

# **INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE OIL SUPPLY AND ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT FUELS**

There are many indications that the supply of fossil fuels suitable for operating Australia's transport system will be increasingly short supply within the next ten years.

Urgent action needs to be taken by the Australian government to prepare Australia, so as to minimise the impact the fuel shortage will have on the people of Australia.

**The main goal must be to reduce our transport demands and increase the efficiency of our transport system.**

The following recommendations should be implemented starting immediately:

- 1      Reduce dependence on road transport.
- 2      Increase excise on petrol and diesel fuel to reduce demand.
- 3      Increase use of rail transport.
- 4      Offer incentives for communities to reduce their dependence on imports from distance suppliers by changing lifestyles and becoming more self sufficient.
- 5      Offer incentives to encourage the use of vehicles which use alternative fuels.
- 6      Introduce a pollution tax which will impact the heavy users of fossil fuel vehicles and encourage changes in their operations.
- 7      Restrict the importation of vehicles which are not highly fuel efficient and non-polluting.
- 8      Tax incentives and other benefits should be given to those who travel to work using public transport, bicycles or walking.
- 9      Fund extensive research and development in developing renewable energy.

- 1      Reduce dependence on road transport.**

- An extensive education programme must be introduced to inform the public of alternative means of transport.
- Traveling to work by walking, cycling or the use of public transport should be made more attractive. Showers and change rooms could be provided at work for those who walk or cycle to work. Financial incentives should be offered to those who do not drive to work.
- Cycle ways, walkways and greatly improved public transport must be made available.
- Increase import duties in line with the fuel consumption of the vehicle. This measure should help to make large fuel hungry vehicles less attractive. The revenue gained from this should be used to reduce any import duties for energy efficient vehicles.
- Employees should be encouraged to live closer to their places of work.

## **2 Increase excise on petrol and diesel fuel to reduce demand.**

- Vehicle licensing fees should be abolished. Those who use their vehicles the most will pay the most because they use more fuel. Vehicle owners who seldom use their vehicles will pay less because they will use less fuel.

## **3 Increase use of rail transport.**

- Rail transport is far more energy efficient than road transport.
- Government should immediately start extending and upgrading the rail systems in Australia. Standard gauge should be extended to replace the various gauges in use.

## **4 Offer incentives to communities to reduce their imports from distant suppliers.**

- Encourage the local production of food.
- Encourage the use of solar panels on houses and businesses so as to reduce the demand for large distant fossil fuel power stations.
- Encourage the use water tanks so as to reduce the demand for large dams.
- Encourage building insulation and efficient design so as to reduce the demand for heating and cooling.

## **5 Offer incentives to encourage the use of vehicles using alternative fuels.**

- Subsidise the conversion of vehicles to enable the use of natural gas.

- Encourage the establishment of local manufacturers to produce alternative energy vehicles (hydrogen fuel cells, electric motors)

**6 Introduce a pollution tax which will impact the heavy users of fossil fuel vehicles and encourage changes in their operations.**

- Europe and the UK have far tighter pollution standards for vehicles and there is evidence that this had led to greater fuel efficiency.

**7 Restrict the importation of vehicles which are not highly fuel efficient and non-polluting.**

- It is time to realize that driving a large fuel using vehicle for pleasure is no longer an acceptable thing to do in these days of global warming and our increasing reliance on fossil fuel imports.

**8 Tax incentives and other benefits should be given to employees who travel to work using public transport, bicycles or walking.**

- Including a company car as part of a salary package should no longer be an option. All incentives (such as free parking) for an employee to drive to work should be removed.
- Incentives should be given to those employees who walk, cycle or use public transport to travel to work. The incentives could be financial or reduced working hours.
- Showers and change rooms should be provided for those who walk or cycle.
- Secure storage for bicycles should be provided.
- Employer could provide free tickets for use of public transport or an allowance for using other non car travel methods.

**9 Fund extensive research and development in developing renewable energy.**

- Australia with its abundant sunlight and extensive coastline should be a world leader in solar and wind energy.
- We should be seeking advice from Sweden which is the country which has made the most progress in breaking its dependence on oil.