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TSRA BOARD HOLDS HISTORIC 90th MEETING ON MER

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) has held its 90th board meeting on Mer this week, the first to be held on an outer island in the organisation's 20-year history.

TSRA Chairman, Joseph Elu, said holding meetings in communities such as Mer was an important part of understanding local needs and in turn guide the decision making process for important infrastructure and funding issues.

"While recognised as a region, the Torres Strait is a diverse group of islands and communities who all have differing needs and aspirations," Mr Elu said.

"We have a representative board comprised of members from each community throughout the region who have direct input into the TSRA decision making process, but nothing can compare with being on the ground and seeing first hand what is happening in a community.

"It also provides an opportunity for community groups and businesses to benefit financially from our visit as there are requirements such as transport, accommodation and catering, all of which can be supplied locally."

Mr Elu said while holding the meetings on outer islands was a logistical challenge, the benefits far outweighed the work required to facilitate them.

"We will be looking at other opportunities where we can hold TSRA board meetings on other outer islands in the future so we can be sure our representation and planning meets our community's needs."

The TSRA held its meeting on Mer, the most easterly island in the Torres Strait, to coincide with Mabo Day celebrations.

The TSRA board meets four times a year.

ENDS

TSRA Media Contact – Bruce Nelson on 0423 403 449