

## Media Release **No. 604**

**For release 12 December 2014**

### **INSTALLATION OF TORRES STRAIT SEA LEVEL GAUGE**

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) in partnership with the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) has installed a climate-quality sea level gauge on the Thursday Island wharf.

TSRA Chairman, Mr Joseph Elu, said rising sea levels are a cause of significant concern for communities in the Torres Strait.

“According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the rate at which sea levels are rising has increased over the past decade and is set to increase further due to climate change,” Mr Elu said.

“To date our region has lacked direct and accurate measurement of sea level, forcing us to rely on tide gauges and information from the gauges in the nearby Pacific Ocean.

“Information from this new gauge will finally give us accurate data on how fast sea levels are changing in the Torres Strait, and will better inform our adaptation planning over the coming years.”

Variations in the rate of sea level rise in different locations are due to range of complex interacting factors including ocean temperatures, prevailing winds and the gravitational pull of land masses.

Mr Elu said the Bureau currently operates a network of sea level gauges around Australia, but to date the north eastern section of the continent has not been covered in as much detail.

“Sea level monitoring requires more accurate gauges than tidal monitoring and longer timeframes are needed to determine trends in sea level,” Mr Elu said.

“The Bureau has provided their technical expertise in the design and construction of the gauge and will operate and maintain the gauge under contract to TSRA for the next five years, after which the gauge will become part of the Bureau’s sea level gauge network.”

The installation of this gauge completes the Torres Strait Tide Gauge project, which also included the installation of four tide gauges across the region at Boigu, Iama, Kubin and Ugar.

**ENDS**

TSRA Media Contact – Bruce Nelson 0423 403 449



Caption: The new Sea Level Gauge installed on Thursday Island wharf (Image: TSRA).