

# **Australian Agricultural Restructuring and Disadvantaged Farmers**

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# 1. Restructuring

Since the 1970s

**Agriculture in decline**

- ① Reduced government support
- ② Market liberalisation
- ③ Loss of farmland to residential and mining
- ④ Declining number of farmers
- ⑤ Outmigration of young people
- ⑥ Retreat of public services
- ⑦ High rural debt
- ⑧ Power concentrated in supermarkets
- ⑨ Rural hardship
- ⑩ Environmental degradation

(ABS, 2012; Millar & Roots, 2012)

Rural sector  
naturally disadvantaged by  
**oil dependence**

age of agricultural restructuring

age of high and volatile oil price

(Tverberg, 2015)

# 2. Oil

# Major oil companies

- Increasing expenditure  
(but not production)
- Profits squeezed
- Oil price capped by affordability

(Tverberg, 2014)



# **Oil shortage and global recession**

For a rural town  
like **Berry** in Kiama, NSW

shift from dairy industry to tourism  
where visitors have to **drive** by

hard to develop economy

# 3. Prospect

High correlation  
World GDP and energy use

Renewables founded on  
fossil fuel system

(Tverberg, 2015)

Low oil and low income rural

low oil and low output agri

For agriculture

**energy-intensive** production  
since green revolution 1960s

may not suit the future

Can we ignore the peak oil?

Should we prepare for the  
transformation?

# 4. My own project



Interview project  
Illawarra dairy farmers

fuel, debt

References in my conf paper

**Thanks for your attendance!**