

Fuel for Thought

How Time Flies

The first thing that occurred to me when I realised that this week was the fourth anniversary of QER's 'Fuel for Thought' column was that well-known phrase 'time flies'.

It certainly didn't seem like it could have been as long ago as four years, but then I started to think about all that has happened since our first column was published in the Observer.

At that time we had just completed the demolition of the ATP plant, and were about to begin construction of our Paraho II™ technology demonstration plant.

We had trialled the process at a Paraho pilot plant in the United States, using shale shipped from Gladstone, and the results were very encouraging. However, we knew it would be the performance of our new plant in Gladstone that would determine future development of an oil shale industry in Queensland.

The demonstration plant has now been running successfully for more than two years, and we have produced high-quality transport fuels, with road trials about to begin to highlight the performance of our shale-derived ultra-low sulphur diesel.

The events of the past four years have been detailed in the 100 or so Fuel For Thought columns that have been published in that time, and it works out to be a total of around 35,000 words. Hopefully we have kept it interesting.

The column is an important tool for QER in keeping the community informed of our activities, and ensuring that people who are interested in what we are doing can be kept up-to-date on the status of our project.

We'll continue to publish the column every fortnight in the Observer, with a repeat dose in the weekend Advocate, and detail our plans for the future when they are finalised.

Of course the best way of gaining a better understanding of the project remains a visit to our facility.

QER's visitor centre is open seven days a week, from 9:00am til 4:30pm Monday to Friday, and from 12:30pm til 4:00pm on weekends and public holidays. Tours of our New Fuels Development Centre can be organised by contacting QER's community relations co-ordinator Lyndell Fontaine on 4971 1317 or email lfontaine@qer.com.au.



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Creating new fuels for Australia

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