

## Media Release No. 650

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### **OVER 100 MAJOR HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS DELIVERED IN TORRES STRAIT**

More than 100 major environmental health infrastructure projects have been delivered throughout the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) region over the past seventeen years under an innovative Government partnership.

The Torres Strait's Major Infrastructure Programme (MIP), is delivered by the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) in partnership with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Queensland Government's Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP). MIP projects have resulted in improved environmental health infrastructures and facilities, playing a key role in improving the standard of living for communities across the region since 1998.

The TSRA Acting Chairperson, Mr Aven S. Noah, said the success of the MIP in recent times could be attributed to the collaborative and close working relationship of both organisations.

"This is a great example of what can happen when different levels of Government, including the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC), Torres Shire Council (TSC) and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC), all work together to strategically invest in communities," Mr Noah said.

TSIRC Council Mayor Fred Gela said there is no denying that the MIP has contributed to the greater health of people living in the Torres Strait region.

"MIP has been successful in providing the basic health infrastructure to our islands that many southern centres take for granted," Mr Gela said.

"A good example of this is the recently completed desalination facilities on Mer, Masig, Poruma lama, Boigu and Warraber Islands, giving residents a reliable source of drinking water through periods of low rainfall."

To date, the Federal and State Governments have provided approximately \$208 million towards health infrastructure projects in the Torres Strait and NPA, completed through Stages 1-4 of the Major Infrastructure Programme. Now in its fifth stage the Programme is continuing across the region in 2015-2016.

"Communities can expect to see a range of works undertaken over the next two years, including roads, drainage and sewerage upgrades in the NPA to further water and sewerage upgrades in the outer island communities," Mr Elu said.

The MIP Stage 5 will also include the continuation of works in Wasaga Village, Horn Island, making further improvements to the community's roads and drainage.

"The Wasaga Roads and Drainage Stage 1 works consisted of the design, documentation and reconstruction of existing roads and major drainage networks within Wasaga Village," Mr Noah said.

"Stage 2 has commenced and will extend these upgrades to Wees, Outie, Nawie and Rattler Streets and the Loggy Creek Pump Station building."

For more information or a full list of MIP Stage 5 works, contact the Torres Strait Regional Authority on 07 40 690 700.

**ENDS**

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