

I believe that by now there is at least a majority view if not consensus that the world needs to stop burning fossil fuel in its transport as soon as possible.

The convergence of Peak Oil and Global Heating make this an urgent priority for reasons of an economic survival, energy security and health of the planet.

The global auto, bus and trucking industries have already embraced this need and are at various stages of introducing vehicles using alternative fuels, the vast majority being electric vehicles (EV's) or Plug-in Hybrids (PHEV's).

These will start to appear in Australia in the 2011-13 timeframe. It is therefore reasonable to suppose that, as the average car has a lifetime of around 15 years, 85-90% of the migration away from internal combustion engines (ICE's) will be completed by 2026-2030.

This process will require Govt assistance to help the industry adapt to these changes, the level of which has already been announced and committed.

Quite separately, there is a perceived need to improve public transport in Australia, which will also require Govt expenditure.

It is very important that the lines between this need and the need to migrate our transport to non-fossil fuels do not become blurred to the extent that Govt funds become diverted from the latter to the former as has been suggested in some quarters.

It is our view that reducing pollution is a greater priority.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Sanderson
'Plug-in Australia'