

Fuel for Thought

Fuelling our Travels

Having a holiday at the snowfields recently brought home to me how easy it is to travel these days.

Within a short period of time we could go from our relatively warm climate here in Gladstone to be enjoying the thrills (and spills) of a winter wonderland.

To add to that little adventure I used the remaining time of my annual leave to do some touring around western NSW. I got to see a fair bit of the countryside and was struck by how dry it was and the desperate need for rain, much like the situation facing our fellow Queenslanders in the west of our State.

All this traveling around reinforced for me how much we rely on fuel to travel Australia's vast distances. Having ample supplies of fuel makes it possible for us to pretty much take traveling for granted, and to assume that goods and medicines transported by fuels will be on the shelves when we go to the supermarket or pharmacy.

Increasingly, our supplies of fuel are being imported, with a recent report indicating that 90% of our diesel supply comes from other countries. While there is no immediate threat to those supplies, QER believes Australia's fuel security needs to be strengthened by developing a range of home-grown fuels, including our own shale-derived fuels, but also other alternatives such as gas and biofuels.

Of course, all fuels must meet the strictest environmental standards and match conventional fuels in performance and pricing, and that's why QER has been testing the fuels we've produced in a series of trials here and overseas.

Locally we are running truck trials for our ultra-low sulphur diesel, and we also dispatched aviation fuel to Britain for exhaustive testing and certification.

While we have a way to go to complete the trials we're very happy with the initial results we're getting from both projects.

As always, if you are interested in our fuels-from-shale project you are very welcome to call into our visitor centre at QER's New Fuels Development Centre, on Landing Rd at Yarwun.



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Creating new fuels for Australia

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