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Hello

Thank you for this opportunity to submit to the Senate Inquiry on

Australia's future oil supply and alternative transport fuels. I recognize this is a late submission, please accept my apologies.

I would like to tell you about some workshops being hosted by a group called GaiaVic, attached are some documents including one that explains what GaiaVic is about as well as documents related to the workshops.

When i started to learn about the issue of Peak Oil I became quite depressed, hopeless and despairing. In May of 2005 I did a workshop called Stillness in Action which introduced me to the work of Joanna Macy, known as "Despair and Empowerment work" or "the Work that Reconnects."

Those who had participated in this work were the basis for the group called GaiaVic, we decided to watch the film "The End of Suburbia" together and out of that formed the "End of Oil Study/Action Group". The action aspect the group created was twofold: 1) a stall at the Sustainable Living Festival with information about Peak Oil, relocation as an alternative, the Stillness in Action retreat and the workshop called the Heart of Peak Oil and 2) the workshop called the Heart of Peak Oil.

A preliminary workshop was held on 04 December 2005 for a group of 24 people, mostly those who already had a significant level of awareness about the issue of Peak Oil. This workshop was intended to glean feedback to inform another workshop for a wider audience. The second workshop was called The Heart of Peak Oil, held 25 February 2006. The intention was to provide space for people to explore their feelings about Peak Oil in a "despair and empowerment" context. This means acknowledging the despair we feel about the issue and incorporating the processes of "the work that Reconnects" to provide a meaningful framework for those feelings, move through them instead of ignoring them. The purpose is to transform the despair into empowered action by a series of interactive group activities and a specially designed process-oriented agenda. The first workshop was altered slightly to create a much more effective second workshop although to an intentionally smaller group of 12.

The second workshop was highly successful and very powerful. It created a space for participants to move through emotional blocks to a sense of empowerment and taking action. A summary of the evaluation forms and group activities from this workshop will be sent at a later date.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information with you in regards to how we have chosen to respond to this crisis.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Other members of GaiaVic, or workshop organisers and participants may also be available to respond to questions if you like.

If a summary of the findings of the Senate Inquiry becomes available, I would like a copy.

Thank you,

Tathra Street

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No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.