

Fuel for Thought

SAVING ENERGY

While the main purpose behind QER's decision to build a demonstration plant was to showcase our new and different technology to the local community and others, we are also using the facility to identify and develop greater efficiency in our processes.

Our plant has been up and running for more than six months now, and we're delighted with its performance.

However, that doesn't mean we can't make it even better, and so we are continually putting it through its paces in the search for even better outcomes.

That is why at the moment we have shut down the retort to configure the plant for the next planned phase of our demonstration plant – operating in a different mode, which we call combustion mode.

Essentially, this means instead of relying solely on natural gas to heat the oil shale, we introduce air into the process which allows us to use more of the energy from the heated shale – and therefore save energy.

State-of-the-art monitoring systems will give us a good picture of the energy savings which are possible, and also let us know of any additional opportunities we might take advantage of or issues we need to manage.

While the plant is shut down during this change of operating mode, our visitor centre remains open, and it has been pleasing to see some people dropping by to check out our facility. Even more encouraging has been the positive comments they are leaving in our visitor book.

We have also had the pleasure of hosting a number of groups to our New Fuels Development Centre, including a visit last week by the Gladstone Workforce Skilling Strategy.

By all reports the group was impressed with what they saw, asking numerous questions and indicating interest in the future of our project.

The visitor centre is open 7 days a week, and if you want to organise a group visit please contact our community relations coordinator, Lyndell Fontaine, on 4971 1317.



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