



Carroll & Richardson
Display your brand

Friday, 11 September 2020

Dear Committee Members

Re: Senate Select Committee on the Aboriginal Flag

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Select Committee on the Aboriginal Flag.

Carroll & Richardson Flagworld has been manufacturing flags, pennants, banners and bunting for close to 60 years. It is proudly Australian owned and operated and is member the Australian Made Campaign whose work we strongly support.

Carroll & Richardson Flagworld employees 23 people from a diverse background at its manufacturing facility in Mulgrave, Victoria and is involved in the manufacture and sale of a wide range of printed, sewn and flagpole products to the Australian community and overseas customers.

Our association with the Aboriginal Flag goes back 22 years to 1998 when Mr Harold Thomas granted Carroll & Richardson Flagworld (then known as Flags 2000 Pty Ltd) the world-wide exclusive licence to:

- a. Reproduce or authorise the reproduction of the design of the Aboriginal Flag on flags, pennants, banners and bunting (Products): and
- b. Manufacture, promote, advertise, distribute and sell Products throughout the world.

The Licence agreements with Mr Thomas have a term of 70 years after Mr Thomas' passing in accordance with Section 33 of the Copyright Act 1968.

We have enjoyed a long and enduring partnership with Mr Thomas and have maintained the availability of the flag and related products for all Australians to purchase and freely use.

At the same time, we have ensured the integrity and protection of the Australian Aboriginal Flag's manufacture by ensuring it is only printed and manufactured in Australia. This is unlike other Australian national and state flags many of which are made overseas in low labour cost countries. The Australian Aboriginal Flag is a truly genuine Australian Made flag.



The flag is freely available around Australia. It can be purchased directly from Carroll & Richardson Flagworld or any one of the many resellers across Australia who sell the flag (presently over 100 retailers sell the flag to the public). Regrettably, fraudulent copies are also available from others who purchase illegal copies of the flag made overseas to sell in Australia and overseas (usually through ebay and Amazon).

In accordance with Mr Thomas' wishes, the Aboriginal flag can also be produced by an individual for their own use, but not for commercial gain as this would breach his IP and our licence. Therefore, the manufacture of a flag is open to an individual not engaged in commercially gaining from the design, thereby ensuring at a local level it can be freely made and used. This is the case in many smaller communities around Australia.

Whilst the details of the licence remain commercial in confidence with Mr Thomas, I can advise that for every flag manufactured and sold by Carroll & Richardson Flagworld (either directly to the public or to resellers who on sell), Mr Thomas as the owner of IP receives a royalty payment. He is a key beneficiary of the design's use, as are all the resellers and Carroll & Richardson Flagworld as the manufacturer of the flag.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Gregory
Managing Director
Carroll and Richardson Flagworld Pty Ltd