

Fuel for Thought

Planning Our Future



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It certainly has been a tough week at QER with a number of our staff finishing up as we gradually wind down our demonstration plant project.

We have built a fantastic team of dedicated and experienced people at our facility so it is hard to watch them leave, and I wish them all the very best for the future.

While it is a sad time for us, I have been buoyed by some initial interest from potential investors in being part of a commercial project at our site, and we remain optimistic about the long term future of our industry.

Site visits by a couple of potential investors have resulted in some very positive comments about our technology, and the potential for a commercial shale-to-liquids project in Gladstone.

As part of our efforts to secure an investor partner for a commercial oil shale project a QER team recently embarked on an investment 'roadshow' across the Asia region, where there is certainly interest in our development plans.

As we continue our efforts to develop a commercial fuels industry there has been some increased interest in the issue of fuel security, with the recent release of an updated report from motoring organisation NRMA on Australia's liquid fuel security.

The report says Australia's dependence on imported liquid fuel and oil for transport has continued to grow over the past year. The report goes on to conclude that any interruption to the supply of fuel imports poses a significant threat to supply chains for things such as food and medicines, and could represent a major problem for essential services and our defence forces.

Among its recommendations for addressing the issue, the report highlights the need to develop a range of alternative fuels, and QER remains determined to ensure that fuels derived from oil shale can play a central role in providing Australia with greater fuel security.

In that context we are continuing to conduct truck trials using the ultra-low sulphur diesel we produced at our demonstration plant, and early indications suggest some positive fuel efficiency results.



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