



The Bullroarer - Friday 10th April 2009

Posted by [Big Gav](#) on April 9, 2009 - 8:07pm in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

ABC - [First all-electric car approved](#)

The Federal Government has unveiled the first all-electric car that has been certified to run on Australian roads. The plug-in car made by Mitsubishi, called the iMiEV, can travel 160 kilometres on a seven-hour charge and has a top speed of 130 kilometres per hour. The car runs on a bank of lithium ion batteries. The engine uses no petrol and does not produce any greenhouse gas emissions.

Greentech Media - [Atlantis Plans 1MW Tidal Power Project off Australian Coast](#)

Fresh on the heels of landing a \$14 million investment, Atlantis Resources now has a deal to install a 1-megawatt tidal power turbine off the Australian coast, according to The Australian. Singapore-based Atlantis plans to provide the power to iron ore producer Mount Gibson Iron (no relation to Australia's most famous Hollywood export) for its operations on Koolan Island in western Australia. Just last month, Atlantis got a \$14 million boost from Norwegian renewable energy provider Statkraft, which said it would work with Atlantis to install tidal power devices in Scotland's Pentland Firth (see [Ocean-Power-Meets-Bike-Chain Company Gets \\$14M](#)).

Larvatus Prodeo - [Geothermal energy progresses - slowly](#)

I still happen to think that HFR geothermal energy has a real future here in Australia, and Geodynamics are as likely as anybody to make a go of it, otherwise I'd sell my shares. But what it does show is the gap between rhetoric and reality for the clean energy sector - particularly in terms of its ability, right now, to start replacing large chunks of fossil fuel power - is real, and substantial. I think it'd help discussion greatly if the difference between "sounds good in the press release" and "we're ready to deploy at bulk scale" was acknowledged more often and applied to all prospective energy generation technologies.

SMH - [The reality of electric dreams](#)

Shai Agassi's notion is to wean the world off its oil addiction. The idea is at once simple and staggeringly complicated: replace cars that run on petrol with their equivalents that run on electricity, via a quickly rechargeable, easily replaceable battery. In both execution and practicality, it's a program that owes much to the mobile phone industry, the progress of which showed that batteries could be reduced from the size of a brick to the size of a fingernail without affecting output or endurance.

SMH - [The Australian connection](#)

SHAI AGASSI and Evan Thornley met last September, when Thornley, then a novice Victorian state Labor MP and former internet entrepreneur, was visiting the US with his son.

SMH - [Origin coal seam gas project likely to create 5000 jobs](#)

IN A change from the gloomy news engulfing the market, Origin Energy has revealed its gas export project with US oil giant ConocoPhillips could be worth \$35 billion and may create up to 5000 jobs in a region hit by resources sector sackings.

The joint-venture partners said yesterday their plans to build a liquefied natural gas plant would create up to 4000 jobs in the Queensland resources hub of Gladstone, where Rio Tinto cut 500 staff on Tuesday. Documents lodged with the Queensland Government said the \$35 billion will be spent between now and 2020 if the partners build the maximum number of four production units, or trains.

The Australian - [BHP Billiton to quit China CSG project](#)

BHP Billiton is withdrawing from its coal seam gas project in China as part of efforts to exit non-core businesses. Development at the coal seam gas project, located in the coal-rich Shanxi province, hasn't been going smoothly, the China Business News reported today

The Australian - [Historic accord on coal in Hunter Valley](#)

BOTTLENECKS at the Port of Newcastle that stifled exports during the last resources boom should be cleared by the time the next one rolls around. The 14 Hunter Valley coal exporters who use the port last night signed a landmark agreement on long-term allocation of loading slots that promises to unlock billions of dollars in private investment and triple capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2015.

ABC - [\\$1m to target powerline green projects](#)

More than \$1 million will be spent on environmental projects around powerlines in

WA Today - [Who is behind climate change deniers ?](#)

In May this year, the multibillion-dollar oil giant Exxon-Mobil acknowledged that it had been doing something similar. It announced that it would cease funding nine groups that had fuelled a global campaign to deny climate change.

Exxon's decision comes after a shareholder revolt by members of the Rockefeller family and big superannuation funds to get the oil giant to take climate change more seriously. Exxon (once Standard Oil) was founded by the legendary John D. Rockefeller. Last year, the chairman of the US House of Representatives oversight committee on science and technology, Brad Miller, said Exxon's support for sceptics "appears to be an effort to distort public discussion".

The funding of an array of think tanks and institutes that house climate sceptics and deniers also worried Britain's premier scientific body, the Royal Society. It found that in 2005 Exxon distributed nearly \$3 million to 39 groups that "misrepresented the science of climate change by outright denial of the evidence that greenhouse gases are driving climate change". It asked Exxon to stop the funding and its protests helped force Exxon's recent retreat.

SMH - [Murray river flows lowest in a century](#)

THE amount of water flowing into the stricken Murray River between January and March was the lowest for that quarter in the 117 years that records have been kept. An unprecedented drought has thrown the river system into decline, according to the guardian for the river. "We've had big droughts before and big floods before, but what we didn't have was climate change," said Rob Freeman, the chief executive of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

A second record has been smashed too - for a three-year period. Water flowing into the system in the three years to March totalled 5160 gigitalitres, less than half the previous 11,300 gigitalitre minimum during the 1943-46 drought, according to the authority's update.

Peak Energy - [Saul Griffith: Inventing a super-kite to tap the energy of high-altitude wind](#)

TED has a talk from Saul Griffith on his company Makani and their plans to generate large scale wind power using airborne wind turbines - Saul Griffith: Inventing a super-kite to tap the energy of high-altitude wind.

Peak Energy - [Expanding Geothermal Power In Indonesia](#)

Peak Energy - [Solar Power Landfill Cover Goes Live in Texas](#)

Peak Energy - [The Great Biodiesel Shutdown](#)

Peak Energy - [GE Backs Small Wind Maker Southwest Windpower](#)

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Peak Energy - [Chinese car sales surpass US market](#)

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