



Australian Government
Indigenous Business Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE

Carbon trading opportunities for Indigenous economic development

While the current economic crisis is painting a grim outlook for conventional business, Indigenous organisations were today told about the economic opportunities that may arise through carbon trading at a business briefing in Coffs Harbour.

Indigenous business leaders and representatives from the public and financial sectors were gathered to discuss the economic crisis, the Commonwealth Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, and the opportunities of doing business in the carbon market.

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) Deputy General Manager Kaely Woods said that it is important for Indigenous Australians to consider the carbon market when looking for paths for economic development and investment.

"There are a number of Indigenous organisations in the Coffs region that are well positioned to consider options to create a sustainable future.

"The land mass available to Indigenous organisations put them in the forefront when it comes to taking advantage of the opportunities in the carbon market.

"Indigenous Australians now own or manage around 20 per cent of the Australian continent - amounting to over 1.5 million square kilometres.

Leaders in the carbon market discussed topics including the potential for carbon offsets from reductions in emissions from savannah burning, the opportunities that reforestation on Indigenous land might bring, and how Indigenous organisations can understand the risks and opportunities of carbon trading.

The Coffs Harbour business briefing was organised by IBA as part of a series of forums following on from the success of business briefings held last year in Perth and Sydney.

"These forums provide a great opportunity for delegates to talk directly to senior representatives in commercial and public sectors," Ms Woods said.

"It enables information to be shared freely about what is currently experienced and how opportunities can be taken advantage of during tough times

"IBA is looking forward to working together with these organisations to explore the opportunities that the carbon market provides.

Delegates at the event heard updates on the economic crisis and carbon trading from IBA, CSIRO, BDO Kendalls and the Department of Climate Change.

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