

Fuel for Thought

Fuel Security Up For Discussion

Regular readers of this column would know that QER occasionally raises the subject of Australia's fuel security, and the challenges our nation faces with dwindling reserves of oil, and a growing dependence on imports of the fuels which keep our economy on the move.



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Naturally enough, as a producer of diesel and aviation fuels, QER has a particular interest in highlighting the need for the development of industries which can reduce our reliance on imports of oil and diesel, but lately the issue of fuel security has been gaining greater recognition from other sources.

Earlier this year the NRMA issued a report on Australia's Liquid Fuel security, and expressed concerns around what it described as the 'she'll be right' approach to fuel security and calling for changes to the current policy of relying on the oil markets and increasing imports of fuels.

The report highlights our dependence on oil for the transport of essentials such as food and medicines, and for the nation's defence forces, and makes a number of recommendations to address fuel security issues, including greater storage capacity and development of alternative fuels.

And just the other night the ABC screened a documentary entitled Ten Bucks A Litre, which had Aussie business icon Dick Smith expressing his concerns about Australia's reliance on imports of fuels.

The documentary was pretty wide-ranging and coverage a number of energy issues, including the fact that Australia doesn't have effective stockpiling of fuels, and that our country must be one of the world's most vulnerable economies when it comes to fuel security.

The program highlighted a number of possible solutions to the fuel security challenge, from the production of biofuels and electric vehicles, through to the development of alternative fossil fuels, particularly for heavy transport.

Recently, QER produced our first batches of ultra-low sulphur diesel and jet fuel, and we're hopeful our oil shale industry can one day play a significant role in providing Queensland and Australia with greater fuel security.



Creating new fuels for Australia

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