Plan](#)

Peak Energy - [Nature's Internet: The Vast, Intelligent Network Beneath Our Feet](#)

Peak Energy - [Mind The Energy Gap](#)

One piece of video I like to refer people to from time to time is Hans Rosling's TED talk from a few years ago, which looks at population dynamics and shows the downward trend in growth rates dramatically using some great visualisation techniques. Since then, Hans has done a series of online talks that he calls "Gapcasts", the latest of which is on energy.



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