



Sydney must prepare now for peak oil

Posted by [Phil Hart](#) on March 17, 2008 - 12:40am in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

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In Sydney today, Bruce Robinson, Convenor of the Australian Association for the Study of Peak Oil attended a news conference where [Lee Rhiannon, Green MLC](#) launched a bill for a NSW Oil Vulnerability Task Force.

ASPO Australia issued their own media release which has been picked up by the Sydney Morning Herald: [SMH - Sydney must prepare now for peak oil](#)

Sydneysiders must take serious steps to reduce their vehicle use before future global oil shortages hit, a peak oil study group says.

ASPO Australia's Bruce Robinson has called on the federal and NSW governments to get more cars off the roads before the oil shock hits.

"The federal government should remove FBT (fringe benefits tax) subsidies for car use and the tariff concessions for big 4WDs and start to fund public transport and bicycle facilities," he said.

"NSW should call a moratorium on new motorway construction until future fuel availability is clarified and use the funds to upgrade public transport instead."

Here is the text of the full [ASPO Australia media release](#):

Sydney and other cities should be preparing now for future oil shortages, Bruce Robinson, Convenor of ASPO-Australia, said today.

Peak Oil is the time when global oil production will start its unavoidable decline. This may be happening now, but a more likely date is in 2012 or so (+/- 5 years).

Cities which prepare well in advance for oil shortages will have big advantages over those which ignore the risks till it is too late.

The Queensland Government is preparing an Oil Vulnerability Mitigation Strategy, one of the recommendations of its Taskforce which reported in April 2007.

Mr Robinson called on the Federal and NSW Governments to collaborate in assessing

the risks oil shortages will bring. We must start serious steps to reduce our automobile dependence before the oil shocks hit.

The Federal Government should remove FBT subsidies for car use, and the tariff concessions for big 4WDs, and start to fund public transport and bicycle facilities. We should follow Margaret Thatcher's example, and put Australia on a fuel tax escalator to help people plan for future oil shortages, and to provide funding for hospitals and for sustainable transport. The 2020 summit must recognise that shortages from Peak Oil will have almost certainly arrived by 2020

NSW should call a moratorium on new Freeway construction until future fuel availability is clarified and use the funds to upgrade public transport instead.

Superannuation funds should conduct full oil vulnerability assessments before risking members' money in tunnels, toll-roads and airports which will be crippled when oil shortages arrive.

Supermarkets should offer 4c/\$ discounts on groceries as an option instead of the petrol docketts, which just subsidise profligate fuel use at the expense of sustainable transport users.

Until now, Peak Oil has had far better coverage in the Melbourne Age than Sydney Morning Herald. Let's see what appears in print tomorrow.



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