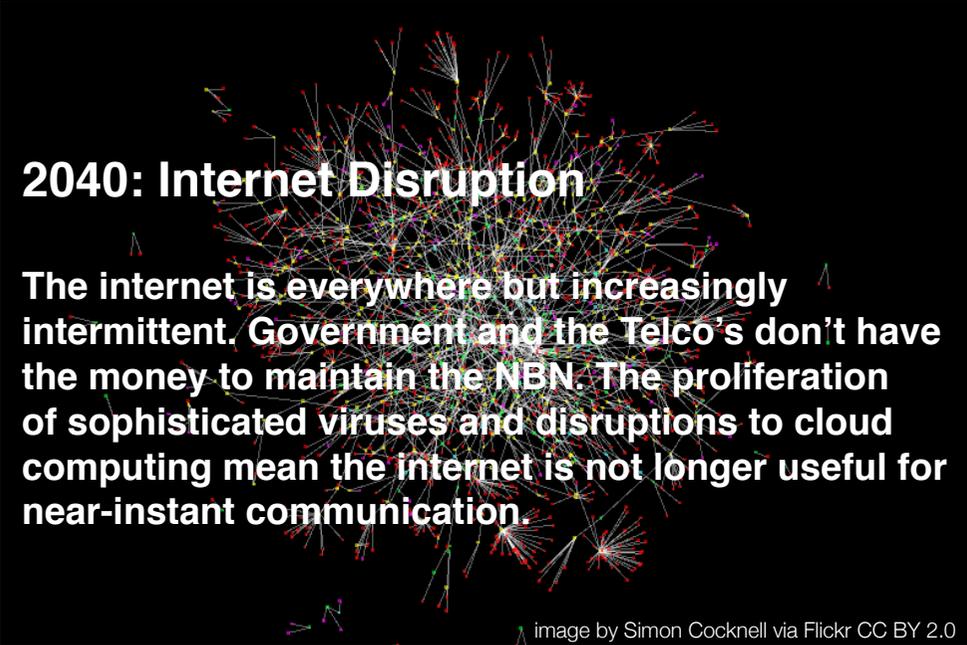


2040: Breakdown of the energy network

The energy distribution network is under severe strain. Decades of neglect and failures to upgrade distribution assets mean energy supply is poor at the best of times and local blackouts are regular.

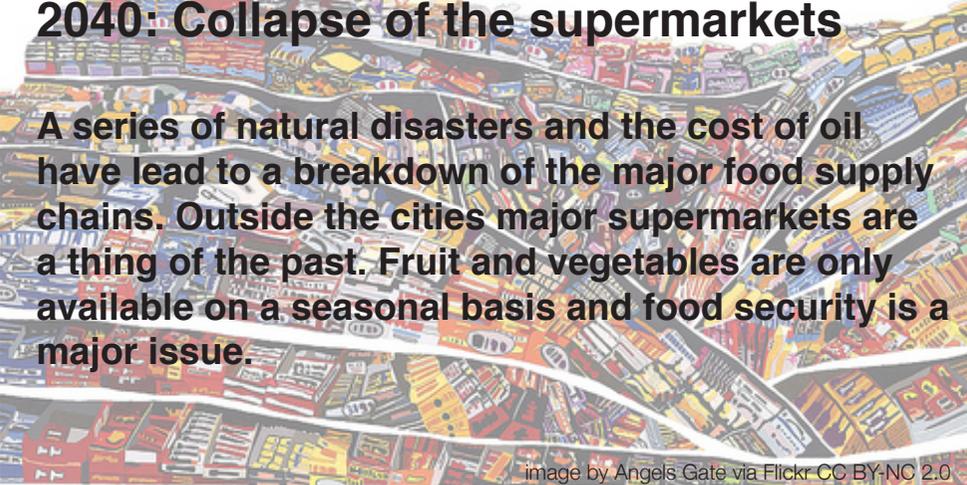
image by saragoldsmith via Flickr CC BY 2.0



2040: Internet Disruption

The internet is everywhere but increasingly intermittent. Government and the Telco's don't have the money to maintain the NBN. The proliferation of sophisticated viruses and disruptions to cloud computing mean the internet is not longer useful for near-instant communication.

image by Simon Cocknell via Flickr CC BY 2.0



2040: Collapse of the supermarkets

A series of natural disasters and the cost of oil have led to a breakdown of the major food supply chains. Outside the cities major supermarkets are a thing of the past. Fruit and vegetables are only available on a seasonal basis and food security is a major issue.

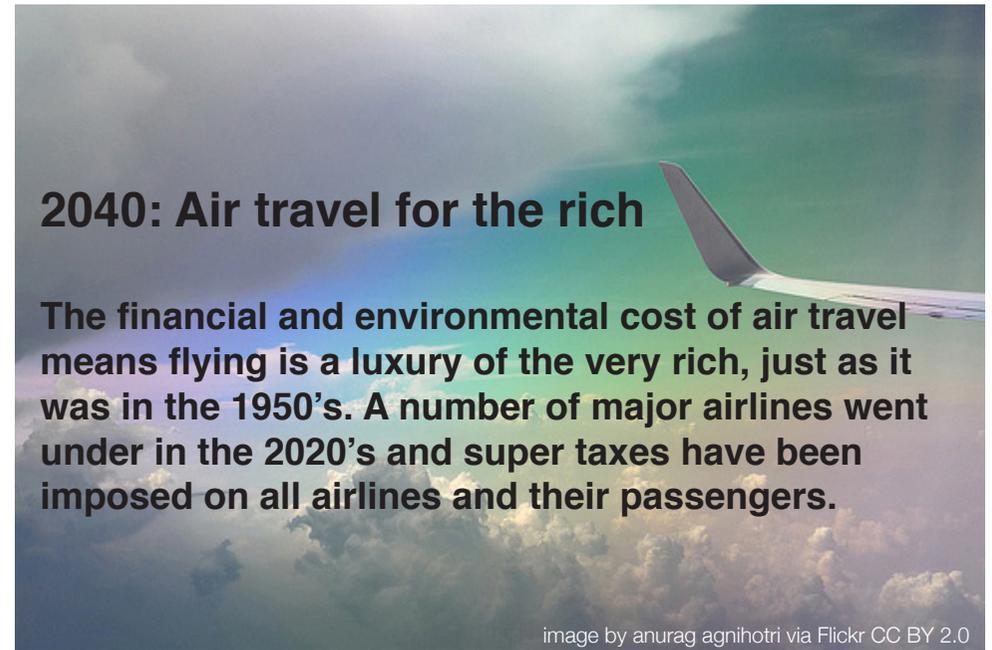
image by Angels Gate via Flickr CC BY-NC 2.0



2040: \$8 a litre and rising

For each barrel of oil produced, we now use half a barrel to find, extract, and refine it. With oil in such demand, the world's producers monopolise supply. The average price of petrol is \$8 a litre but it's also volatile and often higher.

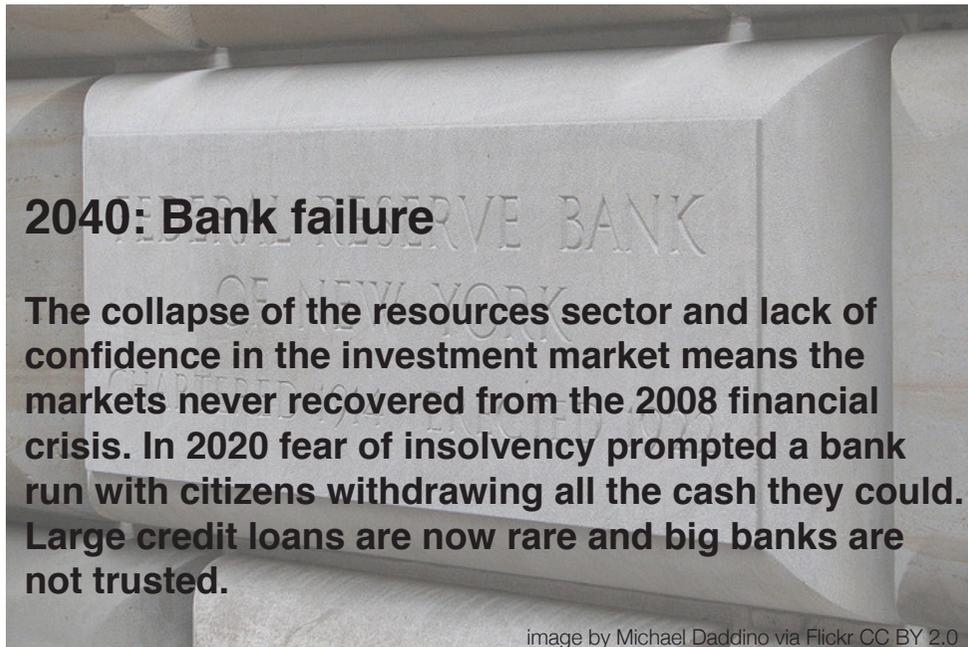
image by Michael Fawcett via Flickr CC BY-NC-SA 2.0



2040: Air travel for the rich

The financial and environmental cost of air travel means flying is a luxury of the very rich, just as it was in the 1950's. A number of major airlines went under in the 2020's and super taxes have been imposed on all airlines and their passengers.

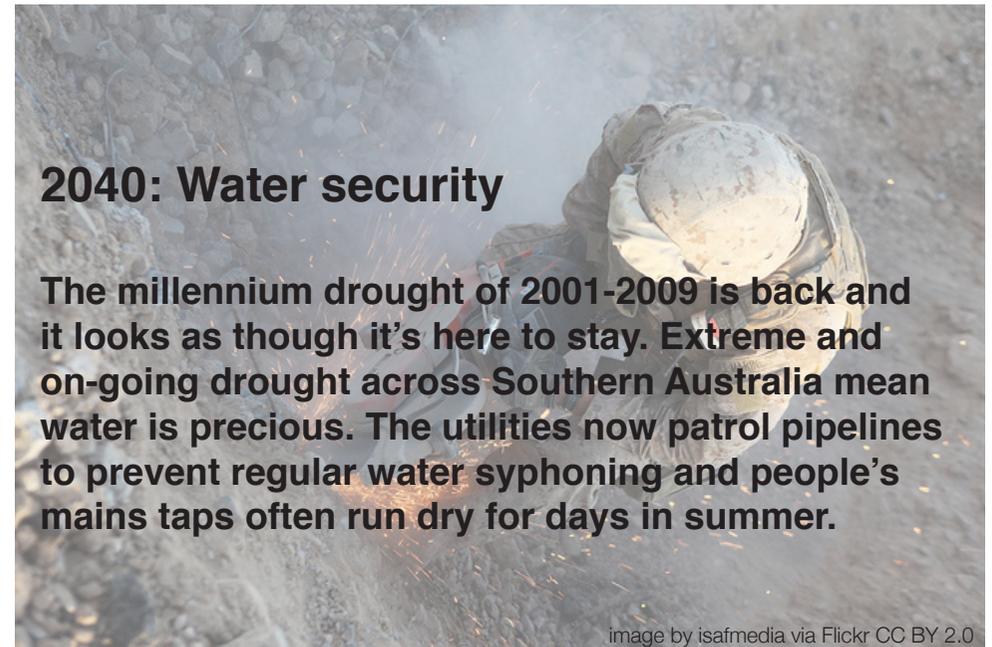
image by anurag agnihotri via Flickr CC BY 2.0



2040: Bank failure

The collapse of the resources sector and lack of confidence in the investment market means the markets never recovered from the 2008 financial crisis. In 2020 fear of insolvency prompted a bank run with citizens withdrawing all the cash they could. Large credit loans are now rare and big banks are not trusted.

image by Michael Daddino via Flickr CC BY 2.0



2040: Water security

The millennium drought of 2001-2009 is back and it looks as though it's here to stay. Extreme and on-going drought across Southern Australia mean water is precious. The utilities now patrol pipelines to prevent regular water syphoning and people's mains taps often run dry for days in summer.

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