



*Working with Communities*

6 December 2013

## **MEDIA RELEASE FROM OUTBACK STORES**



### **Fresh Start for Jigalong Community Store**

The Martu people of Jigalong can now look forward to a healthier, larger range of fresh produce this Christmas thanks to a recent management agreement with Outback stores.

Outback Stores is pleased to confirm a new management contract with the Jigalong Council and the Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation (WDLAC) was established in October, 2013.

Jigalong, in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, is well known for its role in the construction of the historic *Rabbit Proof Fence* and is located on the western edge of the Little Sandy Desert, 165 kilometres east of the mining town of Newman.

The new agreement will ensure local employment and training for Martu people, a reliable supply of fresh fruit and vegetables, incentives for healthier options and the return of all store profits to the Jigalong community.

Outback Stores CEO Steve Moore welcomes this new partnership and is confident it will produce positive results for the Jigalong community.

“We’re really looking forward to working alongside the Jigalong Council and the WDLAC,” Steve said. “There will be a lot of very positive outcomes from this new agreement, with the Jigalong community now able to enjoy the benefits of a fully-stocked store, just like people who live in big towns and cities.

“Through this management agreement Outback Stores will continue its work improving the health and wellbeing of Jigalong community residents, by securing access to a nutritious and affordable food supply.”

WDLAC CEO Noel Whitehead is already impressed by the changes at the Jigalong store, as a result of its new management.

“The first thing you notice when you walk into the new Jigalong store is twice the amount of fresh produce, fridges of bottled water at a very reasonable price and massively improved stock lines of items such as toiletries, dry goods and meat,” Noel said.

Outback Stores will provide management services to the Jigalong store for a period of five years.

## **About Outback Stores**

*Outback Stores is a company that manages remote stores on behalf of remote Indigenous communities. It was set up in 2006 in response to a growing need for functional and viable shops that were able to meet the health and nutritional requirements of Indigenous populations. It has been successful because it builds strong relationships with the communities it works with, resulting in stores that people can take pride in and feel part of. Outback Stores is a government initiative with an independent board.*  
[www.outbackstores.com.au](http://www.outbackstores.com.au)

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