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TSRA CALLS ON STATE GOVERNMENT TO MATCH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) has called on the State Government to honour its commitment to all levels of infrastructure in the region.

The TSRA Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, said the State government's offer to provide \$12 million for sea walls and only \$1.2 million for the region's Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) fell a long way short of matching the Australian Government commitment to the initiatives.

"The TSRA was able to secure an Australian Government commitment of \$21 million for environmental health infrastructure in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula area in May 2012 and an additional \$12 million for sea walls in June 2012.

"We urge Queensland Premier Campbell Newman to match the Federal MIP funding, as successive Queensland Governments have done, so work on essential projects in the region can continue."

Mr Elu said the TSRA in collaboration with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSRIC) has been active over a number of years trying to secure the State and Australian Government funds to implement the Torres Strait Coastal Works Program.

"This work is vital to increase immunity of the six most vulnerable communities of Boigu, Saibai, Iama, Warraber, Poruma and Masig from inundation and erosion impacts.

"Sea level rises of around six millimetres a year have contributed to damage to infrastructure and culturally significant sites in these communities."

Mr Elu said after the seawall funding, the State government is offering only \$1.2 million for works under the MIP, a shortfall in State government funds of about \$12 million for vital community infrastructure.

ENDS

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