

**SPEECH NOTES FOR THE
HON PAUL HENDERSON MLA
MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
Second Indigenous Economic Development Forum**

25 MAY 2005

(10min)

Acknowledgments

- Acknowledge the Larrakia people as the traditional owners of the land on which we are having Dinner tonight
- Acknowledge the high number of people attending the Indigenous Economic Development Forum today, especially people who have travelled from interstate and from remote communities in the NT
- Acknowledge staff in the Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs, especially Dennis Bree, Leon Morris, Camille Damaso and Stephen Cardona for organising the Forum and making arrangements for the Forum Dinner.

Indigenous Economic Development Strategy

- The Chief Minister launched the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy at the Forum this morning.
- The Strategy outlines the many successes that Indigenous people have been involved in.

- One of the features of the successes is the collaborations and partnerships between Indigenous people, industry groups and the government.
- The Northern Territory Government is committed to Indigenous economic development and increasing Indigenous participation in the Northern Territory Public Service.

Current Focus- DBIRD

- My Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development (DBIRD) established the Indigenous Business and Industry Services Group in 2004. IBIS, as it is commonly known, has brought a sharper focus to Indigenous economic development across DBIRD. The team includes Joe Martin-Jard, Chris Lee a local Larrakia man, Mark Motlop, Michelle Howard (who recently completed 30 years of service with the department), Neil Price in Tennant Creek, Pete Campbell in Alice Springs and Karen Young in Nhulunbuy.
- A few of the achievements to date include:
 - the establishment of an Indigenous tourism business near Nhulunbuy in partnership with Alcan

- assistance to draft a mine management plan for the proposed quarry near Wadeye in partnership with Thamarrurr Regional Council
- assistance to Ngukurr Meat Supply to hold workshops to grow their business in close consultation with traditional owners
- in partnership with the Northern Land Council, assistance to develop scoping studies of economic opportunities for Aboriginal traditional owners of the sites where the Bradshaw Defence Facility and the Bootu Creek Manganese Mine are located
- working closely with Newmont Mining Company and the Central Land Council to increase the number of young people attending pre-vocational training at the Granites Gold Mine
- in close consultation with the Central Land Council, IBIS has negotiated access to country for geological surveys in Central Australia
- assistance with capacity development and planning which lead to the Yuendumu Mining Company and a joint venture partner being awarded a significant contract worth up to \$800,000 to supply aggregate and road base materials for road works in Central Australia

- To build on these achievements, the IBIS team will manage a new Indigenous Business Development grant scheme recently announced in the 2005 Northern Territory Budget.
 - \$900,000 has been committed over the next three financial years to support emerging Indigenous businesses and to grow existing businesses, and will include more support and assistance similar to the examples listed above
 - The theme of collaboration and partnerships will be continued and close consultation will continue with the Land Councils, Indigenous communities, industry groups and other key government agencies such as the Indigenous Land Corporation and Indigenous Business Australia.
- My department will build on these achievements in the coming years. For example:
 - Partnering with mainland Land Councils and the Indigenous Land Commission to increase employment and training outcomes in the pastoral industry and get more Aboriginal country into cattle production that will benefit Aboriginal people
 - Providing financial assistance to increase the sale of Indigenous art through the Trade Support Scheme by

bringing German art dealers directly to art centres in Central Australia

- Continuing support through the Fisheries Group to increase Indigenous participation in the fishing and aquaculture industry.
 - ◇ Pleased to note the partnership between the Fisheries Group, the Darwin Indigenous Coordination Centre (formerly ATSIC Regional Office) and the Kulaluk community in establishing a aquaculture project in the heart of Darwin to grow mud crabs

DBIRD's Indigenous Staff Development

- For my department to meaningfully engage with Indigenous people in economic development, it is important that we increase the number of Indigenous people working in the department. There are a number of initiatives underway.
 - Support for the Kigaruk Professional Development Program to increase the number of Aboriginal men in management positions will continue.
 - ◇ I would like to acknowledge Bo Carne as a recent Kigaruk graduate who went on to win a promotion in DBIRD to a senior position. Bo and his team work closely with the Northern Land Council and

coastal communities to increase participation in the fishing and aquaculture industry and to expand the Marine Rangers program. This is an important initiative in looking after sea country and protecting the Northern Territory's resources.

- Continuing to support the Indigenous apprenticeship scheme to attract more young Indigenous people into the department.
 - ◇ I am pleased to note a number of apprentices have gone onto gain permanent jobs in administration and technical fields.

Important Partners

- Indigenous economic development poses many challenges and it is doubtful whether one group or department can do it on their own.
- Most, if not all, of the successes in Indigenous economic development have involved collaborations, partnerships and working closely together.
- Making up nearly 30% of the population and as owners of significant land holdings, Indigenous people are very important partners in developing the Territory economy.
- I congratulate you on your successes, but acknowledge much more has to be done.

- It will be through working together that we can build a future for Indigenous people and all Territorians.

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