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Torres Strait community continues Cane Toad Busting during the wet season

Community members continue working to rid the Torres Strait of Cane Toads, despite them being harder to find during the wet season on Thursday Island.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Chairperson, Joseph Elu, said he is encouraged to see the community rallying together to control numbers of this introduced predator.

“The campaign is gaining momentum, as we continue to see more people coming along to assist our staff and Torres Shire Council staff in this important work,” Mr Elu said.

“Last year, volunteers removed 4,308 Cane Toads from Thursday Island.

“Most of these were adults, with the big numbers being caught at night in and around the water bodies during the dry season.”

Cane Toads need access to moisture every three or four days to rehydrate which makes it relatively easy to find them in and around the water.

Mr Elu said local MyPathway participants began installing a cane toad exclusion fence around the largest dam on Thursday Island just before the rain.

“This simple construction is a critical component of the overall Cane Toad control program being put in place,” Mr Elu said.

“Unfortunately with cane toads, there is no one easy or quick solution to rid the islands of this serious threat to our cultural and ecological values.

“It is only through the ongoing collaboration between the TSRA, local government and community members that we have a chance of eradicating this pest from the Torres Strait.”

Mr Elu would like to thank all of the community members who are volunteering their time to catch cane toads and he looks forward to seeing the Cane Toad Busts continue throughout the year particularly during the dry season when toads are easier to locate.

To register your interest in becoming a Cane Toad Buster, contact Emily Ingram on 0407 755 248.

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Caption: These cane toad busters can fit up to 400 cane toads in these bust buckets (Image: TSRA).



Caption: Some of the wet season cane toad busting crew. L to R: James Nawai, Nola Page, Diana Russell, Patty Mosby, Stephen Sailor, Alma David, and Bobby Bin Awel (Image: TSRA).