

Appendix A - Implications of Peak Oil for Council and the Darebin Community

Key Council Services and Operations Impacted	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petroleum Dependent Services: • Waste and recycling collection • Cleansing Services • Vehicle Fleet • Meal Delivery and Home Help services • Road and Footpath Construction • Parks Maintenance 	<p>Retail Petrol Prices have increased by 52% since the year 2002 and this will continue to rise with the advent of Peak Oil. Council's current budget for fuel is around \$1 million.</p>
<p>Purchase of Products, particularly petro-chemicals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asphalt • Plastics in recycling and waste bins and playground equipment • Pharmaceuticals such as vaccines • Herbicides and Fertilizers used in park maintenance 	<p>In addition to the petro-chemical products listed here, increasing transportation costs are likely to result in cost increases for materials frequently purchased by Council such as road materials, building materials, automotive parts, IT equipment and stationery etc.</p>
<p>Employee Transportation</p>	<p>Peak Oil is likely to impact workers ability to continue to commute to their jobs via private car - increased transport costs will be factored into many individual decisions about where to work. In order to retain and attract experienced staff flexible hours of work and work from home arrangements may be more in demand. Transport solutions such as carpooling, private buses and employee exchanges to enable council employees to move to positions closer to home may require further consideration.</p>
<p>Council Assets</p>	<p>Peak Oil is likely to result in changing uses of urban and council facilities. Changes in road usage and increased demand for good quality pedestrian and bicycle paths and facilities are anticipated. Peak Oil has the potential to make long term planning of council assets, including roads and council facilities more challenging. Assets without good access from public and alternative transport modes may become obsolete quickly. Scenario planning for various impacts of Peak Oil on Council Assets is recommended.</p>
<p>Council Services and Financial Impacts</p>	<p>Demand for community services is likely to increase especially for the elderly, the disadvantaged and those experiencing financial pressures. People who are retired or retiring at the time when prices start to dramatically increase may not have adequately planned for increased living costs. In addition Council operations are likely to face significant price increases for many of the materials and energy used in providing council services. Widespread recession could impact on Council's revenue base.</p>

Impacts for the Darebin Community

<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Transportation costs will continue to increase, with the potential for rapid increases in cost. Fuel efficient vehicles (eg small cars, hybrids and motor/ised bikes) and alternatives (eg electric cars) will become more sought after and commonplace (although diesel and LPG costs are likely to increase in parallel with petrol). The average age of cars may increase due to increased costs. Lower income families may find that they are left with the most expensive cars to run as they cannot afford to upgrade to more fuel efficient vehicles.</p> <p>Car sharing schemes and car pooling are likely to become more widespread with private buses being considered by large corporations to transport their employees.</p> <p>Use of more sustainable transport options seem likely to increase dramatically, pedestrians, cycling and use of mopeds, motorbikes and electric bicycles will increase. Public transport will be facing increasing pressure and it is likely that existing systems will be unable to cope with the demand.</p> <p>Train Freight is likely to be more economic than trucking freight and truck traffic may decrease.</p>
<p>Food Security</p>	<p>Food Security means access to fresh fruit, vegetables, meats (or alternative proteins) and water for everyone in the community. Some Darebin residents already make choices between buying food or paying bills or education expenses. Some areas of Darebin have been identified as 'food deserts' - with low availability and access to fresh foods especially for those with limited mobility and income.</p> <p>Food security is dependent on food production, distribution and capacity to purchase. All of these components are likely to be impacted negatively by Peak Oil and the already disadvantaged members of the community would be hardest hit.</p> <p>International food imports are likely to decline due to the higher costs of transportation. Australian food growing is expected to face rising production and transport costs and the ongoing environmental challenges of water shortages, other climate change impacts and land degradation.</p> <p>Our community is likely to experience a change in the types of foods that are available. Some examples of this are more reliance on seasonal produce, more locally grown items, fewer processed products, fewer meat and dairy products, fewer imported foods including rice and tropical fruits etc. While this may result in a healthier outcome in the end, the changes will require some adjustment to cooking processes and adaptation to eating unfamiliar foods.</p> <p>This could cause some nutrition issues, especially for children, the elderly and people with special needs who may find it difficult to adapt and who are likely to limit rather than change their diet. There will be implications for Darebin's CALD communities if there</p>

	<p>is an inability to import or grow important cultural foods.</p> <p>Demand for community gardens, food crops in open space etc are likely to increase.</p>
<p>Health and Safety</p>	<p>In the middle to longer term, the decline in oil availability is likely to increase the average daily exercise of residents and decrease the consumption of processed and out of season foods, contributing to better overall health. Decreased truck and car traffic is also likely to contribute to decreased death and injury and respiratory illnesses.</p> <p>However, a number of negative impacts may also occur. Pharmaceuticals are likely to increase in cost due to increases in petrochemical costs and the cost of transportation. In addition transport to medical services is likely to become more difficult and expensive for many residents which may impact disproportionately on the elderly and those with limited mobility.</p> <p>It's also possible there will be higher rates of stress, depression and social isolation as a result of Peak Oil. Economic recession, potential loss of jobs and opportunities, social isolation due to restricted transport options and the pressures on those that need to make trade-offs between essential items like food, utilities or health and education expenses all contribute to stress and anxiety. These stresses and anxieties can lead to depression and other serious mental health issues.</p> <p>Public safety may also be at risk if emergencies caused by oil shocks occur and oil supplies are suddenly restricted. Sudden disruptions to waste collections, meals on wheels, homecare or emergency services may impact on public health and safety if not planned for and managed.</p>
<p>Economic Pressures and Housing Affordability</p>	<p>The community is likely to experience increased prices for a range of commodities, negatively impacting on overall economic prosperity. Higher levels of unemployment are possible in the short term. Impacts will be felt on businesses with both the number of business start ups and failures likely to increase. Some businesses will experience significantly higher production and distribution costs, others may be more affected by changes in demand for their products and services.</p> <p>Local production of previously imported goods is also likely to increase as the high cost of transportation makes locally produced goods competitive, for example food processing, textiles, footwear.</p> <p>Housing affordability pressures will increase with Peak Oil as areas close to the city with relatively good access to public transport and services become even more sought after, and households have less income available for mortgage repayments and rent.</p>