

# Fuel for Thought

## What A Week!

Queensland's big wet has left a trail of ruin and devastation across scores of communities along the coast and in some inland areas, and our thoughts are with those who have lost possessions, homes and in some tragic cases, loved ones.



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While Gladstone certainly had its fair share of rain (the gauge at my place measured over 900mm) our city has been spared much of the damage and drama inflicted on so many of our neighbours in areas including Boyne/Tannum, throughout the Boyne Valley and, of course, the utter devastation in Bundaberg.

And it's not over yet, with Rockhampton having to endure further flooding this weekend.

As many have commented, and through images we've witnessed in our streets and on television, there have been wonderful examples of community spirit throughout all the hardship, and it is moments like these that reaffirm the positive aspects of human character.

There are so many people who deserve recognition but I'd like to make special mention of the SES workers and volunteers who give so much at times like this, and our councillors, led by Mayor Gail Sellers, have definitely risen to the challenge. The feedback I've received was very positive regarding the running of the Emergency Management Centre and the dissemination of information.

QER's New Fuels Development Centre was spared any damage, and our water management systems coped well with the deluge.

We are now in the process of switching the operation of our Paraho technology from combustion mode to heating mode – all part of our long-term processes for identifying the best ways to operate our plant and optimise its performance.

We've now been producing oil for over 16 months, and have been very pleased with the results, but will continue to investigate ways of gaining greater efficiencies, while ensuring the community has every opportunity to visit our facility, and understand what we are trying to achieve.



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