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Port Lincoln

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Biodiesel outsells standard variety

Jessica Wade

EXPERTS have touted biofuel as the energy source of the future, and at one Port Lincoln outlet it has been outselling petroleum-based diesel in recent months.

Biofuel is one of three projects local agricultural group F.R.E.E. Eyre Limited has identified for a feasibility study to help Eyre Peninsula farmers add value to their products.

Australian Farmers' Fuel (SAFF) on Verran Terrace in Port Lincoln is the only pump outlet of biodiesel in Port Lincoln.

The biodiesel is made from canola oil and methanol, and blended with diesel.

SAFF Fuel co-manager Jim McGuire said the outlet now sells more biodiesel than regular petroleum diesel.

"It has been popular through the bowzers," Mr McGuire said.

"There's a lot of environmentally concerned people that buy it."

Mr McGuire said it is not only farmers who are using the biodiesel for their vehicles, but also other people who run diesel vehicles are finding there are benefits of using the fuel.

He said biodiesel has many environmental and economic advantages.

"Normal premium diesel sells at 125.9 cents per litre, while biodiesel is four cents cheaper at 121.9 cents per litre," he said.

Mr McGuire said the price of petroleum diesel fluctuates with oil barrel prices, however the price of biodiesel remains "relatively constant".

He said there was no difference performance-wise between biodiesel and petroleum diesel.

"There's less black smoke and it smells like a barbecue," he said.

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