



Australian Government
Indigenous Business Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE

Indigenous Business Success at NT Tourism Awards

Three prominent Indigenous tourism businesses that IBA owns or part owns have been acknowledged at the 2011 Brolga Northern Territory Tourism Awards.

Brolga award winners Wildman Wilderness Lodge, Mary River Park (New Tourism Development); Yellow Water Cruises (Major Tour and/or Transport Operators and Gagudju Dreaming (Tourism Marketing) in Kakadu National Park are all investments of Indigenous Business Australia (IBA).

In its first year of operation, the Wildman Wilderness Lodge was one of five businesses to enter the Brolgas for the first time and win their category.

IBA Chair Dr Casey said that she believes these outcomes reflect very well on IBA and its strategy to create pathways for Indigenous Australians that will help unlock the wealth potential of their land.

“I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of IBA’s partners in these investments who have obviously made a significant contribution to their success.

The Brolga Awards are open to tourism operators, industry suppliers and outstanding individuals with 26 business categories and three individual categories.

Business category winners of the 2011 Brolga Northern Territory Tourism Awards automatically become finalists in the 2011 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards.

IBA is committed to Indigenous economic development through the provision of home loans, small business development and specialised joint venture opportunities for Indigenous Australians.

IBA supports around 30 market-ready Indigenous tourism businesses with business support and marketing through the Indigenous Tourism Champions Program, which is delivered in conjunction with Tourism Australia.

“IBA sees our involvement in tourism investments such as Wildman Wilderness Lodge and the Gagudju Dreaming properties in Kakadu National Park as opportunities to work with our partners and the traditional owners to achieve economic outcomes for Indigenous Australians into the future.

“We are strongly involved in tourism and with Indigenous tourism in particular, owning or part-owning a number of tourism businesses and supporting Indigenous entrepreneurs to develop and grow their tourism businesses through business lending and support product.

“IBA considers the tourism industry as one of the best opportunities for Indigenous economic engagement and is always very willing to assist Indigenous Australians to get started and to build their tourism businesses,” Dr Casey concluded.

Images of Wildman Wilderness Lodge, Yellow Water Cruises and Gagudju Dreaming Properties are available on request.

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