



## The Bullroarer - Monday 2nd February 2009

Posted by [Phil Hart](#) on February 1, 2009 - 8:06pm in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Solar Energy - A Solution To Australia's Heatwave Blackouts](#) (a favourite theme for your TOD ANZ editors)

The southern Australian states of Victoria and South Australia have been enduring a gruelling heat wave for over a week - and it looks set to continue for some days to come. While the sun is perceived as an enemy, solar energy could provide the solution to prevent a reoccurrence of the electricity crisis that has occurred.

*I don't want to restart the debate about weather vs climate, but it is interesting to see what the rest of the world is writing about us (with thanks to Leanan and today's Drumbeat):*

Independent UK: [Parched: Australia faces collapse as climate change kicks in](#)

Leaves are falling off trees in the height of summer, railway tracks are buckling, and people are retiring to their beds with deep-frozen hot-water bottles, as much of Australia swelters in its worst-ever heatwave.

Ministers are blaming the heat – which follows a record drought – on global warming. Experts worry that Australia, which emits more carbon dioxide per head than any nation on earth, may also be the first to implode under the impact of climate change.

Railpage: [Public transport meltdown](#)

Why does Melbourne's public transport lurch from one crisis to another? This week's spate of train and tram cancellations in relentless 40 degree heat made the national news. But it's hardly the first such crisis to embarrass those in charge. Two years ago, technical problems with the new trains bought for the privatised network caused a record number of cancellations. And the failure to plan over many years has created a seemingly endless problem with overcrowding in peak hour.

Politicians and managers blame the weather, the unions, their predecessors and almost everyone but themselves. Yet Melbourne's problems seem almost uniquely bad. In Perth, extreme heat slows the trains, but the system doesn't fall in a heap like in Melbourne. Even Adelaide, which has invested much less in its train system, came off better in the heat this week. And around the world, in places like central Europe and Canada that are vulnerable to extreme weather, public transport bears up under

AIE: [Electric Vehicle Show and Tell - Melbourne, 3-7pm 25th February](#)

Come and see some of the latest electric vehicles (a range of scooters and passenger cars) available in Victoria; talk to their owners/developers; and hear from expert presenters on the theme Outlook for electric vehicle technology applications in Victoria.

If you are interested in attending, you can make sure you receive a flyer by sending an email to [joy.claridge@westnet.com.au](mailto:joy.claridge@westnet.com.au) with subject line: Expression of interest in electric vehicle event.

[feedintariff.com.au](http://feedintariff.com.au): [Let's get Australia moving on solar feed in tariffs!](#)

**Sign the petition and help Rudd choose a solar future!**

Fractured and inadequate state run feed in tariff systems simply aren't good enough. They do not reward system owners suitably and do not recognise the true value that grid connected solar power systems can contribute to stimulating our economy and lowering our greenhouse gas emissions. Lend your support to a gross feed in tariff program that will actually work and make Australia a leading nation in the uptake of clean, green solar power!



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