

Fuel for Thought

Gladstone Made Fuel Hits the Road



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This week marked a special milestone for QER, with the dispatch of our first road tanker of oil shale derived ultra-low sulphur diesel.

We're been producing finished diesel at our New Fuels Development Centre for the past month or so, and now the time has come to demonstrate the performance of high quality fuels from oil shale, which are the equal of conventional diesel.

We'll be doing that through a series of truck trials with a regional company, and it was a very pleasing sight to see their tanker pull up to our load-out station during the week.

We watched the 35,000 litres of QER-produced ultra-low sulphur diesel being pumped into the tanker with a real sense of accomplishment.

QER is using two fuels descriptions in the trials. The initial testing involves a blend of 30 per cent oil shale diesel and 70% conventional diesel, while the second stage of testing will see 100 per cent of our ultra-low sulphur diesel being put through its paces.

For the past six months monitors on two trucks have been recording a baseline for performance measurement, so we can get a true comparison between the conventional diesel and our fuel.

We're pretty confident the QER fuels will compare very favourably, as previous testing has shown little difference between shale-derived diesel and conventional diesel in terms of regulated emissions and fuel economy. In fact, the QER product has a better cetane number than conventional diesel, which makes it a premium fuel.

With Australia relying more and more on imports of conventional diesel we see our truck trials as playing a significant role in the development of alternative fuels which can provide greater fuel security for our nation's transport and industry sectors.

If you're interested in learning more about the fuels we are producing there's plenty of information available at our visitor centre.

It is open 7 days a week at QER's New Fuels Development Centre on Landing Road, at Yarwun.



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