

fact sheet



Opal™

a safer petrol for remote communities

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BP remains committed to working with communities and government agencies to address the issue of petrol sniffing in remote communities.

Comgas has been in the market for several years and has been found to be useful in mitigating petrol sniffing.

As an improvement to Comgas, which contains lead, BP with assistance from government and community groups, has introduced a new unleaded replacement fuel called Opal. Opal maintains the same deterrent aspect of Comgas whilst also removing the lead component.

Opal is the first fuel of its kind in the marketplace and has been available as of January 2005. Opal is not available for general distribution, but is available to all remote communities who previously received Comgas and who participate in the Comgas scheme managed by the Department of Health and Ageing.



What does the doctor say?

BP has consulted a professional toxicologist to assess how this new BP Opal compares to other types of fuel.



A range of fuels were compared including Regular Unleaded, the current Comgas, and Opal.

On the basis of the assessments conducted, the toxicologist stated that *'all fuels are potentially toxic, but that in terms of chronic exposure [Opal] is the least toxic of all the fuels assessed'*.

Prof M Moore, Report to BP on Comgas, October 2004.

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Will Opal™ cost more?

The Australian Government's financial support will allow Opal to be priced at an equivalent local price to regular unleaded fuel.

What about my car or outboard?

BP commissioned independent automotive testing of Opal in October 2004 and January 2005. The testing found:

For cars

- Exhaust emissions for a vehicle running on Opal were equal to or less than the tailpipe emissions of the same vehicle running on regular unleaded petrol.
- There was no significant difference in driveability between a vehicle running on Opal and the same vehicle running on regular unleaded petrol.
- The difference in fuel economy between a vehicle running on Opal and regular unleaded petrol measured no more than 0.3 litres per 100km – within the normal variation of petrol in the market place.



There is no significant difference when a vehicle runs on Opal compared to the same vehicle running on regular unleaded petrol.

Independent automotive testing laboratory report, October 2004



For outboards

BP commissioned independent testing of Opal on a marine two-stroke outboard engine through Orbital Australia Pty Ltd.

The report concluded:

- On-water drivability and performance tests did not indicate any sensitivity to toe Opal tested in comparison to the baseline fuel.
- Testing shows that Opal tended to be more difficult to start and idled poorly during the post-start stage of operation following tank 'dry run' simulation. However this circumstance is rare under normal operation.
- The extended idle engine test of Opal was successfully completed.
- Overall, the differences between the baseline fuel and Opal are minimal and for the majority of users any differences noted would be transparent.

Orbital Report, Assessment of BP Low Aromatic Fuel, February 2005

To obtain a full copy of the report, or more information on Opal's performance in outboard motors, please contact BP as detailed on the back page of this factsheet.

Opal can be used in most other applications that require regular unleaded petrol including two and four stroke motors – chain saws, lawn mowers, as well as passenger vehicles and petrol 4WDs.

Opal cannot be used in applications that require leaded fuel nor can it be used for aviation fuel.

For more information

BP welcomes enquiries about Opal. If you would like more information please contact:

- **Media enquiries** – Peter Metcalfe (08) 9419 9644
- **Vehicle and outboard performance** – Garry Whitfield (03) 9268 4997
- **Toxicology assessments** - Mark Glazebrook (03) 9268 3932
- **Government enquiries** – Bill Frilay (03) 9268 3880

For other information about Opal or other BP products and services, please visit www.bp.com.au