

Fuel for Thought

Mastering the Energy Challenge

QER's decision to invest in a demonstration plant was based largely on recognising that we needed to show local residents and other stakeholders how our technology works, and why we believe so strongly in the need to create new fuels for Australia.

We want our New Fuels Development Centre to be accessible to people interested in what we are doing, and to have the opportunity to learn more about the industry we are looking to develop.

With that in mind, we were delighted to receive a request from the University of Queensland to host a visit by a group of around 25 professional people who are undertaking a Master of Energy Studies through the International Energy Centre, an innovative collaboration between a number of Australian universities.

The group, with backgrounds ranging from government departments, research organisations and energy companies, came to Gladstone last week to visit a number of industrial sites and get first-hand experience of their energy challenges, and the energy benefits they provide to Australia's economy and society in general. From QER's perspective we appreciated the opportunity to engage with future policy and decision makers, and discuss the role oil shale can play in addressing Australia's fuel security. It is safe to say a number of the students were not fully aware of Australia's fuel vulnerability, owing to the sharp decline in our production of conventional oil, and the subsequent need for development of a mix of alternative fuels.

The visit also represented a chance for us to showcase our new demonstration plant, and highlight the responsible, step-by-step approach we are taking to the development of an oil shale industry. From the group's questions and comments it seems they were impressed with the facility, and interested in the processes involved in turning the oil shale we mine at the site into ultra-low sulphur diesel and aviation fuel.

Hopefully the visit has also provided them with information and perspectives which can help them meet the challenges of their Masters degree.



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Creating new fuels for Australia

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