

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

INQUIRY INTO THE LOW AROMATIC FUEL BILL 2012

Thursday, 16 August 2012

Question no: 17

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: Inquiry into the Low Aromatic Fuel Bill 2012

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

How many outlets have moved from stocking LAF back to stocking standard unleaded fuel in recent years? What reasons have been given by the retailers for switching back?

Answer:

In the last three years there have been four sites that have moved from stocking low aromatic fuel back to regular unleaded petrol (RULP) or premium unleaded petrol (PULP). The table below list these sites and their reasons.

Name	Reason for moving from stocking low aromatic fuel
Marla Roadhouse, South Australia	This site received their last delivery of low aromatic fuel in December 2009. The General Manager has concerns regarding the suitability of low aromatic fuel in small engines stating that he has had to dispose of small engines in the past and believes this is a result of low aromatic fuel. The General Manager has recently agreed to a teleconference with BP Australia (BP) technical support to discuss his concerns. The Department of Health and Ageing is also working with BP to develop a small engines fact sheet in an effort to address some of the perceived issues associated with low aromatic fuel in small engines.
Kings Canyon Resort, Northern Territory	This site received their last delivery of low aromatic fuel in August 2011. The Resort Manager has concerns regarding the technical qualities of low aromatic fuel and its reliability and effectiveness. The Department arranged a teleconference between the site and BP technical support to discuss concerns. Despite this conversation the site decided to stop stocking low aromatic fuel. The Department attempted to meet with the Resort Manager in July 2012 to discuss his concerns further, however he was unavailable. The Department instead met with the Shell Australia (Shell) Regional Manager for the Northern Territory in Kings Canyon. As the Resort is a Shell branded site, the Shell representative is going to discuss the supply of low aromatic fuel further with the Resort Manager.

Name	Reason for moving from stocking low aromatic fuel
Jervois Roadhouse, Northern Territory	This site received their last delivery of low aromatic fuel in August 2009. This Roadhouse has decided to stock PULP.
Minjalang (Croker Island), Northern Territory	This site received their last delivery of low aromatic fuel in January 2011. The Department was recently made aware that RULP was being supplied and engaged in discussions with the West Arnhem Shire Council who oversee the management of the site. Senior management of the Council were not aware that the site had ceased stocking low aromatic fuel. As a result of the Department's discussions with the Council they have agreed that the next fuel delivery will be low aromatic fuel.

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Question no: 30

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: Inquiry into the Low Aromatic Fuel Bill 2012

Type of Question: Hansard Page 3, 24 July 2012

Senator Siewert asked:

Kings Creek and Kings Canyon Resort... it was confirmed to me the other day by a friend in the tourism industry that neither of those places have Opal. Do you know why they are not stocking low-aromatic fuel? Kings Canyon Resort is owned by a company called Delaware, and I do not know whether any approaches have been made to them. We can follow that one up.

Answer:

Kings Canyon Resort in the Northern Territory was previously stocking low aromatic fuel and received their last delivery of low aromatic fuel in August 2011. The Resort Manager has concerns regarding the technical qualities of low aromatic fuel and its reliability and effectiveness. The Department of Health and Ageing arranged a teleconference between the site and BP technical support to discuss concerns. Despite this conversation the site decided to stop stocking low aromatic fuel.

The Department attempted to meet with the Resort Manager in July 2012 to discuss his concerns further, however he was unavailable. The Department instead met with the Shell Australia (Shell) Regional Manager for the Northern Territory in Kings Canyon. As the Resort is a Shell branded site, the Shell representative is going to discuss the supply of low aromatic fuel further with the Resort Manager.

The Department has not yet approached Delaware in relation to Kings Canyon Resort.

The Department has spoken to the owner of Kings Creek Station in the Northern Territory who has confirmed they stock low aromatic fuel. The Department's records do not indicate that the Station has had a delivery of low aromatic fuel, however as they are a small station they may be purchasing their fuel from a third party. The Department attempted to meet with the owner in July 2012 however he was unavailable. The Department is investigating further.