

### Victorian Climate Change Summit

The Victorian Premier's Summit, held last Friday at Parliament House was an excellent initiative for which the Government (and the staff who organised it) are to be commended. Here is the transport extract from the communiqué:

*"Delegates identified the reduction of emissions in the transport sector as a big challenge.*

*Actions such as encouraging improvements in vehicle fuel efficiency, more use of public transport, walking and cycling; ensuring our public transport system can cope with increased demand; and integrating transport and land use planning decisions, are necessary to assist the move to a low emission transport sector."*

**Ref 4/4/08. For further details see:**

[www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/summit](http://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/summit)

### Melbourne 2030

*"Melbourne 2030 calls for a major investment in public transport, however little if any investment has been made to date. This is seeing congestion climb on both road and rail networks as more people and cars compete for the same space. With the planned five-year review of Melbourne 2030 being reduced to an audit, we all seem destined for a further loss of liveability in the years ahead."*

**Ref: M. Knight, The Sunday Age 20/1/08**

### More on Sustainable Sydney

*"The draft Sustainable Sydney 2030 strategy focuses on five key areas that aim to revitalise the city through sustainable development, sustainable transport and sustainable energy initiatives. The strategy provides for: the revitalisation of the CBD to become a people-friendly business centre; the development of an integrated and sustainable transport network to connect the city centre, inner Sydney and the city's villages; the provision of a network of green corridors and dedicated pedestrian and cycle ways; the development of sustainable activity hubs that act as centres for transport, learning, work & shopping; and sustainable development renewal to establish energy and water efficient infrastructure, affordable housing, high quality public space, and access to transport choices. Key projects outlined in the draft strategy include the development of a light rail loop in the city centre that aims to remove bus congestion and improve the ease of movement around the CBD; & the transformation of George Street into a pedestrian boulevard with public transport and cycle access to create a new north-south central spine for the city centre."* **Ref: EnviroInfo27/3/08**

### Transport Emissions

*"Victorian motorists have contributed to a massive surge in greenhouse gas emissions, with State Government figures showing transport pollution has soared by more than 25% in the past two decades. Victoria's overall carbon emissions have leapt by 12.6% since 1990 — but transport pollution has increased at more than double that rate, by 26.5%. ...Nationally, transport is the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases behind power generation and agriculture, but state Infrastructure Department figures obtained by The Sunday Age show that in Victoria it is the second largest polluter, with every Victorian contributing four tonnes of carbon emissions a year from transport use. Road transport, which includes all passenger vehicles and truck freight, is the largest component, contributing 14.8% of the state's total emissions."*

**Ref: Jason Dowling, The Sunday Age 30/3/08**

*"The Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries said today national average carbon emissions for new vehicles in 2007 were 226.1 grams of Co2 emissions for every kilometre travelled. That was down from 230.3 grams in 2006, with emissions falling by more than 10 per cent over the past five years. The FCAI said the latest figures showed the auto industry was on track to reach its target of an average of 222 grams of Co2 missions per km by 2010. 'The ... automotive industry recognises the need to make a meaningful contribution to efforts to mitigate climate change,' said FCAI chief executive Andrew McKellar."* **Ref: Adelaide Advertiser 31/3/08**

### Climate Change and Congestion

*"The threat of climate change and the scourge of congestion have led to a big change in ... the RACV — it's going green and is even encouraging people to drive less. The 100-year-old RACV has transformed into an environmental warrior, jointly releasing a climate change statement with Australia's other motoring groups and campaigning for more use of public transport. ... 'It is imperative that public transport gets more patronage,' President John Isaac wrote in the club's latest magazine."*

**Ref: Jason Dowling, Sunday Age, 17/2/08**

### Car Subsidy Increase Dumped

The Federal Government has dumped plans to increase the rebate for cars on the Bass Strait ferries...[and] says this will save \$500,000 a year.

**Ref: ABC News Online 6/4/08**

### Doncaster Rail Petition

The Doncaster rail petition with 7,000 signatures has been presented to the Victorian Public Transport Minister. **Ref: 26/3/08** <http://www.pt4me2.org.au/>

## Problems with Biofuels

"The world must take care when developing biofuels to avoid perverse environmental effects and higher food prices, Nobel Peace Prize winner and climate change scientist Rajendra Pachauri said overnight. Speaking at the European Parliament, he questioned whether the United States' policy of converting corn (maize) into ethanol for use as a transport fuel would reduce the emission of greenhouse gases blamed for global warming. Controversy has grown over using food crops to make biofuels as an alternative to fossil fuels. Some environmentalists and politicians say it has raised food prices, distorted government budgets and led to deforestation in south-east Asia and Brazil. 'We should be very, very careful about coming up with biofuel solutions that have major impact on production of food grains and may have an implication for overall food security,' Mr Pachauri, chairman of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said." **Ref: NEWS.com.au 27/3/08**

## Problems with Hybrids

"Interested in an energy-efficient auto? You're in luck. That's because nearly every major car company has a hybrid line, or has plans to introduce one soon. But enter the [US] showroom, and instead of seeing green, you may be seeing red. Many of the market's hybrids - cars which combine gasoline engines with battery-powered electric motors - forsake fuel-efficiency in the name of power & performance. The average gas mileage of hybrid models available in the U.S. is 33 miles per gallon (combined city and highway). But Chevy's newest Silverado hybrid truck gets only 16 mpg. ... In fact, the fuel economy of many new hybrids is almost indistinguishable from that of their conventionally powered counterparts. (The Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency list info on hybrid vehicles at [fuel-economy.gov](http://fuel-economy.gov), including numbers that have recently been updated to reflect actual gas mileage - not just numbers from ideal-condition driving, which are often used in marketing.)"

**Ref: Peter Hoy, Forbes.com 18/9/07**

[http://www.forbes.com/2007/09/17/hybrids-efficient-fuel-forbeslife-cx\\_ph\\_0918vehicles.html](http://www.forbes.com/2007/09/17/hybrids-efficient-fuel-forbeslife-cx_ph_0918vehicles.html)

## Hydrogen Flight

"US aircraft maker Boeing has flown a plane powered by a hydrogen battery... The [two seat] propeller-driven plane flew in a straight line for about 20 minutes at an altitude of about 1000m."

**Ref: The Australian, 4/4/08**

## On the Eddington Report

"Greens MP Greg Barber said there was little demand for an east-west tunnel, and Sir Rod's recommendation came because the government asked for one. 'To be fair to him, he was asked a stupid question, and he's given them a stupid answer,' Mr Barber said."

**Ref: Mike Hedge, Sydney Daily Telegraph 3/4/08**

"The past 20 years have seen billions invested in freeways. Each augmentation has come with a promise that congestion would be cured, ignoring the tendency of new freeways to attract traffic and undermine public transport. As the greenhouse clock ticks, do we really want to commit another \$10 billion to this illusion?" **Ref: Bill Russell, The Age. 3/4/08**



**'I reckon Sir Rod has a problem - tunnel vision.'**

"Roads don't solve congestion. A new freeway would add millions of tonnes of greenhouse pollution every year for decades to come and would not be contemplated by any government seriously committed

to tackling climate change. A new inner city rail line must be accompanied by extension of

train services to the outer suburbs and growth areas that are currently without any services whatsoever."

**Ref: Mark Wakeham, The Age. 3/4/08**

"The recommendations of the latest report on Melbourne's transport deserve a hearty one-hand clap." **Ref: Daniel Bowen, ABC News 6/4/08**

"'I'm not going to travel up that way - who goes up there from here?' she asked." [Brydi O'Connell on the idea of a new rail link between Werribee and Sunshine]. **Ref: Miki Perkins, The Age, 3/4/08**

"Rod Quantock ... said it was 'just stupid' to build huge roads in the face of climate change."

**Ref: Adam Morton, The Age, 3/4/08**

"If Melbourne is to maintain its status as a liveable city, it needs to keep moving, and the only way this can be done is with heavy investment by the state and federal governments into rebuilding our public transport system."

**Ref: Steve Stephanopoulos, The Age, 3/4/08**

## And Also ... (on a wild weather day)

"A burly Connex worker in an orange fluoro vest had little to say about the chaos and the infuriating lack of information. 'Can't say a thing. I don't need to say anything. I have nothing to say'. For a man with nothing to say, he had perfected how to say it."

**Ref: Gabriella Coslovich. The Age, 3/4/08**