

Truckers back fuel catalyst claims

Device reduces consumption by 15 per cent – and 'saves us money'

Trucking operators are turning to the controversial New Zealand-made Fuelstar fuel catalyst to help reduce fuel consumption.

Thames-based trucking company Provincial Freightlines, now a subsidiary of Australia's Linfox, has been trialling the device for three years and has decided to install it in its fleet of 300 trucks.

Fuelstar claims its combustion catalyst reduces fuel consumption by 12 to 15 per cent.

Provincial Freightlines workshop manager John Hooper says three early trials achieved savings of 8, 11 and 12 per cent.

"We have since installed on 30-35 trucks, all with a similar result," he says.

"We are now proceeding to install the product on the remainder of the fleet.

"The savings in fuel costs brought about by the product are huge."

The fuel catalyst units have been installed on Mack, Caterpillar-powered Freightliner, and Scania trucks.

Auckland-based distribution company, GoldLink Warehousing & Dis-



LOGGING BUSINESS: Taupo contractor Adrian Hill installed Fuelstars in his fleet of Mack trucks last year. "I am satisfied that we are seeing a fuel improvement of 10 per cent and more."

tribution, has been using Fuelstars on its Mack and Cummins-powered International 9800I trucks for the past three years.

Says company owner Brian Aitchison: "We are seeing a fuel saving of 13 per cent and the trucks definitely have more power and torque.

"I am also pleased that we are making a significant contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas."

The owner of Hill Log Haulage in Taupo, Adrian Hill, installed Fuelstars in his fleet of Mack trucks late last year.

He says: "I am satisfied that we are seeing a fuel improvement of 10 per cent and more.

"Our trucks carry larger loads on occasion so we like to compare the fuel cost as a percentage of revenue earned.

"During the period with the Fuelstar installed this percentage has reduced, notwithstanding that the price of fuel has increased by more than 20 per cent. This is the most impressive indicator of all."

Fuelstar says its fuel catalyst units have a guaranteed life of 500,000km but have been known to last for as long as 1.3 million km.

Inventor Ian Cornelius, a former

Air New Zealand engineer, began selling the device in the early 1990s. It was roundly criticised as bogus.

But Cornelius has since sold more than 150,000 units and challenges anyone who questions the claims to fit a Fuelstar "and see for themselves."

Fuelstar is a stainless steel canister roughly the size of a beer can that



INVENTOR: Ian Cornelius.

contains metal pellets. The pellets' main ingredient is tin.

Once plumbed into a vehicle's main fuel line, the fuel passes through the canister in the same way it does a simple fuel filter.

The difference, says Cornelius, is

that as it passes through the canister, minuscule particles of metallic tin are released into the fuel supply.

They are carried through to the engine's combustion chambers where they act as a catalyst in the combustion process, giving a more complete and prolonged fuel burn for improved engine efficiency and performance, cleaner emissions and better economy.

But there is no laboratory standard to test its real-world claims. You have to buy it to test it. It retails at \$252 for cars and \$2000 for trucks.