



The Bullroarer - Friday 30th January 2009

Posted by [aeldric](#) on January 30, 2009 - 12:30am in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

Sorry about the late update. They say it is a recession when your neighbour loses his job, and a depression when you lose yours.

Well, as of yesterday it is a depression. Anybody looking for a slightly used CIO?

ABC - [Recession presents economic opportunities](#)

PETER CAVE: British climate economist Nicholas Stern whose ground breaking report gave climate change a financial perspective says the world's economic crisis presents opportunities for countries in recession.

He's told the World Economic Forum in Switzerland they should be using idle labour in the construction industry to build green projects and he's told our correspondent Emma Alberici that if Australia wants to continue its dependence on coal, it should be aiming to have up to four carbon capture plants built within the next decade.

NICHOLAS STERN: Australia has great opportunities. Australia could be a leader in carbon capture and storage, both in the technology and in the application of the technology. I mean Australia has holes in the ground where you can put the carbon that's captured. So I think this is an opportunity for Australia and I believe the leading thinkers on this, like Ross Garnaut and Kevin Rudd himself, understand these issues very well.

National Business Review NZ - [Stockton coal production to drop](#)

State-owned energy company Solid Energy has confirmed it will spend \$100 million in a new coal processing plant at its Stockton mine but says it will also cut coal production at the mine by 20 percent from July this year.

Workers at the mine, north of Westport, may lose their jobs as a result.

Uncertainty about the extent and duration of the international economic downturn has resulted in steelmakers, worldwide, cutting production by up to 30 percent, said chief executive Don Elder.

Stockton produces hard coking coal to steelmakers in Asia and elsewhere.

Bloomberg - [Shell Declines to Comment on Reports of Possible Bid for Nexus](#)

Royal Dutch Shell Plc Chief Financial Officer Peter Voser declined to comment on reports of a possible bid for Nexus Energy Ltd., the developer of the proposed Crux natural gas liquids venture off northern Australia.

The Australian - [No relief in sight from SA heatwave](#)

Greens Senator Scott Ludlam said the breakdowns, along with those in Melbourne, underscored the need to upgrade the nation's ageing transport infrastructure.

"It's an ominous sign that federal and state governments are not adequately funding transport infrastructure," Senator Ludlam said.

"Taxpayers deserve public transport infrastructure that's resilient and able to withstand the changing climate."

ABC - [Heatwave states brace for more power, transport outages](#)

I can hardly wait to see what Global Warming looks like.... oh, wait...

Commuters are experiencing another day of disruption on Melbourne's rail network, with more than 40 cancellations so far.

Yesterday Connex had to cancel 200 services, mostly because of problems caused by the heat.

A similar number of trains could not run on Wednesday.

ABC - [Aust 'should be leading world' in carbon capture and storage](#)

A leading economist has told the World Economic Forum in Davos that Australia should be leading the international community in the development of carbon capture and storage technology.

Nicholas Stern has called Australia's decision to cut emissions by 5 per cent on 2000 levels by 2020 on the low side, given the world is aiming for a reduction of 80 per cent by 2050.

"I think a clear path too for all the heavy emitting countries, that includes Australia, the United States, the UK, a clear path for those rich emitting countries to cut by 80 per cent by 2015 is absolutely fundamental and we all have to ask ourselves, are we on a credible path?" he told the ABC on the sidelines of the forum.

Southland Times - [Windfarm foes deny climate change](#)

Wind farms have no environmental benefits because carbon emissions are actually a good thing, a climate expert said in the Project Hayes hearing.

Dr Chris de Freitas, of Auckland University, appeared in the Queenstown Environment Court yesterday to give evidence for Roch Sullivan, who is opposing Meridian Energy's Project Hayes wind farm in Central Otago.

The climate change sceptic said building wind farms would be of "no consequence" as carbon emissions had very little effect on the climate.

NZ Herald - [Windfarm may force pilots to change course](#)

Pilots flying in and out of Wellington may be forced to change course with the construction of a new windfarm.

The construction of 62 turbines from Makara Beach to Cape Terawhiti, west of Wellington, is due to begin next month.

The Australian - [Bushfires 'to burn up climate efforts'](#)

AUSTRALIA is sitting on a time bomb when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions: bushfires.

Researchers said bushfires can release as much carbon pollution as the whole of industry combined.

While bushfires are not officially counted towards Australia's emissions, researchers said they will be in the future and it could cost billions.

The Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre says the problem will snowball because climate change will cause more bushfires, which will release more carbon pollution, which makes climate change worse.

ABC - [Climate change funds offered to local councils](#)

The Federal Government has announced another \$500,000 funding to help local councils across the country respond to climate change.

The money will be made available under the second phase of the Local Adaptation Pathways Program and individual councils will be able to apply for up to \$75,000.

ABC - [Resource industry woes won't stop emissions scheme: Wong](#)

The Federal Government says the downturn in the resources sector will not deter it from implementing its emissions trading scheme.

ABC - [Power bills should rise by 78 per cent: Energy Office](#)

Western Australia's Office of Energy has recommended a 78 per cent increase in charges for household electricity over the next 2 years.

It has forecast that a 52 per cent increase is needed in 2009/2010 with a further 26 per cent rise the following year.

The Age - [Shell reports first quarterly loss in a decade](#)

Royal Dutch Shell, Europe's largest oil company, posted its first quarterly loss in a decade following a record plunge in oil prices, and warned that industry conditions "remain challenging."



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