

Fuel for Thought

Putting it Down to Experience

A friend of mine once said “experience is what you get when you don’t get what you want”. Recently we had one of those kinds of experiences at QER.



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After we’d shut down the plant for a scheduled refit, we had a fire that did some minor damage to communications and electrical cabling on an upper level of the retort. Our operators on duty at the time quickly put it out, and our emergency response measures worked well. In line with our procedures we called the local fire department and we very much appreciated their quick response. As it turned out the fire was out before they arrived thanks to the actions of our well-trained operators.

No one was hurt, the damage is minimal and as we had shut down the retort anyway for the scheduled refit, there will not be much disruption to our work program. However, obviously we treat any event like this very seriously. We have commissioned a careful and thorough investigation of the cause. While no-one wants these kinds of incidents to occur, they at least provide valuable lessons from which we can improve our systems, procedures and the way we work.

The rest of the plant, including the oil upgrading plant, will keep operating as normal and we are in the process of producing diesel fuel for use in truck fleet trials with a Central Queensland company, which are scheduled for early June. There is some excitement about this initiative, and we’re all very much looking forward to our next major milestone: seeing trucks running on Queensland-made (indeed, Gladstone-made) fuel.

As I’ve mentioned before, if you are interested in learning more about our project we would be happy to host you at our visitor centre at our plant on Landing Road, Yarwun which remains open 7 days a week.



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