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TSRA RESPONSE TO 2014 FEDERAL BUDGET

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) said it would seek to make efficiencies in its administration and governance arrangements to cover any funding cuts announced in this week's Federal Budget.

TSRA Acting Chairperson, Mr Aven S. Noah, said the Budget has outlined the rationalisation of a number of Indigenous Affairs programs, with savings of \$3.5 million spread over four years identified for the TSRA.

"The Torres Strait, as with all communities around the country, needs to acknowledge the economic reality that Australia faces a budget deficit of approximately \$30 billion," Mr Noah said.

"While the Budget has made a number of recommendations, generally the cuts that may affect the Torres Strait will predominantly be in areas that will affect all Australians.

"However to ensure that the impact on TSRA delivered programs and Torres Strait communities is minimised we will be reviewing the organisation and its operations to make internal savings before considering any reduction to the services we provide to Torres Strait communities."

The impact of budget cuts will be \$1.2 million in next year's budget.

The government has also said that other Indigenous programs and activities will be consolidated into a new Indigenous Advancement Strategy which is comprised of five areas focusing on Jobs, Land and the Economy; Children and Schooling; Safety and Wellbeing; Culture and Capability; and Remote Australia Strategies.

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