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TSRA RESPONSE TO NATIONAL COMMISSION OF AUDIT REPORT

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) said the release of the National Commission of Audit has reported that the organisation has significantly lower than average corporate costs.

TSRA Chairman, Joseph Elu, said the Commission has reviewed the corporate overheads of 90 government bodies (identified as corporate functions) and found that these costs range from 2.7 per cent to 73 per cent, with the average being 21.8 percent.

The TSRA's corporate costs of only 10.4 per cent ranked the organization as ninth most efficient on the list with its overheads less than half the overall average.

"The TSRA spends just under \$5 million per year on its corporate operations which includes a wide range of costs, such as corporate salaries, consultants, audit and professional fees, repairs and maintenance, utilities depreciation, and travel," Mr Elu said.

"This means that nine out of every 10 dollars that is provided to the TSRA is being spent through the eight TSRA program areas which deliver valuable services to the region.

"While this is a good result, the TSRA is always striving to reduce its cost of its overheads to maximise the service delivery."

The TSRA is also a government leader in Indigenous employment with 69 percent of its positions filled by Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal people.

Mr Elu said while the Commission has already identified a number of agencies and bodies that are to be abolished or merged, the Commission has suggested that the TSRA is one of a number of organisations that could be reviewed, and there has been no suggestion that the government is not happy with the performance of the TSRA.

"I need to stress that there are many options available to the Government when considering the future of agencies and portfolio bodies such as the TSRA," Mr Elu said.

"The recent 2014 performance audit of the TSRA by the Australian National Audit Office has confirmed that the TSRA is performing very well and is delivering efficient and effective outcomes for people in the region.

“We will keep communities informed if there are any developments from the Report.”

ENDS

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