

# Fuel for Thought

## Fuel Security

Five years ago, almost to the day, QER published our first Fuel for Thought column and since then we've continued to keep the community informed every fortnight about our plans and activities, and matters associated with the development of our new fuels industry.

That first column highlighted our plans for development of a technology demonstration plant, and underlined the need for Australia to develop a range of alternative fuels, such as shale to liquids, to help provide our country with greater fuel security. We detailed how Australia was relying more and more on fuels imported from overseas, and that there was increasing pressure on our refineries.

Since then we've seen the closure of the two refineries in Sydney, and another planned closure in Brisbane, further reducing our nation's ability to be self-reliant when it comes to ensuring we have sufficient fuel supplies.

In the same period QER has operated our technology demonstration plant, which included a small refinery producing quantities of ultra-low sulphur diesel and aviation fuel, and we've successfully demonstrated that high quality transport fuels can be sustainably produced from oil shale.

Almost 80,000 kilometres of trials in large B-double fuel tankers has shown there is no measurable difference between a blend of our shale-derived diesel and conventional diesel and a fully conventional diesel, while our aviation fuel is returning some promising results in certification processes underway in Britain.

The need for Australia to produce a range of next generation fuels was highlighted during the week by comments outlined in an ABC '7-30' report, which reported threats made by a terrorist organisation to attack the sea routes used by the ships which bring oil and fuels to Australia.

Organisations such as the NRMA, which was interviewed for the program, are expressing concern about our country's reliance on fuel imports. They rightly describe fuel as being the lifeblood of our nation, driving our cars and trucks, delivering food and medicines, and keeping important industries on the move.

With a resource totalling around 20 billion barrels of oil, Queensland's oil shale reserves can play a major role in providing our nation with greater fuel security.



**Bruce Andersen**  
Site Superintendent,  
QER



Creating new fuels for Australia

[www.qer.com.au](http://www.qer.com.au)