



Emissions slashed

By STEPHEN CORBY

PUTTING the right kind of oil in your car can reduce its greenhouse-gas emissions by as much as 70 per cent, research has found.

Using the latest, fully synthetic engine oils can also improve your fuel economy by five to 20 per cent, according to the International Lubricant Standardisation and Approval Committee (ILSAC).

United Oil managing director Darren McDonald said the latest man-made oils, classified as GF4 oils, thicken less, leave less sludge in an engine and work more efficiently with catalytic converters, thus reducing emissions.



Get it right: Clean oil

“Being a thinner oil, it circulates through the motor quicker and easier, so the engine labours less and produces less emissions, and for the same reason you get better fuel economy,” he said.

“What ILSAC found is that a reduction in emissions of 20 to 50 per cent is quite likely but, depending on how

poorly your car was running before, it could be up to 70 per cent.”

Unfortunately, many service stations and repairers are using older oils and mineral oils, which can increase emissions and cause greater engine wear.

“You can’t presume that the service centre you’re going to is doing the right thing. I could walk into any number of places and show you that they are using SG oils, which was the standard back in 1994,” Mr McDonald said.

An NRMA spokesman said motorists should follow the vehicle manufacturer’s recommendations in regards to the type of oil, its grade and change intervals.