

## Delivering and Supporting Indigenous Participation in Regional Development

SEGRA Conference 2009  
Kaely Woods  
Deputy General Manager, IBA



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## Our Vision

IBA's Vision is for a *nation in which the First Australians are economically independent and an integral part of the economy.*

- For many Indigenous Australians, their economic development is limited by access to credit and/or capital. This can often be compounded by low levels of literacy and numeracy or by living in a remote location.
- To achieve our vision, we work with government, the private sector and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.



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## Our business

- IBA aims to increase the number of Indigenous Australians successfully engaged in financial and commercial activities, through:
  - small business
  - Investment, including in joint ventures, and
  - home ownership



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## The opportunity

- State and Federal Governments are now funding, or are expected to fund major infrastructure projects in various states and territories.
- National initiatives include the *Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan* and *National Partnership Agreements*
- Many of these projects are occurring in locations where there is a large Indigenous population, but low Indigenous employment
- The opportunity – and the challenge – is for Indigenous groups and individuals to participate in these major projects as sub-contractors, suppliers and as business owners.

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## Setting the scene in remote regions

- Many projects involve a fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) workforce
- Capacity of Indigenous communities to participate in these projects is limited
- Project locations might not be near Indigenous population centres – workforce mobility is important
- Many Indigenous organisations and businesses are too small to tender in their own right for larger projects
- Normal competitive design and construction contracts focus on cost effectiveness rather than Indigenous economic and social outcomes

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## DRIIVE shows the way

- **DRIIVE demonstrates that industry is ready and willing to deliver in different ways**
- **Other positive signs of industry engagement can be seen with with:**
  - Australian Employment Covenant (AEC) – looking to create 50,000 Indigenous jobs
  - Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs) being adopted by the private sector, most with Indigenous employment targets
  - Relationship contracting, such as alliancing, offers opportunities to deliver social outcomes

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## IBA and Joint Ventures



- IBA has a long history of successful partnerships and joint ventures
- Through IBA's support and involvement, and through building relationships with firms such as Leighton Contractors, enterprises such as Ngarda Civil and Mining have become significant contributors to civil works projects

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## The DRIIVE Consortium

- IBA has now partnered in a consortium with Leighton Contractors, BlueScope Steel and Sinclair Knight Merz.
- This consortium is known as DRIIVE (*Delivering Regional Innovative and Indigenous Vibrant Economies*).
- DRIIVE aims to secure contracts to deliver residential, commercial and civil construction projects in regional and remote locations.

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## Why a consortium approach is needed

- DRIIVE provides a coalition of industry leaders capable of delivering any kind of construction project.
- Through DRIIVE's projects, IBA can facilitate the participation of Indigenous groups and individuals in the business and employment opportunities which arise.
- Individual Indigenous business owners, contractors and suppliers will have an opportunity to participate in these projects that they may not otherwise have had.
- All DRIIVE partners have a commitment to sustainable Indigenous employment and enterprise development

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## WA opportunities

- There will be major infrastructure projects delivered over the next few years in WA.
- IBA and DRIIVE partners are already actively dedicating resources to develop relationships with Indigenous communities and organisations ahead of project identification, to enable:
  - a ready and willing workforce able to participate in project delivery
  - Creation of Indigenous businesses, contractors and suppliers of all sizes and capabilities



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## The Consortium Skillset

- Broadly, the consortium draws together complementary skills and expertise:
- IBA – community and government engagement, and Indigenous enterprise development
- Leighton Contractors – Civil, commercial and residential construction and project management
- BlueScope Steel – design, supervision, manufacturing, material, framing and cladding
- SKM – planning, design, engineering



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## Buy-in from Government

- DRIIVE has actively engaged governments to seek tendering processes which support consortia approaches
- “Bundling” smaller projects into larger contracts of civil/construction work can result in a critical mass – both size and timescale - to enable the development of Indigenous skills, businesses and employment along with the infrastructure



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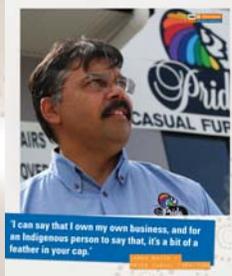
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## Supporting Enterprise & Home Ownership

- IBA already has a substantial capacity to support the development of small businesses and home ownership through mentoring, loans and advice.
- In regional areas, and in locations where DRIIVE is active, the opportunities will increase substantially.



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## for more information

visit [www.iba.gov.au](http://www.iba.gov.au)  
phone **1800 107 107\***, or  
write to PO Box 38 Woden ACT 2606

\*Calls to 1800 numbers from your home phone are free.  
\*Calls from public and mobile phones may be timed and charged at a higher rate.

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**Australian Government**  
**Indigenous Business Australia**

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