

Fuel for Thought

Fun on the Run... or Walk

Tomorrow sees the staging of one of Gladstone's most popular events – the annual Botanic to Bridge fun run.

The event means different things to different people, of course, from those who are running to win or at least beat their best time, through to those who simply want to participate in a community activity with their family, or raise money for charity.

Whatever the motivation the challenge is to stay the course and enjoy the experience....well, to try and enjoy it anyway, and as long as the weather holds that shouldn't be hard to achieve.

I like the fact that organisers describe the Botanic to bridge as a walk/run event over 3km or 8km – ensuring that it is available for people across the community, whatever their age or level of fitness.

Thinking about that aspect I was easily able to draw comparisons with the work we are doing here at QER to develop a commercial oil shale industry, and our confidence that we will get to the finish even if we have to slow down to a walk at times.

In the two years since our plant became operational we have pretty much been running it non-stop, gaining efficiencies and demonstrating its performance to the community.

Our focus has been on getting to the top of the next hill – our immediate goal. For us that has been the process of producing high quality fuels at our demonstration plant, and we are very happy with that achievement.

We're now looking ahead at the development of a commercial project concept, and no doubt there will be more steep hills in front of us, but we relish the challenge.

We remain confident Queensland's oil shale resources can be developed in a responsible and sustainable way, and ultimately play a major role in providing Australians with greater fuel security. For us, it's a case of when, not if.

QER's New Fuels Development Centre is on Landing Rd at Yarwun, and we have a visitor centre which is open 7 days a week for anyone interested in learning more about our technology and industry in general, and the potential benefits of the oil shale resource.



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Creating new fuels for Australia

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