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“Tourism and Oil”

Increasing scarcity of ‘cheap’ oil and resulting increases in oil prices will affect tourism, just as they will affect every other aspect of modern life. The question of what the economic, social and cultural implications for tourism and the world might be in light of dwindling availability of oil is more relevant than ever. This presentation will provide an overview of the concept of peak oil and tourism's dependency on cheap oil. Research results from a current FRST funded project will be reported to provide a better understanding of New Zealand tourism's vulnerability to oil prices. Risk minimising strategies will be discussed within the wider context of 'preparing for the future'.

Dr Susanne Becken is an Associate Professor at Lincoln University. Susanne is currently leading two government-funded programmes in New Zealand, namely ‘Tourism and Oil’ and “Preparing the Tourism Sector for Climate Change”. Susanne is on the editorial boards of the Journal of Sustainable Tourism, International Tourism Review, and Journal of Policy Research in Tourism, Leisure and Events, and she is a Resource Editor for Annals of Tourism Research. She co-authored (with Prof. Hay) a book on tourism and climate change, and acted as a contributing author to the Fourth IPCC Assessment Report. At the UNFCCC conference in Bali, Susanne was an invited member of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation delegation. Susanne has undertaken consultancy work for organisations within New Zealand and internationally.