

Fuel for Thought

Fuels 'aint Fuels



Bruce Andersen
Site Superintendent,
QER

As you may know, the next stage of our project is planned to produce more than a million litres a day of ultra-low sulphur diesel. In the longer term, our resource could help supply a significant part of Queensland's transport fuel needs.

But sometimes I get asked about why developing a new, local source of diesel is so important to us here in Queensland.

I was interested to learn that Queensland uses more diesel than any other state in Australia. Our State covers a huge area and our communities are quite spread out. Queensland's key industries rely heavily on transport fuel – tractors and harvesters for agriculture; heavy equipment for mining and construction; planes and buses to transport tourists. And our communities and industries all depend on an elaborate, diesel-powered freight network to source the goods and materials we use and produce every day.

There are several reasons why diesel has become such an important transport fuel. It is a very safe, high energy density fuel, which generates high 'torque' (pulling power), meaning a small amount of fuel can carry a heavy load over distance. That makes it an ideal fuel for hauling long distance freight and powering heavy equipment. Diesel engines are robust and require relatively little maintenance. Thanks to significant advances in technology, modern engines powered with high quality diesel are also quiet and clean.

QER's work over recent years has shown that the resource here in Gladstone is ideally suited for the production of high quality, ultra-low sulphur diesel. QER has thoroughly tested the fuel from our demonstration plant, starting with laboratory tests, then static engine tests and finally truck trials. Our Gladstone-made diesel met and exceeded Australia's strict, retail fuel standards.

There is still a lot of work to do to establish a commercial production facility. But one of these days in the not too distant future, I hope we'll be seeing trucks carrying QER diesel to many parts of our State and Country, bringing many economic and social benefits.

And you know, I'd love to see those trucks with "Proudly Made in Gladstone" painted on the back of them!



Creating new fuels for Australia

www.qer.com.au

Visitor Centre at 375 Landing Rd, Yarwun.

Open Weekdays 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Saturday/ Sunday & Public holidays 12:30pm to 4:00pm.