

**Projects facilitated by DAFF under the National Indigenous Forestry Strategy.**

***Australian Government Departments and Agencies and Peak Forestry Industry Associations***

A National Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Indigenous employment and business development within the forestry industry has been signed that focuses on creating employment, business and investment opportunities, increased skilled workforce for the industry and an increase in forest activities. Ministers and industries representatives signed the MOU on 20 March 2007.

***Billabong Aboriginal Corporation, The Australian Capital Territory***

This project involves the development of a business plan for a nursery and seed gathering initiative. Local native plants and land availability are being investigated for the development of forestry operations and carbon sequestration projects utilizing product from nursery operations.

***Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council, Woorabinda, Queensland***

There are a number of projects within the Woorabinda Aboriginal community associated with forest activities. These projects include analysis of potential to develop plantations for carbon credits and commercial harvesting; utilization of grey water for forestry; and developing plantations for traditional medicines. Each of the projects complements existing operations and form part of the Council's Enterprise Development Plan. The Indigenous Forestry Unit is engaged through a joint Australian and State government and industry regional committee to work with the Council to develop these projects.

***Camu Aboriginal Cooperative Society Ltd, Kennedy, Queensland***

The Camu Aboriginal Cooperative Society is seeking to develop a plan to establish a forest plantation for carbon credits, a nursery and other usages. While the Indigenous Land Corporation has expressed an interest in the project, it is currently on hold as key members of the cooperative have been employed within the forestry industry to plant teak trees in North Queensland.

***Jumbun Ltd, Murray***

The Jumbun community have their own land in North Queensland and are seeking assistance in identifying forests for potential harvesting and potentially new land use. The Indigenous Forestry Unit initiated consultation with other agencies, including the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, the Indigenous Land Corporation and the Indigenous Coordination Centre in Townsville, to further develop the community's plans.

***Gidarjil Land Development Corporation***

The Indigenous Forestry Unit joined with the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination to engage a consultant to assess the feasibility of a Gidarjil Land Development Corporation proposal to establish a training centre near Miriam Vale in Central Queensland. The Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry will contribute \$10,000 towards the cost of the consultancy.

***Bumma Nappi Nappi, Cairns***

The Bumma Nappi Nappi organisation has its own land in North Queensland and is seeking assistance for the development of a plantation for traditional and commercial use of native trees. The Indigenous Forestry Unit facilitated funding for the development of a business plan for the Bumma Nappi Nappi to assess the feasibility of their project.

***South Coast Regional Initiative Planning Team , Timber 2020 Inc., Green Skills and Southern Aboriginal Corporation , Albany WA.***

This joint project between South Coast Regional Initiative Planning Team (SCRIPT), Timber 2020 Inc., Green Skills and Southern Aboriginal Corporation (SAC) was allocated \$7069 by the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry to assist with establishing a plantation and silviculture services contract team. An employment development officer was also engaged within Timber 2020 Inc. with funding from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations. An application has been submitted to employ 16 local Indigenous people under the Structured Training Employment Program.

***Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation, Heywood Vic.***

The Winda Mara projects include the purchase of land in Heywood for establishment of plantations and establishment of a forestry harvesting contracting team. The projects involve joint Australian and State government agencies along with the National Association of Forest Industries working with the Indigenous community.

***Choorilj Farm Management Aboriginal Corporation, Albany WA.***

This project involves a family group and is concerned with the development of a farm forestry project. A business plan is to be developed in 2007 following further meetings with the organisation.

***Nanum Tawap, Weipa Qld.***

The Indigenous Forestry Unit has undertaken consultations in conjunction with the Queensland North Area Consultative Committee to assist Nanum Tawap in developing sawmill and timber operations in Cape York as part of timber salvage on the Comalco mining lease in Cape York.

***Toorong Community Development Employment Program and Timber Communities Australia***

A joint project between the Toorong Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) and Timber Communities Australia (Victoria) has been proposed for the collection of plants prior to harvesting in native forest areas in Healesville in Victoria. The Victorian State Manager of Timber Communities Australia is assisting members of the Toorong CDEP to develop an approach to the Victorian Government for the required permits. Follow up during 2007 will be undertaken to assist the sourcing of training and business development.

***Cyclone Larry - Operation Farm Clear***

Three Indigenous teams (12 – 14 persons in total) have been contracted under Operation Farm Clear to clear and salvage timber for private forest growers in North Queensland following Cyclone Larry. A fourth crew commenced training in December 2006. The salvaged timber from farms is assisting private forest growers receive some return from their investment.

Northern Skills Alliance (NSA) is supplying training to the Indigenous crews in North Queensland engaged in the salvage operations under Operation Farm Clear, which was established following Cyclone Larry. A funding contribution of \$4400 was provided to NSA from the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry for the purchase of equipment to assist in the training of Indigenous forestry teams in North Queensland under the National Indigenous Forestry Strategy.

***Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council***

An assessment of the pine plant plantation on Palm Island as a commercial and training operation is to be undertaken as joint activity between the Indigenous Forestry Unit and the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Water. The project is currently on hold due to community unrest.

### ***Djabugay Country Tours***

The Indigenous Forestry Unit has facilitated funding for the engagement of an Economic Development Officer over two years within Djabugay Country Tours. The operation provides Indigenous ecotourism activity in native forests in the Kuranda region. The engagement of the Economic Development Officer has increased the capacity of the tour operation and enhanced its business capability.

### ***Far West Coast Aboriginal Network***

In conjunction with the Far West Coast Aboriginal Network, in South Australia a demonstration model of semi-arid forest products business is being developed. Risks associated with the project will be mitigated through the provision of expertise and project management by the Desert Knowledge CRC and the University of South Australia. Altogether, there will be five active communities, involving 50 workers employed under the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP). The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry contributed \$7500 towards the project.

### ***Goobidi Bamanga Community Advancement Cooperative Society Ltd***

The Indigenous Forestry Unit assisted Goobidi with funding of \$31,665 towards the purchase of equipment and to establish a plantation harvesting and services team in Mossman. Goobidi recruited two teams of four men and four women during September 2006. Goobidi is providing services to private forest growers in North Queensland, including the clean up and timber recovery on farms after Cyclone Larry.

The Indigenous Forestry Unit also facilitated a meeting in Cairns through which five Indigenous members of Goobidi were invited by the Atherton Branch of the Australian Forest Growers to undertake training in the Master Tree Growers program.

### ***Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation***

The Indigenous Forestry Unit provided \$1500 in sponsorship towards the Native Plant Greenhouse for the Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation (CHAC). The project involves the engagement of youth, local high school and private businesses within the small regional area of Circular Head through a Shared Responsibility Agreement. Businesses in Circular Head have also contributed to the project. CHAC is engaging in negotiations with the Department of Forestry locally for collecting native seeds for propagation.