

Media Release **No. 560**

For release 26 May 2014

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS TO FEATURE IN REEF DOCUMENTARY SERIES

A crew from Northern Pictures has just finished filming in the Torres Strait for their three-hour documentary series, 'Life on the Reef' which will be released later this year.

Director Nick Robinson, camera operator Chris Sammut and sound recordist Terry Meehan have been following the activities of people connected to the reef and those that work to protect it.

The film crew joined the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) during their Torres Strait trip from 12-23 May and filmed the Torres Strait Marine Safety Program as well as locals to capture compelling stories from the Torres Strait region.

The crew travelled with the AMSA and Maritime College team to several Islands in the Torres Strait to film some of the work they do in training and certifying local skippers.

Torres Strait Regional Authority Chairman, Joseph Elu, said the documentary would positively reinforce the great work coming out of marine projects and local rangers in the Torres Strait.

"The reef stories will demystify any misconceptions associated with the Torres Strait and celebrate the good work done by our locals and marine authorities," Mr Elu said.

"Many Islanders have sea country connections in the reef stretching back thousands of years, which is why the opportunity to share our stories, and educate others on the reef as we know it, is warmly welcomed.

"TSRA Rangers regularly partner with researchers to survey the biodiversity of the reef and our islands in order to better understand it and find ways to protect it for future generations."

'Life on the Reef' has been commissioned by the ABC to showcase Australia's greatest natural treasure and to celebrate our relationship with the natural world.

The series will be broadcast on the ABC and PBS in the United States in late 2014.

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