



West Coast Sentinel (Ceduna)

Thursday 7/06/2012

Page: 5
Section: General News
Region: Ceduna SA, AU
Circulation: 3079
Type: Regional
Size: 238.69 sq.cms.



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'Fixing Our Country' on agenda

BETWEEN May 14 and 16, representatives from the Aboriginal communities of Yalata, Oak Valley and Scotdesco came to Ceduna to take part in the Aboriginal Carbon Farming workshop Fixing Our Country.

Greening Australia SA launched the program in January to raise awareness of carbon pollution and helping to build clean energy futures

The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency provided funding to Greening Australia SA in partnership with Canopy and the Aboriginal Foundation of South Australia to present this program.

The program began on May 14 with an introduction to the program, which highlights

what Indigenous communities can stand to gain from this program.

Canopy Director Leonard Cohen said Aboriginal communities could stand to gain a large amount from the program.

"Many Aboriginal communities want to put their land back the way they want it, they now have a chance to do this and have it funded by the Federal Government while also earning carbon credits," he said.

"The potential is in the tens of millions of dollars for Aboriginal Australians."

The following day the community representatives went out to Koongawa Dundey to practice fieldwork at determining how much carbon can be stored within the soil of the

surrounding area, they would return the following day to put their methods into practice.

The work involved recording areas of 300 square metres in size of the amount of trees and shrubs in the area and then using the information to determine how much carbon the natural scrub can produce on the site.

Future full term work will also include photographing sites over time to record any changes.

The community representatives showed approval of the opportunities carbon farming could provide them.

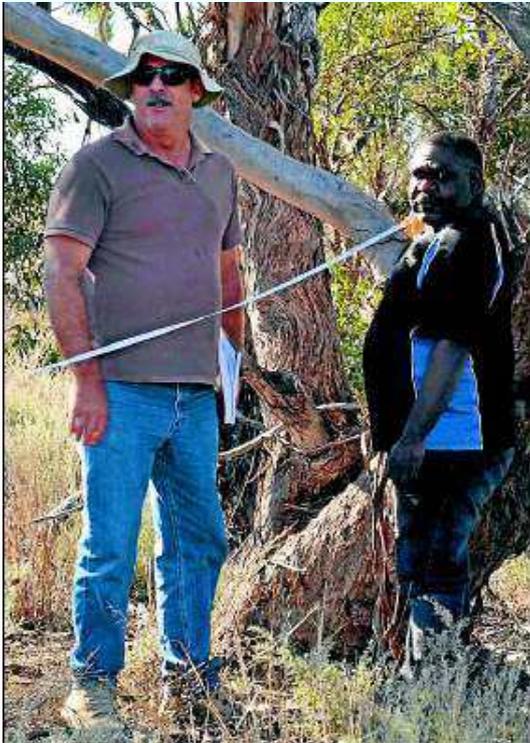
Oak Valley CDEP Manager Paul Parker said this would surely bring employment opportunities to Indigenous communities.

"I am certain this will provide good employment opportunities for Indigenous communities like Oak Valley," he said.

Greening SA is confident representatives can take this process back to their communities so they can put it to good use.

Greening SA Senior Vegetation Consultant Simon Bay said this program has served to educate community members so they could bring the experience back with them.

"If someone was to assist with someone who was doing a carbon assessment, they would be able to know how to assist or facilitate them rather than leaving them to do it themselves," he said.



Measuring it out: Phil Landless from Ceduna TAFE and Roger Williams of Oak Valley CDEP measure out a plot of land to begin recording carbon levels.