

MEDIA RELEASE

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Remote food subsidies announced

Outback Stores has welcomed Australian Government moves to cap the cost of essential food items in remote stores.

The Australian Government has announced a trial of subsidised freight and logistics for selected products in remote stores, with the aim of improving affordability and food security.

“We have been working with the Remote Food Security Work Group for several months on a strategy to reduce the cost of high-volume products,” CEO of Outback Stores Michael Borg said today.

“Outback Stores already has a policy of lower pricing for essential food items, such as fresh fruit and vegetables, but the cost of freight and higher operating costs makes it hard to keep all prices down,” he said.

“Subsidising procurement and logistics recognises the disadvantage faced by many small, remote communities while allowing community-owned stores to operate commercially”, he said.

The list of essential items and goods was developed by the Remote Food Security Working Group, which consists of industry, government and non-government members. The group is collaborating with manufacturers to find solutions for remote food pricing.

In addition to the stores it manages, Outback Stores will support the Australian Government’s trial by helping to build the capacity of stores outside its business network.

Examples of current subsidised pricing at Outback Stores managed stores are:

- 1kg flour - \$1.40
- 1lt UHT milk - \$1.60
- 750g rolled oats - \$1.60
- 575g wheat biscuits - \$4.50
- 100 pack of tea bags - \$4.50
- 12 pack toilet paper - \$6.00
- 500ml shampoo and conditioner - \$2.00
- medium packs of nappies - \$10.99
- 224 pack of facial tissues - \$1.85

As part of the trial, Outback Stores has [38 items](#) across 10 product groups matched to corporate retail pricing. This will take immediate effect in all 58 locations currently managed by Outback Stores.

“Outback Stores is proud to make a positive difference to the health, employment and economies of remote Indigenous communities by improving affordability and availability.

“We look forward to working with all industry stakeholders on this exciting affordability initiative,” Mr Borg said.

Outback Stores is an Australian Government-owned company that manages 58 retail community stores in some of the most remote locations across the country.

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[Outback Stores](#) provides retail store management and support services on a transparent fee for service basis to Indigenous owned community stores. We work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a holistic way to improve health, nutrition, employment, training and economic outcomes in remote communities.

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