

WHERE ARE ALL THES CARS GOING TO PARK?

During the last couple of weeks I spent an inordinate amount of time trying to find a place to park a reasonably small car.

Admittedly I did not know exactly where the best spots are, because I live in Brisbane and the parking places I was looking for were in Italy and Slovenia but it was interesting during this frustrating time of mine to see that by far the biggest international finance story related to the so called "Big Three" (Ford, General Motors and Chrysler) trooping off to Washington for the second time in a few weeks to ask for an incredible amount of money from the US Congress so that they can continue to make more and more cars to fill more and more car sale lots and parking lots and used car yards and of course parking spots.

On the couple of occasions that I have visited New Zealand I have concluded that its greatest attraction was the fact that there are about the same number of cars as Brisbane used to have 30 years ago.

I have passionately believed for the past 25 years at least was that the urban blight caused by the motor car in Los Angeles was a disease that Brisbane was destined to catch.

Notwithstanding the fact that we now have a hole that goes right underneath the Brisbane River and this hole will become a road in a couple of years time the rate at which Campbell Newman builds new roads is more than matched by the numbers of additional cars that are being put onto those roads to the extent that our traffic problems (to say nothing of greenhouse gas emissions) will simply continue to escalate. Like the USA and Europe.

During our brief sojourn in and about Ravenna and Padua we had a car available to do some pleasant sightseeing in a couple of towns that I had never visited before. I still have not visited because I could not find a car park. And at the same time these car makers in America were asking for help to continue making more cars so that they could keep their jobs.

Some jobs disappear from our society. I wish more cars would disappear!