

Torres Strait Regional Authority Statement of Intent

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) recognises it is funded by the Australian Government to formulate and implement programmes for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region. This includes monitoring the effectiveness of all programmes implemented for the region's Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people.

The TSRA acknowledges that Australian Government expects the TSRA to contribute to all Government priorities in particular the Government's key priorities, of improving economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The TSRA acknowledges that Government also expects organisations it funds to have high standards of corporate governance and use public monies effectively and efficiently. This Statement is not a direction under Section 1 42E of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (ATSIA Act).

In order to achieve these outcomes the TSRA agrees to develop policy proposals and formulate, implement and monitor the effectiveness of programmes in the Torres Strait area, with a particular focus on:

- implementing the Australian Government's school attendance strategy
- responding positively to initiatives of the Australian Government to improve Indigenous employment measures;
- supporting a significant increase in home ownership on the Torres Strait Islands, particularly by the sale of existing public housing to good renters;
- facilitating economic development by identifying and promoting sustainable projects that use the natural resources of the Torres Strait to the benefit of locals;
- working with the Australian Government to take all available measures to reduce overheads and operating costs including those of its Board;
- keeping the Minister informed regularly of its operations and expenditure, including by providing quarterly reports and agreeing to performance indicators against which its progress will be measured:
 - this includes progress in implementing the Torres Strait Development Plan 2014-18 and other plans agreed with local and state governments; and
- as required, providing the Minister with timely advice of emerging issues and possible risks to the performance of the TSRA and the delivery of its objectives.
- Working with Regional stakeholders to increase efficiencies within existing governance arrangements for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

In performing its role and pursuing the priorities outlined above, the TSRA agrees it will operate in accordance with all relevant legislation including the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*, the *Auditor-General Act 1997*, and the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (the CAC Act) and its successor *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) [which replaces the CAC Act and introduces a new Commonwealth financial framework from 1 July 2014] and the PGPA Rules. These responsibilities include to:

- have regard to the Australian National Audit Office's Better Practice Guides; and
- ensure TSRA Board members remain aware of their roles and responsibilities, including their role in TSRA 's strategy and direction setting; discharge their duties impartially with a high degree of diligence, care and skill and at all times act in a manner that promotes the highest level of corporate governance in Board operations.