

Fuel for Thought

In Gladstone's Corner

A couple of weeks ago, a colleague and I had the opportunity to attend a Gladstone Regional Council meeting to update Council on our project.

At the meeting, we explained the background and rationale of our project.

We talked about the imperative for Australia to be able to meet its future fuel needs from domestic sources. We showed them the work we have done over the years to develop and demonstrate a clean and sustainable processing technology. We talked our future plans and the oil market – which has improved a little – but still has a way to go before we can attract the investment we need to commercialise our project.

On the Council side, there was a great energy and enthusiasm in the room – a real sense that the councillors were listening and keenly interested in anything that has the potential to be good for the community in our region. They asked us some probing questions about our plans for local employment and training. (Our answer was that we'd much rather hire locals and that we have a long history of investing heavily in the training and development of our people).

They asked questions about the long term sustainability of the fuel market and how we planned to minimise the chance of impacts on the environment. It was a balanced and intelligent conversation – with a genuine sense of care for our community - something we all want to see in our public officials.

We are very grateful for the support the Mayor, Councillor Matt Burnett and all the Councillors for making the opportunity to provide such briefings. We're also grateful to people like Maureen who has worked in the background at the Mayor's office for many years and whose quiet contribution keeps the wheels of local government turning!

It's a privilege to be able to see these processes up close and as a local, to know that in these tough times, there are such enthusiastic people working hard in Gladstone's corner.



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