

Managers:

Walter Kerinaia - Nguu
Phone: 08 8978 3755

Matthew Wonaemirri - Milikapiti
Phone: 08 8978 3722

Cyril Rioli - Pirlangimpi
Phone: 08 8978 3788

Jimmy Tipungwuti - Darwin/Ranku
Phone: 08 8947 1838



All correspondences:

The Chairman
PO Box 38545
Winnellie NT 0821
Phone: 08 8947 1838
Fax: 08 8947 1840

12th May, 1997

Mr. Vince Collins,
13 Osbourne Road,
MALAK NT 0812

Dear Mr. Collins,

Following various comments attributed to yourself and directed at the Tiwi Land Council and myself during the past week, I am instructed to respond to your reported assertions:-

1. "That you intend suing the Tiwi Land Council if a business arrangement between the Land Council and a Mr. McGilvray were to develop in the future."
2. "That myself and or my family have a vested interest in (a business arrangement) (the business arrangement) (many business arrangements) with the Tiwi people or Tiwi enterprises."

We understand your declared intent to sue the Land Council is founded upon your belief that you possess some "Intellectual Property" about the extraction of essential oil from a native Cyprus tree that grows on the Tiwi Islands. Having never met you, and had two brief telephone discussions with you in two years (both subsequent to our understanding of the essential oil extraction processes from our Cyprus trees) we reject any right, interest or value that you threaten to pursue against the Tiwi Land Council. Your presumptions appear to ignore published material by Baker and Smith in 1910 and writings of Rum Jungle staff in the 1950's. There is also some evidence that our own Tiwi people have been aware, for many generations, of various properties attributeable to our Native Cyprus.

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Your quite damaging statements that I or my family have some vested interest in an essential oil enterprise or venture with the Tiwi people is also completely untrue and is rejected. Neither my family or myself have now, or have had at any time in the past, or contemplate at any time in the future, any financial or business involvement with any Tiwi business, venture or commercial project located on Tiwi land, or outside the Tiwi Islands. The one exception to this is a cousin - Edward Hicks employed as a Baker at Garden Point.

He is reported to have left Fort Dundas on Melville Island in 1828.

Yours sincerely,



JOHN S. HICKS
SOLICITOR

not registered to act
for the Tiwis (I checked with the
Law Society)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



MAURICE RIOLI MLA
MEMBER FOR ARAFURA



Office: Ground Floor CML Building
59 Smith Street DARWIN NT 0800

Telephone: (08) 8981-7055
Facsimile: (08) 8981-7515

15 May 1997

Mr Marius Puruntatameri
Chairman
Tiwi Land Council
PO Box 38545
WINNELLIE NT 0821

Dear Marius

Yesterday, I had a meeting with Mr Vince Collins regarding a business proposal for the Tiwi Islands. I refer you to the attached letter.

Therefore, could I ask that consideration be given for Mr Collins to present his business proposal to a scheduled Tiwi Land Council meeting?

I await your response.

Yours sincerely


Maurice Rioli, MLA

CC Mr Vince Collins

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1. In 1995 he sent down some wood chip to the Wollongbar Agricultural Institute in NSW for testing. The people at Wollongbar did test the chip and told Vince Collins that juice could be taken out of the chips.
 2. Vince Collins and Jock Bremner then rang up our business partner Bill McGilvray who is the expert about timber juice and asked him how to go about making the juice into a business. McGilvray told them and also said that he was working on the same juice. Collins and Bremner asked McGilvray to work for them. McGilvray said he had his own business and that everything had to be done properly with Licences and things. If Collins and Bremner did it properly it may be possible for McGilvray business and Vince Collins business to work together. McGilvray found out that the Collins and Bremner business didn't have much money behind them and that they were just going to make the juice without any licences or intention of doing the arrangements properly.
 3. In October/November 1995 McGilvray came and saw us and we began talking to his Company about this business. We checked on their expertise and followed up on the Licence approvals from Government.
 4. Nearly a year later in June 1996, Vince Collins rang us to tell us about juice from our trees. In January 1997 he rang again to say that he liked the Tiwi people and knew about our talks with Bill McGilvray and would like to work in with us. I told him that we were aware his Company was being prosecuted by the Government and that the Tiwi people could not be involved in any business that wasn't legal.
 5. Now Vince Collins has threatened to sue us if we go ahead with our business with McGilvray. A copy of my reply to him is attached.

Collins is trying to frighten us in order to get a share of our business. He has no legal rights and no ability to claim any rights. He also has no ability to

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produce the juice and will not be able to get a licence to do so. Information about this juice business can be all read about in books written in 1910, 1950 and 1970. It is not new and Vince has shown his inability to understand how the processes work and the need to have Government Licences to do it.

Maurice has suggested Vince be given a chance to discuss his proposal with the LAND COUNCIL. I believe this would be bad for us because of the Middendorp business and also because it would give Vince Collins credibility that he just does not have. He is trying by every means he has to get a share of something he has no rights to. He has been offered a chance to do some chipping for us on the mainland here. He doesn't want this. He wants a share of our business.

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Bill McGilvray has offered to come up and discuss all this with the Managers. He should be here in a few weeks. In the meantime I think it is important for us to again tell Vince Collins we have nothing to talk to him about. Maybe Cyril could mention this to Maurice. The last thing we want is our Member trying to support someone who is trying to get his fingers into our business and has no legal right or ability to do so. After three years of trying Vince Collins still hasn't got a Commercial Evaluation Certificate for his juice. We got ours nearly two years ago and are ready to go. It is important Vince doesn't find out just how close we are to export.

Sorry to be long winded about all this but these are the facts I have been informed about. It is just too good a business to be stuffed up by some non-Tiwi fellow who is trying to get his hands into your bank account.

Regards,


John.

17 MAY 1997.

Matthew Wonaamirri - Milikapiti
Phone: 08 8978 3722

Cyril Rioli - Pirlangimpi
Phone: 08 8978 3788

Immy Tipungwuti - Darwin/Ranku
Phone: 08 8947 1838



TELEPHONE: 08 8947 1838
FAX: 08 8947 1840

FAXED

17.5.97 3.40 pm.

Mr. Maurice Rioli MLA,
Member for Arafura,
59 Smith Street,
DARWIN NT. 0800.

Fax 89817515,

Dear Maurice,

Thank you for your letter to our Chairman. It has been forwarded to Marius and to the Management Committee who are anticipated to provide a response later in the week.

There are some pitfalls about Mr. Collins and the enterprise he intends.

1. His so called "intellectual property" has no foundation either in fact or law. The assessments Collins requested of the Wollongbar Institute in 1995 merely confirmed detailed studies of distillation and processing undertaken and published in 1910 by Baker & Smith, Trikojus & White in 1970 and surveys by Havillok at Batchelor in the 1930's.
2. Collin's Company Blue Cyprus Holdings approached our experts to work with them. They declined on the basis of the lack of professional ability and approach by Vince and his people.
3. We understand Vince has now resigned from this Company, however the Company is now being prosecuted by the Federal Government for producing, advertising, and marketing a dangerous drug not approved by the National Industry Committee

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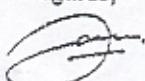
[NICMAS]. Vince was a Director at the time of these infringements.

4. Our own licences and approvals cost \$100,000.00 and were secured in 1996. Vince has since applied and been refused a licence. We have not only obtained production licences but export licences as well. NICMAS inform us no further licences will be issued.
5. Vince has therefore no legal ability to engage in this business, or indeed any legal right to do so. He has still not even obtained the first step which is a Commercial Evaluation Certificate.

A concern that Jimmy has already expressed is giving Vince credibility he just doesn't have. There is also the concern of confidentiality about all this in light of our current litigation with Middendorp. If he gets to hear about this we will never get rid of him.

These are a few concerns. Bill MacGilvray our chemist and the person Vince seems to believe owes him something, is happy to talk to you when he comes up later in the month. As you say, the business arrangements of the Tlwl are pretty much their business. We certainly wouldn't want Vince Collins fingers in what promises to be a very lucrative business for your people. Vince has no idea how far advanced we are and it would be devastating for him to find out.

Regards,



John S. Hicks

17 May 1997.