

## PT in Western Australia

WA PREMIER ALAN CARPENTER: "We outlined our vision at the State conference for the expansion of the urban rail network and public transport generally in Western Australia and the metropolitan area. ... Remember we expanded the rail line from Joondalup up to Clarkson and look at the incredible development that you have seen around this node here as a result of this transport link ... We are very, very keen to deal with these issues: urban congestion, proper planning for public transport, for the growth of our city, responding to the issues of climate change, of increasing fuel costs, it all comes together. It comes together in policy development like this. And this is why we are so committed to this sort of work here in the metropolitan area. And I am grateful that we have got support from the Federal Government in the direction in which we are travelling in this policy initiative. ... What we are doing here is providing an option which is faster, its cleaner, it's safer. Why wouldn't you, why wouldn't you use this sort of public transport option if it is made available. I've listened; I've spoken to the Prime Minister about dealing with public transport in our major cities, about dealing with urban congestion. We've got a proven track record, not only the Northern line but of course what we did with the Mandurah line, the extension of the line to Thornlie and I'm trying to demonstrate to the Prime Minister that our expansion of public transport to deal with urban congestion is worthy of Federal support. ... We want to move people around quickly, cleanly, cheaply, safely and it fits exactly I think with the sort of policy direction that Kevin Rudd has outlined from his Governments point of view."

PRIME MINISTER KEVIN RUDD: "What I am saying loud and clear is that these sorts of projects are the sort of projects which the Federal Government wants to partner with State Governments on and that means the State Government of WA. ... What I am signalling to you loud and clear today is that the urban congestion needs, the public transport needs of our major cities including Perth are up there as priority number one."

**Ref: Extracts from the transcript of a joint press conference, Perth, 13/8/08**

## And Also ...

"Practice random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty."

**Ref: Sticker on a battered-up old van, 18/8/08**

## Road Crash Statistics

"In 2007, road crashes killed 1,616 motorists, truck drivers, passengers, cyclists and pedestrians – 18 more than in 2006. Among these crashes:

- ↳ 47% involved single vehicles only;
- ↳ 14 % involved pedestrians;
- ↳ 16% involved motorcycles; and
- ↳ 10% involved articulated trucks. ...

<b>ACT</b>	4.1 deaths per 100,000 people;
<b>Vic</b>	6.4 deaths per 100,000 people;
<b>NSW</b>	6.5 deaths per 100,000 people;
<b>SA</b>	7.8 deaths per 100,000 people;
<b>Qld</b>	8.6 deaths per 100,000 people;
<b>Tas</b>	9.5 deaths per 100,000 people;
<b>WA</b>	11.2 deaths per 100,000 people;
<b>NT</b>	26.1 deaths per 100,000 people.

... Road crashes cost the Australian economy some \$18 billion a year." **Ref: Federal Government Media Statement, 20/8/08**

## More Trains and More Demand

"The most recent Australian Bureau of Statistics figures on social trends show public transport usage in Melbourne is growing faster than in any other capital city, with Melburnians' patronage of the rail network surging by 30% in three years. In the decade to 2006, the proportion of adults using public transport for work and study leapt by 35% to 300,500 — almost triple the rate of growth in Sydney and higher than in Brisbane, which experienced a 22% rise in public transport usage. The Brumby Government's efforts to ease the commuter squeeze on Melbourne's train system have failed, with extra services achieving no reduction in overcrowding. ... extra services were filled to capacity as soon as they started running."

**Ref: Melissa Fyfe/Reid Sexton, The Age 17/8/08**



**Sardines on Victorian public transport.**  
**Cartoon: Spooner The Age, 24/7/08**

## And Also ...

"Heard at Camden Town

station (on a crowded Saturday afternoon):  
'Please let the passengers off the train first...  
Please let the passengers off the train first...  
Please let the passengers off the train first...  
Let the passengers off the train FIRST!...  
Oh go on then, stuff yourselves in like sardines, see if I care, I'm going home'." **Ref: [http://www.jokefile.co.uk/numerical\\_order/1214.html](http://www.jokefile.co.uk/numerical_order/1214.html)**

### Bike Racks on Buses

*“Bureaucrats want bike racks on buses to ease a lack of public transport in the suburbs, a leaked cabinet submission shows. The submission, from the Department of Transport to a subcommittee led by Premier John Brumby, outlines a plan to put bicycle racks on the front of the Government's showcase SmartBuses. The \$660m SmartBus program provides an ‘orbital’ bus service to the city's outer suburbs, which are poorly served by rail and trams. The submission says commuters who use these buses would benefit from the racks, each holding about three bikes.” Ref: F R Perry & Associates, July Newsletter, 2008*

### Lighter, Safer, Cheaper Cars?

*“CSIRO scientists working on lightweight alloy parts hope to cut 400kg to 500kg off the weight of cars, making for big savings on petrol consumption. They have found by using aluminium and magnesium alloys, about 27 per cent of weight can be cut from the average family car weighing about 1250kg. CSIRO spokesman Sam Tartaglia said considerable savings could be made on the costs of fuel as well as CO2 greenhouse gas emissions, simply by driving lighter, safer vehicles. US and Australian car makers were looking at the products, some of which had the potential to improve safety because they had the potential to better absorb impacts. ‘An example is that BMW uses a magnesium block and they took 10kg off the weight of the engine alone’, Mr Tartaglia said. ‘It's obviously a major gain and also lowered the car's centre of gravity by 25mm so it improved handling’. With oil prices at historic highs and global concern about climate change, car manufacturers' focus was shifting to lightweight, low-fuel consumption cars. Barrie Finnin, former general manager for alloy technologies with CSIRO materials science and engineering, said the magnesium and aluminium alloys created car parts that were cost-competitive with conventional components. ‘Lighter cars use less fuel because they need less energy to start and stop than heavier cars’, Mr Finnin said. The Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries estimates Australian exports of motor vehicles and automotive components were worth \$4.85 billion in 2006. This made the automotive sector Australia's largest manufacturing export earner, accounting for higher export earnings than traditional products such as wheat, wool and wine. Close to 70,000 people work in the sector, many of them in smaller companies producing components.”*

**Ref: Brian Williams, News.com.au, 12/8/08**

### East Coast Cycleway

*“The East Coast Cycleway / Shared Path for cyclists and walkers was planned in 2001 as a continuation of the NSW Coastline Cycleway. The Cycleway was to link Victoria and Queensland's Bicycle / Walking Paths, connecting the cities of Brisbane/Gold Coast, Sydney and Melbourne. The trail was intended to build an international eco-tourist attraction with its associated benefits, including linking communities. By avoiding the highway, the trail would provide a safe travelling trail for all, including children and the elderly. Other benefits included enhancing the environment, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, along with improving health and lifestyle. Linking the Brisbane metropolitan bike path with the Gold Coast bike paths to the NSW border will benefit the planned NSW Coastline Cycleway. This will eventually be a continuous cycleway along the entire NSW coast, between the Queensland border and the Victorian border.*

*“At the Victoria border there is a missing link to Orbost where the East Gippsland Rail Trail starts and runs all the way to Bairnsdale. From Bairnsdale to Stratford there is the Howitt Bicycle Trail. Alternatively, a bike / walking track could be built along the Bairnsdale / Stratford railway line, similar to the paths in the US. Stratford is the start of the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail, which goes onto Traralgon. Traralgon is in the Latrobe City Council which has shared / bike paths including the Yallourn / Moe Rail Trail. Latrobe City bike paths join into Baw Baw Shire bike paths with the off road bike route from Warragul to Drouin. The Baw Baw Shire Bike paths take you onto the Cardinia Shire Council, which at Pakenham joins onto the Melbourne Metropolitan Bike Paths. ... The East Coast Cycleway not only takes in many of the government's policies in tourism, health, infrastructure, transport, economic and social issues but its commitment to climate change and environment. The East Coast Cycleway has the potential to be funded by carbon emission offset schemes.” Ref: Peter McMahon. Australia's East Coast Cycleway 2002 (plus amendments))*

### Shale Oil

*“Queensland premier Anna Bligh today killed off a controversial \$14 billion shale oil project in north Queensland. Ms Bligh cited the need to put the environment first as she quashed plans to start bulk sampling and exploration of the McFarlane deposit, 15km south of Proserpine. Ms Bligh said she would not allow the environment to be put at risk while the technology for extraction of the resource was still not proven.”*

**Ref: Daily Telegraph, 24/8/08**

## Oil Dependence

*“Australia must end its dependence on imported oil to capitalise on a bank of alternative energy sources, said an energy expert at the world's largest carmaker. General Motors vice-president for planning, Larry Burns, said in Melbourne yesterday that LPG should be the first step, followed by everything from compressed natural gas to hydrogen and even solar power for plug-in electric cars. ‘If I did have that magic wand in Australia I would definitely focus on energy diversity’, he said. ‘I would ask myself “Do I need to be importing any petroleum at all into this country?”. Why would you want to not import petroleum, with all the money that flows out of your economy? Why wouldn't you want to control your own destiny?’ ...*

*“Mr Burns said Australia was one of the countries which was spoiled for choice, but the government needed to move quickly to ensure it capitalises on the various options. ‘I am envious of Australia because I think you are one of the nations that can truly come up with an energy independence strategy and find a way to reduce the automobile's dependence on petroleum’, he said. .... In Australia, he believes an opportunity exists to wean transport away from imported oil with a range of short and long-term energy choice. ‘I would look at LPG as a starting point. That's an exciting opportunity because you already have the distribution and the natural gas is relatively inexpensive and relatively clean’, he said. ‘I'd anticipate compressed natural gas down the road and, longer term, I would look to hydrogen’. But, for Australia, he sees the sun playing a big role as electric cars take over from petrol-powered vehicles.”*

**Ref: Paul Gover, Herald Sun, 13/8/08**

## Adelaide Carshare

*“Adelaide has a new car sharing program, aimed at encouraging people not to run their own car. It is similar to a hire car system, allowing members of the scheme to book one of the cars available to use for as long as they choose. Lord Mayor Michael Harbison says Adelaide City Council will provide several free parking spaces in the city for the program. He says similar schemes have proved successful in other metropolitan areas, with car share members driving up to 70 per cent less than car owners. ‘Living in the city, people find they barely need a car’, he said. ‘They can walk to work, walk to the shops, but there are times when they need a car to visit friends or visit the country and this is a great way of saving money and saving our environment too’.”*

**Ref: ABC News, 19/8/08**

## Oil Sands

*“Today, the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) upheld WWF's complaint against an advert placed by Shell in the Financial Times earlier this year, which suggested that oil sands were a sustainable energy source. The ASA - the independent body responsible for regulating UK advertising - branded the advert 'misleading', due to its ambiguous use of the word 'sustainable'. The advert referred specifically to the company's oil sands deposits in Alberta, Canada and their work to build the largest oil refinery in North America in Port Arthur, Texas. WWF believes that Shell's repeated use of the term 'sustainable' is entirely at odds with these activities. A recent report released by WWF and Co-operative Financial Services revealed that the production of oil from tar-soaked shale or sand can create up to eight times as many emissions as conventional oil production does. ‘Oil sands are one of the world's dirtiest sources of fuel and have a major impact on the environment’, said David Norman, Director of Campaigns at WWF-UK. , Their extraction cannot be described as a sustainable process and for Shell to claim otherwise is wholly misleading’.*

*“Half of the remaining boreal forest in the world is situated in Canada and large areas of this have already been destroyed by oil sand extraction. Alberta is also home to some of the largest dam structures in the world, which were built to hold in huge tailing ponds of waste water. These ponds, some of which are visible from space, are the toxic by-product of the oil sand industry. ‘The ASA's decision to uphold WWF's complaint sends a strong signal to business and industry that greenwash is unacceptable’, David Norman continued. ‘Oil sands are an incredibly destructive source of energy and, along with the expansion of Shell's oil refining capacity in Texas, cannot be considered a sustainable way to meet the world's future energy needs. If Shell were serious about sourcing sustainable energy, then they would be far better placed investing in renewable energy, such as wind, tidal or solar power’.”*

**Ref: WWF – UK, 13/8/08**



**‘I'm just car-sharing’**

