

Submission No. 46
Date Received..... 22

Victoria Highway PO Box 818 Kununurra WA 6743
p 08 9169 3000 f 08 9168 2607 m 0419 639 153
sales@redrockgallery.com www.redrockgallery.com

04 August 2008
Pauline Brown
Inquiry Secretary
Inquiry into developing Indigenous Enterprises

RECEIVED
07 AUG 2008
BY: ARSIA

Dear Pauline,

As I mentioned to you I will be unable to attend the inquiry when it visits Kununurra on Thursday 7th, unfortunately I will be in Darwin.

I have worked with indigenous artists from the East Kimberley since 1992. The indigenous art movement has been an extremely successful enterprise.

For many years now I have seen an opportunity for indigenous people to build an enterprise in support and supply of the existing arts industry. As the number of art centres has increased in the region the demand for painting stretchers and packing and crating of work has increased. Kimberley art centres use many thousands of stretchers annually and once painted require packing and crating.

Over the last decade I have established a construction workshop specifically to make stretchers and crates. In earlier years I supplied Red Rock Art, Warmun Art Centre, Balgo Art Centre, Mangkaja Arts and Waringarri Aboriginal Arts with stretchers and it became a viable business and could of been taken to another level. In the last few years I have stopped supplying and the art centres now source their requirements from major centres like Darwin and Perth.

At the time of me scaling down this operation I offered it to a number of indigenous organisations they all expressed interest but no one had the time or resources to take it up.

An enterprise like this could possibly employ four full time workers once established. and a range of skill levels are required from very basic to moderately technical along with business management. Kununurra TAFE should have the resources to train people in these fields. The set up costs for a project like this would be modest once premises were acquired.

During your visit on Thursday I am happy for you to inspect my framing operation here which is quite near the Gallery.

Regards

Kevin Kelly