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## **Traditional Owners cash in on carbon credits**

Aboriginal communities are looking to capitalise on electricity generation.

The Urannah Property Association is considering building wind turbines on its 65,000 hectare property.

The property north west of Mackay has testing beacons onsite to measure the available wind.

The energy company the Association is working with owns the wind turbines. If the project goes ahead it will pay a rental fee and a portion of sales from electricity generation to the landholder, which could be as much as \$20,000 a year for each turbine.

The Urannah Property Association's Norman Johnson said, "On the hills of Urannah there's plenty of opportunity to produce electricity because it's close to the grid and it's up high for solar and wind. We don't have the money to do it but we don't mind leasing the place in return for a little bit of income".

He thinks other Traditional Owners should also look at ways of benefiting from renewable energy.

"I think all Aboriginal people across Australia should be looking at things like this. Half a dozen turbines might be able to sustain a community in electricity and a little bit of income." Mr Johnson said.

One hundred Traditional Owners recently attended workshops coordinated by natural resource management group NQ Dry Tropics and Carbon House, carbon strategists for business and landowners.

Participants learnt about how climate change will affect their land, how a carbon credits system works and how to minimise climate change on their property.

Rod Glass from Carbon House said, "There are significant opportunities for renewable energy and forestry with Aboriginal communities because climate change projects like these have a long life. Aboriginal communities have a link to the land in perpetuity and that suits what's required from a climate change project. This provides an excellent opportunity for Indigenous people to potentially leap frog the rest of the community in this area."

NQ Dry Tropics was interested in coordinating these workshops for Traditional Owners due to a gap in knowledge around climate change as well as some of the positive opportunities around carbon economies which not only support climate change mitigation options but also Indigenous development options.

NQ Dry Tropics Land and Sea Coordinator Jean Fenton said, "Aboriginal landowners are in an excellent position to invest in renewable energies such as solar and wind. If the land was cleared prior to 1990 there are opportunities in carbon sequestration projects through forestry initiatives."

Ms Fenton said there are also plenty of opportunities for joint venture partners to get on board with some of these initiatives to make them a reality.

### **Images**

Please note that the generic image that accompanies this release is courtesy of the Clean Energy Council. Please credit the Clean Energy Council if using it. The image has been supplied to represent a commercial wind farm – it does not depict the property referred to in this release.

**NQ Dry Tropics** is the natural resource management regional body for the Burdekin dry tropics region. NQ Dry Tropics region includes the local government areas of Townsville, Charters Towers, Burdekin, Isaac, Barcaldine, Etheridge, Hinchinbrook, Palm Island and the Whitsundays. Website: [www.nqdrytropics.com.au](http://www.nqdrytropics.com.au)

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