

Peak Oil Tasmania

We are here

The need for action

- Peak oil means the end of cheap oil supplies – the end of affordable petrol.
- On the bright side, Tasmania is well resourced to develop liveable cities and towns and an economy that is much less dependent on dwindling oil supplies.
- But such a future is only possible if the Tasmanian government acts quickly. Strong policies are needed that will build economic resilience and enable vulnerable Tasmanians to cope with sky rocketing fuel prices.
- Those hit hardest will include:
 - low income earners
 - people living in outer suburbs and rural Tasmania
 - businesses and freight

Personal action

- Tasmanians can do many things to protect themselves and make their lives much more resilient – like minimise travel distances to essential services and work, change travel behaviours and grow foods at home. And... lobby government to act. It's important to plan now, not wait.
- Joining a sustainable local community is highly recommended.
- For more action ideas please go to this website: www.peakoiltas.org

How will you cope?



when petrol
goes through
the roof.

What is Peak Oil?

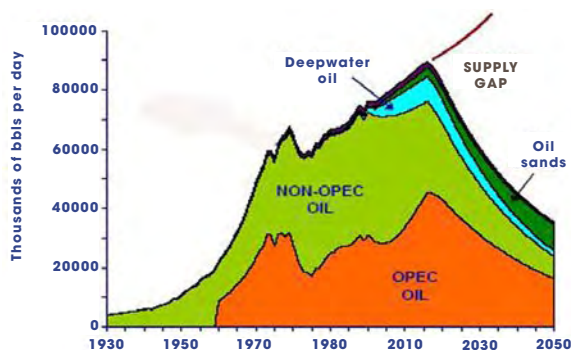
The oil that is used to make petrol and other transport fuels is a finite resource – literally a ‘fossil’ fuel created millions of years ago.

Every year since 1984 less oil has been discovered than has been consumed. Today, only one barrel of oil is discovered for every four consumed. Time’s running out.

Peak Oil is the point in history when maximum oil production is reached – beyond that point, less and less oil is produced as the major oil reserves run down, leaving a growing gap between supply and demand.

The ramifications for Tasmania are very profound.

World primary oil production



Many analysts say that the ‘peak oil moment’ has already happened – in July 2008.

Oil prices and you

Analysts are forecasting an abrupt oil shock before 2014. This means that we’ll see prices for both fuel and food that we’ve never seen before – and even fuel scarcity. We are simply not prepared for it. Rising prices will have a devastating impact on household budgets.

In Tasmania, over 90% of all travel is made by car. Our freight & food supply systems are heavily dependent on oil. Transport and food represent most of Tasmanians’ weekly expenditures.



The scale of the peak oil problem and how it will affect us is poorly understood. Many governments around the world are preparing contingency plans for life after peak oil. Tasmania’s existing transport and land use policies are going in the wrong direction. It’s time for reform.

Our economy is also heavily reliant on imported oil. As petrol prices rise, transport costs for business will increase. So too will export costs. These costs will then hit consumers. Without support, sectors of our economy and society will face hard times.

Helping industries and communities to develop ways to cope with high fuel costs will be far more effective and much cheaper than rescue packages in the future.

The evidence is clear:

Lloyds of London, the German military, Britain’s Peak Oil Taskforce, the Australia Institute, the International Energy Agency and many other key players have issued reports warning that peak oil



poses a major risk to global security, food security and the world economy if governments adopt a business-as-usual approach.

The choice is ours:

Alternative fuels cannot solve the problem in time to meet this critical challenge and they bring their own serious problems with them.

Tasmania must develop an *Energy Descent Action Plan* that:

- 1) strengthens local communities
- 2) focuses on local food production and transport.

