



The Bullroarer - Monday 9th February 2009

Posted by [Phil Hart](#) on February 8, 2009 - 8:56pm in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

The Age: [Canberra gives solar cell factory thumbs up](#)

AS PRESSURE increases to boost renewable energy sources in the face of global warming, the Federal Government has declared that a company that wants to manufacture solar cells is of "strategic importance" to Australia. Considerable home-grown expertise on renewables has been lost to Australia in recent years, with local innovators unable to win financial backing.

Now a company called Spark Solar Australia has been awarded "major project facilitation status" by the Federal Government for its planned \$60 million high-tech solar cell factory.

South-east Advertiser: [Motor bike use up to beat economic woes](#)

THE number of motorcycles and scooters on Brisbane streets has doubled in the past five years and the slowing economy is driving the boom. Queensland is leading the nation's growing preference for two-wheeled transport with an increase of 66.3 per cent in the past five years compared to the national bike registration figure, which has risen 10.6 per cent in the past 12 months.

The Daily: [Push bikes to greener pathways](#)

Sunshine Coast Council and the state government are spending a massive \$9 million on cycling and walking paths this financial year as the push to shift people out of private cars gains momentum. A similar amount, with equal contributions from council and state, is also expected to be spent in the 2009-2010 financial year. The money is targeting missing links in existing cycling networks and the reconstruction of paths of inadequate width to be shared by both pedestrians and cyclists.

Stuff.co.nz: [Marine energy the 'perfect' plan](#)

New Zealand is perfectly placed to turn its "fantastic" marine energy resources into real power, a visiting expert says. Henry Jeffrey, from Edinburgh University, has been in

Wellington with a British renewable energy delegation.

Wellington is the site of a proposed marine energy project by Neptune Power that could result in a test turbine being underwater in Cook Strait by year's end.

ABC: [Fire spares Loy Yang power station](#)

It appears Loy Yang power station in Victoria's Gippsland region will be spared from a bushfire. Energy Minister Peter Batchelor is being briefed on the fire situation at the coal-fired power station near Traralgon. It was feared the fire in the Strzelecki Ranges would reach the station's open-cut coal mine and possibly the station itself.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States License](#).