

Attachment 1

Bush Foods

There is a growing interest in the potential for expansion of the Australian native foods industry. Over the past few years South Australian and Australian Government agencies have supported Aboriginal landholders to develop enterprises, ranging from horticultural enterprises to the manufacture and distribution of products that have native food content. These enterprises have achieved mixed levels of success.

In order to understand the industry better, and to develop a strategy that supports Aboriginal landholders who wish to participate in the native food industry to achieve successful outcomes, a number of Government Agencies have jointly commissioned a study of the industry.

There is a continuing and strong interest in developing the industry as it is seen as having a range of potential benefits, particularly for remote communities.

Arts

The South Australian Government has been working with Ananguku Arts & Culture Aboriginal Corporation (KU Arts) on South Australia's Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands since around 2004 to support the development of arts practice.

There are seven community-owned not for profit art centres on the APY Lands. They are the best example of successful long standing enterprises on the Lands, some operating for as many as 20 years or more. The art centres provide significant income to individuals through the sale of paintings and crafts and a focus for family connection, social and cultural activities and a way of maintaining Aboriginal culture.

Art centres operate on a share percentage of sales from artwork with artists donating an agreed percentage of their sales income to the art centre to cover operating costs. Art centres have provided minimal employment for local Anangu and are restricted in their potential for business growth.

AARD is providing funding to Ku Arts to provide structured one-on-one training and mentoring for seven or eight Anangu trainees in total, located at four arts centres on the Lands. This training and mentoring will be in addition to CDEP supporting work activities in the art centre. Participants will be trained as Assistant Art Centre Managers, and at the completion of training, one full time job will be available on a job share arrangement at each art centre.

We expect that this project will deliver better business outcomes on the Lands and facilitate the future growth and sustainability of the arts business enterprises.

With extra staff the centres can focus on improved production, sales, income growth and increased profit.

Native title and Access to Land

The Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs has initiated a national consultation on the native title process, including the need for reform to ensure that any monies awarded to claimant groups through agreements in managed appropriately.

The South Australian Government is also interested in finding a structure that enables the aggregation of resources generated through native title negotiations to be used to fund and support employment and enterprise opportunities.

The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Native Title Unit (ALRM) has for some time been considering how Aboriginal claimant groups could achieve lasting economic benefit through the settlement process around Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA) and through settlements around new mining leases or the expansion of existing leases. To this end the ALRM has developed a model it calls the Aboriginal Self Help framework which provides for a business arm (which would be a Proprietary Limited Company) to assist Aboriginal groups to develop, establish and manage businesses and a foundation to hold settlement monies and future business profits.

The proponents of the framework believe that through the combined resources of three new incorporated bodies created with the support of the 22 South Australian Native Title Committees, significant employment and enterprise opportunities for Aboriginal people will be created. The Aboriginal Self Help proposal identified 3000 potential jobs.

We understand that Indigenous Business Australia (a division of the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Communities and Indigenous Affairs) has provided funding to enable the Foundation to employ a project manager. It is also considering a proposal from the Foundation for funding over a three year period which would be provided on a commercial basis.

The South Australian Government is yet to make a decision about what its role will be in moving the Self Help proposal forward.