Submission to the Inquiry into Australia's future oil supply and alternative transport fuels

Please accept my submission to this inquiry. I write to you, not being an expert in this field but, simply as a concerned Australian citizen. In particular, I am seriously concerned about the future for my children.

Living in Australia's largest city affords me the "luxury" of being able to view first hand the absolute dependence the majority of people seem to have on their private motor vehicles. It has been widely reported in various media that many hours are lost and countless amounts of fuel is wasted as vehicles sit in traffic going nowhere. Traffic and the substantial pollution it generates makes out cities less and less liveable.

I propose to the committee, in response to options for reducing Australia's transport fuel demands that immediate action is taken on a Federal level to force State Governments into implementing programs that halt private vehicle usage in our large cities. Such drastic action is required if we are going to prevent future catastrophe. I understand that living in a democracy affords people certain rights like being able to use their private motor vehicle, but at what cost to others and to the country?

The solution that I submit to the inquiry involves ceasing vehicle subsidies and tax breaks, introducing CBD tolls, discounted public transport, pedestrian and cyclist priority at traffic lights, safe and segregated cycling lanes, tax credits for non-motorised usage e.g. 5 cents per kilometre walked or cycled. Decreasing private motor vehicle usage will free up roads to enable freight and other goods to be transported more efficiently thereby decreasing fuel usage. These savings should be passed on to the consumer.

I am under no illusion about the drastic nature of these suggestions; however, I am convinced that unless people are forced to change their life long habits they are destined to continue repeating them.

Sincerely,

Adam Butler
25/3 Concord Ave
Concord West NSW 2138
(02) 9743 0231