



The Bullroarer - Tuesday 29 July 2008

Posted by [Big Gav](#) on July 29, 2008 - 8:56am in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

The Australian - [Investors cool to oil shale discoveries](#)

WAS it memories of burned fingers or speculators' capitulation to the bear market? Whatever the reason, no one is getting excited about oil shale. It may be one of those stories that will -- unlike uranium and phosphate -- creep up on people rather than go into overdrive from the beginning, especially if oil prices cement themselves at some level over \$US150 a barrel.

We talked here last week about the possible resurrection of the oil shale story. Extracting oil from such formations has a long history in Australia: between 1870 and 1911 oil shale was mined at Mittagong south of Sydney and there were other operations at Murrurundi, Glen Davis and at Newnes near Lithgow, the last closing in 1932 when sufficient crude supplies put it out of business.

frogblog - [Second generation nuclear a bigger scam than the first](#)

It seems that even America's most pro-nuclear department is admitting that the economics of nuclear power simply do not stack up. I started to write a rant, then realised that Harvey over at The Smirking Chimp had said it all, and well:

A devastating blow to the much-hyped revival of atomic power has been delivered by an unlikely source—the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The NRC says the “standardized” designs on which the entire premise of returning nuclear power to center stage is based have massive holes in them, and may not be ready for approval for years to come.

Delivered by one of America's most notoriously docile agencies, the NRC's warning essentially says: that all cost estimates for new nuclear reactors—and all licensing and construction schedules—are completely up for grabs, and have no reliable basis in fact. Thus any comparisons between future atomic reactors and renewable technologies are moot at best. And any “hard number” basis for independent financing for future nukes may not be available for years to come, if ever.

In the larger picture, the depth of this scam is staggering. These reactor projects cannot get private financing, and cannot proceed without either massive federal subsidies and loan guarantees, or a flood of these state-based give-aways. They also cannot get private insurance against future melt-downs,

and have no solution for their radioactive waste problem. Current estimates for finishing the proposed Yucca Mountain national waste repository, also yet to be licensed, are soaring toward \$100 billion, even though it, too, may never open.

Given that it is easy, even here in NZ, to get private finance to line up and support renewable energy projects, without a penny of government subsidy, one has to wonder why we continue to buy into the hype that nuclear is the way to go. The economic rationale simply does not exist. With peak oil and climate change breathing down our necks, it is time to take decisive action. Action that can stand the test of time, sustainably.

SMH - [Reactor leak delaying production](#)

SOPHISTICATED repairs to a water leak in Australia's new \$400 million nuclear research reactor have failed.

Bloomberg - [Shell 'Keen' on Stake in Australian LNG. Partner Says](#)

Royal Dutch Shell Plc, Europe's biggest oil company, is "keen" to acquire a stake and purchase the output from a coal-seam gas based fuel export project in Australia's northeast, said Arrow Energy Ltd., a venture partner.

Shell and Arrow in June signed a \$700 million accord giving Shell a 30 percent stake in Arrow's coal-seam gas licenses in Queensland and a 10 percent stake in Arrow's international unit. Davies said then Shell would start negotiating with Perth-based LNG Ltd. to participate in the export project, which is one of five proposed for the Gladstone region based on coal-seam gas.

Courier Mail - [Mitsubishi's plug-in i MiEV on sale in 2009](#)

AUSTRALIA will have its first plug-in electric car by the end of next year. The baby Mitsubishi i MiEV has been confirmed for local sales, with a showroom target in the final months of 2009 and a starting price in the \$30,000 range.

The company plans to skip the hybrid phase of future car development and go straight to a plug-in, with a claimed top speed of 180km/h and a range of 200km. "Mitsubishi don't make hybrid cars. They make electric cars. And we will have one here as soon as we possibly can," says the managing director of Mitsubishi Motors Australia, Rob McEniry.

Car Central - [Motoring groups back push for green incentives](#)

The NRMA released a report today on the future of Australia's oil dependence, with calls for oil consumption to fall to 50% of their current levels by 2050. Dubbed the Jamison report, the material was written and collated by four prominent academics and includes a 12-step roadmap to achieving the goal of reduced oil consumption.

The report strongly advocates the use of alternative fuels, including natural gas, biofuels and electric vehicles, although there is recognition that electric vehicles will remain a short-sighted solution as long as coal power plants remain the primary producers of electricity.

SMH - [Clear the way for buses, urges Carr](#)

THE former premier Bob Carr has called on the Labor Government to build a network of bus-only freeways as a quick-fire way to get more people onto public transport.

STCWA - ["Fuelling Food in WA" Conference](#)

The era of cheap oil is coming to an end as the World's oil production peaks and the dual issues of increased fuel and food prices have received much attention in the media, with riots in many parts of the world. Western Australia's food production is particularly susceptible to increased fuel costs, because over 70% of our food is imported from the eastern states and overseas, while over 70% of the food we produce is exported.

The Australian - [QGC injunction deflates Linc Energy gas plans](#)

COAL seam methane producer Queensland Gas has won a Supreme Court injunction to stop coal-to-liquids hopeful Linc Energy getting access to some Darling Downs ground.

The Australian - [Centennial Coal forecasts increased profitability](#)

CENTENNIAL Coal has forecast increased profitability this financial year after a rise in output for the quarter. The miner's equity share of production for the three months to June 30, climbed 7 per cent higher to 4.3 million tonnes on the same period in 2007 after record output at a number of the company's mines. However, full year production was 4 per cent lower at 16.85 million tonnes.

The Australian - [Gloucester Coal 4Q coal output down 7pc on year](#)

The Australian - [GoSwitch finds cheapest deals for electricity supplies](#)

ABC - [Cheaper country fuel predicted](#)

The Motor Trade Association of Western Australia says motorists in country WA should

The Australian - [Nelson puts the house on climate change](#)

The Age - [Nelson fails to budge Coalition on climate change](#)

Federal Opposition Leader Brendan Nelson has failed in his bid to alter the coalition's climate change policy. Earlier this month, Dr Nelson said he wanted a fresh policy which would delay emissions trading until the heavy-polluting countries took action. Today, his shadow cabinet stopped him from going that far, delivering a victory to leadership rival Malcolm Turnbull.

SMH - [Anxiety over Greens' role in climate scheme](#)

BIG business is watching nervously the political fight surrounding climate change amid fears that outright Coalition opposition to an emissions trading scheme could drive the Government to negotiate with the Greens.

Peak Energy - [Industrial Agriculture Input Costs On The Rise](#)

Peak Energy - [Tidal Power In Korea](#)

Peak Energy - [Why we never need to build another polluting power plant](#)

Peak Energy - [Only The Electric Will Survive](#)

Peak Energy - [Fifty Cents For Your Thoughts ?](#)



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