

Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Consultation
c/- Dept. of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO BOX 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

4th November 2008

Dear Sir

COMMENTS re THE VEHICLE FUEL EFFICIENCY REPORT - SEPT 2008

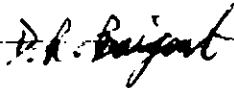
We know that transport is the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases in Australia, and we know that the impact of climate change will be huge if we don't make any changes. We also now know that these impacts are developing very rapidly, therefore to maintain some sort of reasonable living environment it is imperative that we make drastic and immediate changes to our transport systems.

I believe that any new systems should be simple and transparent so that there are no exceptions to create loopholes and so that the changes have maximum effect rapidly. Here are two ideas that together would be a significant driver towards lower transport emissions:

1. There should be an annual vehicle weight tax to replace existing registration fees. This weight tax should apply to all motorised road vehicles and the rate per kilogram should increase as the vehicle weight increases. This would help to shift freight from road to more efficient rail transport and to move people from larger to smaller cars. The tax level will be part of the documentation required for all vehicle sales.
2. We have recently seen how effective fuel price increases can be in reducing transport fuel usage so there should also be a new emissions tax added to the price of non-renewable liquid fuels for all users. Whenever a vehicle is sold it will have to have documents showing the cost of the tax for a year's average use as well as the existing fuel efficiency data.

All the money raised from the weight tax should be the **only** money used for road construction and maintenance, hence there will be an obvious connection between vehicle size and road costs. And **all** the money raised from the fuel emissions tax should be directed to developing vehicles using only renewable fuels and for training people in the new technologies and hence the rate of tax will be set by how much this development and training costs. It will disappear as fossil-fuel use reduces.

Yours sincerely,



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