

## Media Release No. 646

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### BIODIVERSITY SURVEYS FINDS NEW DISCOVERIES ON BADU ISLAND

A biodiversity survey conducted recently on Badu Island has recorded 124 animal species, a particularly high number and confirming the regions healthy ecosystem.

The survey uncovered mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs also recorded in other parts of the Torres Strait, as well as a number new species.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, said one significant finding was the Fawn Leaf-nosed bat, which is listed as vulnerable under Queensland's *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

“The Fawn Leaf-nosed bat was previously known to exist in the Coen region around the tip of Cape York and has been recorded in Iron Range National Park, Mungkan Kandju National Park and Kulla (McIlwraith) National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) in Queensland,” Mr Elu said.

“The survey found the insect eating bat to be at a roost in substantial numbers on Badu island.

“The survey also recorded robust populations of the native rodents Grassland Melomys and the Cape York Melomys in some areas, which is a good sign for the local ecology.”

Rangers, ranger supervisors and trainees from Mura Badhulgal (Badu), Mua Lagalgau (Moa) and Mabuygiw (Mabuiag) participated in all aspects of fauna survey including site selection, trap layout and baiting, animal capture and handling, data capture, safety and trap hygiene.

“A range of plant and animal knowledge was also documented throughout the survey and numerous records were entered into a data management system to be shared across a number of agencies,” Mr Elu said.

“The local knowledge and hard work of the TSRA team was invaluable to the success of the survey, and created increased capacity for Rangers such as how to trap and identify animals as well as undertake general habitat descriptions, so they can continue to carry out these surveys in the future.

“Thanks also needs to go to the environmental consultants, rangers and their supervisors, Mura Badulgal (TSI) Corporation RNTBC, Elders past and present, traditional owners, and community members for their hard work, dedication and hospitality.”

Formal documentation of the survey will be prepared in a community and technical report.

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Caption: A Fawn Leaf-nosed bat trapped and released on Badu island (image: TSRA)



Caption: TSRA Rangers learning one of the techniques for biodiversity surveying (Image: TSRA)

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**Clearance Workflow:**

The Workflow section is to be deleted prior to distribution to the media		
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