



## The Bullroarer - Tuesday 17th March 2009

Posted by [Big Gav](#) on March 17, 2009 - 8:40am in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

The Australian - [Oil rises to a two-month high](#)

OIL ended at a two-month high as US equities continued to rally, offering hope that an economic recovery could bolster oil demand.

SMH - [Wall Street set for another big dive](#)

A predicted slowdown in Atlantic Ocean currents will cause sea levels along the US north-east coast to rise twice as fast as the global average, exposing New York and other big cities to violent and frequent storm surges, according to a new study.

Manhattan's Wall Street, barely a metre above sea level, for example, will find itself underwater more often as the 21st century unfolds, said the study, published online on Sunday in Nature Geoscience.

Sea levels vary across regions by up to 24 centimetres, influenced in part by powerful currents that course around the globe in a pattern called the thermohaline circulation.

The Australian - [Plunging gas prices threaten coal pits](#). *While I'd hate to provide any comfort to coal miners, if the Japanese economy ever recovers, Asian gas demand should jump quickly again, and US gas prices seem destined to bounce in the not-too-distant future given the rapid depletion of shale-gas plays and the cessation of drilling that has resulted from the price plunge.*

A PRICE war between liquefied natural gas and coal could lead to the temporary closure of coalmines, according to leading energy consultants, because of a surge in shipments of the gas from the Middle East into Europe and North America.

Plunging gas prices threaten coal pits

Gas prices, already tumbling as a result of the recession, are suffering a triple whammy, according to Cambridge Energy Research Associates (Cera): from recession in the Far East; a long-awaited build-up in new supplies of liquefied natural gas (LNG); and unexpected discoveries of new gas reserves in the United States.

The emerging gas glut could even displace coal in the supply of fuel to power stations in Europe, Michael Stoppard, managing director of Cera, said.

STCWA - [Newsletter - 17 March 2009](#)

Senate Public Transport Inquiry

Inquiry into the investment of Commonwealth and State funds in public passenger transport infrastructure and services

[http://www.aph.gov.au/SENATE/committee/rrat\\_ctte/public\\_transport/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/SENATE/committee/rrat_ctte/public_transport/index.htm)

and submissions here:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/SENATE/committee/rrat\\_ctte/public\\_transport/submis...](http://www.aph.gov.au/SENATE/committee/rrat_ctte/public_transport/submis...)

ASPO submission to national Aviation Policy

See <http://www.aspo-australia.org.au/References/submissions/Aviation-Policy-...>

(2.5MB)

Carbon Trading Summit - 19 March

FOR FURTHER DETAILS & REGISTRATION PLEASE VISIT  
[www.carbontradingsummit.com.au](http://www.carbontradingsummit.com.au)

Gladstone Observer - [LNG plans pushing ahead on schedule](#)

RUMOURS that an \$8 billion liquefied natural gas plant to be built on Curtis Island by Gladstone Liquefied Natural Gas (GLNG) may be delayed have been denied. A report in the international financial press that expansion of LNG production by global majors Exxon Mobil and Royal Dutch Shell in Western Australia and a drop in demand for LNG in North Asia said that the proposed construction of plants in the Gladstone region could be delayed.

However a spokesman for the Santos/Petronas consortium which owns GLNG and which plans a multi-billion dollar operation capable of exporting up to 10 million tonnes per year from its Curtis Island plant said yesterday everything was on target.

The Australian - [Arrow lets gas explorer Pure takeover bid lapse](#)

ARROW Energy has let its offer for coal seam gas explorer Pure Energy lapse but is giving no clues as to whether it will sell its existing shares into BG Group's competing \$1 billion cash offer.

The Australian - [Arrow Energy in China coal-seam methane deal](#)

ARROW ENERGY said today its 90 per cent-owned subsidiary Arrow Energy International has agreed to a farm-in agreement with Far East Energy that will give Arrow majority ownership of a coal-seam methane project in China.

SMH - [Uranium output may jump 20% by 2012](#)

Australia's uranium industry could lift output by about 20% in three years, government and industry officials said today, as the nation gears up for its first major expansion of uranium mining in a decade. Australia's uranium industry has been hamstrung since the early 1980s by political hostility to the nuclear fuel, but long-standing bans on new mines by various state governments are gradually being lifted in the face of economic crisis.

A state-government minister and an industry executive told a conference that Australia could boost annual output of uranium oxide to 12,460 tonnes by 2012 from new mines in South Australia and Western Australia and from expansion of existing mines.

Australia produced 10,101 tonnes last year from its three existing mines, two of which are in South Australia and the other in the Northern Territory. Western Australia lifted its ban on new mines last year and Queensland may also lift its ban soon.

The Australian - [ERA to boost uranium production at Kakadu](#)

RIO Tinto subsidiary Energy Resources of Australia plans to boost annual uranium production by more than a third by heap-leaching low-grade ore at the country's biggest uranium mine.

ERA submitted referral documents yesterday to the federal Environment Department for a project that would leach 1875 to 2000 tonnes of uranium from stockpiles and unmined ore at the Ranger uranium mine in Kakadu from 2012. A spokeswoman for ERA said the production would be in addition to the mine's current rate, which is about 5200 tonnes a year. According to ERA, the ranger mine currently provides 11 per cent of the world's uranium needs.

The heap-leach process, which involves treating five-metre high piles of mined ore with sulphuric acid, is also planned for Rio's Rossing uranium mine in Namibia.

ABC - [Uranium mining expansion facing delay, warns analyst](#). *So - who is right - is uranium mining stalled or expanding ?*

A resource analyst is warning the global financial crisis could force BHP Billiton to delay a planned expansion of the Olympic Dam mine in outback South Australia by at least two years. He has told a conference in Adelaide that the uranium industry is enduring a major shake-out thanks to the downturn, but will survive. Among an array of resources, Olympic Dam near Roxby Downs has the world's largest known uranium deposit.

The Australian - [Nuclear reaction](#)

Paul Barratt, previously head of the Department of Defence, among other roles, has responded with an article posted overnight and linked here. Firstly, there is the question of nuclear proliferation in response to the desire by many nations to reduce greenhouse emissions, or just the rising price of oil.

“It is hard to construct a scenario in which the world produces enough low-emissions electricity without a massive expansion of the world’s fleet of nuclear power stations.” Once there are many more nuclear-power plants, there will be “many additional nuclear-capable states”. Many of these will be in our region, and “the only sure counter to the potential for a military nuclear capability to emerge in our region is to have the technological capability to match such an eventuality”.

#### SMH - [Water tank maker sinks into administration](#)

A MAKER of water tanks that has 90 staff across four states is the latest small to medium-sized manufacturer to fall into the hands of administrators after it failed to pay a creditor. The economic downturn has taken a heavy toll on manufacturers, which were already battling lower-cost production in Asia and emerging economies.

#### The Australian - [The profit angle](#)

The problem, says Amory Lovins, the chief scientist at the Rocky Mountain Institute, is a simple one: energy inefficiency. If the US could use existing energy more efficiently, he figures, the country could eliminate the need for about one-third of its existing electricity supply.

#### SMH - [Uni's solar panel captures more light](#)

NEW technology that was developed in Sydney and allows solar panels to capture more sunshine is expected to influence panel production around the world. The technology is about to be demonstrated at the University of NSW. A world-first silicon solar cell production line will be built at the university, using funds from a German energy corporation and the Federal Government. It is expected to help revitalise the local solar industry, which has been badly affected by the closure last year of its largest factory, run by BP Solar in Homebush, and from a perceived lack of incentive for people who want to install solar power at home.

SMH - [Banned hyperlinks could cost you \\$11,000 a day](#). *Hopefully Cryptome has (or soon will) publish the full list so the world can have a good laugh at these guys. When the next election comes around remember I'm recommending you vote against the government.*

The Australian communications regulator says it will fine people who hyperlink to sites on its blacklist, which has been further expanded to include several pages on the anonymous whistleblower site Wikileaks. Wikileaks was added to the blacklist for publishing a leaked document containing Denmark's list of banned websites.

The move by the Australian Communications and Media Authority comes after it threatened the host of online broadband discussion forum Whirlpool last week with a \$11,000-a-day fine over a link published in its forum to another page blacklisted by ACMA - an anti-abortion website.

ACMA's blacklist does not have a significant impact on web browsing by Australians today but sites contained on it will be blocked for everyone if the Federal Government implements its mandatory internet filtering censorship scheme. But even without the mandatory censorship scheme, as is evident in the Whirlpool case, ACMA can force sites hosted in Australia to remove "prohibited" pages and even links to prohibited pages.

Peak Energy - [Locavolts or Super Grids ?](#)

Peak Energy - [Chinese strategic oil reserve full ?](#)

Peak Energy - [A CSP Tower With Air Energy Storage](#)

Peak Energy - [Solar Panels at Costco](#)

Peak Energy - [Mountains Of Concrete](#)

Peak Energy - [Paris' Twin Green Towers](#)

Peak Energy - [A micro-hydropower revolution in the UK ?](#)

Peak Energy - [An Environmental Plan From The Aviation Industry](#)



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