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TSRA MEMBER FOR ERUB ACCEPTS RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM CHALLENGE

The Torres Strait Regional Authority Chairperson (TSRA), Mr Joseph Elu, has congratulated a fellow board member who is one of six Queensland rural leaders selected to take part in the Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP).

The TSRA Member for Erub and Portfolio Member for Fisheries, Mr Kenny Bedford, will be the sixth Indigenous leader from the Torres Strait to take part in the intensive 17 month professional development program. The program includes an international Case Study and overseas visit.

Mr Elu said Mr Bedford had been successful in a competitive national selection process and would have the opportunity to develop high level leadership, business, strategic planning and interpersonal skills.

Mr Bedford said he had always been aware that the program was an extremely good opportunity for leadership development.

“What has stopped me from applying in the past was really the time available to commit to the program.

“That has changed now that I’m no longer on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC).

“I have spoken to other graduates from the program and they strongly encouraged me to nominate.

“Uncle John Mosby and Torres Webb were the most recent graduates so I’ve spoken to them and other Torres Strait graduates as well as a few of the others from outside who’ve really motivated me to be a part of it.

“I’ve learned about the benefits they received from the course and the praise they have given it.”

Mr Bedford said graduates had also spoken about the pressures on the course which added to the appeal.

“As I said during the scholarship interview I’m looking for this opportunity to challenge myself and develop my leadership abilities.

“I expect this program will help me identify my strengths and weaknesses

“I like the idea of being challenged and pushed out of my comfort zone because I think that is where you can get a personal insight into where you can develop your own leadership skills.

“The other important opportunity will be develop networks with other people from very different backgrounds in other parts of Australia with similar challenges but under different circumstances.

“I particularly want to mix it with people who come from the rural sector and who are working in business development.

“I’m working largely in a primary industry here in the fishing industry and I imagine there are lessons to be learned from people working in other primary industries and hopefully I can apply those to my leadership here.”

Mr Bedford said the last time he had faced similar challenges was undertaking a Fairfax Fellowship over a decade ago.

“The time is now good to go back and reflect on my leadership role not only in this community but also in Queensland and Australia.”

The Torres Strait Regional Authority calls for expressions of interest from Indigenous Leaders to nominate for a position on the Australian Rural Leadership Course in November each year. The sponsorship is valued in excess of \$50,000 and one fully sponsored position is offered each year.



Caption: Mr Kenny Bedford (left) with Mr Charlie Kaddy, the first TSRA sponsored graduate from the ARLP, swap notes about the program. (High resolution image available)

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