



Aleklett: Australia highly vulnerable to oil shortages

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Topic: [Supply/Production](#)

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ASPO International president, Professor Kjell Aleklett of the Global Energy Systems group at Uppsala University has been in Australia over the past week, presenting lectures in Adelaide and Sydney on peak oil.

[ASPO Australia](#) has copies of 2 presentations done in Adelaide - "[Energy: The Challenge To Sustainability](#)" (ppt) and "[Peak oil, peak gas and peak coal: Setting the scene for future supply problems](#)" (ppt).



The Sydney Morning Herald has a report on the visit - [Highly vulnerable to oil shortages](#).

ONE of the world's leading energy experts has warned that Australia will be one of the first countries hit hard by oil shortages as oil production peaks within the next three years.

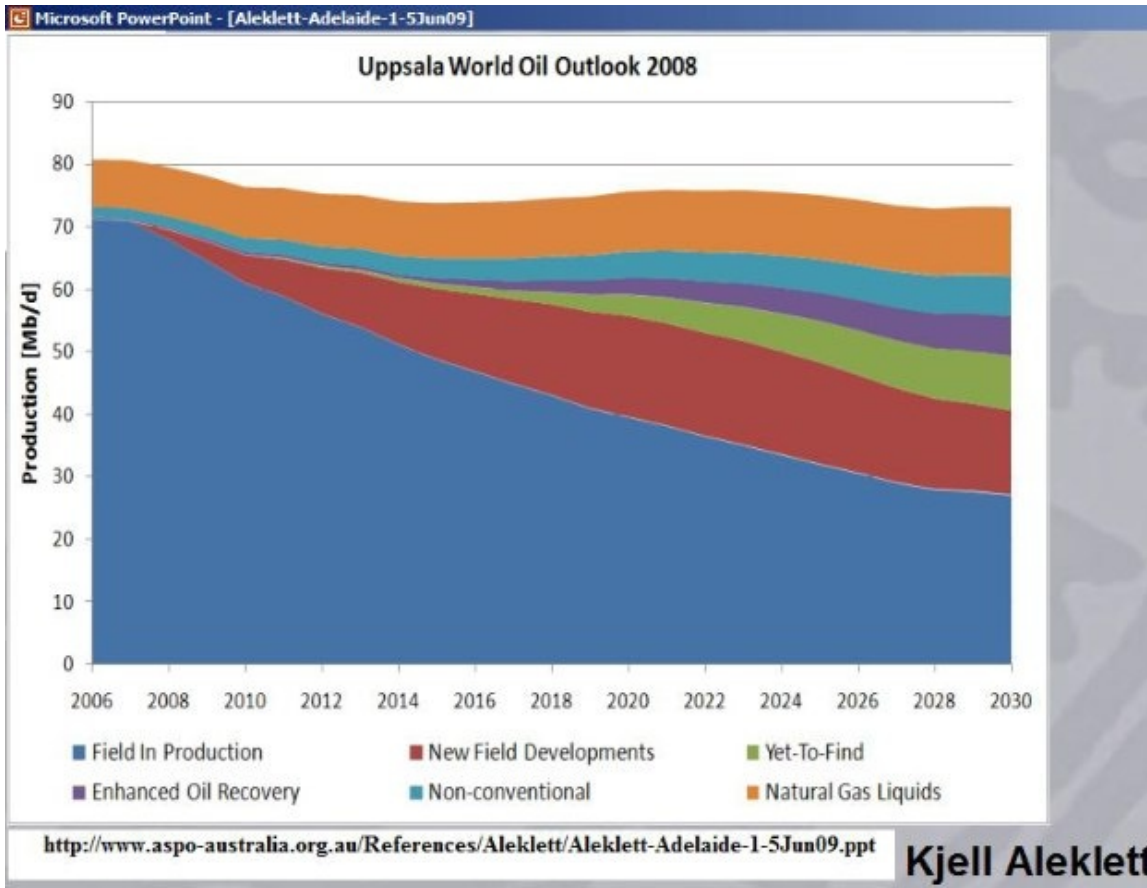
Kjell Aleklett, a physicist from Uppsala University in Sweden, says Australia's relatively underdeveloped public transport system leaves the country more vulnerable to a downturn in energy production. "Australia is very sensitive to such developments," Professor Aleklett told the Herald. "Much of your industry and transit is dependent on oil, and supplies will decline."

Professor Aleklett addressed the NSW electric car task force and the Federal Government's Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics yesterday. He had earlier warned a Senate committee that the International Energy Agency had wildly overestimated oil production, lulling nations such as Australia into a false sense of security. Rather than oil production rising by 20 per cent to 101.5 million barrels a day in 2030, he says production is likely to fall 11 per cent, to just 76 million barrels a day.

Last week the chairman of Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, Eric Streitberg, predicted peak oil - the maximum rate of global oil extraction before decline - was just three years away, and forecast prices of up to \$200 a barrel.

Professor Aleklett said the global financial crisis had reduced opportunities for new oil exploration, meaning that the world was missing out on an extra two to three million barrels. Australia needed more investment in public transport to reduce its dependency on oil, with up to 20 per cent of all journeys, not merely commuting to and from work, occurring by bus and train.

He also said Sweden and other European countries were developing a network of recharging stations to handle the growth of electric cars, although Australia, with its vast distances, posed a greater challenge for electric vehicle manufacturers.



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