

. . . . "Inquiry into Australia's future oil supply and alternative transport fuels"

From:-

Mrs. Kim Bax,
77 Orion Road,
Cedar Vale,
Qld 4285

Tel:- (07) 5543 1796 or 041 270 8451

Goodmorning,

Re:- Peak Oil

I'm not expert, just a mum & part time nurse with a keen interest in these issues - and major concerns over the welfare of my children (and grand children), if this "Elephant in the living room" is ignored by planners for very much longer. There are three key points I'd like the Inquiry to consider.

Point 1 - I would like the Inquiry to take into account that my recent questions to John Howard about Peak Oil (which he referred to Resources Minister Ian McFarlane), were answered by Mr. McFarlane on the 26th of February 2006. I would also like the Inquiry to note my further reply to Ian McFarlane (of the 20th March 2006), and note that this interaction has been widely distributed throughout the community.

My further response to Ian McFarlane made a number of critical points, and was sent to:-

Every local newspaper in Queensland

Every state politician in Queensland

Every Federal politician in Queensland

Every local councillor in Queensland

Via this email:-

["Energy Minister & key questions"](#)

[Re:- Recent questions - and his reply - to Ian McFarlane \(Australian Minister for Energy\), about how Australia is planning for global oil depletion \("Peak Oil"\)](#)

[Cc - Every local newspaper in Queensland](#)

[Cc - Every state politician in Queensland](#)

[Cc - Every Federal politician in Queensland](#)

Cc - Every local councillor in Queensland

From:-

Mrs. Kim Bax,
77 Orion Road,
Cedar Vale,
Qld 4285

Goodmorning,

Around November last year, I wrote to John Howard and asked him how Australia was planning to deal with the undisputed and predicted decline in global oil supplies. I also referred him to the sweeping initiatives of senior USA Republican Congressman Roscoe Bartlett, in regard to this. Here's some info on that:-

<http://www.tomudall.house.gov/display2.cfm?id=11447&type=Issues>

Anyway, in February this year, I got a reply from Ian McFarlane. I found it worryingly lacking in any real understanding of the problem. It did not contain policies that will serve Australia well through times of major change, as oil depletes. To see why, you can check out Ian McFarlane's letter - and my reply - at:-

<http://www.kimspages.org/ianmcfarlane.htm>

As the mother of 3 children, I think it's crucial that every Australian is informed about this looming problem - and that every Australian takes part in planning for the biggest problem of the millennium. We owe it to our kids and grand kids to look into the face of the unthinkable.

Personally, I have found "The Community Solution" a good, positive resource (though I am sure there are many others). Here's a link:-

<http://www.communitysolution.org/>

And for Australian expertise on the problem, you need look no further than "The Association for the Study of Peak Oil & Gas - Australia":-

<http://www.aspo-australia.org.au/>

I hope the above information has been of interest and use.

Best wishes, Kim"

Point 2 - I would like you to take into account my recent questions to Queensland Education Minister, Rod Welford, about "Peak Oil." Here's the relevant email:-

"Peak Oil & education in Qld

From:-

Mrs. Kim Bax,

To:-

Mr. Rod Welford, Minister for Education (Qld)

Cc - Every member of the State & Federal Parliaments in Queensland

Cc - Every high school in Queensland

Cc - Every local newspaper in Queensland

Goodmorning Mr. Welford,

I'm just a mum (and part time nurse), living in Beaudesert Shire. My 14 year old daughter goes to the local public high school. My worry is the possibility our children aren't being educated about the very different world they're entering, in regard to declining global oil supplies.

I'm fearful for her future, and the future of my other two children (now 20 & 22).

I was born in 1957, and have experienced the benefits of an abundant and expanding oil supply my entire life. Quite recently, I received this link from "Information Clearing House":-

<http://www.oilcrisis.com/campbell/commons.htm>

It's oil geologist/scientist Colin Campbell's 1999 address to the British House of Commons. My jaw was at my feet by the time I'd finished reading it, and I wondered why no-one had ever told me this.

With the aid of "Google" I did more research, and came up with this result for "peak oil":-

Results **1 - 10** of about **5,590,000** for "**peak oil**". (**0.37** seconds)

And this result for "hubbert peak":-

Results **1 - 10** of about **233,000** for "**hubbert peak**". (**0.49** seconds)

I guess that's enough to keep anyone busy. I also bought and read Richard Heinberg's

book "The Party's Over":-

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0865714827/102-5564163-8326506?v=glance&n=283155>

As well as James Kunstler's "The Long Emergency":-

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0871138883/102-5564163-8326506?v=glance&n=283155>

Therefore, it was with great interest I watched this recent ABC TV "Catalyst" segment ("Real Oil Crisis):-

<http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/s1515141.htm>

And read transcripts of ALP Qld State member for Hervey Bay (Andrew McNamara), recent speech and radio interview on our looming energy crisis:-

<http://www.globalpublicmedia.com/lectures/360>

And:-

<http://www.energybulletin.net/8501.html>

I think it's imperative that our children are formally educated about this coming problem, therefore Rod, my question to you is does "Peak Oil" (and all its major ramifications), formally feature anywhere in the Queensland school curriculum. If not, why not? And if not, when will it be included?

I do concede the difficulty here though. Even politicians have problems facing reality, as the recent Peter Beattie/Campbell Newman splurge on multi-million dollar toll tunnels shows. How can this be justified when the reality we're facing is so well known, and so well documented? How's it possible for road numbers to go up, when oil volume's going down? Shouldn't we be spending our current (and short lived), energy wealth on public transport instead? How many toll customers will there be when oil's over \$100 a barrel and rising:-

Goldman Sachs: Oil Could Spike to \$105

By Reuters staff

LONDON (Reuters) - Oil markets have entered a "super-spike" period that could see 1970's-style price surges as high as \$105 a barrel, investment bank Goldman Sachs said in a research report.

<http://www.energybulletin.net/5017.html>

Do the investors in these tunnels realise this? And it's not going to get better, we're in permanent oil decline. That's what "Peak" means. It's not a reality I like, or look forward to - but what can you do, deny it? Carry on with "Business as usual" and wilfully ignore realistic options to cushion the fall? We all have to face up to the future, we don't have any other choice.

And please Rod, don't brush these crucial questions off with the usual "Yes Minister" response. It's far too important.

Best wishes, Kim""

Point 3 - Please note that both of the above contain key information, and have been distributed at grass roots level. You can't get much more grass roots than every local newspaper, every local high school and every local councillor in a State. So, despite the general apathy of the main stream media in relation to this issue, the Inquiry would do well to appreciate that the general understanding of this problem in the wider community may be higher than they think.

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