



## The Bullroarer - Thursday 16th April 2009

Posted by [Big Gav](#) on April 16, 2009 - 7:03am in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

SMH - [Scientists on attack over Rudd emissions plan](#)

THREE of CSIRO's most eminent climate scientists have told a Senate inquiry that the Prime Minister's targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions will not achieve even a "limited" level of protection against climate change and are "much weaker" than the cuts developed countries need to make. In a big embarrassment for Kevin Rudd and the Climate Change Minister, Penny Wong, the globally recognised scientists have made a joint submission to a new inquiry on the Government's carbon trading scheme, which begins hearings today in Canberra.

The scientists are John Church, an expert on sea level rise, Pep Canadell, who runs the global carbon project and has published on greenhouse gas releases, and Michael Raupach, the co-chairman of the same project who writes on greenhouse gas levels.

Business Spectator - [Australia's pole position](#)

The copper price rose another 4 per cent last night. It has now gone up 72.5 per cent since bottoming on December 24th and 56 per cent this year. Part of this is due to short covering by commodity-based hedge funds but, remarkably, a lot of the buying seems to be coming from China diversifying its foreign exchange holdings out of US dollars and into metals, especially copper.

Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, writing in the London Telegraph, has a fascinating article this morning, suggesting that the Chinese government has made a conscious decision to stockpile physical metals instead of US bonds.

STCWA - [Motoring in WA- is there a sustainable future? 22 April](#)

Seminar at Conservation Council of WA, Wednesday 22nd April 2009, from 6.30pm, City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi St, West Perth.

The motor car plays a major role in our lives and for many, without other transport alternatives, will continue to rely on their motor car well into the future. How will the role of the motor car change as we head towards a low carbon economy? Will people still rely on their motor cars in an extreme scenario where the cost of petrol may rise to \$10 per litre?

The April Environment Matters invites four guest speakers to explore the impact of the car on the environment today and look at what medium term solutions exist to improving environmental performance.

Courier Mail - [\\$1.7 billion Brisbane airport expansion deferred as tourist numbers fall](#)

MORE than \$1.7 billion worth of construction at Brisbane airport has been deferred due to a fall in tourist numbers. Work on a \$700 million domestic terminal expansion and a \$1 billion parallel runway were due for completion by 2015 but are likely to be pushed back by several years.

Brisbane Airports Corporation (BAC) spokesman Jim Carden said the airport had experienced years of 17 per cent growth in visitor numbers, but arrivals had fallen to almost zero growth. "There's been a softening of the market since, probably, two-thirds of the way through last year," Mr Carden said. "The airlines are doing it hard and obviously passenger numbers are not great."

Brisbane Times - [Gladstone pilot wells a success: Arrow](#)

Arrow Energy Ltd is increasingly confident it can deliver a reliable gas supply to the proposed Gladstone liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Queensland. Arrow said recent success at coal seam gas (CSG) exploration and appraisal wells in the Bowen Basin supported its goal of providing a large, long-term gas source for the project, a joint venture with energy giant Shell.

The Australian - [Kimberley LNG deal a goer](#)

A MULTI-BILLION-DOLLAR liquefied natural gas plant is set to be developed in Western Australia's northwest after a landmark deal between Aborigines, government and business.

Kimberley Aborigines gave in-principle approval yesterday for the gas precinct to be developed on land at James Price Point, 60km north of Broome, in return for compensation worth more than \$1 billion over 30 years.

Crikey - [Bad news from Copenhagen: climate beyond worst case](#)

On Tuesday 14 April Professor Will Steffen and other Australian National University experts gave an informal public briefing on key messages from the "Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions" Congress held in Copenhagen in March. The Congress was a big event: 2500 climate scientists and social scientists attended from 80 countries, and there were 1600 presentations. It set out to update findings of the 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 4, in preparation for the intergovernmental

UN climate meeting in Copenhagen in December. A 30-page agreed report of Congress findings will be disseminated in June.

Australian scientists played a large role, as the fifth-largest national representation after the US, Germany, Britain and host Denmark. ANU was one of 10 leading world universities co-sponsoring the Congress. Steffen's team has already reported back to senior Australian Ministers and departmental officials. The news is not good. Worst-case IPCC 4 scenarios are already being exceeded and climate change indicators are accelerating.

The world has moved into uncharted climate territory, in terms of experience of human sustainability. A two degrees centigrade average global temperature rise above the 2000 level is seen to be at the upper limit of safety -- this rise will itself cause serious human disruption in poor countries. Weak CO2 emission targets for 2020 increase the risk of irretrievable climate change tipping points being passed before 2020: accelerating polar ice melt and loss of the ocean's efficiency as a carbon sink are two such threatened tipping points. So urgent action is needed now to decarbonise societies.

SMH - [Futuristic jets put on hold by recession](#)

THE Airbus A380 was meant to be the future of air travel in Australia: vast, fast, and - thanks to a perfect mix of capacity and efficiency - recession proof. But Qantas's decision yesterday to defer buying four of the \$350 million superjumbos has raised questions about whether the planes it once described as an aviation revolution would survive the economic downturn.

SMH - [No underground routes reserved for metro](#)

THE State Government has failed to protect from development any underground corridors for a future metro network beyond its proposed seven-kilometre line between Central and Rozelle. This is despite claims the CBD Metro is only the first in a series of lines across the city.

WA Today - [Bitter, ugly but so good for your health](#)

It looks like a wart-covered zucchini and has an equally unappetising name, but experts say it could help rescue the world's population from malnutrition and disease.

Bitter melon is rich in vitamins and offers protection against diabetes, says Dr Dyno Keatinge, which is just as well because it is unlikely to win fans on appearance or taste. "It's not a sweet vegetable, and that's why I like it in salad and a whole range of things," said Dr Keatinge, head of a not-for-profit research institute which uses horticulture to fight poverty and malnutrition.

Reuters - [In big green push, Australia thinks too small on solar](#)

At first glance, a new day seems to be dawning for the overshadowed solar sector in Australia, the world's sunniest continent. The government is pushing through a carbon trading scheme that will penalise big greenhouse gas emitters; a major piece of renewables legislation is due for approval within months, setting a target of 20 percent green energy by 2020.

But supporters say these shiny targets may be undermined by policymakers who think too small -- limiting the most generous rebates for renewables to the first 1,500 watts of capacity, or about half the minimum of the 3,000-5,000 watts used by the average Australian home. "The limit of something like 5 KW would have been a really useful driver," said Muriel Watt, chair of the Australian Photovoltaic Association. "But the limit being 1.5 KW, it's not going to drive the large systems we'd like to see."

#### The Australian - [D-Day for \\$435m in federal grants](#)

WEDNESDAY is shaping up as a crucial deadline for Australia's aspiring renewable energy producers, with applications due for grants under the federal Government's \$435 million Renewable Energy Demonstration Program. The grant, where the Government proposes to match private funds on a \$1 for \$2 basis, attracted an estimated 130 expressions of interest, with a couple of dozen projects invited to make final applications.

The grants -- each of between \$50 million and \$100 million -- are designed to support projects that are ready to be deployed on a commercial scale. They are expected to attract interest from geothermal, wave, solar thermal and large-scale solar PV operators. The biggest challenge, particularly in the current economic climate, has been to source financing for such projects. If it has been difficult for large-scale operators in established industries to get finance, it has been even harder for companies proposing projects that carry a large amount of technological risk.

Shares in one applicant, Perth-based wave energy producer Carnegie Corp, were put in a trading halt on Thursday ahead of an announcement expected to be linked to a an agreement on financing for its proposed 50MW wave energy facility. Carnegie has been operating a pilot plant of its CETO technology at North Fremantle.

#### Energy Current - [KUTh finds new heat flows in Tasmania](#)

Australia-based KUTh Energy has recorded 10 new heat flow results as part of its Tasmanian hot rock geothermal project across Tasmanian tenements SEL 26/2005 and SEL 45/2007. The new results are consistent with previously released heat flow results and the current geological model of the area, providing a further clear indication of the existence of a substantial hot rock geothermal zone.

KUTh reports that an area of 620 square miles (4,170 sq km) is estimated to have anomalously high heat flow greater than 90 milliWatts per square meter (mWm<sup>2</sup>) with a 239-square-mile (620-sq-km) zone of intensified high heat flow of above 100 mWm<sup>2</sup>.

#### ABC - [Geothermal venture reports promising find](#)

Geothermal company Torrens Energy says its exploration project north of Port Augusta in South Australia has detected significant heat flows.

Executive director John Canaris is hopeful that hot rocks energy could eventually supply the Davenport sub-station, a distribution node for Port Augusta power station. "The power production in Germany went from a standing stock to electricity production on the grid supplying households in just three years," he said. "I don't know whether we can mimic that effort, but certainly we'd be wanting to turn this discovery into a resource and eventually into power generation as soon as we can."

Business Spectator - [Ceramic Fuel Cells: Small but powerful](#)

Around the world enormous effort is being concentrated on generating energy more efficiently with lower carbon emissions. That work encompasses many generating techniques, but significant development expenditure is now being concentrated on decentralised power generation instead of the traditional centralised power generation facilities.

In Australia one of the leaders in power generation decentralisation is a fairly obscure company, Ceramic Fuel Cells.

Peak Energy - [Shai Agassi: A bold plan for mass adoption of electric cars](#)

Peak Energy - [Investigating Methane Hydrate Extraction On Alaska's North Slope](#)

Peak Energy - [Der Spiegel Interview With Michel Mallet Of Total](#)

Peak Energy - [Monbiot: Cross Your Fingers and Carry On](#)

Peak Energy - [The cheapest energy in the long-run is renewable energy](#)

Peak Energy - [Refining the Reel Lawnmower: The Brill Razor Cut](#)

Peak Energy - ['Green Revolution' Trapping India's Farmers In Debt](#)

Peak Energy - [The truth about pirates ?](#)



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