

Fuel for Thought

A Dry Subject?

Sometimes I think QER's a bit like a duck... quietly gliding over the surface of the pond, but legs paddling furiously under the water. While things may seem pretty quiet at times, there's plenty of development work going on.



Bruce Andersen
Site Superintendent,
QER

For example, two of our esteemed technical staff – John and Jitesh - have recently been in the US, overseeing trials of the dryer technologies we plan to use in a commercial project. As you may know, the kerogen shale here at Gladstone has about 23% moisture in the actual rock, and that has to be dried down to about 5-8% before it goes into the retort.

We plan to use two different sorts of dryers, one for fine material which dries quite quickly before being compressed into little briquettes, and the other for coarser 'lump' material.

Last year we mined some shale from here at Gladstone, packed it lovingly into barrels and sent it over to the US for the trials, closely overseen by our QER technical staff and a couple of other Australian experts we took over there. The trials involved running the Gladstone shale through miniature versions of the dryers (about as big as a truck) and measuring all kinds of parameters, from temperature and moisture, through to gas composition.

After a few teething problems getting the test gear working, the trials went very well. They provided the data we need to design and size the plant to enable us to dry the rock efficiently, at temperatures where there is no risk of odour or emissions issues. QER's technical team is now busily incorporating the findings into our engineering plans, bringing us yet one more step closer to making a commercial kerogen-based fuels industry into a reality.



Creating new fuels for Australia

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Visitor Centre at 375 Landing Rd, Yarwun.

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