

Fuel for Thought

Foresight for Queensland

During a chat with one of my Brisbane colleagues the other day he informed me about QER's involvement in a program known as Foresight for Queensland.

Organised by the Brisbane Institute and CSIRO, the two-year Foresight for Queensland project involves a series of workshops based around five global megatrends identified by CSIRO, following a study of more than 100 trends.

As CSIRO explains it, megatrends are collections of interlinked trends that change the way people live, and the science and technology products that they demand.

The five megatrends CSIRO has settled on are:

- 'more with less' – looking at managing increasing demand with depleting resources
- 'a personal touch' – the growth of the services sector and focus on the individual
- 'divergent demographics' – recognising the contrast between ageing populations in modern economies and food production problems in poorer countries
- 'on the move' – people traveling more, changing jobs, commuting further to work etc
- 'i-World' – the digital world

The Foresight project will focus on examining how these global megatrends will shape the future of Queensland, what could change the way in which these trends occur in Queensland, and how best the corporate and government sectors can position themselves to benefit the people of Queensland.

Queensland's economy and our society have changed dramatically in recent decades and will continue to do so in future. Our State has abundant natural wealth, a strong social system and significant opportunities for responsible development which can find the balance between economic and environmental outcomes.

In line with QER's careful approach to the development of an oil shale industry which can provide greater fuel security for Queensland, we want to ensure we take advantage of opportunities such as the Foresight program to participate in longer-term planning processes.

While our primary focus remains on the operations of our technology demonstration plant, we also want to be as involved as possible in some broader planning for the future.



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