

Fuel for Thought

Europe keeps on truckin'...

As you might have read in our last few columns, I've been lucky enough to have had a break – seeing some of Europe by motorcycle. It was a great trip, (if a bit exhausting!). The EU has made it very easy to go from country to country and sample the best from an incredibly diverse range of cultures.

As those who have driven there will know, it's a great road network – with countries connected up by fabulous motorways (autobarns or autostradas, depending where you are). One thing that struck me was the number of trucks hauling goods across the continent. Although Europe has the world's strictest emissions regime, it remains very dependent on its diesel fleet. According to the European commission, three quarters of the EU's freight is transported by road. The heavy transport network underpins international trade and is fundamental to connecting the European Community.

It's a reminder that, while we continue to improve vehicle efficiency and reduce emissions, the need for heavy transport fuel is not going away in Europe – or in Australia for that matter. Hence the need to find future sources of heavy transport fuel like the resource QER is developing right here in Gladstone.

Naturally in Europe, and in Australia, there are increasingly strict emissions control and quality standards. At QER we recently received a final report from engine and road tests of the ultra-low sulphur diesel we produced at our Gladstone New Fuels demonstration plant. The report showed that the fuel meets the strict standards necessary to be considered a high quality, Australian-made substitute for the imported fuel which Australia now so heavily relies on.

In the not too distant future we'd love be able to get a commercial going here so that Gladstone's own ultra-low sulphur diesel will can help to fuel the transport fleet which delivers Australia's goods, connects our community and underpins our way of life.



Bruce Andersen
Site Superintendent,
QER



Creating new fuels for Australia

www.qer.com.au

Visitor Centre at 375 Landing Rd, Yarwun.

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