

16 October 2014

TEMPORARY STORE DUE TO OPEN AFTER FIRE

Food and supplies are on their way to a remote community in Western Australia after the community store was destroyed in fire last Friday.

The Beagle Bay Community Store was severely damaged following a fire that occurred in the early hours of 3rd of October 2014.

Outback Stores is working with the store's owner, Ngarlan Store Indigenous Corporation, to establish a temporary store at the community. Residents have been able to buy food and supplies from nearby communities, while the temporary store is being set up.

A team of six staff from Outback Stores are working with store employees to set up the temporary store at the Women's Centre building in Beagle Bay, 125 km north of Broome.

Outback Stores has ordered new plant and equipment, including point-of-sale systems, shelving, portable dry-storage and refrigeration units and other retail infrastructure for the store. These are currently in transit, and are expected to arrive in Beagle Bay mid-week. Food supplies will also be arriving at the community on Wednesday.

The store is due to start trading late Thursday, with a substantial range of food and supplies available to the community. Outback Stores has managed Beagle Bay Community Store since March 2014, following a request from the owners, and services nearly 300 people.

Insurance assessors are due to visit the community and assess the fire-damaged store this week. The cause of the fire is yet to be determined and is still being investigated. Outback Stores has begun planning the design and construction of the new store, which is expected to take up to 12 months.

Outback Stores would like to thank all those who have assisted generously in our efforts to resume trade in Beagle Bay, in particular the Beagle Bay Women's Centre, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Aboriginal Affairs WA, the store's retail partners and the Beagle Bay community.

About Outback Stores

Outback Stores provides retail services to remote stores on behalf of Indigenous communities. Set up in 2006 as a response to a need for functional and viable retail stores, Outback Stores was able to guarantee a secure, continuous supply of safe and healthy food and keep local jobs in remote communities.

www.outbackstores.com.au

For further information please contact:

Tierney White

Marketing & Administration Officer

(08) 8982 1963

tierney.white@outbackstores.com.au