



Australian Government
Indigenous Business Australia

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Media Release

Joseph Elu Clarifies Outback Stores Supply Contracts

Canberra - The Chairman of Indigenous Business Australia (IBA), Mr. Joseph Elu today responded to recent media reports about wholesaler Metcash securing supply contracts with a subsidiary company of IBA's, Outback Stores. Mr. Elu said that 'Apart from an arrangement with Metcash to supply a pilot programme, consisting of up to seven stores, as yet identified, Outback Stores has not made any commitments with regards to supplying member stores in the future.' After the pilot programme with Metcash ends, Mr. Elu stated 'we will be looking for the best commercial deal for our purchases.'

Potential suppliers bidding for supply contracts for the Outback Stores will be assessed on ability to supply a variety of quality goods and price competitiveness.

Mr Elu added that "the Board of Outback Stores, which includes representatives from the retail sector as well as IBA would be treating the supply contracts as a commercial matter and decisions will be based on a competitive process. He added that Outback Stores intends to make sustainable and qualified supply decisions that include an ability to supply fresh and healthy food to remote areas and pricing which is in the best interests of the Indigenous peoples of those communities".

Mr Elu stressed that "Outback Stores is a major initiative targeted at solving the management and health needs for some of Australia's most remote Indigenous communities and we at IBA are proud of the fact that we are able to work closely with industry representatives to find practical and commercially based solutions".

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