



Old tyres could be new fuel source

JOY JOSHI

A MIXTURE of oil extracted from recycled tyres and diesel could be used as an alternative fuel and help resolve the global stockpiling of 1.5 billion tonnes of used tyres each year, a new study has found.

Deakin University mechanical engineering lecturer Dr Tim Bodisco partnered with Queensland University of Technology professor Richard Brown to test the 10 per cent tyre oil-diesel mix in a 2.5-litre engine of a 2017 Hyundai iLoad van.

The tests used the oil extracted from discarded tyres by a unique process developed by Melbourne-based Green Distillation Technologies and

then compared its performance with those from the same van driven under similar conditions with diesel-only fuel.

Green Distillation Technologies chief executive Trevor Bailey said the company was committed to finding economical and sustainable solutions related to end-of-life car and truck tyres.

“Our on-road tests prove that the fuel mix is compatible with a popular engine type and similar power and emissions have been recorded as from the van running on diesel,” Dr Bodisco said.

Prof Brown said they would conduct further research to investigate why the nitrogen oxide emissions were sometimes higher and sometimes

lower than that of diesel.

The researchers believe fluctuations in nitrogen oxide emissions depend on traffic and environmental conditions.

The next steps for the project involve testing the tyre oil-diesel mixture on big commercial trucks and then recording the changes in emission rates, if any.

Australians dump 55 million tyres annually.

Used tyre stockpiles have been declared a health hazard for the Victorian community and environment due to a risk of fire.