



Australian Government
Indigenous Business Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE

Review of Fitzroy Crossing Joint Ventures

Indigenous Business Australia's chairman, Mr Joseph Elu today provided further details on the recently announced review into the Fitzroy Crossing joint ventures.

"Mr George Irving, a Perth based barrister will join me in conducting a thorough and independent review of the operation and community outcomes of the Fitzroy Crossing joint ventures. The terms of reference for the review are to compliment the work that the Crossing Inn management, Fitzroy Leaders, Liquor Licensing representatives and police agreed to progress at Monday's meeting". Mr Elu said.

The review team will consult with all interested stakeholders both within and external from the local community. These consultations will occur in the next two weeks.

The terms of reference for the review team include:

- an appraisal of the current social, economic and health indicators of the community;
- determining the effectiveness of the restrictions, selling and pricing practices of alcohol that are currently in place at the Fitzroy Crossing Inn;
- an assessment of the social, and economic impact the presence of the Fitzroy Crossing Inn and Fitzroy River Lodge has made to the community; and
- development of recommendations for the businesses and community to further work together

The findings and recommendations of the review team will be presented to the responsible Minister, the Hon Joe Hockey by the end of August.

Mr Elu reiterated that "IBA is committed to working with the community to enable Fitzroy Crossing to continue to develop into a vibrant and flourishing place to work and live".

In an earlier statement Mr Elu outlined some of the positive outcomes that have emerged from the investment initiatives taken by the Leedal group. He also stated "while I welcome the scrutiny by the West Australian newspaper I hope that the editor also gives credit to Aboriginal leaders who have rejected welfare as the future for its people and are developing the means to provide a real economic future".

Mr Elu said “that the allegations of huge profits are unfounded and like most businesses we have reinvested in upgrading the Inn and recently refurbished 30 rooms at the Fitzroy River Lodge. We have another 10 rooms to upgrade. The business is growing but that comes at a cost. Leedal has also recently decided to buy out a large slice of IBA’s equity. This is what being in business is about and to those community members who are wanting to receive and divide the profits I say, being in business often means profits are used to expand and grow the business. It is not about being able to open the income to everyone. When the business is debt free and profits are being realised then I for one will be pressing for further business investment as well as continuing to invest in the youth of the community through scholarships for example.”

He added “I look forward to being able to discuss with the community the positive steps that have been made and to see where improvements can be considered”.

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Media Contact:

Peter O'Neill
0427 666 140