

WILSON TUCKEY

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR O'CONNOR

15/06/2007

**THE OIL MALLEE COMPANY OF AUSTRALIA WINS
\$120,000 FEDERAL GRANT**

The Oil Mallee Company of Australia has won an Australian Government grant worth \$120,000 to commercialise an integrated process to convert mallee residue from eucalyptus oil production into fuel briquettes. These briquettes will be differentiated by residue oil content – environmentally friendly, low ash, relatively low air pollution, carbon-neutral renewable fuel.

Mr Tuckey said that the Oil Mallee Company is among 10 Australian agribusinesses to be awarded funding under the latest round of the New Industry Development Programme's (NIDP) Pilot Commercialisation Project (PCP).

The initiative, part of the Australian Government's Backing Australia's Ability - Building our Future through Science and Innovation programme, provides grants of up to \$120,000 for agribusinesses to help them compete in the global marketplace.

"NIDP helps agribusinesses commercialise innovative products, services and Technologies, and develops the business skills of entrepreneurs, with a particular emphasis on marketing, planning and risk assessment." Wilson Tuckey said.

"And these projects have the added benefit of assisting Australia's farmers and rural communities."

Eligible businesses must complete the research and development stage of their projects, develop a supply chain, have an established market potential and the ability to match grant funds.

The next PCP round will close on 26 September 2007.

For further information on NIDP, including guidelines and application forms as well as a variety of educational tools, visit www.daff.gov.au/agribiz, email nidp@daff.gov.au or call 1300 884 588.

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