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TSRA CO-CHAIRS 2015 NATIVE TITLE CONFERENCE

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Acting Chairperson Mr Aven S. Noah said Torres Strait regional concerns were given prominence at the recent National Native Title Conference held in Port Douglas last month.

The TSRA Chairperson Mr Joseph Elu chaired the third day of the three-day conference, where national delegates discussed Torres Strait and Cape York specific issues.

“The conference was convened by the Federal Government and it’s great to see these crucial issues given such a prominent platform,” Mr Noah said.

The conference began with a session on Indigenous constitutional recognition and building support for a referendum to recognise Torres Strait Island and Aboriginal people in the Constitution of Australia.

“Since the conference, the issue of constitutional reform and recognition for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people has gained real momentum,” Mr Noah said.

Cape York-based Leah Talbot of the CSIRO facilitated a day three discussion on Indigenous leadership in land and water livelihoods, which included presentations on community-based commercial fishing and biodiversity management.

“By participating in the National Native Title Conference, we’re able to bring the thoughts and aspirations of our communities directly to decision makers.”

Noel Pearson, founder of the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership, delivered the day three keynote speech “In pursuit of regional, reciprocal responsibility settlement for Cape York: what is the right package of reforms for Indigenous social, political, economic and cultural development.

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