



Torres Strait Regional Authority

2005-2006 Annual Report



**Torres Strait  
Regional  
Authority**   
2005-2006 Annual Report



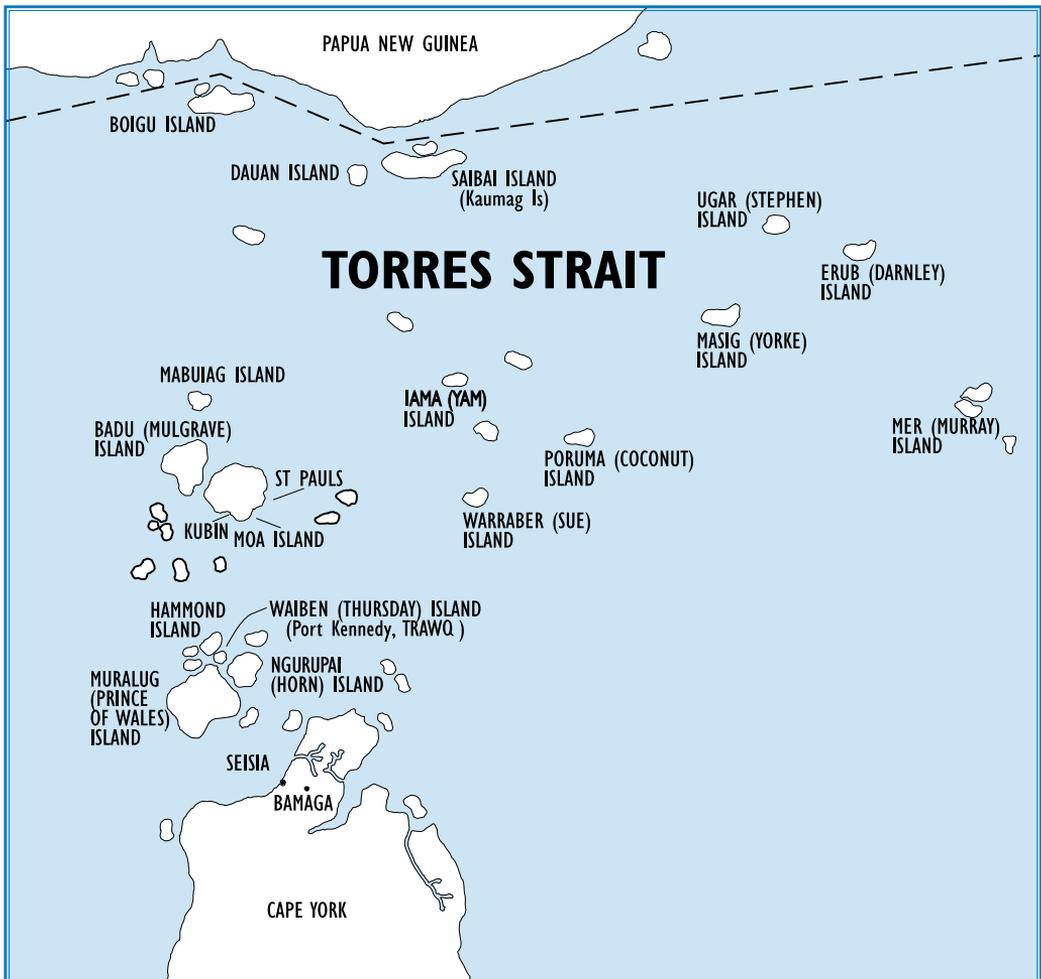


Australian Government



## TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

### ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006



The TSRA will always make every effort to respect Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal cultural sensitivity and advises that there may be some images of deceased persons in this publication.

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*Poruma Island Resort,  
2003 Queensland  
Aboriginal & Torres  
Strait Islander Tourism  
Award Winner.*



Australian Government



## TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

The Hon. Mal Brough  
Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

It gives me great pleasure to present you with the twelfth Annual Report of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA), in accordance with section 144ZB of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* and also section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. This annual report covers the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006.

As we enter our thirteenth year of operations, the TSRA will continue to work in partnership with the Australian Government to improve the quality of life for all Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John T. Kris'.

John T. Kris  
Chairperson  
Torres Strait Regional Authority  
23 November 2006

## OUR VISION

To empower our people to determine their own affairs based on our unique Ailan Kastom bilong Torres Strait from which we draw our unity and strength.

## OUR GOALS

- Gain recognition of our rights, customs and identity as Indigenous peoples.
- Achieve a better quality of life for all people living in the Torres Strait region.
- Develop a sustainable economic base.
- Achieve better health and community services.
- Ensure protection of our environment.
- Assert our native title to the lands and waters of the Torres Strait region.

## PREFACE

### GUIDE TO THE 2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT

The Torres Strait Regional Authority's Annual Report 2005-2006 is the Chairperson's report on operations to the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs on the performance and achievements of the TSRA during 2005-2006. It is a key accountability document to the Parliament of Australia.

### REPORT STRUCTURE

The Chairperson's Report provides broad comment on the Torres Strait Regional Authority's (TSRA) challenges and achievements during the reporting period and discusses the TSRA's performance with a political and economic perspective.

The General Manager's Overview provides a more detailed administrative and organisational review of the TSRA's performance against its expected outcomes during the financial year.

The third chapter provides details of the TSRA Board, Advisory Committees, Portfolio Positions and the TSRA meetings held during 2005-2006. The following chapter 'About the TSRA,' provides some detail about the Torres Strait region and the people who live there. It also describes the environment in which the TSRA operates; how and when the TSRA was created; what the TSRA does; the framework in which it distributes grants and loans and a corporate overview of the TSRA administration.

A section on Outcome and Outputs states the planned and actual costs of the organisation's outcome, and six outputs which include: Economic Development; Community Development, Employment and Training; Native Title; Social, Cultural and Development; Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure; Policy and Information. A table is provided giving details of the planned achievements and the actual achievements for the year in relation to each of these six outputs. This is followed by an overview of each of the outputs. The programs and subprograms are listed and the programs' objectives are stated. Details are provided on the strategies and activities the TSRA has undertaken during the year to meet its program objectives; the performance of the programs and subprograms; and how these programs fit in with the planned achievements as stated in the Torres Strait Development Plan. Where appropriate, the future direction of the program is outlined.

Audited financial statements and the Independent Audit Report are also provided. The appendices contain information on a range of topics including grants the TSRA has made during the year (Appendix 1); the TSRA's statutory functions and powers as described under Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Appendix 2); advertising and market research details are in Appendix 3; and Appendix 4 contains a full staffing overview including Ministerial Appointments. A Consultancy Summary is listed in Appendix 5.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To obtain more information please contact the Public Affairs Assistant, Torres Strait Regional Authority, PO Box 261, Thursday Island, Queensland 4875, on telephone (07) 4069 0700, toll free 1800 079 093, facsimile (07) 4069 1879 or by email [info@tsra.gov.au](mailto:info@tsra.gov.au).



## INTRODUCTION

Once again it is a pleasure to present the 2005-2006 Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Report of Operations under Section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

The TSRA Board has worked successfully to achieve positive results for the region addressing the major areas of concern raised during the past year. I particularly want to thank the Executive Members for their ongoing support and commitment in what has been another busy and challenging year for the TSRA.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development remains a high priority area and the TSRA has continued to focus on increasing economic development initiatives within the region with the aim of long-term economic and financial sustainability for our communities. The TSRA has achieved this through encouraging and providing support to local island councils and by negotiating partnerships with a variety of Australian and Queensland Government agencies to establish community based business initiatives for the benefit of our people.

The TSRA's Home Ownership Program, Business Funding Scheme and the Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS) are continuing to benefit many of our people and communities in achieving economic independence.

## THE GAB TITUI CULTURAL CENTRE

The Centre celebrated its second year of operation in April, 2006. In November 2005, it celebrated an even higher profiled achievement by winning the "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism" category of the 2005 Queensland Tourism Awards. This award qualified the Centre for the National Awards in this category at which it received a "Highly Commended" certificate.

Ongoing public programs continue to attract a local market wanting to obtain new artistic skills and to be entertained. The range of these over the past two years include ceramics, jewellery, weaving, screen printing and writing. There has also been a number of exhibitions promoting several internationally renowned local artists, as well as emerging ones. Touring shows from the mainland have also been well attended.

The Centre continues to be a popular choice for corporate and government functions, hosting Education Queensland's Showcase Awards in May 2005 and the Queensland Community Cabinet in December 2005. The 2005 Croc Festival was held in July and the Gab Titui Cultural Centre played a vital role as both a venue and an activity provider as was done with the annual Torres Strait Cultural Festival.

The number of paying visitors that have called into the Centre to date is 6813.

## ARTS DEVELOPMENT

The TSRA continues to support arts development in the region through matching funding received from Arts Queensland in October 2004 to create a pool for Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund (IRADF) projects within the region. Through this Program, we continue to identify new talent emerging from the Torres Strait.

In March 2005 the TSRA funded five arts projects followed by seven applications in June 2005 through IRADF.

A Visual Arts and Craft Forum was convened in 2005 in association with Arts Queensland. The result of this event was the formulation of a Visual Arts and Craft Strategy for the Torres Strait which identifies where the industry wants to position themselves in the coming five to ten years.

## FISHERIES

There have been some significant achievements within Torres Strait fisheries management over the past year.

The TSRA continues to play an active role in the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority's (PZJA) meeting process. At the July 2005 PZJA meeting, the PZJA made a decision to share Finfish and Tropical Rock Lobster catch 50:50 between indigenous and non-indigenous fishermen. Papua New Guinea has 25% of the total resources under the 'catch sharing agreement' with the Australian Government.

The PZJA also agreed that Torres Strait Islanders will move to greater shares (70:30) of the Finfish and Tropical Rock Lobster resources through a self funded and open tender process in the future.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Community Fisher Group for their participation through this fisheries development process.

## ENVIRONMENT

The TSRA was invited by both the Australian and Queensland Government Ministers to play a lead role in coordinating the delivery of the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) in the Torres Strait region.

The objectives of the NHT are biodiversity conservation, the sustainable use of natural resources, and community capacity-building and institutional change.

TSRA has participated in developing a Land & Sea Management Strategy for Torres Strait. This Strategy forms the framework for the delivery of land and sea management initiatives and NHT and other sources of funding for environmental projects in the region. It is also useful in terms of encouraging the alignment of government and research effort to support regional and local land and sea management priorities and approaches.

TSRA has established a Land & Sea Management Unit to coordinate the delivery of regional and local level land and sea management initiatives, and to support communities in accessing additional financial and technical support as well as information about the sustainable management of their environment.

## *Dugong and Turtle Management*

TSRA is one of five regions across northern Australia participating in an NHT-funded Dugong & Marine Turtle Management Project, coordinated through the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA). This project will support communities to move towards sustainable management approaches for dugongs and marine turtles, including through the development of community management plans, monitoring activities, education and awareness-raising programmes.

With funding available under the NAILSMA project, along with additional funding from the Minister for Fisheries, TSRA will support eight communities participating in the project. We will continue to work in close collaboration with communities, Traditional Owners, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, and all project partners to ensure the objectives of this important project are realised.

## **NATIVE TITLE**

The TSRA has assisted traditional owners with obtaining legal recognition of native title over twenty of the twenty seven native title consent determinations in the Torres Strait. Twelve consent determinations are over community islands which also have a Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT). The determinations were achieved after negotiations with and the consent of all the parties.

In April 2006 the Mualgal#2 and Mualgal/Badulgal#2 claims were determined by Justice Dowsett of the Federal Court. I congratulate the Traditional Owners of Badu and Mua for this achievement.

There are now four remaining claims over land which are Zuizin, Naghir, Raine Island and Warral and Ului which are uninhabited islands in the Torres Strait.

## *Torres Strait Sea Claim*

The Regional Sea Claim remains a key priority for the TSRA Native Title Office. It remains in mediation until the end of 2006 and the Federal Court has allocated this claim to Justice French who will be travelling to Thursday Island to hold a directions hearing on 7 July 2006. The anthropological research continues and due to the complex issues involved in compiling the connection materials the Native Title Office has, at this stage, been unable to forward any reports to the State and the Commonwealth for mediation purposes. The NTO aims to forward connection materials to the State and Commonwealth in due course.

## *PNG-QLD Gas Pipeline Project*

The TSRA is working in partnership with Traditional Owners by assisting and facilitating negotiations between Traditional Owners and the AGL – Petronas Consortium (APC) in relation to the Papua New Guinea (PNG) -Queensland (Qld) Gas Pipeline Project. APC plans to construct a gas pipeline from PNG to Australia to transport natural gas from fields in the Southern Highlands of PNG to Central Queensland. Although since the end of the 2005–2006 financial year, the project has been put on hold by APC.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the traditional owners and Prescribed Bodies Corporate and the Torres Strait Pipeline Reference Group for their participation over the past year.

## HEALTH IN THE TORRES STRAIT

The TSRA is an active member of the Torres Health Partnership Forum and provides input into the planning and coordination of health care services and delivery in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. The Framework Agreement which governs the Partnership has been revised and is due for a signing and launch event in July 2006, to be attended by both the Federal and State Ministers for Health.

The development of the Regional Health Plan is in the final stage. A Regional Community Health Workshop was held in November 2005 whereby community representatives highlighted a number of health issues and priorities that fed directly into the Plan. Significant issues have been raised in developing the Plan and have highlighted the urgent and key priorities for health in the region.

The Australian Government is providing funds to eradicate Dengue through the Department of Families and Communities. The TSRA has also allocated funding in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 towards addressing this matter. The TSRA in conjunction with the Torres Strait Health Partnership and its members are developing an integrated plan for Dengue Eradication in the Torres Strait.

## MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (MIP)

MIP is one of the most outstanding success stories in Indigenous Affairs in Australia. MIP is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments and managed by the TSRA. The Program has achieved real outcomes in improving the quality of environmental health infrastructure for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in our region. The first three stages of the program have delivered water supplies, reticulated sewerage, subdivisional developments, roads, drainage and waste management projects across 17 Island and Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) communities. These initiatives have had substantial tangible impacts on quality of life and overall community sustainability in the Torres Strait region and reflect the overwhelming success of a whole of government approach to program delivery.

With MIP Stage Three entering its final year, the TSRA is developing a bid to continue the program into the future.

The Major Infrastructure Program works closely with other programs including the Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program, the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme and the Airstrip and Marine Upgrade Program.

## AIRSTRIPS

The TSRA continues to work with the Queensland Department of Transport to upgrade airstrips on island communities so that access to these remote communities is enhanced. It aims to improve the standard of safety for passengers travelling to and from island communities by aircraft through these upgrades.

Access to these communities will be improved along with improvements to aviation safety, health, economic and social outcomes. Lama Island is the final airstrip to be upgraded and work is currently underway now and is expected to be completed by August 2006.

## ISLAND EROSION

The impacts of island erosion on Torres Strait communities are significant and have been intensifying over recent years.

The TSRA has written to relevant State and Commonwealth Ministers seeking support for Torres Strait communities facing the impacts of island erosion and tidal surges.

TSRA has contributed \$150,000 funding for immediate measures in 2005-2006. This involves seeking additional support from the Australian and Queensland Governments. A meeting, involving key Commonwealth and State agencies and Community Councils affected by erosion, was convened on 30 May 2006 to develop a strategic focus and a pathway to assist community councils address erosion issues.

The Qld Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a whole of government proposal to address this issue which involves a five staged process. The EPA will lead with technical assessments and provide possible solutions for this committee to consider in 2006-2007.

## TORRES STRAIT TREATY

The TSRA continues to play an active role in dealing with matters relating to the Torres Strait Treaty and has worked closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and other Australian and Queensland Government agencies to manage the Treaty.

The TSRA is committed to engaging in the Treaty process to ensure that the interests of our people are protected under the Treaty.

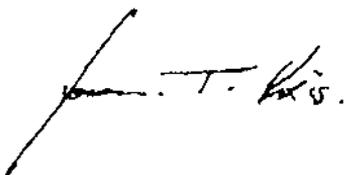
## REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

During the year the TSRA Executive Members met with the Greater Autonomy Steering Committee to discuss a way forward on addressing regional governance. TSRA and the Island Coordinating Council have also been working together to respond to the Green Paper.

The TSRA Board is committed to working closely with key stakeholder groups to determine the best governance model for our region.

## CONCLUSION

Once again I thank the TSRA Members, TSRA Executive Members, Management and Administration staff, for their good work and commitment to ensure that the Authority has functioned efficiently and delivered positive outcomes for the benefit of our communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John T. Kris', written over a horizontal line.

John T. Kris  
Chairperson



# General Manager's Overview

GENERAL MANAGER'S OVERVIEW 2005-2006

2005-2006



The last twelve months have been eventful for the TSRA as an organisation and once again the Authority's team should be commended for their dedication and commitment toward achieving the Authority's goals.

We continued to focus on expanding the organisation's capacity to support the Board, as well as engage other government and non-government agencies to assist in delivering outcomes in our region. Our approach to engaging in these partnerships has been guided by the policy direction set by the TSRA Board through its Development Plan to ensure that our communities benefit

from new and existing initiatives.

Some of the highlights from the past twelve months include my appointment by the then Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the Honourable Amanda Vanstone, to the position of General Manager for the TSRA in September 2005. In addition, (as mentioned in the Chairperson's Report) the traditional owners achieving native title recognition to numerous uninhabited islands in the region, the Gab Titui Cultural Centre celebrating its second birthday on 16 April 2006 and being awarded the excellence in Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Tourism Award in the Queensland Tourism awards (November 2005) and receiving a high commendation in the same category at the Australian Tourism Awards (February 2006), the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Torres Strait Program ceasing operations after three years of marine environment research and the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA), which made important decisions for fisheries resources allocation within the Torres Strait.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development is a priority focus for the TSRA and once again our business, housing and community portfolios have performed strongly in assisting individuals, organisations and councils to develop and operate local enterprises.

In addition, our partnership with the Queensland Department of State Development, Trade and Innovation (DSDTI) expanded to include the National Australia Bank to add further capacity to business planning within our economic development portfolios.

In conjunction, BFS workshops were undertaken by Learning Network Queensland in Computer Basics, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Internet/Email and Digital Imaging. Workshops were also presented by the Australian Taxation Office covering such topics as Record Keeping, Superannuation, Completion of Business Activity Statements and other aspects of taxation requirements for business.

Our underlying philosophy is that by establishing financially viable and self-sufficient enterprises we generate employment and investment in the Torres Strait and create a sustainable regional economy.

At the end of 2005-2006, our business loan portfolio consisted of 49 active loans, while our home ownership program had a total of 40 active loans. Some initiatives assisted by our economic output during this period include community fuel bowsers at Hammond Island, Mabuig, Boigu and Dauan, Boigu guesthouse and a resort on Warraber Island, as well as ongoing assistance to many small businesses in fields such as fishing, car hire and tour operations.

Our approach to economic development is to ensure that there is a whole-of-government response to initiatives within our region and to this end we have worked closely with the DSDTI and the

Department of Transport and Regional Services (DoTARS) to assist a number of enterprises. The TSRA looks forward to maintaining this strong working relationship with our partners in years to come.

More details of the TSRA's Economic Development output are in later pages.

### *Tourism*

The TSRA further enhanced its support for the Tourism Torres Strait Community initiative this past year by establishing a new position in January 2006. A Tourism and Innovation Coordinator was appointed, whose primary role is to implement tourism and related economic development strategies identified in the TSRA Development Plan 2005-2009. This position will also assist communities to coordinate and enhance tourism opportunities for the region. A collaborative approach will be taken, to involve all tourism stakeholders to work together towards developing tourism infrastructure, tourism investment, marketing, product development, capacity building and increasing market share and access to the region.

During the past six months the TSRA worked towards increasing the region's profile as a tourism destination by coordinating an industry famil tour of the region. Local operators were given the opportunity to meet and establish contacts with their North Queensland counterparts, as well as present our unique region and product to the industry.

In May 2006, a Cape York and Torres Strait Tourism Expo was held at the Cairns Convention Centre. The TSRA saw this as a great opportunity to showcase the region and provided support for the Torres Strait Islands and the Gab Titui Cultural Centre to be represented. The region was exposed to Australian tourism operators as well as 150 overseas tourism leaders, with contacts and interest established during the convention.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING**

### *Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee*

The Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee (JTSHIC) represents a coordinated approach to addressing the housing and infrastructure needs of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. The TSRA provides Secretariat support for JTSHIC and TSRA Chairperson Mr Kris, currently sits as JTSHIC Chairperson. The Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Agreement between the Commonwealth Government, the Queensland Government, the Island Coordinating Council (ICC) and TSRA provides that JTSHIC membership comprises of one Australian Government representative, two Queensland Government representatives, one TSRA representative, and one Island Coordinating Council (ICC) representative.

Also, TSRA is partnering successfully with the Queensland Department of Transport to deliver upgrades to airstrips and marine infrastructure. This partnership is providing a more efficient delivery of infrastructure development in the region.

The JTSHIC also continued to improve its efforts in maximising the planning and coordinating of housing and infrastructure activities throughout Torres Strait by monitoring sub-committee meetings held during the year. These included: the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) Steering Committee, the Island Coordination Council Infrastructure Support Unit (ICCISU) Steering Committee, the Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program (HEMTP) Steering Committee, and the Torres Strait Housing Sub-Committee.

## *Major Infrastructure Program*

Since its commencement in 1998-1999, the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) has proved an outstanding success. MIP, overseen by JTSHIC, seeks to improve the infrastructure standards in the fifteen outer island communities, as well as the communities of Bamaga and Seisia in the Northern Peninsula Area. The first three stages of the program have delivered water supplies, reticulated sewerage, subdivisional developments, roads, drainage and waste disposal projects across 17 communities. These initiatives have had substantial tangible impacts on health, quality of life and overall community sustainability in the Torres Strait region and reflect the overwhelming success of the whole of government partnership that guides the MIP Program.

The Australian and Queensland Governments provided joint contributions amounting to \$60 million for Stages One and Two of the Program, most of which has now been finalised. A \$32.4 million funding agreement has been signed between the Australian and Queensland Governments for Stage Three of the Program.

In 2005-2006 all current projects progressed satisfactorily with the exception of two sewerage projects from Stage two that experienced delays due to land tenure issues (Seisia Sewerage Project and the Horn Island Sewerage Project). These delays are being addressed.

The success of the MIP is due to the cooperative and collaborative efforts of a number of agencies including our partners the Queensland Departments of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation and Main Roads and Transport.

## *Operations and Maintenance of Infrastructure*

In 2005-2006, the TSRA provided \$1.6 million and the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation provided \$1.8 million to fund the operations of the Island Coordinating Council Infrastructure Support Unit including asset renewal and major maintenance activities. The Unit has a responsibility to ensure adequate operations and maintenance of infrastructure throughout the region and an increasing emphasis was made in this area in 2005-2006. The work of the Infrastructure Support Unit complements the substantial benefits being delivered through the Major Infrastructure Program. The Infrastructure Support Unit also has a significant role to perform in ensuring that water quality and quantity are adequate to meet the needs of communities and that technical support is available throughout the region.

## *Other Infrastructure*

The TSRA has also contributed to a number of other significant infrastructure improvements designed to improve the environmental health and wellbeing of residents. These infrastructure improvements include:

### *Airstrips*

In 2005-2006 the TSRA contributed \$1.1 million towards the upgrade of airstrips in partnership with the Queensland Department of Transport. All airstrips have now been upgraded with the exception of Yam Island which is due for completion in August 2006. These upgrades represent substantial improvements to aviation safety, health, and social outcomes, as well as improved access to these remote communities.

### *Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program*

The Torres Strait Regional Authority, the Queensland Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation and the Queensland Department of Main Roads, continued to support the Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program (HEMTP) during 2005-2006.

The Torres Strait HEMTP provides a plant pool of heavy equipment and machinery on a share-basis to island communities to build roads, upgrade airstrips, excavate sewerage channels or other appropriate earth works. The Program is designed to deliver training outcomes for communities by providing opportunities for skill development during these projects.

This valuable and successful program continued during 2005-2006, with substantial HEMTP involvement in the construction of all-weather airstrips at Iama, Mer and Warraber communities. Also during 2005-2006, HEMTP road and drainage projects were undertaken at Mer, Erub, Ugar and Saibai communities.

Since 2004, a total of 42 local persons from the region's communities have been involved in training and development of heavy machinery skills. Each trainee has received a broad range of on and off-site training, and has been employed under the Civil Construction Workers Award, in accordance with a Workforce Skilling Agreement entered into with the Queensland Department of Main Roads Remote Communities Services Unit.

## **ASSISTANCE TO COUNCILS AND 'TOWN' ORGANISATIONS**

The TSRA continued to provide funding and expert assistance to island councils and Thursday Island based organisations in 2005-2006.

Support concentrated in the areas of social justice and legal assistance to Indigenous people of the Torres Strait and to various social programs related to women, aged care and youth issues, art, culture and environment, municipal support, sport and broadcasting.

During 2005-2006, efforts were made specifically towards the tightening up of the Town-based organisations' budgets in terms of outcome delivery and value for money. The exercise culminated in detailed discussions with each organisation in the context of the 2006-2007 budgets formulation and the development of mutually agreed milestones also involving the Island Councils' Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) schemes.

Organisations directly resourced under these programs include the Torres Strait Islanders Media Association (TSIMA), Mura Kosker Sorority, the Port Kennedy Association, and Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula (TSNP) Legal Service, the Islands Coordinating Council (ICC), the Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation (HIAC), the Torres Strait Youth & Recreation Sporting Association (TSYRSA) and TRAWQ Community Council Inc., along with each of the island councils. More details on the funds provided to these organisations are included in this report under Output Five.

This report also includes full details of all machinery and equipment grants made during the past year.

## **NATIVE TITLE**

Torres Strait Islanders first achieved recognition of their traditional rights over land in 1992 through the High Court's landmark Mabo decision over Mer (Murray Island). This case set a precedent for Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people throughout Australia.

The TSRA has significant experience in providing legal representation and other services to native title claimants and holders in relation to the resolving and dealing with native title issues. The TSRA has been the recognised Native Title Representative Body for the Torres Strait area since 1994 and has provided legal advice, representation and has assisted native title claimants and holders in

proceedings under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) to obtain 20 of the 26 consent determinations of native title that have been made over land and waters in the Torres Strait region.

### *Land Claims*

It is pleasing to report that during the reporting period a further six consent determinations were made in relation to the claims over Buru & Waral Kawa, Sassie, Garboi, Yarpur & Uttu, Mualgal#2 and Badulgal/Mualgal#2.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Traditional Owners on their persistence in progressing and having their native title rights and interests legally recognized by the Federal Court. The Native Title Office also made arrangements for the determination hearings to be heard by video link from Sydney and Brisbane to Thursday Island and a number of Traditional Owners travelled to Thursday Island to witness this significant event. I also take this opportunity to thank the Native Title Office staff for their efforts in assisting the Traditional Owners.

The NTO will continue to provide legal assistance and representation to the Traditional Owners of the four remaining claims over land being Zuizin, Naghir, Raine Island and Warral & Ului and every reasonable effort will be made to resolve these claims by consent or some other means.

### *PBC Capacity Building Project*

With the determination of 27 native title claims, 32 Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA) registered on the Register of ILUAs and the incorporation of 19 Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) in relation to land and waters in the Torres Strait Region, TSRA will be placing more emphasis on providing capacity building support to assist PBCs perform their statutory functions, implement ILUAs and to generally manage and address native title issues as they arise.

The Native Title Office, subject to obtaining funding from the National Heritage Trust, will be conducting a two stage PBC research capacity building project. It is envisaged that this project be undertaken over a two year period. Stage one is a six-month research project which will focus identifying key issues that relate to the governance and operational capacity of PBCs. Stage two will be undertaken over 18 months and will focus on the development and implementation of capacity building initiatives identified in stage one.

### *Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim*

The Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim remains a priority matter for the TSRA. The NTO continues to work closely with Senior Counsel and other experts on the anthropological materials and the general preparation and progression of the Sea Claim.

### *NTO Relocation*

The Native Title Office (NTO) relocated in 2005-2006 from the Four-Winds Building behind the Gab Titui Cultural Centre to offices on the ground floor of Torres Strait Haus, under the TSRA main office.

## **ARTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Over the past year, the TSRA maintained the promotion of arts within the Torres Strait. We have funded a variety of activities including school dance tours, exhibitions and performances from Indigenous artists, celebrations of historical events, Indigenous workshops, as well as administered the Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund (IRADF), which is a joint partnership with Arts Queensland.

One of the highlights in this area was the Visual Arts Forum hosted by the TSRA and Arts Queensland at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre in May 2005, which explored strategies for increasing economic and market opportunities for local artists and performers. The resulting Torres Strait Arts Development Plan was ratified by the TSRA Board at their November 2005 meeting. A meeting was held immediately following this with key stakeholder agencies to develop an implementation strategy for the recommendations.

The TSRA's ongoing strategic partnership with the Australian Museum, National Museum of Australia and Queensland Museum was again valuable for promoting arts development within the Torres Strait and at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre.

### *Gab Titui Cultural Centre*

Gab Titui commemorated its second birthday on 16 April 2006, after another outstanding year of achievements. The celebratory week included an annual membership-drive and visitor prizes, and birthday dinner with the Centre's members and guests which included the launch of well known Torres Strait musician and singer, Uncle Seaman Dan's new recording, "Island Way."

The Centre's Café reopened its doors in October 2005 in an expanded format. As well as operating six days a week, it now caters for evening diners at an additional four nights per week as a BYO restaurant. Another important addition has been the construction of a new amenities block including change room facilities for traditional dancers when staging performances for tourists. This building was co-funded by the Queensland Department of Transport and Regional Services.

The Centre's highest achievement over the past year has been its winning the 2005 Queensland Tourism Award in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander category after being in operation for only a year and a half. This award automatically qualified the Centre for entry in the Australian Tourism Awards in which it received a High Commendation.

## **EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

### *Community Development Employment Program*

The TSRA continues to work closely with island councils and organisations, as well as with Centrelink, in the management and delivery of the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) schemes and related employment and training outcomes in the Torres Strait.

The new MOU with Centrelink was finalized and signed off in January 2006. This document, when implemented in association with the actual CDEP Manager resident program, reflects and further defines the eligibility requirements of the participants to the CDEP scheme, eliminates ghosting and double dipping and ensures the increased efficiency of the various processes put in place to respond as quickly as possible to the participants' changes in status and employment circumstances.

In regard to the Island Councils and Town-based CDEP organisations, the TSRA has prepared during 2005-2006 a more outcomes-based approach for CDEP which will result in tighter and leaner schemes in the 2006-2007 financial year, and more apt to achieve true employment outcomes.

Councils are now required to provide detailed work plans that clearly specify the outcome which they wish to achieve for each of the CDEP activities listed in their work plan, with the emphasis being placed on the creation of real jobs.

The TSRA will review its CDEP program in early 2006-2007 to assess the effectiveness of this approach and identify any areas or processes that could be further improved.

The online CDEP Manager system has operated successfully since inception and further improvements and refinements are brought on an ongoing basis.

This system has eliminated the lengthy and time consuming compilation of Participant Schedules, severely reduced the amount of paperwork and enabled a swift response to any changes and alterations in the structure and participation to any of the 19 CDEP schemes operating in the region.

At 30 June 2006, the CDEP schemes involved 1942 CDEP participants working in 19 CDEP organisations. These participants contribute to a diverse range of projects benefiting the local communities in terms of both Community Development and employment statistics. Housing and major infrastructure contracts continue to be won by CDEP organisations, providing participants with extended working hours and increased incomes, as well as valuable training.

### *Community Training Program*

The Community Training Program (CTP), as in previous years, is improving skill levels to enable individuals and communities to improve self-management and become more competitive in mainstream labour markets. Throughout 2005-2006, the employment of Tradesmen/Trainers for the ongoing apprenticeships system has been steadily increasing at the expense of less structured and more ad hoc training courses and programs. It is planned to introduce a business mentoring program in 2006-2007 in response to the overwhelming need for economic development in the region and its links to CDEP.

A concerted effort is being maintained to link courses with CDEP and training and employment opportunities offered by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST), the Queensland Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and the Queensland Department of Employment and Training.

More details of the CDEP and CTP schemes are available in this report.

### *Assistance with Tertiary Education Scheme*

Since its inception in 2002, the Assistance with Tertiary Education Scheme (ATES) continues to assist Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal students from the Torres Strait region undertake full time university study. Six scholarships were awarded for the 2005-2006 year.

## **HEALTH FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT**

The TSRA is a signatory member of the Torres Strait Health Partnership Agreement which on a whole of Government approach seeks to improve health outcomes for the residents of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. Other signatories are the Australian Department of Health and Ageing, Queensland Health, the Torres Strait Island Coordinating Council and the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area District Health Council. The Queensland Ambulance Service participates as a member of the Health Partnership Forum.

A significant outcome for 2005-2006 was the progress towards the delivery of a Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Health Plan. A Regional Community Health Workshop was held in November 2005 which highlighted the issues and priorities to be included in the Plan. This has now

been endorsed by the District Health Council, and is being considered by the Island Coordinating Council and the TSRA before being implemented by the Torres Strait Health Partnership.

In addition, the TSRA has led the way with other key agencies in the region in developing a Regional Dengue Eradication Strategy. This has involved the TSRA allocating \$100,000 in 2006-2007 towards the development of an eradication strategy and key deliverables on the ground.

## **FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENT**

### *Fisheries Management*

The TSRA continues to enjoy a cooperative working arrangement with members of the Community Fisher Group (CFG): traditional inhabitants of the region: the commercial fishing industry: the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA); the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), the Queensland Government Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (QDPI&F), the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Torres Strait Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), and the Papua New Guinea National Fisheries Authority (NFA).

The TSRA also continues to employ a Fisheries Coordinator to coordinate participation and involvement of CFG members in the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) consultative structure processes. Under a cooperative funding agreement, AFMA QDPI&F and the TSRA each contribute \$30,000 per annum towards the costs incurred by the Fisheries Coordinator.

Working towards the TSRA's long term vision of having Torres Strait Fisheries owned and managed by Australian traditional inhabitants for their benefit, the TSRA allocated \$200,000 in 2005-2006 to participate in the PZJA consultative structure, and to build CFG member's capacity to participate in fisheries management.

### *Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Torres Strait*

CRC Torres Strait, of which TSRA is a key partner along with several research agencies and government departments, completed a three year marine research program in Torres Strait in 2005-2006. The Program focused on research to assist with the management of marine resources and included opportunities for local communities to participate in the research activities.

### *Natural Heritage Trust*

To enable the effective coordination and implementation of land and sea management initiatives throughout the region, the TSRA has established a Land & Sea Management Unit with funding under the Natural Heritage Trust. The Land & Sea Management Unit will work in partnership with Island Councils, Prescribed Bodies Corporate, and other relevant agencies, research entities and stakeholder groups to support sustainable management of land and sea resources in the Torres Strait region. The Unit is comprised of a Manager, Regional Natural Resource Management Facilitator, Dugong & Turtle Project Facilitator, a Landcare Officer, and Administration Officer.

The Badu Island Land & Sea Management Program is an example of a successful on-ground natural resource management initiative occurring at the community level in the Torres Strait. The TSRA is also coordinating the implementation of a NHT-funded Dugong & Marine Turtle Management Project in the Torres Strait, in collaboration with the Northern Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA). This project is designed to support communities in their efforts to sustainably manage dugongs and marine turtles.

## ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT

### *Staffing*

The TSRA's workforce continues to be diverse and dynamic with a large percentage of our staff being Indigenous. The TSRA's permanent staff numbers remained consistent with the previous year as the organisation continued to experience some minor fine-tuning of its administrative and service delivery functions. Our Policy Coordination and Development and Economic Development sections continued to aggressively seek other funding from other government agencies in the interest of ensuring a whole-of-government approach in addressing key regional priorities.

The TSRA's Corporate Plan was reviewed in 2005-2006 following the review of the Torres Strait Development Plan. TSRA continues to improve its service delivery standards to clients, stakeholders, Board Members and staff. An updated TSRA Service Charter was published in 2005-2006.

The Performance Management Program (PMP) continues to be an effective reward-based scheme for all employees. The PMP cycle involves a six-month mid-cycle review and a twelve-month review of all performance agreements. This program focuses on maintaining our current high standards and at the same time rewarding exceptional individual effort.

### *Leadership Program*

The TSRA has developed and implemented an internal Leadership Program which aims to assist staff to build their capacity and advance professionally within the organisation and throughout the Australian Public Service in general. The current participants for this program include Charlie Kaddy, David Curtis and Napcia Bin Tahal.

### *Our Support for the Board*

The TSRA Board and administration continued its good working relationship during the past year. Under the leadership of the Chairperson, Mr Kris, the TSRA's Executive should be credited for their efforts over the past year in addressing the issues and concerns of the Torres Strait.

Once again, I am committed to maintaining this relationship between the two arms of the TSRA Administration and Board, to ensure that we can deliver maximum outcomes to the region.

### *Audit and Evaluation*

The TSRA again performed well at audit. We were given a clean 'bill of health' by the Office of Evaluation and Audit in May 2006 and by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) in August 2005. The ANAO has again conducted our external audit in July 2006 for the 2005-2006 financial year.

### *Relationship with the Minister*

During 2005-2006, the Indigenous Affairs portfolio was moved from the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs to the Department of Families and Community Services, in which TSRA came under a new Minister, the Honourable Mal Brough.

The change did not affect TSRA's program delivery and we continue to service the Torres Strait region under the Indigenous Affairs portfolio. Our programs continue to be administered separately from the programs now being delivered by mainstream departments on the mainland.

Both the Chair and myself met with our Minister this year and have built a relationship focused on working in partnership to produce positive outcomes for our region, and for the rest of Australia's Indigenous people.

We also welcomed to the Torres Strait a number of State and Australian Ministers and Parliamentarians during 2005-2006, in which TSRA's services and achievements were discussed, as well as current regional issues.

I take this opportunity to thank all the TSRA staff and the Board members for their dedication and effort in 2005-2006 and look forward to another dynamic year in 2006-2007.



Wayne See Kee  
General Manager

## TSRA BOARD

The TSRA consists of 20 Members, eighteen of whom hold office by virtue of their election to Island Council Chairperson positions on 27 March, 2004 under the *Queensland Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984*. The other two Members, representing Port Kennedy and Horn/Prince of Wales Islands, were elected on 3 April, 2004 in accordance with Division 5 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*.

### The TSRA Members are:

Mr John Toshie Kris	Mr Elia Doolah	Mr Maluwap Nona
Mr Fred Gela	Mr Joseph Elu	Mr Robert Sagigi
Mr Jesse Sagaukaz	Mrs Louisa Guise	Mr Saila Savage
Mr Jack Ahmat	Mrs Margaret Mau	Mr Bill Shibasaki
Mr Donald Banu	Mr Walter Mackie	Mr Rocky Stephen
Mr Ted Billy	Mr Donald Mosby	Mr Terry Waia
Mr Ron Day	Mrs Norah Pearson	

### *Mr Toshie Kris*, Chairperson & Member for St Pauls Community, Moa Island

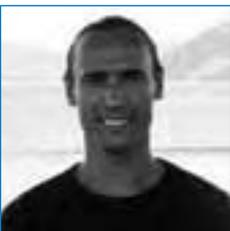


Mr Kris is the appointed Chairperson of the Torres Strait Regional Authority who was elected in May 2004. Mr Kris shares responsibility for the TSRA Portfolio areas of Marine and Fisheries, and Regional Governance and Legislative Reform and is also the Chairperson of St Pauls Community Council, a registered training organisation, and a member of the Island Coordinating Council (ICC).

Previously, Mr Kris held the Portfolio for Housing and Infrastructure prior to becoming Chairperson and is the first Torres Strait Islander to complete studies with the Australian Rural Leadership Program, for which he was sponsored by Ports Corporation Queensland.

In his role as TSRA Chairperson, Mr Kris aims to further progress the areas of Fisheries and Native Title and pursue the Torres Strait people's desire for greater economic development. He is also committed to continuing the Major Infrastructure Program, the provision of housing, increased training opportunities and working towards his people's aspiration for greater autonomy.

### *Mr Fred Gela*, Deputy Chairperson & Member for Hammond Island



Mr Gela is the Deputy Chairperson of TSRA, Chairperson of Hammond Island Council and member of the ICC. Mr Gela also holds the Portfolio for Housing and Infrastructure on the TSRA Board.

Mr Gela believes that the most important issues affecting Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in this region are access to housing and improvements to related infrastructure, access to education and training opportunities

and progressing regional autonomy. Mr Gela is continuing negotiations to implement a Torres Strait Housing Strategy which would specifically address Torres Strait housing issues. His vision is for Torres Strait Islander people to achieve self-governance and embrace a regional approach to issues to improve overall living standards throughout all Torres Strait communities.

### *Mr Jesse Sagaukaz*, Alternate Deputy Chairperson & Member for Bamaga Community



Mr Sagaukaz is the TSRA Alternate Deputy Chairperson, TSRA Portfolio member for Employment, Education, Training and Arts and Chairperson of Bamaga Community Council.

Mr Sagaukaz believes that with personal empowerment Torres Strait people will continue to accomplish significant achievements that will benefit their community and the region.

His desire is to encourage additional resources and support for new business ventures and existing small business operators. Mr Sagaukaz attributes education as the fundamental cornerstone for Torres Strait people to realise their ambitions and as an essential vehicle to obtaining autonomy.

In his view, culture is the foundation that identifies Torres Strait as a nation of people and he encourages all generations to embrace revitalisation strategies.

### *Mr Jack Ahmat*, Member for Badu Island



Mr Ahmat is continuing his representation on the TSRA Board for a third term. He is Chairperson of Badu Island Council and a member of the ICC.

Mr Ahmat acknowledges the main concerns in the region as health, housing, promotion of culture, economic development, and protection of the environment and fisheries. He believes it is important for the TSRA to support the youth of the Torres Strait.

### *Mr Donald Banu*, Member for Boigu Island



Mr Banu is the Boigu Island Council Chairperson, a member of the ICC and the TSRA Portfolio member for Native Title.

He is a traditional owner from Boigu and was an active participant in the Public Works dispute involving the Queensland Government and the traditional owners of Boigu, Erub, Ugar, Iama and Badu communities in the Torres Strait.

Mr Banu considers native title, economic development, regional governance, fisheries and home ownership as the key areas that need to be addressed during the TSRA's current four-year term.

### *Mr Ted Billy*, Member for Warraber Island



Mr Billy is the Chairperson of Warraber Island Council and a member of the ICC. Issues that are important to Mr Billy are health, housing, training, employment and education.

Mr Billy highlights the importance of raising health standards across the Torres Strait and developing better health education programs that will enable communities to build a defence against reoccurring health problems.

Mr Billy also considers an increase in traineeships and apprenticeships as a vital component of building community capacity and fulfilling youth ambitions.

Accessible home ownership and full entitlement to land were two further issues that he endeavours to pursue during his term.

He also supports the pursuit of greater autonomy but would like to encourage leaders to focus on an agreeable model that has the full support of the wider community. Mr Billy firmly believes that to address regional priorities Torres Strait elected leaders, elders and clans must approach government as a unified people with one heart, mind and voice.

### *Mr Ron B. Day*, Member for Mer (Murray) Island



Mr Day is the Mer Island Council Chairperson and a member of the ICC. He has been a member of the TSRA since 2000 and considers youth development a priority for the Torres Strait.

Mr Day believes that economic, social, spiritual and cultural developments are important outcomes that each Torres Strait community should strive to achieve.

Mr Day is confident that preparing youth to take a responsible stand on Torres Strait issues will help the region achieve these outcomes.

### *Mr Elia Doolah*, Member for Erub (Darnley) Island

Mr Doolah is the Chairperson of Erub Island Council and the TSRA Portfolio member for Legal and Media. He also holds responsibilities as a member of the ICC Board.



Since being appointed to the Legal and Media Portfolio, Mr Doolah is focused on further improving the media service to the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area for enhanced communication and sharing of information, language and culture. He also aims to improve the legal service in the region to keep community members informed about legal matters and decrease the percentage of offenders coming in contact with the legal system and being removed from their communities.

*Mr Joseph Elu*, Member for Seisia Community



Mr Elu is the Chairperson of Seisia Council, Chairperson of Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) and a member of the ICC. Mr Elu is encouraging an increase in funding for business development, the establishment of a small business development agency, and an agreement on a regional economic development strategy that incorporates eco-tourism.

Under Mr Elu's direction, Seisia Island Council has successfully established a number of business enterprises and has achieved a greater degree of financial independence. Mr Elu has been appointed Co-Chair of the Voluntary Service to Indigenous Communities Foundation, member of the Reconciliation Australia Board and member of the SBS Board. Mr Elu places emphasis on the development of eco-tourism incorporating sports fishing as a means of achieving a measure of economic independence.

*Mrs Louisa Guise*, Member for Mabuiag Island



Mrs Guise is the TSRA Member for Mabuiag, Chairperson of Mabuiag Island Council and a member of the ICC.

Mrs Guise would like to see the standard of housing improved across the region and has highlighted the need to upgrade existing housing to accommodate extended families.

She supports the introduction of small accommodation ventures such as guesthouses throughout the outer islands, believing that they encourage business to communities, provide options to visitors and revenue for councils to feed back into community initiatives.

Of particular interest to Mrs Guise are possible opportunities for economic development throughout the Torres Strait and she looks forward to the further investigation of fisheries and aquaculture ventures. She also sees improvement in health services as a major concern.

### *Mrs Margaret Mau*, Member for Dauan Island



Mrs Mau is the TSRA Portfolio member for Women and Families and the Chairperson of the ICC and Dauan Island Council. Issues of concern to Mrs Mau are providing people of the outer island communities with access to basic services, regular maintenance to current housing to ensure liveable standards and, most importantly, establishing a form of air service on Dauan and Stephen Islands to assist in emergency situations and daily travel.

In her role as Portfolio member for Women's Issues, Mrs Mau pursues and encourages ongoing training and professional development of Torres Strait women to enable them to gain sustainable economic development and employment opportunities, as well as equal representation in decision-making processes within the region.

Mrs Mau is committed to improving health and protecting the environment of communities throughout the Torres Strait and encourages broader support for families.

As an advocate for native title Mrs Mau encourages traditional owners to pursue their determinations and hopes she can also make a difference in the lives of Torres Strait women by progressing issues of importance to them.

### *Mr Walter Mackie*, Member for Iama (Yam) Island



Mr Mackie is the TSRA Member for Iama Island. Mr Mackie is also the Chairperson of Iama Island Council, member of the ICC and TSRA Portfolio member for Environment and Health.

Since taking on the Portfolio for Environment, Mr Mackie has been addressing the major concerns relating to island erosion as well as the protection and preservation of the region's natural resources through the establishment of the TSRA Land and Sea Management Unit.

Mr Mackie represents the TSRA on the Torres Strait Health Partnership and the District Health Council. In this role he is addressing the need to improve the quality of health service delivered in the region.

*Mr Donald Mosby*, Member for Masig (Yorke) Island



Mr Mosby is the Chairperson of Yorke Island Council and a member of the ICC. He holds the TSRA Portfolio for Small Business and Economic Development and shares the Portfolio for Marine and Fisheries. Mr Mosby is also a member of the TSRA Fisheries Committee, PZJA Management Consultative Structure, Torres Strait Aquaculture Steering Committee and the North Queensland Indigenous Fisheries Committee.

Mr Mosby aims to develop tourism and establish commercial ventures on Yorke Island as well as other communities in the region. He encourages all community members to gain qualifications through tertiary education and training to increase the opportunity to establish their own enterprises and gain sustainable employment.

Mr Mosby also encourages further development in the tourism, fisheries, building and commercial industries to move away from welfare dependence and progress to greater autonomy.

*Mrs Norah Pearson*, Member for Poruma (Coconut) Island



Mrs Pearson is the TSRA Member for Poruma, newly elected Chairperson of Poruma Island Council and a member of the ICC. This is Mrs Pearson's first term on the TSRA Board.

While on the TSRA Board, Mrs Pearson is interested in lobbying for further housing and infrastructure development and to improve education and training for the youth of the region. She is also devoted to empowering Torres Strait Islander people to gain skills and qualifications in order to occupy senior positions within their communities.

*Mr Maluwap Nona*, Member for Ngurupai (Horn) and Muralug (Prince of Wales) Islands



Mr Nona is the TSRA Member for Ngurupai (Horn) and Muralug (Prince of Wales) Islands and holds the Portfolio for Language, Culture, Sport and Youth and shares responsibility for the Portfolio of Regional Governance and Legislative Reform.

*Mr Robert Sagigi*, Member for TRAWQ, Thursday Island



Mr Sagigi's represents the TRAWQ communities on the TSRA Board and a member of the ICC.

Mr Sagigi is a traditional owner of Badu Island and a strong advocate for native title rights.

*Mr Saila Savage*, Member for Kubin Community, Moa Island



Mr Savage was elected Chairperson of Kubin Island Council for a second term in March 2004 and is a member of the ICC. His priorities include expansion of the community through the construction of more housing and the development of community enterprises.

Mr Savage aims to increase training opportunities and apprenticeships available for the region's youth so their skills can directly assist the community and help establish enterprises. He encourages youth to also undertake training on the mainland so they may bring experience, ideas and expertise back to their islands.

*Mr Isao (Bill) Shibasaki*, Member for Port Kennedy, Thursday Island



Mr Shibasaki is the member for Port Kennedy on the TSRA Board.

Mr Shibasaki is also a member of the Torres Shire Council (TSC). He considers regional cooperation by stakeholders at all levels as the key to achieving community aspirations. Mr Shibasaki recently facilitated the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding between the TSRA and TSC which aims to strengthen the relationship between the two bodies.

He highlights industry development (in particular aquaculture), home ownership, improved corporate governance and improved communication between regional agencies as the important issues for the next four years.

### *Mr Rocky G. Stephen*, Member for Ugar (Stephen) Island



Mr Stephen is the TSRA Board member for Ugar (Stephen Island). He is the Ugar Island Council Chairperson and a member of the ICC and Islanders Board of Industry and Service (IBIS) Boards.

Mr Stephen is a traditional owner and considers native title rights including ownership over land and sea as among the top priorities for the Torres Strait.

Other priority areas that he believes need to be addressed are the establishment of airstrips on Ugar and Dauan, extending dredging channels in the region and establishing a store on Ugar to service his community. He also sees improving outer island sports facilities, housing, improving health services and youth development in island communities as major concerns.

### *Mr Terry Waia*, Member for Saibai Island



Mr Waia is a councillor for Saibai Island Council and a member of the ICC. Mr Waia was the former Chairperson of the TSRA from 2000 to 2004.

Mr Waia is a member of the Ait Koedal Clan and has been elected Saibai's regional representative by the Saibai Island Council.

He is keen to retain traditional values in the Torres Strait and has led several delegations, both in Australia and Papua New Guinea, to negotiate arrangements under the Torres Strait Treaty to protect the lifestyle of people living in the Torres Strait.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEES

At 30 June 2006 the TSRA had one advisory committee according to section 142M of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005. This was:

- Audit Advisory Committee – Membership: Mr Terry Waia, Mr Maluwap Nona, Mr Bill Shibasaki and Mr Ted Billy.

## PORTFOLIO POSITIONS

The TSRA Portfolio members for 2005-2006 are:

Women and Families	Mrs Margaret Mau
Small Business and Economic Development	Mr Donald Mosby
Language, Culture, Sport and Youth	Mr Maluwap Nona
Legal and Media	Mr Elia Doolah
Housing and Infrastructure	Mr Fred Gela
Environment and Health	Mr Walter Mackie
Employment, Education, Training and the Arts	Mr Jesse Sagaukaz
Marine and Fisheries	Mr Donald Mosby and Mr Toshie Kris
Regional Governance and Legislative Reform	Mr Toshie Kris and Mr Maluwap Nona
Native Title	Mr Donald Banu

## TSRA MEETINGS

The TSRA held four meetings between 1 July 2005 and 30 June 2006.

Meetings	Date	Duration
No. 53	30 August - 1 September 2005	2 days
No. 54	15-17 November 2005	3 days
No. 55	7-8 March 2006	2 days
No. 56	6-7 June 2006	2 days

All members attended these meetings except for the following who forwarded their apologies prior to the meetings listed below:

Meeting No. 53 – Members for Boigu, Mer, Horn and Prince of Wales, Bamaga, TRAWQ and Ugar

Meeting No. 54 – Members for Mer, Horn and Prince of Wales, and TRAWQ

Meeting No. 55 – Members for Mabuia, Boigu and Horn and Prince of Wales

Meeting No. 56 – Members for Horn and Prince of Wales and Seisia





# *About the TSRA*



*Seisia Community,  
Northern Peninsula Area.*

## ABOUT THE TSRA

### TORRES STRAIT REGION

The Torres Strait stretches 150 kilometres from the tip of Cape York Peninsula in North Queensland to the southwest coast of Papua New Guinea. Islands, reefs, coral and sand cays are scattered throughout the region, the northern-most island reaching to within five kilometres of the Papua New Guinea coastline.

Culturally unique and remarkably beautiful, the Torres Strait is predominantly inhabited by Torres Strait Islander people who possess strong seafaring and trading traditions, and maintain bonds to the sea through their culture, lifestyle and history.

The region was named after Torres, a Spanish explorer who sailed through the Torres Strait in 1606. After the arrival of missionaries and early settlers who were involved in the pearling, beche-de-mer and mining industries, the Queensland administration of the Torres Strait was established in 1877, relocating from Somerset to Thursday Island.

The region includes 18 island communities, with populations ranging from approximately 55 to 1,631, and also 2 mainland communities. The region's total population is estimated at 8,306, of whom 6,168 are Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people. Approximately 37,406 Torres Strait Islander people live outside the Torres Strait region.

Torres Strait Islanders first achieved recognition of their traditional rights over their land in 1992, through the High Court's landmark decision to grant the people of Miriam native title rights over Mer (Murray Island). This was the first time native title had been recognised under the common law of Australia. It set a precedent for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people throughout Australia who have since put forward their own claims under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), hoping to achieve equally successful outcomes. Torres Strait Islanders have since achieved native title rights over Moa, Saibai, Warraber, Poruma, Masig, Mabuiag, Dauan, Iama, Erub, Ugar, Boigu, Badu, Aureed, Gebar, Yarpap and Uttu, Sassie, Buru and Warral Kawa, Waiar and Dauar Islands in the Torres Strait. In addition, the Kaurareg people of the region have achieved recognition of their native title rights over seven inner islands - Ngurupai (Horn Island), Muralag (Prince of Wales Island), Zuna (Entrance Island), Yeta (Port Lihou Island), Mipa (Turtle Island), Tarilag (Packer Island) and Damaralag. Torres Strait Islanders are now pursuing their native title rights over four remaining land claims and over their traditional sea country.

### OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

The TSRA aims to improve the lifestyle and wellbeing of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region through implementing programs that address their poor socio-economic and health status. Due to the history of severe disadvantage suffered by the Indigenous people of the region, such improvements will be gradual. A report by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody revealed that significant improvements could only be achieved through fundamental changes in society's attitudes and recognition of the rights of Australia's Indigenous citizens. Consideration should be given to these factors when assessing the TSRA's programs.

The following report of the TSRA's Operating Environment has four sources:

- statistics, taken from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) 1996 Census information, which provide details of the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal population in the Torres Strait region, indicating the extent of need in several program areas;
- second release statistics taken from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) 2001 Census information which provide details of the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal population in the Torres Strait region;
- Australian Government strategies, policies and responses, which have shaped many of the TSRA's program activities; and
- Queensland Health, from which regional statistics have been obtained.

## EXTENT OF NEED

### *Population*

The 2001 Census showed that the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal population in the region:

- 6,168 represents over 74 per cent of the total population of the region, approximately 1.5 per cent of the Indigenous population of Australia and approximately 5.5 per cent of the Indigenous population of Queensland;
- had increased by 1.7 per cent since 1996 – this small increase possibly indicating a continuing migration of people from out of the area but further research is required; and
- had a median age of 20 years compared to 35 years for the non-Indigenous population of the region.

### *Employment*

The 2001 Census information showed:

- the number of unemployed Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait region was 122 and altogether 2,116 people were employed. This represents an unemployment rate of 5.5 per cent for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people compared to 3.1 per cent for the non-Indigenous population of the region. In 1996 the unemployment rate in the Torres Strait Islander labour force was 5 per cent. Note: Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants are counted as employed.

### *Education*

The 2001 Census showed that in the Torres Strait region:

- 6.8 per cent (420) of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over indicated they had a tertiary qualification compared to 40.4 per cent of non-Indigenous people; and
- a further 3.7 per cent (227) of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over were studying for a tertiary qualification.

### *Income*

Household incomes of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people were, according to the 2001 Census, on average lower than those of other households. Of those households where all income data was available:

- 29.2 per cent of households earned less than \$500 per week compared to 16 per cent of other households; and
- at the upper income levels, 6 per cent of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal households had incomes over \$1,500 per week compared to 24.9 per cent of other households.

## Housing

The following information is derived from the Report to the Housing Ministers Advisory Council Multi Measure Modelling of Indigenous Housing Needs August 2003. The source data for this report was based on Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 Census information and the Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey 2001. The Torres Strait area was defined as an ATSI region in the Report.

- Out of the total number of households surveyed in the Torres Strait, 20.7 per cent of those households were overcrowded. This was above the total regional average (for all ATSI regions) of 18.92 per cent.
- The Torres Strait region was the third highest region with the highest number of dwellings requiring major repair or replacement. The number of dwellings needing major repair or replacement was 369. This is 19 per cent of the total Queensland figure of 1,916. (Major repairs were defined as repairs of \$20,000 to less than \$60,000 in low cost areas, \$27,000 to less than \$80,000 in medium cost areas and \$33,000 to less than \$100,000 in high cost areas. Replacement was defined as repairs of \$60,000 or more in low cost areas, \$80,000 or more in medium cost areas and \$100,000 or more in high cost areas.)
- This figure represented 36.8 per cent of the total number of dwellings surveyed (in the Torres Strait region) and is above the total regional average (for all ATSI regions) of 26.1 per cent.

## Health

The following information is derived from the Report on Health Indicators for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Health Service District (2001) and is a publication of the Tropical Public Health Unit Network of Queensland Health.

- Rates for all causes of death were higher in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Health Service District than in Queensland, with much of the excess occurring in the age group 40-70 years.
- Deaths due to Diabetes Mellitus were more than 10 times higher in the District than in Queensland. Information on deaths due to Diabetes Mellitus was sourced from Improving Diabetes Self-Care in the Torres Strait: a one-year randomised cluster trial 2002-2003.
- Hospital admission rates for Diabetes Mellitus were 10 times higher in the Torres Strait than rates for Queensland over the period 1994-1998.
- Mosquito-borne diseases are 164 times higher than rates for Queensland for the period 1999-2003. Recent Dengue Fever outbreaks resulted in 277 cases and the death of one person in 2003-2004.
- A further complication in the fight against dengue fever arose in 2005 when a second mosquito capable of causing dengue fever was detected in the Torres Strait for the first time.
- Data gathered from community consultation and available statistics and studies indicated that numerous factors impacted on the health status of the Torres Strait region including environment, housing, infrastructure, nutrition, access to health services, community involvement and traditional culture, alcohol and other substance abuse, infectious diseases, women's health and mental health.

## FORMATION

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) was established on 1 July 1994, under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*, following a review of the Act. Under the Act, the Torres Strait was one of 35 ATSI regions throughout Australia. The review proposed the creation of a separate Torres Strait authority with the same powers as ATSI.

Following consultation with the Torres Strait Regional Council, and the Council's subsequent historic decision, the Parliament of Australia established the Torres Strait Regional Authority within the framework of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989* (ATSIC Act).

On 16 March 2005 Parliament passed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment Bill 2005 repealing provisions of the *Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989* (Cth), and in particular abolishing ATSIC. The legislation received Royal Assent and was proclaimed with effect from 24 March 2005. The Act is now referred to as the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (ATSI Act).

The TSRA consists of an elected arm and an administrative arm. The elected arm is comprised of 20 elected representatives who are Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region. Eighteen TSRA Members are Island Council Chairpersons elected under the *Queensland Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984*, and two TSRA Members are elected under Division 5 of the ATSI Act.

Members of the TSRA elect a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and an Alternate Deputy Chairperson. A General Manager is responsible for the TSRA's administration and staffing.

## ENABLING LEGISLATION

The enabling legislation as stated in Part 3A Division 1 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*, Section 142 is as follows:

- (1) A Torres Strait Regional Authority is established.
- (2) The TSRA:
  - a. is a body corporate, with perpetual succession; and
  - b. is to have a common seal; and
  - c. may acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property; and
  - d. may sue and be sued in its corporate name.

Note:

The *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* applies to the TSRA. That Act deals with matters relating to Commonwealth authorities, including reporting and accountability, banking and investment, and conduct of officers.

- (3) The common seal of the TSRA is to be kept in such custody as the TSRA directs and must not be used except as authorised by the TSRA.
- (4) All courts, judges and persons acting judicially must:
  - (a) take judicial notice of the imprint of the common seal of the TSRA appearing on a document; and
  - (b) presume that the imprint was duly affixed.

## FUNCTIONS

The functions of the TSRA as outlined in Section 142A of the ATSI Act, are:

- (a) to recognise and maintain the special and unique Ailan Kastom of Torres Strait Islanders living in the Torres Strait area;
- (b) to formulate and implement programs for Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (c) to monitor the effectiveness of programs for Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area, including programs conducted by other bodies;
- (d) to develop policy proposals to meet national, State and regional needs and priorities of Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (e) to assist, advise and co-operate with Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal communities, organisations and individuals at national, State, Territory and regional levels;
- (f) to advise the Minister on:
  - (i) matters relating to Torres Strait Islander affairs, and Aboriginal affairs, in the Torres Strait area, including the administration of legislation;
  - (ii) the co-ordination of the activities of other Commonwealth bodies that affect Torres Strait Islanders, or Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (g) when requested by the Minister, to provide information or advice to the Minister on any matter specified by the Minister;
- (h) to take such reasonable action as it considers necessary to protect Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal cultural material and information relating to the Torres Strait area if the material or information is considered sacred or otherwise significant by Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal persons;
- (i) at the request of, or with the agreement of, the Australian Bureau of Statistics but not otherwise, to collect and publish statistical information relating to Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (j) such other functions as are conferred on the TSRA by this Act or any other Act;
- (k) such other functions as are expressly conferred on the TSRA by a law of a State or of an internal Territory and in respect of which there is in force written approval by the Minister under section 142B;
- (l) to undertake such research as is necessary to enable the TSRA to perform any of its other functions;
- (m) to do anything else that is incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the preceding functions.

## POWERS

The powers of the TSRA, as outlined in section 142C of the ATSI Act 2005, are the following:

- (1) The TSRA has power to do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of its functions.
- (2) The powers of the TSRA include, but are not limited to, the following powers:
  - (a) to accept gifts, grants, bequests and devises made to it;
  - (b) to act as trustee of money and other property vested in it on trust;
  - (c) to negotiate and co-operate with other Commonwealth bodies and with State, Territory and local government bodies;
  - (d) to enter into an agreement for making a grant or loan under section 142GA to the State of Queensland or an authority of that State (including a local government body); and
  - (e) to enter into an agreement (other than an agreement referred to in paragraph (d) with a State or a Territory.
- (3) Despite anything in this Act, any money or other property held by the TSRA on trust must be dealt with in accordance with the powers and duties of the TSRA as trustee.
- (4) The powers of the TSRA may be exercised in or out of Australia.

## POWERS OF DIRECTION BY THE MINISTER

The TSRA is directed by the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Honourable Mal Brough, under section 142E of the ATSI Act 2005, which states:

- (1) The TSRA must perform its functions and exercise its powers in accordance with any general written directions given to it by the Minister.
- (2) The Minister must not give directions about the content of any advice, information or recommendation that may be given by the TSRA to a Minister, Department of State or authority of the Commonwealth.
- (3) The Minister must not give directions about the content of any advice, information or recommendation that may be given by the TSRA to:
  - (a) a Minister of a State or Territory; or
  - (b) a Department of State of a State or Territory; or
  - (c) an authority of a State or Territory;

except for the purpose of protecting the confidentiality of information given to the TSRA by the Commonwealth or an authority of the Commonwealth.

- (4) Subject to subsection (5), the Minister must cause a copy of a direction to be laid before each House of the Parliament within 15 sitting days of that House after that direction was given.
- (5) The rule in subsection (4) does not apply if the laying of a copy of a direction before each House of the Parliament would result in the disclosure of a matter in a manner that would be inconsistent with the views or sensitivities of Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal persons.

## CORPORATE OVERVIEW

The Corporate Services section provides a range of administrative and program services and is responsible for managing the corporate and financial requirements of the TSRA including executive support, finance, property, human resources, Workplace Agreement 2003-2006, staff development and training, reception, registry and secretariat services to the TSRA Board and Office of the Chairperson.

### *Objectives:*

- Support delivery of the TSRA services to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait region;
- promote the efficient and effective use of human, financial and physical resources;
- create a rewarding, safe, healthy and equitable working environment;
- ensure the provision of efficient services for the TSRA Administration and Board and the Minister in order to facilitate decision-making;
- manage and maintain assets of the TSRA; and
- create and maintain systems which promote good corporate governance within both the Board and Administration arms of the TSRA.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

### **AUDIT**

The TSRA continued to be scrutinised by government audit agencies during the year. The TSRA actively responds to deficiencies identified by audit agencies and endeavours to continually improve the quality of administrative, and program procedures.

Internal: The Office of Evaluation and Audit (OEA) undertakes internal audits of the TSRA in accordance with S. 76 of the ATSI Act 2005. In June 2006, OEA undertook an internal audit of the TSRA.

External: The 2005-2006 financial statement audit commenced after the reporting period in July 2006 by HLB Mann Judd on behalf on the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), resulting in an unqualified audit opinion, as indicated by the Auditor General, at the beginning of the Financial Statements.

### **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The TSRA Audit Committee was elected in November 2004. The TSRA Board endorsed the following Members to form the Committee:

Mr Terry Waia, Member for Saibai Island

Mr Maluwap Nona, Member for Ngurupai (Horn) and Muralag (Prince of Wales) Islands,

Mr Bill Shibasaki, Member for Port Kennedy and  
Mr Ted Billy, Member for Warraber Island (elected to the Committee at the TSRA Board Meeting in June 2006).

The Audit Committee is formed primarily to assist the TSRA Board in fulfilling its responsibilities relating to the accounting and reporting practices of the TSRA. The committee also assists the TSRA and board in corporate governance areas, particularly in regard to complying with obligations under the *Commonwealth and Securities Act 1997*.

During 2005-2006, the Audit Committee met three times:

- 29 August 2005
- 6 March 2006
- 5 June 2006

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Indemnities and insurance premiums for officers:

- The TSRA has not given any indemnity to current or former officers against a liability.
- The TSRA pays an annual premium for insurance to Comcover, which in some cases, namely professional indemnity, does protect against a current or former officer's liability for legal costs.
- The review and update of the TSRA's Risk Management Strategy continues as a high priority and will include training to all staff.

## **CERTIFIED WORKPLACE AGREEMENT & INDIVIDUAL WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS**

The TSRA Certified Agreement 2003-2006 continues to be in use with the majority of staff employed under this Agreement. A number of staff however are employed under individual Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs), which have been approved by the Office of the Employment Advocate. There are a total of 13 AWAs at various APS levels within the organisation.

## **PERSONNEL**

**Payroll:** Frontier Software Pty Ltd, a leading Human Resource and Payroll company were commissioned to install the TSRA's own computer-based HR & Payroll system to enable the organisation to complete these functions in-house from 2005-2006. This is the first time the TSRA will have administered its own payroll services and to effectively manage this service a new permanent Payroll/Finance Officer was appointed. The payroll function was previously outsourced to the Island Co-ordinating Council on Thursday Island.

**Staff Development and Training:** Staff attended various internal and external training and development courses throughout the year including Project Management, Risk Management, Superannuation, Payroll and Information Technology. The TSRA has a policy of offering three office administration traineeships each calendar year and has continued with a further three in 2005-2006.

**Leave Records:** With the commissioning of HR and Payroll functions in-house, all leave records previously managed manually by the TSRA are now managed through the HR and Payroll electronic system. Before data was introduced to the system a major project was undertaken to conduct a reconciliation of all leave balances including Long Service Leave, Personal Leave, Annual Leave, Maternity Leave and Leave Without Pay.

## PROPERTY

The TSRA has an office accommodation usage of 994 square metres for 79 staff and the TSRA Chairperson, providing an average of 15.58 square metres per person.

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The TSRA is an EEO employer and upholds the Australian Public Service Values. The TSRA “provides a workplace that is free from discrimination and recognises and utilises the diversity of the Australian community it serves”. Staff members and management receive up to date information and have access to the publications from the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC), Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) and numerous other agencies on employment related issues including, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Harassment Free Workplaces and Workplace Diversity. EEO and Harassment officers for the TSRA have been elected from within the staff. EEO statistical information is collected upon recruitment of all TSRA staff and provided to the APSC. The TSRA statistical data is set out in Appendix 4 (c).

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI)

A statement outlining the structure of the TSRA, as required under Section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, can be found in Appendix 2. During the reporting period no FOI request was received for access to native title documents. No applications for Internal Review or applications to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, for review of a decision in relation to a request was received.

## INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY

As an integral part of the Certified Agreement the TSRA has established a Workplace Agreement Consultative Committee, as the consultative body with representatives from management and employees. The TSRA fosters and promotes regular management, section and staff meetings.

## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OH&S)

The TSRA recognises its responsibilities under the *Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991*. The TSRA and staff cooperate on OH&S Policy and operational matters as stated in the Certified Agreement, and take part in appropriate national consultation. Staff members are informed of the current issues and receive OH&S publications from Comcare as they are developed. The OH&S position is currently vacant and an Officer will be selected from within the staff to fill this position.

## PRIVACY

For the reporting period, the Privacy Commissioner did not issue a report on the TSRA under Section 30 of the *Privacy Act 1988* and no personal privacy complaints were made against the TSRA.

## COMMONWEALTH DISABILITY STRATEGY (CDS)

The TSRA is aware of and acknowledges the CDS, which is a planning framework that assist agencies to ensure their policies, programs and services are accessible for people with disabilities. The TSRA is in the process of developing an action plan in order to implement the principles of the CDS.

## CORPORATE DOCUMENTS

Between 1 July 2005 and 30 June 2006, the TSRA produced the TSRA 2004–2005 Annual Report and the TSRA 2005–2009 Corporate Plan. Additionally, the TSRA produced eleven community newsletters (known as the TSRA News). The TSRA News is a publication distributed throughout the Torres Strait region and Australian mainland via insertion in the local newspaper, Torres News and through the TSRA website. The aim of TSRA News is to inform people living in the Torres Strait and on the mainland of the TSRA's goals, progress and achievements. It consists of articles and photographs specifically relating to the activities and achievements of the TSRA's elected and administrative arms.

The TSRA continues to draw on the Torres Strait Development Plan. This plan is required under *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*. A revised Torres Strait Development Plan for the four years 2005-2009 was developed and printed 2005. These publications can be viewed on the TSRA website ([www.tsra.gov.au](http://www.tsra.gov.au)).



# *Outcome & Outputs*



*The Gab Titui Cultural Centre,  
Thursday Island.*

*2005 Queensland Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander  
Tourism Award Winner &  
Highly Commended, 2006  
Australian Tourism Awards.*

# *Prices of Outcome and Outputs*

## PRICES OF OUTCOME AND OUTPUTS PLANNED AND ACTUAL

### *Planned and Actual*

Since the Australian Government introduced a new financial management framework in 1999–2000, Outcomes and Outputs have become the focus of the way in which departments and agencies plan their activities, budget and manage resources at their disposal, and report to the government. It also introduced government agencies to the accrual method of financial reporting and budgeting, which matches revenues with the cost of outputs for a certain financial period. It was generally understood that these measures, together with the introduction of the method of budgeting based on the full cost of government activities (Outputs), would promote better accountability and professionalism and would facilitate more informed decision making.

The TSRA had just one planned Outcome for the financial period 2005–2006. The Outcome was 'to achieve a better quality of life and to develop an economic base for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal persons living in the Torres Strait'. There were six Outputs that contributed to the achievement of the planned Outcome. The budgeted and actual prices of the TSRA's six outputs are listed in the notes to the Financial Statements and in the following table.

## BUDGET TOTAL PRICE OUTCOME

Budgeted Total Price Outcome	\$55.55m
Actual Total Price of Outcome	\$56.48m

Output 1	
Economic Development	
Budgeted Total Price	\$4.25m
Actual Total Price	\$3.35m

Output 2	
Community Development, Employment and Training	
Budgeted Total Price	\$31.92m
Actual Total Price	\$32.21m

Output 3	
Native Title	
Budgeted Total Price	\$1.55m
Actual Total Price	\$1.83m

Output 4	
Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure	
Budgeted Total Price	\$8.68m
Actual Total Price	\$9.33m

Output 5	
Social and Cultural Development	
Budgeted Total Price	\$6.47m
Actual Total Price	\$7.20m

Output 6	
Policy and Information	
Budgeted Total Price	\$2.68m
Actual Total Price	\$2.56m

### Notes:

1. Revenue from Government through appropriations contributes 95.01% to the total Output price for this Outcome, for 2005-2006.
2. The TSRA has no administered expenses.
3. Budgeted Total Price and Actual Price Outcomes, listed in the table above, include the addition of allocated administrative costs.

# Performance Against Outputs

## PERFORMANCE AGAINST OUTPUTS

The table below sets out the Planned Achievements in accordance with the TSRA goals, as stated in the Development Plan, and the Actual Achievements for the year.

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
1. Economic Development	<p>Quality: 75% of contracts settled within one month and 20% within two months.</p> <p>Quantity: 29 new contracts.</p> <p>Price: An average of \$50,000 per loan contract.</p> <p>10 Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS) grants &amp; 9 housing loans. Provide 20 loans to establish business.</p> <p><b>Price for this Output: \$4.25</b></p>	<p>54% of contracts settled in one month, 38% of contracts were settled within one to three months and 8% took ten months.</p> <p>A total of 6 Business Funding Scheme (BFS) &amp; 7 housing loans were released to clients. The average BFS loan was for \$80,012 and for Housing \$127,257. The loan portfolio consists of 89 loans: 49 BFS loans and 40 housing loans. During the financial year 28 BFS and 4 housing loans were discharged.</p> <p>19 CEIS grants were approved for the Badu quarry extension, Badu restaurant fit-out, Boigu Guesthouse, Boigu fuel bowser, Dauan fuel bowser, Hammond fuel bowser, Mabuiag fuel bowser, Mabuiag guesthouse, Poruma boat for tourists, Poruma resort assistance, Warraber resort, Saibai bistro/restaurant, Masig Lowatta Lodge stage 2, Masig boat and bus for Lodge, Seisia camping ground extension, TSIMA to develop a business plan, Ugar community store, Ugar ferry operation and Ugar freezer.</p> <p><b>Price for this Output: \$3.35m</b></p>

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
<p>2. Community Development, Employment and Training</p>	<p>Quality: 90% of Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) communities comply with guidelines. 85% of targeted training delivered within the financial year.</p> <p>Quantity: 18 communities are on CDEP. 25 training programs to be funded.</p> <p>Ensure that the program is working effectively by scheduling community visits twice a year and checking quarterly financial returns and that 1955 eligible participants are qualified to be on the program.</p> <p><b>Price for this Output: \$31.92m</b></p>	<p>94.7% of CDEP organisations fully complied with the CDEP and general funding and operational guidelines.</p> <p>95.7% of targeted training was delivered within the 2005-2006 financial year. The remainder will be conducted within the first two months of the new financial year.</p> <p>19 funded CDEP organisations enabled 19 communities to be on the CDEP.</p> <p>23 Community Training Programs were programmed and 22 implemented, including 105 apprenticeships.</p> <p>In 2005-2006, each CDEP community and organisation was visited an average of 3.9 times. The financial year ended with 1942 participants on the program.</p> <p>The CDEP Manager System is now fully online and on the TSRA website. Costs toward the development and consultancies relevant to CDEP and accountability are included in the overall cost of this output. The TSRA has a regularly upgraded Memorandum of Understanding with Centrelink.</p> <p><b>Price for this Output: aggregate of \$32.21m</b></p>

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
<p>3. Native Title</p>	<p>Quality: Progress negotiations with respondent parties with a view to resolving claimant applications by consent for all remaining areas of land under claim.</p> <p>Quality: Identify strategic test cases where appropriate and pursue resolution of land claims and Sea Claim by mediation or litigation, or by other means as appropriate.</p> <p>Quality: Develop standard procedures for processing and responding to Future Act and other notifications within 7 days.</p> <p>Quality: To progress the Regional Sea Claim through mediation and the court process and to develop and implement a strategy to assist with this process.</p> <p>Quality: Assist constituents with negotiations and to enter into Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) and other agreements where appropriate.</p> <p>Quality: Assist in resolving disputes between and within constituent groups, including through the conduct of anthropological research.</p> <p>Quality: To brief, recommend and take instructions from Island Councils and PBCs on the Infrastructure ILUA.</p> <p><b>Price for this Output: \$1.55m</b></p>	<p>Six land claims proceeded to a consent determination. Negotiations continuing on the remaining four land claims.</p> <p>The remaining claims over land and the Sea Claim are in mediation with a view to be settled by consent. Litigation of claims to be taken as a last resort.</p> <p>Standard procedures developed and implemented for processing and responding to Future Act notifications.</p> <p>91 actions were taken in response to 255 Future Act notices.</p> <p>The Regional Sea Claim continues in mediation with respondent parties. Mediation meetings held with some respondent parties. The Claim has been substantially amended and the anthropological material to be produced and sent to the State and the Commonwealth for mediation purposes.</p> <p>14 Native Title Authorisation agreements were entered into in relation to proposed Future Acts.</p> <p>Assisted in relation to 14 disputes relating to native title applications or land use agreements.</p> <p>Briefed six PBCs and six Island Councils on the terms of the Infrastructure ILUA. Further briefings to take place over the next financial year.</p> <p><b>Price for this Output: \$1.83m</b></p>

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
<p>4. Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure</p>	<p>Quality: Infrastructure projects commenced in 2005-2006 year to be 58% completed by 30 June 2006.</p> <p>Quantity: Sewerage, housing subdivision, drainage and water infrastructure projects for the seventeen island communities to continue.</p> <p><b>Price for this Output: aggregate of \$8.68m</b></p>	<p><i>Major Infrastructure Program (MIP):</i></p> <p>MIP 2 projects that were under construction in 2005-2006 are 70% completed as at 30 June 2006.</p> <p>Of the 5 projects under construction during 2005-2006, two are 95% complete another 80% complete and a further one 60% complete, while the remainder is 10% complete.</p> <p>Overall, MIP 2 projects are 93% complete.</p> <p>100% of MIP 3 projects for Year 2 &amp; 3 have been awarded tenders.</p> <p>Of the 3 MIP3 Year 1 projects under construction during 2005-2006, one is 75% complete another 60% complete and the remainder is 40% complete.</p> <p>Overall, MIP 3 projects are 30% complete.</p> <p><i>Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program (HEMTP):</i></p> <p>Saibai Island Drainage Works: Completed.</p> <p>Mer Island Airstrip Access Road Upgrade: Completed.</p> <p>Iama Island Airstrip Upgrade (95% completed).</p> <p>Island Coordination Council Infrastructure Support Unit (ICC-ISU):</p> <p>Water: Supply and Maintenance to 15 Communities.</p> <p><i>Airstrips Upgrades:</i></p> <p>Iama Island Airstrip upgrade: 95% complete. Total cost \$1.3m.</p> <p>Mer Island Airstrip upgrade: Complete Total cost \$1.56m.</p> <p><b>Price for this Output: aggregate of \$9.33m</b></p>

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
<p>5. Social, Cultural and Development</p>	<p>Quality: Approved grants for approved projects will be funded within 28 days of commencement of the financial year.</p> <p>Quantity: 25 grants will be approved in the financial year.</p> <p>Provide assistance to communities to promote and improve their social and cultural wellbeing.</p> <p>Promote community involvement in environmental issues affecting them by providing financial assistance to suitable community organisations running appropriate programs and through publications produced by the TSRA.</p> <p><b>Price for this Output: an aggregate of \$6.47m</b></p>	<p>All funded organisations received all or part of their first quarterly release within 28 days of the commencement of the financial year.</p> <p>31 grants were approved in the 2005-2006 financial year, representing 169 activities.</p> <p><b>Price for this Output: aggregate of \$7.20m</b></p>

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
<p>6. Policy &amp; Information</p>	<p>Quantity:</p> <p>4 Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee meeting.</p> <p>4 MIP Steering Committee Meetings</p> <p>One Coastal Erosion Committee Meeting</p> <p>5 Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum meetings</p> <p>2 CRC Torres Strait Board meetings</p> <p>2 PZJA meetings</p> <p>2 Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee meetings</p> <p>3 Torres Strait Finfish Working Group meetings</p> <p>4 Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group meetings</p> <p>2 Torres Strait Prawn Working Group meetings</p> <p>2 Community Fisher Group meetings</p> <p>2 PZJA Standing Officials meetings</p> <p>Quality: 94% of Ministerial correspondence dealt with within 21 days. 98% of TSRA Board Members and Portfolio Member for Women's Issues queries responded to within 14 days. 98% of queries from the public responded to within 14 days.</p> <p>Quantity: 1500 number of queries and correspondence are anticipated.</p> <p>Quantity: Newsletters are published regularly to inform the public of the TSRA's programs.</p> <p>Quantity: Press releases are circulated to promote TSRA initiatives.</p> <p>Quality: All press releases are placed on the TSRA website within 48 hours of publication.</p> <p>Quality: Information requests are responded to within 48 hours of receipt.</p> <p><b>Price for this Output: \$2.68m</b></p>	<p>100% of Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee meetings held.</p> <p>100% achieved.</p> <p>100% achieved.</p> <p>100% of Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum meetings held.</p> <p>100% achieved.</p> <p>23 Ministerials were received. All were dealt with by the set deadline. 100% of queries were responded to within 14 days. 100% of verbal queries were responded to in 14 days. 80% of written queries were responded to in 14 days.</p> <p>1500 queries were received including 731 items of correspondence. No written complaints were received.</p> <p>11 monthly newsletters were produced.</p> <p>32 press releases were circulated and 24 Chairperson's Columns were published.</p> <p>100% of press releases and columns were placed on the website within 48 hours.</p> <p>158 information requests were received. 86.71% of these were responded to within 48 hours.</p> <p><b>Price for this Output: \$2.56m</b></p>

## OUTPUT ONE - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### PROGRAM – ECONOMIC

This output is comprised of one major program, the Economic Program, which supplements and contributes to mainstream programs aimed at increasing the economic empowerment and status of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region. The Program also aims to develop opportunities for enhancing employment, training, enterprise development and home ownership.

The Economic Program is comprised of 3 sub-programs:

1. Business Funding Scheme (BFS);
2. Home Ownership; and
3. Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS).

### SUBPROGRAM: BUSINESS FUNDING SCHEME (BFS)

#### *Objective*

To increase the economic independence of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people of the Torres Strait region by facilitating the acquisition, ownership and development of commercially viable enterprises in accordance with the principles of sustainable economic development.

#### *Description*

The BFS has enabled the establishment of a number of businesses within the Torres Strait region, all of which provide an important service to the wider community. The BFS promotes the economic independence of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people by helping them acquire, own and develop commercially successful enterprises. Over the years, the BFS has assisted many individuals and partnerships to establish successful business ventures in a range of industries. This in turn creates employment for the Indigenous people of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

One of the key success factors in the Economic Development Program is the use of business consultants to assist clients in establishing their business and, if required, to provide ongoing professional assistance. In addition, the TSRA pays clients' legal costs. This includes legal advice associated with forming the business and the preparation of legal documentation.

If required, the BFS provides an additional service to clients, organising and paying for insurance over the assets. The insurance cost is then charged back to the client's loan account. A total of \$82,292 in insurance costs was paid on behalf of BFS clients.

#### *Achievements*

The Business Funding Scheme is proving a significant source of commercial finance for Torres Strait Islanders wanting to establish or expand their businesses. During the financial period, a total of six loans were advanced at a total value of \$480,074.

During the financial year 28 clients paid out their BFS loans.

As at 30 June 2006 a total of 49 BFS loans remain active. A total of \$709,828 in repayments has been returned this financial year into the TSRA General account.

While the majority of the loans remain within the fishing industry, it is pleasing to see that Torres Strait Islanders are undertaking a diversified range of commercial activities. For example, of the loans financed in 2005-2006 period the following areas of commercial activity were undertaken.

Industry Sector	No. Loans Disbursed	\$ Value
Commercial Fishing	4	\$36,071
Transport	1	\$168,000
Construction	1	\$276,003
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$480,074</b>

In conjunction with BFS workshops were undertaken by Learning Network Queensland in Computer Basics, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Internet/Email and Digital Imaging.

Workshops were also presented by the Australian Taxation Office covering such topics as Record Keeping, Superannuation, Completion of Business Activity Statements and other aspects of taxation requirements for business.

It is encouraging that the Business Funding Scheme remains a successful business mechanism for Indigenous people, as they take on the challenge of private enterprise in a varied range of commercial activities.

## SUB-PROGRAM: HOME OWNERSHIP

### *Objective*

To provide home ownership for the Indigenous residents of the Torres Strait region through home loans, thereby improving their economic status and social wellbeing.

### *Description*

The Home Ownership Scheme provides home or land loans at concessionary interest rates to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region who would not normally be able to obtain assistance from conventional lending institutions. The scheme is targeted at low income, first home buyers according to a points system based on family size and rental circumstances. The scheme is self-funding.

If required, an additional service that the Home Ownership Scheme provides to clients is the organising and paying of insurance. The insurance cost is then charged back to the client's loan account. A total of \$2,635 in insurance costs was paid on behalf of housing clients.

### *Achievements*

This year a total of \$890,796 has been released to seven housing loan clients for either the purchase of new homes or the renovation and expansion of existing dwellings.

A total of \$925,255 in repayments has been returned during the financial year into the Housing Account. In addition, four housing loans have been paid out leaving the total housing loan portfolio at 40.

## SUB-PROGRAM: COMMUNITY ECONOMIC INITIATIVES SCHEME (CEIS)

### Objective

To contribute directly to the economic growth of communities by supporting the development of income generating projects with social, cultural and economic benefits.

### Description

Through this component grants are provided to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal organisations for the establishment and/or expansion of commercial income generating ventures.

### Achievements

During the financial year, the TSRA approved \$4,061,306, including roll-overs, which was committed for Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS) projects and is detailed in the table below:

Council	Project	Amount
Badu Island Council	Quarry Extension	\$ 161,760
Badu Island Council	Restaurant Fit-out	\$ 280,000
Boigu Island Council	Boigu Island Guesthouse	\$ 499,694
Boigu Island Council	Fuel Bowser	\$ 220,000
Dauan Island Council	Fuel Bowser	\$ 220,000
Hammond Island Council	Fuel Bowser	\$ 223,489
Mabuiag Island Council	Guesthouse	\$ 430,000
Mabuiag Island Council	Fuel Bowser	\$ 220,000
Poruma Island Council	Purchase Boat	\$ 56,510
Poruma Island Council	Resort Assistance	\$ 44,700
Warraber Island Council	Warraber Island Resort	\$ 750,000 *
Saibai Island Council	Bistro/Restaurant	\$ 300,000
Masig Island Council	Lowatta Lodge Stage 2	\$ 229,107 **
Masig Island Council	Boat & Bus for Lodge	\$ 91,437
Seisia Island Council	Camping Ground Extension	\$ 37,236
TSIMA	Develop Business Plan	\$ 30,000
Ugar Island Council	Multi-Purpose Building	\$ 150,000
Ugar Island Council	Ferry Operation	\$ 15,000
Ugar Island Council	Freezer	\$ 61,334
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 4,020,267</b>

\* \$300,000 contribution from the Commonwealth Department of Transport & Regional Services

\*\*\$150,000 contribution from Qld Department of State Development, Trade & Innovation

Funds were committed for a number of projects with work due to commence early 2006-2007. These include the construction of a Guesthouse on Boigu Island, the construction of the Warraber Island Resort. These enterprises are expected to continue the economic success of the island councils upon their completion.



*Hammond Island Fuel Bowser in operation*

The Hammond Island Fuel Project is now completed with this facility being an asset to the community and an opportunity for Council to generate income.

The Warraber Island Resort will consist of eight self-contained units, a reception and office area, restaurant and commercial kitchen, conference room suitable for up to 30 persons, an open area for guest activities, Manager's residence and staff amenities building. The facility will provide employment and training for community members and income for Council.

The Boigu Guesthouse, to be completed in 2006-2007, will provide much needed accommodation for contractors, representatives from government departments and others, as well as providing employment and training for community members and income for Council.

Supermarket extensions and Holiday Park accommodation units at Seisia were completed in 2005-2006 and have enabled Council to meet the ever-changing needs of tourists and a diversified range of visitors. These visitors require camping and/or villa accommodation, quality service, clean facilities and a location by the sea.



*New Holiday Units at Seisia Holiday Park*

## OUTPUT TWO – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The Community Development, Employment and Training Output comprises two programs:

1. Community Development Employment Program (CDEP); and
2. Community Training Program (CTP).

### **PROGRAM – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (CDEP)**

#### *Objective*

To provide Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people living in the region with the opportunity to voluntarily work in community managed activities that contribute to economic, social and community development and cultural maintenance.

#### *Description*

The CDEP is available to Torres Strait Islander communities within the Torres Strait region. The Program enables unemployed Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal persons living in the region to undertake work on activities chosen by the community or organisation, as an alternative to unemployment benefits.

The Program facilitates community development through the implementation of projects decided upon by the communities themselves and in accordance with their own priorities. Community development is further enhanced through the Program's flexibility and capacity to link with other programs such as Business Funding and Community Economic Initiatives Schemes, the Major Infrastructure Program, various Australian and Queensland Government housing schemes, the Community Training Program (CTP), apprenticeships and various accredited training programs provided by the Australian and Queensland Governments. It also involves funding for environmental and landscaping programs.

#### *Funding*

In 2005-2006, the TSRA was allocated \$30,685,470 and committed \$30,603,046 of CDEP program funds to projects in the Torres Strait region, achieving 97.1% expenditure over commitment. It is the TSRA's single largest program. As at 30 June 2006, there was a total of 1,942 eligible participants in 19 CDEP schemes, covering 19 communities. Expenditure for 2005-2006 was \$29,728,929 comprising: wages (\$22,607,103) and recurrent/capital (\$7,121,826), which included \$137,453 as CDEP support comprising the conduct of 3 major reviews and the completion of a further 3 (\$29,145); costs associated with the engagement of a Change Manager for the Horn Island CDEP (\$52,846); the purchase and installation of 15 Busyboxes (\$25,353); the expenditure of \$25,990 relating to the maintenance and continuous upgrading of the CDEP Manager software; \$3,729 spent in Australian Government Solicitor's legal advice and \$380 towards the costs of gazettal of the TSRA Decision-Making Principles.

#### *Achievements*

CDEP communities within the Torres Strait region are involved in a number of work projects that CDEP members consider to be beneficial to the development of their particular community. During 2005-2006, these projects continued to support activities such as: administration, storage yard and depot

maintenance, fuel depots, public transport, landscaping, general land and environment management programs, waste and rubbish recycling and removal, contract cleaning, hydroponics, cemetery maintenance, road and drainage construction and their upgrade and maintenance, market gardens and nursery projects, livestock management and abattoirs, cargo handling, garages and service stations, stevedoring, vehicle maintenance and mechanical workshops, tourism and hospitality, supermarket and groceries, cattle-work, piggeries, animal care and husbandry, traditional and community



*Mer Island Road Crew at work*

justice systems and policing, women, youth, culture and church projects, assistance to education and primary health care, fishing, seafood processing, live crustaceans management and marketing, take-away enterprises, construction and maintenance of buildings and community roads, quarries, sea walls, levee banks, airstrip upgrades and other public utilities such as community seafood storage and freezing facilities, screen-printing and art and crafts, home and child care, and broadcasting.

In addition to these ongoing activities, housing and major infrastructure contracts continued to be won by CDEP organisations, reinforcing the trend started some seven years ago.

Building contractors employed numerous CDEP participants, thus providing the workers with extended working hours and increased income, as well as valuable training. The utilisation of the local CDEP workforce is ongoing and forms a significant component of local councils' abilities to bid for construction contracts, including MIP, housing or general infrastructure.

The CDEP remains the focal point to which a host of other inter-agency programs, notably related to training and business development, can be connected. This feature, coupled with the inherent operational flexibility of the Program and the practically total Indigenous input into the formulation of the communities' Work Plans, still make it the ideal tool for community development.

Funds were committed for annual reviews of three TSRA-funded organisations and the completion of another three. The recommendations from these reviews were implemented throughout the 2005-2006 financial year and will continue annually.

The 2005-2006 CDEP work plans and programs closely followed the local priorities outlined in the Four-Year Community Development Plans (2004-2008) compiled in 2003-2004 and reflected in the TSRA quadrennial system of funding.

Specific examples of employment-generating activities include intensive CDEP involvement in Seisia's enterprises (Camping grounds, tourist units, cattle enterprise/abattoirs/meat processing, commercial septic pump-out service, kiosk, service station, stevedoring and supermarket) as well as heavily participating in roads, buildings and administration.

At Masig, CDEP participants manage and operate the Lowatta Lodge Resort, the local Freezer and the garage. At Horn Island, CDEP participants work as Teacher's Aides, Rangers, Carpenters and Builders.

At lama, 15 CDEP participants left the island for a contract with Western Australian Railways, three participants manage the desalination and waste water and sewerage treatment plants.

At Warraber, CDEP participants receive top-up wages while building houses and the Tourist Resort, seven participants produce artefacts for the Gab Titui Cultural Centre on Thursday Island, and other participants are employed at the Guesthouse, the Kiosk and the Garage.

At TRAWQ, on Thursday Island, 12 participants have left for mainstream employment and 17 are enrolled in training programs in Business administration. One participant is now full time mechanic at TRAWQ's Garage, several others are running the bus service, the night security patrol and the construction crew. Yet others are Teacher's Aides and groundsmen at Aboriginal Hostels. TRAWQ has secured for the third year running the maintenance contract for the cemeteries and Torres Shire Council's facilities.

At St. Paul, CDEP workers operate the Block-making Plant, the guesthouse, the local radio station, the local SES and Marine rescue unit and the garage. They provide as well manpower for the construction of ATSI houses.

At Mer, two CDEP participants have completed their mechanical apprenticeship and are now qualified mechanics and operate the Mer Island workshop and garage. Two plant operators have now found mainstream employment while eight were employed by the Dept. of Main Roads for the upgrade of the airstrip and the construction of internal roads.



*St Pauls Block Works*

At Mabuiag, 5 CDEP participants have found mainstream employment. CDEP also operates a community policing service and as a workshop.

At Kubin, CDEP workers manage and operate the motel and the recently opened Arts Centre, as well as building, maintaining and repairing housing stock.

At Hammond, CDEP workers are employed by the Council as receptionists, clerks, ground maintenance workers, rangers, ferry deck hands and storemen. CDEP workers also manage and operate the recently established Fuel bowser facilities.

At Dauan, eleven participants are out-posted at the local Water supply and Environmental Health, three work at the school, three operate the radio station, two operate the guesthouse, and seven operate the Council's ferry service.

At Poruma, CDEP participants manage and operate the Tourist Resort, the Post Office agency, the local radio station. At Badu, they manage the local enterprises (motel, quarry, hotel, fuel depot, nursery and take-away outlet). CDEP participants are also employed as construction workers, in the sewerage treatment plant, as rangers and as members of various municipal gangs. Finally, at Bamaga, CDEP participants work full time as housing maintenance and upgrades contractors throughout all Cape York communities. They also operate the swimming pool, the gymnasium, the nursery, radio station, the sewerage treatment plant and the community policing services.

There are many more examples illustrating CDEP as an essential component of community life, whether economic, social, administrative and cultural, and it is proving to be an important program that assists regional communities to pursue development opportunities.

### *CDEP On-Line*

The MOU between TSRA and Centrelink was finalised and signed in January 2006. This document, when implemented in association with the actual CDEP Manager resident program, reflects and further defines the eligibility requirements of the participants to the CDEP scheme, eliminates ghosting and double dipping and ensures the increased efficiency of the various processes put in place to respond as quickly as possible to the participants' changes in status and employment circumstances.

The CDEP Manager program, used through Internet facilities available thanks to a satellite network and a series of "Busyboxes" installed on each Island, offers almost instantaneous transmission of CDEP participants' eligibility status and pay details to the main stake-holders TSRA, Centrelink and the CDEP organisations. This, without the need for the compilation of CDEP Participant Schedules nor the time consuming posting and receipt of various data disks. It practically eliminates "ghosting" and double-dipping and has increased immeasurably the efficiency of the scheme and its capacity to deliver its outcomes.

### *CDEP Award*

All CDEP communities and organisations are now fully aware of the fact that the 19 CDEP schemes operating in the Torres Strait region are now covered by an Award specific to the Torres Strait.

## **PROGRAM – COMMUNITY TRAINING PROGRAM (CTP)**

### *Objective*

To improve individual and community skill levels to enable communities and individuals to improve self-management to become more competitive in the mainstream labour markets.

### *Description*

This component provides community organisations with the opportunity to apply for funds to upgrade skills in administration, financial management, services industries and trades, as well as training related to environmental issues, health, heritage and culture, and land management. This training can take the form of formal courses, on-the-job training, a mixture of both, or employment of tradesmen assuming responsibility for apprenticeships.

Through this component, financial assistance may also be provided to a sponsoring organisation's staff member to undertake a full-time accredited course at a recognised tertiary educational institution.

### *Funding*

In 2005-2006, the TSRA was allocated \$1,321,840 which it committed to various Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations for the continuation of the CTP, achieving 99.7% expenditure over commitment.

### *Achievements*

As in previous years, the training funds were used to improve managerial, administrative and trade-based skills. A range of courses were conducted on the following: computer operation, accounting software, office management, painting, carpentry, electrical skills, plumbing, welding and other building trades, mechanical skills and small motor repairs and maintenance, screen printing, fashion studies, basic literacy and numeracy, conflict resolution, small business management,

fishery/seafood processing, coxswain and other vocational marine training, fuel outlets, hazardous substances, retailing, take-away outlet operations, first aid, Work Place Health & Safety, community policing, airport reporting, child care, ranger operations, furniture making, cooking, sewing and other home management courses, fitness and sport coaching, horticulture, environmental health, coping with dementia and other challenging behaviours, nursing home documentation principles, risk management for aged care facilities and financial management. In 2005-2006, a total of 23 separate projects were planned and 22 achieved, including 105 apprenticeships throughout the region.

A concerted effort to link these courses with CDEP and the training and employment opportunities offered to the communities by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST), the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR), the Queensland Department of Employment and Training (DET) as well as the network of Job Centres, continued during 2005-2006. Torres Strait communities utilised tradesmen and skilled residents to conduct training where possible, while in other instances expressions of interest were sought from accredited trainers based elsewhere. In 2006-2007, it is intended to place an additional emphasis to Business Mentoring and capacity building. The TSRA Board continues to consider community based training a priority in Torres Strait.

In 2005-2006, as in previous years, this output ensured the involvement of both Commonwealth and State mainstream employment and training agencies, whenever possible. Proof of involvement and consultation with mainstream training and employment agencies continued to be a condition of funding.

## OUTPUT THREE – NATIVE TITLE

### *Objective*

To be recognised as an organisation providing high quality and culturally appropriate professional services to Native Title Holders and claimants through consulting with and effectively representing Indigenous inhabitants in Torres Strait region in the performance of our functions under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

### *Description*

This component facilitates the securing of legal recognition of native title to land and waters in the Torres Strait and providing assistance for the legal protection of native title rights in relation to all matters affecting Torres Strait land and waters.

## **PART A – OVERVIEW OF TSRA AS A NATIVE TITLE REPRESENTATIVE BODY**

This output refers to the TSRA's functions as a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). Representative bodies are primarily responsible for servicing the needs of their constituents effectively and equitably. Constituents are those persons who hold or may hold native title in their area. On that basis, one of the guiding principles for the operations of representative bodies is their responsibility to act in the best interests of their constituents.

### *Legislation Governing TSRA's Native Title Functions*

The Torres Strait Regional Authority is recognised as the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) for the Torres Strait region. The TSRA was first appointed a Native Title Representative Body under the *Native Title Act (Cth) 1993* in 1995. Under the 1998 amendments to the *Native Title Act (Cth) 1993*, each representative body was required to re-apply for recognition. Following an independent examination, TSRA was recognised by the then Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs as the Native Title Representative Body for the Torres Strait region.

### *Legislative Functions of the TSRA in its NTRB capacity*

As a NTRB, the TSRA fulfils specific functions under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). These include:

- facilitating the researching, preparation and making of claims by groups of Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal Peoples, for determinations of native title and for compensation for acts affecting their native title;
- assisting in the resolution of disputes within groups about the making of such claims; and
- assisting groups by representing them, if requested to do so, in negotiations and proceedings relating to the doing of acts affecting native title, the provision of compensation in relation to such acts and any other matter relevant to the operation of the Act.

The legislative functions of NTRBs are set out in section 203B of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) which states as follows:

- (1) A representative body has the following functions:
  - (a) The facilitation and assistance functions referred to in section 203BB;
  - (b) The certification functions referred to in section 203BE;

- (c) The dispute resolution functions referred to in section 203BF;
- (d) The notification functions referred to in section 203BG;
- (e) The agreement making function referred to in section 203BH;
- (f) The internal review functions referred to in section 203BI;
- (g) The functions referred to in section 203BJ and such other functions as are conferred on representative bodies by this Act.

A representative body may only perform its facilitation and assistance functions if requested to do so.

### *Organisational Structure and Corporate Governance Policies*

As a section of TSRA, Native Title Office (NTO) staff are included in the organisational structure reproduced at the end of this report. Similarly, NTO staff are bound by the same corporate governance policies that apply to TSRA generally.

## **PART B – REPORT ON PERFORMANCE**

Output three of TSRA's Performance Against Outputs table reproduced on page 64 of this report relates to TSRA's native title functions. As shown in that table, performance targets have been met.

The TSRA has significant experience in providing anthropological assistance and legal representation and related services to native title claimants and holders in the region. TSRA has provided legal advice, representation and otherwise assisted native title claimants and holders in various proceedings under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and in relation to future acts, Indigenous Land Use Agreements ('ILUAs') and other matters relating to native title. TSRA has provided legal representation and assistance to its constituents to enable them to obtain 19 of the 26 determinations of native title that have been made to date over land and waters in the Torres Strait Region, 25 of which have been obtained by consent.<sup>1</sup> TSRA is currently providing legal representation and assistance to Torres Strait Islanders in respect of the five remaining claimant applications in the Torres Strait Region which cover a number of uninhabited islands and a Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim. TSRA anticipates that the majority of these remaining claimant applications will be resolved through consent determinations of native title.

There are presently 32 ILUAs that have been registered on the Register of ILUAs in relation to land and waters in the Torres Strait Region. Twenty four of these are Area Agreements and the remaining eight are Body Corporate Agreements. The vast majority of these ILUAs were entered into by native title claimants to facilitate the making of consent determinations of native title.

The TSRA continues to experience changes to its principal functions even more so as a result of a further six native title consent determinations and the establishment of a further four Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) in the 2005-2006 reporting period and the possibility of a further three PBCs to be established during the next financial year. While resolving the remaining land claims and

1. The other seven determinations of native title include *Billy Wasaga and others on behalf of the Kaurareg People –v- State of Queensland* [2001] FCA 657 (23 May 2001), which involved the making of five consent determinations of native title in favour of the Kaurareg People over Horn, Prince of Wales, Entrance and Dumaralag and other islands and who were represented by Cape York Land Council, the decision of the High Court in *Mabo –v- State of Queensland (No 2)* (1992) 175 CLR 1, (although litigated before the commencement of the NTA, is an approved determination of native title pursuant to section 13(7) of the NTA) and *Mualgal People v State of Queensland* [1999] FCA 157 (12 February 1999) who were represented by private solicitors.

progressing the Regional Sea Claim remain priority matters, the resolution of disputes, agreement making functions and assisting PBCs and Native Title Holders manage native title land continues to be the focus for TSRA as communities and PBCs come to terms with the recognition of native title over their communities and their obligations and responsibilities under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), associated regulations and relevant State and Commonwealth legislation. In light of the large number of determinations and the relatively large number of PBCs, the NTO will be directing its efforts towards developing capacity building support for the PBCs.

### *1. Land Claims*

Significant achievements were realised in the 2005-2006 reporting period with native title being legally recognised by consent over six claims in the Torres Strait region. The consent determinations were the culmination of several years of legal and anthropological research.

The NTO will continue to provide representation and assistance to the Traditional Owners of the four remaining claims over land. Each of these claims, except one, has been ordered to mediation and the NTO together with the assistance of the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) will be assisting the Traditional Owners to attend mediation conferences with the other parties to discuss and attempt to resolve outstanding issues in an attempt to settle the claims by consent or some other means.

### *2. Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim*

The Sea Claim was filed in the Federal Court in November 2001 and is brought on behalf of the Native Title Holders of Badu, Dauan, Erub, Ugar, Masig, Warraber, Poruma, Naghi, Iama, Mabuiag, Mer, Boigu, Mua and Saibai and covers approximately 42,000 square kilometres of sea in the Torres Strait region. Both the Federal Court and the TSRA have identified the Regional Sea Claim as a priority claim for 2006.

In 2005 the Sea Claim was substantially amended and it again successfully passed the registration test and remains on the Register of Native Title Claims. The notification process was finalised in the 2002-2003 financial year.

Mediation of the Sea Claim has highlighted a number of complex legal issues and factual matters that will require further negotiation with the State and the Commonwealth. It is through the mediation process that the parties will attempt to resolve a number of issues and where those issues cannot be resolved, it is envisaged that the parties will at least attempt to narrow down the issues that may have to be determined by the Court. The NTO continues to work closely with Senior Counsel and other experts on the anthropological materials and the general preparation and progression of the Sea Claim.

### *3. Future Acts, Agreements and Other Land Matters*

In the 2005-2006 period, the TSRA put a significant amount of time and effort into assisting Native Title Holders, Island Councils and project proponents reach satisfactory native title agreements.

#### **AGREEMENTS**

No ILUAs were certified by the TSRA. The NTO did, however, assist PBCs and Island Councils with a total of 14 Native Title Authorisation Agreements which provide for, among other things, native title consents to major infrastructure projects.

## INFRASTRUCTURE ILUA

The NTO will continue to brief PBCs and Island Councils on the terms of the Infrastructure ILUA. In 2005-2006, due to a number of major projects requiring urgent attention, the NTO was required to re-prioritise matters and was unable to brief all Island Councils and PBCs on the terms of the Infrastructure ILUA. The NTO will now prioritise community consultations and briefings on how the ILUA is proposed to operate.

### *4. Native Title Research and PBC Capacity Building Project*

A total of 19 PBCs have been incorporated and registered on the National Native Title Register following the making of the approved determinations of native title in the Torres Strait Region. TSRA has assisted with the incorporation and registration of the majority of these PBCs and continues to provide ongoing assistance, legal advice and representation for PBCs in relation to consultations, mediations and negotiations concerning matters relating to their respective approved determinations of native title.

In light of the number of native title determinations and the number of PBCs in the Torres Strait, a major ongoing issue for the region is the need for financial resourcing of PBCs. At present PBCs in the Torres Strait receive either little or no grant funding. This makes it extremely difficult for these bodies to carry out their functions and obligations under the Native Title Act and associated regulations.

A second, closely associated issue, is that there are a range of factors, in addition to lack of funding, which impact upon PBCs to restrict their governance and operational capacity. This further reduces the ability of PBCs to fulfil legislated requirements. In recognition of this the NTO has sought funding from the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) to initiate a capacity development pilot project, in partnership with PBCs in the Torres Strait.

The application for project funding was developed by the NTO in the context of an allocation by the NHT of over \$1 million, for projects to target issues related to natural resource management in the Torres Strait. The Land and Sea Management Unit within the TSRA will facilitate delivery of the NHT funded projects. The NHT expressed interest in a PBC capacity building project led by the NTO, because the NHT recognises the key role which PBCs can play in the negotiation, development and facilitation of natural resource management strategies which are appropriate to island communities. The NTO is well placed to lead such a project on the basis of its close working relationship with PBCs. It is envisaged that the outcome of the NHT funding application will be known in July.

The PBC Capacity Building project proposed by the NTO would be undertaken over two years in partnership with a core project sample of four PBCs. Stage one would be a six-month research project designed to identify key issues hindering the governance and operational capacity of PBCs, as identified by PBCs and by stakeholders which work closely with them. The findings of the research project would underpin stage two of the project. Stage two would be undertaken over 18 months and would focus on the development and implementation of capacity building initiatives, in partnership with the core sample of PBCs, which target the needs and issues prioritised in stage one. It is envisaged that the project outcomes will serve as a basis for future applications for funding, for initiatives to address the capacity development requirements of PBCs.

## 5. Statistical Data

The following table provides statistical data in relation to the roles and functions of TSRA in its NTRB capacity:

<b>FACILITATION AND ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>REPORT ON NUMBER ONLY</b>
Claimant Applications	10
Filed this year	Nil
Number current	5
Number registered with NNTT	5
Non Claimant Applications	Nil
Agreements	
- Indigenous Land use agreements finalised	Nil
- Indigenous Land use agreements finalised but not yet executed	Nil
Leases	
- Determination Deeds finalised but not yet executed	Nil
- Other Agreements	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>
Compensation claims	Nil
Future Act Notices Received	278
Responses to Future Acts	55
Objections to Future Acts	38
Determinations of Native Title	6
ILUAs Registered	Nil
Disputes relating to Native Title Applications	16
Disputes relating to ILUAs, rights of access and other matters	Nil
Number of ILUAs effected	Nil
Number of reviews pending	Nil
Number of reviews completed	Nil
Number of PBCs established	4
Number of PBCs assisted	18
Number of claims certified	Nil
Number of ILUAs certified	Nil

## STATEMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF 203 FF NATIVE TITLE ACT

The Torres Strait Regional Authority is a recognised Native Title Representative Body and has legislative functions pursuant to section 203B of the Native Title Act. Section 203 DC of the *Native Title Act 1993* requires Native Title Representative Bodies to submit to the Minister an Annual Report. In its capacity as a Native Title Representative Body and pursuant to section 203FF(2) of the *Native Title Act 1993*, the Native Title Outputs as reported in the 2005-2006 TSRA Annual Report is also a report for the purposes of section 203DC of the Native Title Act.

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF TSRA IN NTRB CAPACITY

For the 2005-2006 financial year the TSRA was funded an amount of \$1.598m for the ongoing operation of the Native Title Office and the provision of housing for Native Title Office staff.

The financial performance of TSRA in its NTRB capacity is outlined in the following expenditure report:

**Torres Strait Regional Authority  
Output 3 Native Title Total Cost of Output  
As at 30 June 2006**

	2006 \$	2005 \$
<b>Operating Revenue</b>		
Appropriation	1,292,000	1,407,000
Other Revenue	306,000	250,000
Unexpended Grants	31,041	200,000
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>1,629,041</b>	<b>1,857,000</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Advertising	327	7,135
Consultants	541,459	175,349
Incidentals	672	31,180
Legal	40,780	669
Library	4,268	3,838
Meeting Expenses	28,703	62,837
Office Relocation	7,600	15,555
Office Requisites	12,575	13,830
Office Rent	43,196	42,217
Employees	448,575	385,513
Incidental Employee Costs	5,425	7,655
Depreciation	36,000	37,300
Travel	462,649	108,411
Grant	4,000	78,000
Allocated Overhead	193,557	229,127
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1,829,788</b>	<b>1,198,616</b>
<b>Total Cost of Output</b>	<b>1,829,788</b>	<b>1,198,616</b>

Note

1. These figures are sourced from the Audited Financial Statements of the TSRA for the year ended 30 June 2006.
2. Other Revenue includes revenue received by Native Title and allocated revenue received by TSRA.
3. Unexpended grants is not shown separately in the Audited Financial Statements.

## PART C - EXTERNAL SCRUTINY

As a section of the TSRA, the Native Title Office has been audited in accordance with the audit reports set out in this report.

## PART D - MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

As a section of the TSRA, Native Title Office staff members participated in training and development undertaken by all TSRA staff and are subject to the Collective Workplace Agreement outlined in this report.

## OUTPUT FOUR – HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

### PROGRAM – HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The output of the Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure Program aims to increase the number of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal persons in the Torres Strait area with access to adequate housing, infrastructure facilities and essential municipal services consistent with and appropriate to their needs. The output also aims to improve environmental health standards by providing appropriate and sustainable infrastructure and ensuring that adequate environmental health programs are implemented.

This output has one program, Housing and Environmental Health and is comprised of two sub-programs:

- 1) Environmental Health
- 2) Community Housing

### SUB-PROGRAM: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

#### *Objective*

Through the implementation of the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP), which addresses the various infrastructure needs of Torres Strait communities, the TSRA aims to improve the health status and general wellbeing of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region. The TSRA also contributes towards the continuing maintenance of water and sewerage infrastructure in the Torres Strait and aims to improve the standard of safety for passengers travelling to and from island communities by aircraft, through the upgrade of airstrips.

### MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

#### *Description*

The Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) seeks to improve the infrastructure standards in the 15 outer island communities, as well as Bamaga and Seisia on the mainland. The Australian and Queensland Governments have provided joint contributions amounting to \$60 million for Stages One and Two of the Program. Further joint contributions totalling \$32.4 million have been approved for the third stage of the Program. TSRA is currently drafting a New Policy Proposal to extend the current 10 Year MIP Program until 2015-2016.



*A Mobile Desalination Unit ready for use.*

## Achievements

Most of MIP Stages One and Two Projects have been finalised and the major focus for this year has been on MIP Three projects.

The Mobile Desalination Unit project has been completed and regional metering at Hammond and Mer Communities is proceeding well.

A summary of the status of MIP projects is as follows:

Community	Infrastructure	Status
Mer	Land servicing project	Project 90% completed. This project also includes additional CDEP work. Council awarded contract and works proceeding well. Estimated cost is \$637,000.
Seisia	Reticulated sewerage project	Project 70% completed. Construction of trunk sewers and pump stations has commenced. Rising main to connect to the Bamaga Sewerage Treatment Plant. Completion held up by Land tenure issue which is currently being addressed.  Estimated cost is \$2.2 million.
Hammond	Land development, roads and drainage projects	Project completed. Coordination and planning of work in conjunction with the Department of Main Roads with HEMTP involvement. Estimated cost is \$1 million.
Boigu and Saibai	Lot filling, subdivision, elevated water tank, drainage work and new bund wall construction projects	The Saibai component is completed. The Boigu works are 30% completed. Project managers have been appointed and draft design completed. Estimated cost is \$1.8 million.
Mabuiag	Road and drainage project	Completed. Budget is \$1.1 million.
Torres Strait Region	Bulk waste removal and new tip sites development projects	Project 60% completed. Initial bulk waste and scrap removal from all outer islands. lama, Saibai, Dauan, and Erub completed.  New tip site developments under way. Estimated budget is \$1.15 million.
Horn Island	Reticulated Sewerage Project	Project has been commenced but is still at Design Stage. Approximately \$250,000 has been spent out of a total budget of \$5.8m.

## MIP 2 PROJECT SUMMARY FOR 2005-2006

Community	Infrastructure	Status
Ugar, Warraber, Dauan,	Regional Mobile Desal Plant Project	Cost \$700,000. Project completed.
Hammond and Mer and 15 Outer Islands	Regional Metering, Hammond and Mer Water Project	Cost \$2.25m. Project 50% complete.
Badu	Upgrade roads, drainage and water mains	Cost \$1.23m. Project 60% complete.
Masig	One new fully reticulated sewerage system and rehab of 2 seawater bores	Cost \$4.17m. At procurement phase.
Kubin and St Pauls (Moa Sewerage Project)	One new fully reticulated sewerage system	Cost \$8.17m. At procurement phase.
Mabuiag	Sewerage and Lagoon Cover	Cost \$4.8m. Will be developed to design stage only at this time due to increased construction etc costs.
Warraber	One new fully reticulated sewerage system	Cost \$3.59m. Will be developed to Design stage only at this time due to increased construction etc costs.

## MIP 3 PROJECT SUMMARY FOR 2004-2005 TO 2007-2008

### WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

#### *Description*

To assist with the operation and maintenance of water supply and sewerage services in island communities so that ongoing capacity and maintenance is strengthened in infrastructure and that there are improved health, economic and social outcomes for communities.

#### *Achievements*

The TSRA contributed \$1.6 million to the Island Co-ordinating Council, for the continued support and maintenance of water supply and sewerage infrastructure in the region.

## AIRSTRIPS

### *Description*

To upgrade airstrips in island communities so that access to these remote communities is enhanced along with improvements to aviation safety, health, economic and social outcomes.

### *Achievements*

With the completion of the Warraber and Mer airstrip upgrades all Torres Strait airstrips are now sealed. The only exception is Yam Island which is 95% complete and due for completion in August 2006.



*The bitumen sealed Warraber Airstrip.*

Courtesy Queensland Transport

## SUB-PROGRAM: COMMUNITY HOUSING

### *Objective*

To maximise the provision of adequate and appropriate housing for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region.

### *Description*

The Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Agreement outlines the framework within which the delivery of housing and infrastructure programs are planned and coordinated in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. As a result of the Bilateral Agreement, the Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee was formed.

The TSRA provides Secretariat support for JTSHIC and TSRA Chairperson, Mr Kris, currently sits as JTSHIC Chairperson. The Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Agreement between the Commonwealth Government, the Queensland Government, the Island Coordinating Council (ICC) and TSRA provides that JTSHIC membership comprises of one Australian Government representative, two Queensland Government representatives, one TSRA representative, and one Island Coordinating Council (ICC) representative.

The chief purpose of the Committee is to plan and coordinate housing and infrastructure development so that equitable outcomes for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region are achieved. As such, this committee has an overseeing role in guiding and implementing housing policy in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

### *Achievements*

Four JTSHIC meetings were held during 2005-2006, and JTSHIC continued its valuable work in Housing and Infrastructure coordination and planning. The continuing success of Torres Strait housing and infrastructure development is in no small part due to JTSHIC's role.

## OUTPUT FIVE – SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENT

Through the Social, Cultural and Development Output, the TSRA aims to enable Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people of the Torres Strait region to lead independent and healthy lives, with full recognition of their cultural heritage and rights to land. It aims to achieve this by providing coherent and responsive programs that will improve the quality of their lives and ensure equity in their access to services and participation in the wider community.

This output comprises six programs as outlined below:

1. Municipal Support;
2. Broadcasting;
3. Social Justice;
4. Heritage, Culture and Environment;
5. Sports; and
6. Social Support (Youths, Aged and Women's Issues).

### PROGRAM – MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

#### *Objective*

To increase the number of Indigenous people of the Torres Strait region with access to and gaining benefit from community facilities and essential municipal services consistent with and appropriate to their needs.

#### *Description*

The TSRA may provide funding under this Program for:

- Contributions toward the operating costs of local and remote communities' councils and organisations.
- Supplement the State's vehicle and machinery replacement program.
- Fund outright or contribute to the funding of the construction of Community amenities, buildings, essential services and temporary accommodation.

#### *Funding*

In 2005-2006, the TSRA committed \$1,217,000 as a contribution to the operations of the island councils (which included the incorporation of BRACS and Financial Administration Improvement Program funds), \$1,350,000 towards the purchase or replacement of earth moving and other machinery, 487,775 towards the full operational costs of three Town based organisations, \$480,000 as the Commonwealth contribution to the joint State/Commonwealth Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program (HEMTP) and \$162,946 to various Accounting firms for the preparation of end of year documentation enabling the timely acquittal of TSRA's 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 Grants program to island councils.

## Achievements

The island councils used TSRA's recurrent contribution to municipal operations for the employment of executive officers/council clerks, resident or visiting financial consultants, all responsible for the management and coordination of the councils' operations. The TSRA funds were also used to supplement the funds provided by the Queensland Government for council operations and the capital equipment replacement program. In the 2005-2006 financial year, the TSRA achieved 97.4% expenditure over council operations, but only 60% of the available machinery funds, as \$525,000 were only committed in June 2006 and were rolled over into 2006-2007. The TSRA achieved 97.4% expenditure for the funding of three Town-based organisations, two of them operating a CDEP, one on Thursday Island and one on Horn Island.

The TSRA contributed to training and employment opportunities in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area by providing \$480,000 in 2005-2006 to the Island Coordinating Council (the fourth year of TSRA's contribution).

The funds were used to support the training and employment of local people through the Heavy Equipment and Management Training Program (HEMTP). HEMTP is an initiative of the Queensland Department of Main Roads and provides a plant pool of heavy equipment and machinery for use in earthworks and road construction. Projects on each island are scheduled into the HEMTP program and equipment and machinery are delivered to each island as needed. At the end of the project the machinery is returned to the plant pool.

The HEMTP has provided substantial skills development and employment for local people throughout Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area. A cooperative and mutual arrangement between the Queensland Department of Main Roads, the TSRA and the ICC has meant that HEMTP is also demonstrating an efficient and effective use of resources to provide infrastructure development in the region through the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP), in particular.



*HEMPT trainees receive accredited training during their work on the Warraber airstrip.*

\$82,946 was allocated, committed and spent towards the final audit of all 2004-2005 TSRA grants to Island Councils, thereby allowing the timely acquittal and disposal of surplus funds. A further \$80,000 was allocated for the same purpose to enable acquittal of the 2005-2006 grants to Island Councils and rolled over into 2006-2007 financial year.

An amount of \$810,000 was granted to the Island Councils and Town-based organisations to allow them to purchase the following items of machinery and equipment:

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| • St. Paul Island Council | 1 truck                                  |
| • Bamaga Island Council   | Replacement of 2 administrative vehicles |
| • TRAWQ Community Council | 1 Backhoe                                |
| • Ugar Island Council     | 1 Bus                                    |
| • Iama Island Council     | 1 Backhoe                                |
| • Poruma Island Council   | Replacement of 2 administrative vehicles |
| • Mer Island Council      | 1 Garbage truck                          |
| • Erub Island Council     | 1 Backhoe                                |

## PROGRAM – BROADCASTING

### *Objective*

To enable Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people of the Torres Strait region access to the range of broadcasting and communication services available to mainstream Australia.

To develop and extend the broadcasting and communications network of Indigenous residents of the Torres Strait in order to reinforce and promote their cultural identity and to foster general community awareness of their culture and priorities.

### *Description*

This Program gives Indigenous residents of the Torres Strait control of their own broadcasting and television services. Through the Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme (BRACS), remote communities are provided with facilities to gain access to, and control of, television and radio services. It encourages the production of programs with local and cultural input for distribution within the Torres Strait region and the rest of Australia. It also supports the operations and development of the Torres Strait Islanders' Media Association (TSIMA).

### *Funding*

In 2004-2005, the TSRA incorporated the BRACS program run by the island councils into the general contribution to council municipal operations, together with Financial Accountability Improvement Program (FAIP) funds. This practice continued in 2005-2006 and recognises the current situation where island councils utilise the BRACS funds at varying levels, giving them the flexibility of using these funds for other purposes related to their operations.

The remainder of the broadcasting funds (\$584,690) were allocated to the Torres Strait Islander Media Association (TSIMA) for operational and community broadcasting costs, as well as urgent repairs, upgrades and maintenance of their building. In addition, an amount of \$93,149 was committed and spent towards the purchase or replacement of urgent broadcasting equipment.

### *Achievements*

The TSRA achieved 100% expenditure against the commitment. TSIMA is providing a local service of news, music, current affairs and items of interest, which continued throughout 2005-2006.

The BRACS schemes are utilised based on individual island's needs, with some communities using the scheme for local productions revolving around local language and culture, while the majority use the BRACS facilities to relay four television channels to the communities.

## PROGRAM – SOCIAL JUSTICE

### *Objective*

To ensure that the human and legal rights of the Indigenous people of the Torres Strait region are enforced at international, national, state and local levels.

### *Description*

The TSRA is providing financial assistance towards the provision of culturally appropriate, Indigenous legal aid services. It also supports advocacy services representing the interests of Indigenous people in contact with the juvenile and criminal justice system, and is committed to the development of Torres Strait Indigenous perspectives to be brought to bear in international and national forums.

## Funding

The TSRA provided \$419,300 under this Program during 2005-2006 for the provision of a legal service to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region. 100% expenditure was achieved.

## Achievements

The principal achievement of this Program has been the continuing availability of legal representation for people living in the Torres Strait region at the Magistrate Courts of Thursday Island, Badu Island and Bamaga through the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula (TSNP) Legal Service.

In 2005-2006, the TSNP Legal Service gave preliminary legal advice, consultations, legal support and representation to 5,009 clients, including 454 civil cases, 133 family cases and 813 criminal cases. They also handled 28 Traditional Adoption cases, issued 39 brief-outs and referrals. They gave representation to a total of 1,178 defendants facing a total of 2,525 charges, including brief outs involving 32 defendants facing 50 charges in their representation at Thursday Island, Badu and Bamaga Magistrates Court, as well as the Justice of the Peace and Thursday Island District Courts.

The TSNP Legal Service continued an annual program of intensive legal and office training for their staff, including several sessions on dealing with clients.

An amount of \$9,000 was provided to Crime Stoppers towards the production and installation of Community Signs.

## PROGRAM – HERITAGE, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

### Objective

To assist the Indigenous people of the Torres Strait region in preserving, protecting and developing their cultural heritage and to promote their involvement in environmental issues affecting them.

### Description

This Program provides funds designed to support projects seeking to preserve and protect the environment, heritage, culture and languages of the Indigenous people of the Torres Strait region; to promote and maximise their involvement in the management of their land, seas and sacred sites; and to ensure that they regain ownership and control of the areas and objects of cultural significance to them.

In addition, this Program provides funds to promote, develop and support the Torres Strait region's Indigenous people in their involvement with traditional and modern artistic and cultural activities as well as to promote awareness of the contribution made by the region's Indigenous art, culture and history to the wider Australian and world community.

More recently, TSRA established a Land & Sea Management Unit to coordinate the delivery of regional and local level land and sea management initiatives, and to support communities in accessing additional financial and technical support and information about the sustainable management of their environments.



*Indigenous staff prepare for an exhibition at Gab Titui Cultural Centre.*

## A) HERITAGE AND CULTURE

### Funding

In 2005-2006, the TSRA committed a total of \$260,677 for the support of artistic and cultural activities in the Torres Strait region, achieving 84.7% expenditure.

Grantee	Project	Contribution (\$)
Torres Shire Council	Music Festival	5,000
Badu Island Council	Traditional Owners Conference	10,000
Badu Island Council	Dance Group Tour to Cairns	10,000
TRAWQ community Council	Gab Titui Cultural Centre trainees	60,000
Boigu Island Council	Dance group attendance to sport tournament	3,000
Saibai Island Council	Film crew travel	2,200
Thursday Island State School	Culture Day celebrations	2,000
Dauan Island Council	Arts Exhibition	1,300
Erub Island School	Contribution to Arts Centre	0 (\$40,000 rolled over into 06/07)
Badu Island Council	Dance team travel to Brisbane	10,000
HIAC	Traditional funeral	2,000
Mabuiag Island Council	Traditional choir Mabuigiu Kwaya	10,000
Dauan Island Council	NAIDOC week celebrations	700
Mer Island Council	Mabo Day	8,000
Bamaga Island Council	Mabo Day	5,000
TRAWQ Community Council	Mabo Day	5,000
TRAWQ Community Council	Alick Tipoti Frame Art work	2,000
Saibai Island Council	Traditional Canoe	2,250

### Achievements

The Gab Titui Cultural Centre saw its second complete year of operations and provides a focus to the cultural activities of the region, through art exhibitions, workshops and as an outlet for much of the artistic production of the Torres Strait region. Through its involvement with the CDEP scheme operated by TRAWQ, it provides training and employment to five Indigenous persons.

As in the previous year, the TSRA matched \$25,000 received from Arts Queensland in October 2005 to create a pool of \$50,000 for Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund (IRADF) projects. This pool was increased by the \$29,227 project funds rolled over from 2004/05, plus a reimbursement

of \$3,000 from one of the grantees, bringing it to a total of \$82,227. Successful applications for the 2005-2006 Torres Strait IRADF included:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Tina Asela	Make audio recording of Island hymns and choruses	Dauan	4,225
Irene Robinson	Cultural Arts & Design Program for students of Kaziw Meta	Thursday Island	10,000
Ugar Island Council	Workshop in painting, batik, lino printing and ceramics	Ugar Island	7,414
Billy Missi	Attend Master Class with Master Printer Basil Hall in Northern Territory	Kubin community	3,300
Stanley Laifoo	Complete and frame painting for an exhibition at 2005 cultural festival	Thursday Island	4,288
Patrick Mau	The funds will be used for professional training in recording, engineering, sound sampling and production.	Thursday, Horn Islands	5,655
Sacred Heart Primary School	Funds will be used to employ three local artists to engage the children from T.I. & Hammond Island OLSH in a series of art and dance workshops.	Thursday Island	7,000
Wilfred Aniba	To promote and demonstrate Torres Strait spear making and carving of artefacts.	Thursday Island	5,000
Bethalia Gaidan	The project is to make a series of video recording of cultural events ending up with the annual July re-enactment of the landing of the first missionaries on Dauan Island.	Dauan Island	5,000
Charles Passi	Record, distribute and market own contemporary music and the traditional music of Mer Island.	Mer Island	7,000
Alick Tipoti	The aim of the project is to decorate the wall of the Sewerage Treatment Plant on Loban Road.	Thursday Island	3,345
Yorke Island Council	The project involves the delivery of short course art lessons delivered remotely to a selection of Torres Strait communities. Over a 30 day period, three islands will host a 10 day long art specific program.	Masig, Kubin & Warraber communities	13,000
Ugar Island Council	The project is to hold a series of three workshops in batik, ceramics, and wood carving and wood turning. Each workshop will last for four weeks.	Ugar community	7,000
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>82,227</b>

Thus the TSRA, as the peak body, continues its commitment to assisting local individuals and organisations in the maintenance and development of the region's culture, historic and artistic heritage.



*Ceramic works at Ugar Island.*

## B) ENVIRONMENT

### *Funding*

In 2005-2006, the TSRA received \$549,908 from the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) for the delivery of a number of projects in the region. In-kind funding from the Queensland Government also supported this initiative.

<b>Communities Involved</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Budget NHT Funds</b>
	Foundation Funding (establishment of the Land and Sea Management Unit)	\$263,408
Badu, Boigu and Iama	Dugong & Marine Turtle Management Project, coordinated through the North Australian Indigenous Land & Sea NHT-funded Management Alliance (NAISMA)	\$125,000
Badu	Badu Island Land and Sea Management Program	\$121,000
	Regional Landcare Project Officer	\$40,500

### *Achievements*

TSRA was invited by Queensland Government and Australian Government Ministers to manage the delivery of the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) in the Torres Strait region. The overarching objectives of the NHT are biodiversity conservation, the sustainable use of natural resources, and community capacity-building and institutional change.

TSRA participated in developing a Land & Sea Management Strategy for Torres Strait. This Strategy forms the framework for the delivery of land and sea management initiatives and NHT and other sources of funding for environmental projects in the region. It is also useful in terms of encouraging the alignment of government and research effort to support regional and local land and sea management priorities and approaches.

### *Land & Sea Management Projects*

The Land & Sea Management Unit is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Land & Sea Management Strategy for Torres Strait with funding available under the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and National Landcare Programme (NLP) as well as other government and non-government funding sources.

The Land & Sea Management Unit team are involved in delivering a range of projects, including local, regional, cross-regional and collaborative projects.

Local projects about to commence include the:

- Badu Island Land & Sea Management Programme
- Ugar Island Water Quality Project

The TSRA Board has given in-principle approval for the following regional-scale projects to be funded:

- Sustainable Planning Project
- Water Education Project
- Marine Debris Project
- Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) Capacity-Building Project
- Land & Sea Management Education & Training Project

### *Landcare Projects*

The TSRA Land & Sea Management Unit now hosts a NLP funded Landcare Officer for Torres Strait. The Landcare Officer will assist in delivering a NLP funded landscape stabilisation project on Erub, Mer and Masig Islands, involving lantana removal and revegetation of hill-slopes with native species. Other communities will also be supported to carry out sustainable land management activities with assistance from the Landcare Officer.

### *Dugong & Turtle Management Project*

TSRA is one of five regions across northern Australia participating in an NHT-funded Dugong & Marine Turtle Management Project, coordinated through the North Australian Indigenous Land & Sea Management Alliance (NAISMA).

A Regional Activity Plan for Torres Strait (RAPTS) was developed by TSRA in collaboration with the CRC Torres Strait to guide the implementation of activities under this project. The RAPTS includes four key components: community management plans, monitoring programs, catch sharing, and education and awareness-raising.

The TSRA was successful in securing \$480,000 from NAISMA in September of 2005 and a further \$700,000 from the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) to implement elements of the RAPTS via a staged approach, for a two year period. The project officially commenced on 30 January 2006. The TSRA Board has nominated a total of eight candidate communities to take part in the pilot phase: Boigu, Badu, Iama, Mer, Erub, Mabuiag, Dauan and Horn Islands. These communities will be supported in the process of developing community management plans, and will be involved in regional education and awareness raising activities.

Additional support will be required from the PZJA and AFMA to facilitate the delivery of unfunded components of the Regional Activity Plan, including agreement upon regional catch sharing arrangements and effective community-based catch monitoring approaches.



*TSRA is participating in an NHT-funded Dugong & Marine Turtle Management Project.*

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## PROGRAM – SPORT

### *Objective*

To promote the social and physical well-being of the Indigenous peoples of the Torres Strait region and the development of a positive self-image through increased access to and participation in recreation and sporting activities.

### *Description*

This Program provides funding for the operational costs of sporting associations. It also provides funding for the holding of and travelling to sporting events, as well as the physical erection and upgrading of sporting and community facilities and equipment.

### *Funding*

In 2005-2006, the TSRA committed a total of \$2,234,565 under this program, but only achieving 36% expenditure, as a significant percentage of the total Sports allocation had to be rolled over into 2006-2007 awaiting matching funding from the responsible State agency (Queensland Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation).

### *Achievements*

Funding of \$403,410 was provided in 2005-2006 to the Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association (TSYRSA) as a continuing contribution towards their operating costs and towards the assistance, in terms of both funding and expertise, which they provide to the various Indigenous sporting associations in the Torres Strait. This contribution included in 2005-2006 an increased amount enabling more small sports projects to be funded under TSYRSA's own guidelines and priorities as the umbrella Sports organisation in the region. The funding enabled various sporting codes (including indoor volleyball, darts, basketball and rugby league) to be conducted through their specific sporting associations, coaching clinics and competitions (including the annual "Island of Origin" rugby league tournament).

In 2005-2006 Warraber and St. Paul communities improved their sports infrastructure with joint TSRA/Queensland Government funding and a further five communities (Masig, Horn, Dauan and Ugar Islands and TRAWQ community) have plans to further improve their sports infrastructure with the assistance of the Queensland Government. To that effect, an amount of \$1,429,292 was rolled over into 2006-2007 to link in with the State program.

An amount of \$100,000 was committed and \$72,888 spent (\$27,112 is rolled over into 2006-2007 for its completion) towards a joint TSRA and Queensland Government Sports Plan for the Torres Strait region. This comprehensive plan will address not only the remaining infrastructure needs of the Island communities, but also the planning and implementation of sporting activities throughout the communities, including local structure and organisation, identification of stake holders, employment and training.

Other achievements included the construction of tennis and volleyball courts at TSYRSA on Thursday Island, Indoor courts at Badu, travel for a Boigu rugby team as well as for a school student, seating facilities for the Seisia sports oval and a touch carnival at St. Paul.

During the 2005-2006 financial year there continued to be significant development of sport in the Torres Strait region. The main sport is rugby league, but other codes, such as Australian Rules and rugby union, are making good inroads into the community and sporting events are very well attended. Major upgrades, as well as new constructions of sporting facilities, available on Thursday Island and on the outer islands have greatly facilitated this process.

## PROGRAM – SOCIAL SUPPORT

### *Objective*

To ensure that the rights and well-being of Indigenous women, youth, disabled and aged are respected and are commensurate with the norm applied in the wider Australian community and to reduce the incidence of drug abuse, domestic violence, neglect and other symptoms of social dysfunction affecting the Indigenous population of the Torres Strait.

### *Description*

This Program provides funding for the operational costs of women, youth, disabled and aged care centres. Its funds may also be utilised toward partially or fully meeting costs associated with information tours and/or participation in relevant forums and conferences.

### *Funding*

In 2005-2006, the TSRA committed \$358,255 to this Program, achieving 100% expenditure.

### *Achievements*

In 2005-2006, as in the previous year, the Social Support allocation was broadly divided between the Port Kennedy Association (mostly Child Care and Youth issues) and the Mura Kosker Sorority (Women Issues) to assist in meeting the costs of their operations. These two organisations have overlapping programs as well.

The Port Kennedy Association operations include a number of programs funded by other Australian and Queensland Government agencies, with the operating costs met by the TSRA. The Association operates a childcare centre, which opened during 1997-1998 (State funded). They operate a community hall (local functions, church group gatherings, art and culture activities, school reunions, blue light discos, government departments dissemination of information, and general community organisations), a Social Worker program (referrals from community health, hospital, police, family services, child protection, domestic violence agency and schools), a Local Justice Initiative Program through the Community Justice Group (State funded), and finally a vacation care program, providing school children with a variety of holiday activities, and a Play Group, both funded by the Commonwealth Department of Families and Community Service. Yearly activities include Carols by Candle Light; Christmas presents for the residents of the local Star of the Sea Home for the Aged; and the holding of several mini-markets.

The Mura Kosker Sorority is an organisation formed to address the issues affecting Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal women living in the Torres Strait region, along principles similar to those current at Port Kennedy (various functional programs funded by other State and Commonwealth agencies, with the operating costs funded by the TSRA). These programs previously included Home and Community Care (HACC), Old Peoples Action Program (OPAP), Victims of Violence Program (Lena Passi Women Shelter), Emergency Relief Funding (ERF) and many others. However, the organisation has experienced difficulties and the programs funded by the State have decreased in both numbers and amounts. Mura Kosker will be reviewed in 2006-2007 to re-ascertain the level of support expected from TSRA in the context of the changed circumstances.

The TRAWQ Council Inc. continues to address the issues of the region's youth in a satisfactory manner. Their full-time Youth Officer has performed well coordinating youth activities and securing financial resources from government and private concerns.

Funding of \$148,828 was provided to the Port Kennedy Association (PKA) to assist in meeting the costs of their operations in delivering their programs.

A grant of \$147,484 was provided to the Mura Kosker Sorority for their administration costs, also enabling the organisation to conduct a regional Women's Forum and an International Women's Day.

A grant of \$48,523 was provided to the TRAWQ Council, for the delivery of youth and disabled programs.

A total of \$5,000 was allocated to the Thursday Island High School for the production of Shakespeare and Co. Concert.

An amount of \$1,190 was made available to the Torres Shire Council for the conduct of a Youth Workshop.

An amount of \$5,000 was granted to the Mabuiag Island Council for their local Croc Festival and \$2,230 was made available to the Poruma Island Council for a Student Council Conference.

## OUTPUT SIX – POLICY AND INFORMATION

### POLICY COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT

#### Objectives

1. To participate in the development of regional policies and the planning and coordination of initiatives undertaken by mainstream Commonwealth and State agencies to achieve a better outcome for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region.
2. To develop and maintain the Torres Strait Development Plan as required by Section 142D of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* and to assist in the review of TSRA's corporate documents.

#### Achievements for Objective 1

##### MARINE AND FISHERIES COORDINATION

The TSRA Chairperson together with the State and Commonwealth Ministers for Fisheries comprise the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) which is responsible for determining fisheries regulations for Torres Strait. Two PZJA meetings were held in 2005-2006 and the TSRA, at a cost of \$200,000, coordinated and supported the input of Torres Strait Indigenous fishermen into the consultative meetings that informed the PZJA meetings including:

- Two Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee meetings.
- Two Torres Strait Finfish Working Group meetings.
- Two Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group meetings.
- Two Torres Strait Prawn Working Group meetings.
- Two Community Fisher Group meetings.
- Two Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee meetings.
- Two PZJA Standing Officials meetings.
- One Latent Effort Advisory Committee meeting.

##### LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT

In June of 2006, TSRA established a Land & Sea Management Unit to coordinate the delivery of regional and local level land and sea management initiatives, and to support communities in accessing additional financial and technical support and information about the sustainable management of their environments.

The Land & Sea Management Unit is comprised of a Manager, Regional Natural Resource Management Facilitator, Landcare Officer, Dugong & Turtle Project Facilitator, and an Administration Officer. TSRA is also seeking funding from partner organisations, including the Marine & Tropical Science Research Facility, to employ a Community Liaison Officer within the Unit.

The regional indicative allocation of NHT funds for the Torres Strait region amounts to \$700,000 per annum over a three year period from 2004-2005 to 2006-2007 and \$547,000 for 2007-2008 TSRA hopes to leverage additional funding from partner organisations, including research organisations, government agencies, and philanthropic entities to further support land and sea management activities.

There is currently a Ranger programme in operation on Badu Island, which has links with the NHT-funded cross-regional Dugong & Marine Turtle Management Project, as well as the Carpentaria Ghost Nets Project. Several other communities have small-scale Ranger operations, employing one to six Rangers through the Island Councils or Aboriginal Councils.



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*TSRA has established a Land and Sea Management Unit to assist in the sustainable management of the region's natural resources.*

There is significant interest throughout the region in the opportunity for improved community-based land and sea management through the employment of Rangers, who would cover off on a range of functions, including monitoring and surveillance, weed control and pest management, revegetation and protection of sensitive habitats, amongst other things. There is also potential for future service-delivery arrangements to be negotiated with various government agencies in relation to the range of local functions that could be performed by Rangers on their behalf.

## **THE COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE TORRES STRAIT (CRC TS)**

The TSRA is a key member of CRC Torres Strait which completed a three year marine research program in 2005-2006. The research, costing a total of \$23M focused on 5 areas:

1. Sustaining the harvest of marine resources
2. Understanding ecosystem processes
3. Evaluating management strategies and risks
4. Education and training
5. Extension and communications

Other participants in the program were AFMA, AIMS, CSIRO Marine, CRC Reef, GeoScience Australia, JCU, National Oceans Office, and QDPI&F.

The TSRA's contribution was \$50,000 per year for the three years up to 2005-2006.

## **TORRES STRAIT TREATY**

The Torres Strait Treaty is a bilateral instrument established to delineate borders and jurisdictions between Australia and PNG. Under the Treaty, both nations have established a Protected Zone which provides administrative protection to the traditional way of life and livelihood of traditional inhabitants in the Torres Strait.

The TSRA Board is a key advisory body, providing input across a broad range of traditional life and livelihood issues. Members of the Board participate in an annual cycle of bilateral consultative meetings with both PNG traditional inhabitant counterparts and other officials, at the National and State/Provincial level. This year, Australia hosted the annual cycle of Treaty meetings.

The TSRA worked cooperatively with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to coordinate traditional inhabitant representatives and officials from the Torres Strait participation at the Treaty Liaison, Environmental Management Committee and the Joint Advisory Council Meetings. The complete Treaty cycle was held on Thursday Island for the first time since ratification of the Treaty in 1985. Issues of bilateral interest arising from the Treaty Cycle were addressed at the Papua New Guinea and Australian Ministerial Forum held on the Gold Coast in December 2005.

## **JOINT TORRES STRAIT HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

Through the Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee (JTSHIC) the TSRA continued to participate in the strategic planning for housing and infrastructure development in Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area. The committee met five times during 2005-2006 and continued to progress the aims and objectives of the Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Agreement.

The JTSHIC also continued to improve its efforts in maximising the planning and coordinating of housing and infrastructure activities in the region by monitoring the activities of 14 sub-committee meetings held during the year. These were the Major Infrastructure Program Steering Committee (six meetings), the Island Coordination Council Infrastructure Support Unit Steering Committee (four meetings) and the Heavy Equipment Management Training Program Steering Committee (four meetings).

The Committee continued to strengthen its partnership base with the inclusion of the Queensland Department of Transport as a regular participant in Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee meetings.

## **TORRES STRAIT HEALTH PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

The Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum consists of the TSRA, the Department of Health and Ageing, Queensland Health, the Island Coordinating Council (ICC), the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area District Health Council and the Queensland Ambulance Service. The TSRA and other Health Partnership Forum members work to meet Framework Agreement aims and to monitor the implementation of Framework for Action top ten priorities. The Partnership met five times during 2005-2006 and a primary outcome was the final development and delivery of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Health Plan.

The focus for the Health Partnership Forum during 2005-2006 was to complete the Regional Health Plan and this included hosting the Regional Community Health Workshop held in November 2005 involving over sixty community members across the Torres Strait to endorse the issues and priorities. The Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area District Health Council endorsed the Plan and it is now being considered by the Island Coordinating Council and the Torres Strait Regional Authority before finally being implemented by the Partnership for action. The Partnership will monitor the roll-out and implementation of the strategies once the Plan is finalised. In addition, the Partnership Forum has been active in engaging with the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Partnership in a bid to foster Partnership relations. A joint meeting between the two Partnerships is scheduled in 2006 and this will be the first of its kind.

The TSRA also delivered policy advice, information and reports on a range of other health issues, including PNG cross border matters and briefing papers to the Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum. The TSRA also participates in the Torres Strait Treaty Health Issues Committee and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Council.

The TSRA with financial assistance from the Department of Health and Ageing commenced the Community Health Management Committees project. This has involved engaging a consultant to establish the locally driven community committees across the Region. There are four Phases involved with the project with Phase One highlighting community consultation near completion.

The Framework Agreement that governs the Torres Strait Health Partnership and sets out the Partnership's Strategic Goals and Objectives is ready for signing. It is expected that a formal signing by the Australian Government Minister for Health, the State Government Minister for Health, TSRA Chairperson, ICC Chairperson and the District Health Chairperson will conduct a public launch and signing in July 2006.

## *Achievements for Objective 2*

### **TORRES STRAIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

In accordance with TSRA's statutory responsibilities under Section 142D of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*, the TSRA Board reviewed and developed a new Torres Strait Development Plan in 2004-2005. The Plan sets out what the current TSRA Board aims to achieve over the next four years under each of the TSRA Portfolio areas. The plan provides a clear and concise policy direction and in 2005-2006 was a guide for the TSRA in its consultations with other government agencies on new initiatives and programs for the Torres Strait region.

### **INFORMATION DELIVERY**

#### Objectives

1. To provide information to the Minister and the TSRA Board on the TSRA's policies, goals, progress and achievements.
2. To provide information to the public on the TSRA's policies, goals, progress and achievements.

## *Achievements for Objective 1*

### **SECRETARIAT**

During the year the Secretariat Section assisted the TSRA Chairperson, Board Members and General Manager to perform their functions as set out by the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*. This included working towards the objectives and outcomes set out in the Torres Strait Development Plan.

In addition to holding four board meetings during the year the TSRA held eight Executive Committee meetings in preparation for board meetings. The Executive Committee consist of the nine Portfolio Members. In 2005-2006 the Secretariat Section liaised with relevant TSRA Sections to provide 66 briefing papers for the Board's consideration which resulted in the Board making 44 formal decisions. A total of 23 items of Ministerial correspondence, including nine Ministerials, were prepared for the Minister.

## *Achievements for Objective 2*

### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

The TSRA provided information to the public in 2005-2006 using a number of mediums, including press releases, newsletters, website placements, advertising, and production of promotional material.

A Public Affairs Assistant is responsible for delivering this TSRA objective. During the past year, 32 press releases, 24 Chairperson's Columns published in the Torres News, 11 newsletters, 22 speeches and the 2004-2005 TSRA Annual Report were produced.

Pamphlets and promotional material were also produced focusing on:

- The TSRA Development Plan 2005-2009.
- The TSRA Corporate Plan 2005-2009.
- The TSRA Service Charter 2005-2006.
- The Major Infrastructure Program (Booklet & CD Rom).

- What is the TSRA Brochure.
- The Gab Titui Cultural Centre Brochure.
- The Gab Titui Cultural Centre Café Brochure.

All TSRA publications are available on the TSRA website within 48 hours of circulation.

Public Affairs assisted in advertising and marketing of the Gab Titui Cultural Centre as well as managing media involvement for the Centre's second birthday in April 2006. Public Affairs also coordinated the TSRA's participation in the July 2005 Croc Festival and Careers Market.

All TSRA non-campaign press advertising is conducted through the Australian Government provider HMA Blaze. No campaign advertising was conducted in 2005-2006.

General enquiries from both the regional and mainstream media were attended to, as well as 158 information requests from the public via telephone, email, in person or mail. 86.71 per cent of these information requests were responded to within 48 hours.

The TSRA website ([www.tsra.gov.au](http://www.tsra.gov.au)) continues to offer the community an opportunity to forward queries or feedback to the TSRA regarding its programs, policies, goals, progress and is updated regularly. In addition, the TSRA and Native Title Office have toll free telephone numbers (TSRA: 1800 079 093 and NTO: 1800 029 719) that the community is encouraged to use. An email address ([info@tsra.gov.au](mailto:info@tsra.gov.au)) was also established this year to further enhance communication between the public and TSRA.





# *Financials*



*Lowatta Lodge  
Masig Island.*



## INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

### Scope

#### *The financial statements and directors' responsibility*

The financial statements comprise:

- Statement by Directors and Chief Executive;
- Income Statement, Balance Sheet and Statement of Cash Flows;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Schedules of Commitments and Contingencies; and
- Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

of the Torres Strait Regional Authority for the year ended 30 June 2006.

The directors of the Torres Strait Regional Authority are responsible for preparing the financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Torres Strait Regional Authority and that comply with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, Accounting Standards and mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia. The directors of the Torres Strait Regional Authority are also responsible for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial statements.

#### *Audit Approach*

I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to you. My audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporates the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive, rather than conclusive, evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

While the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting was considered when determining the nature and extent of audit procedures, the audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

I have performed procedures to assess whether, in all material respects, the financial statements present fairly, in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Torres Strait Regional Authority's financial position, and of its financial performance and cash flows.

The audit opinion is formed on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used, and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors of the Torres Strait Regional Authority.

### ***Independence***

In conducting the audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the ethical requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

### **Audit Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Torres Strait Regional Authority:

- (a) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the Torres Strait Regional Authority's financial position as at 30 June 2006 and of its performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with:
  - (i) the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders; and
  - (ii) applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia.

Australian National Audit Office



Puspa Dash  
Senior Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra  
24 November 2006

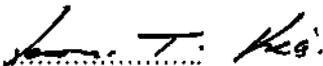
**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY  
STATEMENT BY DIRECTORS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2006 are based on properly maintained financial records and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders, made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Authority will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This Statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.

Signed: .....

Mr J T Kris  
Chairperson

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2006

Signed: .....

Mr F Gela  
Deputy Chairperson

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2006

Signed: .....

Mr W. See Kee  
General Manager

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2006

Signed: .....

Mr G Churchward  
Chief Financial Officer

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2006

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**CONTENTS**  
**2005-2006**

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**INCOME STATEMENT**  
For the year ended 30 June 2006

	Notes	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
<b>INCOME</b>			
<i>Revenue</i>			
Revenues from government	4A	53,664	52,042
Goods and Services	4B	1,354	838
Interest	4C	596	1,091
Other Revenue	4D	781	987
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>56,395</b>	<b>54,958</b>
<i>Gains</i>			
Income from loans	4E	135	-
Net gains from disposal of assets	4F	-	4
Other gains	4G	37	35
<b>Total Gains</b>		<b>172</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>56,567</b>	<b>54,997</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Employees	5A	4,283	3,855
Suppliers	5B	4,932	4,527
Grants	5C	47,204	44,494
Depreciation	5D	360	374
Write-down and impairment of assets	5E	210	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>56,989</b>	<b>53,250</b>
<b>OPERATING RESULT</b>		<b>(422)</b>	<b>1,747</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
*as at 30 June 2006*

	Notes	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6A	14,009	10,182
Receivables	6B	4,235	7,901
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>18,244</b>	<b>18,083</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>			
Land and buildings	7A	16,360	13,392
Plant and equipment	7B	405	394
Heritage and Cultural Assets	7C	35	35
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>16,800</b>	<b>13,821</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>35,044</b>	<b>31,904</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Payables</b>			
Suppliers	9A	1,099	186
Other Payables	9B	102	16
Grants	9C	4,703	3,855
Income received in advance	9D	3,366	-
<b>Total payables</b>		<b>9,270</b>	<b>4,057</b>
<b>Provisions</b>			
Employee provisions	8A	1,121	1,015
<b>Total provision</b>		<b>1,121</b>	<b>1,015</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>10,391</b>	<b>5,072</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>24,653</b>	<b>26,832</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Contributed Equity		32	32
Reserves		5,005	3,037
Retained surpluses		19,616	23,763
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>24,653</b>	<b>26,832</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		<b>15,460</b>	<b>12,427</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		<b>19,584</b>	<b>19,477</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		<b>10,253</b>	<b>4,958</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		<b>138</b>	<b>114</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
*For the year ended 30 June 2006*

	Notes	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Goods and services		5,220	2,186
Appropriations		53,664	52,042
Interest		587	762
Net GST received from Australian Taxation Office (ATO)		3,631	-
Loan Receipts		1,580	1,738
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>64,682</b>	<b>56,728</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Employees		(4,087)	(3,712)
Suppliers		(5,330)	(4,528)
Grants		(49,536)	(45,994)
Net GST paid to ATO		-	(655)
Other		-	(1)
Loan Payments		(1,491)	(1,692)
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>(60,444)</b>	<b>(56,582)</b>
<b>Net cash from or (used by) operating activities</b>	10	<b>4,238</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Proceeds from sales of plant and equipment		8	4
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Purchase of plant and equipment		(419)	(268)
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>(419)</b>	<b>(268)</b>
<b>Net cash from/(used by) investing activities</b>		<b>(411)</b>	<b>(264)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Equity injection		-	23
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Net cash from or (used by) financing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Net (decrease) or increase in cash held</b>		<b>3,827</b>	<b>(95)</b>
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period		10,182	10,277
<b>Cash at the end of the reporting period</b>	6A	<b>14,009</b>	<b>10,182</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

for the year ended 30 June 2006

	Accumulated Results		Asset Revaluation Reserve		Contributed Equity/Capital		Total Equity	
	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
<i>Opening Balance</i>	23,763	22,016	3,037	3,062	32	9	26,832	25,087
Adjustment for changes in Accounting policies	(3,725)	-	-	-	-	-	(3,725)	-
<b>Adjusted Opening Balance</b>	<b>20,038</b>	-	<b>3,037</b>	-	<b>32</b>	-	<b>23,107</b>	-
<i>Income and Expense</i>								
Revaluation adjustment	-	-	1,968	(25)	-	-	1,968	(25)
<i>Subtotal income and expenses recognised directly in equity</i>	-	-	1,968	(25)	-	-	1,968	(25)
<b>Net Operating Result</b>	<b>(422)</b>	1,747	-	-	-	-	<b>(422)</b>	1,747
<i>Total income and expenses</i>	<b>(422)</b>	1,747	<b>1,968</b>	<b>(25)</b>	-	-	<b>1,546</b>	1,722
<i>Transactions with Owners</i>								
Distributions to owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contributions by Owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Appropriation (equity injection)	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	23
<i>Sub-total Transactions with Owners</i>	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	23
<b>Closing balance at 30 June</b>	<b>19,616</b>	23,763	<b>5,005</b>	3,037	<b>32</b>	32	<b>24,653</b>	26,832

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS**  
*as at 30 June 2006*

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>BY TYPE</b>		
<b>Other Commitments</b>		
Operating leases	41	109
<b>Total other commitments</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>109</b>
Commitments receivable	(23)	(10)
<b>Net Commitments by Type</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>BY MATURITY</b>		
<b>Operating lease commitments</b>		
One year or less	23	49
From one to five years	18	60
<b>Total Operating lease commitments</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>109</b>
Commitments receivable	(23)	(10)
<b>Net Commitments by Maturity</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>99</b>

NB: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:

Nature of lease:

- Leasing of four motor vehicles for operating activities of the Authority
- No contingent rentals exist.
- There are no renewal or purchase options available to the Authority.

**SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES**  
*as at 30 June 2006*

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Bank Guarantee in favour of Torres Shire Council	116	116
<b>Total Contingencies</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>116</b>

The above schedules should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*for the year ended 30 June 2006*

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Note	Description
1	Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
2	The Impact of the Transition to AEIFRS from previous AGAAP
3	Events Occurring after Reporting Date
4	Income
5	Operating Expenses
6	Financial Assets
7	Non-Financial Assets
8	Employee Provisions
9	Payables
10	Cash Flow Reconciliation
11	Director's Remuneration
12	Related Party Disclosures
13	Executive Remuneration
14	Remuneration of Auditors
15	Average Staffing Levels
16	Contingent Liabilities and Assets
17	Financial Instruments
18	Reporting of Outcomes
19	Appropriations

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2006**

**Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**1.1 Basis of preparation of the Financial Statements**

The financial statements are required by clause 1(b) of Schedule 1 to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* and are a general purpose financial report.

The continued existence of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (the Authority) in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing appropriations by Parliament for the Authority's administration and programs.

The statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders or FMOs (being the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Orders (Financial Statements for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2005));
- Australian Accounting Standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period; and
- Interpretations issued by the AASB and Urgent Issues Group (UIG) that apply for the reporting period.

This is the first financial report to be prepared under Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS). The impacts of adopting AEIFRS are disclosed in Note 2.

The Income Statement, Balance Sheet and Statement of Changes in Equity have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities which, as noted, are at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless disclosure of the full amount is specifically required.

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard, assets and liabilities are recognised in the Balance Sheet when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under agreements equally proportionately unperformed are not recognised unless required by an accounting standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the Schedule of Commitments and the Schedule of Contingencies (other than unquantifiable or remote contingencies, which are reported at Note 16).

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard, revenues and expenses are recognised in the Income Statement when and only when the flow or consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

**1.2 Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates**

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, the Authority has made the following judgements that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements:

The fair value of land and buildings has been taken to be the market value of similar properties as determined by an independent valuer.

The fair value of concessional loans has been taken to be the difference between the carrying amount of the asset and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the current market rate for similar assets.

**1.3 Statement of Compliance**

The financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS).

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2006**

**Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

**1.3 Statement of Compliance (continued)**

Australian Accounting Standards require the Authority to disclose Australian Accounting Standards that have not been applied, for standards that have been issued but are not yet effective.

The AASB has issued amendments to existing standards, these amendments are denoted by year and then number, for example 2005 -1 indicates amendments 1 issued in 2005.

The table below illustrates standards and amendments that will become effective for the Authority in the future. The nature of the impending change within the table, has been out of necessity abbreviated and users should consult the full version available on the AASB's website to identify the full impact of the change. The expected impact on the financial report of adoption of these standards is based on the Authority's initial assessment at this date, but may change. The Authority intends to adopt all of standards upon their application date.

Title	Standard affected	Application date*	Nature of impending change	Impact expected on financial report
2005-1	AASB 139	1 Jan 2006	Amends hedging requirements for foreign currency risk of a highly probable intra-group transaction.	No expected impact.
2005-4	AASB 139, AASB 132, AASB 1, AASB 1023 and AASB 1028	1 Jan 2005	Amends AASB 139, AASB 1023 and AASB 1038 to restrict the option to fair value through profit or loss and makes consequential amendments to AASB 1 and AASB 132.	No expected impact.
2005-5	AASB 1 and AASB 139	1 Jan 2006	Amends AASB 1 to allow an entity to determine whether an arrangement is, or contain, a lease.  Amends AASB 139 to scope out a contractual right to receive reimbursement (in accordance with AASB 137) in the form of cash.	No expected impact.
2005-10	AASB 132, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 117, AASB 133, AASB 139, AASB 1, AASB 4, AASB 1023 and AASB 1038.	1 Jan 2007	Amended requirements subsequent to the issuing of AASB 7.	No expected impact.
2006-1	AASB 121	31 Dec 2006	Changes in requirements for net investments in foreign subsidiaries depending on denominated currency.	No expected impact.
	AASB 7 Financial Instruments Disclosures	1 Jan 2007	Revise the disclosure requirements for financial instruments from AASB 1132 requirements.	No expected impact.

\*Application date is for annual reporting periods beginning on or after the date shown.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2006**

**Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

**1.4 Revenue**

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:

- The risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
- The seller retains no managerial involvement nor effective control over the goods;
- The revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- It is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.

Revenue from rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date. The revenue is recognised when:

- The amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- The probable economic benefits with the transaction will flow to the entity.

The stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date is determined by reference to the proportion that costs incurred to date bear to the estimated total costs of its transaction.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 days term, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any provision for bad and doubtful debts. Collectability of debts is reviewed at balance date. Provisions are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

Interest revenue is recognised on a time proportionate basis that takes into account the effective yield on the relevant asset, except for Housing and Enterprise loans, in which case revenue is recognised biannually as stipulated by the terms and conditions of the individual loan agreements.

Revenue from rent is recognised when the time period to which it relates has passed.

*Revenues from Government*

Amounts appropriated for Departmental outputs appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as revenue, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned.

Appropriations receivable are recognised at their nominal amount.

**Gains**

*Resources Received Free of Charge*

Services received free of charge are recognised as revenue when and only when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as revenue at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition.

**1.5 Transactions with the Government as Owner**

*Equity Injections*

Amounts appropriated which are designated "injections" for a year (less any formal reductions) are recognised directly in Contributed Equity in that year.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2006**

**Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

**1.6 Employee Benefits**

As required by the FMOs, the Authority has early adopted AASB 119 (Employee Benefit as issued in December 2004).

Liabilities for services rendered by employees are recognised at the reporting date to the extent that they have not been settled.

Liabilities for "short-term employee benefits" (as defined in AASB 119) and termination benefits due within twelve months are measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

All other employee benefit liabilities are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

*Leave*

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave, long service leave and personal leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of the Authority is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration, including the Authority's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at 30 June 2006. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

*Superannuation*

Staff of the Authority are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS) or the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap).

The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Commonwealth. The PSSap is a defined contribution scheme.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course.

The Authority makes employer contributions to the Australian Government at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the cost to the Government of the superannuation entitlements of the Authority's employees.

From 1 July 2005, new employees are eligible to join the PSSap scheme.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions for the final day of the year.

**1.7 Leases**

A distinction is made between finance leases and operating leases. Finance leases effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of leased non-current assets. An operating lease is a lease that is not a finance lease. In operating leases, the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

The Authority does not have any finance leases.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a straight line basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets. In 2005/06, the Authority leased four vehicles for the operation of the organisation.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2006**

**Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

**1.8 Grants**

Most grant agreements require the grantee to perform services, provide facilities, or to meet eligibility criteria. In these cases, the Authority recognises grant liabilities only to the extent that the services required have been performed or the eligibility criteria have been satisfied by the grantee.

In cases where grant agreements are made without conditions to be monitored, liabilities are recognised on signing of the agreement.

**1.9 Cash**

Cash means notes and coins held and any deposits held at call with a bank or financial institution. Cash is recognised at its nominal amount.

**1.10 Financial Risk Management**

The Authority's activities expose it to normal commercial financial risk. As a result of the nature of the Authority's business and internal and Australian Government policies, dealing with the management of financial risk, the Authority's exposure to market, credit, liquidity and cash flow and fair value interest rate risk is considered to be low.

**1.11 Financial Assets**

Investments are initially measured at their fair value.

After initial recognition, financial assets are to be measured at their fair values except for:

- a. Receivables which are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any provision for bad and doubtful debts when collection of the debt is judged to be less rather than more likely.
- b. Term deposits which are recognised at cost.

The Authority has recorded the total of concessional loans in its financial statements at fair value in accordance with AASB 139. This amount in total varies from the debt level shown in the Authority's loans management system.

**1.12 Impairment of Financial Assets**

As prescribed in the FMOs, the Authority has applied the option available under AASB 1 of adopting AASB 132 and AASB 139 from 1 July 2005 rather than 1 July 2004.

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at each balance date.

*Financial Assets Valued at Fair Value through the Income Statement*

If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred for concessional loans and receivables, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's recoverable amount and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the current market rate for similar assets. The loss is recognised in the Income Statement.

*Comparative Year*

The above policies were not applied for the comparative year. For loan receivables, amounts were recognised and carried at original loan amount less a provision for doubtful debts based on an estimate made when collection of the full amount was no longer probable. Bad debts were written off as incurred.

Other financial assets carried at cost which were not held to generate net cash inflows, were assessed for indicators of impairment. Where such indicators were found to exist, the recoverable amount of the assets was estimated and compared to the assets carrying amount and, if less, reduced to the recoverable amount. The reduction was shown as an impairment loss.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2006**

**Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

**1.13 Trade Creditors**

Trade creditors and accruals are recognised at their nominal amounts, being the amounts at which the liabilities will be settled. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

**1.14 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets**

Contingent liabilities and assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed in the relevant schedules and notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset, or represent an existing liability or asset in respect of which settlement is not probable or the amount cannot be reliably measured. Remote contingencies are part of this disclosure. Where settlement becomes probable, a liability or asset is recognised. A liability or asset is recognised when its existence is confirmed by a future event, settlement becomes probable (virtually certain for assets) or reliable measurement becomes possible.

**1.15 Acquisition of Assets**

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and revenues at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor authority's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

**1.16 Property, Plant and Equipment**

*Asset recognition threshold*

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the Balance Sheet, except for purchases costing less than \$1,000, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

*Revaluations*

*Basis*

Land, buildings and plant and equipment are carried at fair value, being revalued with sufficient frequency such that the carrying amount of each asset is not materially different at reporting date from its fair value.

Fair values for each class of asset are determined as shown below.

<b>Asset Class</b>	<b>Fair Value Measured at:</b>
Land	Market selling price
Building	Market selling price
Plant & Equipment	Market selling price

Following initial recognition at cost, valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets do not materially differ from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of assets revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reserves a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised through the Income Statement. Revaluation decrements for a class of asset are recognised directly through the Income Statement except to the extent that they reverse a previous revaluation increment for that asset class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the relevant date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset related to the revalued amount.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2006**

**Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

**1.16 Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)**

*Depreciation*

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the Authority using, in all cases, the straight line method of depreciation.

Depreciation rates (useful lives) and residual values are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable asset are based on the following useful lives:

	<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>2004-2005</u>
Buildings on freehold land	50 years	50 years
Plant and equipment	3 to 5 years	3 to 5 years

Heritage and cultural assets are assessed as having an infinite life and are not depreciated.

The aggregate amount of depreciation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 5C.

*Impairment of Non-Current Assets*

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2006. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less the cost to sell and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the assets ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the Authority were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

No indicators of impairment were found for assets at fair value.

**1.17 Taxation**

The Authority is exempt from all forms of taxation except fringe benefits tax and the goods and services tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST:

- except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office ; and
- except for receivables and payable.

**1.18 Insurance**

The Authority has insured for risks through the Government's insurable risk managed fund, called "Comcover". Workers compensation is insured through Comcare Australia.

**1.19 Comparative Figures**

Comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation in these financial statements where required.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2006**

**Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

**1.20 Rounding**

Amounts have been rounded to the nearest \$1,000 except in relation to the following:

- Remuneration of directors;
- Remuneration of officers (other than directors); and
- Remuneration of auditors.

**Note 2. The impact of the transition to AEIFRS from previous AGAAP**

Reconciliation of total equity as presented under previous AGAAP to that under AEIFRS

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Total equity under previous AGAAP	26,832	25,087
Total equity translated to AEIFRS	26,832	25,087

Reconciliation of profit or loss as presented under previous AGAAP to AEIFRS

	<b>2005</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>
Prior year as previously reported	1,747
Prior year profit as translated to AEIFRS	1,747

The cash flow statement presented under previous AGAAP is equivalent to that prepared under AEIFRS.

The Authority has not restated comparatives for financial instruments. The adjustments between AEIFRS and the previous GAAP have been taken up at 1 July 2005 against opening equity. The only adjustment necessary was a decrease in receivables for concessional loans (Housing and Enterprise) of \$3,725,804 reflecting a change in the method of valuing financial instruments.

**Note 3. Events Occurring After Reporting Date**

There has been no event that has occurred after the reporting date that would significantly affect the on-going structure and financial activities of the Authority.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2006**

**Note 4. Income**

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
<b>Revenues</b>		
<u>4A – Revenues from Government</u>		
Appropriations for outputs	53,664	52,042
Total Revenues from Government	<u>53,664</u>	<u>52,042</u>
<u>4B – Goods and Services</u>		
Services	1,112	774
Goods	242	64
Total sales of goods and services	<u>1,354</u>	<u>838</u>
Rendering of services to:		
External entities	1,112	774
Total rendering of services	<u>1,112</u>	<u>774</u>
Provision of goods to:		
External Entities	242	64
Total Provision of Goods	<u>242</u>	<u>64</u>
<u>4C – Interest</u>		
Interest on deposits	596	762
Interest on loans	-	329
Total Interest	<u>596</u>	<u>1,091</u>
<u>4D – Other Revenues</u>		
Rent	142	135
Other Government contributions	639	852
Total Other Revenues	<u>781</u>	<u>987</u>
<b>Gains</b>		
<u>4E – Income from Loans</u>		
Loan Income	1,581	-
Loan amortisation	(1,446)	-
Total income from loans	<u>135</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>4F – Net Gain from Sales of Assets</u>		
Plant and equipment		
Proceeds from disposal	-	4
Less Net book value of assets disposed	-	-
Net gain on disposal of plant and equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>4G – Other gains</u>		
Resources received free of charge	37	35
	<u>37</u>	<u>35</u>

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2006**

**Note 5. Operating Expenses**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<u>5A – Employee expenses</u>		
Wages and salaries	3,746	3,272
Superannuation	424	440
Leave and other entitlements	113	143
Total Employee Expenses	<u>4,283</u>	<u>3,855</u>

5B – Suppliers

Provision of goods - external entities	279	967
Rendering of services - external entities	4,596	3,512
Operating lease rentals*	43	43
Workers' compensation premium	14	5
Total supplier expenses	<u>4,932</u>	<u>4,527</u>

\*These comprise minimum lease payments only.

5C. Grants Expense

The Authority makes grants to eligible persons and communities in the Torres Strait area. The accounting policy for grants is detailed in Note 1.8

External entities - Non-Profit institutions	47,204	44,494
Total Grant Expenses	<u>47,204</u>	<u>44,494</u>

5D Depreciation and amortisation

Property, plant and equipment	360	374
Total Depreciation and amortisation	<u>360</u>	<u>374</u>

The aggregate amounts of depreciation or amortisation expensed during the reporting period for each class of depreciable asset are as follows:

▪ Buildings on freehold land	209	208
▪ Plant and equipment	151	166
	<u>360</u>	<u>374</u>

5E Write-down and impairment of assets

Net book value of assets disposed	17	-
Less Proceeds from disposal of assets	(8)	-
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of plant and equipment	9	-
Loans written off	201	-
Total write-down of assets	<u>210</u>	<u>-</u>

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2006**

**Note 6. Financial Assets**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>6A – Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Cash at bank	14,008	10,181
Cash on hand	1	1
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>14,009</u>	<u>10,182</u>
<b>6B – Receivables</b>		
Loans at fair value	3,150	6,965
Less: Allowance for doubtful debts	(205)	(139)
	<u>2,945</u>	<u>6,826</u>
Other Receivable	515	188
	<u>3,460</u>	<u>7,014</u>
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	775	887
Total Receivables	<u>4,235</u>	<u>7,901</u>
Receivables is represented by:		
Current	2,046	2,245
Non-current	2,189	5,656
Total receivable (net)	<u>4,235</u>	<u>7,901</u>
Receivables (gross) which are overdue are aged as follows:		
Current	4,124	7,874
Overdue by:		
- less than 30 days	4	2
- 30 to 60 days	18	19
- 60 to 90 days	-	2
- more than 90 days	89	143
	<u>111</u>	<u>166</u>
Total receivables (gross)	<u>4,235</u>	<u>8,040</u>
The allowance for doubtful debts is aged as follows:		
Current		
Overdue by:		
- less than 30 days	-	-
- 30 to 60 days	-	-
- 61 to 90 days	-	-
-more than 90 days	205	139
Total provision for doubtful debts	<u>205</u>	<u>139</u>

**Financial assets at fair value**

The Authority has adopted AASB 139 (Financial Instruments - Recognition and Measurement), and valued concessional loans (Housing and Enterprise) at fair value.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2006**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Note 7. Non-Financial Assets</b>		
<b>7A Land and Buildings</b>		
Freehold land – At fair value	5,205	3,279
Buildings on freehold land – At fair value	11,155	10,321
Accumulated depreciation	-	(208)
<b>Total buildings</b>	<b>11,155</b>	<b>10,113</b>
<b>Total land and buildings</b>	<b>16,360</b>	<b>13,392</b>
<b>7B Plant and equipment</b>		
Plant and equipment – at fair value	405	2,296
Accumulated depreciation	-	(1,902)
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>394</b>
<b>7C Heritage &amp; Cultural Assets</b>		
Artworks and Artefacts	35	35
<b>Total heritage and cultural assets</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>

**Assets at fair value**

All revaluations are conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at note 1. In 2005/06, an independent valuer Neil V Teves conducted the revaluations.

Revaluation increments of \$1,156,400 for land, \$797,773 for buildings on freehold land and \$13,566 for plant and equipment have been credited to the asset revaluation reserve.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2006**

**Note 7. Non-Financial Assets (continued)**

7D Analysis of Property, Plant and Equipment

**TABLE A - Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment.**

Item	Land	Buildings on Freehold Land	Total Land & Buildings	Plant & Equipment	Cultural & Heritage	TOTAL
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2005</b>						
Gross Book value	3,279	10,321	13,600	2,296	35	15,931
Accumulated depreciation	-	(208)	(208)	(1,902)	-	(2,110)
<b>Opening Net book value</b>	3,279	10,113	13,392	394	35	13,821
<b>Additions:</b>						
By purchase	770	453	1,223	165	-	1,388
Net revaluation increment/(decrement)	1,156	798	1,954	14	-	1,968
Depreciation/amortisation expense	-	(209)	(209)	(151)	-	(360)
<b>Disposals:</b>						
Other disposals	-	-	-	(17)	-	(17)
<b>As at 30 June 2006</b>						
Gross Book value	5,205	11,155	16,360	405	35	16,800
<b>Closing Net book value</b>	5,205	11,155	16,360	405	35	16,800

**Note 8: Employee Provisions**

8 A - Employee Provisions

Long service leave	393	475
Annual leave	531	382
Personal leave	197	158
<b>Total employee provisions</b>	<b>1,121</b>	<b>1,015</b>

Employee provisions are categorised as follows:

Current	983	918
Non-current	138	97
	<b>1,121</b>	<b>1,015</b>

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2006**

	2006	2005
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
<b>Note 9. Payables</b>		
<u>9A – Supplier Payables</u>		
Trade creditors	<u>1,099</u>	186
Supplier payables are current. Settlement is usually made net 30 days.		
<u>9B– Other Payables</u>		
PAYG payable to the ATO	79	-
Accrued expenses	<u>23</u>	16
Total other payables	<u>102</u>	16
All other payables are current.		
<u>9C– Grants Payable</u>		
Non-profit entities	<u>4,703</u>	3,855
Grants payable are represented by:		
Current	4,703	3,855
Non-current	-	-
<b>Total Grants Payable</b>	<u>4,703</u>	3,855
<u>9D – Income Received in Advance</u>		
Income received in advance	<u>3,366</u>	-

**Note 10: Cash Flow Reconciliation**

**Reconciliation of cash per Income Statement to Statement of Cash Flows**

Cash at year end per Statement of Cash Flows	14,009	10,182
Balance Sheet items comprising above cash: 'Financial Asset – Cash & Cash Equivalents'	<u>14,009</u>	10,182

**Reconciliation of operating result to net cash from operating activities:**

Operating result	(422)	1747
Depreciation /amortisation	360	374
Doubtful loans	200	(151)
Loss/(Gain) on disposal of assets	(7)	(4)
Loan amortisation	1,446	-
(Increase) / decrease in net receivables	(327)	(212)
(Increase) / decrease in loans receivable prior to measurement at fair value	(1492)	-
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	116	122
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	(42)	(427)
Increase / (decrease) in prepayments received	-	(49)
Increase / (decrease) in income received in advance	3,366	-
Increase / (decrease) in GST payable	112	-
Increase / (decrease) in grants payable	849	(1,254)
Increase / (decrease) in other provisions	79	-
<i>Net cash from / (used by) operating activities</i>	<u>4,238</u>	146

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
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**Note 11. Directors' Remuneration**

	2006	2005
The number of directors of the Authority included in these figures are shown below in the relevant remuneration bands:		
\$ Nil - \$14,999	17	15
\$15,000 - \$29,999	2	2
\$30,000 - \$44,999	-	2
\$135,000 - \$149,999	1	1
<b>Total number of Directors of the Authority</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Total remuneration received or due and receivable by directors of the Authority	<b>318,189</b>	<b>297,519</b>

The Authority's Board consists of 20 director positions. Eighteen hold office by virtue of their election to Island Council Chairpersons last held in March 2004 under the *Queensland Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984*. The other two are elected in accordance with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (formerly the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*.) The directors other than the Chairperson receive sitting fees when undertaking business of the Authority.

**Note 12. Related Party Disclosures**

**Directors of the Torres Strait Regional Authority**

The directors of the Authority during the year were:

Mr Jack AHMAT	Mr Rocky STEPHEN
Mr Ted BILLY	Mr Terry WALA
Mr Ron DAY	Mr Donald BANU
Mr Elia DOOLAH	Mr Fred GELA
Mr Joseph ELU	Mrs Louisa GUISE
Mr John KRIS	Mr Walter MACKIE
Mrs Margaret MAU	Mr Maluwap NONA
Mr Don MOSBY	Mr Jesse SAGAUKAZ
Mr Saila SAVAGE	Mr Robert SAGIGI
Mrs Nora PEARSON	Mr Bill SHIBASAKI

The aggregate remuneration of directors is disclosed in Note 11.

**Loans to Directors and Director related entities**

Loans were held by the following directors and director related entities. They were approved under normal terms and conditions applying to the Authority's Loan Scheme. The directors involved took no part in the relevant decisions of the Authority.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2006**

**Note 12. Related Party Disclosures (continued)**

**Loans**

D. Mosby

R. Sagigi

M. Mau

Seisia Island Council – J. Elu - Seisia Island Council Chairperson

Poruma Island Pty Ltd – N. Pearson - Coconut Island Council Chairperson

Badu Island Council – J. Ahmat - Badu Island Council Chairperson

J Sagigi – brother of R. Sagigi - TRAWQ Chairperson

Northern Star Pty Ltd – R. Bowie brother-in-law of J. Ahmat - Badu Island Council Chairperson

Darnley Island Council – E. Doolah - Darnley Island Council Chairperson

L. Sagigi (dec.)– brother of R. Sagigi - TRAWQ Chairperson

	2006 \$	2005 \$
Loans to directors outstanding at year end	86,311	160,224
Loan repayments during the reporting period	(30,817)	(12,092)
Loans to director related parties outstanding at year end	560,050	121,419
Loans to director related parties during period	263,517	50,000
Loan repayments during the reporting period	(138,234)	(67,933)
Interest revenue included in operating result from loans to directors/director related parties	-	13,978
Related party loans provided for as doubtful debts	(181,628)	-
Related party loans written off	(52,413)	-

The Authority has adopted AASB 139 (Financial Instruments - Recognition and Measurement), and valued loans outstanding at year end at fair value.

**Other Transactions with Directors or Director Related Entities**

The following directors served on organisations which were in receipt of funding from the Torres Strait Regional Authority during the financial year.

Directors' Name	Council	Grants Received 2006 \$	Grants Received 2005 \$
	TSIMA	717,839	573,220
	TSNP Legal Services	419,300	411,090
R Sagigi	TRAWQ Community Council	2,673,983	2,477,369
J. Ahmat	Badu Island Community Council	4,539,286	3,999,317
T. Billy	Warraber Island Community Council	2,051,141	1,591,770
R. Day	Murray Island Community Council	2,244,525	3,098,088
D. Banu	Boigu Island Community Council	1,641,631	1,320,882
E. Doolah	Darnley Island Community Council	2,473,037	2,055,977
J. Elu	Seisia Island Community Council	1,386,338	1,758,820
F. Gela	Hammond Island Community Council	1,353,233	965,690
J. Kris	St Pauls Community Council	2,134,230	2,167,438
W. Mackie	Yam Island Community Council	2,190,077	1,807,262
M. Mau	Dauan Island Community Council	1,096,118	1,028,760
D. Mosby	Yorke Island Community Council	2,416,508	2,372,528
N. Pearson/P. Mosby	Coconut Island Community Council	1,132,972	1,242,645
S. Savage	Kubin Community Council	1,398,502	1,580,166
B. Shibasaki	Port Kennedy Association	170,116	159,910
R. Stephen	Stephen Island Council	463,940	349,540
T. Waia	Saibai Island Community Council	1,842,965	1,835,380
L. Guise	Mabuiag Island Community Council	1,636,673	1,380,007
J. Saguakaz	Bamaga Island Community Council	2,892,176	2,567,872
*	Island Coordinating Council	7,723,454	9,311,378

\* All current directors, except Mr B Shibasaki and Mr M. Nona, are also directors of the Island Coordinating Council.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2006**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Note 13. Executive Remuneration</b>		
The number of executives of the Authority included in these figures are shown below in the relevant remuneration bands	<b>Number</b>	Number
• \$130,000 - \$144,999	-	-
• \$145,000 - \$159,999	-	-
• \$160,000 - \$174,999	<b>1</b>	-
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
The aggregate amount of total remuneration of executives shown above	<b>167,980</b>	-

**Note 14. Remuneration of Auditors**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
The costs of the financial statement audit service to the Authority were:	<b>72,000</b>	37,000

No other services were provided by the Auditor-General.

**Note 15 Average Staffing Levels**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
The average staffing levels (full time equivalent employees) for the Authority during the year were:	<b>57</b>	49

**Note 16 Contingent Liabilities and Assets**

The Schedule of Contingencies in the financial statements reports a contingent liability as at 30 June 2006 in respect of a guarantee made by the Authority on bank loans of \$116,000 made in favour of the Torres Shire Council.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2006**

**Note 17A Financial Instruments**

**Interest Rate Risk**

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate Maturing In						Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %			
				1 year or less		1 to 5 years		> 5 years									
		05-06 \$'000	04-05 \$'000	05-06 \$'000	04-05 \$'000	05-06 \$'000	04-05 \$'000	05-06 \$'000	04-05 \$'000	05-06 \$'000	04-05 \$'000	05-06 \$'000	04-05 \$'000	05-06 \$'000	04-05 %	04-05 \$'000	
<b>Financial Assets (Recognised)</b>																	
Cash at bank and on hand	6A	4,746	447	-	9,735	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,746	10,182	1.25	1.20
Term deposits	6A	-	-	9,263	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,263	-	5.5	4.9
Other receivables	6B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	515	188	-	-	515	188	4.5	4.5
Loans	6B	1,716	-	55	1,170	480	2,828	899	2,967	-	-	-	-	3,150	6,965	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,462</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>9,318</b>	<b>10,905</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>2,828</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>2,967</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>17,674</b>	<b>17,335</b>	<b>35,044</b>	<b>31,904</b>	-	-
<b>Total Assets</b>																	
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>																	
Trade creditors	9A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,099	186	-	-	1,099	186	-	-
Grant liabilities	9C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,703	3,855	-	-	4,703	3,855	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,802</b>	<b>4,041</b>	<b>5,802</b>	<b>4,041</b>	<b>10,391</b>	<b>5,072</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>																	

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2006-06**

**Note 17B Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities**

Departmental Financial Assets	Note	2006		2005	
		Total Carrying Amount \$'000	Aggregate Fair Value \$'000	Total Carrying Amount \$'000	Aggregate Fair Value \$'000
Cash at Bank	6A	4,746	4,746	10,182	10,182
Term Deposits	6A	9,263	9,263	-	-
Receivables for goods and services (Net)	6B	515	515	188	188
Loans	6B	3,150	3,150	6,965	6,965
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>		<b>17,674</b>	<b>17,674</b>	<b>17,335</b>	<b>17,335</b>

Financial Liabilities (Recognised)	Note	2006		2005	
		Total Carrying Amount \$'000	Aggregate Fair Value \$'000	Total Carrying Amount \$'000	Aggregate Fair Value \$'000
Trade Creditors	9A	1,099	1,099	186	186
Grant Liabilities	9C	4,703	4,703	3,855	3855
<b>Total Funded Liabilities (Recognised)</b>		<b>5,802</b>	<b>5,802</b>	<b>4,041</b>	<b>4,041</b>

**Note 17C Credit Risk Exposures**

The Authority's maximum exposures to credit risk at reporting date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the carrying amount of those assets as indicated in the Balance Sheet.

The Authority has no significant exposures to any concentrations of credit risk.

All figures for credit risk referred to do not take into account the value of any collateral or other security.

**Note 18. Reporting of Outcomes**

**Note 18A. Outcomes of the Authority**

The Authority is structured to meet one outcome, being to achieve a better quality of life and develop an economic base for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal persons living in the Torres Strait. The following output groups have been identified in achieving this outcome:

Output group 1	Economic Development
Output group 2	Community Development Employment and Training
Output group 3	Native Title
Output group 4	Housing and Environment, Health and Infrastructure
Output group 5	Social, Cultural and Development
Output group 6	Policy and Information

**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements  
For the year ended 30 June 2006**

**Note 18B. Net Cost of Outcome Delivery**

	<b>Outcome 1</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>2006 \$'000</b>	<b>2005 \$'000</b>	<b>2006 \$'000</b>	<b>2005 \$'000</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Departmental	<b>56,989</b>	53,250	<b>56,989</b>	53,250
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>56,989</b>	53,250	<b>56,989</b>	53,250
Cost recovered from provision of goods and services to the non-government sector	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Costs Recovered</b>	<b>-</b>	-	<b>-</b>	-
<b>Other external revenues</b>				
Departmental				
Sales of goods and services to external entities	<b>1,354</b>	838	<b>1,354</b>	838
Interest	<b>596</b>	1,091	<b>596</b>	1,091
Income from loans	<b>135</b>	-	<b>135</b>	-
Net (loss)/gains from disposal of assets	-	4	-	4
Other external revenues	<b>818</b>	1,022	<b>818</b>	1,022
<b>Total other external revenues</b>	<b>2,903</b>	2,955	<b>2,903</b>	2,955
<b>Net cost/(contribution) of outcome</b>	<b>54,086</b>	50,295	<b>54,086</b>	50,295

The Authority operates primarily in a single industry and geographic environment, being the administration of government programs in the Torres Strait region. The Authority is structured to meet one outcome. As there is only one outcome detailed information is contained in the Income Statement and associated notes.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2006**

**Note 18C. Major Departmental Revenue and Expenses by Output Group**

	Output Group 1		Output Group 2		Output Group 3		Output Group 4		Output Group 5		Output Group 6		Non Specific		Total	
	2006 \$000	2005 \$000	2006 \$000	2005 \$000	2006 \$000	2005 \$000	2006 \$000	2005 \$000	2006 \$000	2005 \$000	2006 \$000	2005 \$000	2006 \$000	2005 \$000	2006 \$000	2005 \$000
<b>Departmental Expenses:</b>																
Employees	729	655	942	848	428	386	814	347	385	732	985	887	-	-	4,283	3,855
Suppliers	887	1,136	569	572	1,381	698	372	206	262	464	1,461	1,451	-	-	4,932	4,527
Grants	1,649	2,109	30,834	30,033	4	78	8,111	6,324	6,534	5,910	72	40	-	-	47,204	44,494
Depreciation	62	63	79	82	36	37	68	34	32	71	83	87	-	-	360	374
Write down and impairment of assets	35	-	47	-	20	-	40	-	19	-	49	-	-	-	210	-
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>3,362</b>	<b>3,963</b>	<b>32,471</b>	<b>31,535</b>	<b>1,869</b>	<b>1,199</b>	<b>9,405</b>	<b>6,911</b>	<b>7,232</b>	<b>7,177</b>	<b>2,650</b>	<b>2,465</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>56,989</b>	<b>53,250</b>
<b>Funded by:</b>																
Revenues from Government	2,814	2,748	32,668	31,953	1,336	1,407	8,834	8,096	6,192	6,607	1,820	1,231	-	-	53,664	52,042
Sale of Goods and Services	266	-	183	-	480	-	158	-	75	-	192	-	-	-	1,354	-
Interest	102	-	131	-	59	-	114	-	54	-	136	-	-	-	596	-
Income from loans	23	-	30	-	13	-	26	-	12	-	31	-	-	-	135	-
Net gains from disposal of assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Other	99	776	31	415	14	250	27	170	81	415	566	925	-	-	818	2,951
<b>Total operating revenues</b>	<b>3,304</b>	<b>3,524</b>	<b>33,043</b>	<b>32,368</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>1,657</b>	<b>9,159</b>	<b>8,266</b>	<b>6,414</b>	<b>7,022</b>	<b>2,745</b>	<b>2,156</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>56,567</b>	<b>54,997</b>

The Authority's outcomes and outputs are described at Note 18A.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2006**

**Note 19. Appropriations**

Particulars	Departmental Outputs		Loans		Equity		Total	
	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
<b>Year ended 30 June</b>								
Balance carried forward from previous year								
Appropriation Acts 1 and 3	53,664	52,042					53,664	52,042
Available for payment of CRF	53,664	52,042					53,664	52,042
Cash payments made out of CRF	53,664	52,042					53,664	52,042
Balance carried forward to next year								
Represented by:								
Appropriations Receivable								

This table reports on appropriations made by the Parliament of the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) for payment to the Authority. When received by the Authority, the payments made are legally the money of the Authority and do not represent any balance remaining in the CRF.



# *Appendices*



*Hammond Island,  
Torres Strait.*

## APPENDIX 1: TSRA GRANTS

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Badu Island Council	CDEP wages	\$2,941,047
Badu Island Council	CDEP operations	\$885,102
Badu Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$87,900
Badu Island Council	Dance Teams Cairns All Blacks Performance	\$10,000
Badu Island Council	Upgrade Indoor Court Surface	\$21,397
Badu Island Council	Community Training Program	\$160,000
Badu Island Council	Land & Sea Summit	\$4,000
Badu Island Council	Restaurant	\$280,000
Badu Island Council	Marine Ranger Program	\$110,000
Badu Island Council	Torres Strait Leaders Conference	\$10,000
Badu Island Council	Coxswain Training	\$9,840
Badu Island Council	Eddie Nona Art Exhibition	\$10,000
Badu Island Council	Mura Badulgal - Purchase Boat	\$10,000
Bamaga Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,946,770
Bamaga Island Council	CDEP operations	\$631,706
Bamaga Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$98,700
Bamaga Island Council	Community training	\$170,000
Bamaga Island Council	Medium Sized Machinery	\$40,000
Bamaga Island Council	Mabo Day Celebration	\$5,000
Boigu Island Council	CDEP wages	\$998,651
Boigu Island Council	CDEP operations	\$306,930
Boigu Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$67,000
Boigu Island Council	Community training	\$36,000
Boigu Island Council	Boigu Guest House	\$50,000
Boigu Island Council	Top Western Sports	\$3,000
Boigu Island Council	Community Fuel Bowser	\$166,800
Boigu Island Council	Turtle & Dugong Officer	\$3,250
Boigu Island Council	DOTARS 'Growing Regions' Conference	\$10,000
Crime Stoppers Queensland Limited	Crime Stoppers Signs	\$9,000
Dauan Island Council	CDEP wages	\$593,954
Dauan Island Council	CDEP operations	\$214,139
Dauan Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$68,000
Dauan Island Council	Community training	\$40,000
Dauan Island Council	Arts Exhibition - St Brendans College	\$1,300
Dauan Island Council	Top Western Sports	\$2,000
Dauan Island Council	Arts Development Project - Tina Asela	\$4,225

Dauan Island Council	Community Fuel Bowser	\$166,800
Dauan Island Council	Individual Professional Development B. Gaidan	\$5,000
Dauan Island Council	NAIDOC Week Celebration	\$700
Erub Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,533,536
Erub Island Council	CDEP operations	\$436,401
Erub Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$73,100
Erub Island Council	Community training	\$30,000
Erub Island Council	Erub Island Dolphin	\$250,000
Erub Island Council	Medium Machinery (backhoe)	\$150,000
Hammond Island Council	CDEP wages	\$599,961
Hammond Island Council	CDEP operations	\$214,138
Hammond Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$50,645
Hammond Island Council	Community training	\$15,000
Hammond Island Council	Fuel Bowser Project	\$223,489
Hammond Island Council	Hammond Island Dolphin	\$250,000
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	CDEP wages	\$564,887
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	CDEP operations	\$214,138
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	Administrator/CEO Salary	\$80,000
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	Community training	\$36,000
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	CDEP Capital for land development	\$30,320
Iama Community Council	CDEP wages	\$1,305,544
Iama Community Council	CDEP operations	\$396,208
Iama Community Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$73,500
Iama Community Council	Community training	\$80,000
Iama Community Council	Machinery	\$135,000
Iama Community Council	Airstrip Upgrade	\$100,000
Iama Community Council	Coastal Erosion Funding allocation approved	\$96,575
Iama Community Council	Turtle & Dugong Officer	\$3,250
Island Coordinating Council	Operating expenses	\$232,454
Island Coordinating Council	Heavy Equipment Management & Training	\$480,000
Island Coordinating Council	ICCISU	\$1,611,000
Island Coordinating Council	Major Infrastructure Program	\$5,400,000
Kubin Island Council	CDEP wages	\$779,069
Kubin Island Council	CDEP operations	\$249,828
Kubin Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$54,305
Kubin Island Council	Community training	\$62,000
Kubin Island Council	Billy Missi - Print workshop with Basil Hall	\$3,300
Kubin Island Council	Kubin Island Dolphin	\$250,000

Mabuiag Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,067,309
Mabuiag Island Council	CDEP operations	\$285,482
Mabuiag Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$70,500
Mabuiag Island Council	Community training	\$31,582
Mabuiag Island Council	Community Fuel Bowser	\$166,800
Mabuiag Island Council	Mabuigiu Kawayu	\$10,000
Mabuiag Island Council	Croc Fest	\$5,000
Mer Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,464,423
Mer Island Council	CDEP operations	\$471,102
Mer Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$79,000
Mer Island Council	Machinery & Vehicles	\$150,000
Mer Island Council	Community training	\$65,000
Mer Island Council	Arts Development - Charles Passi	\$7,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	Operating expenses	\$142,484
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	Community training	\$4,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	International Womens Day 2006	\$5,000
Port Kennedy Association Inc.	Operating expenses	\$148,828
Port Kennedy Association Inc.	Community training	\$8,000
Port Kennedy Association Inc.	Stanley Laifoo - Artwork at TS Arts Festival 2005	\$4,288
Port Kennedy Association Inc.	Alick Tipoti - Paint mural at treatment plant on TI	\$3,345
Port Kennedy Association Inc.	Patrick Mau - Professional Music Development	\$5,655
Poruma Island Council	CDEP wages	\$742,978
Poruma Island Council	CDEP operations	\$239,120
Poruma Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$53,944
Poruma Island Council	Machinery	\$50,000
Poruma Island Council	Resort salaries assistance	\$44,700
Poruma Island Council	Poruma State School	\$2,230
Poruma Island Council	Touch Football Carnival	\$2,800
Sacred Heart Primary School	Arts Development - Workshop	\$7,000
Sacred Heart Primary School	Angus Dorante	\$1,018
Saibai Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,357,519
Saibai Island Council	CDEP operations	\$356,896
Saibai Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$64,100
Saibai Island Council	Community training	\$60,000
Saibai Island Council	Travel Assistance for Film Makers	\$2,200
Saibai Island Council	Traditional Canoe	\$2,250

Seisia Island Council	CDEP wages	\$910,041
Seisia Island Council	CDEP operations	\$303,361
Seisia Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$65,700
Seisia Island Council	Community training	\$50,000
Seisia Island Council	Camping Ground Extension	\$37,236
Seisia Island Council	Sports Oval Seating & Fencing	\$20,000
St Paul's Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,395,707
St Paul's Island Council	CDEP operations	\$399,723
St Paul's Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$72,000
St Paul's Island Council	Community training	\$184,000
St Paul's Island Council	Machinery	\$80,000
Thursday Island State High School	Australian Shakespeare Co. Performance	\$5,000
Thursday Island State High School	Culture Day Celebrations	\$2,000
Thursday Island State High School	Construction Team/Students Costs	\$1,000
Torres Shire Council	2005 Torres Strait Musicfest	\$5,000
Torres Shire Council	Youth Workshop	\$1,190
Torres Strait Home for the Aged Association Inc.	Community training	\$10,000
Torres Strait Kaziw Meta	IRADF	\$10,000
Torres Strait Islanders' Media Association Inc.	Operating expenses	\$584,690
Torres Strait Islanders' Media Association Inc.	Employment & Training	\$40,000
Torres Strait Islanders' Media Association Inc.	Studio Equipment Upgrade	\$93,149
Torres Strait Youth & Recreational Sporting Association Inc.	Operating expenses	\$403,410
Torres Strait Youth & Recreational Sporting Association Inc.	Community training	\$4,000
Torres Strait Youth & Recreational Sporting Association Inc.	Upgrade Tennis/Volleyball Courts	\$6,760
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	CDEP wages	\$1,641,179
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	CDEP operations	\$528,206
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Contribution to Council operations	\$162,575
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Community training	\$61,500
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Youth Activities Program	\$43,523

TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Gab Titui Trainees	\$60,000
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Medium Machinery	\$160,000
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Arts Development - Wilfred Aniba	\$5,000
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Disability Action Week	\$5,000
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Alick Tipoti - Cont to Artwork Framing	\$2,000
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Mabo Day	\$5,000
TSNP Legal Services	Operating expenses	\$419,300
Ugar Island Council	CDEP wages	\$237,257
Ugar Island Council	CDEP operations	\$34,702
Ugar Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$63,300
Ugar Island Council	Arts training	\$9,981
Ugar Island Council	Machinery & Vehicles	\$45,000
Ugar Island Council	Stephen Island Freezer	\$44,286
Ugar Island Council	Arts Development	\$14,414
Ugar Island Council	Ferry - 6 months Operational Subsidy	\$15,000
Warraber Island Council	CDEP wages	\$991,217
Warraber Island Council	CDEP operations	\$297,924
Warraber Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$70,000
Warraber Island Council	Community training	\$65,000
Warraber Island Council	Warraber Sports Facility	\$275,000
Warraber Island Council	Resort	\$102,000
Warraber Island Council	Warraber Island Dolphin	\$250,000
Yorke Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,536,054
Yorke Island Council	CDEP operations	\$488,947
Yorke Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$74,400
Yorke Island Council	Community training	\$75,000
Yorke Island Council	Lowatta Lodge Extension	\$229,107
Yorke Island Council	Arts Development - Workshop	\$13,000

## APPENDIX 2: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SECTION 8 STATEMENT

### TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY STRUCTURE UNDER SECTION 8 OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

This statement is correct to 30 June 2006.

#### ESTABLISHMENT

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) was established under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989* (ATSIC Act) on 1 July 1994. TSRA is now constituted under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (ATSI Act).

#### FUNCTIONS

As stated in Section 142A of the ATSI Act the functions of the TSRA are to:

- (a) recognise and maintain the special and unique Ailan Kastom of Torres Strait Islanders living in the Torres Strait area;
- (b) formulate and implement programs for Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (c) monitor the effectiveness of programs for Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area, including programs conducted by other bodies;
- (d) develop policy proposals to meet national, State and regional needs and priorities of Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (e) assist, advise and co-operate with Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal communities, organisations and individuals at national, State, Territory and regional levels;
- (f) advise the Minister on:
  - (i) matters relating to Torres Strait Islander affairs, and Aboriginal affairs, in the Torres Strait area, including the administration of legislation;
  - (ii) the co-ordination of the activities of other Commonwealth bodies that affect Torres Strait Islanders, or Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (g) when requested by the Minister, to provide information or advice to the Minister on any matter specified by the Minister;
- (h) take such reasonable action as it considers necessary to protect Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal cultural material and information relating to the Torres Strait area if the material or information is considered sacred or otherwise significant by Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal persons;
- (i) at the request of, or with the agreement of, the Australian Bureau of Statistics but not otherwise, to collect and publish statistical information relating to Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;

- (j) such other functions as are conferred on the TSRA by this Act or any other Act;
- (k) such other functions as are expressly conferred on the TSRA by a law of a State or of an internal Territory and in respect of which there is in force written approval by the Minister under section 142B;
- (l) undertake such research as is necessary to enable the TSRA to perform any of its other functions;
- (m) do anything else that is incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the preceding functions.

## STRUCTURE OF THE TSRA

The TSRA is a Commonwealth Statutory Authority constituted under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*. It consists of an elected arm and an administrative arm. The elected arm is made up of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Alternate Deputy Chairperson, and Members, who are elected to office by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in their respective communities (see the 'TSRA Board' section for more details). The administrative arm is the responsibility of the General Manager.

## PROVISION OF FUNDING

The TSRA is required to prepare estimates of receipts and expenditure for each financial year for submission to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs under the Australian Government financial management framework of accrual accounting.

The TSRA operates a number of programs and sub-programs for the allocation of funds within the region including:

- loans and grants for enterprises;
- housing loans;
- economic, social and cultural grants to organisations and individuals;
- the administrative and elected arm operating costs;
- funding for programs to be conducted by the State; and
- funding for programs to be conducted by community councils.

The actual allocation of money to the various programs is undertaken by the TSRA elected arm. The administration is responsible for implementing funding decisions. The administration also ensures that grants and loans are used in accordance with the purposes for which they are provided, and that grants and loans are appropriately acquitted.

## CATEGORIES OF DOCUMENTS

- The Corporate section maintains paper and electronic files on TSRA budget expenditure; financial records; wages; client accounts; financial procedures; asset register; property management records; workplace agreement; recruitment, personnel files of TSRA officers; and Grants and Personnel Policy documents including instructions from the Australian

Public Service Commissioner; Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and the Remuneration Tribunal and ComCare. The Corporate section is also responsible for files containing Ministerial briefings; engagement of consultants; Occupational Health and Safety; Equal Employment Opportunities; Industrial Democracy; responses to Ombudsman's activities, responses to the Office of the Federal Privacy Commissioner, statistics for the Australian Bureau of Statistics, statistics for the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, survey for the Australian National Audit Office, statistics for the Australian Public Service, statistics and information for the Remuneration Tribunal and responses to Freedom of Information activities.

- The Secretariat section, being a sub-section of the Corporate Service Section, continues to maintain copies of the submissions that have been presented to the TSRA meetings; minutes of the TSRA meetings; TSRA Decision Sheets; and financial records relating to payment of TSRA members and meetings, as well as providing administrative support services to the office of the Chairperson.
- The Field Operations section maintains files relating to grants and community profiles and community development.
- A number of manuals and guidelines are used in the TSRA's decision-making policies and guidelines, including the TSRA Decision Making Principles, Finance Procedures manual, and the Program, Administration and Personnel Delegation manuals.

## APPENDIX 3: ADVERTISING AND MARKET RESEARCH

The TSRA advertises job vacancies using the Online Public Service Gazette and for national advertising, the Government Communications Unit preferred supplier for non-campaign advertising under the Central Advertising System. The TSRA also uses the local print media for advertising job vacancies, publishing media releases and for the distribution of TSRA newsletters under the Commonwealth Financial Guidelines.

No market research or polling and direct mailing of organisations was undertaken by the TSRA.

## APPENDIX 4: STAFFING OVERVIEW

- Non-ongoing staff at 30 June 2006
- Nominal total staff at 30 June 2006 (including non-ongoing staff)
- Representation of EEO groups within salary levels at 30 June 2006
- Organisational chart at 30 June 2006
- Ministerial Appointments

### a. Staff classification breakdown at 30 June 2006 (non-ongoing staff)

Classification	Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal			Non Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Executive Level 2						
Executive Level 1		1	1	1	1	2
APS Level 6				3	3	6
APS Level 5		2	2		2	2
APS Level 4				1		1
APS Level 3		1	1		1	1
APS Level 2	2	1	3	1		1
APS Level 1		12	12	1	3	4
Trainees	1	3	4			
Sub total						
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>

### b. Nominal total staff at 30 June 2006 (includes non-ongoing staff and non-ongoing casual staff attached to the Gab Titui Cultural Centre)

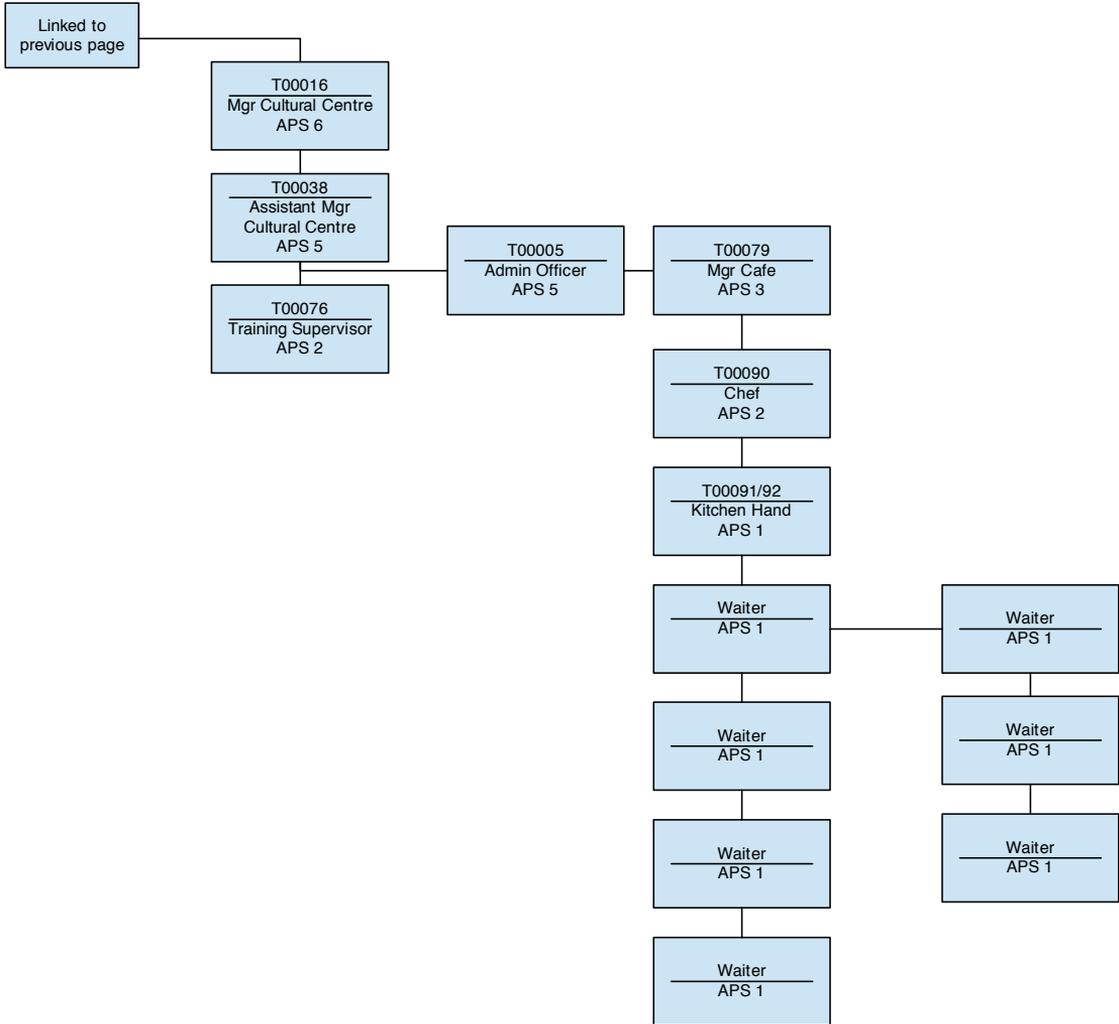
Classification	Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal			Non Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Principal Executive Officer	1		1			
Executive Level 2	2	1	3	3		3
Executive Level 1	4		4	2	2	4
APS Level 6	1	4	5	3	3	6
APS Level 5		6	6	2	3	5
APS Level 4	3	4	7	1		1
APS Level 3	1	2	3		1	1
APS Level 2	2	6	8	1		1
APS Level 1		13	13	1	3	4
Trainees	1	2	3			
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>25</b>

### c. Representation of EEO groups within salary level at 30 June 2006

Salary	Women	TSI&A	NESB	PWD
\$Above \$95,600 (Principal Executive Officer)		1		
\$77,545 to \$93,178 (Executive Level 2)	1	1		
\$67,237 to \$81,809 (Executive Level 1)	1			
\$52,447 to \$62,081 (APS Level 6)	13	9		
\$48,561 to \$51,492 (APS Level 5)	6	4		
\$43,535 to \$47,271 (APS Level 4)	2	2		
\$39,062 to \$42,160 (APS Level 3)	2	2		
\$34,298 to \$38,031 (APS Level 2)	17	14		
Below \$33,493 (APS Level 1 and Trainees)	8	7		
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>		



## Gab Titui Cultural Centre Organisational Chart as at 30 June 2006



Note: Waiter positions are shared non-going casual positions

### e. Ministerial Appointments

There was one Ministerial appointment during the reporting period. Under the ATSI Act 2005, Section 144G, Mr Wayne See Kee was appointed to the position of TSRA General Manager on 30 September 2005.

## CONSULTANCY SUMMARY

In 2005-2006 the TSRA engaged and used the services of consultancy firms to undertake or assist with various assignments for which the TSRA did not have either the resources and /or expertise. The total cost of consultants in 2005-2006 was \$906,847.40.

<b>Consultant</b>	<b>Details of Consultancy</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
Kidsons DFK	Business Feasibility Study	\$6,804.45
Kidsons DFK	Change Manager	\$52,846
Black & More	Major Infrastructure Program	\$402,606.59
Seafood Farming Services	Business Feasibility Study	\$26,051.45
JPS Consulting	Major Review of Funded Organisations	\$13,160
Pacifica Chartered Accounts	Island Council Audits	\$98,931
Michael Ferris & Partners	Architectural Services	\$5,000.00
Spin Communications & Marketing	Marketing & Public Relations	\$49,873.40
Oceania Maritime	Pearling Exhibition	\$5,201.82
Kevin Murphy	Anthropological Services	\$51,040.00
Dr Jeremy Beckett	Anthropological Services	\$10,500
Nicholas Peterson	Anthropological Services	\$2,532.50
RJ Howells P/L	T S Regional Sea Claim	\$17,250
Arafura Consulting	Anthropological Services	\$83,229.37
Dr Maureen Fuary	Anthropological Services	\$25,500
Appleby Consulting P/L	Naghir Native Title Determination	\$31,744.91
GJ McNaught P/L	TS Protected Zone Joint Authority	\$8,993.73
AEGIS Consulting	Smart Card Security Access	\$15,582.18
Smyth Bahardt Consultants	NAILSMA Dugong & Marine Turtle Management Project	\$4,900.00
JG Menham	Professional Services - Policy	\$37,832.34
Publicity Works NQ	Media Skills Training	\$3,636.36
C Lin Stock	Financial & budgetary support	\$8,082.61
Longley Stapleton	Accounts systems support	24,928.18
Frontier Software	HR & Payroll systems support	\$34,319.71

Clarity	Information Technology	\$31,912.13
Davidson Wilson Group	Human Resources	\$76,917.63
MGFC Consultants	Office air-conditioning	\$3,225
Answerz IT Consulting	IT Support CDEP Manager System	\$23,200
BMD Consulting	Cultural Centre Amenities	\$720.00
Smyth & Bahrtdt Consultants	Implementation Strategy plan Cross-Regional Dugong & Marine Turtle Management Project	\$10,780.00
Dr Garrick Hitchcock	Anthropological Services	\$59,493.13
Dr John Burton (ANU)	Anthropological Services	\$27,951.00
Dr Kingsley Palmer	Anthropological Services	\$26,223.91

## GLOSSARY

<b>ABS</b>	Australian Bureau of Statistics
<b>AFMA</b>	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>Ailan Kastom</b>	Island Custom
<b>AIMS</b>	Australian Institute of Marine Science
<b>ANAO</b>	Australian National Audit Office
<b>APSC</b>	Australian Public Service Commission
<b>ATES</b>	Assistance with Tertiary Education Scheme
<b>ATSI</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
<b>ATSIC</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
<b>BFS</b>	Business Funding Scheme
<b>BRACS</b>	Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme
<b>CDEP</b>	Community Development Employment Program
<b>CEIS</b>	Community Economic Initiatives Scheme
<b>CRC</b>	Cooperative Research Centre
<b>CSIRO</b>	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
<b>CTP</b>	Community Training Program
<b>DAFF</b>	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
<b>DEST</b>	Department of Education, Science and Training
<b>DEWR</b>	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
<b>DFAT</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
<b>DOGIT</b>	Deeds of Grant in Trust
<b>DoTARS</b>	Department of Training and Regional Services
<b>DSDTI</b>	Queensland Department of State Development, Trade and Innovation
<b>EEO</b>	Equal Employment Opportunity
<b>EPBC</b>	<i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
<b>Erub</b>	Also known as Darnley Island
<b>FOI</b>	Freedom of Information
<b>GBRMPA</b>	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
<b>GBRRF</b>	Great Barrier Reef Research Foundation
<b>GBRWHA</b>	Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
<b>HEMTP</b>	Heavy Equipment and Management Training Program
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>Hon.</b>	Honourable
<b>Iama</b>	Also known as Yam Island
<b>ICC</b>	Island Coordinating Council
<b>ILUA</b>	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
<b>IRADF</b>	Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund

<b>JTSHIC</b>	Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee
<b>Latent Effort</b>	This refers to 'unused' effort in a fishery
<b>Masig</b>	Also known as Yorke Island
<b>Mer</b>	Also known as Murray Island
<b>MIP</b>	Major Infrastructure Program
<b>Mura Kosker</b>	Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated
<b>NESB</b>	Non-English speaking background
<b>NFA</b>	PNG National Fisheries Authority
<b>NHT</b>	Natural Heritage Trust
<b>NNTT</b>	National Native Title Tribunal
<b>NPA</b>	Northern Peninsula Area
<b>NTO</b>	Native Title Office
<b>NTRB</b>	Native Title Representative Body
<b>OEA</b>	Office of Evaluation and Audit
<b>OH&amp;S</b>	Occupational Health and Safety
<b>OIPC</b>	Office of Indigenous Policy and Coordination
<b>PBC</b>	Prescribed Bodies Corporate
<b>PKA</b>	Port Kennedy Association
<b>PMP</b>	Performance Management Program
<b>PNG</b>	Papua New Guinea
<b>Poruma</b>	Also known as Coconut Island
<b>PWD</b>	People with a disability
<b>PZJA</b>	Protected Zone Joint Authority
<b>QDPI</b>	Queensland Department of Primary Industries
<b>QDPIF</b>	Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
<b>QHTN</b>	Queensland Heritage Trails Network
<b>QSIA</b>	Queensland Seafood Industry Association
<b>SES</b>	Senior Executive Service
<b>Sue</b>	Also known as Warraber Island
<b>TRAWQ</b>	Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine
<b>TRL</b>	Tropical Rock Lobster
<b>TSIMA</b>	Torres Strait Islander Media Association
<b>TSIREC</b>	Torres Strait Islander Regional Education Council
<b>TSLACC</b>	Torres Strait Local Agencies Coordination Committee
<b>TSNP</b>	Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula
<b>TSRA</b>	Torres Strait Regional Authority
<b>TSYSRA</b>	Torres Strait Youth, Sport and Recreation Association
<b>Ugar</b>	Also known as Stephen Island
<b>WACC</b>	Workplace Agreement Consultative Committee
<b>YAS</b>	Youth Activities Services
<b>YDMS</b>	Yorke, Darnley, Masig and Stephen Islands

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