

## Organisers



Sustainable Transport  
Coalition of WA Inc.



Conservation Council  
of WA Inc.



The Western Australian  
Farmers Federation



Food Industry  
Association WA Inc.

## Sponsors



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



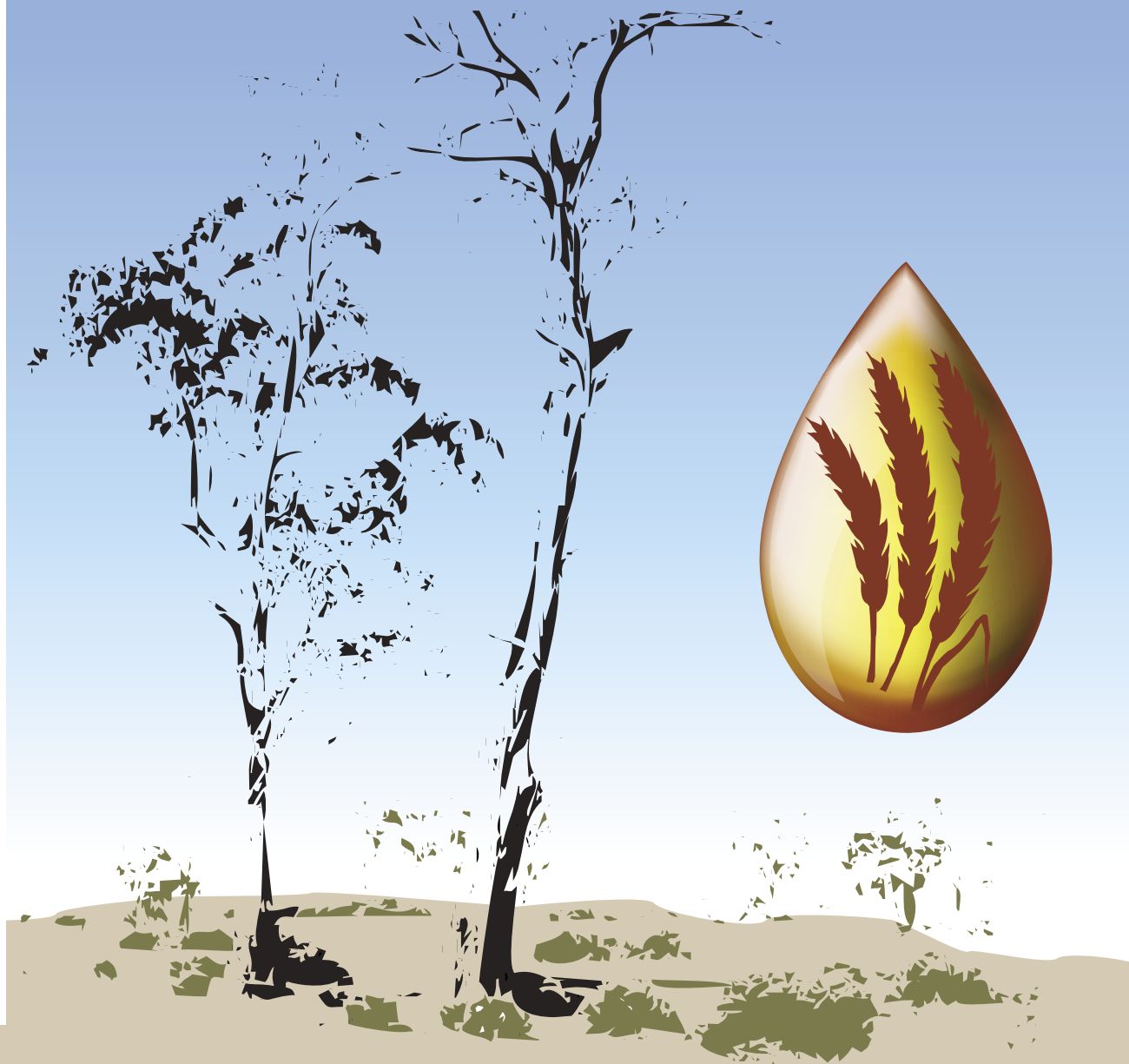
Department of  
Agriculture and Food



# Fuelling Food in WA

## *How will we eat when oil runs low?*

At the University Club, UWA, Friday 3rd October 2008



The era of cheap oil is coming to an end as the world's oil production peaks.

Western Australia is particularly susceptible to increases in fuel costs and food prices.

Years of low transport costs have encouraged the food industry to buy from more distant suppliers and produce foods in distant factories. The resources boom has pushed labour costs up, further encouraging food production and processing to move elsewhere.

Now, more than 70% of our food is imported from the eastern states and overseas, while more than 70% of the food we produce is exported.

As oil prices rise, how much food can WA produce? Will it concentrate on local markets? Can we go on paying freight costs? Will new food processing factories open as the cost of transport makes imports too expensive? Should the government initiate a much stronger buy local campaign and make easier the transition to local production for local consumption?

