

## Media Release **No. 619**

**For release 24 February 2015**

### **Good outcome for vessel incident near Warul Kawa**

All staff and crew aboard a chartered vessel are safe and accounted for after the boat took on water and sank while at anchor near Warul Kawa (Deliverance Island) on Sunday night.

The MV Reef Connection, on a training exercise on behalf of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA), is thought to have suffered an electrical fire and started taking on water when the decision was made to abandon ship as a precautionary measure.

The crew and nine TSRA rangers were transported to Warul Kawa with food, water, field supplies and satellite phones, and an EPIRB and Mayday call were initiated as an emergency response.

Around 7am on Monday morning a water police vessel arrived and collected the crew and rangers who were all returned to Thursday Island that afternoon.

The TSRA Chairman, Mr Joseph Elu, said the most important outcome of the incident was that no one was hurt and everyone arrived safely back on Thursday Island.

“The crew of the MV Reef Connection and TSRA staff should be commended for following procedures and acting in a manner which resulted in their safe return,” Mr Elu said.

“This incident is an example of what can happen at sea and why it is important to be prepared if something does go wrong.

“The TSRA has its own emergency response plan in place for vessel operations, as well as training in other standard safety measures which were all adhered to in this case.”

Queensland Police has said there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding the incident.

**ENDS**

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