

## Media Release **No. 613**

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### **TSRA SUPPORTS TORRES SHIRE STADIUM UPGRADE FOR A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY**

Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Chairperson Mr Joseph Elu and the TSRA Chief Executive Officer Mr Wayne See Kee, recently inspected the works being undertaken to upgrade the Thursday Island sports stadium.

The Australian Government is a major sponsor of the project and through the TSRA's Healthy Communities Grants, has contributed \$1.3 million towards the refurbishment.

Mr Elu said many residents and community organisations use the Torres Shire Council (TSC) operated facilities on a regular basis for social, sporting activities and carnivals throughout the year.

"The stadium complex includes an Olympic swimming pool, a fully equipped gymnasium as well as the multi-purpose stadium building which houses a basketball and volleyball court. The complex is the social and sporting hub of Thursday Island," Mr Elu said.

"Important considerations for the TSRA's funding contribution were the economic benefits generated by the project through local employment and training.

"By working in partnership, the TSRA, TSC and the local employment service provider My Pathway, provided employment opportunities for 11 local Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people for the duration of the project.

"The partnership demonstrates the government's commitment to Indigenous employment by ensuring relevant employment and training targets are built-in to significant government funded projects. This is a model which will maximise local benefits from significant regional projects."

On 26 January 2015 the stadium was previewed to the public for the official blessing and as the venue for the TSC Australia Day award celebrations. An official opening will take place on completion of the works in the coming months.

**ENDS**

TSRA Media Contact – Bruce Nelson 0423 403 449