



The Bullroarer - Friday 8th May 2009

Posted by [aeldric](#) on May 7, 2009 - 8:56pm in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

National Business Review NZ - [Australian emissions trading pushed back](#)

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has delayed emissions trading across the Tasman for a year, blaming the changes on the pressures of recession.

The Australian - [Fewer green loans available but now interest-free](#)

THE Rudd Government has slashed spending on the "green loan" election promise funded in last year's budget, but decided the energy efficiency lending should be cost-free to borrowers for four years, citing the impact of the recession on its own budget and that of households.

SMH - [Jobs at any cost](#)

It's been a week when environmental Luddites apparently made a comeback.

While Tasmanian police were carting away the handful of conservationists trying to prevent logging of giant trees in the Upper Florentine Valley, politicians in Canberra were driving perhaps the final nail into the coffin of the carbon pollution reduction scheme. Jobs, we're told, are at risk.

Sound familiar?

On the eve of the 2004 election, in an act widely credited with ensuring the Coalition's retention of power, Prime Minister John Howard proclaimed to 2000 cheering forestry workers in Launceston: "Many Australians would like to see an end to old-growth logging. I would too, but that should not occur at the expense of jobs and not at the expense of individual regional communities."

Howard was stoking populist fears:

ABC - [No climate for change](#)

The key mechanism the Government has selected to drive Australia's transition to a low

carbon economy doesn't actually seem intended to drive a transition, write the University of New South Wales' Dr Regina Betz and Dr Iain MacGill.

The Australian - [ETS delay is not enough](#)

AN old lesson all governments have to learn anew is that it is the election promises you keep that are likeliest to get you into trouble. It is a lesson Kevin Rudd is learning the hard way, with his ignominious retreat from his (always delusional) ambition to make Australia a world leader in its response to global warming.

National Business Review NZ - [Swift Energy's credit woes cause Kiwi company concern](#)

US oil exploration firm Swift Energy's revolving credit facility has been reduced by \$US100 million, which is causing concerns for NZ company Greymouth Petroleum.

Scoop.co.nz - [Auckland public transport growth highest in 20 yrs](#)

The Auckland Regional Transport Authority (ARTA) today reported the highest level of public transport growth for over twenty years.

Brisbane Times - ['Coal rush' as Queensland gas looks greener](#)

Australian industry might have been given a one year reprieve from the government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, but it hasn't cooled the interest in an emerging coal rush, with companies snapping up coal seam gas resources in a bid to develop a more efficient form of energy production.

The Australian - [Another green fund bites the dust in bear market](#)

THE bad news keeps coming for Australian international environmental equity funds and their investors.

The latest is that DWS Investments has closed its Global Climate Change Fund.

Australian international environmental funds are a new sector of the fund management industry that have tried hard to get off the ground. But after two years and the global financial crisis they are still struggling.

ABC - [MP attacks Barnett coal comments](#)

The Member for Collie, Mick Murray, has criticised comments made by Western

Australian Premier Colin Barnett about reducing coal power, in discussions about the Emissions Trading Scheme.

The Premier yesterday told ABC Local Radio that Australia should make more use of gas and less use of coal.

Mr Murray admits the coal industry has emissions problems, but says his electorate would suffer dramatically if the industry was killed off.

"There's a \$500 million fund that's looking at all sorts of research to be able to clean up the coal industry and it's emissions problems," he said.

"Australia-wide there are 30,000 jobs in the coal industry. They need to do that to look after those jobs."

International Business Times - [China 2: It Can't lead us Out of A Recession](#)

There's another, slightly different view of China's prospects from the International Monetary Fund which this week produced its latest outlook for the economies of the region, including Australia and New Zealand.

The Outlook says that Asian economies are unlikely to undergo a sustained recovery until midway through next year, and more importantly, they should not rely on China to pull the region out of its current slump.

Albany and Great Southern Weekender - [\\$70 million renewable energy deal](#)

ALBANY'S Plantation Energy has signed a \$70 million supply agreement with Europe's largest power company.

The company's first major export deal for densified biomass pellets produced from plantation tree harvest residues will be initially supplied from its new \$25 million plant on Down Road.

The Age - [Don't drive industry away: MPs](#)

FOUR Coalition MPs have argued that increasing Australia's carbon emissions could reduce emissions globally.

NZ Herald - [NZ palm oil use could help to wipe out orangutan](#)

A cooking oil that is driving the destruction of the rainforests, displacing native people and threatening the survival of the orangutan is present in grocery products commonly found in New Zealand.

Stuff.co.nz - [Verbal mauling for Contact expert witness](#)

Complaints about shortcomings in expert evidence have become a recurring theme at the board of inquiry considering Contact Energy's plans for a 184-turbine Waikato wind farm.

The Australian - [Emissions rise could be good for planet - Coalition](#)
I'm not sure which country these politicians live in, but here in Oz the experience to date has not been good.

Plans to tackle climate change in Australia have focused on reducing emissions, but the Coalition has taken the opposite approach.

Four Opposition senators, members of a Senate committee, have issued a report that says boosting Australia's emissions could help the planet.



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