

## Media Release **No. 632**

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### **TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY EXPRESS CONDOLENCE FOR THE LATE TERRY WAIA**

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Chairman, Mr Joseph Elu, has expressed condolences for friends and family of the late Terry Waia.

Mr Elu said Mr Waia's huge contribution to not only Saibai, but also the entire Torres Strait Islander community did not go unnoticed and he will be sadly missed.

"Mr Waia was instrumental in ensuring that the lifestyle of people in the Torres Strait is considered and safeguarded," Mr Elu said.

"He had very strong traditional ties to the Torres Strait and was passionate about ensuring that our traditional values were not eroded over time."

From 1991-2007, Mr Waia was heavily involved in representing the community, holding key roles such as Saibai's Regional Representative, Council Chairperson and Councillor; TSRA Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Member for Saibai; Island Co-ordinating Council Deputy Chairperson and Councillor; Islanders Board of Industry and Service Member; Torres Strait Islander Advisory Board Chairperson; Ait Koedal Clan Member; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Commission (ATSIC) Commissioner for Torres Strait Zone.

He was also a Reconciliation Australia Board Director.

Mr Waia was highly respected for his role and efforts in negotiating arrangements under the Torres Strait Treaty by participating in several delegations to Papua New Guinea.

During his time as the ATSIC Commissioner and Chairperson for the TSRA, Mr Waia worked towards creating a better relationship between Torres Strait Islander people living on the mainland and those living on the outer islands.

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