



Media Release

12 October 2015

INNOVATION EARNS RE-REFINER ENVIRONMENTAL RECOGNITION

Gladstone's Northern Oil Refinery (NOR) has been recognised as one of Australia's best examples of sustainable technology.

The re-refinery has been named as a finalist in the 2015 Banksia Sustainability Awards' Smart Technology category for its world-leading work turning waste oil into reusable base oil.

A \$65 million joint venture between Southern Oil Refining and J.J. Richards & Sons, NOR opened in March last year and has since produced more than 20 million litres of base oil from waste lube oil – enough to run four million cars in Australia for a year – and reduced CO_{2e} emissions by more than 130,000 tonnes compared to waste oil burning.

Southern Oil Refining Managing Director Tim Rose said the joint venture partners were delighted to have their investment in next generation waste oil management recognised by Australia's most prestigious environmental awards.

"The nomination of a heavy industry as one of the country's leading innovators in sustainability is recognition of our technology and the opportunity that it presents," he said.

"Our re-refining process takes a disposal issue and turns it into a valuable commodity that can be used again and again.

"Hopefully we can bring the trophy home to Gladstone."

The 2015 Banksia Sustainability Award winners will be announced at a presentation in Sydney on November 13.

For further information, please contact Andrew Strutton at Three Plus (communications consultant) on 07 3167 1200.

About the Southern Oil Refining process

Lubricating oil doesn't wear out – it just gets dirty and the additives in the oil lose effectiveness over time.

Southern Oil re-refines waste lube oil for reuse as lube oil. The lubricating properties of the oil are not compromised by use or re-refining.

The re-refining process removes all contaminants and restores the oil to its original condition. The contaminants, such as dirt, water, fuel and used additives, are removed through vacuum distillation. The oil is then further treated to remove any remaining chemicals to provide consistent oil quality to international standards.

Southern Oil's re-refining process is a "cradle to cradle" treatment of oil and the highest form of recycling – keeping lube oil in productive use, delivering improved oil security through avoided imports and a lower carbon footprint compared to the production of imported crude.

The process recovers 99 per cent of the lube oil component of the waste oil, creating a near perpetual cycle of use and re-use of a diminishing and finite resource.

Used oil re-refining has been commercially available since the mid-1980s, but few companies successfully produce lube-to-lube base oil.

Using standard chemical engineering processes, Southern Oil employs a range of separation and extraction processes to manufacture base oil from used oils.

The re-refined base oil is then sold to third parties to blend with additives for engine, hydraulic, gear and transmission oils.

Facts on waste oil

- Waste oil is a hazardous substance.
- 1 litre of waste oil will contaminate about 1million litres of water.
- Every tonne of oil burnt in Australia releases almost 3 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents.
- If all of Australia's waste oil was re-refined, greenhouse gas emissions would be reduced by about 1million tonnes.

About Southern Oil Refining

Southern Oil Refining is a private, 100 per cent Australian owned company, based in Wagga Wagga, NSW, which has been re-refining waste oil since 2001.

About J.J. Richards & Sons

J.J. Richards & Sons is an Australian owned and operated family business with more than 80 years' experience in the waste management industry.