

## Media Release **No. 611**

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### **TAKING OUT THE BIGGEST BREEDERS – A GOOD STRATEGY TO FOLLOW**

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA), Torres Shire Council (TSC) and concerned community members continue their battle to save Torres Strait wildlife from the impacts of the Cane Toad invasion.

The TSRA Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, said he is impressed with the ongoing efforts of Cane Toad Busting by a number of active community members.

“It is only through physical removal of Cane Toads from the island that we will succeed in our aim to make the Torres Strait a Cane Toad free zone,” Mr Elu said.

“Catching these invasive species isn’t easy because they range in size from tiny when they are strings of eggs, to over 14cm long when they are mature.

“I hope a combination of different Cane Toad control measures will continue to reduce the population over time.”

Mr Elu said just one Cane Toad can do an enormous amount of damage to the food chain.

“Right from the tadpole stage they are poisonous throughout their life cycle, and can live for many years,” Mr Elu said.

“One female Cane Toad can lay up to a staggering 8,000-30,000 eggs at one time. By comparison, most native frogs typically lay 1,000-2,000 eggs per year.

“Therefore the removal of the large members of the adult breeding population of Cane Toads is very important for us to achieve.”

Mr Elu urges all members of the community to act together to eliminate the Cane Toad threat to the Torres Strait.

“Big esso (thank-you) to those community members that have already engaged in Cane Toad removal,” Mr Elu said.

“I look forward to seeing the success of our combined efforts in the years to come when the Torres Strait is recognised as an important genetic bank of key native species.

“Our large monitors and pythons will be particularly significant, as the rest of mainland Australia is fast having their populations of these species wiped out.”

The TSRA, TSC and My Pathways have begun installing exclusion fencing around known fresh water sites where the Cane Toads rehydrate and breed. Traps for adult cane toads and tadpole traps are also used at appropriate times of the year.

**ENDS**

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Caption: Randall Ingram is happy to have caught and removed a large female Cane Toad from the wild to help save Torres Strait wildlife (Image: TSRA).



Caption: Buckley Ingram holding an impressive sized female Cane Toad from Thursday Island that can lay up to 30,000 eggs a night (Image: TSRA).