



The Bullroarer - Monday 26th May 2008

Posted by [Phil Hart](#) on May 25, 2008 - 10:02pm in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

*Hard to know where to start; if only they had all been reading The Oil Drum.
We'll start with some productive articles before more pandering..*

The Age: [Oil fat cats in cahoots to rip off motorists?](#)

The reason prices fluctuate is the four major oil companies are at war in the fuels market. **People see service station petrol prices rising and falling in unison, not as the locked antlers of fighting bucks in the rutting season, but rather as a romantic dance — good friends colluding in order to rip off their customers.**

It's not just members of the general public that are blindsided by this ignorant, simplistic rubbish — there are senior public servants, journalists, leading politicians and even regulators barking on about corporate bogymen without ever producing a single fact to back their accusations.

AAP: [Axeing fuel excise GST 'shortsighted'](#)

Axeing the GST on the fuel excise is a populist move that will not solve a long-term fuel crisis, the Australian Greens say.

"What we need to do is not take money from the states now when they need that money to invest in public transport and give a few cents to motorists which is going to disappear immediately." Mr Rudd was no better than his predecessors by not delivering long-term solutions, Senator Milne said.

The Age: [Plan first, tunnel later, says ALP](#)

THE controversial \$9 billion east-west road tunnel may not be built unless the State Government develops a comprehensive public transport plan.

A policy motion passed by the Victorian Labor Party's state conference at the weekend, and supported by Roads Minister Tim Pallas, called for a ban on building new freeways in inner Melbourne without a transport plan.

ABC: [Govt on the defensive over 'tax on petrol tax'](#)

Nationals Senator Barnaby Joyce says the cost of petrol was by far the most talked about issue in his Queensland electorate over the weekend.

"It is the number one issue. Fuel is definitely it," he said. "If we don't acknowledge that we've got a fuel crisis, then we're really living on another planet to where the punter on the road is."

The Australian: [Rudd has a few reviews to ease fuel price sting](#)

THE Rudd Government is holding the line against Brendan Nelson's attack over petrol prices, and his populist policy to reduce excise by 5c a litre. But the Government is also taking out a little bit of insurance.

Herald Sun: [Clean fuel needs a break](#)

AS the national debate on carbon emissions intensifies, a top fuel executive has called on the government to scrap a tax on natural gas.

The Age: [Living within our means](#)

Barcelona provides a sustainable city model that we can follow.

SMH: [Rebound in supply to curb runaway oil](#)

ABC: [Nelson goads Rudd to 'make decision' on petrol tax](#)

SMH: [Labor under the pump over petrol](#)

ABC: [Low paid Canberrans feeling the pinch of petrol prices](#)

SMH: [Air NZ to save fuel by changing planes](#)

Herald Sun: [Petrol pain to hit household items](#)

[Slower Domestic Flights Attempt to Save on Fuel](#)

We've still got a long way to go, as long as rubbish like this is being printed:

Herald Sun: [Oil's well, and prices will fall again](#)

Alarmists also say that the world's oil supplies have passed their "peak", that the world has consumed half of all its oil and that the remaining one trillion barrels will be gone by 2025.

This is quite simply tosh. No one it seems is willing to proclaim the truth: there is no oil shortage. The fact is that we are all being forced to pay an artificially high price because of a combination of factors.

First there is the greed of the oil traders, bankers and speculators in the world's financial centres who are pocketing billions from our misery. Then there is the venality of oil producing countries, whose economies profit massively from artificially keeping the oil price high.

From the Institute of Public Affairs: 'Australia's Leading Free Market Think Tank' (that should be all the warning you need):

ABC:[Taxes key to petrol prices](#)

Consumers should be wary of hollow promises to reduce petrol prices by Government. The real obstacle to keeping petrol prices low is government taxes. And if you think they are bad now, just wait until the cost of a carbon trading scheme hits you when you fill up.

Brisbane folks really should check out this cartoon.. ["What to use in Campbell and Anna's tunnels"](#)

Some other stories from the Brisbane Courier Mail late last week:

[Northern Link's tunnel torment](#)

[Bligh pledges \\$2m to get public servants cycling](#)

[MPs dodge petrol pain](#)

[Aussie petrol's cheap - Shell](#)



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