

Fuel for Thought

New Construction at QER



Bruce Andersen
Site Superintendent,
QER

There's a bit of action at our site at the moment as we commence construction of a "Retort Feed Test Unit" at a cost of around \$1,000,000.

While the Technology Demonstration Plant worked brilliantly, QER is committed to continually refining the design to ensure it is as efficient as it can possibly be.

You might know that our process involves feeding rock into the top of a 'retort' – basically a sealed box in which rock is heated as it slowly moves downward. An important aspect of the process is to evenly distribute the different rock sizes within the retort. QER has designed a new kind of "Retort Feed Unit" to improve the way that happens. It will help us more easily maintain consistent yield – how much oil we can produce per tonne of rock.

We have now commenced construction of a half-scale model which we call the "Retort Feed Test Unit". Once completed, we will run (cold) rock and specially marked material through the unit so we can finesse and perfect the design and operating conditions of the feed system for a commercial plant.

I'm proud to say we've engaged local firms to complete the fabrication and construction right here in Gladstone, consistent with our policy to buy local. Oaka Constructions has commenced on the civil works and Xtreme Engineering is doing the fabrication and construction. There will also be a number of other local subcontractors involved. There's no doubt that there is an abundance of highly skilled and talented people in the fabrication and construction field in our midst here in Gladstone.

QER's investment in the Retort Flow Test Unit is an indication of our on-going commitment to the project and the Gladstone region. Construction of the test unit will be finished in the first half of next year and we'll run trials for about three months. At the end, the commercial plant design will still have stable, clean and robust features of the Paraho retort, along with an improved feed system.

And we'll be yet another step closer to finalising a viable commercial facility, and a new Gladstone industry.



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.