

Fuel for Thought

Smooth Operation

As they say all good things must come to an end, and so it was that we farewelled our community relations adviser Vesna Rendulic last week as she heads off to South Australia and new career challenges.

Vesna was a wonderful representative for QER in the Gladstone region and we will miss her greatly, particularly in the months ahead as we bring our technology demonstration plant into full operation, producing ultra-low sulphur diesel and aviation fuels.

As the site operations manager, with lengthy experience in the industry including the previous operation at this site, I have been extremely pleased with the initial start-up of this plant, and in particular the commissioning of the Paraho II™ retort, which has been producing oil for several weeks now.

The oil is being securely stored awaiting refining into fuels once we have fully commissioned the plant's oil upgrader, due around March next year.

Our retort runs at around two and a half tonnes of oil shale per hour, so it is only a small scale operation.

In the next couple of weeks we will complete the actual construction element of our plant, and farewell the numerous contractors involved in building our facility. As a person who has lived in Gladstone for almost 10 years now, it is a source of some pride to highlight that more than 70% of the technology demonstration plant was constructed locally, and the result is a fine example of the skills which are available in our region.

Certainly, the smooth start-up of the plant is a reflection of how well the plant has been built. In fact, the plant is operating so well that visitors to site typically don't realise the plant is actually running.

We will be operating across the Xmas/New Year break and our Visitor Centre will be open on most days for anyone interested in coming out to our New Fuels Development Centre on Landing Road at Yarwun.

On behalf of QER I would like to wish all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.



Chris Anderson
Site Operations
Manager, QER



Creating new fuels for Australia

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