



Turnout indicates high interest in biofuels

By COLIN BETTLES

OILSEEDS WA executive director John Duff gave the recent Beyond Biofuels conference the thumbs up, although he admitted to being a bit biased.

"I thought the conference went very well with excellent speakers providing very welcome technical depth on biofuels," Mr Duff said.

"The topic is not always presented in such a logical fashion to rural industry in WA.

"I was very happy with the number of people who attended given that harvest is early and in full swing across the state."

Mr Duff said the event was especially useful for growers and their advisers, providing a detailed outlook on both the biodiesel and ethanol industries.

"Many of the 60 attendees indicated that they thought all the topics were very useful and the event was a success," he said.

Mr Duff also spoke at the conference on the possible price for biodiesel from canola in several scenarios.

He said the final price of biodiesel from canola oil depended mainly on the market price of canola grain and the price received for meal, and to a lesser extent the cost of equipment bought.

Biodiesel producers or proponents needed to realistically cost their system proposals including prices of feedstock and meal.



□ Brett Glencross, principal research scientist at the WA Fisheries Department, spoke about the opportunity to supply fish feed to South-East Asia at the Beyond Biofuels conference recently.

"Currently canola price is influenced by a shortage of canola for the domestic crush due to drought and demand from Europe for biodiesel," Mr Duff said. "Canola meal is also receiving a premium due to the shortage of animal feed."

Mr Duff said Oilseeds WA had calculated four options for producing biodiesel from canola with the lowest cost option being to buy canola oil and hire a biodiesel plant that charged per litre of biodiesel produced.

"At a price for canola of \$475/t and a price for canola meal of \$250/t this option is estimated to be around 141c/L of biodiesel," he said.

"All producers need to do their own sums.

"A copy of our report which the Wheatbelt Development Commission assisted with can be purchased from Oilseeds WA."

A key speaker at the conference was Brett Glencross, who spoke about the opportunity to supply fish feed to South-East Asia.

Dr Glencross, principal research scientist at the WA Fisheries Department, said the aquafeed sector had the potential to serve the biofuels industry well because it was a high-paying feed market and certain fish could generally eat a higher percentage of protein than land animals.

Dr Glencross said there was some capacity for the aquafeed sector to use cereal wheat/corn by-products and canola meals, except in drought years, when dairy producers will hock their house to pay grain prices.

Dr Glencross believed that aquaculture was the fastest-growing animal production sector in the world and a significant industry in terms of its size, particularly in South-East Asia.

However, it was still growing in Australia.

"Like all animal production sectors, feed is the biggest cost and also the most influential critical control point," Dr Glencross said.

"WA is the closest major feed grain supplier to the south-east Asian region that can export significant volumes of feed grains to this sector.

"There are many issues to consider in getting grain into this market though, with raw materials being purchased on a protein basis and in some cases digestible protein and/or energy (in some cases digestible energy) basis.

"Some other quality issues for feed grains include anti-nutritional factors and variability.

"Some grains like lupins, lupin kernel meals and wheat are already being exported throughout the world for use by this feed sector."



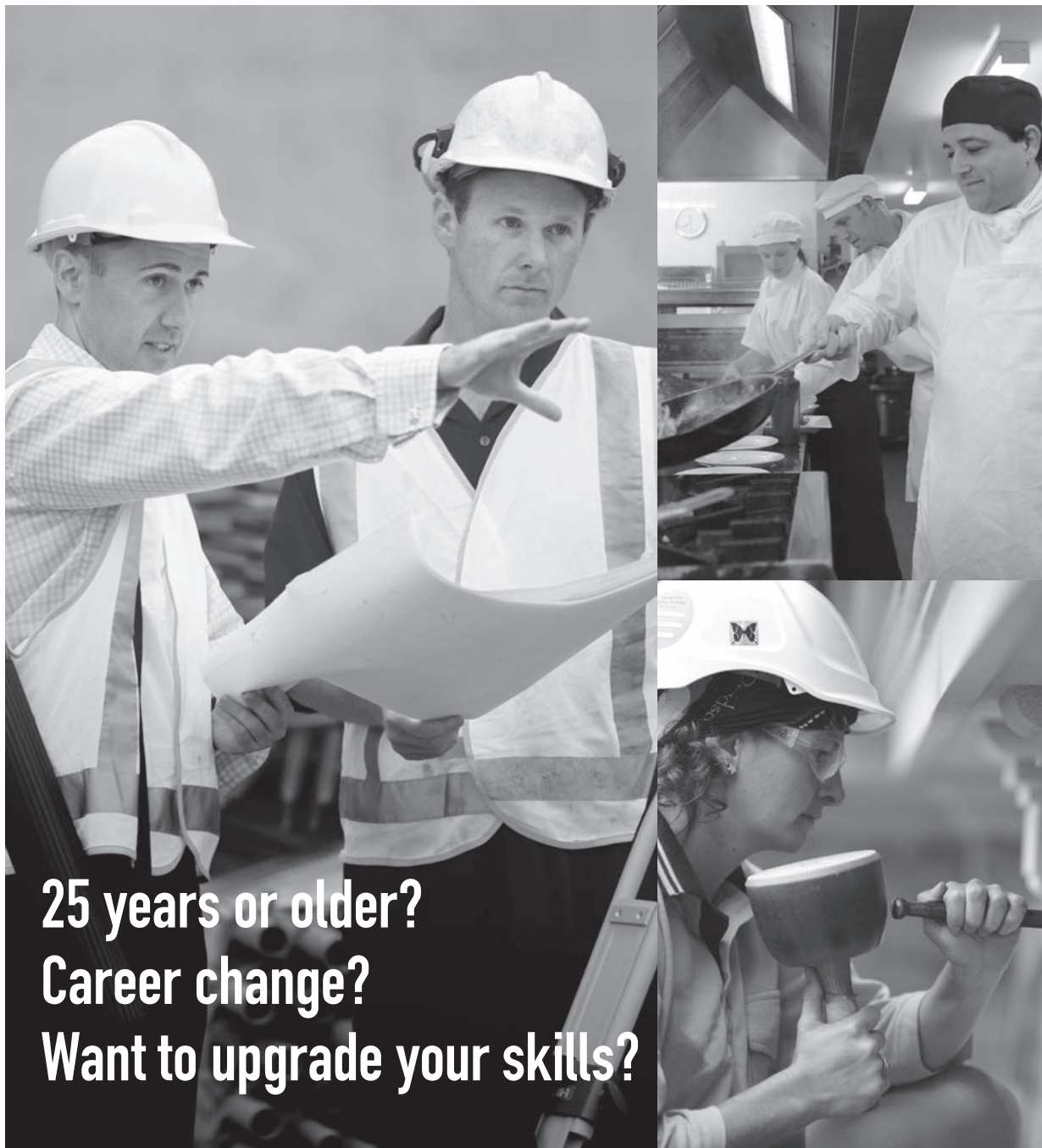
BUNDED CHEMICAL SHED
Includes pre-cast concrete banded base.

CRT From your CRT Local Bloke.

- SAFE & SECURE STORAGE
- SIMPLE & EASY TO TRANSPORT & INSTALL
- AVAILABLE IN ZINC OR 10 COLOURS
- SIGNAGE AVAILABLE AS AN OPTION
- OPTIONAL SKYLIGHT & LOCKABLE DOOR HANDLE

For details of your local CRT store please call:
Ph: 1800 182 186

Advertisement



**25 years or older?
Career change?
Want to upgrade your skills?**



Australian Government

If you are 25 years or older and considering a career change there will soon be more opportunities to gain new skills or upgrade your qualifications.

From 1 January 2007, Work Skills Vouchers of up to \$3000 will be made available for people 25 years and older who don't have formal qualifications. Vouchers can be used at public, private or community training providers to pay for Year 12 or equivalent courses or vocational Certificate IIs.

From 1 July 2007, wage subsidies for apprentices 30 years and older will be made available. Up to \$150 per week in the first year and \$100 per week in the second year will be available to apprentices aged 30 years and older or their employer (depending on award arrangements) in trades experiencing strong skill needs.

Incentives for Higher Technical Skills will provide up to \$4000 to employers of workers wishing to commence or upgrade their skills to Diploma or Advanced Diploma qualifications, particularly in engineering from 1 January 2007.

For more information call 13 38 73 or visit australia.gov.au/skillsforthefuture

SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE

australia.gov.au/skillsforthefuture or call 13 38 73