



2005-06 Annual Report on Our Activities

Overview

The STC was founded in 2001 with programs to reduce Perth's car dependence and to lower air pollution. We concentrated on promoting activities like the Government's TravelSmart program and lobbying for better facilities such as bike paths, as well as pedestrian friendly traffic lights. The past year has been our busiest and most vibrant as more Australians have become aware of the challenges posed by permanently higher fuel prices. The year confirmed the importance of our annual Sustainable Transport Awards and also saw us finish in a stronger position financially, while having in place new events later in 2006, such as a transport forum by **David Engwicht**, the visit of the Editor of the UK *Petroleum Review*, **Chris Skrebowski** and **Dr Ali Samsam Bakhtiari** returns.



Memberships

The membership of the STC is a partnership of community groups (such as bicycle groups and the Conservation Council of WA) and local governments (14 local governments are currently members, including the Town of Bassendean, City of Cockburn, City of Mandurah, City of Melville, Town of Nedlands, City of Perth, City of South Perth, City of Stirling, City of Subiaco and City of Swan). Supporters consist of individuals (most of the committee are individuals, but many members of parliament are also members), business organisations (including Woodside and BP) and government departments (including the Department for Planning and Infrastructure).

Committee

In the past, the STC has been able to utilise some of the time of Sustainable Transport Officers at the who were funded by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure. This funding ceased in mid-2005. Since its inception, the majority of STC's efforts have been based on the volunteer efforts of committee members, who meet once per month (and use their own initiative between meetings to pursue the issues for which they are responsible) and supporters. For 2005-06 all of our activities were organised by the Committee members, and Sue Holt assisted with the Awards program. The 2005-06 Committee were (*not re-nominating):

Convenor- Dr David Worth, responsible for the web site and e-Newsletter; represents the STC on the Freight Network Review Committee.

***Deputy-Convenor- Les Chandra**

Bruce Aulabaugh, represents the STC on the Walking WA Committee and on the STC Committee on pedestrian friendly traffic lights

Dr David Bennett (STC Founder)

* **Lisa Brideson**

Curtis Clark (Treasurer)

***Miles Dracup**, Bicycle Transportation Alliance, represents the STC for all cycling matters

Rob Greenwood

Keith Jones, represents the STC for all railway issues.

Gerald Kirk

Olive Langham

David Rice

Bruce Robinson, Convenor ASPO Australia and representing STC on the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus Trial Committee

***Gail White**, assists the STC in marketing and communications

Resources (see attached financial report)

The STC now relies solely on subscriptions from members and supporters and income from STC-organised events. Our income and working balance has increased every year since inception and we are now investing in more professional physical equipment (banners, displays, posters, computers, etc.) to better present our position and policies. The second Sustainable Transport Awards were sponsored by three government departments, Fremantle Ports and Glide Strategic where the Awards coordinator was based.

Lobbying

In the past 3 years the STC produced policies (on walking, cycling and oil depletion) and lobbied both Federal and State Governments to take action to reduce car use, including direct lobbying to Ministers. For the 2005 State Election the STC developed a **comprehensive strategy paper** that it sent to all parties and gained some media attention (see

http://www.stcwa.org.au/files/briefing_paper.doc). Over the past year our lobbying activities has focused on being represented on government committees (eg the Freight Network Review Strategy Committee, the Walking WA Committee and the WA Railways Consultative Council) and preparing submissions. These include written and verbal submissions to the WA Biofuels Taskforce, the Senate Inquiry into **AusLink (National Land Transport) Bill 2004, Australia's Future Oil Supplies** (see http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/rrat_ctte/oil_supply/submissions/su45.pdf), **Senate Inquiry into Petrol Pricing**

(http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/economics_ctte/petrol_price/submissions/sub14.pdf), **State Infrastructure Strategy Inquiry** and draft Housing Strategy. Lobbying of the

Greens and the ALP by the STCWA in mid-2005 helped inspire Senators to establish the Inquiry on future oil supplies.

Since 2003 we have made a strategic decision to switch to making people aware of the likelihood of Peak Oil being a serious threat to our way of life here in WA. In November 2005 we hosted **Prof. Kjell Aleklett** from Sweden, the President of Association for the Study of Peak Oil and gas. Besides the seminars and a public meeting of 300 people at UWA hosted by the Minister for the Environment, Judy Edwards. Kjell launched **ASPO Australia** at the RACWA. This group has its own web site (<http://www.aspo-australia.org.au/>) and undertakes its own activities, and while it gets on its feet the STC is managing its funds. ASPO Aust's Convenor is Bruce Robinson, who has used mainly his own funds to attend all the annual conferences of ASPO in Uppsala, Paris, Berlin, Lisbon, including the one this year in Pisa, Italy. He has also organised working group convenors and a web editor for AASPO.

Education

One of the innovative ways the STC worked this year to get the message of 'Peak oil' across to more of the community was by establishing a **Sustainable Transport Section** in the "Sustainable Energy Expo" Section of the Tradelink Master Builders Homestyle Show" on June 23-5th 2006. We had our own stall and helped arrange one for DPI and the Cycling Promotion Fund. We hope to build this annual event into a major section in future years. Our education activities included more screenings of "**The End of Suburbia**", with audiences of 60 at Joondalup and 130 at Midland. In February 2006 the Convenor gave a **presentation** on the likely impacts of peak oil at an ALP function with Kim Beazley. The audience of 100 people were slightly more than at the **private lunch** hosted by Alan Carpenter at the ALP State Conference, but the debate equally interesting.

Sustainable Transport Awards

To encourage people, communities, firms, local government and government departments to engage in sustainable transport, and with support from both government and business the STCWA established the Sustainable Transport Awards in 2004 (http://www.stcwa.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=51&Itemid=115), and were repeated in 2005. The breakfast on 6th December 2005 was attended by



over 100 people and the awards were presented by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Hon. Alannah MacTiernan.

The 2005 Award winners were:

- 🚲 **Outstanding Individual Contribution-** Mr Brian Fleay
- 🚲 **Special Achievement by an Organisation-** Institute for Sustainability and Technology Policy
- 🚲 **Rural or Regional Innovation Award-** Cycle Touring Association
- 🚲 **Local Government Innovation-** Shire of Esperance
- 🚲 **State Government Innovation-** Department of Agriculture

Forums and Seminars

One of the major functions of the STC is to coordinate seminars and workshops where people can discuss new ways of addressing Perth's domination by the car. On 6 February 2006 we held a breakfast and all-day seminar titled **Bioenergy and Biofuels in WA: Initiatives and Challenges Conference** in association with the WA Sustainable Energy Association. Over 200 people attended the breakfast and half stayed for the workshop. The event received sponsorship from BP, Dept of Industry and Resources, SEDO and the Department of Agriculture. Since this forum the STC has delivered verbal submissions to the Biofuels taskforce and invited taskforce members to STC functions.



The **Transport Solutions Forums** have been run by the STC for 2 years and are aimed at local government staff. Following the June 2005 'Transport in a Networked City' at the City of Armadale, on 4 May 2006 the STC organised the **TravelSmart and Beyond** TSF at Town of Victoria Park sponsored by DPI. It was opened by Mayor Mick Lee and attended by about 70 people, including many TravelSmart officers from local government councils.

Web site

Our web site (<http://www.stcwa.org.au/>) was redeveloped in early 2006 and it records over 300 hits per day and is linked to by web sites in over 10 countries. The site's e-Newsletter currently has 370 recipients from all continents (apart from Antarctica). Our Newsletter is a core part of our public campaigning activities as we don't produce a printed newsletter and it allows us to email our subscribers quickly about events. It goes to individuals in the following local councils in WA: Armadale, Bayswater, Swan, Fremantle, Melville, Mandurah, Rockingham, Nedlands, Claremont, Kalamunda, City of Perth, Stirling, Cambridge and the WA Local Government Association, together with seven councils in Victoria, the Brisbane City Council, Camden Council in NSW, Greater Wellington Council in New Zealand and two in the United Kingdom. In addition the RACWA, NRMA and the RAC VIC take the fortnightly e-Newsletter.

Members of many State Government departments also take the e-Newsletter, here and in South Australia, NSW, Northern Territory, Queensland, Victoria and in NZ. The following State and Federal MPs take the Newsletter: Louise Pratt, Michael Whitely and Simon O'Brien (WA), Andrew McNamara (QLD), Carmen Lawrence and Senator Webber. Staff at the following universities take the Newsletter: Murdoch, University of WA, ECU, Curtin, Adelaide, Newcastle, James Cook, QUT, the Australian Institute of Management in Western Australia and Arizona State University. Staff in the following companies take the Newsletter: BP, Kleenheat, Woodside, Rogen Power, Energex, Natural Fuels, SKM, GHD, Bectel, Mirvac, IAG and Clayton Utz.

