



## The Bullroarer - Friday 20th February 2009

Posted by [aeldric](#) on February 19, 2009 - 8:54pm in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

The Australian - [Crashing oil price nearly wipes out Caltex profit](#)

CALTEX Australia today reported a 95 per cent plunge in annual profit and declared no final dividend for 2008.

The Australian - [Clough focuses on lucrative oil and gas sector](#)

Mr Smith said the outlook for Clough remained positive.

"Demand for energy is driven by population growth and therefore well-funded oil and gas projects, and OPEX (operating expenditure) spend will proceed even in this difficult economic time," Mr Smith said.

Guide2 NZ - [MPs Hear That Climate Change Deadline Won't Be Met](#)

Wellington, Feb 19 NZPA - A new international treaty on climate change is unlikely to be completed by the end of this year, MPs were told today.

New Zealand's climate change ambassador Adrian Macey told the parliamentary inquiry into the emissions trading scheme that the ongoing negotiations were complex and involved political compromises that had yet to be reached.

Mr Macey believed there would be no comprehensive agreement reached at a conference scheduled for the end of the year in Copenhagen.

ABC - [Hockey, Swan trade blows on economy, climate change](#)

Greens Senator Christine Milne also weighed into the fear discussion, saying environmental factors also contributed to peoples' uncertainty.

"One of the underlying areas of anxiety is people are worrying about climate change and peak oil, and whether or not we're using this opportunity to transform the Australian economy," she said.

"I actually think people would feel really buoyed if they saw the Government investing heavily in renewables, in efficiency, in new public transport systems.

"People would feel like this investment was actually real investment in transforming the economy so that we're not going to be washed over with the crisis that is going to be climate change."

Carbon News - [Mission sparks high-level interest in marine energy](#)  
*Subscription required*

A recent UK mission on renewable energy has prompted the government take another look at New Zealand's marine energy potential.

Aotearoa Wave and Tidal Energy Association (Awatea) executive member Dr John Huckerby says that some government departments hadn't realised how much overseas interest there is in New Zealand's marine energy potential.

The Australian [Let's not pick renewable energy winners, says Ferguson](#)

SOLAR feed-in tariffs inflate power costs and crowd out potentially cheaper forms of renewable energy, according to Energy Minister Martin Ferguson, contradicting Rudd government support for nationally consistent feed-in tariffs and criticising schemes already legislated by most state governments.

Launching the Government's \$435 million renewable energy demonstration fund in Perth today, Mr Ferguson will say feed-in tariffs are an inferior way to promote renewable energy and Australia should instead use only its mandatory renewable energy target

ABC - [Government insists emissions trading timetable won't change](#)

ELEANOR HALL: To the confusion in the Federal Government this morning over when it will introduce its emissions trading scheme.

It was sparked by the Labor chairman of the parliamentary committee investigating the scheme who contradicted his ministerial colleagues by saying that his inquiry would report back before the legislation reaches Parliament.

The Opposition and minor parties leapt on the admission as a clear sign that the Government is now moving to delay the introduction of carbon trading. But the Climate Change Minister says that's not the case.

Voxy - [City Continues To Lead Renewable Energy](#)

Work has begun on a project that will again see the Palmerston North City Council at the forefront of sustainable power initiatives.

Foundations are being prepared and gas feeder pipes laid to install the City Council's second landfill gas engine, this time at the Totara Road Wastewater Treatment Plant. The gas engine is being located there to generate electricity from methane gas biogas which is produced by the plant's sludge digesters.

As the existing plant which generates power from methane gas at the former landfill will reduce over time, this electricity produced from sludge will take its place.

Business Day NZ - [Solid Energy to close Ohai mine](#)

Mrs Cardno said there was about 1.5 million tonnes of coal still in the mine but the cost of getting it out was huge.

"The news couldn't have come at a worse time and our hearts go out to those affected," she said.

The Australian - [Santos ripe for alliance or merger](#)

DAVID Knox says Santos is ready to "dance" in the great consolidation game that continues to bubble around Gladstone and Queensland's coal seam methane wealth.

And, if the annual result Knox delivered yesterday is any guide, it seems Santos may well be preparing to rock 'n' roll in what could be a much more exciting game.

3News - [DOC cleared over its handling of wind farm negotiations](#)

The Department of Conservation has been cleared over the way it handled sensitive wind farm negotiations with Meridian Energy, but it needs to be more open about resource consent deals, says Acting Conservation Minister Nick Smith.

The Government ordered an urgent report on Monday into DOC's deal with Meridian, which would see the energy company pay out \$175,000 to mitigate the conservation impacts of the proposed Project Hayes wind farm in Central Otago.

Otago Daily Times - [Methane system tested](#)

The \$1 million system designed to burn off methane gas from the Dunedin City Council's Green Island landfill was fired up, briefly, for the first time on Friday.

Otago Daily Times - [Wind best energy option, Meridian concludes](#)

"Energy is needed and wind is the best option."

Meridian Energy had the final say during closing submissions of an Environment Court appeal hearing for its proposed \$2 billion Project Hayes wind farm development yesterday.

Meridian counsel Hugh Rennie QC told the court why Project Hayes should get consent, highlighting the country's need for more electricity, and the appropriateness of a proposed 92sq km area on the Lammermoor Range for wind-energy generation.

The Australian - [Coal and iron ore prices to fall as Japan slumps](#)

JAPANESE monthly steel production has plummeted almost 40 per cent in the past four months, an ominous indication for Australian iron ore and coking coal producers in the midst of annual contract talks.

ABC - [NSW extends solar and rainwater rebates](#)

The New South Wales Government has extended rebates for solar hot water systems and rainwater tanks until 2011.

The Age - [Climate change caused bushfires: group](#)

*I find it sad that the real explanation is too complex. They need a "sound bite" so they can't talk about increased probabilities of outlier events - they feel that they need to say "A caused B".... even if they know that the truth is never that simple.*

The devastating Victorian bushfires were the "fires of climate change," a conservation group has warned.

Stuff.co.nz - [Tackling climate change](#)

Wanaka, Nelson and Tasman are among the latest New Zealand places to join the Earth Hour event.

Thirty-seven cities, towns and regional bodies across New Zealand have now committed to this year's environmental event at 8.30pm on March 28, joining almost 500 partner cities across 74 countries.

TV NZ - [Meridian given go-ahead for wind farm](#)

The Wellington and Porirua City Councils have given Meridian Energy the green light to establish a wind farm at Mill Creek, west of Wellington.

Wellington City Council spokesman Dougal List says Meridian wanted to build 31 wind turbines but has been given approval to install 29.

Stuff.co.nz - [Status quo at IWC must end - Garrett](#)

Mr Garrett said the commission must broaden its "narrow focus" on hunting whales to take in other environmental threats to the mammals.

"This includes current and emerging threats like climate change, marine pollution, ship strikes and habitat disturbance," he said.

The Australian - [Cutbacks loom despite Woodside profit jump](#)

WOODSIDE has bucked the trend this reporting season, showing few symptoms of the global financial malaise or the ailing oil price by unveiling a 73percent increase in annual profit to \$1.79 billion.

However, in a sign that the worst may be yet to come, the company revealed that it had kicked off a cost cutting campaign by slashing \$500 million from its budget to cope with lower oil prices over the coming year.

Woodside chief financial officer Mark Chatterji said the company was considering the sale of "non-core assets" outside Australia and the Timor Sea and might further reduce budgeted spending of several hundred million dollars.



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