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## **OILSEEDS NEWS**

### **KANIVA FARMER WHO GROWS HIS OWN FUEL BECOMES SCIENCE AWARD FINALIST**

A Kaniva farmer who uses his own canola crops to power his vehicles was recently recognised for his efforts and for being a finalist in the major annual Victorian DPI Science Award.

On Friday at Grains Innovation Park in Horsham, the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Geoff Howard, presented a certificate to Steven Hobbs, who grows crops to produce bio-diesel fuel.

“Mr Hobbs has established a small scale processing operation that transforms vegetable oil into fuel with the same characteristics as conventional fossil diesel fuel but reduces emissions by up to 60 per cent,” Mr Howard said.

“Most importantly, the fuel is also renewable.”

“Given the problems of global warming and the fact that fossil fuel reserves are finite, the importance of this sort of innovation is obvious,” Mr Howard said.

Mr Hobbs said the concept of growing your own fuel was not new.

He said farmers in the early years would set aside 25 per cent of their own land to grow oats for their horses, the organic tractors of their times.

Mr Hobbs said he is currently building a plant to produce 300,000 litres of oil per year and will be sourcing canola from local growers. He is also looking at the potential of mustard seed as a biofuel with DPI Horsham researcher, Wayne Burton.

Mr Hobbs said that about eight per cent of his crop rotation is enough to supply his farm's entire energy needs.

He has been selling the canola meal to local feedlotter and also using some to add condition to his beef cattle. This year, Mr Hobbs is contemplating using the meal to grow lambs in a feedlot, potentially selling them for \$90 a head, rather than his current return of \$60 a head.

Mr Hobbs' work resulted in him being a finalist in this year's \$10,000 Hugh McKay Award.

For more information, contact Steven Hobbs on 0419 003 752.

**Attached file, Steven\_hobbs.jpg. Caption: "Recognition: Steven Hobbs received a certificate from Geoff Howard for being a finalist in the major DPI Science Award."**

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