

Stevens Allegations Against WGAC Directors Thrown Out

July 4, 2016

Eighteen months after three members of the Stevens' family commenced an action in the Federal Court against two of the Corporation's Directors, the judge has found that there was no serious question to be tried.

Justice Barker found that there was a lack of evidence supporting the claims made by the Stevens.

In the judgement delivered late last month, the judge states that there was "a dearth of evidence to support the allegation" and that "the evidence before the court Is extremely general, to say the least."

He goes on to say that "that the application ... must be supported by evidence and that a mere indication of evidence without actual evidence is insufficient"

"In my view, in the particular circumstances of this case.....I have a clear view that there is no serious question to be tried".

Wayne Stevens, Tania Stevens and Guinness Stevens commenced the action in January 2015 making a number of serious allegations against the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Corporation including that they had breached their duties as Directors.

The action was commenced by the Stevens' without any attempt to discuss their supposed complaints with the Board of the Corporation or the members as required by the Rule Book of the Corporation.

Unusually, both Wayne Stevens and Guinness Stevens were Directors of the Corporation during the period that the supposed breaches occurred. Both remained on the Board until April 2015 when they were not re-elected by the members of the Corporation.

The legal action by the Stevens consumed a huge amount of time and resources over an eighteen month period. It disrupted the operations of the Corporation meaning that it could not focus on its objectives of improving the lot of the Eastern Guruma people. Months of management and Board time was spent defending the action and well over \$500,000 in members' funds wasted on legal fees.

The court has ordered that the Stevens' should pay the Corporation's costs.