



29 October 2008

Eureka Operations Pty Ltd (trading as Coles Express)
ABN 78 104 811 216
800 Toorak Road
Tooronga Victoria 3146

PO Box 2000
Tooronga Victoria 3146

Telephone: 03 9829 3111
Fax: 03 9829 3876

Senator David Johnston
Chair
Senate Select Committee on Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600



Dear Senator Johnston,

Re: Inquiry into Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities

Thank you for your letter regarding the progress of the adoption of Opal fuel at Coles Express Halls Creek in Western Australia.

As you would already be aware, Coles Express was involved in the successful implementation of Opal fuel at three of our sites in Alice Springs in 2006. Because BP is the sole manufacturer of retail grade low aromatic fuel in Australia, our supplier, Shell, elected to source the fuel from BP and re-brand it Shell Low Aromatic in the event that customers were not familiar with the Opal brand.

Shell is aware of the Senate Select Committee's continuing inquiry into the wellbeing of regional and remote Indigenous communities in the Kimberley region. Accordingly, Shell will be in touch with their third party supplier of Opal fuel, BP, to discuss the matter and will be in contact with you shortly with a response.

Coles Express is supportive of the Federal Government's initiatives to reduce petrol sniffing and misuse of petroleum products in remote Australia by expanding the availability of Opal fuel, should supply become available.

In the meantime, if you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact me on (03) 9829 5882.

Sincerely,

Peter Short
General Manager, Coles Express

CC Ian McLeod, Managing Director, Coles Group
CC Richard Goyder, Managing Director, Wesfarmers Limited
CC Brian Godwin, General Manager, Shell and Oceania Australia and New Zealand