TITLE:	Low Aromatic Fuel (OPAL) Policy		
DIVISON:	Corporate		
ADOPTED BY:	Barkly Regional Council		
DATE OF ADOPTION:	30 May 2018	**DATE OF REVIEW:**	May 2019
MOTION NUMBER:	OC 88/18		
POLICY NUMBER:	CP000039		
AUTHORISED:	Chief Executive Officer		

THIS POLICY APPLIES TO:
All employees of the Barkly Regional Council, Elected Members and Council contractors and their employees

SUMMARY

This Policy commits the Barkly Regional Council and its contractors to use low aromatic petrol whenever possible as well as committing the Barkly Regional Council to encourage and promote the use of this type of fuel.

OBJECTIVES

To reduce the incidence and impact of petrol sniffing amongst youth and communities by supporting the use of OPAL (low aromatic fuel) within the Council area and surrounding regions.

BACKGROUND

Petrol sniffing can be a major problem in communities across four Australian states. It destroys health and families.

The introduction of a “non-sniffable” petrol variety has greatly reduced, but not ended sniffing. Since 2005, some petrol providers have offered low aromatic substitutes for regular, unleaded, 91 petrol specifically designed to reduce this form of substance abuse. An evaluation report written for the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing in 2008 revealed that in 17 out of the 20 communities surveyed where OPAL was the only available petrol, the prevalence of petrol sniffing had declined. The largest decrease was observed in Central Australia and the APY lands of South Australia, with 94% and 93% decreases respectively. The number of people sniffing had most significantly dropped among heavy, regular user groups (90%), leading to a comparable substantial decrease in the negative social impact caused by sniffing in communities in the sample.

Replacing most of the aromatic compounds (such as benzene, toluene and xylene) in regular unleaded petrol with non-aromatic compounds, low aromatic fuels are designed to reduce the narcotic effect induced from sniffing petrol and to discourage sniffing. Conforming to the National Fuels Quality Standards Act 2000, low aromatic fuel has replaced regular unleaded 91 fuels at a number of selected sites throughout Central Australia.

In 2013 the Commonwealth enacted legislation to enable the Minister to establish *low aromatic fuel areas* and *fuel control areas*. ". See Appendix One – page 4

POLICY STATEMENT

Recognising the very serious health risks associated with petrol sniffing, the Barkly Regional Council supports the use of Opal and low aromatic fuel whereby the aim is to reduce the incidence and impact of petrol sniffing amongst youth and communities.

Barkly Region is designated a "Low Aromatic Fuel (Designated Area) – Instrument 2016". See Appendix One – page 4

- Use low aromatic fuel in all Barkly Regional Council vehicles suited to low octane fuel subject to its availability
- Include, in all contracts and tender documents the requirement for Council contractors (and their employees) to use low aromatic fuel in all vehicles works suited to this type of fuel when undertaking work pursuant to the contract and where low aromatic fuel is available
- Ensure that Barkly Regional Council employees do not transport to or store any high octane fuel in any of its communities
- Use of high aromatic fuel in the Barkly Regional Council depot must be stored in a secured locked area after hours
- Direct Barkly Regional Council employees on or visiting communities not to use or transport any higher octane fuel
- Include in contracts and tender documents a requirement imposing a similar obligation upon Barkly Regional Council contractors and their employees
- Continue to work with Federal and Territory agencies and other organisations to encourage and promote the exclusive use of low aromatic fuel within the Barkly region

Note:

As a direct substitute for regular unleaded fuel with an octane rating of 91, both Opal fuel and Unleaded 91 Low Aromatic fuel can safely be mixed with the regular unleaded 91 already in a vehicle.

However, it is important to note, Opal fuel and Low Aromatic fuel is not suitable for vehicles that require a premium unleaded fuel with an octane rating of 95 or higher.

TERMINOLOGY & DEFINITIONS

Policy

The Barkly Regional Council Policy sets out what the Council wants to do and how they do it. Policies are formed to meet legislative requirements and to ensure smooth decision making. Policies must be formally adopted in a meeting of Council and comply with the Barkly Regional Council's legal obligations and relevant standards.

Low Aromatic Fuel

Low aromatic unleaded fuel has been specially designed to contain lower levels of the toxic aromatic compounds such as benzene, toluene and xylene. Low aromatic unleaded fuel has a minimum octane rating of 91 so it can be used in any engine in which manufacturers recommend the use of regular unleaded 91 fuels.

High Octane Fuel
High aromatic fuel has levels of the toxic aromatic compounds such as benzene, toluene and xylene which give people who sniff petrol a "high".

Fuel Control Areas
In 'low aromatic fuel areas', corporations cannot supply, transport or possess regular unleaded fuel.

In 'fuel controlled areas', the Minister may determine a range of requirements relating to fuels. This may include, for example, how fuels are stored, what information is communicated in relation fuels, and record keeping requirements.

REFERENCES
Barkly Regional Council Purchasing & Procurement Policy
Barkly Regional Council Hazardous Chemicals Policy
Barkly Regional Council Risk Management Policy
Barkly Regional Council Conduct in the Workplace Policy

LEGISLATION & STANDARDS
Low Aromatic Fuel Act 2013
Work, Health & Safety Legislation (NUL) 2011
Work, Health & Safety Act (NUL) 2011
National Fuels Quality Standards Act 2000 (In Force –being Reviewed-Superseded Version)

LINKS
https://www.lowaromaticunleaded.gov.au/for-communities/faq
https://www.lowaromaticunleaded.gov.au/faq-page
https://www.lowaromaticunleaded.gov.au/low-aromatic-fuel-areas
https://www.lowaromaticunleaded.gov.au/tennant-creek-consultations
http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/num_act/lafa2013180/
http://www.abc.net.au/health/library/stories/2005/11/24/1831506.htm
http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nt/num_act/whasula201139o2011543/
http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nt/num_act/whasula201139o2011543/
https://www.environment.gov.au/topics/environment-protection/fuel-quality/legislation/about-act

RESPONSIBILITY & DELEGATION
Barkly Regional Council
Elected Members
Chief Executive Officer
Director Corporate Services
Director Infrastructure
Director Community Services

EVALUATION AND REVIEW
Next review date: May 2019

APPENDIX ONE

Low Aromatic Fuel (Designated Areas) (Barkly Region) Instrument 2016

I, Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, make the following instrument.

Dated 12.2.2016

NIGEL SCULLION
Minister for Indigenous Affairs

1 Name

This is the *Low Aromatic Fuel (Designated Areas) (Barkly Region) Instrument 2016*.

2 Commencement

(1) Each provision of this instrument specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information		
Column 1	**Column 2**	**Column 3**
Provisions	**Commencement**	**Date/Details**
1. The whole of this instrument	Day after registration on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments	

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this instrument as originally made. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this instrument.

(2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this instrument. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it may be edited, in any published version of this instrument.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under subsection 14(1) of the *Low Aromatic Fuel Act 2013*.

4 Definitions

In this instrument:

Act means the *Low Aromatic Fuel Act 2013.*

5 Designated low aromatic fuel areas

(1) For subsection 14(1) of the Act, the area of Tennant Creek, Northern Territory, within the area bounded by geodesic lines connecting the sequential points 1 to 62, then back to point 1, contained in the table below, is designated as a low aromatic fuel area:

	Latitude				Longitude		
Point No.	Degrees (°)	Minutes (')	Seconds (")		Degrees (°)	Minutes (')	Seconds (")
1	-19	37	25.9365		134	11	29.3706
2	-19	37	22.4254		134	11	29.3719
3	-19	37	24.1807		134	11	33.8931
4	-19	37	25.0511		134	11	36.2031
5	-19	37	31.0321		134	11	51.7862
6	-19	37	23.0863		134	11	49.9615
7	-19	37	21.7586		134	11	49.8099
8	-19	37	22.3758		134	11	55.5058
9	-19	37	26.6934		134	12	2.6387
10	-19	37	35.0704		134	12	2.2969
11	-19	37	37.7301		134	12	9.2291
12	-19	37	40.1916		134	12	13.362
13	-19	37	40.7148		134	12	19.1435
14	-19	37	44.3222		134	12	18.9439
15	-19	37	48.4588		134	12	23.0056
16	-19	37	53.9056		134	12	26.2545
17	-19	38	27.284		134	12	39.8147
18	-19	38	51.1055		134	12	49.4972
19	-19	38	57.9435		134	13	1.0782
20	-19	39	2.8692		134	13	7.1902
21	-19	39	13.4501		134	13	27.1615
22	-19	39	20.8474		134	13	39.1132
23	-19	39	22.5762		134	13	42.4906
24	-19	39	25.0499		134	13	42.5372

Latitude				Longitude			
Point No.	Degrees (°)	Minutes (')	Seconds (")		Degrees (°)	Minutes (')	Seconds (")
25	-19	40	7.2055		134	13	43.939
26	-19	40	32.8735		134	13	42.114
27	-19	40	31.2715		134	13	17.015
28	-19	40	43.7013		134	12	35.6338
29	-19	40	51.4927		134	12	9.7465
30	-19	41	4.7701		134	11	25.5267
31	-19	41	15.8664		134	10	48.5854
32	-19	41	27.5898		134	10	45.0111
33	-19	41	37.3764		134	10	45.7421
34	-19	41	43.5089		134	10	48.2404
35	-19	41	43.4554		134	10	39.2386
36	-19	41	43.4262		134	10	33.3978
37	-19	41	25.8148		134	10	32.1898
38	-19	41	20.9247		134	10	31.5729
39	-19	41	16.1275		134	10	30.4026
40	-19	41	11.4807		134	10	28.6919
41	-19	41	7.0484		134	10	26.4605
42	-19	41	2.8544		134	10	23.7352
43	-19	40	58.9665		134	10	20.5492
44	-19	40	41.845		134	10	4.8748
45	-19	40	22.0776		134	9	46.7993
46	-19	40	9.6615		134	9	35.4587
47	-19	40	5.0367		134	9	31.4748
48	-19	40	0.2113		134	9	27.7879
49	-19	39	55.1751		134	9	24.4111
50	-19	39	49.9551		134	9	21.3546
51	-19	39	44.5635		134	9	18.6289
52	-19	39	39.0543		134	9	16.2425
53	-19	39	33.4096		134	9	14.205

Latitude				Longitude			
Point No.	Degrees (°)	Minutes (')	Seconds (")		Degrees (°)	Minutes (')	Seconds (")
54	-19	39	27.6449		134	9	12.526
55	-19	39	21.8093		134	9	11.2106
56	-19	39	15.907		134	9	10.2593
57	-19	39	9.4098		134	9	9.4208
58	-19	37	23.7988		134	9	9.3806
59	-19	37	26.9458		134	9	44.5948
60	-19	37	28.3209		134	10	0.0998
61	-19	37	30.4427		134	10	24.095
62	-19	37	36.2303		134	11	29.3785

(2) For subsection 14(1) of the Act, the area near the intersection of Stuart Highway and Barkly Highway in the Northern Territory, known locally as Threeways Roadhouse, within the area bounded by geodesic lines connecting the sequential points 1 to 6, then back to point 1, contained in the table below, is designated as a low aromatic fuel area:

	Latitude				Longitude		
Point No.	Degrees (°)	Minutes (')	Seconds (")		Degrees (°)	Minutes (')	Seconds (")
1	-19	26	10.5333		134	12	28.3319
2	-19	26	7.6499		134	12	31.0892
3	-19	26	8.601		134	12	40.3091
4	-19	26	13.4782		134	12	39.737
5	-19	26	14.48		134	12	30.7132
6	-19	26	14.6675		134	12	28.9634

All geographic coordinates are expressed in terms of the Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94) as described in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette GN35 of 6 September 1995, which can be considered equivalent to World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84) for this instrument.

Note

1. All legislative instruments and compilations are registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments kept under the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003.*

   See www.comlaw.gov