

**Gumala Aboriginal Corporation**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 27, 2017**



### **Gumala Aboriginal Corporation launches legal action against former CEO**

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) has commenced legal action against former chief executive officer Steven Mavrigiannakis in relation to alleged breaches of his employment contract and the duties he owed by reason of his former position.

GAC has instructed King & Wood Mallesons to represent the corporation in the proceedings against Mr Mavrigiannakis. King & Wood Mallesons lodged the originating application and statement of claim with the Federal Court of Australia last Friday (July 21).

Mr Mavrigiannakis was employed by GAC as its chief executive officer from January 2008 to May 2015.

GAC alleges that Mr Mavrigiannakis breached his employment contract and duties owed by reason of his former position and is seeking compensation orders.

A directions hearing has been listed for Friday, August 18, 2017 in the Federal Court.

“Gumala Aboriginal Corporation has launched proceedings against its former chief executive officer Steven Mavrigiannakis,” GAC chairman Steven Dhu said.

“Regrettably, the Registrar of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations previously declined to commence legal proceedings against Mr Mavrigiannakis, which meant that it has fallen to GAC to institute these proceedings.

“The Board of Gumala Aboriginal Corporation has decided to pursue this matter in an effort to recover the loss and damage the corporation has suffered. These proceedings are in the interests of good corporate governance and the interests of members of the corporation as a whole.

“As this matter is now before the Federal Court, Gumala Aboriginal Corporation will offer no further comment at this time.”

The proceedings come just weeks after a separate, unrelated case was commenced by the Registrar of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations against the former executive officer, Ashley James Taylor, and former finance officer, Abul Fazad Mohammed Abdus Shahid, of the Murchison Region Aboriginal Corporation.

The proceedings concerning the Murchison Region Aboriginal Corporation, brought by the Registrar in the Federal Court on June 1, rely on similar statutory provisions to those relied upon by GAC in the case against Mr Mavrigiannakis.

Ends

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