

2006-07 Annual Report on Our Activities

Sustainable Transport Coalition (WA)



Overview

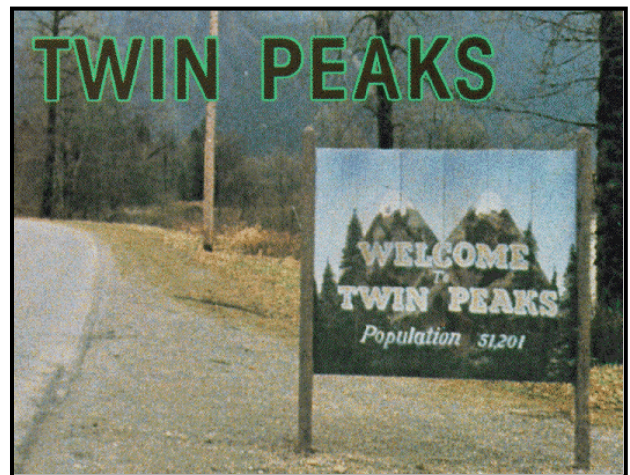
The STC was founded in 2001 with programs to reduce Perth's car dependence and to lower air pollution. We concentrated on promoting activities like the Government's TravelSmart program and lobbying for better facilities such as bike paths, as well as pedestrian friendly traffic lights. The past year has been our busiest and most vibrant as more Australians have become aware of the challenges posed by permanently higher fuel prices and the Federal Government's preference for funding roads rather than public transport. In recognition of our work on reducing transport emissions, the STC (WA) was awarded a WA Environment Award for air quality on 17th November 2006

http://portal.environment.wa.gov.au/portal/page?_pageid=93.6239775&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL.

Highlights

The past 12 months have been very exciting as more evidence comes in that crude oil production, at least, has peaked. As more and more news stories ponder why oil remains above US\$70 without any Middle East wars or hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, the STC has responded to interest in alternate fuels by releasing our new policy on alternate fuels. The policy was written by STC Founder David Bennett and was launched by the Minister for Food and Agriculture, Hon. Kim Chance, at a well-attended breakfast seminar in April.

On the 28th July, the STC Convenor presented a talk as part of the BP Helios breakfast series. His talk titled "Twin Peaks" proposed that the world's production of light, sweet crude had already peaked and attracted a large audience of over 60 people. Earlier in the month, on the 11th July the City of Melville hosted an STC event sponsored by DPI. The talk by Queensland author, David Engwicht, attracted over 100 local and state government planning staff and was sold-out. While in Perth, David also visited Geraldton for talks with traffic planners there.



Committee

Since its inception in 2001, 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 2006-07 all of our activities were organised by the following active Committee members (*not re-nominating for 2007-08):

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

Deputy-Convenor- Dr David Bennett (STC Founder)

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

Bryan Baynam

***Curtis Clark** (Treasurer)

***Johanna Gastevich**, Executive Officer at WASEA

Alex Hyndman, CEO of Nexus car sharing

Keith Jones, represents the STC for all railway issues.

Ian Ker, special expertise in transport planning

Gerald Kirk

Submissions

The STC has regularly made submissions to parliamentary enquiries, and this year was no different. The STC Convenor (along with ASPO Convenor Bruce Robinson) appeared on 20 September to give verbal evidence in addition to the earlier written submission at the Senate *Inquiry into The Price of Petrol In Australia*. The STC also provided a forum at a general meeting in October to hear from Senators Rachel Siewert (Greens) and Ruth Weber (ALP) on the interim report of the Senate *Inquiry into Australia's Future Oil Supplies*. The final report was published by the Senate under a new Committee Chair in early 2007.

2006 Sustainable Transport Awards

This year the Awards were presented for the third year, and coordinated by Ms Yaya Mori. The Awards were presented by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Hon. Alannah MacTiernan, who also received a special one-off award as the *World's Best Transport and Planning Minister*.

An innovation for this year's awards was the sponsoring by **BP** of a full-page insert in The West Australian of the winners and their efforts at making WA transport more sustainable. A special sponsorship by **The Bicycle Entrepreneur** provided a bike as a prize in a competition in the insert that attracted over 250 entries. The STC would also like to thank the other sponsors that included PTA, MRWA, DPI and Fremantle Ports. A special vote of thanks to the judging panel that was chaired by Gail White and included Des Snook (MRWA), Susan McCarrey (PTA) and Jane Hannaford (Heart Foundation). For more details, see www.stcwa.org.au/awards

- **Outstanding Individual**

WINNER: Bruce Robinson, Convenor of ASPO Australia

Highly commended: Jim Krynen and Richard Stallard

- **Special Achievement by an Organization**

WINNER: Men of the Trees 'Carbon Neutral Program'

Highly commended: OnTrack Cycles, Fremantle

- **Rural or Regional Innovation Award**

WINNER: Shire of Irwin- Walk Trails and Dual Use Footpaths

- **Local Government Innovation Award**

WINNER: City of Gosnells- Transport Behaviour Change

Highly commended: City of Swan- Swan Valley Bike Plan

- **State Government Innovation Award**

WINNER: Public Transport Authority- Cycling Integration Program

Highly commended: Main Roads WA- Lifecycle Great Western Australian Bike Ride 2006

Debra Mayrhofer, represents the BTA

Yaya Mori, Coordinator of the 2006 and 2007 Sustainable Transport Awards. Also re-designed the STC logo and letterhead

Jeff Pow,

David Rice

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

Other Activities

Early in the 2006-07 financial year, the STC Convenor participated in the WA Department of Environment Diesel NEPM Reference Panel. The STC also organized two significant seminars this year. The first on 14th October was hosted at the City of Stirling and was the sixth in the STC's Transport Solutions forums. The seminar was titled **Oil Depletion and Local Government: What can we do?** and more than 60 people attended. Speakers included Councillor Terry Tyzack, Mayor of Stirling; Ms Lucy Carew-Reid, ICLEI A/NZ; Mr David Rice, Dept for Planning & Infrastructure and Dr. David Worth, STC Convenor. David Rice's talk on WA oil vulnerability mapping by DPI was of great interest to the audience.

The second significant seminar on 9th May 2007, the **Bioenergy and Biofuels in WA: Initiatives and Challenges Conference** was held in cooperation with WASEA. A breakfast was attended by more than 100 delegates who heard from the Hon. Kim Chance on the outcomes of the final report by the WA Government's Biofuels Taskforce, chaired by Graham Giffard, MLC. This was followed by a half-day workshop to look at what WA should do in terms of alternate fuel supplies, and coincided with the launch of the STC's new policy on *Alternate Fuels*.

Earlier, at the WA Government's *Alternative Transport Energies Conference* on 12th September, the STC Convenor delivered a paper, co-authored with Mr Alan Parker, titled "Electric Power-assisted Bicycles Reduce Oil Dependence, Pollution and are Potential Economic Users of Solar Electricity".

The STC has worked closely with ASPO Australia since its formation in November 2005. In the early part of 2007, STC helped in the coordination of the visit to the east coast of Australia by Roger Bezdek, a co-author of an important US Department of Energy report on mitigating peak oil. Dr. Bezdek has 30 years experience in research and management in the energy, utility, environmental, and regulatory areas, serving in private industry, academia, and the federal government, and is the founder and president of Management Information Services, Inc. – a Washington, D.C.-based economic and energy research firm. This visit in late June 2007 garnered a lot of interest and Dr Bezdek met with both State and Federal politicians, and bureaucrats from three state governments.

In June, the STC had a successful stand at the Sustainable Transport Expo at the Convention Centre, over 3 days. Displays on bicycles, biofuels and car sharing were popular as was material provided by the Cycling Promotion Fund in Victoria, who sponsored the stand. All through this financial year, the STC has been promoting to the WA Government and DPI that it do more to put into action the results of Network City. The STC has proposed to DPI and the WA Planning Commission a joint workshop exploring issues such as activity centres and activity corridors. Both David Rice and David Worth are assisting a research project on these topics at Curtin University, developed by Associate Professor Carey Curtis, the first winner of the STC's Sustainable Transport Award.

Resources (see attached financial report)

The STC 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. This year the STC received a small equipment grant from the Federal Government to purchase a data-projector and screen, to allow full presentations to be made without borrowing any equipment.



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