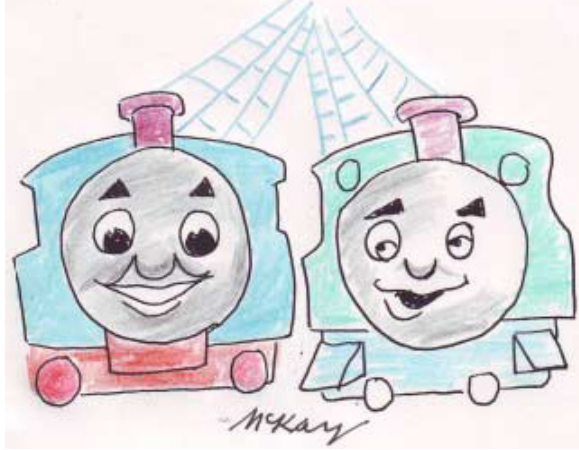


Election Comment

Climate Change was a key issue of the federal election and as transport is a significant factor in GHG emissions, we encourage the government to accept the mandate and start seriously planning for sustainable transport (including rail and ferry) and sustainable city design solutions.



Hey, Thomas. We're back!

Oil and War

"The Iraq war is a terrible failing of US foreign policy, not to mention for Iraqis, but it is a lucrative one if you have shares in companies such as Halliburton.... Iraq was made possibly by the shock of September 11, together with false information about weapons of mass destruction.... A new oil law allows companies such as Shell and BP to sign 30-year contracts, which Klein argues gives them a large share of Iraq's oil profits."

Ref: Mike Steketee *The Australian* 17/11/07
Reviewing Namoi Klein's book *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*

Peak Oil

"China's largest oil and gas producer had 20.5 billion barrels of reserves last year, compared with 22.1 billion for Texas-based Exxon, data compiled by Bloomberg shows. PetroChina has been adding reserves at an average annual rate of 5 per cent for the past three years, a faster pace than Exxon, Royal Dutch Shell and BP, the world's largest oil companies by sales.... Gains in PetroChina's shares in Shanghai might have more to do with Chinese investors seeking better returns than the outlook for the company's exploration and production operations, or its refining business, said Larry Grace, an oil analyst at Kim Eng Securities in Hong Kong. 'Production is static, with limited upside for the next three to four years,' he said."

Ref: Ying Lou *The Age* 6/11/07

Railway Investment in the US

"Warren Buffett [chairman of Berkshire Hathaway] is America's most celebrated investor, so it is always a newsworthy event when he takes a new stake in a company. Berkshire Hathaway ... revealed that in addition to their large stake in BNI, they had also acquired positions in railroad companies Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific Corp. The combined railroads holdings now constitute their 5th largest investment. ... What is also interesting is that Buffett didn't make a bet on a single railroad company, but on three. So it may not be that he saw value in BNI per se, but in the railroad industry as a whole.... So where could the value that Buffett so clearly sees be coming from? Two things spring immediately to mind:

1. *The coverage maps of the three railroads are somewhat complimentary...*
2. *With the passing of 'Peak Oil' and higher gas prices, railroads will increase in value as they are the most efficient method to move cargo across the country."*

Ref: Seeking Alpha 18/6/07

<http://seekingalpha.com/article/38532-the-railroad-industry-warren-buffett-s-latest-big-bet>

Railway Investment in the UK

"London's Crossrail project has been given the green light to progress. The rail line will deliver 118km of track and 38 new stations with rolling stock able to carry some 200m passengers a year. The October 5th announcement was the culmination of many years of planning, debate and campaigning. The concept was first mooted as part of the London underground network in the 1970s before Crossrail emerged as a proposal in 1989 along with the Jubilee Line extension. These proposals were taken forward but Crossrail was dumped in the recession of the early 1990s. The route was safeguarded for the future although the project was omitted from transport plans. The Jubilee Line extension did go ahead and was opened in 1999."

Ref: Bryony Cooper *The Flyer* November 07
PBAI Australia

"Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London welcomed the announcement and said: 'Crossrail is not just a transport scheme – it is the key to the next 20 years of economic development of London. Crossrail will provide the transport underpinning for the greatest centres of London's business'..."

Ref: Campaign for Crossrail

<http://www.campaignforcrossrail.com/>

And Also...

"Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway sold its stake in PetroChina this year." **The Age 6/11/07**

PT Planning in Melbourne

"Melbourne's public transport network is failing the city and more must be spent immediately to extend the network, state planning professionals have warned. And the State Government is not doing enough to cope with the massive development on the city fringes, planners say.

The Planning Institute today will release its annual national report card in which planners from across the country assess their state's performance, and make their demands for a better planning system. Victoria has for a second year running scored a poor 'C' rating overall, in a stinging assessment by its planners. 'This is clearly not good enough,' institute national president Sue Holliday said.

The State Government needed to roll out its 10-year, \$10.5 billion plan to improve Melbourne's public transport network immediately instead of over a decade, state Planning Institute president Jason Black said. The plan, Meeting Our Transport Challenges, was taking too long to produce results, 'It isn't enough to meet the challenges, because they are enormous,' He urged the State Government to bring forward transport spending now. 'We need extra network coverage and we need more hard rail across Melbourne,' he said.

The survey, of 136 planners in Victoria and 750 nationally, gave the Victorian Government a 'D' for its performance in improving and expanding public transport across the state. Along with the troubled transport system, more needed to be done to manage growth, as the city struggled to fit in an extra 1 million people over the next two decades. 'We keep reading about record growth in this state, but the one thing we don't have is a very solid plan to service that growth,' Mr Black said. Planners praised the State Government's Melbourne 2030 blueprint, which aims to curb urban sprawl, but said it lacked a proper implementation plan."

Ref: Clay Lucas The Age 8/11/07

New Transit Authority for SE QLD

"Premier Anna Bligh says the new authority will manage the 17 different bus, ferry, and passenger train services... 'One authority [will be established] to deal with customer needs and customer complaints, one authority to provide better and more efficient public transport services and one new authority with real grunt to provide better coordination and integration of service,' she said." **Ref: ABC News 9/10/07**

Healthy Cities

"Australia will have more than 7 million obese residents — almost one in three of the population — in less than 20 years if the nation's love affair with cars, shopping malls and other inactive pursuits is not curbed. Australian Medical Association research shows that at least 3.2 million people are clinically obese. Professor Anthony Capon, one of the report's 12 authors, said the shift of the population to cities, inadequate mass transport and the relocation of retailers had resulted in urban environments that discouraged incidental exercise. Professor Capon, from the University of Sydney's Australian Health Policy, said the reliance on fossil fuels was bad for our waistlines and the environment. 'Rather than using somatic energy to move ourselves around we use fossil fuels, which emit carbon dioxide, but also we're not using up the food we consume, so we're sequestering carbon around our waistlines too.' Just as large-scale campaigns changed the population's mindset on tobacco and immunisation, governments need to tackle obesity the same way, Professor Adrian Bauman from the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney said. 'We drive short distances more and more, kids don't walk or cycle to school, we spend the day in the car or sitting at a desk, so we need to re-engineer our mindset that allows people to be active throughout the day,' he said."

Ref: Louise Hall The Sunday Age 28/10/07

Sydney Ferry Review

The key recommendations included:

- ◆ Private operators to bid for the right to run services under a government contract.
- ◆ Replace existing 31 vessels with up to 40 new boats.
- ◆ End the Manly Jetcat and upper Parramatta River services.
- ◆ Standardise wharf design.
- ◆ King Street Wharf to be developed as a second hub to take pressure off Circular Quay.
- ◆ An overarching body be set up to ensure ferry bus and train timetables are co-ordinated.

Ref: Andrew Tillet The Manly Daily 2/11/07

And Also...

"The first public signs of problems within the organisation came when ferries developed the habit of running into things."

Ref: Andrew Tillet The Manly Daily 3/11/07

Online: www.goingsolar.com.au/transport

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