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From : **BIODIESEL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**
Contact : PAUL MARTIN AH 02 9521 4372 MOB 0415 377 060
Email : paul@vtrekker.com
URL : www.vtrekker.com/biodiesel

Who's responsible for the price of oil?

With oil prices taking owner drivers to the last resort of blockading fuel suppliers in Melbourne and the same frustration likely to reach other cities in Australia, the government not about to cut excise, CO2 levels time and time again proven to be higher than humans have ever known them, Paul Martin asks: "Is it not time to invest in renewable energy and reap the benefits of the new driving force?"

Take Denmark for example, a country which supplies 60% of the worlds wind turbine market and an ever increasing green energy industry and supply, The Danes enjoy a government with foresight when it comes to environmental issues and as a direct result earnings of over 4 billion export dollars per year from renewables

When people think of boom industries, Tourism and IT are some of the most obvious to the 'cleaver' economy. So who would think that renewable energy is enjoying a growth rate of around 25%?

With our government so determined to keep our country running on finite resources as seen by their generous grants of 10's of millions of dollars from the Green House Office to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) projects and companies, it seems the only way to get cheaper sustainable energy in Australia is for you and I to start producing it.

Paul Martin and Adrian Lake, who fill their Diesel cars with homemade fuel called Biodiesel, made from waste cooking fats and oils, are looking for anyone who is interested to do just that. "It is high time we had a bio-fuels industry in this country," says Paul spokesman for the Biodiesel Association of Australia, "It is the only way to escape the foreign influences who, we are told, are the culprits behind our consistent fuel price increases." Biodiesel is made from any fats or oils and ethanol which reduces the viscosity of the oil allowing it to run in any diesel engine with much better emissions, lubricating properties, cost and job prospects, with no conversion cost to the car/truck/generator/bulldozer/boat owner. It is a TOTAL replacement for Petroleum (Fossil) Diesel.

"Why are we riding the OPEC roller-coaster while we generate 10's of thousands of litres of waste fats and oils every day? Not to mention the huge potential this country has for nitrogen fixing oil crops and oil producing Diatom algae which thrive on salt and heat, making the arid Australia especially suitable for fuel oil production." Asks Paul.

For anyone who has not heard of Biodiesel, over 250 Biodiesel plants are in operation worldwide, France being the biggest producer/consumer. Low sulphur diesel sold in France is more abrasive than standard diesel, so that country has its 3 largest oil companies add 5% Biodiesel to there diesel supply to give lubrication properties. Biodiesel is also available at over 1000 filling stations across Germany with the big German car manufacturers approving it for use in their vehicle warranties and in the case of the VW Lupo, it is the manufactures preferred fuel to use.

The Current Liberal government has made little attempt to encourage the growth of renewable fuels, which are the only long-term solution to fossil fuels. All they have to do is exempt renewable energy from excise for a period of time or structure the excise as to be competitive with fossil diesels 100 years plus head start. The federal Labour party have proposed a 5-year exemption on excise for renewable energy if they were to get the chance.

Imagine a country that made a commitment to rid its self from fossil oils instead of lining the pockets of the OPEC cartel. A plan that acknowledges the ability of a country to grow or capture its own fuels and energy, investing in its own people on the land to provide cleaner non toxic fuels for its people with a pump price dependent on the strength and sustainability of our rural sector. In this country that is a dream.

Take Iceland as a working example. Iceland has huge glaciers in abundance perfect for hydro electricity generation and in turn the separation of hydrogen and oxygen from water giving an abundance of clean home made hydrogen fuel to run in conventional combustion engines or fuel cells. Iceland's plan is a reality already in action. They plan to be rid of the dependence on fossil fuels by 2020. They will become the world's first hydrogen economy.

Paul asks, "what will it cost you to fill your tank in 20 years let alone next year and what will you fill it with?"