

Fuel for Thought

Our Technology

A recent visitor to our site asked a number of questions around the differences between the Paraho II™ technology we are demonstrating at our New Fuels Development Centre, and the ATP technology which previously operated at the site.

Assuming that the questions could reflect the interest of others in the community, I thought it might be worthwhile to outline the differences, and then provide an update on the operations of our plant.

The most obvious difference between the two technologies is that the Paraho is a vertical, stationary retort with simple mechanics while the ATP was a horizontal, rotating retort with complex internal structures.

Another significant point of difference is that the ATP processed fine shale, while the Paraho processes coarse, or lump shale.

And the ATP operated at a much higher production schedule of 250 tonnes an hour, compared to the Paraho demonstration plant rate of 2.5 tonnes an hour.

While we're not by any measure a commercial operation, we have recently sold some of our fuel oil product to ensure we don't fill our tanks before our oil upgrader comes on line later this month.

Commissioning of the oil upgrader is on track, and in coming weeks we'll be using much of the oil for production of ultra-low sulphur diesel and aviation fuel, most of which will be used for testing and certification purposes.

Previous testing has shown the shale-derived fuels to be of high quality and very suitable for heavy transport, but we don't want to leave any stones unturned and will be conducting additional trials with an Australian trucking company.

Taking rock from our mine and ending up with a high-quality transport fuel certainly caught the attention of some other guests to our plant, namely a large group of engineers.

We very much appreciated the opportunity to display our technology to a bunch of experts, and we were delighted with some of the favorable comments we received from the group, not only about the more technical aspects but also our visitor centre and the work we have done to develop a clean, landscaped precinct.



Chris Anderson
Site Operations
Manager, QER



Creating new fuels for Australia

www.qer.com.au