

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013

Question: E13-247

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Opal Fuel

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Siewert

Question:

The government has indicated that it intends to give retailers a grace period in which to voluntarily switch to Opal (and stop selling standard unleaded) ahead of enacting powers under the Bill. Is the clock ticking on these Central Australian Retailers that have refused to stock LAF for many years? Or is their grace period over?

Answer:

A grace period has not been formally defined, however, there are a number of processes to be considered before the Minister can designate a low aromatic fuel area or a fuel control area. These include:

- the requirement to consult with community and other key stakeholders regarding a proposed designation and its requirements; and
- determining whether state and territory governments have enacted legislation or are unlikely to do so within a reasonable period.

A series of guidelines is being developed to ensure the consistent and transparent application of the *Low Aromatic Fuel Act 2013* (the Act). The guidelines are expected to outline:

- the process undertaken to rollout low aromatic fuel and the role of the Act in ensuring participation, as required;
- the process for developing the requirements of a designation and for consulting with stakeholders prior to designating a low aromatic fuel area or fuel control area;
- the criteria for considering the outcomes of consultations; and
- enforcement.