



For reply please quote: 138418/RM17/ES  
Your reference: 725-06

**- 7 AUG 2007**

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE Q 4000

Dear Neil

I refer to your letter of 19 April 2007 addressed to the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP, Minister for Mines and Energy regarding e-petition number 725-06 tabled in the House on 17 April 2007 in relation to Peak Oil. Please find attached a copy of my response to the principal petitioner, Mr Cameron Leckie.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for my response to Mr Leckie to be tabled in Parliament on my behalf. As requested, an electronic copy of the letter will be forwarded to the Table Office.

Yours sincerely

**PETER BEATTIE MP  
PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE**



For reply please quote: 138418/NL01/ECP

**- 7 AUG 2007**

Mr Cameron Leckie  
19 Dunbil Avenue  
FERNY HILLS Q 4055

Dear Cameron

Thank you for your e-petition (number 725-06) requesting that the Queensland Government adopt the Oil Depletion Protocol, as proposed by Dr Colin Campbell, as a matter of urgency to ensure a bright future for Queensland.

The Queensland Oil Vulnerability Taskforce, which Mr Andrew McNamara MP, Member for Hervey Bay has been chairing, has recently completed its investigation into the potential impacts of peak oil on this State. As a non-renewable resource the oil supply is by definition finite even though massive international reserves remain. However, there is significant conjecture as to when oil production will peak.

My Government is aware of the energy challenges this State faces, both now and into the future, in relation to the supply and price of oil. An additional factor that has emerged recently is the potential for transport to be included in an emissions trading regime. This would have implications for the price of oil, and ultimately support greater fuel efficiency and the development of low emission fuels.

I consider that signing an international Oil Depletion Protocol is a matter for the Australian Government, rather than state governments, to consider. In doing so, the Australian Government would need to consider if the policies set out in the protocol are the best way of securing affordable oil supply into the future. Even then, a complicating factor is that, to be effective, the protocol would require significant international support.

In the meantime, Queensland will continue to develop practical strategies to encourage more efficient use of conventional fuels, and the development of sustainable long-term alternative energy sources.

The Queensland Government is pursuing a range of practical initiatives aimed at reducing vehicle fuel consumption and encouraging greater fuel efficiency, including a recently announced differential in motor vehicle duty for new cars, ranging from 2% for hybrid cars to 4% on eight cylinder cars.

Other initiatives include strategies aimed at reducing car use, fuel bills and traffic congestion, including voluntary programs encouraged through Travelsmart (see [www.transport.qld.gov.au/travelsmart](http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/travelsmart) for details).

Queensland is leading the way with its policy on alternative fuels. The Queensland Government is seeking to build on the successes of the *Queensland Ethanol Industry Action Plan 2005 – 2007*, including a commitment to introduce a 5% ethanol mandate in all standard petrol produced in Queensland by 2010. My Government is also currently developing an Alternative Fuels Policy that will examine options for Queensland's involvement in petroleum alternatives generally, including biodiesel.

Continued development of alternative fuels, combined with other strategies such as enhanced efforts in oil exploration and more efficient technologies and practices (including a greater use of public transport), will be important over the coming decades.

As you may also be aware, ahead of any Australian Government action on the issue of petrol prices, the Queensland Parliament resolved in August 2005 that the Impact of Petrol Pricing Select Committee be established to examine petrol pricing issues in Queensland. The report, *Inquiry into Petrol Pricing in Queensland*, was tabled in the Queensland Parliament on 4 April 2006. This report, along with the Queensland Government's response, is available from the Queensland Parliament web site at [www.parliament.qld.gov.au](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au).

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

**PETER BEATTIE MP**  
**PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE**