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For release

New Tide Gauges Enhance Community Safety

Four new tide gauges have been installed across the Torres Strait to help address a critical information gap about the regions dynamic tides.

Funded through the Major Infrastructure Program, the Torres Strait Tide Gauge network also includes a dedicated sea-level gauge to be installed at the Thursday Island wharf. Operation and maintenance of the gauges is being funded by the Torres Strait Regional Authority. The project has been a partnership between the TSRA, the Torres Strait Island Regional Council and the Queensland Government.

The TSRA Chairman, Mr Joseph Elu, said that every year many communities are impacted by king tides, but up until now there had been very little tidal data in the Torres Strait. "The information from the new tide gauges will be very valuable to communities through improving our understanding and ability to respond to sea level rise and storm surge risks", he said.

"Climate change increases the vulnerability of island communities to extreme weather events. The tidal data will give us a powerful case to take to government when we are seeking resources to reduce vulnerability", he said.

Tide gauges have been installed on the berthing dolphins off Kubin, Iama and Ugar. The fourth gauge was installed on a dedicated pile located on the northern coast of Boigu. The gauges will provide real time information on the height of tides across the Torres Strait.

Mr Elu says the new information will allow for tracking of king tides during the coming wet season. "For the first time at these four communities we will be able to say exactly how high the tides have risen during king tides compared to the predicted astronomical tides", he said.

Data from the gauges will soon be available at the Queensland Government Tides webpage www.qld.gov.au/tides

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