



The Bullroarer - Tuesday 22nd April 2008

Posted by [Phil Hart](#) on April 21, 2008 - 6:42pm in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

More stories on the seabed territory announcement from Martin 'just find more' Ferguson:

[Hopeful prospects in expanded seabed territory](#)

A MASSIVE expansion of Australia's seabed jurisdiction has opened up a "potential bonanza" in new oil and gas discoveries.

Resources and Energy Minister Martin Ferguson said yesterday the UN had confirmed Australia's jurisdiction over an extra 2.5 million square kilometres.

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Australian Petroleum and Production Exploration Association chief executive Belinda Robinson said it was too early to tell whether the UN's ruling would translate into riches for Australia.

"A larger continental shelf means a larger canvas that we can paint our resource and energy future on," she said. "With more area comes more promise."

However, she said much of the area was likely to be frontier area, which was deep and therefore expensive to explore.

The Age: [\\$43m to upgrade rail freight lines](#)

So they'll upgrade rural rail lines? Only problem is Pacific National is taking its locomotives to Queensland where they earn more money carting coal, and now they're selling Victorian rolling stock for scrap. Farmers are not sure how they will get next year's crop to port.

THE Victorian Government has moved to ease the crisis in the state's rail freight system with a \$43 million package to upgrade key lines.

The Government will improve the speed limits on six grain lines that the Fischer rail freight review recommended be upgraded to "gold" standard as a priority.

These lines, which form a core grain network, are Korong Vale-Quambatook, Korong Vale-Charlton, Murtoa-Warracknabeal, Shepparton-Tocumwal, Swan Hill-Piangil, and Mildura-Yelta.

[High producer prices hike inflation fear](#)

The biggest producer prices jump in almost a decade has boosted the risk that inflation numbers due out this week will be on the high side.

Dearer petrol, building and utility costs pushed up final stage production expenses, which economists fear could fuel price pressures in the economy without necessarily triggering a May rate rise.

Herald-Sun: [Crude oil prices hit record high in New York](#)

AUSTRALIAN motorists can expect to pay more at the petrol pump in coming weeks, after crude oil prices hit \$US117 for the first time in New York.

The Age: [Chinese petrol heads engaging 4WD](#)

THE Chinese Government is putting pressure on car makers to improve energy efficiency, but consumers are increasingly interested in large sport utility vehicles and full-size luxury cars, motor industry executives said at the opening of the Beijing motor show.

ABC: [Oil plant equipment up for sale](#)

The owners of the mothballed Stuart Oil Shale Plant in Gladstone in central Queensland have put the equipment up for sale.

Canberra Times: [Watchdog endorses petrol scheme](#)

Motorists will have a better chance of saving money under FuelWatch, the competition watchdog says.

But Australian Competition and Consumer Commission chairman Graeme Samuel has warned motorists not to expect the saving to be obvious.

The Age: [Clearways proposal to cut gridlock](#)

Is it too much to ask to get councils to use stronger clearways to help speed up trams?

MELBOURNE could soon have uniform clearway laws, under new measures to ease congestion on the city's busiest routes.

Under a plan being worked on by VicRoads and the Department of Infrastructure — at the behest of Premier John Brumby — clearways are set to be extended to start at 3pm

As if the Myki ticket fiasco wasn't enough:

The Age: [\\$2bn 'smart' meters 'may soon be obsolete'](#)

THE timetable for the Victorian Government's \$2 billion roll-out of "smart" electricity meters is "no longer achievable" and the meters could be obsolete soon after being installed, according to the Government's independent steering committee.

NZ Herald: [Multiple tunnels top option to cross harbour](#)
Auckland joins the tunnel building madness..

Officials scouting new routes across Auckland's Waitemata Harbour are recommending separate tunnels for general traffic and for buses or trains.



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