

Mt. Dare **HOTEL**

PMB 267

Alice Springs NT 0872

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admin@mtdare.com.au

13 July 2012

Dear Dr Ian Holland,

We support the sale of low aromatic fuel in Aboriginal Communities its benefits are clear and documented. Let the communities do whatever they like, it doesn't affect anyone else.

We are offended and strongly refute the accusation that Mt Dare has been labelled "irresponsible". Mt Dare does not promote visitation by Aboriginal people from the local communities for various reasons and we do not sell unleaded fuel to Aboriginal people.

The assumption that Mt Dare is contributing to "petrol sniffing" is unfounded and is not based on any research or factual evidence.

Your system of controlling the problem is to remove it. It's great that you can control a problem by making something unavailable, remove the source and fix the problem. Why not ban cigarettes as well, clearly they are harmful, there is documented evidence of this also.

While we're at it, let's ban alcohol! Oh there's junk food, that's bad for your health and cars, they can kill also. See how ridiculous your proposal is! Let's be serious, how about allowing Aboriginal people to drink in a controlled area in a camp or community, this would have a positive effect in Alice Springs. Would that be racist? Many problems would be fixed though!

There are endless examples of systems and laws that don't work like, not being able to buy take away alcohol before 2pm and the requirement of ID when you do. Drinking or being drunk in a public place, Aboriginal people don't care about this as the penalties are a joke.

While your studies say that "Opal fuel" will not damage your engine, I'm not convinced, long term use may in fact have a detrimental effect on an engine, we have heard of many people in Alice Springs requiring fuel system repairs after using Opal fuel.

In conclusion, Mt Dare will continue to use and sell to traveller's unleaded fuel. We will continue to prohibit the sale of unleaded fuel to Aboriginal people and support prevention of petrol sniffing. This is the best way we can contribute to this problem.

Thanks for the opportunity to respond to this matter, we wish to help in any reasonable manner we can for the benefit of Aboriginal health.

Regards,

David & Melissa Cox

Mt Dare Hotel owners