



The Bullroarer - Thursday 1 November 2007

Posted by [Big Gav](#) on November 1, 2007 - 6:05am in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

The Age - [Leaders lost on a road to nowhere](#)

SURELY we must live in a parallel universe. This week the Victorian Government has decided to go ahead with a billion-dollar channel-deepening project without an environmental effects statement; the RACV wants the fuel excise cut by 10 cents a litre because it would only cost \$3 billion and it would be a deflationary measure; federal Nationals leader Mark Vaile expressed doubts about climate change; and John Howard has jammed Kevin Rudd into retreating from Peter Garrett's pledge that a Labor government would ratify the Kyoto Protocol even if there were no firm commitments for greenhouse gas emission reductions from China and India. ...

The RACV, in tandem with the Department of Infrastructure, is one of the biggest threats to Melbourne's liveability and hence to the long-term interests of its motorist members. Where has the RACV been during the debate about peak oil?

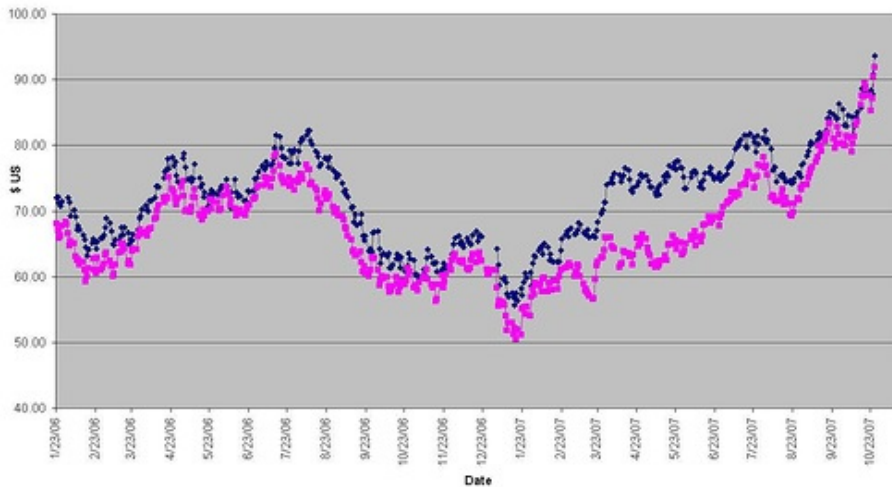
The price of oil is heading towards a \$100 a barrel and within the life of the next Federal Parliament the price of petrol could be twice what it is now. Almost certainly freeways — both those recently built and those likely to follow Sir Rod Eddington's report later this year approving Melbourne's multibillion-dollar East-West tunnel — will become "stranded assets" well before the end of their economic life in 60 years' time.

What is now in question is whether Melbourne becomes a "stranded city" or its infrastructure is planned to take into account the impact of peak oil and global warming. But there are sceptics about this too. Mark Vaile is still spruiking drought. How long do droughts have to last before they cease to be cyclical and become climate change?

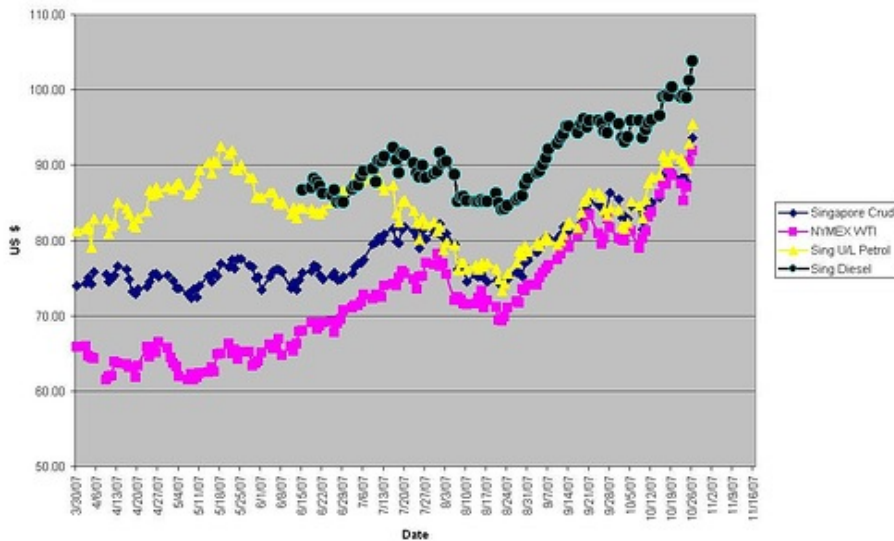
SMH - [Oil surges to record US\\$95 per barrel](#)

SMH - [Australian Dollar reaches 23 year high](#)

Comparison Crude Oil Prices - Singapore Tapis and NYMEX - \$ US per barrel



Comparison NYMEX, Tapis Crude and Tapis Unleaded



NZ Herald - [Controversial wind farm gets go ahead](#)

David Roberts - [Peak oil: More than cars](#). A different look at an issue I considered at [Peak Energy](#) yesterday without noting the demand side adjustments that could be made or mentioning all the other areas of the economy that are impacted.

There is a small rash of posts amongst the centre left - Atrios, Matt Yglesias, John Quiggin, Joseph Romm - wondering what the fuss about peak oil is. Don't hybrids solve the problem, they ask? While I'm far from doomerish in my assessment of the peak oil challenge, I think these guys are oversimplifying things (which is a typical reaction when confronted with Kunstler's outlandish predictions).

There are 3 intertwining effects (4 if you consider global warming) :

1. Oil and gas production will decrease basically continuously over a long period of time
2. A large percentage of the world's population is getting richer as it industrialises
3. The world's population will increase by around 50% over the next 40 years

These mean that per capita oil consumption rates in the West will drop dramatically - we won't get the lions share of the world's oil as we become less economically dominant, and the reduced volume of oil will be shared between more and more people.

Thus a (maybe) 50% gain in fuel efficiency - assuming the entire vehicle fleet turns over and is converted into hybrids at a rapid rate (which is a pretty big assumption) - won't be enough of an adjustment. We need a huge investment in renewable energy sources, smart grids to distribute the electricity and an electric transport system (both cars and rail) to supercede the existing one that is nearing obsolescence.

I don't believe that industrial civilisation will collapse, but I don't believe everyone going out and buying a hybrid (assuming the manufacturers can scale up fast enough) will be enough to solve the problem either.

The Age - [Memo Mr President: get tough on the black-gold cowboys](#). Anti-peak oil piece arguing that oil price rises are due to manipulation by the oil companies.

Upstream Online - [Oz study to 'unlock' offshore oil and gas potential](#)

Reuters - [Australia's Roc Oil shares slump on Angola results](#)

Upstream Online - [Roc keeps rolling in Cabinda play](#)

Upstream Online - [Horizon Oil blocked by Chinese navy](#)

Stuff.co.nz - [L&M petroleum hopes for West Coast gas bonanza](#)

SMH - [Heated row sees Hewson quit post at Natural Fuels](#)

IHT - [South Korea plans \\$22 billion fund to invest in oil and gas projects](#)

The Age - [Recycled Cycles](#)

Waikato Times - [Waikato bike business in top gear](#)

SMH - [Bus stop blues keep people away](#)

THE State Government has long ignored the needs of bus commuters, with shoddy shelters, inadequate interchanges and a lack of uniformity making bus services unattractive to potential passengers, says a former head of Sydney Buses.

John Stott, who ran State Transit until 2004, says bus services are too often treated as "second-class transport" and is calling for a radical overhaul of Sydney's 15,000 bus stops.

Scoop - [Science, society and sustainability in New Zealand](#)

ABC - [Green groups urge more public transport funding](#)

SMH - [Keep M4 toll and scrap cashback: Scully](#)

WorldChanging - [Three NZ Groups Unite to Mainstream Action on Global Warming](#)

ABC - [Natural gas industry 'ignored' in climate change debate](#). Could it be because switching from a plentiful and dirty power source to a depleting but less dirty power source makes no sense ?

SMH - [Clean Coal a Furphy: Dr Karl](#)

The Australian - [Clean coal a Goebbels scale lie: Dr Karl](#)

ABC - [Walking the environment talk on the campaign trail](#)

Scoop - [NZ Water Fuel Car Demonstrates World First](#)

(Hat Tip Dave B, Rex G)



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