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LAUNCH OF TORRES STRAIT EXHIBITION IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, will be officially launching a new Torres Strait exhibition, in the National Museum of Australia in Canberra on 19 June 2014.

The title of this exhibition is *Lag Meta Aus*, a blend of local Torres Strait words meaning 'home' or 'location' - which was chosen to reflect the 'place' in which these objects will be housed.

Mr Elu said the exhibition would be a wonderful showcase of Torres Strait culture for a mainland audience.

"We all know that headlines around big issues like the Mabo decision bring attention to the Torres Strait," Mr Elu said.

"But very few Australians have been to the region or have an understanding of the concerns and aspirations of the Indigenous population.

"This exhibition tells stories of the Straits' cultural diversity and educates visitors who may never otherwise learn about or visit the Torres Strait."

The TSRA's Gab Titui Cultural Centre and the National Museum of Australia regularly collaborate on specific cultural issues, such as the repatriation of skeletal remains held around the world.

The two organisations maintain an ongoing partnership which includes the cross-loan of objects for exhibition, hosting trainee staff for professional development and sharing professional guidance and expertise.

George Serras from the National Museum of Australia was recently on Thursday Island to photograph the Gab Titui 10th anniversary and art awards.

George has shot the art awards since they began seven years ago, a perfect example of the sharing of expertise between the two museums.

Mr Elu thanked Mat Trinka, Director of the National Museum of Australia and his staff for this new opportunity for island life to be promoted nationally through the *Lag Meta Aus* gallery.

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