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Fish 'n chips oil can run your car cheaply



Tropical Forestry Services Packsaddle assistant manager Hans Diederichsen inspects a sample of biodiesel.

EVER been to the local pump and wish it did not cost so much to fill your car?

A team from local sandalwood company Tropical Forestry Services is working on it.

Last week the company's Packsaddle operations produced their first batch of biodiesel from used cooking oil supplied by the Argyle Diamond Mine.

TFS Packsaddle assistant manager Hans Diederichsen said although it was early stages for the project, he was happy with the results.

"The process is relatively simple, you just follow a series of steps which cause the chemical reactions that convert and clean the biodiesel," he said.

Mr Diederichsen said the first trial had produced about 85 litres of diesel from 100 litres of cooking oil, but there was room for improvement.

"We have only done one batch so far so we need to work on that, but I can't see any reason why we shouldn't get quite a bit higher conversion rate."

The cost of producing the diesel is about 45 cents a litre.

Mr Diederichsen said the company planned to run one of its truck's on the converted fuel and possibly some of its 4WDs.

"We are hoping to produce up to 200 litres a week," he said.

"The supply of oil is the only real limiting factor; the more oil we can get the more diesel we can produce."

The project is a joint initiative, with funding from the Department of Environment and Conservation's community grant scheme and assistance from Brolga's Environment's Anna Price, PumpHouse proprietor Thomas Breig and the University of WA's Jonathon Thwaites.