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RANGER RESCUES FLATBACK TURTLE FROM GHOST NET

A young flatback turtle was recently found entangled in an abandoned fishing net on Cable Beach at Horn Island before being rescued by a ranger from the Torres Strait Regional Authority's Land and Sea Management Unit.

Off duty TSRA ranger mentor Stan Lui found the turtle Mr Lui found the seven year old turtle stranded on the foreshore while walking his dogs.

The TSRA Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, said it was a timely reminder that marine debris is moving through Torres Strait on the currents.

"Abandoned fishing nets from Southeast Asia, also known as 'ghost nets', drift on the currents, indiscriminately entangling marine life and threatening species that are central to Torres Strait culture," Mr Elu said.

After cutting the turtle free of the net, Mr Lui took it home and treated its cuts and abrasions in his bath tub before setting it free five days later.

Ghost nets are just a part of the many types of marine debris that are fouling the otherwise pristine coastline of Island communities in the Torres Strait.

Mr Elu said flatback turtles are listed as a vulnerable species and this particular one was very fortunate to have been rescued by one of our Rangers.

"Every year, many turtles are caught in ghost nets from outside the Torres Strait. All fishers must remain vigilant in our waters," he said.

Mr Elu praised Mr Lui for his quick action to rescue and care for the injured turtle.

Ghost nets also pose a risk to shipping and could potentially lead to a major incident in the region.

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Flatback turtle found entangled in abandoned fishing net



Free from the net, with cuts and abrasions treated



Set free in the water