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Torres Strait Regional Authority Annual Report 2017-2018



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The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) recognises the Traditional Owners of the land on which we operate. We acknowledge the past and present elders of all Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area and respect the culture and lore of all Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region.

The TSRA will always make every effort to respect Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people's cultural sensitivities when featuring the images or names of people who have recently died. However, please be advised that this document may contain images of persons who have died since this Annual Report was prepared for tabling in Parliament in October 2018. We offer our apologies for any distress caused if this occurs.

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This document must be attributed as the *Torres Strait Regional Authority Annual Report 2017-2018*.

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- ◆ ePub Electronic Publishing for eBook Readers.

9 October 2018

Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion
Minister for Indigenous Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I am pleased to present to you the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Annual Report for 2017-2018.

The TSRA's Annual Performance Statements, Financial Statements and Auditor-General's Report on the Financial Statements are included in the Annual Report as required under sections 42, 43 and 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth).

In accordance with section 10 of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014 (Cth), the TSRA has fully complied with the requirement to prevent, detect and deal with fraud.

The Directors of the TSRA endorsed the Annual Report in a resolution passed at Board meeting number 109 on 5 September 2018.

The TSRA delivered outcomes as set out in the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2014-2018* during the past year and continues to meet the objectives of the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009-2029*. Through both plans, the TSRA programmes have continued to contribute towards the Indigenous Advancement Strategy and closing the gap in disadvantage between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians living in the region.

The TSRA looks forward to continuing our good work with you and to working through challenges and building on our successes over the coming year.

Yours sincerely



Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM
TSRA Chairperson

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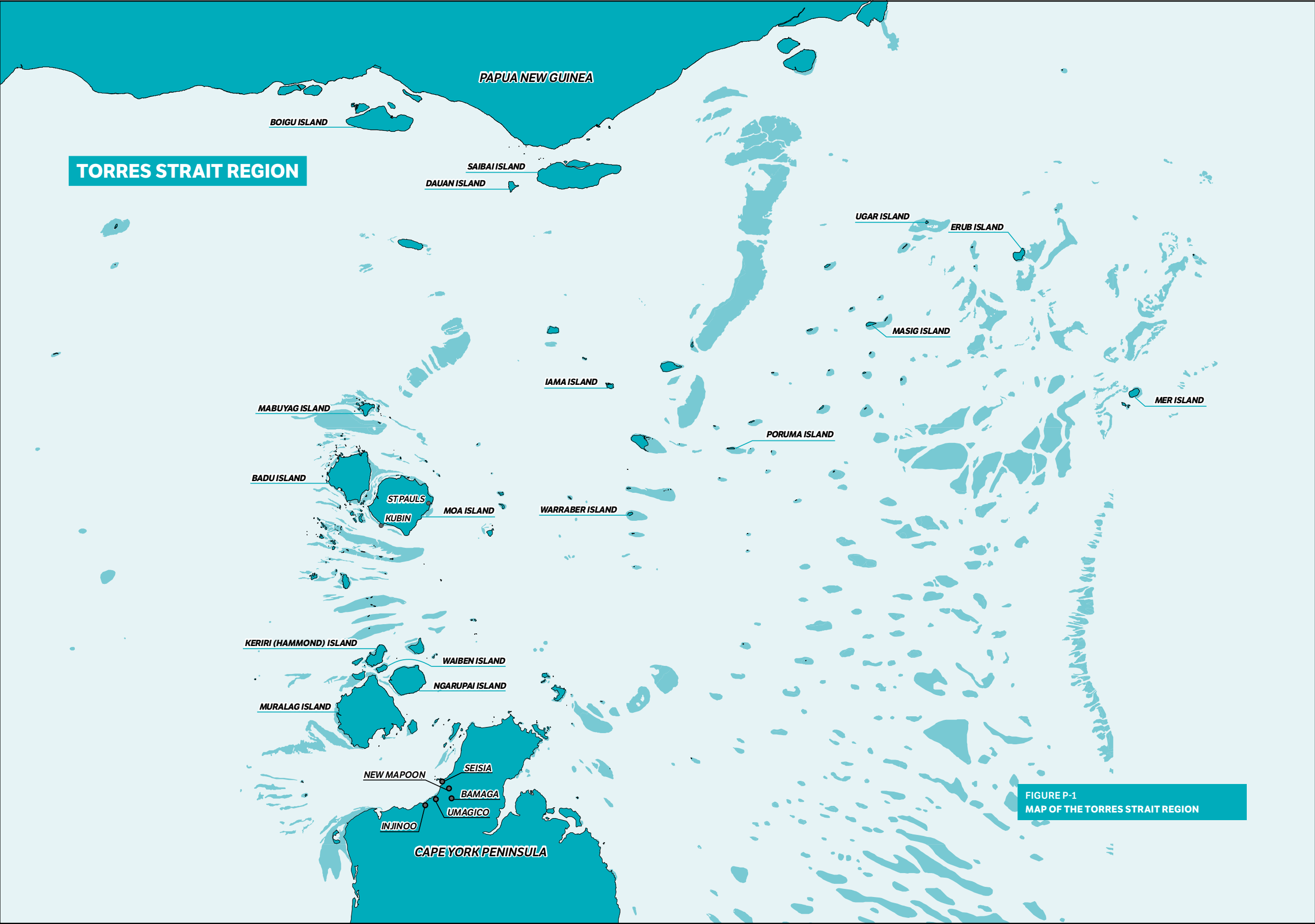


FIGURE P-1
MAP OF THE TORRES STRAIT REGION

VISION

EMPOWERING OUR PEOPLE, IN OUR DECISION, IN OUR CULTURE, FOR OUR FUTURE

KALA LAGAW YA

Ngalpun yangu kaaba woeydhay, a ngalpun
muruygaw danalagan mabaygal kunakan
palayk, bathayngaka

MERIAM MIR

Buaigiz kelar obaiswerare, merbi mir apuge
mena obakedi, muige merbi areribi tonarge,
ko merbi keub kerkerem

The Indigenous people of the Torres Strait are a separate race of First Nations peoples who speak two distinct traditional languages and six dialects. Torres Strait Islanders in the Eastern Islands speak the traditional language of Meriam Mir, which includes the Mer and Erub dialects. The Western and Central Island groups speak Kala Lagaw Ya, which includes the dialects of Kulalgau Ya, Kalaw Kawaw Ya, Kawrareg and Mabuyag. Torres Strait Creole and English are also spoken.

Our vision is expressed in the languages of our region, recognising the importance and diversity of our culture and traditional languages.

Our vision signifies that the heart of our region is our people, with culture an important part of our lives now and into the future. Empowering our people to contribute to and make decisions regarding their future ensures that our culture will remain strong and that the future will be guided by the people who live in the region and understand and promote its unique characteristics.

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

SUPPLY NATION CONNECT 2018

The TSRA Economic Development Programme supports local businesses to gain greater economic stability and growth. This included supporting Torres Strait and Aboriginal owned businesses to attend Supply Nation Connect 2018.

The six Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people who attended, representing five businesses, were:

- ◆ Ms Rita Gutchen – AJ Car Hire, Thursday Island
- ◆ Mrs Alice Loban – Koedal Taxi Service, Thursday Island
- ◆ Mr Stephen Nawia and Ms Dolly Oui – Seisia Hire Cars, Seisia
- ◆ Ms Matilda Nona – Artist, Badu Island
- ◆ Ms Louisa Nancy Kiwat – Artist, Erub Island.

Held on 22 and 23 May 2018 in Sydney, Supply Nation Connect 2018 included a knowledge forum and a tradeshow, on the theme ‘Shaping an inclusive economy’.

REGISTERING IN THE SUPPLY NATION DIRECTORY ALLOWS INDIGENOUS BUSINESSES GREATER VISIBILITY WHEN BEING CONSIDERED FOR AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT AND COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES.

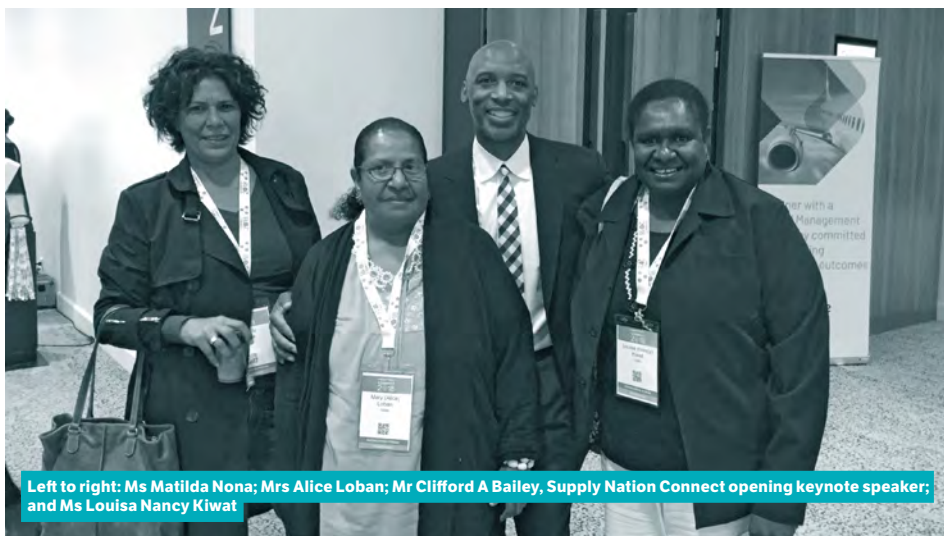
The first day provided an opportunity for Indigenous business owners from across Australia to share their knowledge and experience while engaging in a series of workshops facilitated by prominent business figures. The second day included the tradeshow, at which the TSRA operated a booth that provided our local businesses with an opportunity to showcase their businesses and products.



Left to right: Ms Dolly Oui; Ms Jamila Gordon, Supply Nation Connect closing keynote speaker; and Ms Rita Gutchen



Staff of the TSRA Economic Development Programme and local businesses at Supply Nation Connect 2018



Left to right: Ms Matilda Nona; Mrs Alice Loban; Mr Clifford A Bailey, Supply Nation Connect opening keynote speaker; and Ms Louisa Nancy Kiwat

The Supply Nation forum experience highlighted the importance of developing effective marketing and networking opportunities. Registering in the Supply Nation directory allows Indigenous businesses greater visibility when being considered for Australian Government procurement and commercial opportunities.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS REGIONAL STATISTICS DATA LIBRARY PROJECT

The TSRA and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) implemented a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the production of a Torres Strait Regional Statistics Data Library (RSDL). In signing the MOU, the TSRA and ABS have formalised their commitment to working together with the Torres Strait community in supporting the development of regionally specific data.

As a basis for regional development planning, the RSDL will provide geographically specific data related to a broad range of statistical topics relevant to the Torres Strait, such as:



Standing left to right: Mr Michael Bullot, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Centre of Excellence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics and Community Engagement, and Mr Aven S Noah, TSRA. Seated left to right: Mr Dean Bowley, ABS Indigenous and Social Information Branch; Mr Wayne See Kee, TSRA; and Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, TSRA

demography and society, housing and infrastructure, social and support services, health status, education and training, criminal justice, labour market, environment, and income from employment and welfare.

A primary focus of this collaborative project is the compilation of key regionally specific social and developmental statistics collected in conjunction with the national population census and other official data collections.



AMSA BOATSAFE TRAINING

The TSRA provided \$50,000 to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) to deliver BoatSafe training to all outer island Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area communities. The BoatSafe training provider is accredited by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads to deliver maritime training.

THE TRAINING ENSURES THAT COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL VESSEL MASTERS ARE SAFE, COMPETENT AND COMPLIANT WITH BOAT SAFETY REGULATIONS.

The training was extremely well received by community leaders, maritime industry stakeholders and the broader community. The training enabled community members to receive their Recreational Marine Driver Licence (RMDL) and resulted in people becoming accredited as safe recreational vessel operators, ensuring that community and recreational vessel masters are safe, competent and compliant with boat safety regulations. A total of 250 participants received the training, with numerous participants who already held an RMDL attending to refresh their knowledge.



EVOLUTION EXHIBITION TRAVELS OVERSEAS

In 2017-2018, the *Evolution: Torres Strait Masks* exhibition, developed by the TSRA's Gab Titui Cultural Centre in partnership with the National Museum of Australia, was shared internationally for the first time.

The exhibition was presented in Hanoi by the Australian Embassy to Vietnam together with the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology. The two-month exhibition at the museum was part of activities celebrating the 45th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Vietnam.

Evolution explores the importance of ceremonial masks in Torres Strait Islander culture and their influence on contemporary art forms. It will be shared with up to 40 countries as a travelling graphic panel display.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

OPPORTUNITIES

Improving Telecommunication Services in the Torres Strait

In January 2017, the TSRA partnered with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) and Telstra on a two-stage project to upgrade telecommunications infrastructure, provide a platform for 4G technology, and deliver increased network backhaul capacity for the Torres Strait region. The first stage of the project was costed at \$8.26 million and completed in June 2018.

The second phase of the project, known as the Torres Strait Digital Expansion Project, is valued at \$15.62 million (\$7.09 million from Telstra and \$8.53 million from co-contributors).

In June 2018, the TSRA received \$1.4 million from DAWR towards Phase 2 of the telecommunications upgrade project. The funding is welcomed by both the TSRA and Telstra and allows the project to continue into 2018-2019.

The TSRA and Telstra will progress with Phase 2 by dividing the scope of the project into smaller portions, with the objective of entering into funding agreements with a focus, in the first instance, on upgrading 4G base stations in the north-west cluster islands of the Torres Strait.

In addition to the \$1.4 million recently provided by DAWR, it is hoped that the state government will contribute \$2.135 million and that Telstra will match the co-contributions.

The TSRA will continue to work with Telstra and all levels of government to seek the remaining funding to ensure that the telecommunications infrastructure in the

Torres Strait region is capable of delivering the technology and innovation needed for border protection, biosecurity management and multiple socioeconomic, educational, health and community safety outcomes for the island communities and people of the Torres Strait region.

TSRA Ranger Compliance Powers

In 2017, the TSRA obtained a funding agreement (for 2017 to 2020) from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, under the national Capacity Building for Indigenous Rangers Strategy, to:

- ◆ establish and operationalise a specialist Compliance Management Unit (CMU)
- ◆ build the capacity of TSRA community-based rangers to effectively support and participate in the operations of compliance management
- ◆ continue to support communities in the implementation of community-based management plans for dugong and turtle.



Ms Alicia Sabatino, Senior Compliance Officer of the TSRA Compliance Management Unit, patrolling with Boigu Island rangers Mr Dimas Toby and Mr Ishmael Gibuma

The TSRA is well placed to deliver an effective compliance management programme that includes the Indigenous Ranger Programme, which involves 50 full-time rangers based across the outer islands.

The CMU has been established on Thursday Island, providing centralised management of all specialist compliance management activities. Over the next two years, this will include the development of an operations control centre with all of the appropriate resources to receive, analyse and disseminate information and direct field operations.

The CMU will facilitate an effective network between communities, rangers and regulatory agencies, ensuring that at all times rangers are supported through ongoing participation in patrols, training, and mentoring by specialist Indigenous compliance staff. The development, design and implementation of the CMU will be consistent with international best practice and in accordance with national guidelines, policy and legislation.

THE CMU WILL FACILITATE AN EFFECTIVE NETWORK BETWEEN COMMUNITIES, RANGERS AND REGULATORY AGENCIES, ENSURING THAT AT ALL TIMES RANGERS ARE SUPPORTED THROUGH ONGOING PARTICIPATION IN PATROLS, TRAINING, AND MENTORING BY SPECIALIST INDIGENOUS COMPLIANCE STAFF.



Australian Fisheries Management Authority compliance officers providing a patrol briefing with Boigu Island ranger Mr Dimas Toby, Saibai Island ranger Mr Conwell Tabuai, and Senior Compliance Officer Mr Quinten Hirakawa

During 2017-2018, through the support of DAWR, over 90 per cent of TSRA rangers completed formal and nationally recognised Certificate IV in Government Investigations (Regulatory Compliance) training, equipping them with the theoretical and operational knowledge and skills to undertake compliance activities. As a result, the TSRA has received in-principle agreement from the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy for CMU staff and rangers to be delegated formal powers under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). As staff capability develops, this will enable the organisation to play a key role in supporting the management of environmental compliance in the Torres Strait region.

The CMU is actively participating in a review of and subsequent updates to the dugong and turtle management plans to include increased cultural authority governance protocols and associated culturally governed compliance treatments.

Regional Language Centre and Traditional Languages Plan

The TSRA has now entered the final year of the Torres Strait languages project, which has been supported by the Australian Government Department of Communications and the Arts. The four-year languages project commenced in 2014 and included the development of the Torres Strait Traditional Languages Plan under the guidance of the community-elected Torres Strait Traditional Language Advisory Committee.

The committee is assisting project partners with the establishment of the Regional Language Centre and the coordination of activities outlined in the plan. In 2017-2018, the TSRA finalised a three-year arrangement to temporarily locate the Regional Language Centre at the Tagai State College Thursday Island Secondary Campus, based in the

Yangu Pawaw Ngurpay Mudh building. This arrangement has been created to accommodate the centre until a long-term community facility is secured.

The Regional Language Centre and implementation of the *Torres Strait Traditional Languages Plan 2016-2019* will help to protect and promote the six dialects spoken in the Torres Strait Island region: Kulkalgau Ya, Kalaw Kawaw Ya, Kawrareg, Mabuyag, Mer and Erub. Addressing the loss of critically endangered languages in the Torres Strait is a key outcome of this project.

Infrastructure Coordination

For the past 20 years the TSRA has implemented the Major Infrastructure Programme (MIP), a highly successful co-funding model that has secured more than \$230 million of investment into the region.

THROUGH INCREASED REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COORDINATION, THE TSRA COULD ENHANCE THE OPTIMAL REGIONAL DELIVERY OF INFRASTRUCTURE BY ENSURING INCREASED INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL INDIGENOUS BUSINESSES.

There is considerable capacity for the TSRA to expand on the successes thus far of the existing MIP model, including key components such as the MIP Management Committee meeting to facilitate regional infrastructure improvements. Through increased regional infrastructure coordination, the TSRA could enhance the optimal regional delivery of infrastructure by ensuring increased Indigenous employment and training opportunities and increased participation of local Indigenous businesses.

Fisheries Regional Ownership Framework

Significant progress was made in 2017-2018 in developing a Torres Strait model for the independent control and ownership of fishery assets, including those currently held by the TSRA on behalf of Traditional Inhabitants. After a delegation of leaders visited New Zealand to learn about the Maori experience, community consultation was conducted in early 2018 across all communities in the Torres Strait, to seek their views on the ownership, control and management of fisheries assets and endorsement for the TSRA to identify the best structure to deliver a solution on this matter.

This study and consultation gave the TSRA the mandate to progress to Phase 2 of the initiative, which is to seek legal, accounting and business advice on the most suitable entity and/or structure for a community management framework in the region. The TSRA will continue to work with all stakeholders to further progress this project in 2018-2019.

Torres Strait Islander Freehold Land Transfers

Despite Native Title decisions giving exclusive possession on all the inhabited outer islands, the freehold on most of those islands continues to be held by the Torres Strait Island Regional Council under a Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT). Currently, only two Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (RNTBCs) have Torres Strait Islander freehold land on their respective islands. However, four more transfers of the freehold land to the RNTBCs are now on the table. Such transfers may present opportunities for increased self-determination and economic development.

CHALLENGES

Geography

The geography of the Torres Strait area presents and always will present a challenge when delivering services and infrastructure. With island communities spread across approximately 44,000 kilometres of sea, the costs of delivering services and infrastructure are significantly higher than in most other parts of Australia. These costs have a major influence on the implementation and timing of programmes, services and projects.

High Costs of Air and Sea Travel and Freight

The high costs of travel and transportation of freight in the Torres Strait continue to impact on economic growth, tourism and the delivery of programmes and services in the region. For example, the delivery of services to the outer Torres Strait islands may not be as timely or effective as in other Indigenous regions. Therefore, positive initiatives such as subsidised transportation and freight and airfare costs are required to mitigate those significant costs.

Katter Leases

In February 2018, the Supreme Court of Queensland handed down a decision in *Wigness v Kingham, President of the Land Court* [2018] QSC 20. This was a review of a decision of the Land Court of Queensland.

The Land Court action was brought by parties who had lease entitlements under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013* (Qld), known as Katter leases. The parties had applied for grants of Katter leases, but the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines had decided that Native Title was a competing interest and therefore a practical obstacle to the grant of Katter leases.

The Land Court found that this was incorrect and that granting an entitlement to a Katter lease was a pre-existing right based act under section 24IB of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). The granting of exclusive possession by such an act extinguishes any Native Title. Therefore, Native Title was not an obstacle and the leases could be granted. The Supreme Court upheld the Land Court's decision.

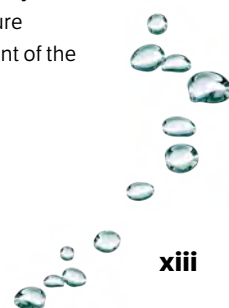
There are currently 330 valid entitlements to Katter leases in the Torres Strait. If these entitlements were to be exercised there would be a significant effect on Native Title in the region.

The TSRA is awaiting the provision of detailed mapping of the Katter lease entitlements in the region from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan

The total allowable catch in the 2017-2018 tropical rock lobster (TRL) fishing season was a historically low catch of 299 tonnes, shared between Australia and Papua New Guinea. For the first time, the season closed early, on 31 July 2018, when the Australian share of the catch was reached. As one of the most important economic drivers in the region, this had a significant negative impact on people's livelihoods.

The Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) is taking steps to improve the management arrangements in the TRL fishery. As a result of additional Transferrable Vessel Holder licence purchases by the TSRA in 2017-2018, the nominal ownership of the TRL fishery by Traditional Inhabitants under a future management plan is now 66.17 per cent of the Australian share of the fishery.



The TSRA is working as part of the PZJA to implement a TRL fishery management plan that supports the aspiration of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region and formally secures ownership of the 66.17 per cent by Traditional Inhabitants.

Telecommunications

Telecommunications in the Torres Strait is both a challenge and an opportunity. As noted under Opportunities, the TSRA, in partnership with Telstra, is working on a staged project to address telecommunications and mobile network issues in the region. Until the project is completed, the region will continue to experience mobile network drop-offs, black spots and unreliable internet and mobile reception. For example, at present a number of outer Torres Strait island communities can only use landlines, which can sometimes be unreliable. Agencies like the TSRA are exploring alternative options such as the installation of repeaters and antennas for their staff and Board members based in affected communities.

Integrated Service Delivery

A key challenge to the TSRA's Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) project is securing commitment from all Commonwealth, state and local government departments operating in the region to treat ISD as core business.

As an initiative to improve ISD in the region, the TSRA has implemented MOUs and memorandums of agreement with some of the government bodies, including the three local government councils in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

The Torres Strait Regional Coordination Group has also been established, to drive accountability and strategic assessment for delivery of cross-regional actions that

are identified in the *Torres Strait Regional Adaptation and Resilience Plan 2016-2021* as well as other matters of strategic regional significance, and to ensure that there is effective coordination across organisations and agencies.

The TSRA and the three local governments are the pillars of the Torres Strait, and the core function of the Torres Strait Regional Coordination Group is to align various stakeholders to the vision of addressing local-level climate change impacts and community development actions.

Waste

For many years there has been a need to improve the coordination of waste management. While there has been some progress, the development and implementation of a Torres Strait specific regional waste management strategy is now necessary to overcome the difficulty of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area biosecurity restrictions and the high costs of potential solutions.

THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A TORRES STRAIT SPECIFIC REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY IS NOW NECESSARY TO OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTY OF THE TORRES STRAIT AND NORTHERN PENINSULA AREA BIOSECURITY RESTRICTIONS AND THE HIGH COSTS OF POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS.

Marine Infrastructure

The Torres Strait is an island environment, making marine infrastructure essential to transport throughout the region. Much of the wharf infrastructure in the Torres Strait is aging and in need of large-scale maintenance and/or replacement. The investment required is beyond the resources of local councils, and the TSRA is continuing to work with all stakeholders to attract the required resources.

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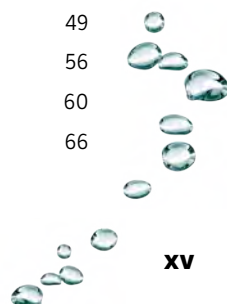
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SECTION ONE

Strategic Overview

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



INTRODUCTION

As Chairperson of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA), I am pleased to present the TSRA's 2017-2018 Annual Report. Since the 2016 election of the current TSRA Board, all members and the administration have worked progressively to achieve the best outcomes for communities in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. This Annual Report outlines the work that has progressed as well as some of the achievements and challenges of the TSRA over the past year.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

The TSRA welcomed the new Member for Erub, Mr Jimmy Gela, during his recent induction into the organisation.

Following the resignation of the previous Member for Erub, Mr Kenny Bedford, the Australian Electoral Commission declared Mr Gela the successful candidate to fill the vacancy on the TSRA Board.

Mr Gela comes to the TSRA with a wealth of community experience, including involvement in a number of community boards and committees. He held the Local Government Councillor position for Erub in the previous term of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) and is the Chairperson of the Erubam Le Traditional Land and Sea Owners (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation. Further information about Mr Gela can be found in Section 4 of this Annual Report in the section 'Profiles of TSRA Board Members'.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993

In June 2018, I attended the National Native Title Conference hosted in Broome, Western Australia, by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

The conference marked 25 years since the passing of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and provided a valuable forum for exploring the challenges and opportunities of Native Title in the broader context of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's aspirations for their lands, waters and communities.

The TSRA will continue to assist Traditional Owners to secure legal recognition of Native Title to land and waters in the Torres Strait. We will continue to support Prescribed Bodies Corporate in the post-determination era to strive for economic independence and work with Traditional Owners to obtain appropriate compensation for the use of Native Title land in our region.

CLIMATE CHANGE

At the beginning of 2018, I met with the senior leadership of the TSIRC and the Torres Shire Council (TSC) to consider key climate change risks for the Torres Strait.

It is widely recognised that climate change is a very important issue for communities in the Torres Strait. Besides sea level rise, climate change will also impact health, water security, and marine resources, and could likely contribute to regional instability in areas neighbouring the Torres Strait as identified in the 2016 *Defence White Paper*.



The inaugural meeting of the Torres Strait Climate and Resilience Working Group (left to right): Ms Dalassa Yorkston, Torres Shire Council CEO; Mr Bruce Ranga, Torres Strait Island Regional Council CEO; Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, TSRA Chairperson; Ms Hilda Mosby, TSRA Member for Masig and Portfolio Member for Environmental Management; Ms Vonda Malone, Torres Shire Council Mayor; Mr Fred Gela, Torres Strait Island Regional Council Mayor; and Mr Wayne See Kee, TSRA CEO

The meeting helped to galvanise our resolve for our organisations to work together to meet this challenge as best we can to ensure a strong future for our region. The TSRA, TSIRC and TSC agreed to establish the permanent high-level Torres Strait Climate and Resilience Working Group to drive the implementation of the *Torres Strait Regional Adaptation and Resilience Plan 2016-2021*.



Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, TSRA Chairperson, and Mr Wayne See Kee, TSRA CEO, with the delegation from the Solomon Islands Government and representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The working group has since been renamed the Torres Strait Regional Coordination Group and now includes the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC) in its membership, with an expanded scope to coordinate Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) across the region.

TSRA BOARD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

In June 2018, TSRA Board members undertook an intensive two-day Indigenous Governance Programme on Thursday Island. Delivered by the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the programme provided members with professional development in assessing financial statements and organisational performance, as well as understanding their strategic role in the agency and how to engage with and understand the risks of decision-making at the Board level.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

In March 2018, I was honoured to host a meeting with representatives of the Solomon Islands Government and the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Solomon Islands delegation visited Thursday Island to observe the implementation of the Torres Strait Treaty, covering immigration, border control, environment, fisheries, law and order, health, maritime safety and Traditional Inhabitant matters.

In April 2018, I joined the Australian Government delegation to the 17th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII17) in New York, United States of America. UNPFII17 was a very valuable opportunity to highlight and discuss the issues of climate change, development planning, Closing the Gap, and regional governance with our international counterparts.



Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, TSRA Chairperson, with the Australian delegation to UNPFII17

In February 2018, I attended the Torres Strait Treaty Cycle Meetings in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Hosted by the Papua New Guinea Government, the 2018 cycle of meetings consisted of the Traditional Inhabitants Meeting and the Joint Advisory Council, with delegates from the Papua New Guinea and Australian governments, as well as Papua New Guinea and Australian Traditional Inhabitant representatives. The Environmental Management Committee Meeting, Health Issues Committee Meeting and Fisheries Bilateral Meeting were held in conjunction with the treaty meetings.



Left to right: The Queensland Government's Ministerial Champion for the Torres Strait, the Hon. Shannon Fentiman MP, with Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, TSRA Chairperson, and Mr Charlie Kaddy, Acting TSRA CEO, in June 2018

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE IN THE TORRES STRAIT REMAINS A LONGSTANDING ASPIRATION OF TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS.

TSRA REGIONAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Regional governance in the Torres Strait remains a longstanding aspiration of Torres Strait Islanders that requires Australian Government and Queensland Government support and commitment. The TSRA Regional Governance Committee worked to bring this aspiration to reality throughout 2017-2018, meeting with Australian Government and state government ministers and key stakeholders to discuss the design and implementation of the preferred model. The TSRA Board reconfirmed its support in June 2018 for the creation of

a Torres Strait Regional Assembly and endorsed the Regional Governance Committee Secretariat to develop a transition plan for implementation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2017-2018, I maintained my commitment to visit Torres Strait communities and directly engage with the community members at the grassroots level. The Chief Executive Officer and I have continued on the community engagement cycle. I was pleased to undertake visits to Poruma, Masig, Seisia, Ugar, Dauan and Erub.



Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, TSRA Chairperson, meeting with the Seisia community in December 2017

THE VISITS PROVIDE A FIRSTHAND OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OR GROUPS IN COMMUNITIES TO RAISE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL ISSUES WITH US.

These visits are specifically useful to me and Board members in the communities as we share information about the TSRA. The visits also provide a firsthand opportunity for members or groups in communities to raise community and regional issues with us.

Over the upcoming year, I will continue to visit Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area communities.

BUILDING LEADERSHIP CAPACITY

Over the past year, the TSRA maintained its focus on developing the leadership capacity of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region. The partnership between the TSRA and the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation has continued to grow. During the reporting period, sponsorship was provided to emerging leaders in the Australian Rural Leadership Program, Training Rural Australians in Leadership, the Torres Strait Women's Leadership Program and the Torres Strait Young Leaders Program.



Left to right: General Angus Campbell AO, DSC, Chief of the Defence Force, and Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, TSRA Chairperson, at the event commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion

MAINTAINING OUR CULTURE

In February 2017, the TSRA launched the *Torres Strait Traditional Languages Plan 2016-2019* and the Torres Strait Languages Charter at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre, followed by the 2017 Torres Strait Language Symposium where people from the region engaged with local, national and international presenters. The Languages Reference Group dissolved at the end of the Symposium and a new Torres Strait Traditional Language Advisory Committee was established to continue with the development of the Regional Language Centre and delivery of language-related initiatives. I wish to acknowledge all key partners, stakeholders and community representatives for their ongoing contribution towards revitalising our traditional languages.

The Gab Titui Cultural Centre commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion with a specially curated exhibition that celebrated and honoured the individual and family stories of service and sacrifice of Torres Strait Islander people.

The exhibition was supported by the award-winning Shrine of Remembrance travelling exhibition *Indigenous Australians at war from the Boer War to the present*. At the opening of the exhibitions, I was honoured to host Torres Strait Islander veterans, along with the Member for Cook, Ms Cynthia Lui MP, and the Chief of the Defence Force, General Angus Campbell AO, DSC.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Looking back over the past year, the Board and the administration of the TSRA have worked diligently to set the strategic direction and achieve the best possible outcomes for the people living in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area region.

I sincerely thank my fellow Board members for their valuable contributions and constructive debates, and for making the hard decisions for the best outcomes on the challenging issues.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the outgoing Chief Executive Officer, Mr Wayne See Kee PSM. Mr See Kee's appointment as Chief Executive Officer officially ceased at the beginning of July 2018. On behalf of the Board and the staff, I wish Mr See Kee every success in his new appointment with the Australian Government. Mr See Kee has made an enormous contribution to the TSRA since 2001 and since 2004 has provided strategic leadership as Chief Executive Officer that will leave a lasting legacy.

THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION ALL CONTRIBUTE TO POSITIVE OUTCOMES BEING DELIVERED IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

The combined efforts of the Board and administration all contribute to positive outcomes being delivered in our communities.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge our Elders and Traditional Owners, and the officials and councillors of Prescribed Bodies Corporate and local government, for the support and hospitality provided to me and the TSRA administration in the delivery of our services throughout the region.

In closing, I also express my gratitude to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion, and to Australian, Queensland and local government members and agencies for providing ongoing support to the TSRA and the Torres Strait to ensure that the region continually grows in strength.



Napau Pedro Stephen AM
Chairperson

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE



DELIVERING OUTCOMES

The TSRA has continued to deliver programmes and implement policies and projects to achieve the targeted outcomes identified in the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2014-2018*.

Community Engagement

As part of the TSRA's commitment to engage with our communities, the TSRA Chairperson and I completed visits to six communities as part of our engagement programme. These engagement visits will continue in 2018-2019, with the aim of visiting all communities in the region. Community engagement visits by TSRA programme areas at the operational level have been ongoing and will continue in the coming financial year as well. These visits are conducted by TSRA project staff to work with their clients and review the status of TSRA projects and initiatives.

Leadership Development

The TSRA is proud to continue its partnership with the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation, delivering a suite of leadership programmes tailored for youth, women and emerging leaders in our region.

I was honoured to join the TSRA-sponsored graduate, Mr Andrew Lui, and 30 other successful participants of the flagship Australian Rural Leadership Program Course 23, for the gala event held at the National Museum of Australia in October 2017 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation. Andrew is the TSRA's eighth candidate who has successfully completed the

programme. I look forward to seeing leaders like Andrew return to our community to influence and drive positive change in the region.

Simplifying and Streamlining Grant Funding Administration

In the reporting period, the TSRA successfully completed the rollout of the Smarty Grants system. Further refinements were tested and successfully implemented to improve the experience for funding applicants, including the option for submitting online applications.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING LEADERS LIKE ANDREW RETURN TO OUR COMMUNITY TO INFLUENCE AND DRIVE POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE REGION.



Left to right: Mr Andrew Lui, Australian Rural Leadership Program Course 23 graduate, and Mr Wayne See Kee, TSRA CEO, at the graduation ceremony in October 2017

Community user feedback has been positive, on the seamless ease of use and the reduction in the time and complexity involved in applying for funding.

The TSRA has a strong commitment to the Australian Government's initiative to reduce red tape and, along with the implementation of the Smarty Grants system, the TSRA also undertook to streamline our standard grant agreements with assistance from the Grants Policy Team in the Department of Finance and the Australian Government Solicitor. This resulted in grant agreement paperwork being reduced in the majority of projects by over 80 per cent. The feedback from grant recipients in the community was again positive, with the streamlined agreements rolled out in June 2018 for projects commencing on 1 July 2018.

Integrated Service Delivery

During 2017-2018, work continued on reviewing and negotiating an updated ISD governance framework with our counterparts at the Commonwealth, state and local government levels. This culminated in the formation of the Torres Strait Regional Coordination Group in April 2018, bringing together elected representatives and senior staff from the TSRA and local government bodies in the region. Through the Torres Strait Regional Coordination Group, the TSRA Board and administration remain committed to working in partnership with all government and non-government stakeholders to address the key challenges of economic development, renewable energy, waste management, housing, climate change and coastal erosion.

THROUGH THE TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL COORDINATION GROUP, THE TSRA BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION REMAIN COMMITTED TO WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ALL GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS TO ADDRESS THE KEY CHALLENGES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, RENEWABLE ENERGY, WASTE MANAGEMENT, HOUSING, CLIMATE CHANGE AND COASTAL EROSION.

Economic Development

Following the successful launch of the first phase of the Regional Economic Investment Strategy (REIS) in 2016-2017, targeting the fisheries industry, the second phase of the REIS, aimed at the arts and creative industries, was launched in July 2017.

The Arts and Creative Industries Business Growth Package is designed to support Torres Strait businesses that rely on 'creativity' as their primary source of value. The package targets new and existing businesses seeking to build on traditional arts and culture as well as those looking to develop other businesses, across six creative industries segments: music, visual and performing arts; film, television and radio; architecture and design; advertising and marketing; software and digital content; and writing and publishing. More information on the REIS can found in Section 2 of this report.

Workplace Health and Safety

In the reporting period the TSRA continued to maintain and meet its obligations under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (Cth). The TSRA has in place an active Workplace Health and Safety Committee with representation from all of the TSRA's designated work groups. In 2017-2018, there was only one notification made to Comcare under the Act. More details on work health and safety can be found in Section 4 of this report.



Left to right: Mr Stephen Wilton, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC) CEO, Mr Edward Newman, NPARC Mayor, Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, TSRA Chairperson, and Mr Wayne See Kee, TSRA CEO, at the signing of the MOU between the TSRA and the NPARC

Opportunities

The TSRA continues to provide internal opportunities for the training and development of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal staff to increase their capacity and skills so they can apply for higher level positions not only in the TSRA but across the Australian Public Service. The TSRA also provides external opportunities and support for local community members through our leadership capacity building initiatives and the Assistance with Tertiary Education Scheme, which targets university students from the region. More information on these initiatives can be found in Section 2 of this report.

THE TSRA PROVIDES EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS THROUGH OUR LEADERSHIP CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES AND THE ASSISTANCE WITH TERTIARY EDUCATION SCHEME, WHICH TARGETS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FROM THE REGION.

Local Government Memorandum of Understanding

During the reporting period, the TSRA formally executed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the NPARC. The MOU strengthens the collaboration between the TSRA and the NPARC and formalises the ongoing working relationships until 2020. It also commits the two organisations to formally identify and coordinate joint strategic objectives, particularly to improve community health and wellbeing, plan future regional services and infrastructure development, and pursue opportunities for sustainable economic development.

OUR WORKFORCE

At a Glance

The TSRA workforce has increased from 159 to 162 since the previous reporting period. Of those staff, 122 are Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people. The TSRA has one of the highest percentages of Indigenous employment (just over 75 per cent) of any government entity. This is an achievement we are proud of. The TSRA also maintains a good gender balance, with 82 males and 80 females in its workforce.

OUTLOOK

Financial

The TSRA has secured a budget appropriation that will enable it to maintain the existing programmes and service levels in the region in the coming financial year. The TSRA has also secured external non-appropriation funding for specific initiatives, such as further purchases of licences held by the Transferrable Vessel Holder sector of the tropical rock lobster fishery. Details on TSRA financial performance over the reporting period are contained in Section 5 of this report.

Torres Strait Development Plan

The TSRA Board is working closely with the administration to finalise the new Torres Strait Development Plan for 2019-2022 in the 2018-2019 financial year. The new Development Plan will replace the existing *Torres Strait Development Plan 2014-2018* when it expires in 2018. A series of workshops were held in the reporting period to develop the Board's priorities and programme mandates for inclusion in the new Development Plan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am proud of the achievements and progress we have made throughout 2017-2018. My appointment as Chief Executive Officer comes to an end at the end of this reporting period, after which I will be moving to another role in the Australian Government. I have been privileged to lead the TSRA administration as Chief Executive Officer since 2004-2005.

I would particularly like to thank the Chairperson, Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, Board members and administration staff for their ongoing valuable contribution and commitment to the TSRA, and acknowledge the great work that they perform every day. They are making a real difference to the communities in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

It has been a true honour for me to serve the TSRA and our communities in this very important role – I cannot express how proud I am and always will be of the agency.

I wish the incoming Chief Executive Officer every success in working with the Board and administration to continue to build on our achievements in the coming year.

I also acknowledge the Elders, Traditional Owners, Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate, local government councillors and communities of the region for the support and hospitality extended to the TSRA when we visit your communities.



Wayne See Kee
Chief Executive Officer





SECTION TWO

Programme Performance

OUTCOMES AND PLANNED PERFORMANCE

This section provides details of performance against the key performance indicators contained in the TSRA Portfolio Budget Statements 2017-2018.

This is followed by additional reporting on other activities undertaken by the TSRA's programme areas:

- ◆ Economic Development
- ◆ Fisheries
- ◆ Culture, Art and Heritage
- ◆ Native Title
- ◆ Environmental Management
- ◆ Governance and Leadership
- ◆ Healthy Communities
- ◆ Safe Communities.

Each programme report provides the following information:

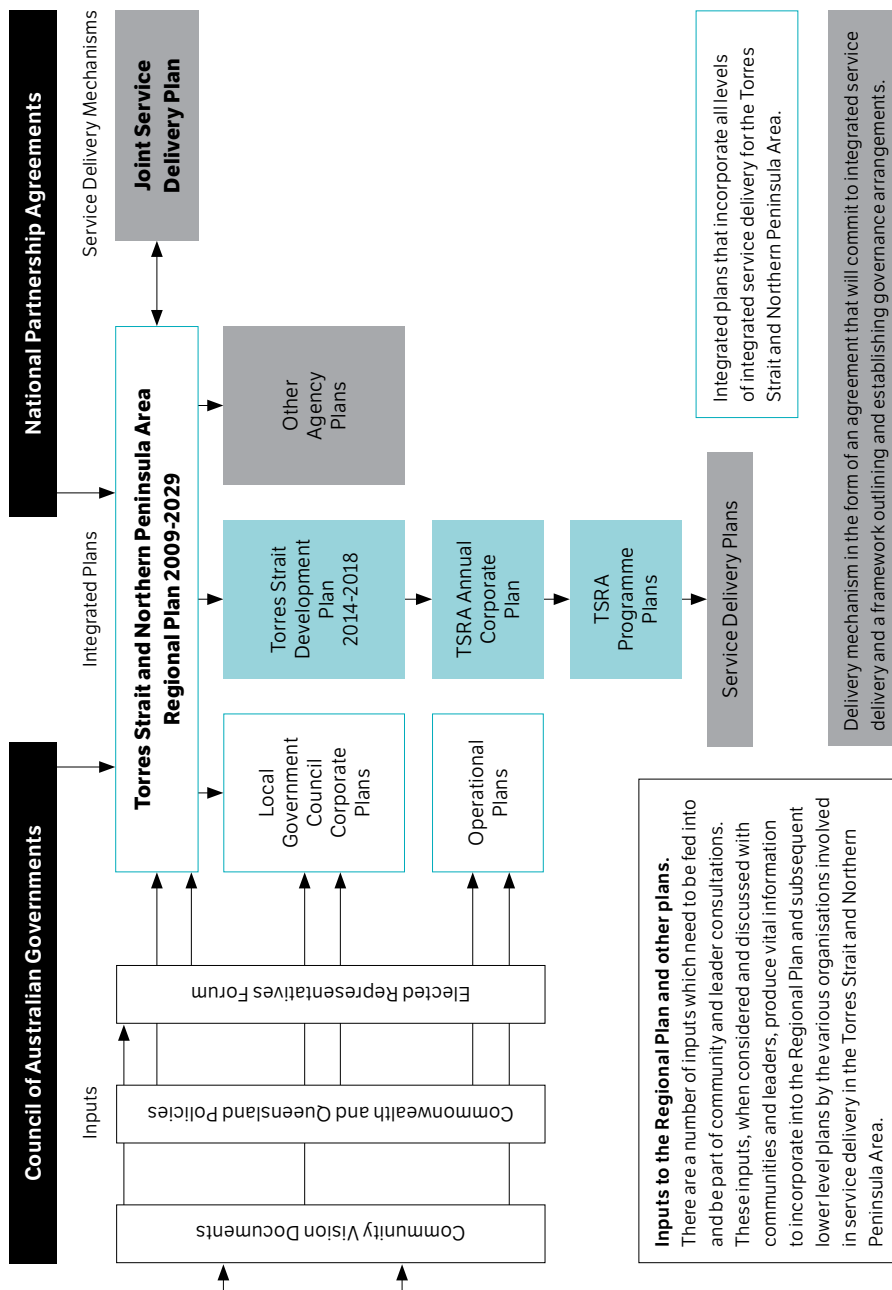
- ◆ a statement of the regional goal, programme outcomes and projects and initiatives set out in the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2014-2018*
- ◆ a summary of expenditure
- ◆ a summary of performance.

The *Torres Strait Development Plan 2014-2018* was developed by the TSRA as required by section 142D of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). The plan outlines eight TSRA programmes, listing the desired outcomes and benefits to be delivered. The *Torres Strait Development Plan 2014-2018* is published on the TSRA website (www.tsra.gov.au).

The *Torres Strait Development Plan 2014-2018* is derived directly from the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009-2029*. The regional plan was developed by the TSRA, the Torres Shire Council (TSC), the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) and the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC), in consultation with Torres Strait communities. The regional plan captures community challenges, priorities and aspirations. A key element of the regional plan is its focus on integrated development planning and Integrated Service Delivery. This process aims to coordinate the effective delivery of a range of government services to local communities while ensuring that duplication and service gaps are minimised.

INTEGRATED PLANNING FRAMEWORK

FIGURE 2-1
TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY INTEGRATED PLANNING FRAMEWORK



SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

APPROPRIATION PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE

A summary of the TSRA's financial performance for each programme area for 2017-2018 is provided in Table 2-1.

The financial statements in Section 5 provide further information about expenditure for each programme area as of 30 June 2018.

TABLE 2-1
APPROPRIATION PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE, BUDGET COMPARED TO ACTUAL, 2017-2018

Programme	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Economic Development	10,073	10,079	-6
Fisheries	2,169	2,171	-2
Culture, Art and Heritage	4,221	4,247	-26
Native Title	5,556	5,559	-3
Environmental Management	5,054	4,606	448
Governance and Leadership	5,315	5,318	-3
Healthy Communities	3,330	3,332	-2
Safe Communities	2,660	2,661	-1
Total	38,378	37,973	405

Note: The total variance represents 1.1 per cent of the total budget.

EXTERNAL FUNDING PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE

TABLE 2-2
EXTERNAL FUNDING PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE, BUDGET COMPARED TO ACTUAL, 2017-2018

Programme	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Fisheries	3,750	2,800	950
Culture, Art and Heritage	490	490	-
Native Title	-	196	-196
Environmental Management	12,944	10,592	2,352
Total	17,184	14,078	3,106

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

The TSRA Board, as the accountable authority of the TSRA, presents the 2017-2018 annual performance statements of the TSRA, as required under section 39(1)(a) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth). In the Board's opinion, these annual performance statements accurately reflect the performance of the TSRA and comply with section 39(2) of the Act.



Napau Pedro Stephen AM
Chairperson

PURPOSE

The purpose of the TSRA is encapsulated in the agency's single outcome statement:

PROGRESS TOWARDS CLOSING THE GAP FOR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AND ABORIGINAL PEOPLE LIVING IN THE TORRES STRAIT REGION THROUGH DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, COORDINATION, SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, AND PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF INDIGENOUS CULTURE.

RESULTS FOR KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND ANALYSIS

The key performance indicators for the TSRA were set out on page 305 of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio Budget Statements 2017-2018 and page 9 of the TSRA Corporate Plan 2017-2018.

Increase in the number of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal owned commercially viable businesses

In 2017-2018, five business loans were approved to support Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal businesses.

In the same period, business mentoring and support was provided to 11 clients.

Four Business Growth Package applications were received and two were approved.

**TABLE 2-3
NUMBER AND VALUE OF CONCESSIONAL BUSINESS LOANS**

Year	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Loans	3	5	1	2	5
Amount	\$114,909	\$928,213	\$20,628	\$162,000	\$647,151

Increased availability of approved business training

The TSRA continued to provide face-to-face business training through the delivery of Into Business Workshops.

In 2017-2018, four series of Into Business Workshops were delivered (comprising workshops A, B and C); 113 participants attended the workshops and 26 participants completed the workshop series.

This represents an increase in the numbers of participants who attended and completed the workshop series when compared to 2016-2017. Post-course surveys indicate a very high level of participant satisfaction with the workshops.

**TABLE 2-4
INTO BUSINESS WORKSHOPS PARTICIPATION**

Year	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Courses	6	2	16	18	12
Participants	24	17	79	110	113

Increases in catches by Torres Strait and Aboriginal Fishers relative to total allowable catch, strengthening claims for increased ownership

Progress against this indicator cannot be accurately quantified as the requirement to complete daily catch logbooks is not mandatory for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal fishers in the region. Therefore comprehensive data to measure tangible outcomes under this indicator does not yet exist.

The Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) brought in a mandatory fish receiver system for all Torres Strait fisheries except the prawn fishery from 1 December 2017. Licensed Torres Strait commercial fishers are now only able to dispose of their catch to licensed receivers. This will increase the accuracy of data for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal fishers in the region for future fishing seasons.

There are ongoing discussions within the PZJA to identify and implement opportunities for better data collection; however, this is likely to be a medium-to-long-term outcome and remains a challenge for the TSRA and the PZJA.

The best available data can be obtained from the Fisheries Status Reports produced by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences.

One complete season of data is available for the tropical rock lobster (TRL) fishery, noting that in 2017-2018 the fishing season ran from 1 December 2017 to 31 July 2018 due to an early closure.

The total allowable catch (TAC) for the TRL fishery for the 2017-2018 fishing season was 254,150 kilograms, and was slightly over-caught (a total of 260,303 kilograms was caught). The Traditional Inhabitant Boat sector took over 49 per cent of the TAC for the season (see Table 2-5).

**TABLE 2-5
TROPICAL ROCK LOBSTER CATCH STATISTICS**

Year	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Traditional Inhabitant Boat (TIB) Catch (Tonnes)	204.6	196.2	266.1	106.4	127.0
Total Allowable Catch (TAC)	415.8	519.3	537.3	334.1	254.15
TIB Catch Share of TAC (%)	49.21	37.78	49.52	31.85	49.97

Note: Fishery statistics are provided by fishing season, unless otherwise indicated. The tropical rock lobster fishing season is 1 December to 30 September.

Catch reporting for the Traditional Inhabitant Boat sector is in transition and therefore actuals for any year are likely to be higher than reported.

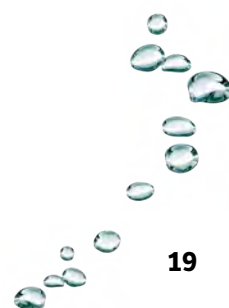


TABLE 2-6
FINFISH FISHERIES CATCH STATISTICS FOR TRADITIONAL INHABITANT BOAT LICENSEES

Year	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Finfish (Coral Trout and Spanish Mackerel) (Tonnes)	< 1	< 1	2

Note: Fishery statistics are provided by fishing season, unless otherwise indicated. The finfish fishing season is 1 July to 30 June.

Catch reporting for the Traditional Inhabitant Boat sector is in transition and therefore actuals for any year are likely to be higher than reported.

TABLE 2-7
BÊCHE-DE-MER CATCH STATISTICS FOR TRADITIONAL INHABITANT BOAT LICENSEES

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bêche-de-mer (Tonnes)	49	71	14	20.4

Note: Fishery statistics are provided by fishing season, unless otherwise indicated. The bêche-de-mer fishing season is 1 January to 31 December.

Catch reporting for the Traditional Inhabitant Boat sector is in transition and therefore actuals for any year are likely to be higher than reported.

The percentage ownership of Torres Strait Commercial Fisheries by Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal People in the region

TABLE 2-8
PERCENTAGE OF TORRES STRAIT COMMERCIAL FISHERY OWNERSHIP, 2017-2018

Fishery	Ownership Percentage
Tropical Rock Lobster	66.17 (provisional allocation under the management plan)
Finfish	100
Bêche-de-mer	100
Trochus and Crab	100
Prawn	Nil

Increase in the number of emerging and professionally active artists and cultural practitioners that have access to information and support to ensure copyright and intellectual property rights

The TSRA conducted the annual Artist Forum in March 2018. The forum considered a wide range of topics, covering resilience and confidence, developing a capability statement, service agreements including copyright,

communication, registering for an Australian Business Number and registering with Supply Nation, as well as presentations on the Indigenous Art Code, the Flying Arts Alliance, UMI Arts and the Copyright Agency.

TABLE 2-9
ACTIVE ARTISTS AND CULTURAL PRACTITIONERS

Year	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Active Artists	100	110	117	151	156
Cultural Practitioners	77	80	90	85	30

Number of Native Title claims successfully determined

The Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) in the Torres Strait is operating predominantly in a post-determination environment with 29 Native Title claims successfully determined.

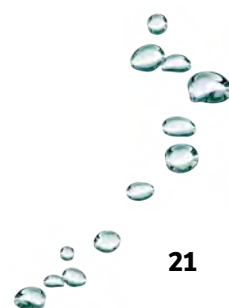
The claims currently being determined within the region are:

- ◆ QUD6040/2001 Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim (Part B)
- ◆ QUD6005/2002 Warral and Ului
- ◆ QUD266/2008 Kaurareg People #1
- ◆ QUD267/2008 Kaurareg People #2
- ◆ QUD362/2010 Kaurareg People #3.

Of the 260 Future Acts notices received, responses have been provided to 258.

TABLE 2-10
KEY NATIVE TITLE REPRESENTATIVE BODY RESULTS

Year	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Active Native Title Claims under Consideration	3	2	5	5	5
Future Acts Notices Received	64	85	66	205	260



Number of Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA) that have compensation or other benefits as part of ILUA terms

There were eight Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) registered with the National Native Title Tribunal in 2017-2018.

An additional 17 ILUAs have been completed and are awaiting execution. Six more ILUAs are being actively negotiated.

A further five ILUAs were executed by the parties in 2017-2018. These have been lodged with the National Native Title Tribunal for registration.

TABLE 2-11
NUMBER OF INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENTS FINALISED

Year	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Indigenous Land Use Agreements Finalised	4	12	11	7	13

Number of endorsed community based management plans for the natural and cultural resources of the region being actively implemented

Dugong and turtle management plans are in place for each of the 14 outer island communities and are being implemented by the communities with the support of the TSRA. The plans integrate traditional use and contemporary science and management approaches to support the sustainable management of dugong and turtle across the region. Each plan is currently undergoing review to bring more strength to traditional ways of governing the cultural protocols and management arrangements for use of dugong and turtle resources.

A dugong and turtle management plan and permit system for the Kaiwalagal region has been developed by Kaurareg Traditional Owners with support from the TSRA. Kaurareg Traditional Owners are now working towards endorsing the plan and determining how it can be implemented, also with support from the TSRA.

A biosecurity plan for the region has been drafted and will be launched in late August. Pest animal plans have been completed for four communities and pest animal control work has been implemented in those communities.

Working on Country plans are also in place for all communities. These were developed in partnership with key stakeholder groups in the individual communities.

TABLE 2-12
COMMUNITY-BASED MANAGEMENT PLANS

Year	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Management Plans	32	32	32	32	37

Increase the level of engagement of elected Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal leaders in policy development and decision-making

The primary indicator of the level of engagement is the number of meetings between the elected members of the TSRA and government ministers. This includes engagements by the TSRA Chairperson and Board members during visits to Canberra, as

well as the TSRA Board’s engagement with ministers during their visits to the region. In this reporting period, there were 20 high-level engagements with Queensland Government and Australian Government ministers and senior government officials.

TABLE 2-13 HIGH-LEVEL ENGAGEMENTS BY TSRA BOARD MEMBERS					
Year	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Engagements	29	35	36	41	20

Number of PBCs that achieve Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) compliance as at 31 December each year

Twenty regional Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) have met the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations compliance requirements.

Two PBCs have maintained a level of capacity which has reduced their dependency on grant funding by operating on a fee-for-service cost recovery model.

TABLE 2-14 PRESCRIBED BODIES CORPORATE COMPLIANCE RESULTS					
Year	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Compliance	20 of 20	21 of 21	21 of 21	21 of 21	20 of 21

Increased investment into new and existing regional environmental health infrastructure

The Australian Government and Queensland Government have provided \$30 million for the Major Infrastructure Programme Stage 6 (MIP 6). Scope of works and design reports have been finalised for most MIP 6 projects. Tendering is complete or nearing completion and the staged construction programme has commenced, with 12 projects to be delivered.

The TSRA continues to fund a range of minor infrastructure projects. To date, the three regional councils have received funding for over 20 projects, including storm water and drainage upgrades, public toilets and a waste landfill site.



Improve regional environmental health, telecommunications and marine infrastructure

The TSRA secured \$6 million in infrastructure funding from the Australian Government for the Prince of Wales Safe Landing Facility project, which will provide safe access for the community. The TSC is seeking development approval for the safe landing facility.

In June 2018, Telstra announced the successful completion of the \$8.26 million Torres Strait Digital Foundation Project. The project commenced in January 2017 and has significantly improved the standard of communications available to residents of the Torres Strait region. The second phase of the project, known as the Torres Strait Digital Expansion Project, is valued at \$15.62 million (\$7.09 million from Telstra and \$8.53 million from co-contributors).

The TSRA will continue to work with Telstra and all levels of government to seek additional funding to ensure that the telecommunications infrastructure in the Torres Strait region is capable of delivering the technology and innovation needed to protect our borders and deliver multiple socioeconomic, educational, health and community safety outcomes for the island communities and people of the Torres Strait region.

Since 2011, the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) has been a co-funded initiative of the TSRA and the Queensland Government Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR). The TSRA contributes \$500,000 annually to the scheme under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the department.

In 2017-2018, TIDS funding was approved for the TSIRC to contribute to the Hammond Island wharf upgrade.



Programme Reports

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REGIONAL GOAL

Enhance our region's wealth by creating sustainable industries and increasing employment opportunities for our people equivalent to the wider Australian community.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

- ◆ Increased capability of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region to manage commercially viable businesses.
- ◆ Improved access to capital and other opportunities to finance commercially viable businesses.
- ◆ Increased number of commercially viable businesses owned and or operated by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region.
- ◆ Improved wealth of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region.

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- ◆ Concessional home loans.
- ◆ Concessional business loans.
- ◆ Business training.
- ◆ Business support services.

PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE 2017-2018

TABLE 2-15
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
EXPENDITURE, 2017-2018


Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
10,073	10,079	-6

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Activity	Flag	Status
Business mentoring support	●	<p>Business mentoring support was approved for 11 clients in 2017-2018 to assist with organisational capacity building. The TSRA promoted the benefits of the business support standing panel to stakeholders throughout the year, resulting in an increase in the number of clients accessing the service.</p> <p>Nine business owners were supported to attend conferences for professional development and to build business networks. Three attended the eighth Indigenous Economic Development Forum and six attended the 2018 Supply Nation Connect Knowledge forum and trade show.</p> <p>This represents a 10 per cent decrease in the number of clients supported when compared to 2016-2017.</p>

Activity	Flag	Status
Business funding support	●	Five loan applications were approved.
Community Development Programme agreement management	●	<p>In July 2018, there were 889 Community Development Programme (CDP) job seekers. This represents a fall of 76 job seekers when compared to 2016-2017.</p> <p>During 2017-2018, 242 job seekers transitioned into paid employment. The regional employment target was met in each reporting period in 2017-2018.</p>
Economic Development Investment Strategy	●	<p>The Torres Strait Regional Economic Investment Strategy (REIS) continued in 2017-2018.</p> <p>REIS supports three focal industries: Fisheries; Arts and Creative Industries; and Tourism.</p> <p>As part of REIS, the Arts and Creative Industries Business Growth Package was launched. The package provides a combination of low-interest business loans, professional business support and grant funding for eligible applicants.</p> <p>Four Fisheries Business Growth Package applications were received and two were approved in 2017-2018.</p> <p>Work on a Tourism Industries Business Growth Package is underway and the package will be launched in 2018.</p>
Into Business Workshops	●	<p>Four series of Into Business Workshops were delivered (comprising workshops A, B and C); 113 participants attended the workshops and 26 participants completed the workshop series.</p> <p>The number of participants who attended workshops and the number who completed the workshop series were both higher than in 2016-2017.</p>
Torres Strait Maritime Pathways Project	●	<p>The Torres Strait Maritime Pathways Project enhances the skills and capability of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people (in the region) to operate commercial vessels and create maritime career pathways in related industries.</p> <p>In 2017-2018, participants undertook training as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65 participants commenced and completed the Shipboard Safety Skill Set course 33 participants commenced and completed the Marine Radio course 45 participants commenced and completed the Senior First Aid course 41 participants commenced and 39 completed the Certificate II in Maritime Operations (Coxswain Grade 2 Near Coastal) five participants commenced and four completed the Certificate III in Maritime Operations (Master up to 24 Metres Near Coastal) 24 participants commenced and 23 completed the Certificate III in Fishing Operations 13 participants commenced and completed the Wild Harvest Dive course.



Activity	Flag	Status
Growing Our Own Tagai Transitions Maritime project		<p>The Growing Our Own Tagai Transitions Maritime project was delivered in partnership with the TSRA, Tagai State College, TAFE North Queensland, and the CDP provider, My Pathway.</p> <p>This project targets students in years 10, 11 and 12 at Tagai State College and builds their capability to utilise the region's commercial maritime resources, and prepares school leavers for a smooth transition from school to work.</p> <p>In the first six months of 2017-2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 students completed the Certificate II in Maritime Operations (Coxswain Grade 1 Near Coastal) eight students completed the Certificate II in Maritime Operations (Marine Engine Driver Grade 3 Near Coastal) 12 students completed the Senior First Aid course 12 students completed the Shipboard Safety Skill Set course 12 students completed the Certificate I in Maritime Operations (General Purpose Hand Near Coastal). <p>Of those students, 75 per cent transitioned into employment upon completion of Year 12.</p> <p>Between 1 January 2018 and 30 June 2018, a new cohort of students commenced the Growing Our Own Tagai Transitions Maritime project.</p> <p>Six Year 10 students completed the Shipboard Safety Skill Set course and the Certificate I in Maritime Operations (General Purpose Hand).</p> <p>Fourteen Year 11 students completed the Shipboard Safety Skill Set course, started to accumulate sea time and completed task books for Certificate II in Maritime Operations (Coxswain Grade 1 Near Coastal) and Certificate II in Maritime Operations (Marine Engine Driver Grade 3 Near Coastal).</p> <p>Twelve Year 12 students completed the Short Range Operator Certificate of Proficiency, continued to accumulate sea time and commenced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Certificate II in Maritime Operations (Coxswain Grade 1 Near Coastal) task books for the Certificate II in Maritime Operations (Marine Engine Driver Grade 3 Near Coastal) certificates. <p>The TSRA and partners are planning more projects, including Growing Our Own Tagai Transitions Maritime 2019.</p>
Home Ownership Programme		<p>One home loan was approved in 2017-2018. Complex land tenure arrangements in the Torres Strait continue to make it difficult for loan applicants to provide appropriate security for loans in Deed of Grant in Trust and reserve communities.</p> <p>A funding agreement between the TSRA and Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) continues. Under the agreement the TSRA provides funds to IBA to write home loans for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region.</p>

Activity	Flag	Status
Employment and training projects		<p>The TSRA works in partnership with My Pathway, local shires and PBCs to deliver employment and training projects in the region.</p> <p>These projects provide industry-specific training to CDP job seekers while also benefiting the wider community.</p> <p>Five projects were undertaken in 2017-2018, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the St Pauls Community Hall completion the Kubin Community Hall repairs the Mabuyag Community Hall upgrade the Thursday Island Cycleway (Stage One) a mentors employment project. <p>To showcase the projects' success, the TSRA engaged One Blood Hidden Image Entertainment Group (OBHI) to develop and produce good news story videos. OBHI is the only established, locally owned music and film company in the region and is registered with Supply Nation.</p> <p>St Pauls Community Hall and Kubin Community Hall</p> <p>In early 2017 there was an identified need on Moa Island to repair the existing Kubin Community Hall and complete the St Pauls Community Hall. To undertake these projects, the TSRA formed a partnership with the asset owner; the TSIRC; and My Pathway.</p> <p>A local Indigenous contractor was awarded the construction contract. Six job seekers gained employment: three in the construction industry and three as mentors. Ten CDP job seekers obtained a Certificate II in Construction Pathways as part of the project.</p> <p>The halls will be officially opened in August 2018.</p> <p>Mabuyag Community Hall</p> <p>The renovation of the Mabuyag Community Hall is the result of a partnership between the TSRA, the TSIRC and My Pathway.</p> <p>The Mabuyag Community Hall upgrade is complete and the hall was re-opened on 1 June 2018.</p> <p>Thursday Island Cycleway</p> <p>The Thursday Island Cycleway (Stage One) project is part of a multi-phased project led by the TSC. Project partners include the TSRA, the DTMR and My Pathway.</p> <p>Stage One involved provision of a 1.5-kilometre cycleway from the Thursday Island Secondary Campus zebra crossing to the Rose Hill boat ramp. The 10-month project was completed in June 2018.</p> <p>In total, 14 CDP job seekers trained on this project transitioned into paid employment in the construction industry. Nine CDP job seekers completed a Certificate III in Concreting.</p> <p>The TSRA has entered into a partnership with the TSC and the DTMR to fund Stage Two of the Thursday Island Cycleway as an opportunity for continued employment and as a training venue for CDP job seekers.</p> <p>Mentors employment project</p> <p>The TSRA funds mentors to provide specialised knowledge and cultural support to those participating in the employment and training projects.</p> <p>Future projects</p> <p>Plans are underway with partners for projects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Wongai Multipurpose Courts upgrade on Thursday Island the Torres Strait Islanders Media Association radio station refurbishment on Thursday Island renovation of the guesthouse on Mer renovation of the business centre on Badu the Thursday Island Cycleway (Stage Two) the Ken Brown Oval extension on Thursday Island.

Activity	Flag	Status
Tourism	●	<p>In 2017-2018, the TSRA funded an Events Coordinator position for the TSIRC, and continued to fund Events Coordinator positions for the TSC and the NPARC.</p> <p>The funding is provided for three years to allow for employment certainty and longer-term planning.</p> <p>In addition, the TSRA funded three multi-year Tourism Officer positions, one each for the TSC, TSIRC and NPARC, in 2017-2018.</p> <p>To develop stronger ties with Tourism Tropical North Queensland in the region, the TSRA has funded a Tourism Coordinator position. This position is dedicated solely to supporting the region's efforts in enhancing the tourism/visitor economy for a two-year period.</p>
Website redesign	●	<p>The Economic Development Programme area of the TSRA website has undergone further improvement to enhance the user experience.</p> <p>The website now includes additional online applications, up-to-date information from across government and the private sector, and a modified online product selector tool.</p>

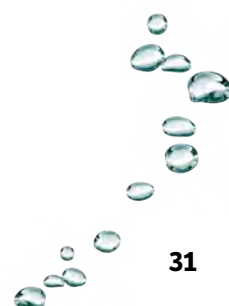
ADDITIONAL PROGRAMME SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	Flag	Status
An increase in the number of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in employment	●	<p>In 2017-2018, 242 CDP job seekers moved from welfare into employment. Of those, 196 job seekers met employment outcome milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 week outcome – 116 CDP job seekers. 26 week outcome – 80 CDP job seekers. <p>Job placements were in the following industries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> government (includes councils) – 38 retail – 29 employment services – 38 education – 30 hospitality – 13 aged care – 12 construction/labour – 52 service – 9 transport – 1 other – 20. <p>The overall job placement number has decreased. Fewer job seekers remained in work for a minimum of 26 weeks in 2017-2018 than in 2016-2017.</p>
Increase in the number of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal owned commercially viable businesses	●	<p>In 2017-2018, five business loans were approved to support Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal owned businesses.</p> <p>In the same period, business mentoring and support were provided to 11 clients.</p> <p>Four Fisheries Business Growth Package applications were received and two were approved.</p>

Indicator	Flag	Status
Increased availability of approved business training	●	<p>In 2017-2018, the TSRA continued to provide face-to-face business training through the delivery of Into Business Workshops.</p> <p>A total of 113 participants attended Into Business Workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 52 attended Workshop A 35 attended Workshop B 26 attended Workshop C. <p>A total of 26 participants completed the Into Business Workshop series. Post-course surveys indicate a very high level of participant satisfaction with the workshops.</p> <p>The attendance rate reflects an increase when compared to the previous year.</p>

LEGEND

○	●	⊘	●
Not yet started	Completed/ on schedule	Behind schedule less than three months	Behind schedule more than three months



CASE STUDY: MABUYAG ISLAND COMMUNITY HALL UPGRADE PROJECT

The Mabuyag Community Hall upgrade project demonstrates the TSRA's commitment to economic development and wealth creation in the region. The project provided Community Development Programme (CDP) job seekers with practical on-the-job development and training aligned to the needs of the local building industry.

Project partners

The renovation of the Mabuyag Community Hall was the result of a partnership between the TSRA, the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC), and the CDP provider, My Pathway.

As the building's owner, the TSIRC made a request to the TSRA to fund the upgrade of the Mabuyag Community Hall as a priority infrastructure project in early 2017, following a building report which rendered the hall unusable. In response, the TSRA invested over \$305,000 from the Economic Development Programme to see it upgraded.



Outcomes for job seekers

The project provided important work experience, training and employment opportunities for local people in the region. Five CDP job seekers were employed as construction labourers and three as mentors. Ten CDP job seekers obtained a nationally recognised construction qualification that will assist them to find future employment in the construction industry.

Local Indigenous contractor Country Pride Construction was awarded the contract for the project. Mr Kevin Savage, Project Manager of Country Pride Construction, said that working in collaboration with the TSRA, TSIRC and My Pathway offered the opportunity to empower the community to find ways to do the work locally.

'It was a great way to exchange knowledge, grow industry networks and build a community database to connect workers and employers in the region', Mr Savage said.

Some highlights for the team were overcoming shame factors through mentoring and positive reinforcement, developing new construction skills, and achieving the high level of workmanship that was expected on the project.



‘At the start of the project it was a big learning curve for the job seekers’, Mr Savage said.

‘They all had their individual challenges to overcome, including family commitments, and it was rewarding to see them meet these challenges during the project and resolve some personal issues.

‘Together we have trained the CDP job seekers, so they have the skills and confidence to work in construction anywhere in Australia.’

Benefits for the community

The TSRA Chairperson, Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, said that the TSRA understands that the Mabuyag Community Hall is an essential structure in which local people can meet to hold community events and engage in Ailan Kastom.

‘The TSRA welcomed the request from Goemulgaw (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation in October 2017 to also fund the cooking and dancing Zar Zars’, Mr Stephen said.

‘The project has reinvigorated an important asset for the Mabuyag Island community, whilst providing important workplace training and employment opportunities for local people.’

The re-opening of the Mabuyag Community Hall was celebrated in a joint event with the 10-year anniversary of the TSIRC amalgamation, on Friday, 1 June 2018.

To showcase the success of this project across the Torres Strait community and beyond, the TSRA engaged the video production services of locally owned music and film company One Blood Hidden Image Entertainment Group.



FISHERIES

REGIONAL GOAL

Enhance our region's wealth, by managing and maintaining sustainable fishing industries and increasing employment and economic opportunities for our people.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

- ◆ A commercially viable fishing industry which is 100 per cent owned by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people.
- ◆ Improved wealth of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people of the region.
- ◆ Sustainable management of fisheries resources.

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- ◆ Engaging in the PZJA and supporting the engagement of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in PZJA decision-making.
- ◆ Providing opportunities to develop the capability and capacity of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people to benefit from fisheries in the region.
- ◆ Assisting communities to engage in programme activities.
- ◆ Managing access to fisheries resources held in trust for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people of the region.

PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE 2017-2018

TABLE 2-16
FISHERIES PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE,
2017-2018

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
2,169	2,171	-2

PROGRAMME EXTERNAL FUNDING EXPENDITURE 2017-2018

TABLE 2-17
FISHERIES PROGRAMME EXTERNAL FUNDING
EXPENDITURE, 2017-2018

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
3,750	2,800	950

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Activity	Flag	Status
Fisheries communications	●	<p>In 2017-2018, the TSRA continued grant funding support for registered Torres Strait fishers' associations to assist them to develop their capacity to represent the interests of fishers in their communities. Properly functioning associations can play a key role in providing effective communications on fisheries matters within communities.</p>
Research and extension	●	<p>The Fisheries Programme's research and extension projects support sustainability and commercial use of Torres Strait fisheries.</p> <p>Project initiatives undertaken in 2017-2018 were designed to implement the recommendations of the region's finfish action plan. The plan is focused on helping people to overcome barriers to entry into commercial fishing and increase their participation in fisheries and fisheries-related commercial activities.</p> <p>In 2017-2018, the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> completed a feasibility study into the development of a new baitfish fishing industry completed an audit of existing fisheries infrastructure and infrastructure shortfalls in the region, securing investment through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy to invest in new infrastructure projects commenced, in partnership with the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, a project to investigate the feasibility of directly exporting fisheries products from the Torres Strait and the potential for a value-add brand for Torres Strait seafood. <p>The TSRA also partnered with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) to support the completion in 2017-2018 of <i>Procedural Framework for Researchers in the Torres Strait</i>, a revised guide for researchers to enable them to better engage with Traditional Owners when planning and undertaking research in the Torres Strait.</p>
Fisheries roadmap – towards 100 per cent ownership	●	<p>The TSRA has the lead on behalf of the PZJA for the development of the fisheries roadmap towards 100 per cent ownership of the commercial fisheries by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Traditional Owners.</p> <p>In 2017-2018, the TSRA purchased one non-Indigenous fishing licence in the TRL fishery, increasing the provisional Traditional Inhabitant ownership to be allocated under a quota-based management plan to 66.17 per cent of the Australian share of the fishery.</p> <p>Currently, the TSRA owns 100 per cent of the finfish and bêche-de-mer fisheries on behalf of Traditional Inhabitants and does not have ownership of the prawn fishery.</p>
Capacity building and training	●	<p>The Fisheries Programme delivers projects that increase the capacity of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region to participate in commercial fishing activities.</p> <p>In 2017-2018, the TSRA sponsored two participants who completed the National Seafood Industry Leadership Programme and another who commenced the programme. The TSRA created a Fisheries Cadetship and recruited a cadet in the Fisheries Programme, and supported seven participants in a three-day scientific workshop hosted by CSIRO in Brisbane.</p>

Activity	Flag	Status
Finfish quota management	●	<p>Each year since 2008 the TSRA has leased licences in the finfish fishery to non-Indigenous fishers. The aim of leasing licences to non-Indigenous fishers is to maintain markets until the Traditional Inhabitant Boat licence sector can increase its catch and meet market demand.</p> <p>The Fisheries Programme provides support to the TSRA Board and the Finfish Quota Management Committee to facilitate the leasing process. In 2017-2018, the committee recommended that licences for 110 tonnes of Spanish mackerel, 85 tonnes of coral trout and 17.5 tonnes of other species be leased out. Those leases generated \$291,500 in revenue for Torres Strait communities.</p>
Fisheries management framework	●	<p>In 2017-2018, the Fisheries Programme supported a delegation of TSRA and Malu Lamar Regional Native Title Body Corporate representatives to travel to New Zealand to investigate further the community management model for fisheries assets applied by Maori in New Zealand.</p> <p>The outcomes of the trip were presented to the TSRA Board, and a project steering committee was established to oversee the progression of a community management model for fisheries assets in the Torres Strait. The steering committee for this project includes the TSRA Chairperson, CEO, Portfolio Member for Fisheries and Member for Ugar, Member for Muralag and Ngurapai, and Member for Badu.</p> <p>The steering committee, with assistance from Terra Moana (New Zealand), visited all communities in the Torres Strait to seek the mandate from communities for the TSRA to progress the establishment of a single regional entity, independent of the TSRA, to hold and manage fisheries assets. These project activities are continuing.</p>
PZJA representation	●	<p>In 2017-2018, the TSRA participated in and supported Traditional Inhabitant members' participation in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one PZJA Standing Committee meeting one Scientific Advisory Committee meeting two Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group meetings three Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group meetings two Finfish Working Group meetings two Finfish Resource Assessment Group meetings one Finfish Harvest Strategy workshop one Hand Collectables Working Group meeting one Bêche-de-mer Harvest Strategy workshop one Prawn Management Advisory Committee meeting.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMME SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	Flag	Status
Increase in catches by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal fishers relative to total allowable catch		<p>The projects delivered by the TSRA Fisheries Programme are focused on increasing Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal participation in commercial fishing activities. In 2017-2018, catch reporting by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal fishers in the Torres Strait was not mandatory and AFMA advised that there was no reliable data on catch reporting from this sector.</p> <p>On 1 December 2017, the PZJA implemented a fish receipt licensing system in Torres Strait fisheries. While this will not capture information on the catch and effort in the fishery to inform scientific assessments, it will start to provide reliable data on the total catches of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal fishers in the region in the next reporting period.</p>
Number of opportunities for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people to increase their understanding and use of Torres Strait fisheries resources		<p>This indicator is being met through the programme's research and extension and capacity-building and training projects.</p> <p>The TSRA continues to support the attendance and participation of up to five Traditional Inhabitant members in all PZJA consultative forums.</p> <p>The indicator is also being met through the TSRA's sponsorship of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> participants in the National Seafood Industry Leadership Programme – two completed the programme and one commenced in 2017-2018 an Indigenous fisheries cadet, who commenced in 2017-2018 participants in CSIRO scientific workshops – seven completed workshops in 2017-18.

LEGEND			
			
Not yet started	Completed/ on schedule	Behind schedule less than three months	Behind schedule more than three months

CASE STUDY: FISHERIES INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES AUDIT DEVELOPS PLAN TO GUIDE FUTURE FUNDING

Successful commercial fishing enterprises in the Torres Strait rely on suitable infrastructure and services. However, a lack of on-shore infrastructure has been identified as a barrier to participation in the industry.

The TSRA Fisheries Programme works with Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal fishers and communities to identify viable business opportunities that will contribute to the improved wealth of Indigenous people in the region, a sustainable fishing industry owned and operated by Indigenous people, and sustainable management of natural resources.

As the quality and range of fishing-related infrastructure and services varies significantly between Torres Strait communities, the Fisheries Programme identified the need for a regional audit to guide maintenance and development and to facilitate the successful operation and growth of fishing businesses.

An infrastructure and services audit was undertaken in 2017-2018 to guide priority investment at the island, cluster and regional levels. The aim of the audit was to identify gaps and develop a plan to guide future investment in and maintenance of fisheries-related infrastructure and services, to increase participation and employment in fishing and related services.

The audit task included identifying the current state of infrastructure and services, the community's needs and aspirations for additional infrastructure and services that will contribute to the programme's outcomes, and a plan to address any shortfalls.

Between August and November 2017, all Torres Strait communities were visited and community consultations were undertaken by an external consultant, with additional key stakeholder meetings held on Thursday Island and in Cairns.

The key issues identified by the audit covered fishing-related infrastructure and services in the Torres Strait; fishing activity and potential fisheries production; and analysis of the infrastructure and services in individual communities.

Recommendations of the audit included:

- establishing a single autonomous, independent body responsible for the ownership, management and governance of the fishery
- implementing prioritised community recommendations
- implementing small-scale maintenance and service facilities across outer island regions
- establishing an inner island marine precinct
- purchasing or leasing a primary fishing platform.

With the endorsement of the TSRA Board, a plan to guide the prioritisation of investment in infrastructure and services was produced and the Fisheries Programme secured \$4.75 million in investment through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy to implement the outcomes of the audit.



Left to right: Karl Dai, William Stephen, Ewan Colquhoun, Kenny Bedford, Daniel Stephen, Jerry D Stephen Jr, Robert Modee, Shawn McAtamney, Rocky Stephen and Pau Stephen, at Ugar during the Fisheries Programme infrastructure and services audit

CULTURE, ART AND HERITAGE

REGIONAL GOAL

Protect, promote, revitalise and maintain Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal traditions and cultural heritage.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

- ◆ An active and sustainable arts and craft industry.
- ◆ Cultural values and protocols are integrated into service planning and management practice.
- ◆ The unique cultural heritage and histories of the region are preserved, maintained and promoted.
- ◆ Strong, supported and respected Ailan Kastom.
- ◆ The copyright, intellectual property and traditional knowledge of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region are protected.

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- ◆ Cultural maintenance and observance.
- ◆ Arts industry development.
- ◆ Gateway/hub for presenting, preserving, promoting and providing education on Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal culture and arts.
- ◆ Cultural heritage management (with links to the Environmental Management Programme).
- ◆ Copyright and intellectual property rights.
- ◆ Cultural values and protocols.

PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE 2017-2018

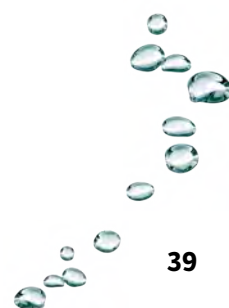
TABLE 2-18
CULTURE, ART AND HERITAGE PROGRAMME
EXPENDITURE, 2017-2018

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
4,221	4,247	-26

PROGRAMME EXTERNAL FUNDING EXPENDITURE 2017-2018

TABLE 2-19
CULTURE, ART AND HERITAGE PROGRAMME
EXTERNAL FUNDING EXPENDITURE, 2017-2018

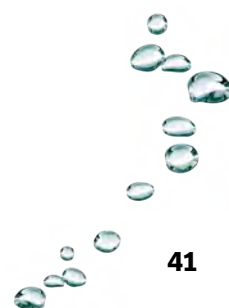
Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
490	490	-



PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Activity	Flag	Status
Arts development programme	●	<p>The TSRA continued to deliver arts development initiatives throughout the region in 2017-2018, including by providing operational and skills development support to the three regional art centres on Badu, Erub and Moa.</p> <p>The TSRA hosted the annual Torres Strait Artist Forum on Thursday Island, providing 22 local emerging artists with information presented by industry specialists, including Supply Nation, the Indigenous Art Code, the Flying Arts Alliance, the Copyright Agency, UMI Arts and the Gab Titui Cultural Centre (GTCC).</p> <p>In partnership with the Flying Arts Alliance, the TSRA engaged local artists in skills development workshops on textile and printable wear in the Northern Peninsula Area, traditional and contemporary weaving in Kubin, and batik on Thursday Island.</p>
Culture, art and heritage grants	●	<p>The TSRA Culture, Art and Heritage Programme supported a total of 24 grant applications in 2017-2018, contributing towards the promotion and maintenance of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal art and culture in the region.</p> <p>Funded activities included skills development projects for artists and schools, traditional and contemporary music production and performing arts participation at events for individuals and groups, and language and cultural maintenance initiatives.</p> <p>The programme also contributed to regionally significant events including Mabo Day and the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion.</p>
Cultural maintenance programme	●	<p>The TSRA acknowledges and respectfully observes and practises the region's cultural protocols and Ailan Kastom through its programmes and initiatives delivered in communities. The TSRA continues to provide guidance on cultural protocols to Australian Government and Queensland Government departments and non-government stakeholders visiting the region.</p> <p>Throughout 2017-2018, the TSRA supported initiatives on cultural maintenance, including by providing grant funding for participation by traditional music and dance groups at cultural events, and activities promoting and preserving cultural knowledge and traditions, such as publications and music productions.</p> <p>The GTCC actively promotes cultural maintenance through exhibitions displayed in the Ephraim Bani Gallery. In 2017-2018, the exhibitions programme featured the Gab Titui Collection and the <i>75th Anniversary of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion</i> exhibition.</p>
Dance strategy	●	<p>The TSRA continued to support and promote region-based traditional dance teams in 2017-2018, through opportunities such as the grant rounds, TSRA events and the TSRA Dance Strategy.</p> <p>Events considered for the TSRA Dance Strategy were, collectively, the 2018 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin Festival, Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards. The successful dance teams were the Meriam dance team based on Thursday Island, Eip Karem Beizam, and Seisia Kayin Thithuyil.</p>

Activity	Flag	Status
Arts licensing and IP protection	●	In 2017-2018, the GTCC engaged 25 artists under licence agreements for the use of their artwork images in publications and on art and craft products and merchandise developed by the centre, such as mugs, ties, magnets and the GTCC calendar.
Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award	●	The 2017 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award received 52 entries and attracted 300 people on opening night and more than 3,000 visitors over six weeks. The art award is a flagship event for the GTCC and TSRA and draws in members of the local community, leaders, curators, representatives of collection institutions and tourists, who visit Thursday Island specifically for this exhibition.
Gab Titui Cultural Centre – exhibitions/ public programmes	●	<p>Exhibitions</p> <p>The GTCC exhibitions programme partnered with some of Australia's leading galleries and museums to bring Torres Strait culture and arts to a wider audience nationally and internationally. The GTCC supported the National Gallery of Victoria and Cairns Art Gallery in the development of the <i>Lei it On</i> exhibition, which opened at the Cairns Art Gallery in July 2017.</p> <p>In partnership with the National Museum of Australia, the <i>Evolution: Torres Strait Masks</i> exhibition has embarked on its national tour and opened at the Museum of Tropical Queensland. The exhibition will tour to Melbourne and several galleries and museums in Western Australia during 2018-2019.</p> <p><i>Evolution: Torres Strait Masks</i> also opened as a graphic panel display at the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology, as part of activities celebrating the 45th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Vietnam.</p> <p>Public Programmes</p> <p>The GTCC offered a range of public programmes for visitors of all ages. The events were opportunities for active engagement with the community, external stakeholders and skilled Torres Strait artists and cultural practitioners. The public programme activities reflected the diversity of the communities and art forms throughout the Torres Strait. The activities either incorporated GTCC exhibitions or were themed around regional, national and international Indigenous commemorative occasions.</p> <p>The 2017-2018 public programmes schedule of events included a seniors' scrapbooking workshop with Home and Community Care Elders, a week-long workshop upskilling artists with the nationally acclaimed Indigenous Jewellery Project, an advanced lino-printing workshop conducted by master printer Theo Tremblay, themed school holiday programmes, community visits, and regular beading and weaving workshops.</p>



Activity	Flag	Status
The Torres Strait language strategy	●	<p>In 2017-2018, the TSRA, in partnership with stakeholders, delivered initiatives in the <i>Torres Strait Traditional Languages Plan 2016-2019</i> and Languages Charter, including an audit of traditional language speakers and the development of a languages website and an implementation plan to operate the Regional Language Centre.</p> <p>The Torres Strait Traditional Language Advisory Committee, established in 2016-2017 to guide the implementation of the plan, participated in a number of activities in communities and at state and national forums – such as the Puliima National Indigenous Language and Technology Forum in Cairns, the National Indigenous Languages Convention on the Gold Coast, and the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Forum in Rockhampton – to promote the maintenance of the traditional languages of Meriam Mir and Kala Lagaw Ya, and their respective dialects.</p> <p>The TSRA is working closely with Tagai State College, and other stakeholders, to implement the Regional Language Centre operations and further delivery of language maintenance activities in communities.</p>
Music strategy – Music and Dance Audit	⦿	<p>The TSRA's Music and Dance Audit works with the region's communities to record and preserve traditional music, dance and cultural knowledge, compiling recordings into CD and DVD packages that are distributed to communities and archive institutions and promoted through the GTCC.</p> <p>In 2017-2018, the TSRA and partners worked with three communities to complete their CD and DVD productions, and commenced planning for activities in the remaining two communities.</p>

LEGEND

○	●	⦿	●
Not yet started	Completed/ on schedule	Behind schedule less than three months	Behind schedule more than three months

CASE STUDY: EXHIBITIONS CELEBRATE FIRST AUSTRALIANS' WARTIME CONTRIBUTIONS

In March 2018, the TSRA Gab Titui Cultural Centre celebrated the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion by presenting two exhibitions to commemorate the occasion.

The Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion was formed in 1943, as over 800 Torres Strait Islanders – almost the entire male population of the Torres Strait – joined together as one against the threat of invasion from the north.

The historical contributions of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people to Australia's armed forces were formidable but are often overlooked.

The *75th Anniversary of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion* exhibition, curated by the Gab Titui Cultural Centre, was supported by the award-winning Shrine of Remembrance travelling exhibition, *Indigenous Australians at war from the Boer War to the present*.

Both exhibitions celebrated and uncovered the individual and family stories of service and sacrifice of the First Australians and acknowledged a significant part of the region's history.



A squad of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion training on Thursday Island in 1945



Soldiers of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion C Company



Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion veteran Mr Mebai Wasusum cutting the ribbon for the 75th Anniversary of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion exhibition

NATIVE TITLE

REGIONAL GOAL

Protect, maintain and progress Native Title rights and recognition over the region's land and sea country.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

- ◆ Changes to Native Title and Fisheries legislation which recognise the commercial rights as part of the Native Title rights of Traditional Owners under the Torres Strait Sea Claim Part A determination.
- ◆ Successfully negotiated Future Acts and ILUAs.
- ◆ Native Title claims are successfully determined.
- ◆ PBCs understand and meet their responsibilities under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- ◆ Progress and successfully negotiate ILUAs.
- ◆ Progress and successfully negotiate Native Title Claims.
- ◆ Perform the functions of an NTRB under the Native Title Act.
- ◆ Develop proposals regarding legislation that impacts on Native Title.
- ◆ Build the capacity of Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate.

PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE 2017-2018

**TABLE 2-20
NATIVE TITLE PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE,
2017-2018**

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
5,556	5,559	-3

PROGRAMME EXTERNAL FUNDING EXPENDITURE 2017-2018



**TABLE 2-21
NATIVE TITLE PROGRAMME EXTERNAL
FUNDING EXPENDITURE, 2017-2018**

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
-	196	-196





PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Activity	Flag	Status
Native Title compensation	●	In 2017-2018, 13 ILUAs were successfully negotiated. The value of compensation for the agreements is approximately \$1.465 million. Since 2005, 78 ILUAs have been registered. The value of compensation is approximately \$3.881 million.
Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) transfer	○	There were no DOGIT transfers in 2017-2018. The transfer of DOGITs on four islands is currently under consideration by the Traditional Owners.
Land Holding Act (Katter Leases)	●	There are 330 Katter lease entitlements in the region. The TSRA worked with the Queensland Government and the TSIRC and finalised Katter leases on Badu Island. This ILUA has been completed and awaits registration. A recent Supreme Court decision has clarified that the grant of such leases would ordinarily extinguish Native Title. This poses significant challenges to Native Title in the region.
Major Infrastructure ILUA	●	The Native Title Office has worked with the Queensland Government and the TSIRC and the parties have finalised the Major Infrastructure ILUA.
Management of Future Acts and ILUAs	●	The Native Title Office received 260 Future Acts notices in 2017-2018. Responses have been provided to 258 of those notices.
Native Title claim Sea Claim Part B (QUD6040/2001)	●	The NTRB has been assisting and facilitating the representation of the applicant and Indigenous respondents to this claim. The Part B area is wholly overlapped by two claims. The western area of the claim is overlapped by a claim filed on behalf of the Kaurareg people and the eastern area is overlapped by a claim filed on behalf of the North Eastern people of Cape York. The Badjungal, Mualgal and Kaurareg people have agreed that the western overlap is shared sea country. The TSRA is party to consent orders setting out the process for re-authorising the claim in 2018. Negotiations with the Cape York Land Council about resolving the eastern overlap have commenced. Further anthropological research is required to identify the Traditional Owner group for the claim.
Native Title Conference	●	The National Native Title Conference was held from 5 to 7 June 2018 in Broome. Native Title holders from the Torres Strait gave presentations and participated in a number of important sessions on Native Title developments in the region.
NTRB legal services	●	The Native Title Office provides a wide range of legal assistance to the PBCs and Traditional Owners in the region upon request. Table 2-22 provides statistical information on the level of engagement in 2017-2018.
PBC support and capacity building	●	The Native Title Office provides support to 21 PBCs in the region to ensure that they maintain legislative compliance and can effectively engage with the Traditional Owners in their communities. In 2017-2018, an MOU was signed between the TSRA and the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC). Under the MOU, an ORIC officer was based in the main office of the TSRA to assist in PBC capacity building and to carry out Rule Book Workshops throughout the region.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMME SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	Flag	Status
Number of reported non-compliance matters involving PBCs		There are no reported non-compliance matters for the region.
Number of DOGITs transferred to PBCs with appropriate support mechanisms		There were no DOGIT transfers in 2017-2018.

LEGEND

			
Not yet started	Completed/ on schedule	Behind schedule less than three months	Behind schedule more than three months

STATISTICAL DATA

TABLE 2-22
NATIVE TITLE OFFICE PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Facilitation and assistance	Number
1. THE CLAIMS EXPERIENCE	
<i>Claimant applications</i>	
Active claims represented at 30 June 2017	2
Plus claims filed this year by Native Title Representative Body	0
Less claims determined 2017-2018	0
Less claims dismissed 2017-2018	0
Less claims withdrawn 2017-2018	0
(+ or -) Other disposition	0
Active claims represented at 30 June 2018	2
Number of active claims registered by National Native Title Tribunal	0
Claims in development	1
<i>Non-claimant applications</i>	0
Compensation claims	0
2. THE AGREEMENTS EXPERIENCE	
Future Acts notices received	260
Responses to Future Acts notices	258
Agreements concluded	0
Agreements in development	0
Indigenous Land Use Agreements concluded and registered	8
Indigenous Land Use Agreements in development	20
<i>Complaints and disputes</i>	
Complaints	
Received	0
Resolved	0
Pending	0
Disputes relating to Native Title applications	1
Disputes relating to ILUAs, rights of access and other matters	5
<i>Requests for review of decisions not to assist</i>	
Requests received	1
Reviews completed	1
<i>Requests for review of decisions to assist</i>	
Requests received	15
Requests approved	15

CASE STUDY: NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE CONFERENCE – MANY LAWS, ONE LAND

The 2018 National Native Title Conference – Many Laws, One Land: legal and political co-existence – was held in Broome, Western Australia, from 5 to 7 June.

The conference was convened by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and the Kimberley Land Council. It was hosted by the Yawuru people on their traditional lands.

Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, TSRA Chairperson, and Mr Eric Peter, TSRA Member for Boigu and Portfolio Member for Native Title, attended the conference, along with the TSRA's Principal Legal Officer and Senior Legal Officer and a number of the Chairs of Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) in the Torres Strait region.

As the conference marked 25 years since the passing of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), participants discussed the challenges and opportunities of Native Title in the context of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's aspirations for their lands, waters and communities.

Native Title developments in the Torres Strait were discussed in a session entitled 'Dispute resolution in the Torres Strait: How we combined the two laws and practices'. The speakers were Mr Ned David, Chair of Magani Lagaugal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC); Mr Keith Pabai, Chair of Malu Ki'ai (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC; and Ms Cassie Lang, formerly of the TSRA Native Title Office and now a senior solicitor with Marrawah Law.

Between 2014 and 2017, the Queensland Government (through the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) negotiated Indigenous Land Use



Agreements throughout the Torres Strait for land to construct social houses. The RNTBCs were required by Native Title regulations to comply with consultation and consent requirements; however, disputes often arose between Traditional Owners about who had authority to speak for the land.

Mr David explained how the Magani Lagaugal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation (the PBC for lama) resolved those disputes, using their traditional laws and customs and in accordance with their rule book, by establishing a dispute resolution council. Representatives were selected based on criteria developed by the community.

Mr Pabai explained how the Malu Ki'ai (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation (the PBC for Boigu) and the Boigu community resolved disputes by drawing their traditional boundaries and colour-coding their totem groups, then mapping them with assistance from the National Native Title Tribunal and the TSRA Native Title Office.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

REGIONAL GOAL

Our natural and cultural environment is an asset that is protected, preserved and enjoyed through sustainable management.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

- ◆ Strengthened sustainable use, protection and management of natural and cultural resources.
- ◆ Improved community adaptation to climate change impacts, including sea level rise.
- ◆ Increased uptake of renewable energy for Torres Strait.
- ◆ Support community sustainable horticulture.

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Land:

- ◆ Biodiversity planning and management
- ◆ Invasive species
- ◆ Sustainable horticulture
- ◆ Environmental education.

Sea:

- ◆ Turtle and dugong planning and management
- ◆ Marine biodiversity
- ◆ Water quality
- ◆ State of the environment report card.

People:

- ◆ Ranger project
- ◆ Indigenous Protected Areas project
- ◆ Traditional ecological knowledge project
- ◆ Traditional owner engagement
- ◆ Compliance project.

Coasts and climate:

- ◆ Climate change adaptation and resilience
- ◆ Renewable energy.

PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE 2017-2018

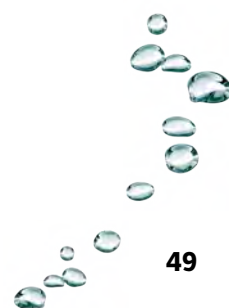
TABLE 2-23
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE, 2017-2018

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
5,054	4,606	448

PROGRAMME EXTERNAL FUNDING EXPENDITURE 2017-2018

TABLE 2-24
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME EXTERNAL FUNDING
EXPENDITURE, 2017-2018

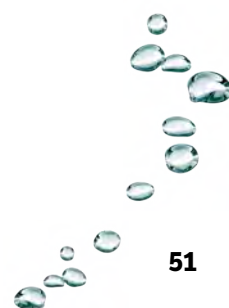
Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
12,944	10,592	2,352



PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Activity	Flag	Status
Invasive species management	●	<p>The TSRA coordinated the development of the Torres Strait Regional Biosecurity Plan 2018-2023. Queensland Government funding was secured for a four-year project to manage feral animals and weeds on key islands across the region through a partnership approach with local government. Major weed programmes are underway to control leucaena, lantana and rubber bush on several islands, including Moa, Boigu, Saibai, Mer, Erub, Warraber and Dauan.</p> <p>Invasive feral cat and rodent surveys have been conducted on 13 uninhabited islands in the Torres Strait. Aerial surveys have been conducted for wild horses and deer on three islands. The TSC has been contracted to conduct wild dog, feral cat and cane toad control programmes on Thursday Island and Horn Island.</p> <p>The TSRA also entered a partnership agreement for shared service delivery with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources for the provision of biosecurity services, which has created fee-for-service opportunities for TSRA rangers. The TSRA also participates in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Biosecurity Working Group.</p>
Sustainable horticulture project	●	<p>The Environmental Management Programme works closely with the TSRA's Healthy Communities and Safe Communities programmes to support communities with horticulture activities in the region.</p> <p>A Regional Landcare Facilitator is employed to coordinate project activities, including facilitation of workshops on outer islands to provide practical and technical demonstrations on food gardening, to assist with the re-establishment of family garden plots and backyard gardens as well as the development and maintenance of plant nurseries. The Regional Landcare Facilitator provides a quarterly garden column in the <i>Torres News</i>, and supports the Thursday Island Garden Fair with a stall promoting traditional food gardening and sustainable practices.</p>
Ranger project	●	<p>The TSRA employs 45 rangers, as well as support staff, across 13 outer island communities.</p> <p>Working on Country plans that were developed with Traditional Owners are in place to guide the local cultural and natural resource management activities of rangers, who participate in a comprehensive training programme to equip them for their scope of works.</p> <p>A large part of the ranger programme is based on maritime operations and the programme operates nine vessels located across the region. Future prospects include roles in intelligence gathering and compliance activities.</p>
Environmental education project	●	<p>This project supports the employment of an Environmental Education Coordinator to lead and coordinate the development and delivery of environmental education programmes within Tagai State College campuses.</p> <p>A school camp base has been established at Bamaga to support traditional knowledge transfer through teaching arts, crafts, cooking, dancing and hunting. Each school has received assistance and equipment to update and maintain school gardens.</p>

Activity	Flag	Status
Dugong and turtle management	●	<p>Dugong and turtle management plans are in place for each of the 14 outer island communities and are being implemented by the communities with the support of the TSRA. The plans integrate traditional use and contemporary science and management approaches to support the sustainable management of dugong and turtle across the region.</p> <p>Each plan is currently undergoing review to bring more strength to traditional ways of governing the cultural protocols and management arrangements for the use of dugong and turtle resources. A dugong and turtle management plan and permit system for the Kaiwalagal region has been developed by Kaurareg Traditional Owners with support from the TSRA. Kaurareg Traditional Owners are now working towards endorsing the plan and determining how it can be implemented.</p> <p>The TSRA Environmental Management Programme continues to lead annual turtle nesting and hatchling surveys at the index rookery for green turtles in the Torres Strait, and is undertaking survey and monitoring work for other species that nest and forage in the region.</p>
Biodiversity planning and management	●	<p>Baseline biodiversity surveys have been carried out on 13 inhabited islands and more than 20 uninhabited islands. A plant and animal book and video have been produced for Badu. Mangrove and water quality monitoring projects have been undertaken on Boigu and Saibai. Seasonal calendars are under development for two islands.</p>
Marine ecosystem monitoring	●	<p>Rangers have been trained in seagrass monitoring techniques and are actively carrying out intertidal monitoring in seven communities.</p> <p>Coral surveys and assessments of the extent of coral bleaching have been undertaken. The TSRA continued to support rangers to conduct biannual surveys of coral reefs.</p> <p>Remote weather stations at four locations across the region continued to be maintained and collect weather and marine data.</p> <p>Research is underway to investigate the impacts of Fly River pollution on the marine resources of Torres Strait. The TSRA also participated in a recent shipping forum to consider the impacts of shipping in the region and risk mitigation options.</p>
Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) project	●	<p>Three IPAs have been declared and are being actively managed in the Torres Strait region: Ugul Malu Kawal IPA (previously Warul Kawa IPA), Pulu Islet IPA and Warraberalgal Porumalgal IPA.</p> <p>The TSRA, including rangers from associated communities, continues to actively support the implementation of management plans for all IPAs in the region.</p> <p>Following extensive consultation, a review of the IPA plan of management for Ugul Malu Kawal has been completed. A review of the Warraberalgal Porumalgal IPA plan of management is underway.</p>

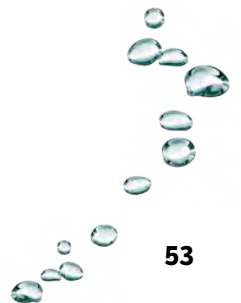


Activity	Flag	Status
Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) project	●	<p>The TEK project supports participating Torres Strait communities to utilise a TEK database for the collection, protection and controlled sharing of cultural and natural resource information while ensuring adherence to cultural protocols.</p> <p>The project was expanded during 2017-2018, to include the communities of Saibai and Poruma, and now encompasses 11 Torres Strait communities.</p> <p>A review of the TEK project was undertaken in early 2016 to explore how to increase the uptake of the TEK system, how to better incorporate TEK into land and sea management, and how to best utilise project resources. Of the 44 recommendations from the review, 87 per cent have been implemented or are underway.</p>
Future funding and investment prospectus	●	<p>The <i>Land and Sea Management Strategy for Torres Strait 2016-2036</i> was launched in August 2016. The strategy is the guiding framework for environmental management in the region, through a collaborative approach with Traditional Owners, all levels of government and other partners.</p> <p>An investment prospectus is under development to support the TSRA's efforts to secure ongoing funding, and to guide and inform future management, monitoring and evaluation of the region's key values.</p>
Climate change adaptation and resilience	●	<p>Implementation of the <i>Torres Strait Regional Adaptation and Resilience Plan 2016-2021</i> continues across a range of focus areas, including fisheries, health, disaster risk reduction, coastal adaptation and marine and terrestrial environments.</p> <p>The Torres Strait Regional Coordination Group was established to drive high-level regional coordination of critical adaptation and resilience actions across programmes and departments. The Masig Resilience Pilot has made good progress with the establishment of a local resilience committee.</p>
Renewable energy	●	<p>A solar array and energy-efficient pump have been installed at the Masig desalination plant to reduce the cost of water production. A 5-kilowatt solar array with battery back-up has been installed at the guesthouse on Mer. Three small-scale biogas digesters are being trialled to convert green waste to energy.</p> <p>A draft proposal has been developed for a comprehensive integrated waste and energy solution for Horn Island and Thursday Island.</p>

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMME SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	Flag	Status
Number of actions in the climate change strategy and associated action plans implemented	●	26 actions from the regional adaptation plan are now being progressed.
At least two new renewable energy initiatives commenced by 2018	●	Two renewable energy initiatives commenced in the reporting period.
Number of inhabited islands with active food producing community gardens in place	●	Across the region, three community gardens have been revitalised and are now recognised as celebration gardens. The Horn Island garden has been totally revitalised and expanded, the St Pauls community garden has received a new fence to protect it from horse damage, and the Warraber community garden has received assistance for a hydroponic vegetable-growing project. Discussions have started on revitalising the Hammond Island community garden.

LEGEND			
○	●	⊘	●
Not yet started	Completed/ on schedule	Behind schedule less than three months	Behind schedule more than three months



CASE STUDY: MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF BIOSECURITY – WEED MANAGEMENT ON THE INNER ISLANDS OF THE TORRES STRAIT

The TSRA currently works with communities on the 14 inhabited outer islands of the Torres Strait to carry out invasive plant mapping and weed control, which are core functions of the Indigenous rangers on each island. One of the main focus points and gaps in regional weed control and mapping relates to the resources and capacity to carry out those functions on the inner islands, where they are not a responsibility of the TSRA.

The TSRA and inner island stakeholders – the Torres Shire Council (TSC) and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) – are taking a collaborative approach to look at options to increase skills and knowledge and build the capacity of stakeholder employees to take on a more active role in the field of weed management.



TSC and TSIRC staff mapping leucaena



TSC and TSIRC staff removing juvenile weeds

Capacity building

This project will provide training for local employees, to give them capacity to conduct weed mapping, using new technology, and to apply effective control techniques for priority weed species. The training will be aligned with the soon to be released Torres Strait Regional Biosecurity Plan 2018-2023 and associated Torres Strait Regional Biosecurity Action Plans.

In May 2018, the TSRA facilitated a four-day workshop on Thursday Island with key field staff of the TSC and TSIRC. Training was conducted in weed baseline mapping using the Fulcrum App, and within 1.5 days staff had successfully mapped the extent of leucaena on Thursday Island. Staff also undertook training on control of leucaena using the cut stump and spray technique. Staff discussed safety-related issues and ran through safe work procedures for chainsaw use and chemical spraying.

TSRA Senior Natural Resource Management Officers will provide ongoing technical support for the staff who were involved in the training, and their managers.

WEED MANAGEMENT ON THE INNER ISLANDS IS VITAL, NOT ONLY FOR THOSE ISLANDS, BUT ALSO TO HELP TO MINIMISE THE RISK OF EXOTIC WEED SPECIES BEING TRANSLOCATED TO OTHER ISLANDS WHERE THEY CURRENTLY DO NOT EXIST.

Weed mapping

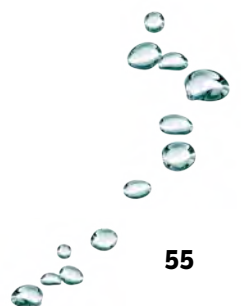
The weed baseline mapping software gave the TSC and TSIRC employees a better understanding of the leucaena infestations and generated baseline data on the weed situation as of May 2018. The baseline data can now be used to measure the progress of any future management of leucaena, and help to guide future management objectives and activities. A total of 277 separate leucaena infestations were recorded. The mapping software and visual display that the maps represent have given the employees an eagerness to continue using this software for other priority species.

There appears to be no evidence that significant baseline weed mapping has previously occurred on the inner islands of the Torres Strait. Certain isolated species of extreme priority may have been recorded and mapped by the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy, but full-scale, island-wide weed mapping has yet to occur. The activities in this project were the first step to initiate a drive for inner island weed mapping and systematic weed management by local authorities.

Benefits for the region

The inner islands are a hub of activity and are frequently visited by vessels travelling to and from outer islands and the mainland. Weed management on the inner islands is vital, not only for those islands, but also to help to minimise the risk of exotic weed species being translocated to other islands where they currently do not exist.

Many important outcomes have resulted from this project and the collaborative approach has launched the process of developing skills and introducing new technology to the TSC and TSIRC to make weed management easier.



GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

REGIONAL GOAL

Effective and transparent self-government, with strong leadership.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

- Implementation of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement service delivery principles.
- Appropriate Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal participation in decision-making.
- Improved communication, cultural competence and service delivery within a community development framework across governments.
- Strong Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal organisational leadership and governance.

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- Governance capacity building.
- Leadership capacity building.
- Integrated Service Delivery coordination.
- Community engagement.
- Women's leadership programme.
- Youth leadership programme.
- Tertiary education assistance.
- Regional broadcasting support.

PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE 2017-2018

TABLE 2-25
GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP
PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE, 2017-2018

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
5,315	5,318	-3

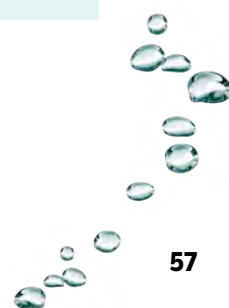
PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Activity	Flag	Status
Community consultation and engagement	⊘	During 2017-2018, community engagement was conducted in five Torres Strait communities by the Chairperson and the CEO. Further community visits are planned.
Integrated Service Delivery community booklets	●	The community booklet for TRAWQ (the communities of Tamwoy, Rose Hill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine on Thursday Island) was workshoped and updated.
Media and communications support	●	This is a contracted activity through Zakazukha Marketing Communications. In 2017-2018, 65 media releases were produced.
Internal and external audit support	●	The external and internal audit programmes were completed. Audit recommendation tracking and status reports were provided at four Audit Committee meetings.

Activity	Flag	Status
Assistance with Tertiary Education Scheme	●	Sixteen tertiary scholarships were offered in 2017-2018.
Board and Chairperson support	●	Four Executive Committee meetings, four Audit Committee meetings and four Board meetings were conducted in 2016-2017. Executive assistance was provided to the TSRA Chairperson.
Board Strategic Workshop	●	All Board members attended the TSRA's Board Strategic Training Workshop in March 2018. The focus of the workshop and training was to discuss the TSRA's financial, strategic planning and risk framework.
Indigenous leadership	●	During 2017-2018, one person was supported to undertake the Australian Rural Leadership Program and one person was supported to undertake the Training Rural Australians in Leadership programme.
Support to regional broadcasting	●	The Torres Strait Islanders Media Association met its broadcasting hours and local content targets. A review was undertaken during 2017-2018.
Women's and youth leadership	●	Seven participants were supported in the Torres Strait Young Leaders Program and 10 women were supported to undertake the Torres Strait Women's Leadership Program.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMME SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	Flag	Status
Achieve a minimum of 20 per cent increase in access to services over the life of the <i>Torres Strait Development Plan 2014-2018</i> measured from the 2012 baseline regional plan community booklets	●	<p>The <i>Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009-2029</i> identified 1,608 service gaps.¹</p> <p>In 2012-2013, 372 (23 per cent) had been fully addressed. This increased to 773 (48 per cent) in 2013-2014 and 1,034 (64 per cent) in 2014-2015. In 2015-2016, new issues were identified from the refresh of 13 community booklets. The issues that have been fully addressed remain at 1,034 (64 per cent).</p>
Increase in Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal women with the capacity to participate in leadership roles in the region measured from the 2012 baseline	●	<p>The Torres Strait Women's Leadership Program is delivered in partnership with the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation. The 2012 baseline was six participants. Since then, the following participants have been supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2013-2014 – four women ◆ 2014-2015 – four women ◆ 2015-2016 – seven women ◆ 2016-2017 – 10 women ◆ 2017-2018 – 10 women.



Indicator	Flag	Status
Increase in Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal youth (18-25) with the capacity to participate in leadership development activities measured from the 2012 baseline	●	<p>Training Rural Australians in Leadership and the Torres Strait Young Leaders Program are delivered in partnership with the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation.</p> <p>The TSRA has supported the following Training Rural Australians in Leadership participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2013-2014 – two male and one female 2014-2015 – three male and four female 2015-2016 – one male 2016-2017 – two male and one female 2017-2018 – one male. <p>The TSRA has supported the following Torres Strait Young Leaders Program participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2013-2014 – one male and three female 2014-2015 – one male and three female 2015-2016 – two male and four female 2016-2017 – three male and three female 2017-2018 – two male and five female.

1. The service gaps were identified in 2009-2010 as part of the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009-2029* development process. Community consultations conducted in 2014-2015 identified that some community booklets contained duplicate entries of gaps in services. Five duplications were removed, reducing the baseline from 1,613 to 1,608.

LEGEND

○	●	◐	●
Not yet started	Completed/ on schedule	Behind schedule less than three months	Behind schedule more than three months

CASE STUDY: TSRA CHAIRPERSON AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMUNITY VISIT – ERUB COMMUNITY

The TSRA Chairperson, Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, the CEO, Mr Wayne See Kee, and administration staff were invited by the newly elected TSRA Member for Erub, Mr Jimmy Gela, to visit Erub for community consultations.

The visit took place on 6 April 2018, commencing with a meeting at the Erub Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) office between the TSRA, the TSIRC and the Erubam Le Traditional Land and Sea Owners (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation. The community meeting was held at Norah's Ark and was well attended by various community elders and members and representatives of organisations based on the island.

This was an ideal opportunity for the community of Erub to meet face to face with TSRA representatives to directly voice any local issues that the community had. Community members were also provided with the opportunity to have individual deputations with the TSRA Chairperson and CEO.

THIS WAS AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY OF ERUB TO MEET FACE TO FACE WITH TSRA REPRESENTATIVES TO DIRECTLY VOICE ANY LOCAL ISSUES THAT THE COMMUNITY HAD.

Representatives from the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) were also visiting the region, to undertake required audits of government organisations within the Torres Strait region. The ANAO staff members accompanied the TSRA group on the Erub community visit, which enabled them to conduct auditing components that were related to the TSRA.

Following the community consultations, the TSRA Chairperson and CEO were able to visit development sites and organisations where the TSRA is a stakeholder:

- the Erub Erwer Meta Torres Strait Islander Corporation Art Centre
- the Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Service
- the new site for a multipurpose facility
- the newly installed 4G telecommunications tower
- the Erub Freezers.

The TSRA undertakes community visits and engagement meetings to meet with community members and key stakeholders from various Torres Strait communities throughout the year.



TSRA Chairperson Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM (seated) and CEO Mr Wayne See Kee (standing) taking questions from members of the Erub community

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

REGIONAL GOAL

To enhance both healthy communities and our living environment and achieve the provision of adequate, appropriate and affordable housing.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

- ◆ Secure whole-of-government investment for infrastructure to support healthy homes and healthy living environments.
- ◆ Policies support community managed delivery of primary and public health care services and are based on regional needs and priorities.
- ◆ Improved access to affordable fresh and healthy foods.
- ◆ More active and healthy communities.
- ◆ Affordable home ownership available across the region.

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- ◆ Support community market garden and horticulture initiatives (in conjunction with the Environmental Management Programme).
- ◆ Engage with food suppliers and retailers to increase supply and variety of healthy food options.
- ◆ Support health education initiatives, including physical education, nutrition, obesity, diabetes, motivation and substance abuse programmes.
- ◆ Fund sport and recreation activities and minor infrastructure.
- ◆ Contribute funding and provide policy advice for the delivery of essential services and infrastructure to support healthy living environments.

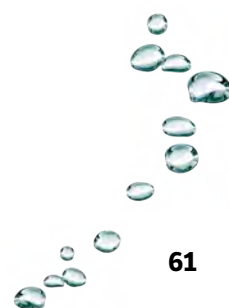
PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE 2017-2018

TABLE 2-26
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME
EXPENDITURE, 2017-2018

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
3,330	3,332	-2

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Activity	Flag	Status
Seawalls	●	<p>The joint Australian Government and Queensland Government initiative to increase coastal protection in low-lying Torres Strait communities continued throughout the financial year.</p> <p>Seawall construction works on Saibai reached practical completion on 30 November 2017. The TSRA funded additional emergency works on Poruma.</p> <p>The TSRA completed a Seawalls Evaluation Report on the project that included all major lessons learned and will help to inform and optimise future investment in the region.</p>
Major infrastructure projects	●	<p>The TSRA continued to roll out MIP 6, a \$30 million jointly funded Australian Government and Queensland Government project. Work scope and design reports have been finalised for most MIP 6 projects that focus on water and sustainability needs. Tendering is complete or nearing completion and the staged construction programme has commenced.</p> <p>The TSRA continued to work with the TSC on the \$6 million Prince of Wales Safe Landing Facility project funded by the Australian Government. This project will provide safe access for the community and is at the development approval stage.</p>
Regional water operations and support	●	<p>The TSRA continued to support water and wastewater management with the TSIRC through the provision of funding to complete the Sustainable Water and Wastewater Management Project. The project is due to be completed in 2018-2019.</p>
Major Infrastructure Programme trust and other infrastructure projects	●	<p>The TSRA continues to work with the TSIRC to identify infrastructure and non-infrastructure solutions to allow for all-tide safe access to Ugar community. The TSRA supported Ugar safe access by providing funding for an infrastructure environmental assessment, including geotechnical assessment; a flight subsidy; and fuel bowser and helicopter pad upgrades.</p> <p>The TSRA continues to fund a range of minor infrastructure projects. To date, the three regional councils (TSC, TSIRC and NPARC) have been allocated funding for over 20 projects, including stormwater and drainage upgrades, public toilets and a waste landfill site.</p>
Healthy fresh food and horticulture	●	<p>The Healthy Communities Programme continued to provide grant funding to community organisations to support market garden activities.</p> <p>The Environmental Management Programme's Mekem Garden Sustainable Horticulture Project delivered food garden initiatives and workshops. Eight communities have been involved in the development of community and backyard garden projects which promote the growing of fresh foods in the Torres Strait communities.</p> <p>The Healthy Communities Programme has complemented these activities with visits to run grant information sessions for the community.</p>



Activity	Flag	Status
Sport and recreation activities (grant funding)	●	<p>The Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association continued to administer sports subsidy funding on behalf of the TSRA throughout the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area region.</p> <p>The association provided 60 sport and recreation grants to encourage participation in a range of sporting and recreational activities, including sporting events at state and national levels, as well funding for five major local sporting carnival events.</p> <p>Of a total of 3,147 participants in sport and recreation during the period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 356 were in the 0-12 age group 1,089 were in the 13-25 age group 1,529 were in the 26-54 age group 173 were 55 years old or older. <p>The TSRA also provided support for the association's organisational capacity to improve service delivery, including a grant for an additional vehicle.</p>
Waste and landfill projects	●	<p>The Healthy Communities Programme continues to work with key stakeholders in local and state government and Australian Government agencies to find solutions to address waste management issues in the region.</p> <p>The TSC received funding from the TSRA's Community Minor Infrastructure Fund to fund a refuse landfill site in 2018-2019.</p>
Horn Island affordable housing project	●	<p>Construction of subdivision works is planned for 2019. The resolution of land tenure matters has been finalised. The layout and designs of the lots are being completed. This project will provide additional options for affordable home ownership in the region.</p>
Health promotion and community education projects	●	<p>The TSRA provides operational funding to the Torres Strait Youth and Recreation Sporting Association. The association provided support to sporting events in the region and worked closely with event organisers and stakeholders, such as Queensland Health, to deliver health and nutrition education initiatives.</p> <p>The TSRA also influences policy for health programmes across all tiers of government, through participation in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torres Strait Cross Border Health Issues Committee Department of Health: Implementation Plan Advisory Group Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children Steering Committee James Cook University Torres Strait Island Health Sciences Consultative Committee National Health and Medical Research Council consultations Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Partnership meetings.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMME SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	Flag	Status
Increased access to fresh and affordable foods in Torres Strait communities	○	<p>The Environmental Management Programme's Mekem Garden Sustainable Horticulture Project delivers food garden initiatives and workshops to increase knowledge and practice of traditional gardening activities and promote the growing of fresh foods in Torres Strait communities.</p> <p>The Healthy Communities Programme complements the project by providing grant education sessions in conjunction with the Mekem Garden workshops conducted by the Regional Landcare Facilitator, to encourage communities to access TSRA grant funding opportunities for gardening and horticulture activities.</p>
Increase in participation in structured sport, recreation and healthy lifestyle activities	●	Five major local sporting events were supported and 60 grants for sporting and recreational activities were approved. A total of 3,147 participants were supported in 2017-2018.
Increase in serviced land and infrastructure to support housing for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people	⊘	The TSRA continues to support the TSC to deliver a subdivision on Horn Island. The TSRA has contributed funding to establish the subdivision. Issues with Native Title previously delayed this project; however, the TSC has now secured the land. The TSC and TSRA are updating the funding deed for the TSC to commence work on the subdivision.

LEGEND

○	●	⊘	●
Not yet started	Completed/ on schedule	Behind schedule less than three months	Behind schedule more than three months

CASE STUDY: COMMUNITY MINOR INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

In 2015, the TSRA Board endorsed a new model for minor infrastructure funding to local government councils, the Community Minor Infrastructure Fund (CMIF). The aim of the investment is to support councils in the development of minor infrastructure that improves community amenities and safety.

Each year, councils are invited to submit minor infrastructure proposals to be considered for funding. Through the three CMIF rounds that have occurred to date, the TSRA has provided over \$2.5 million in funding for over 20 projects.

Minor infrastructure projects are delivered by the three councils – Torres Shire Council, Torres Strait Island Regional Council, and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council – ensuring that the TSRA is supporting local Indigenous employment. Projects under the CMIF have resulted in improvements in public safety, water quality and security, and local amenities.

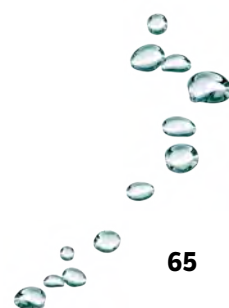
By making this funding more accessible to the three councils of the Torres Strait, the TSRA CMIF has been able to support the planning, construction and upgrading of infrastructure as shown in Table 2-27.

PROJECTS UNDER THE CMIF HAVE RESULTED IN IMPROVEMENTS IN PUBLIC SAFETY, WATER QUALITY AND SECURITY, AND LOCAL AMENITIES.



TABLE 2-27
INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS UNDER THE COMMUNITY MINOR INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Year commenced	Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Torres Shire Council	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
Round 1 2016-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Darnley Lagoon fence repair ◆ St Pauls water shed repair ◆ Kuban water shed repair ◆ Saibai Lagoon pumps switchboard ◆ Saibai Lagoon water reservoir tank replacement ◆ Mer water filtration ◆ Douglas Street toilet block 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Planning scheme and infrastructure plan ◆ Thursday Island Waste Transfer Station Recycling Facility cover ◆ Victoria Parade stormwater drainage upgrade ◆ Thursday Island swimming pool shade cover ◆ Thursday Island and Horn Island playground shade covers 	–
Round 2 2017-2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Saibai Council Administration Building re-roof ◆ Badu Airport Terminal re-roof 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Horn Island public toilet ◆ Water main upgrade ◆ Solar lighting ◆ Dog pound upgrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Northern Peninsula Area public facility rehabilitation ◆ Bamaga Heritage Centre toilets
Round 3 2018-2019	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Horn Island landfill site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sewer upgrade ◆ Seisia Transfer Station ◆ Street light upgrades



SAFE COMMUNITIES

REGIONAL GOAL

Safe, healthy, respectful and progressive communities, based on Ailan Kastom and Aboriginal traditions, and strong families and safe and healthy communities that are guided by cultural and traditional lore.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

- ◆ Effective community and social service support.
- ◆ Families and individuals are safe in home and community.
- ◆ Public areas are safe and accessible for community members.
- ◆ Communities have access to appropriate transport infrastructure.

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- ◆ Support Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal women, men and children through social development and support programmes; and child and family safety programmes.
- ◆ Support safe and accessible community infrastructure; land and sea communication systems; and community capacity building.
- ◆ Participate in interagency and Integrated Service Delivery meetings and forums to discuss issues of community and domestic safety and to contribute to shaping planning and service delivery in the region.

PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE 2017-2018

TABLE 2-28
SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME
EXPENDITURE, 2017-2018

Budget \$000	Actual \$000	Variance \$000
2,660	2,661	-1

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Activity	Flag	Status
School attendance and learning initiatives (grants)	●	The TSRA provides funding support for projects that improve the delivery of social services in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. In 2017-2018, a TSRA-funded initiative, the Ensuring a Strait Start project, continued to be delivered by the Torres Strait Islanders Regional Education Council to improve access to early education support services in the Torres Strait communities. This project has been delivered in partnership with Yumi Education Inc and the Montessori Australia Foundation.
Community safety partnerships	●	The TSRA has a range of key partnerships related to community safety, with relevant local, state and Australian Government agencies. The TSRA is a member of the Torres Strait Child and Family Committee, the Local Level Alliance and the Torres Strait Maritime Safety Programme.

Activity	Flag	Status
Community safety projects (grants)	●	The TSRA provided two community safety grants through its common funding rounds in 2017-2018. Funding supported Boat Safety and Pool Lifeguard and Water Safety training courses.
Law enforcement partnerships	●	<p>The TSRA provided funding support for the delivery of legal services for residents in the region through a partnership with the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department in 2017-2018. The service is provided by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Ltd.</p> <p>In 2017-2018, 1,685 cases relating to duty lawyer, criminal, family and civil casework were supported, and 2,075 cases were supported for advice and minor assistance. The Community Legal Education Officer role continues to assist clients to understand the legal process.</p>
Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme	●	The TSRA continued to work with the DTMR through an MOU to deliver the TIDS. In 2017-2018, through the TIDS, the TSRA contributed funding to the TSIRC for works associated with the Hammond Island wharf upgrade.
Social services delivered by non-government organisations (NGOs) – Port Kennedy Association and Mura Kosker Sorority	●	<p>Core operational and service support funding was provided to the Mura Kosker Sorority and the Port Kennedy Association to continue to deliver important community social support services.</p> <p>With this support, the organisations deliver programmes such as child and family support services, after-school and holiday care programmes, and domestic and family violence counselling. Both organisations act as auspicing bodies for individuals and unincorporated bodies that apply for community grants.</p> <p>The Port Kennedy Association currently employs 26 Indigenous staff and the Mura Kosker Sorority currently employs 11 Indigenous staff, in roles including administrators, counsellors, outreach workers and programme coordinators and managers.</p>
Coordination of infrastructure planning	●	<p>The TSRA works in partnership with key Commonwealth and state government agencies to secure and maintain funding relationships that contribute to key regional infrastructure projects for the region.</p> <p>In 2017-2018, the TSRA continued to support the Community Minor Infrastructure Fund. The third round of funding provided joint funding for four projects that improved community safety.</p> <p>The TSRA continues to work closely with the three local government councils and the Queensland Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs to coordinate and deliver jointly funded projects in the region.</p> <p>The TSRA is also a member of two local council technical working groups which facilitate information sharing on regional infrastructure planning and coordination.</p>
Community capacity building (grants)	●	Four grants were provided to community organisations and a men's group to encourage capacity building and to improve the wellbeing of communities.
Social and economic engagement partnerships	⊘	In 2017-2018, the TSRA worked with key partners to improve social and economic community engagement. The Safe Communities Programme contributed to Integrated Service Delivery forums as well as interagency social service forums.
Social services delivered by NGOs (grants)	●	<p>The capacity-building implementation project undertaken by the Mura Kosker Sorority and the Port Kennedy Association has been completed. This project built governance and administrative capacity in the two organisations and improved the delivery of social support services in the Torres Strait region.</p> <p>The Port Kennedy Association received funding to continue its community after-school care programme in 2017-2018.</p>

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMME SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	Flag	Status
All Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people employed in the TSRA-supported social services sector in the region have appropriate accreditation	●	<p>The TSRA provides the Mura Kosker Sorority and the Port Kennedy Association with an annual operational budget that includes appropriations for training and accreditation.</p> <p>The organisations have appropriate accreditation to effectively perform their duties within the social services sector. These include certificates in Aged Care and Disability Services, Children's Services, Community Services, and Business Administration; the Associate Degree in Indigenous Community Management and Development; and the Diploma in Financial Counselling.</p>
All TSRA-funded service delivery organisations in the region provide quality services and operate in accordance with relevant standards	●	<p>Social support services are effectively delivered in the region by the Mura Kosker Sorority and the Port Kennedy Association and are operated in accordance with relevant standards under the <i>Associations Incorporation Act 1981</i> (Qld), and within the TSRA funding guidelines.</p> <p>The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Ltd delivers legal services in the region in accordance with relevant standards and guidelines under the Indigenous Legal Assistance Programme of the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department.</p>
Reduction in service referrals, response timeframes and waiting lists for social service providers	●	<p>The amount of service referrals varies depending on clients' individual circumstances. The programmes delivered by the Mura Kosker Sorority and the Port Kennedy Association include child safety services, child and family services, the Disability/Flexi-Respite Programme and the Old People's Action Programme.</p> <p>All responses to clients and waiting lists are managed in line with the service provisions of those organisations.</p>
Increased participation in TSRA-supported community events by residents and TSRA-funded service organisations	●	<p>The number of residents and TSRA-funded organisations participating in various community events has increased to 450 participants, compared to an average of 300 participants in previous years.</p> <p>Community events coordinated by the Mura Kosker Sorority and the Port Kennedy Association include events related to International Women's Day, Domestic Violence Prevention Month, White Ribbon Awareness Day, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day, and Child Protection Week.</p>

LEGEND

○	●	◐	●
Not yet started	Completed/ on schedule	Behind schedule less than three months	Behind schedule more than three months

CASE STUDY:

TSRA LEGAL SERVICES SUPPORT FOR THE TORRES STRAIT

The TSRA's Safe Communities Programme contributes significant funding support for legal services in the Torres Strait, providing more than \$1 million each year to ensure access to legal aid and support services.

Since 2011, the TSRA has invested more than \$7.5 million in core operational funding to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Ltd (ATSILS). ATSILS is a community-based organisation established to provide professional and culturally proficient legal services. Its role is to ensure that clients and their families receive high-quality legal assistance, advice and representation if they come into contact with the justice system, and to influence positive change within the justice system that appreciates the culturally specific, diverse challenges and circumstances that impact on communities in the region.

In 2017-2018, the TSRA increased its annual appropriation to ATSILS for the position of a Community Legal Education Officer. This position is dedicated to enhancing community understanding of the justice system through community legal education and awareness programmes.

Historically, the TSRA has funded a range of social service grants – via its bi-annual Common Funding Round – to support legal services, including offender support and prevention programmes. In 2017-2018, the Safe Communities Programme funded the Thursday Island Justice Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Corporation, which provides vital community support to the regional court circuits.

THE TSRA'S SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME PROVIDES MORE THAN \$1 MILLION EACH YEAR TO ENSURE ACCESS TO LEGAL AID AND SUPPORT SERVICES.





SECTION THREE

Operations

WHERE WE OPERATE

GEOGRAPHY AND LOGISTICS

The Torres Strait is located in Australia and is part of the north-eastern state, Queensland. The area is approximately 150 kilometres wide at its narrowest point and is situated between the tip of Queensland's Cape York Peninsula and Papua New Guinea. The region consists of over 270 islands and reefs.

The Torres Strait links the Coral Sea in the east to the Arafura Sea in the west; the two main navigation passages are the Prince of Wales Channel, north of Hammond Island, and the Endeavour Strait, between Cape York and Prince of Wales Island.

The Torres Strait islands have a variety of topographies, ecosystems and formations. Several islands, closest to the Papua New Guinea coastline, are low lying and are regularly inundated by sea water. Many of the western islands are hilly and steep. The central islands are predominantly coral cays and the islands in the east are volcanic.

The TSRA delivers services across the entire Torres Strait region, including 17 inhabited islands and the communities of Bamaga and Seisia in the Northern Peninsula Area of mainland Australia. Due to the area's remote location, the TSRA relies on air and sea links and limited phone, facsimile and internet communications between communities for the delivery of its services. Most travel within the region is restricted to small watercraft, helicopters and light aircraft. The main gateway to the Torres Strait is Ngarupai Airport located on Horn Island, a 20-minute ferry ride from the Australian Government, Queensland Government and two local government administration hubs located on Thursday Island.

FIGURE 3-1
THE TORRES STRAIT



The bulk of goods and materials required by the region are shipped by container vessel from Cairns and redistributed by barge from transhipment points on Thursday Island and Horn Island.

CULTURE

The picturesque Torres Strait region is predominantly inhabited by Torres Strait Islanders and Kaurareg Aboriginal people. The Australian Bureau of Statistics reports that as of 30 June 2016 the total population of the region was 9,519, of whom 7,437 (78.13 per cent) were Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal people.

The Torres Strait's unique Ailan Kastom (island custom) is a central part of life in the region. Ailan Kastom is kept alive through the arts, rituals and performances, and the preservation of languages and traditional knowledge, which are passed from one generation to the next. Cultural values are strongly intertwined with traditional ancestral ties and respect for the waterways, land and sea and the resources they provide.

HISTORY

The Torres Strait is named after Spanish explorer Luis Vaez de Torres, who sailed through the area in 1606. Queensland Government administration of the Torres Strait was established on Thursday Island in 1877, following the arrival of missionaries on Cape York Peninsula. Early settlers were involved in pearling, bêche-de-mer collection, and mining.

NATIVE TITLE

Torres Strait Islander people first achieved recognition of their land rights in 1992 following the High Court's landmark Mabo decision which granted the Meriam people Native Title rights over Mer (Murray Island). This was the first time Native Title was recognised under the common law of Australia. It set a precedent for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people throughout Australia to assert their Native Title rights through the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

Native Title has been granted for 13 inhabited islands in the Torres Strait region and most of the uninhabited islands. In addition, the Kaurareg Aboriginal people have achieved recognition of their Native Title rights over seven inner islands: Ngarupai (Horn Island), Muralag (Prince of Wales Island), Zuna (Entrance Island), Yeta (Port Lihou Island), Mipa (Turtle Island), Tarilag (Packe Island) and Damaralag. In total, 22 Native Title determinations have been made in the Torres Strait. No new determinations were made in 2017-2018.

Native Title claims are being pursued over three land claims and two sea claims. In 2018, the Native Title Office commissioned research into the remaining unclaimed islands and seas. It is proposed that the remaining claims will be completed in the near future.

PROGRESS TOWARDS CLOSING THE GAP

Closing the Gap is a commitment by the Australian Government and state and territory governments to improve the lives of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Australians and, in particular, to provide a better future for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal children.

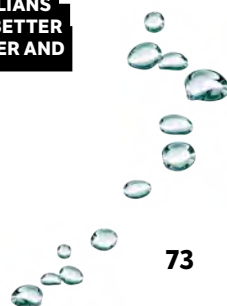
A national integrated Closing the Gap strategy has been agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), the peak intergovernmental forum in Australia. COAG brings together the Prime Minister, state premiers, territory chief ministers and the President of the Australian Local Government Association.

Closing the Gap is linked to a wider reform of Commonwealth–state financial relations. COAG's national agreements and partnerships, in areas such as education, housing and health, are focused on overcoming Indigenous disadvantage.

In 2014-2015, the Australian Government introduced the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, which grouped over 150 Indigenous programmes into five programme streams. These are:

- ◆ Jobs, Land and Economy
- ◆ Children and Schooling
- ◆ Safety and Wellbeing
- ◆ Culture and Capability
- ◆ Remote Australia Strategies.

CLOSING THE GAP IS A COMMITMENT BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENTS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AND ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO PROVIDE A BETTER FUTURE FOR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AND ABORIGINAL CHILDREN.



The TSRA has aligned its programme outcomes to these streams while continuing to deliver against the COAG targets:

- ◆ to close the life expectancy gap within a generation
- ◆ to halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade
- ◆ to ensure access to early childhood education for all Indigenous four-year-olds in remote communities within five years
- ◆ to halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for children within a decade
- ◆ to halve the gap for Indigenous students in Year 12 (or equivalent) attainment rates by 2020
- ◆ to halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

COAG BUILDING BLOCKS

The TSRA's programme structure is based on the six COAG Building Blocks for closing the gap in disadvantage between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The building blocks are also used as the framework for the TSRA's Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) project.

In 2008-2009, the TSRA completed community consultations as part of the development of the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009-2029*. The TSRA's contribution towards the targeted outcomes of the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009-2029* are noted in the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2014-2018*, which details the TSRA's programmes and how they contribute to regional outcomes, the Australian Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy and the United Nations Articles on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In 2009-2010, the ISD project identified 1,613 gaps in service delivery across 20 communities. Detail of the service gaps is contained in the Torres Strait Regional Plan ISD Community Booklets. A booklet for each community can be accessed via the TSRA website (www.tsra.gov.au).

In 2017-2018, the ISD initiative was limited to operational activities and re-establishing the ISD governance framework. Since the local government, TSRA, Queensland Government and Australian Government elections were held in 2016, there have been changes of personnel in the governance framework that have had an effect on the progress of ISD in the region.

The TSRA will conduct a review of the ISD project in 2018-2019, with a focus on re-establishing the governance framework and strengthening the project at the operational level. The TSRA will also continue to lobby relevant Queensland Government and Australian Government ministers to secure commitment for the ISD project.

REGIONAL STATISTICS

The latest data available at the time of writing this report was from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The TSRA has used this data to benchmark the progress of the TSRA's programmes against Closing the Gap targets. The data used throughout this section was taken from the ABS QuickStats website and was current at 30 June 2018.

The figures are for the Torres Strait and the two communities in the Northern Peninsula Area (Bamaga and Seisia) which are included in the TSRA's area of responsibility.

Population

The comparison of population changes across the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area (Bamaga and Seisia) is shown in tables 3-1 to 3-4.

TABLE 3-1
TOTAL POPULATION OF THE TORRES STRAIT INCLUDING BAMAGA AND SEISIA

Torres Shire Local Government Area		Torres Strait Island Regional Council Local Government Area		Bamaga		Seisia		Region (Total)	
2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016
3,256	3,610	4,248	4,514	1,046	1,164	203	260	8,753	9,548

TABLE 3-2
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AND ABORIGINAL POPULATION OF THE TORRES STRAIT INCLUDING BAMAGA AND SEISIA

Torres Shire Local Government Area		Torres Strait Island Regional Council Local Government Area		Bamaga		Seisia		Region (Total)	
2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016
2,063	2,482	3,856	4,144	845	957	135	201	6,899	7,784

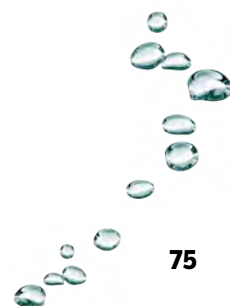
In 2016, the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal population of the Torres Shire Local Government Area represented 68.6 per cent of the total population. For the Torres Strait Island Regional Council Local Government Area, the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal population represented 91.8 per cent of the

total population. This shows a slight increase in the proportion of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in those two areas compared to 2011. The Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal population represented 74.4 per cent of the total population in Seisia and 82.4 per cent in Bamaga.

TABLE 3-3
GENDER BALANCE OF THE TORRES STRAIT INCLUDING BAMAGA AND SEISIA

	Torres Shire Local Government Area		Torres Strait Island Regional Council Local Government Area		Bamaga		Seisia		Region (Average)	
	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016
Male	49.8%	49.5%	51.3%	50.8%	49.4%	47.9%	49.1%	51.1%	49.5%	50.1%
Female	50.2%	50.5%	48.7%	49.2%	50.6%	52.1%	50.9%	48.9%	50.5%	49.9%

The gender balance average compared to 2011 shows an increase of males by 1.2 per cent.



**TABLE 3-4
AVERAGE AGE OF POPULATION OF THE TORRES STRAIT INCLUDING BAMAGA AND SEISIA**

Torres Shire Local Government Area		Torres Strait Island Regional Council Local Government Area		Bamaga		Seisia		Region (Average)	
2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016
28	28	23	24	23	24	31	25	23	25

Apart from Seisia, where there has been a decrease in the average age of the population, the population age across the region remained more or less consistent between 2011 and 2016. The age profile in Seisia is believed to be skewed by the number of non-resident visitors in the community at the time of the 2011 Census.

Employment

In Table 3-5, the employment data for the Torres Strait relates only to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people, while the figures for Bamaga and Seisia include Indigenous and non-Indigenous employees.

**TABLE 3-5
EMPLOYMENT IN THE TORRES STRAIT INCLUDING BAMAGA AND SEISIA**

Employment type	Torres Strait		Bamaga		Seisia		Region (Total)	
	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016
Full time	1,039	915	277	311	76	65	1,392	1,291
Part time	837	547	84	93	17	12	938	652
Away from work	226	159	14	20	6	3	246	182
Unemployed	173	287	29	42	0	15	202	344
Total labour	2,275	1,908	404	466	99	95	2,778	2,469

Education

The number of people undertaking some form of education in 2016-2017 was 3,641. The education categories are shown in Table 3-6.

TABLE 3-6
EDUCATION IN THE TORRES STRAIT INCLUDING BAMAGA AND SEISIA

	Torres Shire Local Government Area		Torres Strait Island Regional Council Local Government Area		Bamaga		Seisia		Region (Total)	
Education level	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016
Pre-school	68	85	91	89	14	25	0	3	173	202
Primary	333	378	780	783	175	198	22	29	1,310	1,388
Secondary	253	318	176	221	89	92	8	20	526	651
Technical or further	43	59	97	72	24	19	3	5	167	155
University	71	74	25	20	10	11	3	4	109	109
Other	11	8	47	17	7	11	0	6	65	42
Not stated	504	594	247	412	54	60	17	28	822	1,094
Total	1,283	1,516	1,463	1,614	373	416	53	95	3,172	3,641

The Tagai State College average school attendance in 2016, across years 1 to 12, was 89 per cent. This figure is slightly below the whole-of-Queensland attendance rate average of 90 per cent.

Income

The 2016 Census data indicates an improvement in the average household incomes of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people. This is reflected in Table 3-7.

TABLE 3-7
MEDIAN WEALTH IN THE TORRES STRAIT INCLUDING BAMAGA AND SEISIA (\$/WEEK)

	Torres Shire Local Government Area		Torres Strait Island Regional Council Local Government Area		Bamaga		Seisia		Region (Average)	
Income type	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016
Personal	682	740	314	373	577	568	506	592	411	484
Household	1,579	1,837	849	929	1,117	1,402	785	1,261	971	1,357

The Queensland averages for personal and household income were \$660 and \$1,402 per week. The Australian averages were \$662 and \$1,438.

Housing Tenure

The 2016 Census reported that there were 2,267 dwellings; the tenure arrangements are shown in Table 3-8.

**TABLE 3-8
TENURE OF PRIVATE DWELLINGS IN THE TORRES STRAIT INCLUDING BAMAGA AND SEISIA**

Tenure type	Torres Shire Local Government Area		Torres Strait Island Regional Council Local Government Area		Bamaga		Seisia		Region (Total)	
	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016
Owned	65	76	49	31	0	3	5	5	119	115
Mortgaged	48	35	0	0	0	0	4	0	52	35
Rented	632	646	856	907	245	273	53	59	1,786	1,885
Other	17	6	9	18	3	0	0	0	29	24
Not stated	53	147	28	33	8	18	0	10	89	208
Total	815	910	942	989	256	294	62	74	2,075	2,267

The figures in Table 3-8 indicate a decrease in the number of houses owned in the region between 2011 and 2016. There was a significant increase in the number of properties being rented. Complex land tenure arrangements in the region and a lack of freehold land and long-tenure leasehold land remain challenges to increasing home ownership.

Health

A synthesis of data obtained at 30 June 2018 from the ABS Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2012-2013 (updated) shows:

- ◆ Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people were more than three times as likely as non-Indigenous people to have diabetes.
- ◆ Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people were twice as likely as non-Indigenous people to have signs of chronic kidney disease.
- ◆ Obesity rates for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal females and males were higher than the comparable rates for non-Indigenous people in every age group.

- ◆ Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people's rates of heart disease were significantly higher than the comparable rates for non-Indigenous people in all age groups from 15 to 54 years.

The mortality rates for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal males in the 35-44 age group were over four times higher than rates for non-Indigenous males. The mortality rates for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal females in the 25-29 age group and the 35-39 age group were five times higher than rates for non-Indigenous females.

HOW WE OPERATE

FORMATION

The TSRA was established on 1 July 1994 under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989* (Cth), and is currently enabled by the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth).

The TSRA is a corporate Commonwealth entity under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth), and falls under the legislative requirements of that Act in its use and management of public resources. The *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) requires the TSRA to develop a corporate plan each year, outlining its operations. A copy of the current TSRA corporate plan can be accessed on the TSRA website (www.tsra.gov.au/the-tsra/corporate-information).

THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ARE TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AND ABORIGINAL PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN THE REGION.

The TSRA is the leading Commonwealth representative body for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait, including two communities (Bamaga and Seisia) in the Northern Peninsula Area. The TSRA comprises 20 elected representatives (the Board) and Australian Public Service administrative staff. The elected representatives are Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people who live and work in the region. The TSRA Board elects a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and an Alternate Deputy Chairperson. A Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the TSRA's administration and staffing.

The TSRA performs separate functions under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) as the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) for the Torres Strait region. In 2018, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs renewed the TSRA's NTRB status until 30 June 2019.

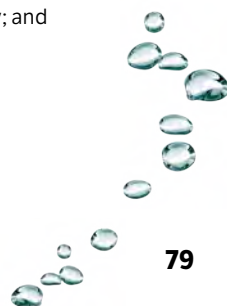
Under section 142D of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth) the TSRA is required to formulate and implement a plan to guide the progress of the Torres Strait region. This document, known as the Torres Strait Development Plan, is updated every four years, a period consistent with the term of the TSRA Board.

The *Torres Strait Development Plan 2014-2018* is the fifth development plan since the establishment of the TSRA. The plan outlines eight TSRA programme components: Economic Development; Fisheries; Culture, Art and Heritage; Native Title; Environmental Management; Governance and Leadership; Healthy Communities; and Safe Communities.

ENABLING LEGISLATION

The TSRA's enabling legislation is the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). Part 3A, Division 1, section 142 of the Act states:

- (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.



FUNCTIONS

The functions of the TSRA, as outlined in Section 142A of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), 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 programmes for Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (c) to monitor the effectiveness of programmes for Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area, including programmes 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; and
- (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 are outlined in section 142C of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), which states:

- (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);
 - (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.

RESPONSIBLE MINISTER

During 2017-2018 the TSRA was a corporate Commonwealth entity within the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio. The responsible Minister for the TSRA was the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion.

MINISTERIAL DIRECTIONS

Under section 142E of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), the Minister has powers of direction in relation to the TSRA.

Section 142E of the Act 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 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.

The TSRA did not receive any formal directions from the Minister during the reporting period.

STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS AND STATEMENT OF INTENT

In 2016, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs provided a Statement of Expectations to the TSRA concerning the operation and performance of the TSRA. In response, the TSRA provided a Statement of Intent to the Minister.

BRIEFINGS AND INFORMATION

Throughout the reporting period the TSRA provided ministerial minutes and briefings to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, including quarterly reports detailing the TSRA's operations and service delivery.

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

The Minister for Indigenous Affairs made three Acting Chief Executive Officer appointments under Section 144L(a) of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth) between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018.

Mr Charlie Kaddy and Mr John Ramsay were appointed as the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the TSRA for the periods outlined below. Mr Ramsay was appointed concurrently with Mr Kaddy while Mr Kaddy was attending a meeting for the TSRA in Papua New Guinea.

Appointed: Mr Charlie Kaddy
Duration: 15 January to 9 February 2018

Appointed: Mr John Ramsay
Duration: 4 February to 8 February 2018

Appointed: Mr Charlie Kaddy
Duration: 18 June to 6 July 2018



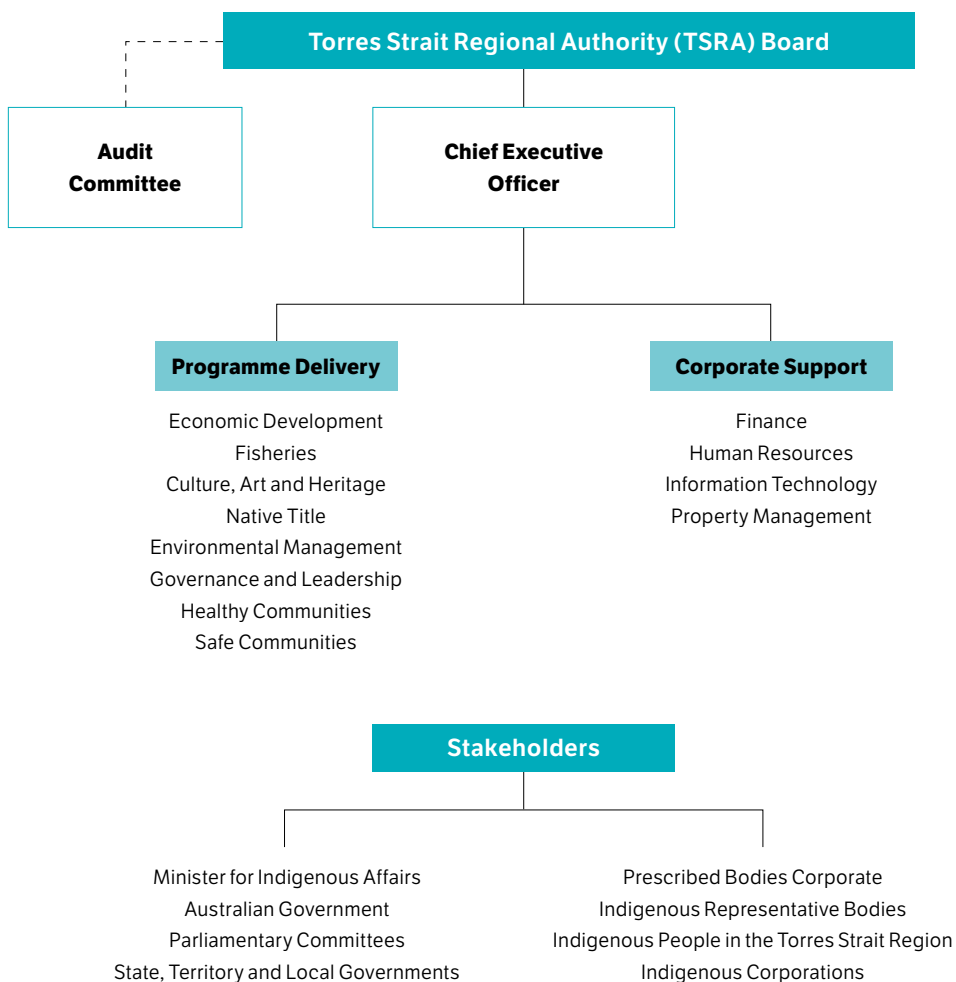


SECTION FOUR

Corporate Governance and Accountability

OVERVIEW OF GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

FIGURE 4-1
TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK



GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The TSRA's governance framework provides a system of direction and controls, enabling regional outcomes to be achieved through organisational goals and objectives. The framework allows risks and issues to be escalated to the appropriate level. The resolution of risks and issues occurs through formal project management structures, programme structures, the TSRA Programme Steering Committee, the TSRA Audit Committee and the TSRA Board.

TSRA BOARD

The TSRA Board is an elected representative body which participates in scheduled quarterly meetings and issue-specific out-of-session meetings.

The Chairperson and Executive Members of the TSRA are elected by the members at the first Board meeting following the TSRA elections. The Chairperson is a full-time Principal Executive Officer, while other Board members are part-time officials who are remunerated in accordance with the determinations of the Remuneration Tribunal.

The primary functions of the Board are to:

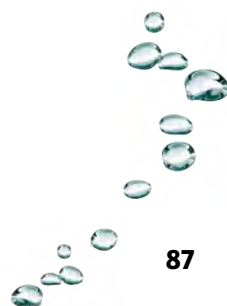
- set out the TSRA's vision for the Torres Strait
- oversee the TSRA's strategic objectives and direction
- approve programme mandates
- review the TSRA's performance, objectives and outcomes
- manage strategic risk and regional stakeholder relations.

All TSRA Board members are also officials under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) and are classified as Non-Executive Directors. The Board is the accountable authority for the TSRA.

2016-2020 Appointments

The TSRA Board consists of 20 members elected under Division 5 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). The 20 members represent the communities of Badu, Bamaga, Boigu, Dauan, Erub, Hammond, Iama, Kubin, Mabuyag, Masig, Mer, Ngarupai and Muralag, Port Kennedy, Poruma, Seisia, Saibai, St Pauls, TRAWQ, Ugar and Warraber. Current Board members were elected in July 2016 and will serve on the Board until the next TSRA elections are held in 2020. Elections for Board office holders were held at the first meeting of the new Board, in September 2016.

In September 2017, the Australian Electoral Commission declared Mr Jimmy Gela the successful candidate to fill the position of Member for Erub, following the resignation of Mr Kenny Bedford.



Profiles of TSRA Board Members

MR NAPAU PEDRO STEPHEN AM **CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBER FOR PORT KENNEDY**



In July 2016 Mr Napau Pedro Stephen was elected to the TSRA Board for the second time. Mr Stephen's previous term was 2000-2004.

In September 2016 Mr Stephen was elected as the Chairperson and Portfolio Member for Governance and Leadership. He is also a member of the TSRA Regional Governance Committee.

Mr Stephen has over 30 years of extensive executive leadership and management experience with Australian Government and state and local government agencies and community organisations. The former Mayor of Torres Shire Council, he was the longest serving mayor in Queensland.

Mr Stephen is a board member of the Port Kennedy Association and Community Enterprise Queensland (formerly known as the Islanders Board of Industry and Service).

The keys issues of concern for Mr Stephen are housing, unemployment, health, domestic violence, and substance abuse. He aims to address these issues through programmes which improve health care practices and the wellbeing of our families and support ways for families to access affordable housing. He will advocate for increasing the wealth of our region through developing local industries and jobs and supporting community organisations with service delivery.

During his term, Mr Stephen would like to provide strong leadership that promotes people's honesty and loyalty and outstanding customer service. He would like to lead and

establish a single regional governance authority in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area, to provide effective and efficient governance with a model of hope and security in line with social and economic independence for people living in the Torres Strait.

MR JERRY D STEPHEN JR **DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBER FOR UGAR**



In July 2016 Mr Jerry D Stephen Jr was elected to the TSRA Board for the second time. Mr Stephen's previous term was 2012-2016. In September 2016 Mr Stephen was elected as the Deputy Chairperson and Portfolio Member for Fisheries.

Mr Stephen, an Ugaram Le from Ugar (Stephen Island), was born and educated on Waiben (Thursday Island). He identifies as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, as his grandfather was traditionally adopted to the Wuthathi Tribe.

Mr Stephen is a qualified skipper and fisherman and has over 25 years of experience working in the private and public sectors. His work has included the delivery of Australian Government programmes throughout the Torres Strait.

Mr Stephen is passionate about the many issues affecting the people of Torres Strait. Those issues include 100 per cent ownership of all fisheries; the delivery of affordable home ownership; climate change; health and wellbeing; Native Title rights and recognition; economic development and employment; better management of culture and arts; appropriate government structure; and the deterioration of public infrastructure.

While on the TSRA Board, Mr Stephen will continue to address the many issues affecting our communities, while working collaboratively with all stakeholders to jointly improve the wellness within our communities.

MR ERIC PETER
ALTERNATE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON AND
MEMBER FOR BOIGU



In July 2016 Mr Eric Peter was elected to the TSRA Board for the second time. Mr Peter's previous term was 2012-2016. In September 2016 Mr Peter was elected as the Alternate Deputy Chairperson and

Portfolio Member for Native Title.

Mr Peter is the Deputy Chairperson of Mura Boigulgaw Aiy Kuyk Corporation and a member of Malu Ki'ai (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation.

Mr Peter holds an Associate Degree in Business and Finance and a Certificate IV in Quarantine and Export Inspection. He has completed Australian Public Service (APS) leadership programmes and worked in the APS for more than 21 years. Mr Peter is currently employed by the Queensland Police Service and employed as a Torres Strait Islander police officer in his community.

Mr Peter's key concern is the need to improve economic growth in fishing and other industries in the Torres Strait region, in order to create opportunities for people at the grassroots level to improve their lifestyles. He believes that economic growth is important for our families in the region.

Mr Peter aims to improve economic development in the Torres Strait region and progress Native Title matters with the government, for our people.

MR HORACE BAIRA
MEMBER FOR BADU



In July 2016 Mr Baira was elected to the TSRA Board for the first time. Mr Baira is a member of the TSRA Audit Committee and the Project Steering Committee, Community Management Framework Project (Fisheries Programme).

Mr Baira is a member of the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service Board, and a former Councillor for Badu Island on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Mr Baira has experience in environmental health; community management; rural and remote operations; and small business management.

Mr Baira's key issues of concern are the ineffectiveness of integrated service delivery between stakeholders in the Torres Strait region and the allocation of resources towards community and economic development.

Mr Baira would like to provide direction towards the future planning of regional governance and community development that will support a safe and healthy region and a strong economy while conserving the Ailan Kastom and our natural environment.

MRS PATRICIA YUSIA
MEMBER FOR BAMAGA



In July 2016 Mrs Patricia Yusia was elected to the TSRA Board for the first time. In September 2016 Mrs Yusia was elected as the Portfolio Member for Healthy Communities.

Mrs Yusia has over 21 years of experience as a director of non-government organisations. She serves as a director of local community organisations, including the Bamagau Kazil Torres Strait Islanders Corporation, Apunipima Cape Yorke Health Council and Northern Peninsula Area Family and Community Family Services. She is also a member of the Mura Badulgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation Board.

Mrs Yusia has 26 years of experience in the health sector, and holds a Diploma in Governance, a Diploma in Primary Health Care, a Degree in Health Science and a Graduate Diploma in Health Promotion.

Mrs Yusia's key areas of concern are the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities; community engagement; overcrowding in housing; lack of employment opportunities; domestic violence; child safety; child care; and drugs and alcohol.

Mrs Yusia aims to address these issues by working with relevant government stakeholders to ensure that adequate programmes and services are delivered to the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area communities.

Mrs Yusia also acknowledges that it is important to empower and support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership through upskilling and support for current and future community initiatives, workshops, mentoring and guidance for people who would like to start their own businesses or take on challenging roles.

Mrs Yusia also seeks to address the social and cultural barriers which affect the wellbeing and health of our people, by adopting an approach centred on community and family, gathering real data and having skilled local people in key positions.

Mrs Yusia aims to improve Indigenous leadership, health partnerships, and social and cultural determinants which affect our lifestyle. She also wants to lobby and allocate more funding for organisations which empower groups in the communities to be sustainable, believing that it is important to encourage communities to work together for a brighter, healthy future for our children and future generations.

MR JOEL GAIDAN
MEMBER FOR DAUAN



In July 2016 Mr Joel Gaidan was elected to the TSRA Board for the first time.

Mr Gaidan was Councillor for Dauan on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council in 2012-2016,

and was employed by the council as an environmental health worker. He is in the process of completing a Diploma of Environmental Health.

Mr Gaidan's key areas of concern for his community include addressing the shortage of housing; upgrading and maintaining the water supply and rubbish dump; sealing roads; and addressing the mobile telephone blackspot at the back of Dauan.

Mr Gaidan's main priorities for his time on the Board are re-establishing the community's ferry service and repairing and upgrading the community's pontoon facility.

MR JIMMY GELA
MEMBER FOR ERUB



In September 2017 Mr Jimmy Gela was elected to the TSRA Board for the first time.

Mr Gela is the Chairperson of Erubam Le Traditional Land and Sea Owners

(Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation; a director of Malu Lamar (Torres Strait Islander) Corporation, the Torres Strait Islanders Media Association and Ged Erub Trading Homeland Enterprise (Torres Strait Islander) Corporation; and a member of the Erub Fisheries Management Association. Mr Gela is also a former Councillor for Erub on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Mr Gela has experience in building construction and roads and drainage maintenance, and holds a Medium Rigid driver's licence.

Mr Gela is interested in the issues of maintaining cultural and traditional knowledge and practices, and upskilling locals to obtain qualifications, particularly in the trades or business administration. He is also concerned about criminal activities in his community of Erub.

Mr Gela would like lessons on cultural and traditional knowledge to be taught in schools on the outer islands, training providers to provide training to assist locals to obtain a trade or business qualification, and the Queensland Police Service to have an ongoing presence in the Erub community for more than two years.

During his term, Mr Gela will ensure that the decisions he makes will be fair and beneficial to his constituents in Erub and the people of the Torres Strait.

MR SERIAKO DORANTE
MEMBER FOR HAMMOND



In July 2016 Mr Seriaiko Dorante was elected to the TSRA Board for the first time.

Mr Dorante was the Deputy Chairperson of the Hammond Island Council in 2004-2008.

Mr Dorante holds a Certificate IV in Frontline Management and a Certificate IV in Local Government Administration. He is currently employed as the Divisional Engineering Officer of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Mr Dorante's key issues of concern are Native Title, housing, employment, health and wellbeing, access to shops, and roads. He believes that these issues can be addressed properly through better consultation processes involving all relevant stakeholders and government bodies.

Mr Dorante will advocate to improve the lifestyles and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in our region.

MR GETANO LUI JR AM
MEMBER FOR IAMA



In July 2016 Mr Getano Lui Jr was elected to the TSRA Board for the fifth time.

Mr Lui's previous terms were 1994-1997, 1997-2000, 2000-2004 and 2012-2016. Mr Lui was the TSRA Board's first Chairperson.

Mr Lui is the Councillor for Iama on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council. He previously held the positions of Councillor and Chairperson of the Iama Community Council (1997-2004), Chairperson of the Island Coordinating Council (1985-2000) and Chairman of the Islanders Board of Industry and Service (1985-2000).

In 1994 Mr Lui was made a Member of the Order of Australia. He has been a commissioner for declarations since 1979 and a justice of the peace (magistrates court) since 1995.

Between 1976 and 1985 Mr Lui was involved in the ratification of the Torres Strait Treaty between Australia and Papua New Guinea. He is the current Co-Chairperson of the Traditional Inhabitants Meeting at the regular Australia – Papua New Guinea bilateral meetings.

Mr Lui's key area of concern is the socioeconomic and cultural wellbeing of his people. His priority is to advocate for a form of regional governance that will recognise 'home rule' and ultimately lead to a form of regional autonomy that will grant full self-determination to our people of Zenadth Kes, giving us the authority and the capacity to manage and control our own affairs.

MR DAVID BOSUN **MEMBER FOR KUBIN**



In July 2016 Mr David Bosun was elected to the TSRA Board for the second time. Mr Bosun previously served on the TSRA Board from 2008 to 2012 and was the rotational member of the TSRA Audit Committee.

Mr Bosun is currently the Councillor for Kubin Community on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council. He is also a Director of Ngalmun Lagau Minaral Arts Torres Strait Islander Corporation.

Mr Bosun holds an Associate Diploma in Journalism and Communication, a Certificate IV in Visual Arts and a Certificate IV in Business Management. Mr Bosun would like to see a marked improvement in the Torres Strait economy through sustainable tourism ventures and the promotion of arts and culture.

Mr Bosun emphasises a grassroots approach to training, employment and economic development that enables communities to become empowered, self-sufficient and independent.

MR CYGNET REPU **MEMBER FOR MABUYAG**



In July 2016 Mr Cygnet Repu was elected to the TSRA Board for the first time. In September 2016 Mr Repu was elected as the Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage.

Mr Repu is the Chairperson of the Goemulgaw Kod, a local cultural organisation on Mabuyag. He is also the Chairperson of the Torres Strait Traditional Language Advisory Committee. He is an experienced culturalist who has presented overseas and is very passionate about acquiring other skills and interests.

Mr Repu has received various awards during his service with Biosecurity Australia over the past 20 years, and will draw from his experiences and qualifications in Biosecurity Australia during his term as Member for Mabuyag.

Mr Repu's key issues of concern for the Torres Strait are housing, children's welfare, cultural hunger, community unity, travel and transport. He believes that a sensible way to achieve changes is to focus on each 1 per cent rather than 100 per cent, and that it is much better to keep taking a step forward because each step is a drop of sweat well earned.

MS HILDA MOSBY
MEMBER FOR MASIG



In July 2016 Ms Hilda Mosby was elected to the TSRA Board for the second time. Her previous term was 2012-2016. In September 2016 Ms Mosby was elected as the Portfolio Member for Environmental

Management. She is a member of the TSRA Audit Committee.

Ms Mosby has more than 17 years of experience in the APS, working for the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (now part of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources) and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (now the Department of Home Affairs). Ms Mosby is currently employed as the Senior Housing Officer for the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Community involvement has been a paramount focus for Ms Mosby, who is an active member on committees dealing with education, health, justice, fisheries and Native Title in her community of Masig.

Of key concern to Ms Mosby is the impact of coastal erosion on low-lying Torres Strait communities, including her own community. She will advocate for an integrated approach to address coastal erosion issues by the relevant Australian Government and Queensland Government agencies.

The preservation of Torres Strait culture through language, music and art is another area that Ms Mosby is passionate about. She will continue to advocate for the best outcomes for the cultural wellbeing of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in this region.

MR AVEN S NOAH
MEMBER FOR MER



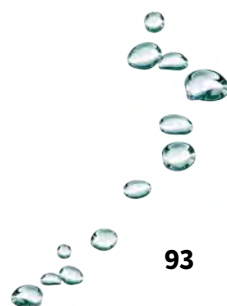
In June 2016 Mr Aven S Noah was elected to the TSRA Board for the second time. He was the Deputy Chairperson and Portfolio Member for Culture, Arts and Heritage in 2012-2016.

Mr Noah believes that traditional land and sea rights are paramount to controlling resources, and that the TSRA must work closely with Traditional Owners as these resources will form the foundation of the region's economic independence as an autonomous state. Mr Noah's passion is for greater autonomy for the people of the Torres Strait and he will continue to support and contribute to the region's push to achieve 'home rule'.

Mr Noah is a member of the Round Table on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics; the Centre of Excellence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics, Australian Bureau of Statistics; and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group, Ipsos Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Unit.

Mr Noah has extensive experience in media and communications and is keen to see the development of media and communications, including new technologies, across the region.

Mr Noah is the Land Administration Manager for the Mer Gedkem Le (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation, and is heavily involved in the development of the Torres Strait Language Strategy through his membership of the Torres Strait Language Reference Group.



MR YEN LOBAN
MEMBER FOR NGARUPAI AND MURALAG



In July 2016 Mr Yen Loban was elected to the TSRA Board for a second time. His previous term was 2012-2016. He is a member of the TSRA Audit Committee.

Mr Loban is also the Deputy Mayor of Torres Shire Council.

Mr Loban's primary concerns are the lack of basic service infrastructure on Muralag, and the low level of support provided to the ongoing development of Ngarupai and the outer islands.

Mr Loban will work to ensure that the communities of Ngarupai and Muralag are healthy and safe; that those communities receive the same services as other communities receive, across the Torres Strait; and that TSRA programmes focus on equity in service provision to the benefit of those communities.

MR FRANK FAUID
MEMBER FOR PORUMA



In July 2016 Mr Frank Faid was elected to the TSRA Board for the first time.

Mr Faid is the Central Islands Representative on the Torres Strait Islanders Media Association Board

and a member of Porumalgai (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation.

Mr Faid is currently employed by the Australia Border Force as a border movement officer on Poruma. Mr Faid is a pastor of the Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God). He has a Certificate III in Micro Business Operations.

Mr Faid's key concern is the issue of coastal erosion affecting Poruma and other low-lying communities. His other concerns are the lack of jobs in the communities; the condition of some of the infrastructure in his community, particularly the basketball court; and the need to improve the health and wellbeing of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in his community and the region.

Mr Faid will work with the relevant government ministers and stakeholders to address these issues to get the best outcomes for his community and the region.

MS CHELSEA ANIBA
MEMBER FOR SAIBAI



In July 2016 Ms Chelsea Aniba was elected to the TSRA Board for the second time. Her previous term was 2012-2016. In September 2016 Ms Aniba was elected as the Portfolio Member for Safe Communities.

Ms Aniba has qualifications in radio broadcasting, business administration, social housing, Indigenous justice studies and governance.

Ms Aniba has established a profile through her involvement in local radio, including eight years in radio broadcasting, and her membership of the Torres Strait Islanders Media Association Committee of Management. She is also a Director of the Saibai Community Development Corporation, which aims to empower the community through local enterprises.

Ms Aniba's two primary concerns, which closely affect her home of Saibai Island, are coastal erosion and rising sea levels; and the insufficient supply of social housing.

She is pleased to see that the construction of a new seawall on Saibai Island was completed in 2016-2017. Ms Aniba will advocate for the ongoing construction of seawalls throughout the affected Torres Strait communities and the rollout of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing.

Ms Aniba's other concerns relate to creating employment and economic development opportunities for local families in small businesses; helping to keep, restore and revitalise our culture; and strengthening Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate to enable them to progress Native Title issues.

Ms Aniba also works closely with non-government organisations in tackling domestic violence, juvenile justice and mental health issues in communities and will advocate for the best outcomes in those areas.

MR JOSEPH ELU AO **MEMBER FOR SEISIA**



In July 2016 Mr Joseph Elu was elected to the TSRA Board for the sixth time. His previous terms were 1994-1997, 1997-2000, 2000-2004, 2008-2012 and 2012-2016. Mr Elu was the TSRA Chairperson in 2012-2016.

In September 2016 Mr Elu was elected as the Portfolio Member for Economic Development.

Mr Elu is the Councillor for Seisia on the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, and has 21 years of experience as the Chairman of the Seisia Island Council. He is the Chairperson of Seisia Enterprises Pty Ltd and Seisia Community Torres Strait Islander Corporation.

In 2017 Mr Elu was appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Indigenous Land Corporation Board. He was the Chairperson of Indigenous

Business Australia (formerly known as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commercial Development Corporation) for 12 years.

In 2001 Mr Elu was awarded the Centenary Medal. In 2008 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia and awarded the NAIDOC Lifetime Achievement Award.

During his career, Mr Elu has been an influential leader in Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal affairs and Indigenous economic development, and has been instrumental in assisting Indigenous people throughout Australia to develop sustainable economic enterprises.

MR JOHN PAIWAN **MEMBER FOR ST PAULS**



In July 2016 Mr John Paiwan was elected to the TSRA Board for the first time.

Mr Paiwan has nine years of experience in local government as an employee of the Torres

Strait Island Regional Council. He has a Certificate IV in Occupational Health and Safety and is currently undertaking studies in a Diploma of Leadership and Management.

Mr Paiwan's key concerns are upgrading infrastructure in communities, especially water services; supporting the construction of subdivisions for future development, especially for St Pauls; increasing support for training and employment of local people; and supporting small business and economic development in the region.

He aims to achieve his goals by working in partnership with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council and other service providers and local organisations in the region, and by lobbying government to address and support community concerns.

MR JOHN ABEDNEGO
MEMBER FOR TRAWQ



In July 2016 Mr John Abednego was elected to the TSRA Board for the sixth time, as the Member for TRAWQ (communities of Tamwoy, Rose Hill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine on Thursday Island). His

previous terms were 1994-1997, 1997-2000, 2000-2004, 2008-2012 and 2012-2016.

Mr Abednego was the Chairperson of the TSRA Board in 1997-2000, Portfolio Member for Legal and Media in 2000-2004, and Portfolio Member for Safe Communities in 2012-2016.

Mr Abednego is a Councillor on the Torres Shire Council, a member of the Parents and Citizens Committee of the Tagai State College Thursday Island Secondary Campus, and President of the TRAWQ Indigenous Corporation. He also plays a role in the Anglican Church.

Mr Abednego has a Diploma of Counselling and 20 years of experience in community, organisation and board development; policies and procedures; and government systems. During his career he has been involved in mediation and counselling, court referrals, and social justice interagency networking.

Mr Abednego's key concerns are lack of funding, inappropriate policies and the fact that culture and the mainstream are not equal partners. To address those concerns he aims to seek outside funding, have dedicated positions for cultural people, and ensure that cultural people are involved in developing culturally appropriate policies with meaningful outcomes.

Mr Abednego aims to achieve effective processes that deliver meaningful outcomes in the community.

MR WILLIE LUI
MEMBER FOR WARRABER



In July 2016 Mr Willie Lui was elected to the TSRA Board for the third time. His previous terms were 2008-2012 and 2012-2016.

Mr Lui served as Councillor for Warraber Island on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council in 2008-2012 and 2012-2016.

Mr Lui holds a Certificate IV in Finance and is a qualified carpenter.

The key areas of concern for Mr Lui are the high cost of living, lack of employment opportunities, and Native Title issues. He will work to see those concerns addressed through effective implementation of the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009-2029* and the TSRA's *Torres Strait Development Plan 2014-2018*.

Board Meetings

The TSRA Chairperson is required to convene at least four board meetings each year under Section 144E of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). If it is considered necessary, the TSRA Chairperson may convene other meetings of the TSRA Board to enable the TSRA to carry out its functions.

During 2017-2018, the TSRA Board held four Board meetings as detailed in Table 4-1.

Attendance at Board meetings is outlined in Table 4-2.

**TABLE 4-1
BOARD MEETING DATES AND APOLOGIES**

Meeting No.	Dates	Apologies	Absent
104	5-7 September 2017	Mr Aven S Noah Ms Hilda Mosby Mr Joseph Elu (Day 3)	Nil
105	29 November – 1 December 2017	Mrs Patricia Yusia (Day 1 – afternoon session, Day 2 and Day 3) Ms Hilda Mosby (Day 2 and Day 3)	Nil
106	14-16 March 2018	Mr Willie Lui (Day 1 and Day 2) Mr John Abednego (Day 2)	Nil
107	13-15 June 2018	Mrs Patricia Yusia (Day 1 – the morning) Mr Jimmy Gela (Day 1 – the morning) Mr Yen Loban (Day 1 – the morning) Mr Eric Peter (Day 2 – joined meeting at 10.10am)	Nil

**TABLE 4-2
BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Member	Number of meetings attended	Member	Number of meetings attended
Mr Napau Pedro Stephen	4 of 4	Mr Cygnet Repu	4 of 4
Mr Jerry D Stephen Jr	4 of 4	Ms Hilda Mosby	3 of 4
Mr Eric Peter	3.5 of 4	Mr Aven S Noah	3 of 4
Mr Horace Baira	4 of 4	Mr Yen Loban	3.5 of 4
Mrs Patricia Yusia	3 of 4	Mr Frank Faud	4 of 4
Mr Joel Gaidan	4 of 4	Ms Chelsea Aniba	4 of 4
Mr Jimmy Gela	3.5 of 4	Mr Joseph Elu	3.5 of 4
Mr Seriako Dorante	4 of 4	Mr John Paiwan	4 of 4
Mr Getano Lui Jr	4 of 4	Mr John Abednego	3.5 of 4
Mr David Bosun	4 of 4	Mr Willie Lui	3.5 of 4

Board Charter and Ethics

The second edition of the TSRA Board Charter was adopted in 2016. The charter brings together all resources that Board members require to enable them to exercise their powers and responsibilities.

The TSRA Board Charter is based on ethical standards and good governance and contains key documents such as the Board Member's Code of Conduct, the TSRA's Charter of Representation, Performance and Accountability, and the terms of reference relating to Board committees.

Board Member Induction

The TSRA Board elections were conducted on 30 July 2016. A Board Induction Programme was undertaken by all elected TSRA Board members between 29 August and 2 September 2016. The programme was delivered by Effective Governance and was based on key governance roles, Board functions and processes, and Board members' matters.

Board Code of Conduct

The TSRA Board Member's Code of Conduct and ethics policies are published in the TSRA Board Charter.

Board Training and Education

In June 2018, TSRA Board members undertook an intensive two-day Indigenous Governance Programme on Thursday Island. Delivered by the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the programme provided members with professional development in assessing financial statements and organisational performance, as well as understanding their strategic role in the agency and how to engage with and understand the risks of decision-making at the Board level.

All Board members attended the TSRA's Board Strategic Training Workshop in March 2018.

The workshop focused on the TSRA's financial, strategic planning and risk framework.

Board members are also eligible to apply for the TSRA's leadership capacity building programmes. Individual qualifications are stated in the 'Profiles of TSRA Board Members' in this section of the Annual Report.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The TSRA Board formed an Executive Committee at its meeting in September 2016 to assist the Chairperson to carry out his functions. The portfolio structure of the Executive Committee is aligned to the TSRA's eight programmes.

Executive Committee meetings are held quarterly, immediately prior to each TSRA Board meeting. The TSRA Chairperson may call for additional Executive Committee meetings should they be required.

The Executive Committee's objectives are to:

- ◆ ensure that policies and future directives are made in accordance with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) and other relevant legislation
- ◆ advocate for improved outcomes in the Torres Strait region
- ◆ represent the views of the TSRA on internal and external committees
- ◆ assist the TSRA Chairperson to communicate to Torres Strait communities government policies and TSRA decisions and achievements as they relate to the Executive Committee's portfolio responsibilities.

Membership

The 2017-2018 Executive Committee members and their portfolio responsibilities are shown in Table 4-3.

**TABLE 4-3
MEMBERSHIP OF THE 2017-2018
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Member	Role
Mr Napau Pedro Stephen	Chairperson Portfolio Member for Governance and Leadership
Mr Jerry D Stephen	Deputy Chairperson Portfolio Member for Fisheries
Mr Eric Peter	Alternate Deputy Chairperson Portfolio Member for Native Title
Mr Joseph Elu	Portfolio Member for Economic Development
Ms Chelsea Aniba	Portfolio Member for Safe Communities
Ms Hilda Mosby	Portfolio Member for Environmental Management
Mr Cygnet Repu	Portfolio Member for Culture, Arts and Heritage
Mrs Patricia Yusia	Portfolio Member for Healthy Communities

Meetings

In 2017–2018, the TSRA Executive Committee met four times as shown in Table 4-4.

Attendance at Executive Committee meetings is shown in Table 4-5.

**TABLE 4-4
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES
AND APOLOGIES**

Dates	Apologies	Absent
1 September 2017	Nil	Nil
27 November 2017	Nil	Nil
12 March 2018	TSRA Portfolio Member for Environmental Management and Member for Masig	Nil
11 June 2018	TSRA Portfolio Member for Safe Communities and Member for Saibai (attended from 12.30pm)	Nil

**TABLE 4-5
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE**

Member	Number of meetings attended
Mr Napau Pedro Stephen	3 of 3
Mr Jerry D Stephen Jr	3 of 3
Mr Eric Peter	3 of 3
Mr Joseph Elu	3 of 3
Ms Chelsea Aniba	2.5 of 3
Ms Hilda Mosby	2 of 3
Mr Cygnet Repu	3 of 3
Mrs Patricia Yusia	3 of 3

OTHER CORPORATE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Programme Steering Committee

The TSRA has in place a Programme Steering Committee (PSC) to monitor the performance of its programmes and operations. The TSRA's programmes manage projects and

ongoing activities contributing to the outcomes outlined in the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2014-2018* and the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009-2029*.

The PSC consists of the TSRA's Chief Executive Officer, programme managers, project managers and Chief Financial Officer. The PSC meets on a quarterly basis and also, when required, out of session, to consider specific project risks and issues. The PSC considers programme resources and ensures that strategies and operational activities align with the TSRA's overall outcomes.

Audit Committee

Advisory committees are those committees established under Section 142M of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). The TSRA has one advisory committee, the TSRA Audit Committee.

The TSRA is required to have an Audit Committee under section 45 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth). The TSRA Board is responsible for appointing the Audit Committee to provide independent advice and assistance to the TSRA Board on the risk control and compliance frameworks as well as the TSRA's external accountability responsibilities.

The Audit Committee consists of four members. The Chairperson of the Audit Committee is an independent member from the accountancy firm HLB Mann Judd (previously ShineWing Australia). The Chairperson of the Audit Committee provides technical expertise and experience, and advice on best practice accounting and auditing standards in the public sector. The Chairperson can request special meetings of the TSRA Audit Committee if considered necessary.

The current TSRA Audit Committee was endorsed by the incoming TSRA Board at its inaugural meeting in September 2016.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Audit Committee during 2017-2018 is shown in Table 4-6.

**TABLE 4-6
AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Name	Role
Mr Adrian Kelly	Chairperson and Independent Member
Mr Horace Baira	Member for Badu
Mr Yen Loban	Member for Ngarupai and Muralag
Ms Hilda Mosby	Member for Masig

MEETINGS

The Audit Committee met four times in 2017-2018, as shown in Table 4-7. Attendance at Audit Committee meetings is shown in Table 4-8.

**TABLE 4-7
AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING DATES
AND APOLOGIES**

Dates	Apologies
4 September 2017	Nil
28 November 2017	Nil
13 March 2018	Nil
12 June 2018	Nil

**TABLE 4-8
ATTENDANCE AT AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Member	Number of meetings attended
Mr Adrian Kelly	4 of 4
Mr Horace Baira	4 of 4
Mr Yen Loban	4 of 4
Ms Hilda Mosby	4 of 4

Finfish Quota Management Committee

The TSRA Board established the Finfish Quota Management Committee (FQMC) as a formal advisory committee under Section 142M of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth).

The FQMC was established by the Board in 2007 to provide advice on leasing arrangements in the Torres Strait finfish fishery, following the transfer of the fishery to 100 per cent ownership. The Terms of Reference for the FQMC set out the membership to be the four TSRA Board members from the finfish communities (Erub, Masig, Mer and Ugar), an independent TSRA Board member as Chairperson, and one community fisher representative from each of the finfish communities.

The current Chairperson (the Member for Ngarupai and Muralag) and community fisher representatives have been appointed members of the FQMC for the term of the sitting TSRA Board. Membership of the committee expires on the date the Australian Electoral Commission issues a notice of election for the TSRA.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the FQMC during 2017-2018 is shown in Table 4-9.

MEETINGS

The FQMC met one time in 2017-2018, as shown in Table 4-10. Members' attendance at FQMC meetings is shown in Table 4-11.

**TABLE 4-9
FINFISH QUOTA MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Name	Role
Mr Yen Loban	Chairperson (TSRA Member for Ngarupai and Muralag)
Mr Jerry D Stephen Jr	TSRA Member for Ugar
Mr Daniel Stephen	Ugar community fisher representative
Mr Aven S Noah	TSRA Member for Mer
Mr John Tabo Jr	Mer community fisher representative
Ms Hilda Mosby	TSRA Member for Masig
Mr John Morris	Masig community fisher representative
Mr Jimmy Gela	TSRA Member for Erub
Mr Daniel Sailor	Erub community fisher representative

**TABLE 4-10
FINFISH QUOTA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING DATES AND APOLOGIES**

Dates	Apologies
15-16 February	Ms Hilda Mosby

**TABLE 4-11
ATTENDANCE AT FINFISH QUOTA
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Member	Number of meetings attended
Mr Yen Loban	1 of 1
Mr Jerry D Stephen Jr	1 of 1
Mr Daniel Stephen	1 of 1
Mr Aven S Noah	1 of 1
Mr John Tabo Jr	1 of 1
Ms Hilda Mosby	0 of 1
Mr John Morris	1 of 1
Mr Jimmy Gela	1 of 1
Mr Daniel Sailor	1 of 1

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Telstra Regional Communications Upgrade

In January 2017, the TSRA partnered with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) and Telstra on a two-stage project to upgrade telecommunications infrastructure, provide a platform for 4G technology and deliver increased network backhaul capacity for the Torres Strait region. The first stage of the project was costed at \$8.26 million.

In June 2018, Telstra informed the TSRA that the first stage of the project had been completed. The scope of works included improved 3G performance by increased backhaul capacity from all 3G sites to the mainland; a new network build to Erub; new 4G technology at Badu and Kubin Village; and new 4G-ready infrastructure and backhaul capacity at Mabuyag, Ugar, Erub and Mer.

The second phase of the project is valued at \$15.62 million.

The TSRA will continue to work with Telstra and all levels of government to seek the remaining funding to ensure that the telecommunications infrastructure in the Torres Strait region is capable of delivering the technology and innovation needed to deliver multiple socioeconomic, educational, health and community safety outcomes for the island communities and peoples of the Torres Strait region. Other benefits of this improved network infrastructure expansion include, but are not limited to, enhanced biosecurity, agriculture, and marine safety and border protection measures.

Information and Communications Technology Projects

The TSRA's information and communications technology (ICT) strategy supports a forward-looking strategic approach to ICT investment and utilisation for the TSRA which is closely aligned with the current APS whole-of-government ICT strategy.

From 2016 to 2019, the TSRA is undertaking a series of projects to improve ICT service delivery and demonstrate value in each of the three priority areas outlined in the overarching APS strategy. The three areas of priority are: deliver better services; improve the efficiency of government services; and engage openly.

The TSRA has been in negotiation with the vendors of its existing finance, human resources, information, content and records management systems to look at the best options for these functions, including possibly moving some services into the cloud, to ensure ongoing ease of access for TSRA staff.



The completed 4G mobile tower at Erub

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) requires Australian Government organisations to detail their environmental performance

and contribution to ecologically sustainable development. Table 4-12 provides an overview of the TSRA's environmental activities and operations in relation to section 516A of the Act.

TABLE 4-12 ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE	
Reporting requirement	TSRA response
How the TSRA's activities accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development	<p>The TSRA has reviewed and published an environmental policy outlining measures to improve its ecological sustainability.</p> <p>During 2017-2018, the TSRA worked on implementing activities identified through its environmental management system, focused on ensuring that the TSRA is taking all reasonable steps to reduce its ecological footprint.</p> <p>The TSRA's environmental risks are managed at the project, programme and portfolio levels and are captured in the organisation's risks and issues registers.</p> <p>The TSRA maintains an environmental legal and other requirements register.</p> <p>The TSRA has established a biennial audit process for its environmental management system.</p>
Outcomes contributing to ecologically sustainable development	<p>The TSRA's Environmental Management Programme contributes to ecologically sustainable development across all Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area communities. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> employing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as trainees, rangers and ranger supervisors partnering with Tagai State College in the horticulture in schools programme improving animal management and invasive species control, including management strategies for invasive fish, cane toads, and feral dogs impacting on green turtle nesting sites, and developing a regional pest management strategy producing biodiversity profiles, fauna surveys and fire management plans for all inhabited Torres Strait islands providing technical assistance to improve food production in the Torres Strait through a sustainable horticulture programme working with communities for sustainable management of turtles and dugongs working with Ergon Energy and other partners to increase the use of renewable energy technologies developing and implementing actions to build sustainability and resilience across the region through planning for climate change impacts monitoring environmental change across the region.
Environmental impacts of operations	<p>The TSRA is committed to managing its operations and those of its contractors to minimise adverse environmental impacts and protect the environment. There were no recorded adverse environmental impacts from TSRA activities in 2017-2018.</p>



TABLE 4-12
ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE (CONT.)

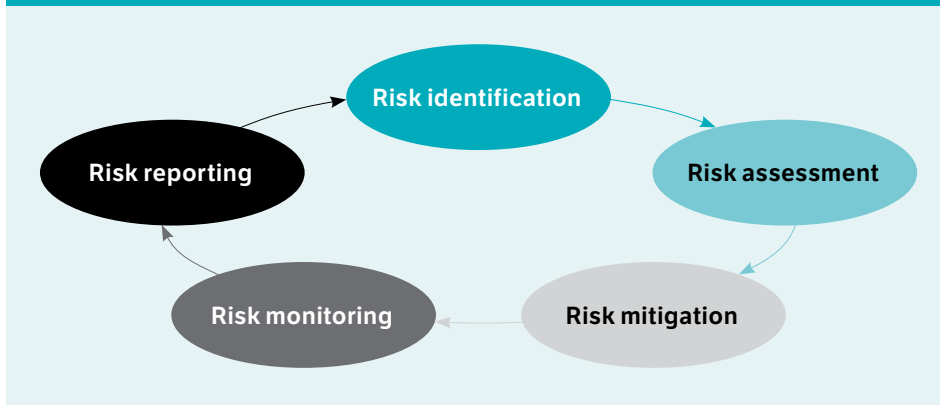
Reporting requirement	TSRA response
Measures taken to minimise environmental impacts	<p>Actions during the 2017-2018 period included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continuing the operation of three solar photovoltaic systems on TSRA office sites, resulting in a projected annual energy saving of 140,000 kilowatt hours continuing to require employees, contractors and suppliers to comply with the TSRA's environment policy and environmental management systems by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> implementing conservation measures in the TSRA's offices minimising the environmental impacts through better design and material selection for new staff housing requiring contractors to comply with relevant environmental regulatory requirements and minimum environmental performance requirements managing and reporting environmental incidents monitoring a range of environmental performance indicators, including energy use within TSRA offices, energy ratings of white goods purchased for TSRA staff housing, fuel consumption and vehicle performance adopting appropriate technologies to reduce travel and reduce the TSRA's dependency on paper-based filing systems, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> telephone and videoconferencing facilities iPads, to be used at all formal meetings, reducing paper consumption an electronic document and records management system.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The TSRA has standardised its processes for the identification, documentation and management of risks and issues. All TSRA projects and managed activities include risk assessments as part of the project planning and

approval process. The TSRA's management of risk is a continuous cycle (Figure 4-2) involving a systematic process to maintain risk within an acceptable level.

FIGURE 4-2
TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS



Risk Identification

Risk identification involves identifying the issues that are likely to negatively impact the achievement of the goals of the TSRA. This includes:

- political and strategic risks
- programme delivery risks
- operational support risks.

Risks are identified via:

- an annual risk management workshop attended by the TSRA's Management Group (top-down approach)
- completion of individual risk assessments at the programme/project level (bottom-up approach)
- audits and assessments conducted through internal and external audit functions.

Risk assessment includes the process of determining the likelihood of a risk occurring and the consequence or impact of the risk.

Risk Appetite

The TSRA is a custodian of the Australian Government's investment in the future prosperity of the Torres Strait region. Therefore, the TSRA seeks to balance its risk position between:

- investment in activities that may drive substantial growth in the region
- the need to remain a stable organisation with the capacity to continue to work for the community into the future.

The TSRA's risk appetite is necessarily around the middle of the risk-taking spectrum. Depending on the results from year to year and community needs, the TSRA may choose to increase or decrease its appetite for higher risk activities.

The TSRA:

- accepts a higher risk appetite when approving a new system or process that offers greater processing capacity and efficiencies
- accepts a moderate risk appetite for programme outcomes that are aimed at contributing to the regional goals
- accepts a low risk appetite for significant breaches of security or unauthorised access to confidential records
- accepts a very low risk appetite for risks that would result in physical or mental harm to staff and the environment.

Risk Mitigation

Risk mitigation (or risk reduction) involves developing actions or plans to reduce the risk to an acceptable level. All mitigation steps are assigned an owner and timeframe.

Risk Monitoring

All TSRA employees are expected to identify and manage risks within their span of control.

The members of the TSRA's Management Group are responsible for:

- incorporating suitable risk management activities into business planning (via completion of a risk assessment at the programme or project level)
- ensuring that the risk management processes are implemented
- ensuring that risk mitigation actions are followed.



The TSRA's risk management system is:

- ◆ dynamic – by being responsive to change and assisting corporate learning and continuous improvement
- ◆ systematic – by being rigorous, transparent and explicit and taking into account stakeholder perspectives
- ◆ integrated and embedded – in so far as practicable, by reviewing established management planning, decision-making and reporting processes.

The risk management system is based on the better practice principles and processes outlined in the International Standard AS/NZ ISO 31000 Risk Management – principles and guidelines.

ACCOUNTABILITY

External Scrutiny

During 2017-2018, the TSRA, as a corporate Commonwealth entity, was accountable to the Parliament of Australia and the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

The Auditor-General is the TSRA's external auditor. The audit of the TSRA's financial statements is conducted in accordance with an audit strategy agreed to by the Auditor-General and the TSRA. The 2017-2018 audit was conducted in August 2018. A copy of the independent auditor's report, including the auditor's opinion, is provided as part of the financial statements in Section 5 of this report.

Fraud Control

The TSRA has implemented a fraud control framework in accordance with section 10 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth). No incidents of fraud were detected in 2017-2018.

Internal Audit

The TSRA Audit Committee is assisted in the internal audit function by an external contractor, HLB Mann Judd. HLB Mann Judd is responsible for implementing the TSRA's internal audit programme, which aims to provide assurance that key risks are being managed effectively and efficiently, including that the TSRA complies with regulatory requirements and policies.

Compliance Report

In accordance with section 19 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth), the TSRA provided the Finance Minister and the Minister for Indigenous Affairs with a letter from the TSRA directors. The letter advised that the TSRA:

Has complied with the provisions and requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act); and the PGPA Rules as amended from time to time.

Judicial Decisions and Reviews

The TSRA was not affected by judicial decisions or reviews by outside bodies in 2017–2018.

Indemnities and Insurance Premiums for Officers

The TSRA indemnifies current and former directors and staff members against liability or costs incurred in connection with any claim brought against them as a result of, or in connection with, their appointment to any office or position in the TSRA. The TSRA holds directors' and officers' liability insurance cover through Comcover, the Australian Government's self-managed fund. The TSRA has an annual insurance renewal process, and reviewed its insurance coverage in 2017-2018 to ensure that it remained appropriate for its operations.

During the year, no indemnity-related claims were made, and the TSRA is not aware of any circumstances likely to lead to such claims being made.

The cost of directors' and officers' indemnity insurance for 2017-2018 was \$7,899.37.

Directors' Interests Policy

In accordance with the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) and the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014 (Cth), the TSRA Board has a policy and process to manage all direct and indirect conflicts of interest, including a register of all directors' pecuniary interests and a requirement that directors make a formal declaration of their interests at each TSRA Board meeting. The declarations are recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The pecuniary interest process applies to all governance committees of the TSRA.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The TSRA's employees are located at TSRA facilities on Thursday Island, and throughout the island communities of the Torres Strait, Queensland. A small TSRA office in Cairns is used to increase the TSRA's capacity to attract people with skills and experience not available in the Torres Strait.

The TSRA has a workforce strategy that complements the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2014-2018* and sets the strategic direction for supporting and developing the TSRA's workforce.

Workplace Agreement

TSRA staff operate under the TSRA Enterprise Agreement 2017. The terms and conditions of employment are set out in this agreement. The TSRA Enterprise Agreement 2017 came into effect from 6 June 2017.

The salary ranges for staff covered under the current Enterprise Agreement range from \$43,604 for an APS level 1 staff member to \$138,118 for an EL2 staff member.

Payroll and Leave Records

The human resources and payroll company Frontier Software Pty Ltd provides payroll software to the TSRA to facilitate in-house payroll and leave arrangements.

Learning and Development

The TSRA's employees attended internal and external learning and development courses throughout 2017-2018. This included programme and project management training, career development training, cultural awareness training, fraud awareness training, accredited relevant university studies and various other courses.

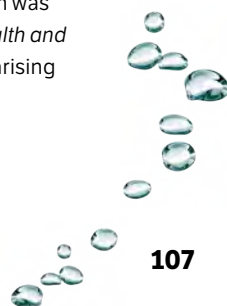
As part of their induction, all new TSRA employees complete the Australian Public Service Commission's online induction programme. In addition, all TSRA employees who are required to travel as part of their role complete helicopter underwater escape training.

The TSRA Performance Development Programme informs the learning and development required by staff and supports them in achieving the best outcomes possible for them as TSRA employees and as people.

Work Health and Safety

The TSRA fulfilled its responsibilities under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (Cth) in 2017-2018.

The TSRA has a Work Health and Safety Management System. One notification was made to Comcare under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (Cth) during the year, arising from undertakings by the TSRA.



There were no investigations conducted during the year relating to undertakings carried out by the TSRA and there were no notices given to the TSRA during the year under the Comcare legislation.

The TSRA's work health and safety consultative arrangements were reviewed during 2017-2018, resulting in improved consultative processes.

The TSRA has trained employees who undertake duties as first-aid officers, fire wardens and health and safety representatives. Health and safety representatives and safety committees work cooperatively to improve all the TSRA's work health and safety policy and operational matters. Workers are informed of current issues and receive work health and safety information.

The TSRA has a Rehabilitation Management System in accordance with Comcare requirements. The Rehabilitation Management System includes an active early intervention and injury management strategy. A healthy lifestyle reimbursement of up to \$200 per year is available to employees.

The TSRA also has in place a Bullying and Harassment Policy, and two trained harassment contact officers are available to provide employee support. The TSRA engages Ingeus Australia Pty Ltd trading as Assure Programs (ACN 152 509 37) to provide Employee Assistance Programme services to employees where required.

Workplace Diversity

The TSRA is committed to supporting a culture of equity, inclusion and diversity, and to ensuring that the TSRA workforce is representative of the broader community. The TSRA upholds the Australian Public Service Values and strives to provide a workplace that is free from discrimination and recognises the diversity of the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal communities that it serves.

THE TSRA IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING A CULTURE OF EQUITY, INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY, AND TO ENSURING THAT THE TSRA WORKFORCE IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BROADER COMMUNITY.

All TSRA staff receive up-to-date information on developments in human resources, including developments in equal employment opportunities, harassment-free workplaces and workplace diversity. Employees can also access publications from the Australian Public Service Commission and other related agencies.

Workplace Consultative Arrangements

The TSRA fosters and promotes workplace consultation through regular management, programme area and staff meetings. In addition, the TSRA conducts regular meetings with staff representatives on the Workplace Consultative Committee. As appropriate, management consults with employees on major workplace changes, the development of guidelines and policies applying to employment conditions, and the development and implementation of an enterprise agreement.

Privacy

The Australian Information Commissioner did not issue a report on the TSRA under section 30 of the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) and no personal privacy complaints were made against the TSRA during the reporting period.

Staffing Profile

Tables 4-13 and 4-14 provide information on the TSRA's employee numbers and classifications as at 30 June 2018.

**TABLE 4-13
STAFF PROFILE AT 30 JUNE 2018
BY CLASSIFICATION**

Classification	Number of staff
Senior Executive Service or equivalent	2
Executive Level 2	6
Executive Level 1	22
Australian Public Service (APS) 6	25
APS 5	30
APS 4	12
APS 3	24
APS 2	23
APS 1	17
Trainee	1
Total	162

OTHER REPORTABLE MATTERS

Freedom of Information

Entities subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) are required to publish information to the public as part of the Information Publication Scheme (IPS). This requirement is in Part II of the Act and has replaced the former requirement to publish a Section 8 statement in an annual report. A plan showing what information the TSRA publishes in accordance with the requirements is available on the TSRA's website (www.tsra.gov.au/information-publication-scheme2).

Property Management

The TSRA has a property portfolio which includes office accommodation at three sites on Thursday Island; the Gab Titui Cultural Centre; and residential staff accommodation, consisting of 57 houses and apartments.

**TABLE 4-14
STAFF PROFILE AT 30 JUNE 2018 BY EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY GROUP**

Classification	Male	Female	Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal	People with disability
Senior Executive Service or equivalent	2	0	2	0
Executive Level 2	3	3	1	0
Executive Level 1	12	10	4	0
Australian Public Service (APS) 6	13	12	14	1
APS 5	9	21	25	0
APS 4	2	10	12	0
APS 3	13	11	23	0
APS 2	13	10	23	0
APS 1	15	2	17	0
Trainee	0	1	1	0
Total	82	80	122	1

The TSRA also owns and maintains the historic Green Hill Fort, which is listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List.

In addition, the TSRA has a fleet of vehicles and vessels – most of which are located on outer island communities in the Torres Strait as part of the Indigenous Ranger Programme.

Schedules for regular maintenance of property and assets are in place and these works are contracted out to appropriate tradespeople. Ongoing repairs and maintenance are carried out in a way that meets the TSRA's obligations to environmental sustainability, meets government procurement guidelines and supports Indigenous and local businesses.

The TSRA offices have been through significant and ongoing upgrades to IT systems, equipment, air-conditioning and other soft infrastructure to ensure compliance and scalability to meet current and future demands.

TSRA-owned properties are maintained in line with our five-year maintenance plan, which aims to reduce the cost of reactive property maintenance through planned, targeted property maintenance practices, ensuring that the properties are safe, sustainable, well maintained and fit for purpose.

A major project approved by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, for an 18-dwelling residential development on Clark Street, Thursday Island, was completed in 2016-2017. The construction of this housing has reduced the TSRA's reliance on rental accommodation and will provide longer-term financial benefits for the TSRA.

In 2018-2019, the TSRA will undertake further capital works projects, with funding from a grant of \$2.989 million from the Australian Government Public Service Modernisation Fund.

One project, involving construction of a commercial building on Thursday Island, will be completed with a minimum Indigenous participation rate of 90 per cent, meaning that 90 per cent of all work hours will be carried out by Indigenous tradespeople and labourers. The new facility will provide increased environmental sustainability and an improved working environment for TSRA staff. The project will be a showcase of sustainable design in remote areas, incorporating solar technology, sustainable water use and other environmental design technologies.

Community infrastructure projects on the outer islands of the Torres Strait in 2018-2019 will include the construction of a multipurpose facility on Erub Island. The Erubam Le Traditional Land and Sea Owners (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation and the TSRA have entered into an Indigenous Land Use Agreement for the use of land for the construction of the facility, which will provide a suitable base for TSRA land and sea rangers and their vessels and vehicles and other TSRA assets.

The TSRA is also looking to provide opportunities for other government agencies and non-government organisations to lease office spaces within these facilities.

Disclosure of Sacred Matters

In accordance with section 144ZB(4) of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), the TSRA Annual Report 2017-2018 does not disclose any matters known to the TSRA to be held sacred by Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal people.





SECTION FIVE

Financial Statements



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Torres Strait Regional Authority for the year ended 30 June 2018:

- (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and
- (b) present fairly the financial position of the Torres Strait Regional Authority as at 30 June 2018 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Torres Strait Regional Authority, which I have audited, comprise the following statements as at 30 June 2018 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Accountable Authority, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer;
- Statement of Comprehensive Income;
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Cash Flow Statement; and
- Notes to the financial statements, comprising an Overview and other explanatory information.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Torres Strait Regional Authority in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements for financial statement audits conducted by the Auditor-General and his delegates. These include the relevant independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) to the extent that they are not in conflict with the *Auditor-General Act 1997*. I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Accountable Authority's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

As the Accountable Authority of the Torres Strait Regional Authority the Chair and Directors are responsible under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the rules made under that Act. The Chair and Directors are also responsible for such internal control as the Chair and Directors determines necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Chair and Directors are responsible for assessing the Torres Strait Regional Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, taking into account whether the entity's operations will cease as a result of an administrative restructure or for any other reason. The Chair and Directors are also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

GPO Box 707 CANBERRA ACT 2601
19 National Circuit BARTON ACT
Phone (02) 6203 7300 Fax (02) 6203 7777

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Accountable Authority;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Accountable Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Australian National Audit Office



Lorena Skipper

Audit Principal

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra

5 September 2017

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Torres Strait Regional Authority

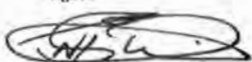
STATEMENT BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2018 comply with subsection 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsection 41(2) of the PGPA Act.

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

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

Signed



Mr N P Stephen AM
Chairperson

5 September 2018

Signed



Mr J D Stephen
Deputy Chairperson

5 September 2018

Signed



Mr C Kaddy
Acting Chief Executive Officer

5 September 2018

Signed



Mr C de Mamiel
Chief Financial Officer

5 September 2018

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Statement of Comprehensive Income
for the period ended 30 June 2018

		2018	2017	Original
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	Budget \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Employee benefits	1.1A	18,732	17,418	17,005
Suppliers	1.1B	20,827	21,228	16,998
Grants	1.1C	10,568	18,153	12,588
Depreciation and amortisation	2.2A	1,834	1,758	1,145
Finance costs	1.1D	29	126	150
Write-down and impairment of assets	1.1E	60	268	-
Loss on disposal of non-financial assets	1.1F	-	9	-
Total expenses		52,050	58,960	47,886
Own-Source Income				
Own-source revenue				
Sale of goods and rendering of services	1.2A	1,395	570	505
Interest	1.2B	817	942	900
Other Government contributions	1.2C	17,266	25,639	10,425
Other revenue	1.2C	9	1	-
Total own-source revenue		19,487	27,152	11,830
Gains				
Reversal of write-downs and impairment	1.2D	18	33	-
Total gains		18	33	-
Total own-source income		19,505	27,185	11,830
Net cost of services		32,545	31,775	36,056
Revenue from Government	1.2E	36,056	35,919	36,056
Surplus on continuing operations		3,511	4,144	-
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services				
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		(671)	290	-
Total other comprehensive income		(671)	290	-
Total comprehensive income / (loss)		2,840	4,433	-

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2018

		2018	2017	Original Budget
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	2.1A	2,391	5,739	3,155
Trade and other receivables	2.1B	4,197	4,652	5,678
Other investments	2.1C	34,774	25,219	18,500
Total financial assets		41,362	35,610	27,333
Non-financial assets				
Land and buildings	2.2A	47,902	48,793	55,374
Plant and equipment	2.2A	1,046	1,355	3,050
Heritage and cultural	2.2A	77	77	60
Total non-financial assets		49,025	50,225	58,484
Total assets		90,387	85,835	85,817
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers	2.3A	1,407	1,751	777
Grants	2.3B	741	-	3,600
Other payables	2.3C	136	133	1,458
Total payables		2,284	1,884	5,835
Provisions				
Employee provisions	3.1A	4,503	4,191	3,656
Total provisions		4,503	4,191	3,656
Total liabilities		6,787	6,075	9,491
Net assets		83,600	79,760	76,326
EQUITY				
Contributed equity		1,032	32	1,032
Reserves		14,967	15,638	15,348
Retained surplus		67,601	64,090	59,946
Total equity		83,600	79,760	76,326

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Statement of Changes In Equity

for the period ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017	Original Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	32	32	32
Adjusted opening balance	32	32	32
Transactions with owners			
Contributions by owners			
Equity injection - Appropriations	1,000	-	1,000
Total transactions with owners	1,000	-	1,000
Closing balance as at 30 June	1,032	32	1,032
RETAINED EARNINGS			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	64,090	59,946	59,946
Adjusted opening balance	64,090	59,946	59,946
Comprehensive income			
Surplus for the period	3,511	4,144	-
Total comprehensive income	3,511	4,144	-
Closing balance as at 30 June	67,601	64,090	59,946
ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	15,638	15,348	15,348
Adjusted opening balance	15,638	15,348	15,348
Comprehensive income			
Other comprehensive income	(671)	290	-
Total other comprehensive income	(671)	290	-
Closing balance as at 30 June	14,967	15,638	15,348
TOTAL EQUITY			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	79,760	75,326	75,326
Adjusted opening balance	79,760	75,326	75,326
Comprehensive income			
Surplus for the period	3,511	4,144	-
Other comprehensive income	(671)	290	-
Total comprehensive income	2,840	4,434	-
Transactions with owners			
Contributions by owners			
Equity injection - Appropriations	1,000	-	1,000
Total transactions with owners	1,000	-	1,000
Closing balance as at 30 June	83,600	79,760	76,326

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Cash Flow Statement

for the period ended 30 June 2018

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Receipts from government		36,056	35,919	36,056
Sale of goods and rendering of services		18,668	26,031	10,930
Interest		781	911	750
Net GST received		2,510	2,715	-
Total cash received		58,015	65,576	47,736
Cash used				
Employees		18,415	16,751	17,005
Suppliers		23,288	23,884	16,998
Loan payments		18	11	-
Grants		10,070	22,177	12,738
Total cash used		51,791	62,823	46,741
Net cash from operating activities		6,224	2,753	995
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Loan receipts		427	937	600
Investments		-	-	2,000
Total cash received		427	937	2,600
Cash used				
Loan payments		138	170	450
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		1,306	6,340	3,817
Investments		9,555	718	-
Total cash used		10,999	7,228	4,267
Net cash used by investing activities		(10,572)	(6,291)	(1,667)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Contributed Equity		1,000	-	1,000
Total cash received		1,000	-	1,000
Net cash from financing activities		1,000	-	1,000
Net decrease in cash held		(3,348)	(3,538)	328
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		5,739	9,277	2,827
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2.1A	2,391	5,739	3,155

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

Overview

The Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements and are required by section 42 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- a) *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015* (FRR); and
- b) Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations - Reduced Disclosure Requirements issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities 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 statements are presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified.

New Accounting Standards

All new/revised/amending standards and/or interpretations that were issued prior to the sign-off date and are applicable to the current reporting period did not have a material effect on the TSRA's financial statements.

Taxation

The TSRA is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Events After the Reporting Period

There was no subsequent event that had the potential to significantly affect the ongoing structure and financial activities of the TSRA.

Financial Performance

This section analyses the financial performance of the Torres Strait Regional Authority for the year ended 2018.

1.1 Expenses

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
1.1A: Employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	14,465	13,567
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	1,545	1,384
Defined benefit plans	516	547
Leave and other entitlements	2,206	1,920
Total employee benefits	18,732	17,418

Accounting Policy

Accounting policies for employee related expenses is contained in the People and Relationships section.

1.1B: Suppliers

Goods and services supplied or rendered

Consultants and professional fees	8,433	6,016
Travel	3,150	3,993
Repairs and maintenance	754	639
Other staff costs	305	612
Office running costs	1,362	1,283
Property costs	451	532
Transport, freight and storage	468	517
Media, advertising and public relations	399	445
Licences	2,802	4,205
Other	1,685	1,796
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	19,809	20,038
Goods supplied	3,021	4,445
Services rendered	16,788	15,593
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	19,809	20,038

Other suppliers

Operating lease rentals	813	1,038
Workers compensation expenses	205	152
Total other suppliers	1,018	1,190
Total suppliers	20,827	21,228

Leasing commitments

The Torres Strait Regional Authority in its capacity as lessor leases and sub-leases houses to staff for negotiated rents.

The TSRA in its capacity as lessee leases 4 offices, houses for staff accommodation and facilities for the ranger programme on the outer islands. One office lease is for a period of 1 year with no renewal option. One office lease is for a period of 7 months with no renewal option. The other office leases are periodic. Lease terms for houses are 1 month. Lease terms for ranger facilities are for 1 year.

Commitments for minimum lease payments in relation to non-cancellable operating leases are payable as follows:

Within 1 year	554	614
Total operating lease commitments	554	614

Accounting Policy

The TSRA 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.

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
1.1C: Grants		
Public sector:		
Australian Government entities (related parties)	455	-
State and Territory governments	-	10
Local governments	4,389	11,212
Private sector:		
Non-profit organisations	5,724	5,921
For-profit organisations	-	1,010
Total grants	10,568	18,153
1.1D: Finance costs		
Write down of loans to net present value	29	126
Total finance costs	29	126

Accounting Policy

All borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

1.1E: Write-down and impairment of assets

Loans provided for as impaired	10	268
Receivables goods and services - external parties provided for as impaired	50	-
Total write-down and impairment of assets	60	268

1.1F: Loss on disposal of non-financial assets

Loss on disposal of non-financial assets - carrying value of assets disposed	-	9
Total loss on disposal of non-financial assets	-	9

1.2 Own-Source Revenue and Gains

	2018	2017
	\$'000	\$'000

Own-Source Revenue

1.2A: Sale of goods and rendering of services

Sale of goods	245	230
Rendering of services	1,150	340
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	1,395	570

Accounting Policy

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:

- a) the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
- b) the TSRA retains no managerial involvement or effective control over the goods;
- c) the revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- d) it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the TSRA.

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:

- a) the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- b) the probable economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the TSRA.

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 the transaction.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

1.2B: Interest

Loans	205	226
Deposits	612	716
Total interest	817	942

Accounting Policy

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method .

	2018	2017
	\$'000	\$'000

1.2C: Other revenue

Rent	9	1
Other Government contributions	17,266	25,639
Total other revenue	17,275	25,640

Gains

1.2D: Reversal of write-downs and impairment

Reversal of losses from remeasuring loans and receivables	18	33
Total reversals of previous asset write-downs and impairments	18	33

1.2E: Revenue from Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet		
Corporate Commonwealth entity payments	36,056	35,919
Total revenue from Government	36,056	35,919

Accounting Policy

Revenue from Government

Funding received or receivable from non-corporate Commonwealth entities (appropriated to the non-corporate Commonwealth entity as a corporate Commonwealth entity payment item for payment to this entity) is recognised as Revenue from Government by the corporate Commonwealth entity unless the funding is in the nature of an equity injection or a loan.

Financial Position

This section analyses the Torres Strait Regional Authority's assets used to conduct its operations and the operating liabilities incurred as a result. Employee related information is disclosed in the People and Relationships section.

2.1 Financial Assets

	2018	2017
	\$'000	\$'000

2.1A: Cash and cash equivalents

Cash on hand or on deposit	2,209	3,231
Cash on hand or on deposit - TSRA Housing Fund	182	2,508
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,391	5,739

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 (ATSI Act) requires that funds available under the TSRA Housing Fund, including interest earnings, are to be used exclusively for housing loans. Consequently, income earned on the TSRA Housing Fund is not available for operational expenses but is directed back into new loans.

2.1B: Trade and other receivables

Goods and services receivables

Goods and services	413	355
Total goods and services receivables	413	355

Other receivables

GST receivable from the Australian Tax Office	746	897
Loans	3,355	3,601
Interest	11	56
Other	-	86
Total other receivables	4,112	4,640
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	4,525	4,995

Less impairment allowance

Loans	(278)	(268)
Goods and services	(50)	(75)
Total impairment allowance	(328)	(343)

Total trade and other receivables (net)

4,197	4,652
--------------	--------------

Credit terms are net 30 days (2017: 30 days).

Accounting Policy

The TSRA classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- a) loans and receivables; and
- b) held-to-maturity investments.

Loans and Receivables

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments and that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

Held-to-Maturity Investments

Non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturity dates that the group has the positive intent and ability to hold to maturity are classified as held-to-maturity investments. Held-to-maturity investments are recorded at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment, with revenue recognised on an effective yield basis.

Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The initial fair value of concessional loans is taken to be the present value of all future cash receipts, discounted using the prevailing market rate of interest for instruments of a similar structure (currency, term, type of interest rate, credit risk). Subsequently the value of the loan is derived by applying the amortised cost using the effective interest method, with the initial market rate as the effective rate, and anticipated cash flows based on contracted repayment terms, resulting in the amortisation of the discount over the anticipated life of the loan.

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
TSRA holds a portfolio of concessional loans that are provided for business development and home ownership programs. The values of these loans as at 30 June are as follows:		
Concessional loans - nominal value	3,598	3,869
Less: unexpired discount	<u>(243)</u>	<u>(268)</u>
Concessional loans - (gross)	3,355	3,601
Less: impairment allowance	<u>(278)</u>	<u>(268)</u>
Concessional loans - carrying value	3,077	3,333

Loans to individuals and businesses are made under the Business Funding Scheme for periods up to 10 years and Home Loans for periods up to 32 years. In relation to the housing loans, TSRA holds mortgages as sole mortgagor over the properties for which the loans are provided. TSRA receives market advice from a qualified valuer or market expert on the value of a property prior to the loan being approved. In relation to Business Funding Scheme loans, from 2007-08 TSRA has required that inexperienced business owner(s) successfully complete an approved business course and submit a business plan prior to the loan being approved. Principal is repaid in full at maturity. Interest rates for Business Funding Scheme loans were fixed in accordance with the loan contracts. Housing Loan interest rates were varied on 1 January 2018 in accordance with the loan contracts. Effective interest rates average 4.32% (2017: 4.57%) for Business Funding Scheme loans and 4.22% (2017: 4.22%) for Housing loans.

Reconciliation of the Impairment Allowance

Accounting Policy

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period.

Movements in relation to 2018

	Goods and services	Loans	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2017	(75)	(268)	(343)
Amounts written off	75	-	75
Decrease recognised in net cost of services	(50)	(10)	(60)
Total as at 30 June 2018	(50)	(278)	(328)

Movements in relation to 2017

	Goods and services	Loans	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2016	(132)	(10)	(142)
Amounts written off	57	10	67
Decrease recognised in net cost of services	-	(268)	(268)
Total as at 30 June 2017	(75)	(268)	(343)

	2018	2017
	\$'000	\$'000

2.1C: Other investments

Term deposits	24,653	17,498
Term deposits - TSRA Housing Fund	10,121	7,721
Total other investments	34,774	25,219

2.2 Non-Financial Assets

2.2A: Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment and intangibles

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment for 2018

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Total land & buildings \$'000	Heritage and cultural ¹ \$'000	Other plant & equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2017						
Gross book value	11,805	36,988	48,793	77	4,144	53,014
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	-	-	-	(2,789)	(2,789)
Total as at 1 July 2017	11,805	36,988	48,793	77	1,355	50,225
Additions						
Purchase	222	718	940	-	365	1,305
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	(222)	(449)	(671)	-	-	(671)
Depreciation	-	(1,160)	(1,160)	-	(674)	(1,834)
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total as at 30 June 2018	11,805	36,097	47,902	77	1,046	49,025
Total as at 30 June 2018 represented by						
Gross book value	11,805	36,100	47,905	77	4,509	52,491
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	(3)	(3)	-	(3,463)	(3,466)
Total as at 30 June 2018	11,805	36,097	47,902	77	1,046	49,025

1. Land, buildings and other property, plant and equipment that met the definition of a heritage and cultural item were disclosed in the heritage and cultural asset class.

The TSRA's asset valuers, in their valuation report for the year ended 30 June 2018, identified an impairment to the buildings complex located at 56 Douglas Street, Thursday Island. This impairment is recognised in other comprehensive income and is reported in the financial statements as a decrease to the asset revaluation reserve. The TSRA is planning to demolish these buildings and commence construction of replacement office accommodation on the site within the next 12 months.

No other indicators of impairment were found for property, plant and equipment.

No other property, plant and equipment is expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Contractual commitments for the purchase of property, plant and equipment

The TSRA has a current contractual commitment of \$1,767,554 for the construction of a multipurpose facility on Erub Island (2017: Nil).

Accounting Policy

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 income 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's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the statement of financial position, 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).

The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

Revaluations

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment are carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets did not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depended 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 asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reversed a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reversed a previous revaluation increment for that class.

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

Depreciation

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

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods 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:

	2018	2017
Buildings on freehold land	40 years	40 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Plant and equipment	3 to 8 years	3 to 8 years

All heritage and cultural assets have indefinite useful lives and are not depreciated.

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2018. 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 costs of disposal 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 asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the entity were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

Derecognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

Heritage and Cultural Assets

The TSRA has a limited collection of 23 (2017 : 23) distinct Cultural and Heritage assets with an aggregated fair value of \$77,000 (2017: \$77,000). Cultural assets are comprised of artworks, carvings, and traditional headdresses. Heritage assets consist of models of 2 (2017 : 2) sailing vessels and a brass Pearl Diver's helmet (2017 : 1) each of which has historical significance to the region. The assets are on display at the TSRA's main office and the Gab Titui Cultural Centre. The conservation and preservation of TSRA's heritage and cultural assets is achieved by a variety and combination of means including: the provision of education and awareness programs; asset management planning; professional training and development; research; and the provision of appropriate storage and display environments.

Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The fair value of land and buildings has been taken to be the market value of similar properties as determined by an independent valuer. In some instances, the TSRA's buildings are purpose-built and may in fact realise more or less in the market.

2.3 Payables

	2018	2017
	\$'000	\$'000

2.3A: Suppliers

Trade creditors and accruals	1,407	1,751
Total suppliers	1,407	1,751

Settlement was usually made within 30 days.

2.3B: Grants

Public sector:

Local Governments	590	-
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Private sector:

Non-profit organisations	151	-
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Total grants	741	-
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2.3C: Other payables

Salaries and wages	121	118
Superannuation	15	15
Total other payables	136	133

People and Relationships

This section describes a range of employment and post employment benefits provided to our people and our relationships with other key people.

3.1 Employee Provisions

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
3.1A: Employee provisions		
Long service leave	2,653	2,447
Annual leave	1,757	1,642
Personal leave	93	102
Total employee provisions	4,503	4,191

Accounting policy

Liabilities for short-term employee benefits and termination benefits expected within twelve months of the end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

Other long-term employee benefits are measured as net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) out of which the obligations are to be settled directly.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that will be applied at the time the leave is taken, including the TSRA'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 estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Separation and Redundancy

Provision is made for separation and redundancy benefit payments. The TSRA recognises a provision for termination when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

Superannuation

The TSRA's staff are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS), or the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap), or other superannuation funds held outside the Australian Government.

The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Australian Government. 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. This liability is reported in the Department of Finance's administered schedules and notes.

The TSRA makes employer contributions to the employees' defined benefit superannuation scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Government. The entity accounts for the contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions.

3.2 Key Management Personnel Remuneration

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity. The entity has determined the key management personnel to be the Portfolio Minister, Chairperson, Chief Executive Officer and Directors. Key management personnel remuneration is reported in the table below:

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits	785	791
Post-employment benefits	88	92
Other long-term employee benefits	78	43
Total key management personnel remuneration expenses¹	951	926

The total number of key management personnel that are included in the above table are 22 (2017: 23)

1. The above key management personnel remuneration excludes the remuneration and other benefits of the Portfolio Minister. The Portfolio Minister's remuneration and other benefits are set by the Remuneration Tribunal and are not paid by the entity.

3.3 Related Party Disclosures

Related party relationships

The TSRA is an Australian Government controlled entity. Related parties to this entity are Key Management Personnel including the Portfolio Minister, Chairperson, Chief Executive Officer and Directors, and other Australian Government entities.

Transactions with related parties:

Given the breadth of Government activities, related parties may transact with the government sector in the same capacity as ordinary citizens. Such transactions include the payment or refund of taxes, receipt of a Medicare rebate or higher education loans. These transactions have not been separately disclosed in this note. There are no related party transactions with the Portfolio Minister, the Chief Executive Officer or their close family members. The following transactions with Director related parties occurred during the financial year:

Loans to Related Parties

Loans were made to the following directors and director-related entities. They were approved under normal terms and conditions applying to the TSRA's loan schemes. The directors involved took no part in the relevant decisions of the board.

The table below outlines the loan holder/s and the TSRA director with whom a related party connection exists.

Loan Holder: Seisia Community Torres Strait Islander Corporation
 - Joseph Elu - TSRA Board Member - Seisia Community Torres Strait Islander Corporation Chairperson
 Loan Holder: Alice Loban
 - Yen Loban - TSRA Board Member - Close family member of Alice Loban
 Loan Holder: Loban Marine
 - Yen Loban - TSRA Board Member - Loban Marine Owner

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Loans to Related Parties		
Loans to directors and close family members outstanding as at year-end	45,224	51,470
Loan repayments by directors and close family members during the year	10,131	10,133
Loans to director-related entities outstanding as at year-end	147,041	145,978
Loans to director-related entities during the year	25,000	162,000
Loan repayments by director-related entities during the year	34,199	12,175
Interest revenue included in net cost of services from loans to directors/director-related entities	15,179	11,915

Grants to Related Parties

Grants were made to the following Director-related entities. They were approved under normal terms and conditions applying to the TSRA's grant programs. The Directors involved took no part in the grant application approval processes.

TSRA Director's Name and Relationship with Grantee	Grantee	2018 \$	2017 \$
J Elu - Councillor for Seisia	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	300,000	123,259
J Abednego - Councillor, Y Loban - Deputy Mayor	Torres Shire Council	1,430,000	124,000
G Lui, D Bosun - Councillors	Torres Strait Island Regional Council	530,900	1,713,050
M Nona - Chairperson, S Maka - Director	Malu Lamar (TSI) Corporation	-	50,750
P Yusia - Director	NPA Family and Community Services ATSI Corporation	-	27,579
D Bosun - Director	Ngalmun Lagau Minaral (TSI) Corporation	-	73,525
K Fell - Vice President, S Maka - Director	Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association	-	1,950,000
J Abednego - President	TRAWQ Indigenous Corporation	14,800	57,082
C Repu - Chairperson	Goemulgaw (TSI) Corporation	10,840	-
F Faud - Director, J Gela - Director	Torres Strait Islander Media Association	1,342,626	-
P Yusia - Director	Mura Badulagal (TSI) Corporation	1,350,880	-

Other Transactions with Related Parties

Grant receipts were received from the following Australian Government Entities by the TSRA during 2017-18.

Government Entity	Purpose of Grant	2018 \$	2017 \$
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Torres Strait Indigenous Ranger Program	8,868,290	8,711,480
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Indigenous Protected Areas	210,200	265,000
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Torres Strait Fisheries Investment Project	3,750,000	1,000,000
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Prince of Wales Island Jetty Infrastructure	-	6,000,000
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Purchase of Commercial Tropical Rock Lobster Fishing Licenses	-	6,000,000
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Major Infrastructure Programme 6 Funding	-	1,500,000
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Moa Island Land Tenure Resolution	-	150,000
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Ranger Capacity Building	585,000	-
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources	Training for Sea Ranger Program	-	204,000
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources	Underwater Drone Testing	-	130,000
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources	Torres Strait Frontline Biosecurity Resilience	1,730,000	-
Department of the Environment and Energy	National Landcare Program	657,280	657,280
Attorney-General's Department	Indigenous Language Centre	400,000	-

Managing Uncertainties

This section analyses how the TSRA manages financial risks within its operating environment.

4.1 Contingent Assets and Liabilities

	Bank Guarantees		Total	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Contingent liabilities	116	116	116	116
Total contingent liabilities	116	116	116	116

Quantifiable Contingencies

The above table contains \$116,000 of contingent liabilities disclosed in respect to a bank guarantee in favour of the Torres Shire Council (2017: \$116,000)

The table contains no contingent assets. (2017: \$0).

Unquantifiable Contingencies

At 30 June 2017, the TSRA had no unquantifiable contingencies. (2017: \$0)

Accounting Policy

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are reported in the notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

4.2 Financial Instruments

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
4.2A: Categories of financial instruments		
Financial Assets		
Held-to-maturity investments		
Term deposits	34,774	25,219
Total held-to-maturity investments	34,774	25,219
Loans and receivables		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,391	5,739
Trade and other receivables	374	366
Loan receivables	3,077	3,333
Total loans and receivables	5,842	9,438
Total financial assets	40,616	34,657
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Trade creditors	1,407	1,751
Grant Liabilities	741	-
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	2,148	1,751
Total financial liabilities	2,148	1,751

Accounting Policy

Financial assets

The entity classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- a) held-to-maturity investments; and
- b) loans and receivables.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised and derecognised upon trade date.

Effective Interest Method

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis except for financial assets that are recognised at fair value through profit or loss.

Held-to-Maturity Investments

Non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturity dates that the group has the positive intent and ability to hold to maturity are classified as held-to-maturity investments. Held-to-maturity investments are recorded at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment, with revenue recognised on an effective yield basis.

Loans and Receivables

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period.

Financial assets held at amortised cost - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred for loans and receivables or held to maturity investments held at amortised cost, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount is reduced by way of an allowance account. The loss is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities. Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon trade date.

Financial Liabilities at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are initially measured at fair value. Subsequent fair value adjustments are recognised in profit or loss. The net gain or loss recognised in profit or loss incorporates any interest paid on the financial liability.

Other Financial Liabilities

Other financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. These liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective interest basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
4.2B: Net gains or losses on financial assets		
Held-to-maturity investments		
Interest revenue	612	716
Net gains on held-to-maturity investments	612	716
Loans and receivables		
Interest revenue	205	226
Reversal of losses from remeasuring loans and receivables	18	33
Write down of loans to net present value	(29)	(126)
Loans and receivables provided for as impaired	(60)	(268)
Net gains/(losses) on loans and receivables	134	(135)
Net gains on financial assets	746	581

4.2C: Net gains or losses on financial liabilities

There are no gains or losses on financial liabilities for the year ending 30 June 2018 (2017: \$Nil)

4.3 Fair Value Measurement

Accounting Policy

The fair value of land has been taken to be the market value of similar properties as determined by an independent valuer. The fair value of buildings has been taken to be the depreciated current replacement cost. In some instances, the TSRA's buildings are purpose-built and may in fact realise more or less in the market.

4.3A: Fair value measurement

	Fair value measurements at the end of the reporting period	
	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Non-financial assets		
Land	11,805	11,805
Buildings	36,097	36,988
Heritage and cultural	77	77
Total non-financial assets	47,979	48,870

The remaining assets and liabilities reported by the TSRA are not measured at fair value in the Statement of Financial Position.

Other Information

5.1 Assets Held in Trust

5.1A: Assets held in trust

Monetary assets

Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and Other Projects Trust Fund

On 17 October 1998, the Queensland State Government and the TSRA entered into a Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) Funding Agreement under which \$15 million for major infrastructure projects was provided by the State over three years with matching funds from the Commonwealth. The co-funding arrangement between the State and TSRA has continued over the years as set out in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between TSRA and the State. On 14 April 2014, a variation to the MOU was signed to expand the trust fund to include not only MIP projects, but also the Seawalls project and Other Projects. A further variation was executed on 22 May 2017 to reflect changes to the scope of and budget for the Seawalls Project and the introduction of the Major Infrastructure Programme Stage 6.

The recipients/ beneficiaries of infrastructure projects developed under the Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and Other Projects Trust Fund are the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC), Torres Shire Council (TSC) and the Northern Peninsular Area Regional Council (NPARC).

TSRA's role in the Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and Other Projects Trust Fund is set out in the Memorandum of Understanding between the State and TSRA. TSRA has a fiduciary duty in respect of the Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and Other Projects Trust Fund funds and in the development of Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and Other Projects Trust Fund projects but not as the owner of any assets under construction or on completion. This is evidenced by the fact that no future economic benefit or returns will flow to TSRA as a result of its involvement with the Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and Other Projects Trust Fund. For financial statement preparation purposes, TSRA does not consolidate the Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and Other Projects Trust Fund funds into its financial statements as TSRA is of the opinion that it does not have control of the Fund.

	2018	2017
	\$'000	\$'000
Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and Other Projects Trust Fund		
Monetary assets		
As at 1 July	46,242	66,575
Receipts	7,515	17,471
Payments	(5,592)	(37,804)
Total as at 30 June	48,165	46,242

Finfish Trust Account

Torres Strait Islanders own 100 per cent of the Finfish fishery. Finfish quota that is not used by Traditional Inhabitant fishers is leased to Non-Traditional fishers. Leasing revenue is held in trust by the TSRA and disbursed to the beneficiaries for the benefit of the fishery. For example, capacity building activities to increase the number of Torres Strait Islanders fishing in an economical and environmentally sustainable way in the fishery.

Finfish Trust Account

Monetary assets

As at 1 July	1,477	1,263
Receipts	227	214
Payments	-	-
Total as at 30 June	1,704	1,477

5.2 Budget Variances Commentary

The below table provides commentary for significant variances between the TSRA's original budget estimates, as published in the 2017-18 Portfolio Budget Statements, and the actual expenditure and net asset position for the year.

Explanation of major budget variances	Affected line items (and Statement)
<p>The budgeted Other Government contributions revenue and suppliers and grants expenses include revenue and expenditure on funding agreements that had been executed at the time the budget was prepared. During the financial year, after the budget was prepared, additional funding of \$4.3m was provided by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for the Torres Strait Fisheries Investment Project (\$3.8m), and the Capacity Building for Rangers Strategy (\$0.6m). The TSRA also received \$1.73m from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources for the Torres Strait Frontline Biosecurity Resilience project. As the TSRA is the leading Commonwealth representative body for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait, they are often approached by other government agencies to deliver programmes on an ad hoc basis throughout the year. In recent years it has become common practice for the TSRA to enter into additional funding agreements with other agencies after the date that the budget is formally finalised.</p>	<p>Other Government contributions, Employee Benefits, Suppliers and Grants (Statement of Comprehensive Income)</p>
<p>The budget reflects the depreciation funding received as part of the annual budget and is substantially less than the actual depreciation expense.</p>	<p>Depreciation (Statement of Comprehensive Income)</p>
<p>The annual stocktake and revaluation of assets, including impairments of property, has caused a write down in the asset revaluation reserve (\$0.67m) that was not budgeted for.</p>	<p>Changes in asset revaluation surplus (Statement of Comprehensive Income - Other Comprehensive Income)</p>
<p>The variances of \$0.76m in cash, \$1.48m in Trade and Other Receivables, \$16.3m in investments, \$9.4m in non-financial assets and \$4.2m in Grants and Other payables are due to timing differences for payments across financial years mainly due to major capital works projects and the June receipt of additional funding.</p>	<p>Cash and cash equivalents, Other investments, Non-Financial assets (Statement of Financial Position)</p>

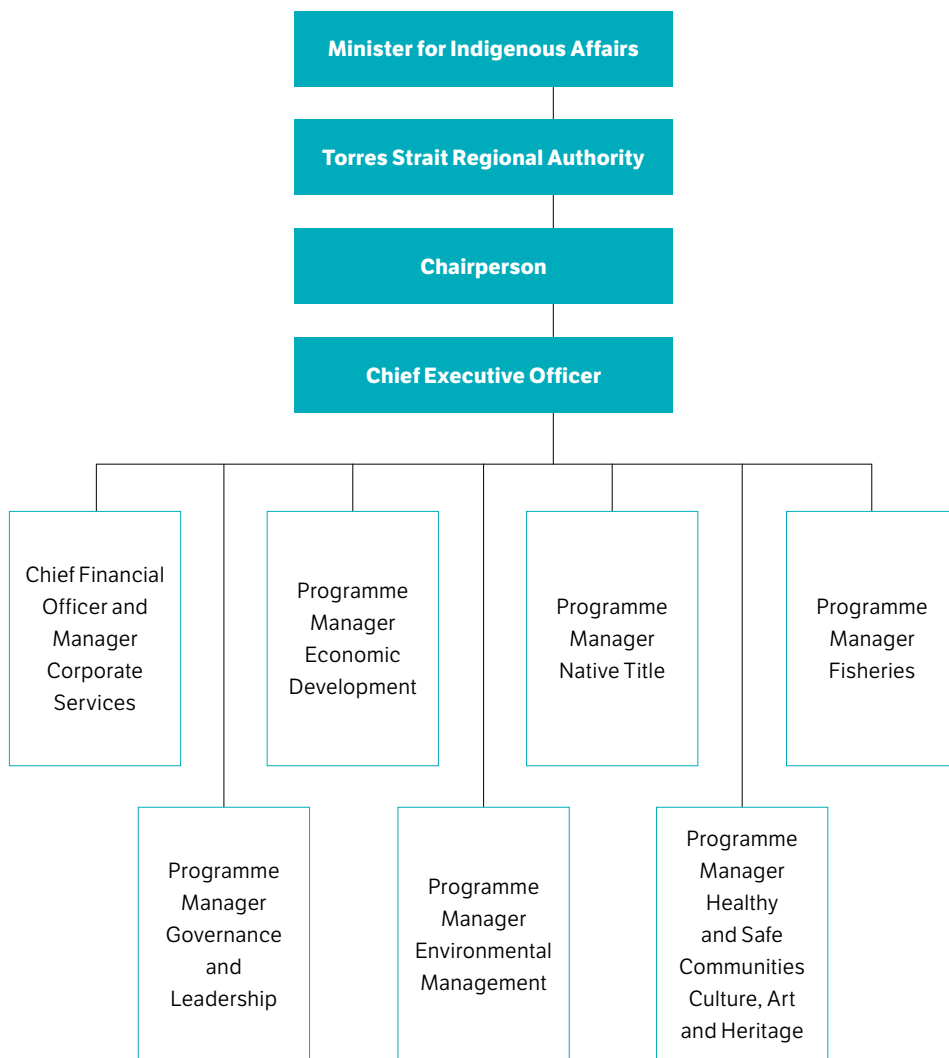
A sea turtle is swimming in deep blue water. Sunlight rays are visible filtering through the water, creating a serene and naturalistic scene. The turtle is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the frame, moving towards the left. Its shell is a light brown color with distinct scutes, and its flippers are a darker brown. The water is a deep, clear blue, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and majestic.

SECTION SIX

Appendices

APPENDIX 1: ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

FIGURE 6-1
TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY STRUCTURE



APPENDIX 2: ADVERTISING AND MARKET RESEARCH

The TSRA advertises all ongoing vacancies and non-ongoing vacancies of more than 12 months using the APSjobs website and other selected national advertising. The TSRA uses the Australian Government's preferred supplier, Dentsu Mitchell Media Australia Pty Ltd, to advertise tenders and recruitment notices.

The TSRA also uses Far North Queensland region-based print media for advertising job vacancies, for publishing media releases and tenders, and for distributing the TSRA Community Newsletters, in line with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.

The TSRA did not conduct any advertising campaigns or make payments to market research, polling, direct mail or media advertising organisations in 2017-2018.



APPENDIX 3: GRANTS

TABLE 6-1
DETAILS OF GRANTS (TOTAL FROM AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – DETAIL UNAUDITED)

Grant Recipient	Activity	Amount (\$)
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service	Legal services	66,364
Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Torres Strait Traditional Inhabitant representation at Protected Zone Joint Authority forums	56,869
Australian Maritime Safety Authority	Torres Strait Marine Safety Programme	50,000
Cairns Indigenous Art Fair Limited	Fund dance team to attend Cairns Indigenous Art Fair	33,950
Church of Torres Strait Diocese	Tagai Territory Ltd community wellbeing project	30,000
Erub Erwer Meta Torres Strait Islander Corporation	Merchandise marketing	23,000
Far North Queensland Promotion Bureau Ltd	Tourism coordinator grant	272,727
Goemulgaw Torres Strait Islanders Corporation	Basalaya Kwaya – 80th anniversary of the first councillors' meeting on Masig	10,840
Indigenous Business Australia	Larissa Takai housing loan	348,500
Kaurareg Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Prescribed Body Corporate support	128,000
Kerkar Bau Men's Support Group	Kerkar Bau Men's Support Group establishment project	44,000
Lena Passi Women's Shelter	Domestic and family violence project officer	76,000
Lena Passi Women's Shelter	Domestic and family violence project	50,000
Mabuygiw Garkaziw Kupay Torres Strait Islander Corporation	Mabuyag language project	11,009
May Wasada Passi	2018 Mabo Day celebrations	9,660
Mer Gedkem Le (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	Enterprise divestment	1,100,000
Mer Gedkem Le (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	Prescribed Body Corporate support	84,545
Mura Badulgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	Badhulgaw Danlayg Muykupadh Pathamukmik	25,000
Mura Badulgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	Enterprise divestment	1,100,000

TABLE 6-1
DETAILS OF GRANTS (TOTAL FROM AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – DETAIL UNAUDITED) (CONT.)

Grant Recipient	Activity	Amount (\$)
Mura Badulgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	Prescribed Body Corporate support	225,880
Mura Kosker Sorority	Artist technical skills development	25,000
Mura Kosker Sorority	Develop and increase knowledge in 3D printing	5,000
Mura Kosker Sorority	Papa (Father and Son Volume 2)	24,254
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Tourism officer	300,000
Port Kennedy Association	After-school care	197,000
Raw Productions	Active Badu Community	11,500
Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for Diocese of Cairns	Oceans of Plastic	9,493
Saam Karem Era Kodo Mer Dance Troupe	Perform at Winds of Zenadth Cultural Festival	25,000
Tagai Primary School	Muy Lak Kadaka Mayka (Keep the fire burning)	14,811
Tagai Primary School	Start Strong Club	12,055
Tagai Primary School	Start Strong Club	12,533
Tagai State College	Growing Our Own	400,000
Tagai State College	Language centre operations	241,500
Tagai State College Parents and Citizens Association	Sharing Women's Stories	15,000
Tony Harry	New Creation	4,545
Torres Shire Council	75th anniversary of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion	25,000
Torres Shire Council	Pool lifeguard and swim teacher training	5,000
Torres Shire Council	Cycleway	600,000
Torres Shire Council	Paving Ken Brown Oval	500,000
Torres Shire Council	Tourism officer	300,000
Torres Strait Fishers Association Incorporated	Fishers' association capacity building	35,000

**TABLE 6-1
DETAILS OF GRANTS (TOTAL FROM AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – DETAIL UNAUDITED) (CONT.)**

Grant Recipient	Activity	Amount (\$)
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Kulkalgaw Ya Revitalisation Language Programme Workshop	20,900
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Ron Enosa CD of traditional and contemporary songs	25,000
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Bua Benjamin Mabo Meriam CD recording project	22,600
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Operational funding	390,000
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Sinaw Minaral (Footprints)	25,000
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Black paradise songwriting and recording project	13,420
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Meriam Atami – Cultural immersion and maintenance project	16,606
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Fund dance team to attend Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair	55,000
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Operational funding	795,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Commonwealth Games baton relay	10,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Tourism officer/events coordinator	500,000
Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and Other Projects Trust Fund	Poruma coastal erosion	650,000
Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and Other Projects Trust Fund	Minor Infrastructure Grants – Torres Shire Council and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	887,655
Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and Other Projects Trust Fund	Telstra project	590,113
Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association	Sports equipment utility vehicle	43,200
TRAWQ Indigenous Corporation	Purchase office furniture and equipment	14,800
Total		10,568,329

APPENDIX 4: CONSULTANTS

TABLE 6-2
DETAILS OF CONSULTANTS (TOTAL FROM AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – DETAIL UNAUDITED)

Name	Amount (\$)	Purpose	Selection Process	Justification Code
Accsys Consulting	99,480	Review loans policies and procedures	Open tender	B
ACIL Allen Consulting	84,900	Review of legal services in the Torres Strait	Select tender	C
Acuro Business Support	17,268	Business support panel	Open tender	B
AH Consulting	4,800	Review of seawalls project	Direct sourcing	C
ALH Birch	24,973	Business support panel	Open tender	B
Arafura Consulting	14,321	Native Title anthropology	Direct sourcing	B
Astral Consulting	257,018	Upgrade of document and records management system	Direct sourcing	B
Australian Bureau of Statistics	100,000	Establishment of the Torres Strait Regional Statistics Data Library	Direct sourcing	B
BANI Consultancy	3,150	Review dugong and turtle plan	Direct sourcing	C
Business Mapping Solutions	9,773	Business support panel	Open tender	B
Cox Inall Ridgeway	89,100	Torres Strait Islanders Media Association Review	Open tender	C
David Fell Environmental	112,450	Biodiversity and traditional ecological knowledge activities	Direct sourcing	B
David S Trigger and Associates	17,850	Native Title anthropology	Direct sourcing	B
Debe Mekik Le Consultancy	99,500	Fisheries infrastructure audit	Open tender	B
Deltapoint	12,460	Human resources and recruitment support	Open tender	B
DFK Kidsons	9,130	Business support panel	Open tender	B
Emamulda Consulting	2,292	Native Title anthropology	Direct sourcing	B
Enmark Pty Ltd	49,113	Business support panel	Open tender	B

**TABLE 6-2
DETAILS OF CONSULTANTS (TOTAL FROM AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – DETAIL UNAUDITED)
(CONT.)**

Name	Amount (\$)	Purpose	Selection Process	Justification Code
Environmental Systems Solutions	212,900	Traditional ecological knowledge fulcrum and work planner systems	Direct sourcing	B
Environmental Systems Solutions	19,600	Traditional ecological knowledge system on Saibai	Direct sourcing	B
Environmental Systems Solutions	42,000	Design information management and monitoring system for the Land and Sea Management Unit	Direct sourcing	B
Environmental Systems Solutions	39,900	Saibai and Erub seasonal calendar	Direct sourcing	B
Fortis One Business Support	12,340	Business support panel	Open tender	B
Gibsons Business Support	31,375	Business support panel	Open tender	B
Grant Thornton	49,954	Business support panel	Open tender	B
HKS Russell Pty Ltd	12,200	TRAWQ community strategic workshop	Direct sourcing	B
HLB Mann Judd	12,624	Internal audit services	Open tender	B
HLB Mann Judd Melbourne	9,945	Independent Chairperson of the Audit Committee	Open tender	B
Indigenous Business Australia	31,949	Facilitate workshop	Direct sourcing	B
Internal Centre for Compliance Management	96,000	Compliance management framework	Direct sourcing	B
James Cook University	98,660	Wetland and mangrove programme	Direct sourcing	B
James Cook University	2,954	Intertidal seagrass monitoring workshop and training	Direct sourcing	B
James Cook University	125,000	TropWATER seagrass monitoring	Direct sourcing	B
James Cook University	18,298	Cane toad control measures	Direct sourcing	B
James Cook University	27,653	Record seagrass	Direct sourcing	B

**TABLE 6-2
DETAILS OF CONSULTANTS (TOTAL FROM AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – DETAIL UNAUDITED)
(CONT.)**

Name	Amount (\$)	Purpose	Selection Process	Justification Code
KPMG	12,353	Business support panel	Open tender	B
LANDROC Pty Ltd	122,697	Develop and deliver information sessions on the history and way forward for sea claims	Direct sourcing	B
Melanie Duffer-Hyams	18,396	Update Indigenous Protected Areas plan	Direct sourcing	B
MLCS Corporate	11,350	Business support panel	Open tender	B
One Blood Hidden Image Entertainment Group	82,688	Regional Economic Investment Strategy video	Direct sourcing	B
Pacific Social Mapping	14,271	Native Title anthropology	Direct sourcing	B
Phillip Mills	140,000	Secretariat services for developing the regional governance framework	Direct sourcing	B
Pilot Partners	134,418	Internal audit services	Open tender	B
Regional Advisory and Innovation Network	59,500	Update management plan for Indigenous Protected Area	Select tender	B
Ridge Partners	29,000	Fisheries business growth package	Direct sourcing	B
Samuel Taylor	246,061	ICT support and integration	Direct sourcing	B
SC Lennon and Associates	22,080	Establish business growth package	Direct sourcing	C
SC Lennon and Associates	42,900	Tourism business growth package	Direct sourcing	B
Social Ventures Australia Ltd	100,000	Social enterprise package	Direct sourcing	B
Social Ventures Australia Ltd	27,135	Social return on investment training	Direct sourcing	B
Stuart Boyd-Law	85,551	Feral pig eradication	Select tender	B
Tagai State College	165,000	Environmental education coordination	Direct sourcing	B
Terra Moana Design Pty Ltd	61,006	Fisheries community management framework	Direct sourcing	C

TABLE 6-2
DETAILS OF CONSULTANTS (TOTAL FROM AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – DETAIL UNAUDITED)
(CONT.)

Name	Amount (\$)	Purpose	Selection Process	Justification Code
TerraForm Design Pty Ltd	47,450	Land and sea investment prospectus	Direct sourcing	B
Terri Janke and Company Pty Ltd	52,750	Business support panel	Open tender	B
WildFish Research	43,700	Bait fishing industry	Direct sourcing	B
Yumi Education Inc	103,912	Torres Strait language centre	Direct sourcing	B
Zakazukha Pty Ltd	84,000	Media support services	Open tender	B
Total	3,557,148			

Justification code:

- A Skills currently unavailable within the TSRA.
- B Need for specialised or professional skills.
- C Need for independent research or assessment.

Note:

All consultants engaged under section 144T of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth) were engaged using the standard terms and conditions for the engagement of consultants by the TSRA as set out in the instrument referred to in section 144T(3). There were no significant differences between the terms and conditions on how consultants were engaged.





SECTION SEVEN

Aids to Access

INDEX OF REQUIREMENTS

This Annual Report is prepared in accordance with section 144ZB of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth) and all other sections; section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth); and the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014 (Cth).

As a corporate Commonwealth entity, the TSRA is also required to prepare an annual report in accordance with the requirements of other legislation, namely the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Cth), the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) and the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (Cth).

The table below details the reporting requirements and provides the location of the relevant information within this Annual Report.

Any enquiries relating to the compliance index can be directed to the TSRA by phone on (07) 4069 0700 or (toll free) 1800 079 093, or by email to info@tsra.gov.au.

Guiding legislation requirement	Location in report
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 (Cth) – section 144ZB	
(2) Certain matters must be included in the Annual Report. The TSRA must include in each Annual Report details of:	
Any directions given by the Minister under section 142E	81
Any consultants engaged under section 144T	149-152
(3) Report must include details of grants. If a grant was made by the TSRA during a financial year to an individual or body, then, in addition to the matters referred to in subsections (1) and (2), the annual report for that year must set out:	
The name of the individual or body	146-148
The amount and purpose of grant	146-148
(4) Report must not disclose sacred matters:	
The TSRA must not disclose in any annual report any matters known by the TSRA to be held sacred by Torres Strait islander or Aboriginal persons	110
(5) Report must include certain details about consultants	
If an annual report gives details of a consultant engaged under section 144T, the report must set out any significant differences between the terms and conditions on which that consultant was engaged and the standard terms and conditions for the engagement of consultants by the TSRA as set out in the instrument referred to in subsection 144T(3)	152

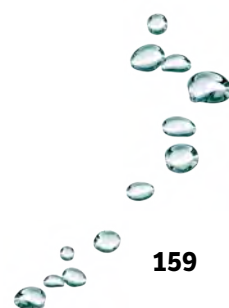
Guiding legislation requirement		Location in report
Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014		
Approval of the report by directors	Section 17BB	Letter of transmittal
Parliamentary standards of presentation	Section 17BC	Throughout
Plain English and clear design	Section 17BD	Throughout
Enabling legislation	Paragraph 17BE(a)	79
Legislated objects and functions	Paragraph 17BE(b)(i)	79-81
Purpose	Paragraph 17BE(b)(ii)	17
Responsible minister	Paragraph 17BE(c)	81
Ministerial directions	Paragraph 17BE(d) and (f)	81-82
Policy orders	Paragraphs 17BE(e) and (f)	None to report
Annual performance statements	Paragraph 17BE(g)	17-24
Significant issues related to financial compliance	Paragraph 17BE(h) and (i)	None to report
Details and attendance of board members	Paragraph 17BE(j)	87-97
Organisational structure	Paragraph 17BE(k)	144
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Governance	Paragraph 17BE(m)	86-107
Related entity transactions	Paragraphs 17BE(n) and (o)	Financial statements
Significant activities and changes	Paragraph 17BE(p)	None to report
Judicial decisions or decisions of administrative tribunals	Paragraph 17BE(q)	106
Reports by the Auditor-General, a parliamentary committee, the Commonwealth Ombudsman or the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	Paragraph 17BE(r)	106
Information from subsidiaries	Paragraph 17BE(s)	Not applicable
Indemnity and insurance	Paragraph 17BE(t)	106-107
Compliance index	Paragraph 17BE(u)	156-157
Other reporting requirements		
<i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (Cth)</i>	Section 311A	145
<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)</i>	Section 516A	103-104
<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth)</i>	Schedule 2, Part 4	8, 107-108



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Meaning
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Ailan Kastom	island custom
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
APS	Australian Public Service
CDP	Community Development Programme
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CMU	Compliance Management Unit
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
DAWR	Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
DOGIT	Deed of Grant in Trust
DTMR	Queensland Government Department of Transport and Main Roads
FQMC	Finfish Quota Management Committee
GTCC	Gab Titui Cultural Centre
IBA	Indigenous Business Australia
ICT	information and communications technology
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area
ISD	Integrated Service Delivery
MIP	Major Infrastructure Programme
MIP 6	Major Infrastructure Programme Stage 6
MOU	memorandum of understanding
NGO	non-government organisation
NPARC	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
NTRB	Native Title Representative Body
OBHI	One Blood Hidden Image Entertainment Group
ORIC	Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations



Abbreviation	Meaning
PBC	Prescribed Body Corporate
PSC	Programme Steering Committee
PZJA	Protected Zone Joint Authority
REIS	Regional Economic Investment Strategy
RMDL	Recreational Marine Driver Licence
RNTBC	Registered Native Title Body Corporate
RSDL	Regional Statistics Data Library
TAC	total allowable catch
TEK	traditional ecological knowledge
TIDS	Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme
TRAWQ	Tamwoy, Rose Hill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine
TRL	tropical rock lobster
TSC	Torres Shire Council
TSIRC	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
TSRA	Torres Strait Regional Authority
UNPFII17	17th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

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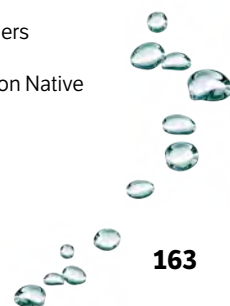
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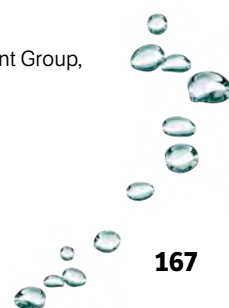
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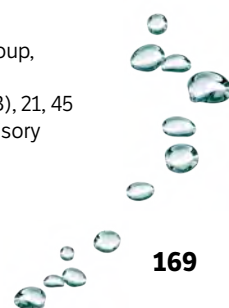
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