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REPRESENTATIVES NOMINATED FOR PZJA CONSULTATIVE FORUMS

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) has congratulated the Indigenous Traditional Inhabitant Boat (TIB) Sector on nominating representatives to participate in the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) consultative forums.

Representatives were selected at a workshop convened by the TIB on Horn Island in late March 2015.

TSRA Chairman, Mr Joseph Elu, said the TSRA has provided assistance for selecting and supporting TIB members to travel to and participate at PZJA meetings, but will now leave the nomination process to TIB members.

“In the recognition of the TIB Sectors growing capacity to contribute to PZJA Consultative forums independent of government, the PZJA has agreed to introduce these new arrangements for the TIB Sector,” Mr Elu said.

“Moving to a TIB nomination process will also help with a closer and more meaningful collaboration with Government as members will be nominated by communities.

“While the nomination process has now changed, the TSRA will continue to fund and support TIB representatives’ attendance at PZJA consultative forums.”

The PZJA is made up of the Commonwealth Minister for Fisheries, the Queensland Minister for Fisheries and the Chair of the TSRA.

To inform their decisions the PZJA is supported by a number of consultative groups that discuss specific issues relating to the management of commercial fisheries in the Torres Strait, including the TIB Sector and the non-Indigenous Transferable Vessel Holder Sector.

The TSRA will remain an active participant in the PZJA consultative forums with the Fisheries Portfolio Member attending all forum meetings.

Representatives will also receive support through a training program, coordinated by the TSRA, to provide an understanding of the fisheries management frameworks that apply in the Torres Strait.

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