
78 Buses In WA Biodiesel Trial

Over the next 12 months 78 buses, or about 7% of Transperth's fleet, will run on bio-diesel in a major trial of the fuel as an alternative to petroleum diesel.

Western Australian Premier, Alan Carpenter, said the fleet will initially operate on B5 fuel, which is 95% conventional diesel and 5% bio-fuel. "The aim of the trial is to examine any mechanical risks, bus reliability and the cost implications of using bio-fuel", Carpenter said.

The B5 trial started in late May and it is expected the blend will be increased to B10 or B20 within six months. Gull Petroleum will supply the B5 blended fuel through Swan Transit depots at Kalamunda and Canning Vale.

Meanwhile, another 65 new compressed natural gas (CNG) buses will be added to the Transperth bus fleet over the next 12 months at a cost of \$31.2 million. "This trial will see Transperth's current fleet comprise 20% CNG, 73% diesel and 7% bio-diesel. Combining the CNG and bio-diesel initiatives ensures that WA is seen as a leader in the field of transport energy diversity and self-sufficiency", Carpenter said. ■