



Australian Government
Indigenous Business Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE

Indigenous Business forum explores carbon opportunities in Wollongong

Indigenous business leaders and representatives from the public and financial sectors gathered in Wollongong to discuss Australia's early emergence from the global financial crisis and some of the opportunities now available.

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) hosted a forum on 'Doing business in our changing environment' today at the Novotel Hotel in North Wollongong.

With the climate change conference in Copenhagen approaching there is momentum building in Australia to explore the opportunities in the carbon market.

IBA Deputy General Manager Kaely Woods stated that IBA is keen to help Indigenous land and business owners in the Illawarra and South Coast explore the challenges and opportunities associated with climate change, Indigenous tourism and land management.

"There are some interesting dynamics in the Australian economy and locally where there was a rise in employment figures reported for September to consider.

Discussion also focused on the importance for Indigenous Australians to understand the risks and opportunities of carbon trading.

The forums are designed to enable delegates to talk directly to senior representatives in commercial and public sectors, freely share information on the current economic climate and how opportunities can be taken advantage of in these changing times.

"IBA is looking to work with these leading organisation to see what opportunities there are for Indigenous Australians," Ms Woods said.

"Carbon trading is of significant importance due to the landmass that is owned or managed by Aboriginal organisations, putting them in the forefront for taking advantage of carbon trading opportunities."

The Wollongong briefing follows on from a series of forums that IBA has held in Perth, Sydney and Coffs Harbour.

Delegates at the event heard from the Department of Climate Change, CSIRO Forest Biosciences, Social Ventures Australia, Illawarra Region Information Services, Jumbulla Aboriginal Discovery Centre and Indigenous Business Australia.

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