

# Fuel for Thought

## Looking Forward

After chatting with folk around town in recent weeks I have come to realise that there has been a view among some that QER's decision to close our technology demonstration plant represented the end of our plans for an oil shale industry in Gladstone.



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Nothing could be further from the truth.

It is true that after two years of successful operations at our New Fuels Development Centre we have completed our demonstration plant project, and unfortunately that has involved the difficult decision to substantially reduce our workforce.

However, we remain determined to progress development of a commercial oil shale industry at our Stuart deposit near Yarwun, and have been having discussions with a range of potential investors both here in Australia and overseas.

QER has always said we would need to attract an investment partner to progress to the next stage of development, and we have been encouraged by the positive reactions from some companies regarding the performance of our Paraho technology, and our business case for a small-scale commercial facility producing finished fuels, mainly diesel, from oil shale.

Initial planning for the project is based around construction of a facility producing around 8,000 barrels of diesel per day – small scale compared to Brisbane's oil refineries which each produce around 100,000 barrels a day – but still a significant project which would help provide greater fuel security for Queensland.

We're still finalising the details of the project, and as I've already outlined we will need to confirm an investment partner before we can proceed. Once we have some greater certainty we'll be engaging with our neighbours and the broader Gladstone community to explain our planning for the project.

In the meantime anyone interested in learning more about our industry and the Stuart oil shale resource can drop by our visitor centre on Landing Road. It is open 7 days a week from 9:00am until 4:30pm Monday to Friday, and from 12:30pm until 4:00pm on weekends and most public holidays.



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