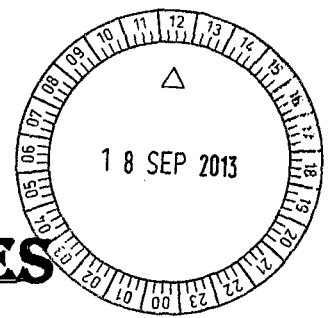


DUTJAHN ENTERPRISES



The Chairman,

Hon. Simon O'Brien MLC,

Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs,

18-32 Parliament Place,

West Perth.

Dear Sir,

Re – Inquiry into the Sandalwood Industry in Western Australia

I apologise for this late submission and ask that you consider my letter regarding the indigenous harvesting of sandalwood in Western Australia.

I am a member of the Mungarlu Ngurrarankatja Rirraunkaja (Aboriginal Corporation) (MNR) which represents the Birriliburu native title holders who hold the native title to over 6.6 million hectares of country in Western Australia. The native title rights recognised over the area of determination include the rights of possession, occupation, use and enjoyment to the exclusion of all others. This is the highest level of native rights that can be recognised by Australian law.

Numbering over 1000 people, the Birriliburu native title holders self-identify as "Martu" people. The Martu people of the Little Sandy and Great Sandy Deserts form part of what has been termed by anthropologists and the Federal Court as "the Western Desert Cultural Bloc". The Birriliburu native title holders were some of the last Aboriginal people to "make contact" with white Australia in the late 1970's.

Groups who have their native title successfully recognised by the courts have to set up a "Prescribed Body Corporate" (PBC) to hold their native title. MNR holds and manages Birriliburu

DUTJAHN ENTERPRISES

land on behalf of the Birriliburu native title holders and is set up to represent the native holders in all matters relating to the ownership, use, occupation of and access to these lands.

My family have been involved in the harvesting of sandalwood (*Santalum spicatum*) for many years and we are now training the third generation of our families in this natural development of our own natural resources. Currently the Kutkabudda group sells the sandalwood to the highest bidder and it is sold in the "de-barked" raw form. Our aim has always been to "add value" and "brand" to the sandalwood from our land. In July 2011, I completed a business plan for a sandalwood processing plant in Wiluna.

I have used the expertise of Stephen Birkbeck, founder of the sandalwood oil export industry and since completing our business plan we have been in discussions with the chairman of Wescorp, Tim Coakley. They have both offered to help me achieve our goals and structure a business where Dutjahn Enterprises and MNR Aboriginal Corporation will both benefit and strive for the following;

Wescorp

- Application to the Government Authority to have a license to harvest sandalwood from our land,
- Set up a sustainable harvesting and replanting rotation that will ensure the resource is well managed for the future,
- Have ownership and "branding" of our finished products right through to the overseas markets,
- Our land is recognised as the best quality sandalwood from Western Australia and Wescorp will ensure that overseas perfume houses promote our connection and ownership with the brand,
- Investigate processing systems that can be established in Wiluna for employment for our people.
- Offer training and employment for our people at Wescorp in both the factory, management, ISO systems setup, OSH, and marketing,
- Initially we would be working with Wescorp at their factory, but as the opportunity and volume increased to commercially being viable, Wescorp would help us set up processing levels and systems in our community.

DUTJAHN ENTERPRISES

Market Support for the Wescorp/Dutjahn Enterprises partnership in Australian sandalwood oil

Upon achieving the above objectives, Mr Birkbeck will assist the Dutjahn Enterprises and Wescorp gain European and American support from luxury brands for his state of art partnership between Dutjahn Enterprises, Wescorp and MNR Aboriginal Corporation.

He will do this in his private capacity and as the Founding Director to the Paris based Natural Resource Stewardship Circle and as a key advisor to the world's largest purchaser of natural ingredients for flavour and fragrances, Givaudan. He will also support and build awareness in the global marketplace in his capacity as Chairman of Perth based companies Atlas Pearls and Perfumes and World Senses (50%/50% joint venture with Nomad Two Worlds, New York).

Conclusion

I am aware that your committee is going to respectfully make recommendation for the sandalwood industry in the future. I am also aware that it has been instigated partly by the illegal harvesting of sandalwood in Western Australia. None of our people have been involved in this practise even though I do sympathise with other indigenous people who have been caught up in this activity, largely due to an indigenous perception of the inequity they feel is evident in the exploitation of this natural resource. This illegal harvesting activity has been promoted by unscrupulous exporters, and in the end the benefits stay with them and not the indigenous workers who are actually harvesting for them.

I believe you have an opportunity to create work, pride, responsibility, and ownership for our people with the current review. If the structure was set up where we could work with professional companies like Wescorp that have a history of not owning the sandalwood, but process and market it with the owners (such as the FPC) gaining the greatest return, then it would be a great benefit to our people for the future.

Dutjahn Enterprises ask that you consider our stake in the sandalwood industry review. There are many other groups, similar to Dutjahn Enterprises that would like to be involved in this ancient industry and with correct structure, partnerships, supervision and FPC co-operation, we can make this a model that all Western Australian will be proud. If you would like to meet with Tim Coakley and I, to discuss these opportunities, we would be very willing. Mr Birkbeck is

DUTJAHN ENTERPRISES

available at any stage to support our endeavours as an independent expert. Please give my submission your sincere consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Darren Farmer

17th September 2013