



The Bullroarer - Friday 4th April 2008

Posted by [aeldric](#) on April 3, 2008 - 9:14pm in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

New Zealand Herald - [Are biofuels the solution to upcoming fuel and climate challenges?](#)

Some are urging caution over biofuels, particularly because it was likely that some would have to be imported to meet the mandatory sales levels the Government is proposing.

International debate about the merits of biofuels is heating up, and concerns about the destruction of rainforests and rising food prices are making headlines around the globe.

Are biofuels the solution to upcoming fuel and climate challenges? Here is the latest selection of Your Views:

Courier Mail - [Oil firms bump up profit on diesel](#)

MOTORISTS with diesel cars are paying as much as 25¢ more a litre than drivers whose cars use unleaded fuel, despite diesel being cheaper to make.

Oil company profit margins were also 17 times higher for diesel than for unleaded petrol.

Herald Sun - [Costs hit oil search](#)

A DRAMATIC rise in costs resulted in a 70 per cent increase in oil and gas drilling expenditure last year, but the amount of exploration fell.

Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association chief executive Belinda Robinson said yesterday the figures reflected strong cost pressures and equipment shortages.

"Despite the number of exploration metres and wells drilled decreasing, expenditure increased by around \$1 billion, representing a 70 per cent increase," Ms Robinson said.

"This is a stark illustration of the impact of rising costs and equipment shortages.

New Zealand Herald - [The Good Oil](#)

New Zealand Oil and Gas recently took analysts out to see its Taranaki facilities, showing some smarts by getting some Australians along who were on their way to a presentation by Contact in Queenstown.

In addition to its 12.5 per cent stake in the Tui oil field and 15 per cent in Kupe, the bright prospects for coal likely mean its Pike River investment will prove a good one, various setbacks aside. But chief executive David Salisbury and his team are also talking up their two exploration opportunities in the Tui area with drilling expected next year.

The Gisborne Herald - [Emergency services hit by fuel cost](#)

Emergency services are being forced to tighten their purse strings as the cost of fuel in this district continues to spiral skywards.

Daily Reckoning - Australian Edition - [Rising Resource Prices Keeping Aussie Economy Afloat](#)

Rising resource prices for tangibles like coal, iron ore, and gold should continue to generate earnings growth for Aussie exporters. It's true that energy costs are rising for Aussie producers and the strong local dollar puts a dent in earnings.

When you get right down to it, though, the resource sector has a much better chance to grow earnings this year and next than the financial sector. The resource boom is, "generating an enormous amount of income for the Australian economy and it is not obvious that it is going away any time soon," Reserve Bank governor Warwick Mckibbin told David Uren in today's Australian.

ABN Newswire [Bowen Energy Limited \(ASX:BWN\) Announce Commencement of Coal Seam Drilling EPC1045](#)

Potential for extensive coking coal accumulations contained in the area

New Zealand Herald - [NZ Faces Long Wait For Electric Cars](#)

Car-making titans are being urged to consider making New Zealand a big showroom to the world - for electric vehicles running on its clean renewable energy.

Although industry leaders such as Mitsubishi and General Motors are preparing to sell new electric or extended-range "plug-in hybrid" vehicles in various markets over the next two years, New Zealanders may have to wait longer for them.

Government electricity generator Meridian Energy admits difficulties trying to obtain demonstration models for trials it wants to conduct this year, with keen backing from Energy Minister David Parker, and using "zero carbon" power from its hydro lakes and windfarms.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/).