

The Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

Submission from:

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Dear Committee Members

We hear much said about Food Security for this nation and once the subject is opened up; it is quite clear how complacent we have become and how much more attention the subject deserves.

Australia's fuel situation is in a very similar category.

There has been a dramatic reduction in our refining capacity in recent years. Like so many other industries, it has been lost due to refined fuel being available from foreign sources at a much lower cost than would be possible here.

There are two aspects regarding fuel security. The first scenario accepts that refined fuel will be imported and the second would see fuel refined in Australia from local and imported crude oil.

In both cases there must be provision to store more product (whether refined or crude).

From a national security point, it is absolutely necessary that we have an adequate supply of fuel for an extended period. I consider one month's supply to be the minimum, especially if we rely on imported refined fuel. If there was any sort of crisis, how long would it take to bring tanker loads to all receipt points around Australia?

I would like to see Australia refining more crude oil whether from local or imported sources. To be reliant on almost all refined fuel from distant foreign ports is a retrograde step.

Storage for crude and refined fuels must be increased to provide at least one month's supply.

Ken Grundy