



Green fuel guzzled up in Mur'bah

BY DEIRDRE SMITH

THE supermarket petrol retailers might say ethanol is hard to get or that nobody wants to buy it but don't tell Harry Saad that.

Mr Saad is the manager of the Neumann petrol station on Tweed Valley Way in Murwillumbah and sales of ethanol fuel are booming.

The Murwillumbah site is also leading sales of ethanol across the company's 18 stores.

Since its introduction eight months ago as a replacement for ordinary unleaded petrol, the E-Gen 95 ethanol blend now makes up 80 per cent of sales.

"Up here in our area, the environment is very important," said Mr Saad.

"Sales are increasing because people have an interest in that (the environment).

"Sales are double than before."

Mr Saad said that while people had initially asked questions about the fuel, customers were quick to adopt it as they were aware of Queensland government promotion of ethanol.

"It is cleaner for the environment, good for the pocket and our farmers," he said.

On average, nearly 3000 vehicles pass through the station each week, with more than 55,000 litres of blended fuel being purchased.

Mr Saad's comments come after complaints by Cobaki motorist John Etheridge that the large supermarket service stations on the Tweed either did not supply ethanol fuel or the pumps for the 'green' fuel were found not to be in working order.

Neumann Petroleum general manager Charles Wright said the Murwillumbah station had been "overwhelmed" by demand for E-Gen fuel.

He said sales of ethanol fuel had increased by 25 per cent in the last four months.

"Murwillumbah motorists have displayed a real willingness to do their bit for the environment and convert to renewable fuels," he said.

Neumann's stations at Currumbin, Miami and Nerang on the Gold Coast also sell the E-Gen blended fuel.