

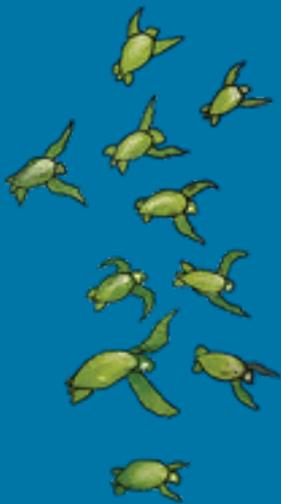


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Annual Report 2022–23



Cover image:
Detail from *Beginning of Life*, by George Gabey,
Waiben (Thursday Island), 2021



**Torres Strait
Regional Authority**

**Annual Report
2022–23**

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Hon Linda Burney MP
Minister for Indigenous Australians
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

4 October 2023

Dear Minister

I am pleased to present to you the annual report of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) for 2022–23. The members of the TSRA Board approved the *Torres Strait Regional Authority Annual Report 2022–23* at board meeting 145 on 6 September 2023.

The TSRA Board is responsible for preparing the annual report and presenting it to you in accordance with section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth). The TSRA's annual performance statements, financial statements and Auditor-General's report on the financial statements have been prepared and included in the annual report as required under sections 39, 42 and 43 of the Act.

The TSRA delivered outcomes as set out in the *TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23* during the past year, and continues to meet the objectives of the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009–2029* and the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2019–2022*.

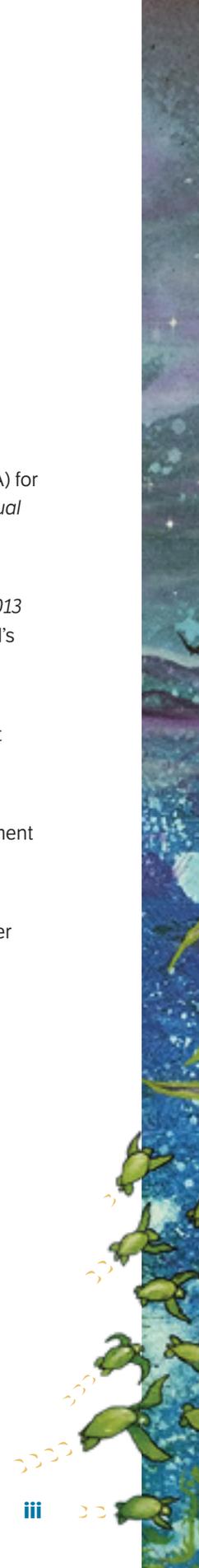
The TSRA's programmes contribute to achieving the objectives of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy and closing the gap in disadvantage between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians living in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area region.

The TSRA looks forward to continuing our good work with you to build on our successes over the coming year.

Yours sincerely



Napau Pedro Stephen AM
Chairperson



ABOUT THIS REPORT

Part 1 of this report presents reviews of the Torres Strait Regional Authority's (TSRA) activities in 2022–23 from the Chairperson of the TSRA Board and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), along with case studies of highlights of the year. It also provides information about the TSRA's role, legislation, functions, powers, ministerial responsibility and organisational structure.

Part 2 presents the annual performance statements for 2022–23, outlining the TSRA's outcomes against performance measures from the corporate plan and portfolio budget statements.

Part 3 reports on management and accountability issues, including information on TSRA corporate governance, staffing and risk management.

Part 4 presents the TSRA's audited financial statements for 2022–23, accompanied by the independent auditor's report.

The **appendices** outline how this report addresses the requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) and provide additional information required by other legislation.

Accessing the report

This report can be viewed online or downloaded in PDF format from the TSRA website at www.tsra.gov.au/news-and-resources/annual-reports. TSRA annual reports can also be found at the Australian Government Transparency Portal at www.transparency.gov.au.

Contacting the TSRA

We welcome comments on this annual report. If you have feedback or enquiries about any aspect of the report or the use of this document, please contact the TSRA by phone on (07) 4069 0700 or email at info@tsra.gov.au.

Cultural sensitivity

The TSRA recognises the Traditional Owners of the land and sea on which we operate. We acknowledge and pay respects to the past and present Elders and cultural lore of all Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area region.

The TSRA makes 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 the annual report was prepared for tabling in Parliament. We offer apologies for any distress this may cause.

This report does not disclose any matters known to the TSRA to be held sacred by Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal people.

VISION



**Empowering our people,
in our decision, in our culture, for our future**

**Ngalpun yangu kaaba woeydhay, a ngalpun muruyguw danalga
mabaygal kunakan palayk, wagel goeygoeyika**

KALA LAGAW YA

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

MERIAM MIR

**Ngalpan moebaygal thoepoeriwoeyamoeyn, ngalpan ya kuduthoeraynu,
ngalpan igililmaypa, sepa setha wara goeygil sey boey wagel**

KALA KAWAU YA

The vision of the TSRA is expressed in the languages of the region, recognising the importance and diversity of its culture.

Empowering Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people to contribute and make decisions regarding their future will ensure the strength and resilience of culture.

The future will be guided by people who live in the region and who understand and promote its unique characteristics.



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REVIEW OF 2022–23

Chairperson's review



Introduction

In my second term as Chairperson, I am pleased to present the *Torres Strait Regional Authority Annual Report 2022–23*.

This report details TSRA activities and achievements delivered in partnership with communities.

In a challenging yet significant year, I am proud of our efforts in empowering our people, in our decision, in our culture, for our future.

While we have experienced many changes, we remain on course with discussions about grassroots governance in the Torres Strait.

Importantly, the TSRA has brought together key partners with a willingness to include and value Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal perspectives across policies, decisions and investment.

Our advocacy is guided by our ancestors and our region is blessed with role models who demonstrate leadership, integrity, and courage.

Historic actions, from the Maritime Strike launched by Torres Strait Islander workers in 1936 and the 1937 First Island Councillors Conference on Masig, to the formation of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion (TSLIB) in 1943 during World War II and the historic Mabo Decision of 1992, continue to guide us.

Sadly, in recent times we have also acknowledged the passing of several community leaders and loved ones, including the last members of the TSLIB.

This marks the end of an important chapter in Australia's wartime history we must never forget.

Elevating local voices and aspirations

The Torres Strait region, like its people and culture, is diverse and unique.

Our uniqueness is a strength we must highlight and celebrate.

For example, the TSRA Board is distinct as a board democratically elected by communities through the Australian Electoral Commission.

It currently has the highest level of female representation since its establishment, with 6 women representing the communities of Bamaga, Seisia, Kubin, Masig, Warraber and Saibai.

Next year, at the TSRA Board elections, local people will again have their say on our leadership and direction.

We continue to ensure voices from across our communities are heard at national and international levels.

In 2022–23, the TSRA hosted Prime Minister the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Ambassador for First Nations People Justin Mohamed, and a roundtable of community, regional and government representatives to continue dialogue on climate change in the Torres Strait.

Each visit reaffirms the importance of the Torres Strait and we welcome leaders to experience more of our region.

Past, present and future

The Torres Strait is guided by its past and inspired by a legacy of advocacy – for rights, recognition and opportunities for our people – which has created strong foundations for our region's future.

Like those before us, we must have courage to progress the aspirations of the Torres Strait.

Following in the footsteps of our First Island Councillors, the TSRA has been a model for local leadership and self-determination since 1994.

We put forward the TSRA as a model that has been supporting greater autonomy for Torres Strait Islanders for nearly three decades.

Our intention is not just to educate government, but to continue investing in our people and communities to drive change.

The TSRA has a mandate to monitor programs and progress across the Torres Strait region, including the communities of Bamaga and Seisia in the Northern Peninsula Area.

TSRA priorities to support positive whole-of-life outcomes include health, education, economic participation, housing, cost of living and fit-for-purpose infrastructure, including marine projects.

To Close the Gap, we must best direct our efforts and investment to ensure our people can access opportunities at each point of their journey, not just at the start and the end.

Strengthening Pacific partnerships

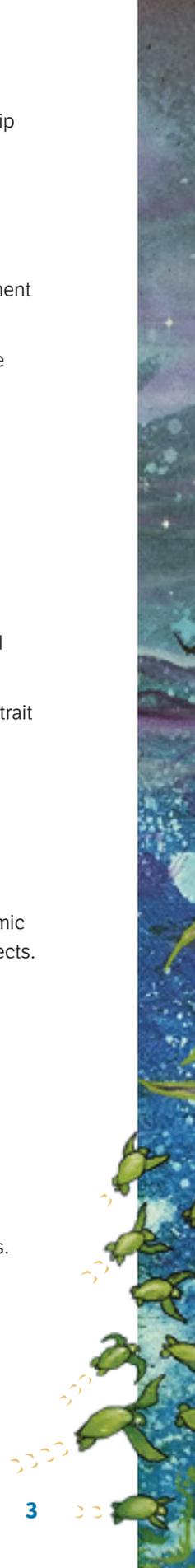
Climate change is one of the biggest threats facing our region and Pacific neighbours.

In the Torres Strait, the concept of 'one mat, many patterns' recognises our differences and strength in unity.

Our unique ability to work together with like-minded island nations speaks to the heart of this.

Beyond sharing knowledge, we must stand together as allies as we face climate impacts.

Building our region not only benefits our people, but can assist the development of global communities around us so we can rise to challenges together.



Looking back and moving forward

Next year, the TSRA celebrates 30 years as the lead Australian Government agency for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in our region.

It is a time to reflect on where we have come from and where we are going.

More than 80 years ago, our First Island Councillors rallied for change against a backdrop of injustice and inequality.

In 2023, we share the same cry for our people to have opportunities, rights and recognition.

We too must use challenges and adversity as stepping stones to advocate and achieve outcomes not only as individuals, but for the betterment of our region and our people.

Rather than focus on our remoteness, let us celebrate the unique qualities of our region, people and cultures.

When we channel our strength, our region can thrive not only as part of this state and nation, but on a global level.

Our vision and planning must anticipate the needs of the next generations.

I look forward to what the future brings for our organisation, people and region.

Closing remarks with gratitude

Firstly, thank you to the TSRA Administration and staff, including our strong local workforce.

Ahead of next year's board elections, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the TSRA Board for their passion, dedication and efforts.

In particular, I wish to commend Deputy Chairperson Mr Horace Baira, who was Acting TSRA Board Chairperson for a substantial period of 2022–23.

Ahead of the TSRA's 30th anniversary, it is time to reflect, lift our gaze and set our sights high.

This is a gift, a challenge, and a responsibility as we advocate for our people and communities at the highest levels to live our vision of empowering our people, in our decision, in our culture, for our future.



Napau Pedro Stephen AM
Chairperson

Chief Executive Officer review



I am pleased to present the *Torres Strait Regional Authority Annual Report 2022–23*. Throughout the reporting period, the TSRA continued to play a vital role as the substantive Australian Government agency in the Torres Strait region, including the Northern Peninsula Area communities of Bamaga and Seisia.

I am proud of the outcomes the TSRA delivered in 2022–23 as we worked together to generate greater economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits for the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal peoples who live and work within the region. Our ‘partnerships for success’ approach with communities, government, business and non-government organisations supports and amplifies the important contributions of the TSRA Board and staff in meeting the TSRA’s purpose and Closing the Gap for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region.

As the TSRA approaches its 30th anniversary, in the spirit of continuous improvement and accountability, the TSRA Board and the Audit Committee have endorsed the TSRA CEO Change Roadmap 2023. The change roadmap commenced implementation in 2022–23 across key areas including organisational governance and planning. These critical frameworks ensure that the TSRA is set up to deliver benefits to the region both now and into the future.

Supporting a strong economic base

Across 2022–23, the TSRA maintained its strong commitment to fostering economic growth, employment and enhanced commercial capacity within the Torres Strait.

Fisheries remain a pivotal opportunity to support the expansion of the Torres Strait’s economic base. The TSRA has made progress supporting Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal ownership of the region’s fishery assets – First Nations communities now own 100% of the finfish and bêche-de-mer fisheries. In 2022–23, the TSRA continued to support the regional fisheries economic base by investing in projects to expand commercial fishing capacity; managing the leasing out of unused allowable catch; and supporting research into sustainable fishing practice.

The TSRA continues to support Indigenous people in the region through the place-based initiative You Sabe Business workshops. These workshops encourage and support the development of business skills among local businesspeople, including ongoing mentoring to enhance regional entrepreneurship and expand the commercial capacity of the Torres Strait. The consistently high satisfaction rates among participants in these workshops highlight their relevance and importance to local business owners and entrepreneurs.



Managing the Torres Strait's environmental heritage

The Torres Strait holds a unique place in the natural, environmental and cultural landscapes of Australia. It is well known for its ecological complexity, biodiversity and relatively pristine marine and island environments. Ecological issues stemming from climate change continue to impact the Ailan Kastom and practices of Traditional Owners and communities and threaten their ability to live safely on their island homes. These environmental threats include rising sea levels, increasing sea temperatures, and more frequent and intense weather events.

The TSRA seeks to empower Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal peoples to sustainably manage and benefit from their land, sea and cultural resources. TSRA rangers, funded through the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), work closely with diverse stakeholders, including Traditional Owners, to deliver activities through community-endorsed TSRA ranger workplans.

During 2022–23, we focused on ranger recruitment, opening more equitable opportunities and refreshing the program so that it is more effective and place-based to manage the region's environment, including through scientific research and monitoring. We see the positive impacts made by TSRA rangers as we look around our region and communities.

In the October 2022–23 Budget, the Australian Government included plans to establish the Torres Strait Climate Centre of Excellence. This centre presents a unique opportunity to integrate scientific expertise with traditional knowledge from Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Traditional Owners.

Promoting and protecting Torres Strait culture

The resumption of travel since the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions has provided a much-appreciated boost to the Torres Strait's cultural economy through increased sales and revenue for local artists and businesses. These developments have supported the TSRA to enhance the reach and impact of Torres Strait culture through our art centres and associated initiatives.

Protecting and preserving the diverse and unique languages found around the Torres Strait is a key TSRA activity. Throughout 2022–23, the TSRA continued to work with the Australian Government Office for the Arts to manage funding and provide logistical and secretariat support for the Torres Strait Traditional Languages Association (TSTLA). The TSTLA aims to encourage people in the region to speak and use traditional languages daily. The TSTLA reached an important milestone in 2022–23, with the development of its first strategic business plan. It is expected that the plan will commence implementation in 2023–24.

Building partnerships locally, nationally and internationally

The TSRA strives to ensure that all partnerships, programmes and services are delivered in accordance with the principle of cultural empowerment and the Ailan Kastom of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal peoples. We pursue this through ongoing community stakeholder consultations through TSRA staff and ranger engagement, and the leadership provided by the elected regional representatives on the TSRA Board. Delivering our programmes in genuine partnership with the communities that we serve ensures that TSRA activities are effective, culturally appropriate and targeted to regional needs.

During 2022–23, the TSRA collaborated with all government jurisdictions to share knowledge, coordinate activities and leverage resources. We supported local councils on regional infrastructure development; we worked with the Queensland Government on the Cost of Living Summit: Torres Strait Islands and Northern Peninsula Area and to manage tourism; and we engaged with the Australian Government on protecting the Torres Strait's natural environment and promoting safe family environments. These strong and multifaceted relationships across government jurisdictions are testament to the role of the TSRA as a key coordinating body within the Torres Strait.

The TSRA also partnered with international stakeholders to ensure that Torres Strait voices are heard globally. The TSRA attended the April 2023 session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, making a presentation and taking part in side events and follow-on external engagements. The delegation discussed groundbreaking TSRA activities, including the TSRA rangers; climate change advocacy and mitigations; and the delivery of essential-to-life infrastructure. These strategic, high-level engagements provided a better understanding of the role of the TSRA, highlighted Torres Strait perspectives on foreign policy, and articulated how regional delivery supports the Australia and Papua New Guinea Torres Strait Treaty. They also provided further future international opportunities to showcase Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal culture.

Conclusion

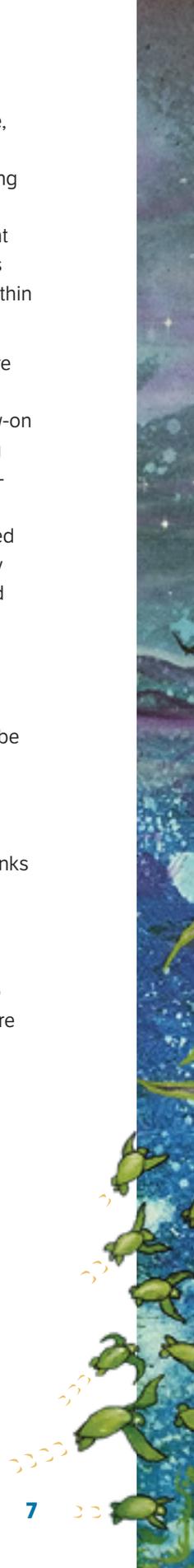
I expect that 2023–24 will be another busy and productive year for the TSRA. A key focus will be the finalisation of the next Torres Strait Development Plan.

The achievements documented within this annual report reflect the efforts of a diverse range of local, national and international stakeholders. I give my thanks to the TSRA Administration team for their professionalism, high work standards and support during the past year. My thanks and gratitude also go to the diverse communities, businesses, government agencies and international partners that contributed to TSRA activities throughout 2022–23.

The TSRA has responsibility for a substantial and diverse range of programmes, and it is a privilege to administer these for the benefit of the Torres Strait region. I am looking forward to continuing to engage positively with Torres Strait communities over the coming year, to ensure that the TSRA remains well-positioned to deliver positive and real economic, environmental, social and cultural outcomes within the region.



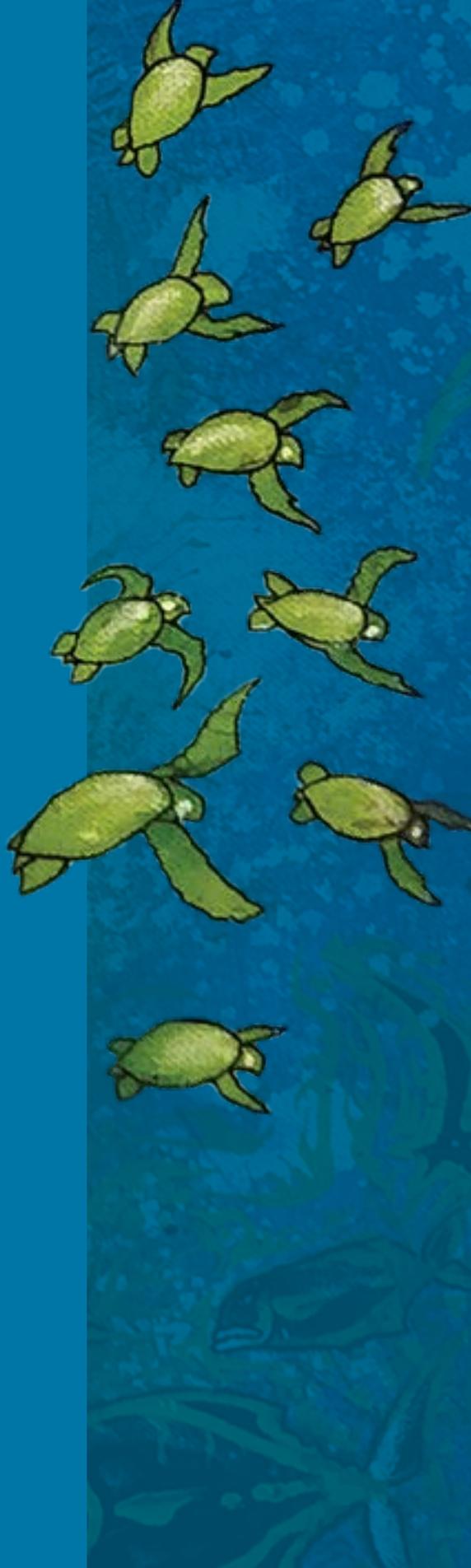
Vonda Malone
Chief Executive Officer



Case studies

The following case studies showcase outcomes that were achieved by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people and communities, with the support of the TSRA and its 8 programmes, in 2022–23.

Part 2 of this report provides more information about the performance of each TSRA programme.



Torres Strait *Baydham* artwork featured on a search and rescue aircraft

Artwork featuring a shark designed by Badu Island artist Michael Nona is now flying high on an Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) rescue aircraft.

The Cairns-based Bombardier Challenger jet is a critical part of AMSA's search and rescue fleet in Australia.

The TSRA's Culture, Art and Heritage programme assisted AMSA in the search for regional artists to design a feature piece for the new aircraft. The mission was to find artwork that acknowledged the rich, enduring history and guardianship of the oceans by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal peoples.

At the time, Mr Nona had 2 potentially competing projects. The top priority was to support his partner in the lead-up to the safe birth of their twin babies. The second was to produce the AMSA design. Determined to do both, he sketched the winning design over a couple of weeks at his partner's bedside, using just a pen and a small pocket notebook.

Mr Nona's shark design, which is known as *Baydham* in Kala Lagaw Ya language, was officially launched on the AMSA aircraft in March 2023. Sharks are an important symbol in the Torres Strait region. Known as the protectors of the reef, they play a vital role in maintaining balance in the sea.

The design was inspired by the linocut technique and the detailed, black and white print it produces. The hand-drawn sketch was digitised and magnified to a scale of 2.80 metres by 2.84 metres. Digitising the hundreds of intricate lines and details took around 45 hours, and a further 2 days were required to apply the design to the aircraft.

Now a full-time fly-in, fly-out worker in Central Queensland and a father of 2, Mr Nona hopes his design will inspire future generations to

practise and promote Torres Strait art and culture. The design on the AMSA aircraft is Mr Nona's first large-scale commercial artwork.

This flying tribute to Torres Strait Islander culture is an example of the TSRA's Culture, Art and Heritage programme's key activity: maintaining culture, art and heritage by supporting an active and sustainable arts and craft industry in the region; integrating cultural values and protocols into service planning and management practice; and preserving and promoting cultural heritage and histories of the region.



Badu artist Michael Nona with the jet carrying his design, at the launch in March 2023.

(Image: Brock Williams, Leidos Airborne Solutions)



First electrical contracting business in the region to be owned and operated by a Torres Strait Islander woman

When Diane Sabatino completed her electrical apprenticeship in 2016, she did not know that she would be the first Torres Strait Islander woman to start her own electrical contracting company in the region.

Mrs Sabatino wanted to achieve her dream of starting an electrical contracting company on Badu to create local employment and provide an essential service to local communities and other businesses.

While juggling family responsibilities, she completed the TSRA's 3-part You Sabe Business workshop series. Her journey continued when she successfully applied for a TSRA Business Growth Package (BGP), based on the strong demand for electrical services in the Torres Strait region.

In 2023, Mrs Sabatino established her business, Torres Strait Electrical. She said the process had been challenging.

'I could not have done it without the TSRA. It was a marathon not a sprint but, having gone through the whole process with the TSRA, I can definitely say it was worth it.'

'I am the first Torres Strait Islander woman to operate my own electrical contracting business in the region and my goal is to create employment opportunities to keep the next generation here *lor ples* (at home), because without them we have no future,' she said.

Torres Strait Electrical offers electrical installations, repairs, maintenance, and test and tag services. The new business has the full support of family and community to ensure its success.

In 2023–24, Mrs Sabatino will be employing a full-time, Indigenous electrical apprentice based on Badu. Her aim is to build a local Indigenous workforce providing electrical services to all Torres Strait communities.

Supporting Mrs Sabatino to develop and start her own business is an example of the TSRA Economic Development programme's key activity: increasing economic development by improving the commercial capability of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region; ensuring affordable home ownership is available across the region; and providing access to capital for commercially viable businesses.



*Diane Sabatino, owner and operator of Torres Strait Electrical, at work on Badu Island.
(Image: Torres Strait Electrical)*

Torres Strait Islander marine biologist bridging the gap between science and traditional ecological knowledge

A young female scientist from the remote Torres Strait Island of Iama is making big waves in marine biology.

In September 2022, Madeina David joined the top achievers at James Cook University (JCU), winning its College of Science and Engineering Award for Early Career Outstanding Alumni. Ms David graduated from the university with a Bachelor of Science in 2021.

The TSRA has been proud to support Ms David's career. The former school captain of Tagai State College (located on Waiben) became a TSRA cadet and was able to 'learn and earn' on the job while studying at JCU. She is now a senior natural resource management officer in the TSRA's Land and Sea Management Unit.

Working on projects within the TSRA's Environmental Management programme, Ms David is using her expertise to connect traditional knowledge and western science. She is also inspiring the next generation of Torres Strait Islander scientists to protect and preserve local marine environments, including the Great Barrier Reef.

Ms David manages activities such as coral monitoring, turtle tagging, training rangers in seagrass monitoring, and mentoring students at her former high school. She also works with advanced technologies – such as drones, artificial intelligence and eDNA – that are used to monitor land and sea from remote island communities.

Having grown up in a fishing family, Ms David understands how critical oceans are to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people.



Madeina David receiving her College of Science and Engineering Award for Early Career Outstanding Alumni from James Cook University.

She credits her parents with teaching her the importance of the marine environment and its connection to their lives and identity.

'Being able to understand and translate complex science and data in local language is helping bridge the gap between western science and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). This increases the likelihood of a healthy, sustainable future for our ocean and Torres Strait marine species,' Ms David said.

The TSRA's support of Ms David's success is an example of:

- » the Environmental Management programme's key activity – improving environmental management by strengthening sustainable use, protection and management of natural and cultural resources; facilitating community adaptation to climate change impacts, including sea level rise; and supporting community sustainable horticulture
- » the Governance and Leadership programme's key activity – enhancing governance and leadership by strengthening Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal organisational leadership and governance.



Earthshot global award recognising the Queensland Indigenous Women's Ranger Network

It was a proud moment for 5 female TSRA rangers when they joined their colleagues from the Queensland Indigenous Women's Ranger Network to accept the Revive our Oceans Earthshot Prize for 2022.

Founded by the Prince of Wales and supported by a global alliance of organisations, the Earthshot Prize awards were established to reward and accelerate extraordinary solutions to environmental challenges. The awards span 5 categories – protect and restore nature, clean our air, revive our oceans, build a waste-free world, and fix our climate. Each award includes a grant of 1 million British pounds.

Alicia Sabatino, Ranger Planner – People and Country in the TSRA's Environmental Management programme, was part of the group who travelled to Brisbane for the award presentation in February 2023.

Ms Sabatino said that the international recognition provided by the Earthshot Prize was an important opportunity to challenge gender stereotypes and encourage more women to become rangers.

'The Earthshot Prize celebrates, on a world stage, contributions of First Nations female

rangers in caring for land and sea across Queensland, including the Torres Strait,' Ms Sabatino said.

'We are proud to represent our region and be part of a statewide network of strong women, keeping Country strong.'

The Queensland Indigenous Women's Ranger Network is aiming to ensure that the next generation of female Indigenous rangers holds the knowledge, skills and conservation tools needed to better manage the Great Barrier Reef, which includes the northernmost reefs of the Torres Strait.

The TSRA ranger program is an example of the TSRA Environmental Management programme's key activity: improving environmental management by strengthening sustainable use, protection and management of natural and cultural resources; facilitating community adaptation to climate change impacts, including sea level rise; and supporting community sustainable horticulture.



Strong women, strong rangers: the TSRA members of the Queensland Indigenous Women's Ranger Network. Pictured left to right: Merelsa Wailu, Alice Manas, Loretta Glanville, Ethel Anau, and Alicia Sabatino.

High-value sea cucumber fishery marking successful regeneration and boosting the Torres Strait economy

More than 150 Traditional Inhabitant Boat (TIB) Licence holders, with exclusive access rights, harvested the high-value sea cucumber species ‘black teatfish’ in 2023, as the fishery was formally reopened after several years of trials.

The 20-tonne allowable catch limit was reached in the period spanning 15–18 May 2023 and generated a significant financial boost for the region, earning hundreds of thousands of dollars for the licence holders and the local economy.

One of the most highly-valued sea cucumber species in the Indo-Pacific region, black teatfish are in global demand, particularly across Asia. They are sold dried and processed as bêche-de-mer, primarily to luxury food markets.

The Torres Strait black teatfish fishery is managed by the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA), which is responsible for the management of commercial and traditional fishing in the Australian area of the Torres Strait Protected Zone and designated adjacent Torres Strait waters.

Black teatfish occur in coral reef habitats in the Indian Ocean, most commonly in reef flats and outer reef slopes. Black teatfish are non-migratory and relatively sedentary, with slow growth rates, and therefore vulnerable to overfishing.

The black teatfish fishery season was closed to commercial licence holders as part of a long-term plan developed by local communities, scientists and industry to support species regeneration. However, trial seasons were conducted in recent years (including in May 2022) to ensure stocks were at healthy levels and could sustain the reopening of a commercial season.

As a PZJA partner, the TSRA proudly supported the key stakeholder consultations to lift the closure, including a bêche-de-mer industry workshop on Ngurapai in May 2023.

The positive outcome has demonstrated how Torres Strait stakeholders, working together, can support a sustainable fishing industry by combining TEK with western science.

This project aligns with the TSRA Fisheries programme’s key activity: improving the use of fisheries by implementing commercially and environmentally sustainable strategies to increase Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal ownership of the local fishing industry.



On the water: Genes Passi and Gibson Passi sitting alongside a harvest of the high-value sea cucumbers.

Milestone year for the Torres Strait Major Infrastructure Programme

In 2023, the Torres Strait Major Infrastructure Programme (MIP) reached a significant milestone: 25 years of delivering major environmental health infrastructure projects in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area to improve the health of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people.

The MIP is the TSRA's flagship health infrastructure development initiative. Funded by the Australian Government and the Queensland Government, the MIP has delivered 130 projects, collectively valued at more than \$300 million, since it was established in 1998. This included \$30 million worth of projects delivered in MIP Stage 6, between 2017–18 and 2022–23.

All 12 high-priority regional projects in MIP Stage 6 were completed. These included essential upgrades to existing infrastructure, including Bamaga sewage ponds; sewage pump and/or treatment station refurbishments (Kubin, St Pauls, Erub, Waiben and Boigu communities); installation of a replacement pipe to better manage effluent water ocean outfall on Saibai; and a new Northern Peninsula Area Regional Waste Facility.



Funded by \$6 million from the Major Infrastructure Programme, the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Waste Facility preserves environmental values, improves environmental health outcomes and boosts landfill storage capacity.

These essential-to-life infrastructure projects are important in reducing disease and death arising from preventable illnesses such as hepatitis, gastrointestinal diseases, eye infections, skin infections and upper and lower respiratory tract infections, including pneumonia. The 1993 *Torres Strait Health Strategy* outlined how health problems in the region were exacerbated by poor quality and quantity of water, sewerage and waste disposal systems. In 1997, many Torres Strait Island communities still had no flushing toilets, sewerage systems, or reliable drinking water supply.

MIP funding is administered through a memorandum of understanding between the TSRA and the Queensland Government through the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

An independent review of MIP Stage 6, completed in 2022–23, found that the MIP's objectives had been successfully met or exceeded. Future MIP projects are being considered and negotiations are progressing for future MIP funding commitments.

The successful completion of MIP Stage 6 is a significant outcome aligned to the TSRA Regional Infrastructure programme's key activity: improving regional infrastructure by investing in whole-of-government infrastructure to support healthy homes and healthy living environments; and ensuring communities have access to appropriate transport infrastructure.

OUR ORGANISATION

Role

The TSRA is an Australian Government statutory body established to represent the interests of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait and the communities of Bamaga and Seisia in the Northern Peninsula Area of Queensland.

Under the direction of an Indigenous elected representative board, the TSRA has responsibilities to develop policy, implement programmes and coordinate service delivery for the benefit of the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people of the region.

Legislation

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 objects of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), as set out in section 3, are:

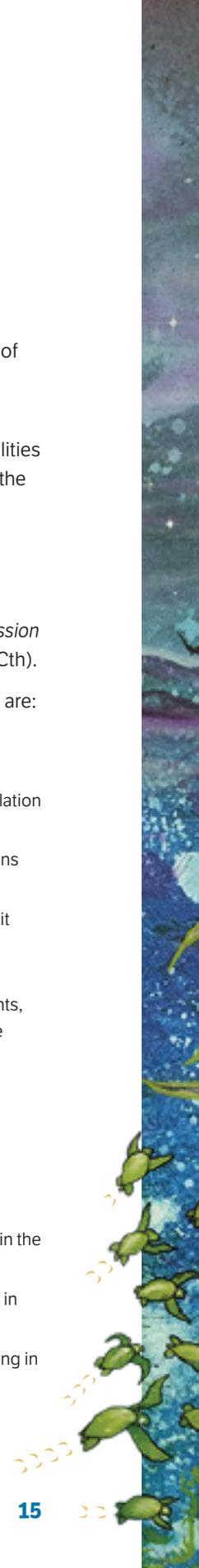
... in recognition of the past dispossession and dispersal of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their present disadvantaged position in Australian society:

- (a) to ensure maximum participation of Aboriginal persons and Torres Strait Islanders in the formulation and implementation of government policies that affect them;
- (b) to promote the development of self-management and self-sufficiency among Aboriginal persons and Torres Strait Islanders;
- (c) to further the economic, social and cultural development of Aboriginal persons and Torres Strait Islanders; and
- (d) to ensure co-ordination in the formulation and implementation of policies affecting Aboriginal persons and Torres Strait Islanders by the Commonwealth, State, Territory and local governments, without detracting from the responsibilities of State, Territory and local governments to provide services to their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents.

Functions

The functions of the TSRA, as outlined in section 142A(1) 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 programs for Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (c) to monitor the effectiveness of programs for Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area, including programs 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;
- (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.

Accountability

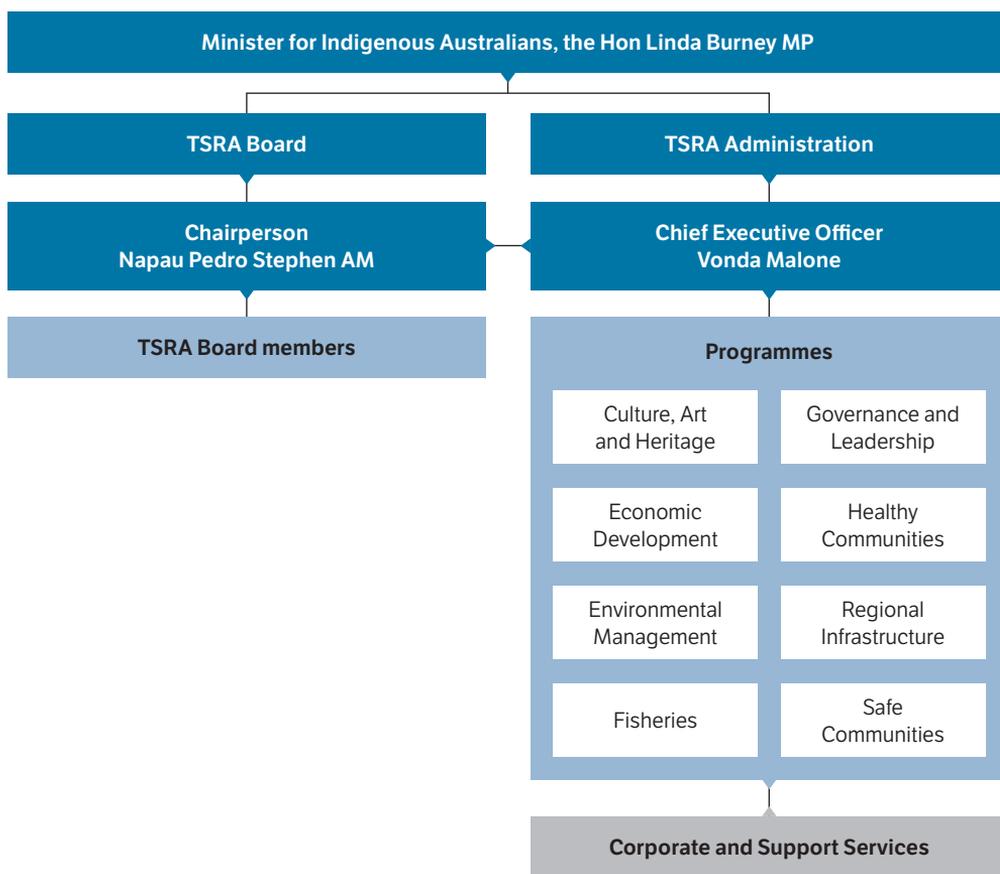
As Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Linda Burney MP was the minister responsible for the TSRA throughout 2022–23.

The TSRA Board is the accountable authority of the TSRA for the purposes of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth).

Structure

The TSRA has 2 arms – the TSRA Board and the TSRA Administration – as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 TSRA organisational structure at 30 June 2023



Board

The TSRA Board is the political arm of the TSRA and determines the TSRA's strategic vision, policies and budget allocations. It consists of 20 elected members who are Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region. Details of current board members and board activities are provided in the 'TSRA Board' section of this report.

Administration

The Minister for Indigenous Australians appoints the CEO, who works in close consultation with the Chairperson and other board members to implement board decisions. Vonda Malone was appointed as CEO on 1 May 2022. TSRA Administration staff are employed under the *Public Service Act 1999* (Cth).

To support the delivery of the TSRA's functions, and to achieve its purpose and outcome, the administrative arm is structured into 8 programmes with defined accountabilities and responsibilities. Together, the programmes contribute to the fulfilment of the TSRA's vision.

Measures relating to programme activities are used to assess the overall performance of the TSRA, as detailed in the 'Performance reporting framework' section of this report.

Stakeholders

The TSRA seeks to maintain strong relationships locally, nationally and internationally across government, community, business and non-profit sectors. These relationships are central to the TSRA's capacity to deliver its policies and programmes in an effective and culturally appropriate manner that aligns with stakeholder need.

Maintaining strong relationships with the diverse Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal communities within the Torres Strait region, including the Northern Peninsula Area communities of Bamaga and Seisia, is pivotal to TSRA activities across all 8 programme areas.

The TSRA maintains respectful and mutually supportive relationships with regional stakeholders through a range of mechanisms. These include the presence of TSRA offices within the Torres Strait, regular community engagements and consultations, and the strategic oversight provided by the democratically elected TSRA Board. TSRA partnerships with Torres Strait communities enrich policy and programme decision-making and contribute to better outcomes for the region.

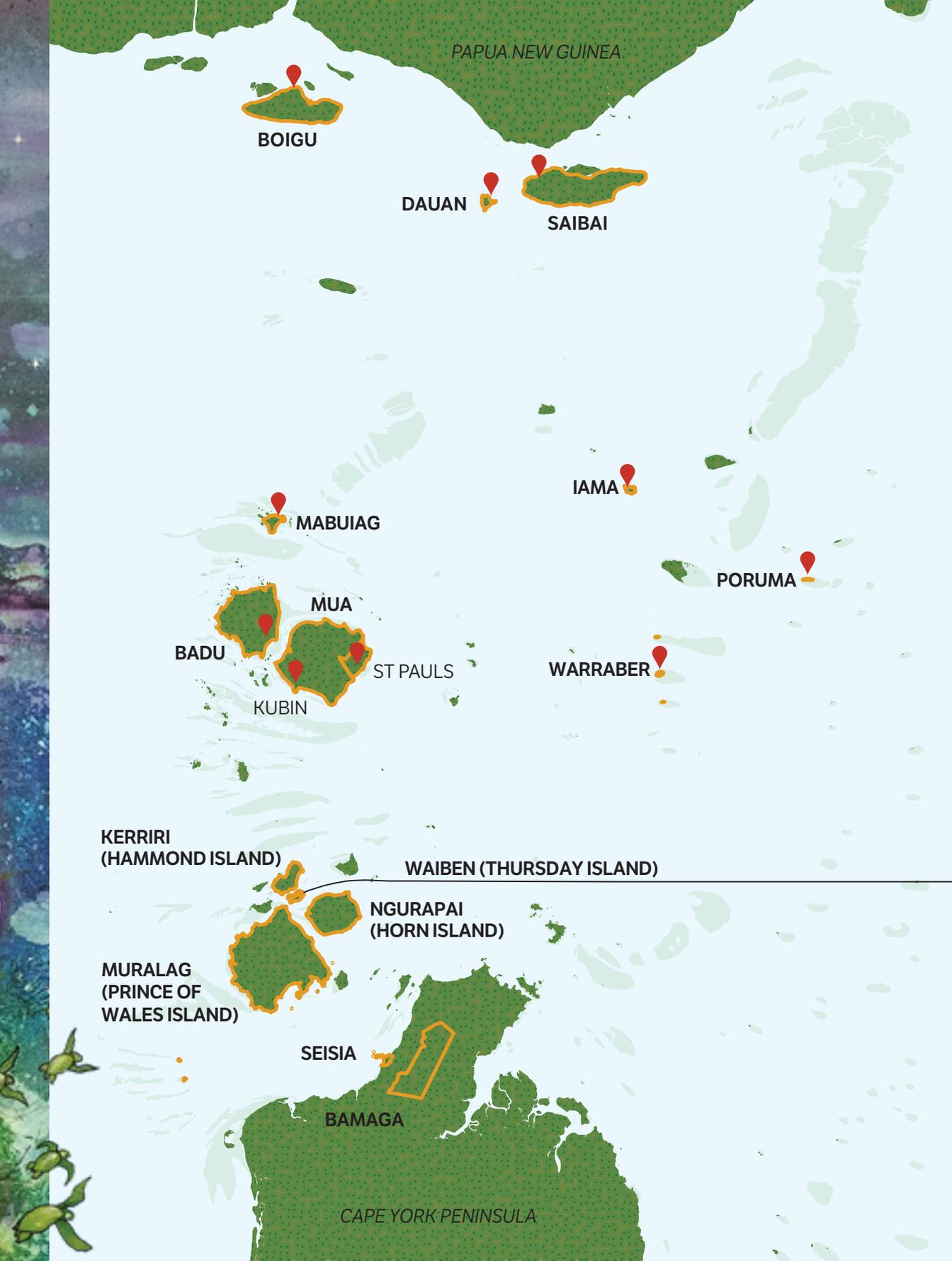
The TSRA plays an important role coordinating activities across all government jurisdictions, seeking to ensure that outcomes are well-planned and coherent, and to identify opportunities to leverage funding and resources from other agencies. Engaging closely with the NIAA, the TSRA's lead portfolio agency, is a key component of the TSRA's activities. The TSRA works across a broad range of state and local government agencies – particularly the Queensland Government, the Torres Shire Council, the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, and the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council – to deliver positive outcomes for Torres Strait communities.

Location

The TSRA delivers services across the Torres Strait region, including 17 inhabited islands and the communities of Bamaga and Seisia in the Northern Peninsula Area of mainland Australia. The TSRA's central office is located on Waiben. The TSRA also has a small office in Cairns.

The TSRA Board consists of 20 elected members who are Torres Strait Islander and/or Aboriginal peoples, each representing one of the 20 electoral wards shown in Figure 2.





PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BOIGU

DAUAN

SAIBAI

MABUIAG

IAMA

PORUMA

MUA

BADU

ST PAULS

KUBIN

WARRABER

KERRIRI
(HAMMOND ISLAND)

WAIBEN (THURSDAY ISLAND)

NGURAPAI
(HORN ISLAND)

MURALAG
(PRINCE OF
WALES ISLAND)

SEISIA

BAMAGA

CAPE YORK PENINSULA

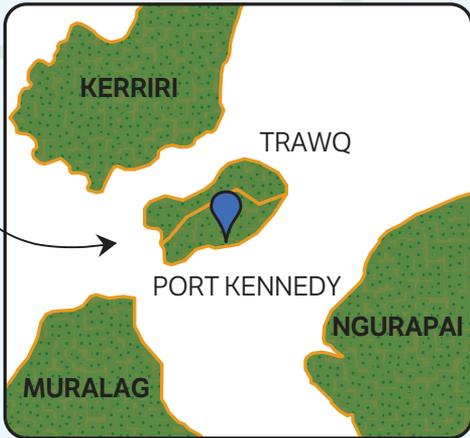
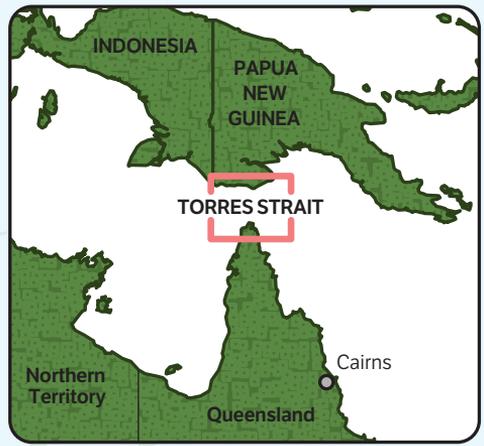


Figure 2 TSRA head office, ranger offices and electoral wards

-  TSRA Electoral Wards
-  Head Office
-  Ranger Office

Produced on 19/07/2023
Produced by M.S. TRC: GL 2023 001

Disclaimer: The data/map is provided in good faith under the Creative Commons Attribute 3.0 license. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information, the TSRA gives no warranties about its accuracy, reliability completeness or suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all responsibility and all liability for any loss, damage or costs which may be incurred as a result of the information being inaccurate, incomplete or misused in any way and for any reason. The TSRA requests attribution as - © Commonwealth of Australia (Torres Strait Regional Authority).







Part 2 – Annual performance statements

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STATEMENT OF PREPARATION

The TSRA Board, as the accountable authority of the TSRA, presents the 2022–23 annual performance statements of the TSRA, as required under paragraph 39(1)(a) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth).

In the board's opinion, these annual performance statements are based on properly maintained records, accurately reflect the performance of the entity, and comply with subsection 39(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth).



Napau Pedro Stephen AM
Chairperson
Torres Strait Regional Authority
6 September 2023

PERFORMANCE REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The TSRA's performance reporting framework is aligned with the Commonwealth Performance Framework, which was established as part of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth). The TSRA framework captures how the agency reports results achieved against its key activities, and how money from the allocated budget is administered.

In line with the Commonwealth Performance Framework and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth), the TSRA plans and tracks its performance for each financial year through the following corporate reporting documents:

- » portfolio budget statements that detail the proposed allocation of resources and provide high-level performance information for new and ongoing programmes
- » a corporate plan that sets out what the TSRA plans to achieve and how the outcomes of those plans will be measured and assessed
- » an annual report that contains performance statements that provide results and analysis of programme outcomes against the forecasts made in the portfolio budget statements and corporate plan for the reporting period.

The TSRA's performance reporting framework is aligned to the strategic objectives established under the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2019–2022*, which is required under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). The TSRA programme activities reported in the annual performance statements align with the projects and initiatives in the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2019–2022*.

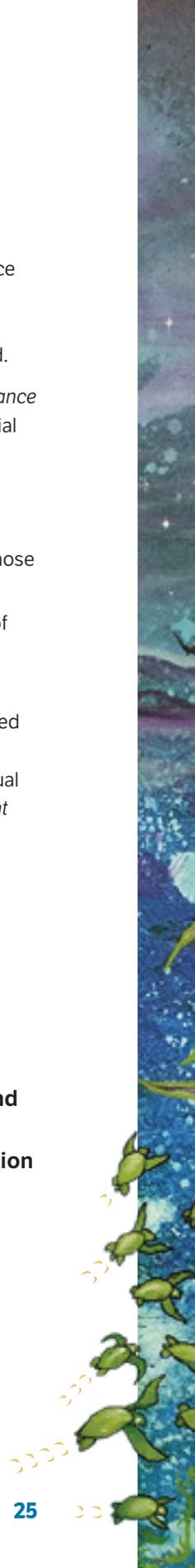
Outcome and purpose

The annual performance statements, published as part of the TSRA annual report, provide information about the results achieved towards meeting the TSRA's outcome as stated in the Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio Budget Statements. The TSRA's portfolio outcome for 2022–23 was:

Outcome 1: 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.

The outcome is also the TSRA's purpose, as stated in the *TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23*. The TSRA delivers key activities against this purpose through 8 programmes:

1. Culture, Art and Heritage
2. Economic Development
3. Environmental Management
4. Fisheries
5. Governance and Leadership
6. Healthy Communities
7. Regional Infrastructure
8. Safe Communities.



Annual performance statements structure

The TSRA's annual performance statements consist of 2 main components: a summary of the TSRA's performance, followed by a description of individual programme performance measures. This is structured to comply with subsection 39(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) and section 16F of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014 (Cth).

Detailed performance results and analysis are provided in each of the 8 programme sections. The report on each programme performance measure begins with a summary of the:

- » performance measure – a measure to assess whether the key activity of the programme has been achieved
- » performance methodology – the mechanism or process used to assess the achievement of the performance measure
- » performance target – a specific criterion used to measure achievement
- » data sources – information used as evidence of performance
- » measure source – the corporate reporting documents that set out the performance measure
- » performance result – an overall rating of achievement against the performance measure.

Following the summary, an analysis is presented that further explains performance. This analysis includes details about contextual factors that impacted the TSRA's achievements against the specified performance measure.

Assessing performance

Table 1 provides an overview of the rating system developed to assess the TSRA's performance in 2022–23. As well as defining the basis for rating the extent to which measures were achieved against established baselines or targets, the table also includes rating categories for performance measures that did not have baselines or targets specified for 2022–23.

Table 1 Performance rating categories

Rating category	Definition
Achieved	The performance measure and/or target was successfully achieved.
Substantially achieved	The achieved result was within 5% of the target or was achieved in full but not within the target timeframe.
Partially achieved	The result was within 25% of the target.
Not achieved	The performance measure and/or target was not achieved.
Baseline	A baseline for measuring achievement was established during the reporting period.
Progressing (no rating)	No target was set for the reporting period. Available evidence highlighted progress in achieving programme objectives. Data presented will inform targets and baselines for future reporting periods.

The *TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23* identified 4 performance measures for which a baseline was to be established during the reporting period. The TSRA Board endorsed baselining performance measures in 2022–23 to more clearly demonstrate the impacts of TSRA programmes in communities.

Another 4 of the performance measures specified within the corporate plan did not identify performance targets. For those measures, performance was assessed using available quantitative and/or qualitative evidence, which highlighted the significant progress the TSRA made in 2022–23.

While targets are not required under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth), the corporate plan for 2023–24 includes targets for all performance measures.

Data presented in the performance statement for each of these 8 performance measures has been used to inform targets and baselines for future reporting periods, as detailed in the analysis sections.



SUMMARY OF THE TSRA'S PERFORMANCE AGAINST ITS PURPOSE

In 2022–23, the TSRA had 12 performance measures to assess performance against the 8 key activities that were undertaken to achieve the agency's purpose.

Two of the 12 performance measures were achieved or substantially achieved. Performance measure 2.2 was achieved and performance measure 3.1 was substantially achieved.

Baselines for performance measurement in future reporting periods were set for 4 of the measures. Available evidence highlighted the effectiveness of the TSRA's performance against each of those measures in 2022–23 compared to previous reporting periods.

Four of the performance measures did not have performance targets in 2022–23. Available evidence showed that performance against those measures had made significant progress in 2022–23, and the measures were assessed as 'Progressing (no rating)'.

Performance measures 4.3 and 7.1 were not achieved. For measure 4.3, the transfer of the transition, ownership and management of fisheries to a locally owned and operated business structure was delayed due to complex fisheries management and compliance processes. For measure 7.1, milestones were not met because of delays in the approval of a multistakeholder action plan for regional infrastructure. The TSRA intends to continue working towards achieving these measures in 2023–24.

Some of the key contextual factors that impacted TSRA performance include its remote location, the involvement of complex and multifaceted interagency government structures, and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A summary of the achievement of the TSRA's performance measures in the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 is provided in Figure 3 and Table 2.

Figure 3 Summary of performance measures by assessment, 2022–23

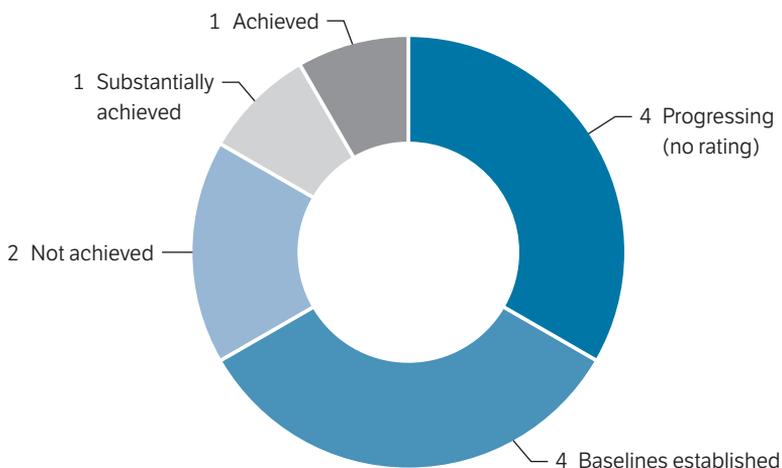


Table 2 Summary of performance, 2022–23

Programme name and key activity ¹	Performance measure ²	Target ³	Rating
<p>1. Culture, Art and Heritage</p> <p>Maintaining culture, art and heritage by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » supporting an active and sustainable arts and craft industry in the region » integrating cultural values and protocols into service planning and management practice » preserving and promoting cultural heritage and histories of the region. 	<p>1.1 Increase in the number of artists and growth of cultural practitioners in the industry</p>	<p>No target</p>	<p>Progressing (no rating)</p>
<p>2. Economic Development</p> <p>Increasing economic development by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » improving commercial capability of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region » ensuring affordable home ownership is available across the region » providing access to capital for commercially viable businesses. 	<p>2.1 Increasing the number of, or economic base of existing, Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal owned businesses through the provision of Business Growth and Mini Business Growth packages</p>	<p>Establish baseline</p>	<p>Baseline established</p>
<p>3. Environmental Management</p> <p>Improving environmental management by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » strengthening sustainable use, protection and management of natural and cultural resources » facilitating community adaptation to climate change impacts, including sea level rise » supporting community sustainable horticulture. 	<p>3.1 Maintaining current community-based management plans for each community and achieving annual service targets in each of those plans</p>	<p>On track for each community and meeting targets</p>	<p>Substantially achieved</p>



Table 2 Summary of performance, 2022–23 (cont.)

Programme name and key activity ¹	Performance measure ²	Target ³	Rating
<p>4. Fisheries</p> <p>Improving the use of fisheries by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » implementing commercially and environmentally sustainable strategies to increase Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal ownership of the local fishing industry. 	<p>4.1 Increase in the percentage of total allowable catch of finfish/tropical rock lobster caught by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal peoples in the region when compared to the previous period</p>	<p>Establish baseline</p>	<p>Baseline established</p>
	<p>4.2 Work towards and/or maintain 100% ownership of finfish and tropical rock lobster fisheries</p>	<p>Establish baseline</p>	<p>Baseline established</p>
	<p>4.3 Completion of the transition, ownership and management of fisheries assets to a locally owned and operated business structure</p>	<p>On track to meet transition milestones</p>	<p>Not achieved</p>
<p>5. Governance and Leadership</p> <p>Enhancing governance and leadership by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » strengthening Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal organisational leadership and governance. 	<p>5.1 Increasing the level of engagement of elected Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal leaders in policy development and decision-making</p>	<p>Establish baseline</p>	<p>Baseline established</p>
<p>6. Healthy Communities</p> <p>Improving community health and safety by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » implementing policies to support community managed delivery of primary and public health care services based on regional needs and priorities » improving access to affordable fresh and healthy foods. 	<p>6.1 Improved monitoring of the effectiveness of health services delivery in the region</p>	<p>No target</p>	<p>Progressing (no rating)</p>

Table 2 Summary of performance, 2022–23 (cont.)

Programme name and key activity ¹	Performance measure ²	Target ³	Rating
7. Regional Infrastructure Improving regional infrastructure by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » investing in whole-of-government infrastructure to support healthy homes and healthy living environments » ensuring communities have access to appropriate transport infrastructure. 	7.1 Implementation of the Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee's Action Plan	On track to meet action plan milestones	Not achieved
	7.2 Provide advocacy and support services for the delivery of identified infrastructure projects	No target	Progressing (no rating)
8. Safe Communities Improving community health and safety by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » investing in effective community and social services » supporting law enforcement and community safety programs. 	8.1 Improvement in the quality of and access to social and legal services	No target	Progressing (no rating)

1 Key activities set out in the *Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio Budget Statements 2022–23*.

2 Performance measures set out in the *Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio Budget Statements 2022–23* and the *TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23*.

3 Targets set out in the *TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23*.



1. CULTURE, ART AND HERITAGE

The key activity for the Culture, Art and Heritage programme, as outlined in the portfolio budget statements, is to maintain culture, art and heritage by:

- » supporting an active and sustainable arts and craft industry in the region
- » integrating cultural values and protocols into service planning and management practice
- » preserving and promoting cultural heritage and histories of the region.

Performance measure 1.1

Performance summary

Performance measure	Increase in the number of artists and growth of cultural practitioners in the industry
Methodology	Quantitative analysis of the growth in the numbers of artists and cultural events, and the utilisation of art centres
Target	No target
Data sources	Artist registers; art centre utilisation records; TSTLA traditional language strategy; TSRA grants administration systems; and Gab Titui Cultural Centre (GTCC) point of sale information, events/activities schedules, project information and register
Measure source	<i>Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio Budget Statements 2022–23</i> , p. 296; and <i>TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23</i> , p. 16
Performance result	Progressing (no rating) The following baselines have been established for future reporting periods: <ul style="list-style-type: none">» increase the number of active artists from the previous year (70 in 2022–23)» maintain the number of artistic and cultural events supported (50 in 2022–23)» maintain the 4 active art centres across the region, and utilisation of these art centres by artists, cultural practitioners, and visitors

Analysis

Performance measure 1.1 aims to increase the number of artists and support the growth of cultural practitioners in the Torres Strait.

The *TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23* did not specify performance targets or a measurement methodology for this performance measure. The TSRA analysed performance measure 1.1 by comparing previously reported data across 5 years (spanning the periods before, during and after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic).

The analysis used the following target metrics:

- » increase the number of active artists from the previous year
- » maintain the number of artistic and cultural events supported
- » maintain the number of active art centres across the region and utilisation of these art centres.

Analysis of available evidence highlighted the effectiveness of TSRA activities in 2022–23 against performance measurement 1.1 compared to previous reporting periods. A contributor to improvements in performance was the increase in movements of residents and visitors across the region following the easing of pandemic-related restrictions. The return of cruise ship stopovers to Waiben, and tourist arrivals from both the Northern Peninsula Area and the broader mainland, boosted tourism numbers and consequently increased the utilisation of art centres and revenue earned by artists and local businesses. This also expanded the reach of the region's artists and strengthened recognition of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal culture.

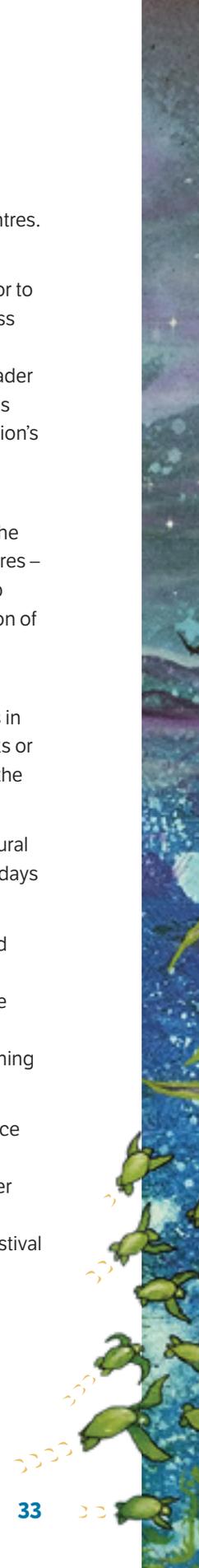
TSRA activities that supported local artists and cultural practitioners included retail art sales (online and point of sale), exhibitions and public programs. Events were also conducted at the TSRA-operated GTCC on Waiben, and in partnership with the 3 outer island regional art centres – Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh (Badu Art Centre), Ngalmun Lagau Minaral (Moa Arts), and Erub Erwer Meta (Erub Arts). The TSRA's support for these art centres extended to the continuation of the existing operational contribution, further ensuring their stability.

In 2022–23, total annual sales of \$330,099 from 16,795 items, inclusive of artwork, jewellery, craft and merchandise, were recorded – an increase compared to \$173,507 from 12,792 items in 2021–22. Around 85 artists and cultural practitioners engaged with GTCC to sell their artworks or products and participated in or facilitated workshops and activities. This compares to 60 in the previous period.

Community GTCC programs included workshops and activities facilitated by artists and cultural practitioners. Activities and events were themed around GTCC gallery initiatives, school holidays and days of cultural significance.

Over 40 art and cultural activities, facilitated by approximately 15 artists, collectively attracted more than 1,500 participants, including local community members and visitors across all age groups and genders. This was a decrease compared to 2021–22, when 50 activities were undertaken, facilitated by 20 artists with more than 2,000 participants. External community-related factors between April and June 2023 contributed to this decrease. Contingency planning is in place to manage such factors where possible in 2023–24.

Traditional and cultural dance is a vital cultural practice. The TSRA continued to support dance groups and other cultural initiatives through sponsorships and grants (see Appendix B). Torres Strait traditional dance groups performed at 2023 anniversaries of Torres Strait Islander Flag Day and Mabo Day, the Winds of Zenadth Cultural Festival on Waiben and nationally significant events in Melbourne, Perth, Darwin and Cairns. The Winds of Zenadth Cultural Festival occurs every second year, which may partially explain the increase in grant applications in 2022–23 compared to the previous year.





The Culture, Art and Heritage programme approved 10 new grant applications, up to a total value of \$299,875, for initiatives in exhibition development, music production, language maintenance and textile fashion (see Appendix B). This was an increase from 2021–22, when 3 grant applications were supported totalling \$73,950.

In addition, the TSRA approved funding of \$255,000 for 5 community events hosted by local councils to recognise and celebrate Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal days of significance for the region. These grants were approved under the new Regional Significant Cultural Events Grant Opportunity program. Three of the 5 events were held within the reporting period, with 2 events scheduled to occur in 2023–24.

The TSRA also supported traditional language preservation by assisting the TSTLA to reach milestone achievements in 2022–23, including the development of the association's first strategic business plan, which will cover 2023–25. The TSRA directly contributed towards the TSTLA's logistics and secretariat, and managed funding for the project in partnership with the Office for the Arts within the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

There are currently 65 artefacts of Torres Strait culture registered with GTCC, and over 50,000 artefacts in other private and collecting institutions. Regular dialogue continues between the TSRA and national and international institutions holding cultural artefacts and items of regional significance. This dialogue includes preservation standards, ethical custodianship, and cultural protocols for publicly exhibiting artefacts.

The Culture, Art and Heritage programme actively engaged with stakeholders throughout 2022–23. Approximately 30 partnerships with stakeholders – ranging from local councils and community organisations to national agencies and government departments – are currently in place to support artists and cultural traditions and assist in achieving common objectives for cultural preservation and art industry development.

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The key activity for the Economic Development programme, as outlined in the portfolio budget statements, is to increase economic development by:

- » improving commercial capability of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region
- » ensuring affordable home ownership is available across the region
- » providing access to capital for commercially viable businesses.

Performance measure 2.1

Performance summary

Performance measure	Increasing the number of, or economic base of existing, Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal owned businesses through the provision of Business Growth and Mini Business Growth packages
Methodology	Quantitative analysis of the number of business loans approved
Target	Establish baseline
Data sources	TSRA grants administration systems
Measure source	<i>Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio Budget Statements 2022–23</i> , p. 296; and <i>TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23</i> , p. 16
Performance result	Baseline established The baseline for future reporting periods has been established at 2 loans annually

Analysis

Performance measure 2.1 aims to increase the number of, or economic base of existing, Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal businesses through the provision of BGPs and Mini BGPs. This is measured by the number of business loans approved annually.

The *TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23* stated that the TSRA would establish a baseline for performance measure 2.1. The baseline was developed by analysing programme outcomes over a 5-year period, spanning periods before, during and after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. A baseline of 2 loans annually was set.



Low-interest business loans are offered through the TSRA's Business Funding Scheme and can be provided either as a standalone concessional loan or as part of a BGP. BGPs are focused within the fishing, tourism, and arts industries. BGPs can also be awarded to businesses that indirectly support any of those 3 industries through the delivery of essential services.

During 2022–23, 5 BGP applications were received. One loan was approved, which was less than the annual average. The loan approved in 2022–23 was in support of a BGP.

In 2022–23, economic pressures nationally and in the region, such as increased insurance costs and inflation, impacted loan applications. Complexity in securing land for business purposes also resulted in delays and additional expenses, creating barriers to progressing potential projects.

Performance measure 2.2

Performance summary

Performance measure	Improving business skills of potential and existing business owners through the provision of business workshops and business mentoring
Methodology	Quantitative analysis of the number of courses offered, number of attendees, and feedback on courses
Target	95% course satisfaction rate
Data sources	Course attendance records; course participant surveys; and facility bookings
Measure source	<i>Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio Budget Statements 2022–23</i> , p. 296; and <i>TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23</i> , p. 16
Performance result	Achieved

Analysis

The TSRA achieved performance measure 2.2, improving business skills of potential and existing business owners through the provision of business workshops and business mentoring. The 96% satisfaction rating from course participants exceeded the 95% target set in the *TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23*.

The lifting of COVID-19 travel restrictions has led to increased demand for courses, workshops and business development support. In 2022–23, the TSRA conducted 12 You Sabe Business courses on Waiben, with a total of 84 participants attending (and each participant attending 3 sessions). Following completion of the courses, participants continue to receive support from TSRA Economic Development Client Officers for 12 months.

The TSRA also provided 8 new and existing businesses with mentoring support. This was higher than the previous year's total of 6, but lower than pre-pandemic levels.

Over the course of 2022–23, the TSRA also supported Torres Strait businesses by:

- » funding 3 business clients to attend the Social Enterprise World Forum event held in Brisbane in September 2022
- » funding 3 local businesses to attend the World Indigenous Tourism Summit held in Perth in March 2023
- » renewing a memorandum of understanding with Indigenous Business Australia and Supply Nation that provides a framework for the TSRA to facilitate economic development requests that are outside of the TSRA's functions
- » partnering with Supply Nation to run an Indigenous Business Month event on Waiben in October 2022, to provide an opportunity for Supply Nation to deliver information about the products and services that it offers.

The TSRA also commenced a new partnership with the Queensland Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport. This partnership funded the positions of 2 tourism business development officers dedicated to supporting and growing the region's visitor economy and is a follow-on initiative from a previous TSRA tourism grant.

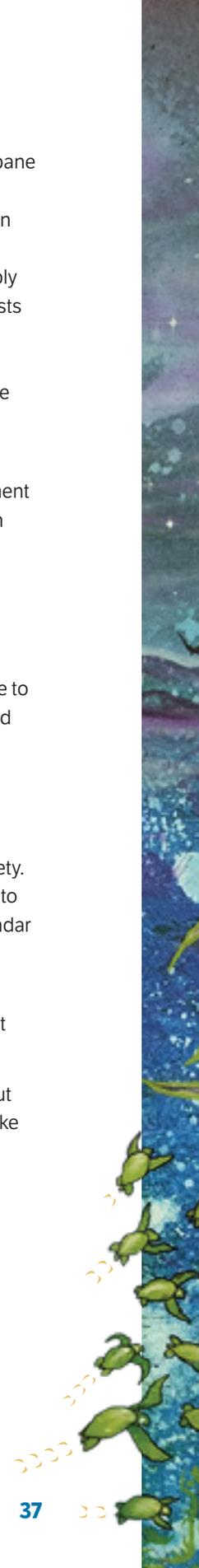
In 2022–23, the TSRA also supported employment in the Torres Strait region through marine safety and awareness training to provide entry pathways into the maritime sector. The 2 key projects were:

- » the Torres Strait Maritime Pathways Project, which provides adults with a coxswain licence to meet legislative requirements for commercial fishing. In 2022–23, 4 courses were delivered through the project (one on Masig, one on Saibai and 2 on Waiben) and 48 participants completed a Certificate II in Maritime Operations (Coxswain Grade 1 Near Coastal).
- » the Growing Our Own Tagai Transitions Maritime Project for senior high school students, which was delivered in partnership with Tagai State College and TAFE Queensland. In 2022–23, students undertook courses in maritime operations, first aid, and shipboard safety. Courses run in line with school years, meaning that 2023 calendar year data from January to June will be reported in 2023–24. Forty-two students completed courses in the 2022 calendar year, compared to 52 in the previous year.

The TSRA is the Community Development Program agreement manager for the region.

In 2022–23, 166 Community Development Program job seekers transitioned into employment from welfare, of whom 62 met all employment outcome milestones.

The TSRA did not approve any loans under its Home Ownership Program during 2022–23, but 2 existing home loan clients were supported to access their advance repayments to undertake minor home renovations.



3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The key activity for the Environmental Management programme, as outlined in the portfolio budget statements, is to improve environmental management by:

- » strengthening sustainable use, protection and management of natural and cultural resources
- » facilitating community adaptation to climate change impacts, including sea level rise
- » supporting community sustainable horticulture.

Performance measure 3.1

Performance summary

Performance measure	Maintaining current community-based management plans for each community and achieving annual service targets in each of those plans
Methodology	Quantitative analysis of the number of endorsed community-based management plans for each community and targets achieved
Target	On track for each community and meeting targets
Data sources	Register of Community Plans; NIAA Indigenous ranger program report tracking; and TSRA data management system
Measure source	<i>Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio Budget Statements 2022–23</i> , p. 296; and <i>TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23</i> , p. 17
Performance result	Substantially achieved

Analysis

The TSRA substantially achieved performance measure 3.1 to maintain current community-based management plans for each community and achieve the annual service targets that are specified in each of those management plans.

A community-based management plan is represented by each community's individual island-based TSRA ranger workplan. These are updated regularly based on changes associated with weather, cultural business and general operational factors. Feeding into these ranger workplans are sub-plans including TEK and biodiversity profile plans; dugong and turtle management plans; a climate adaptation and resilience plan (Masig); and Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) management plans (8 communities).

The TSRA maintained active ranger workplans for each of the 14 communities. There are an additional 47 sub-plans, resulting in a total of 61 community plans (inclusive of ranger workplans and sub-plans) as compared to 50 reported in 2021–22. The TSRA ranger workplans align to

the TSRA's *Land and Sea Management Strategy for Torres Strait 2016–2036*, which was produced under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth).

Performance measure 3.1 also specifies the achievement of annual service targets contained in community plans. Community-based activities with annual service targets are outlined in the TSRA ranger workplans. The TSRA substantially achieved the annual service targets, completing 95% of the activities contained within the workplans, working within the region-specific factors of weather and cultural priorities that may delay activities. This is evidenced by NIAA ranger activity reports, TSRA work task logs and GIS data management systems. Data collected in 2022–23 will contribute to the next TSRA State of the Environment Report Card, due to be released in 2026 in line with the national State of the Environment Report Card.

Indigenous Protected Areas

An IPA is a declaration of rights, interests and cultural values made by Traditional Owners. They are areas of land and sea Country managed by First Nations groups in accordance with Traditional Owners' objectives. IPAs are recognised by the Australian Government and form part of Australia's National Reserve System with other protected areas. Funding from the Natural Heritage Trust and the NIAA supported 2 IPA consultation activities and the management of 3 dedicated IPAs.

Community consultations were held in the central islands to consider 2 new IPA proposals that include islands surrounding Masig and Iama. When completed in 2023–24, this will bring the total number of Torres Strait IPAs to 5, including the 3 existing IPAs: Warraberalgal Porumalgal, Ugul Malu Kawal and Kala Lagaw (formerly Pulu). IPAs are an important part of community plans and each IPA can include one or more communities if the same culturally significant areas are shared.

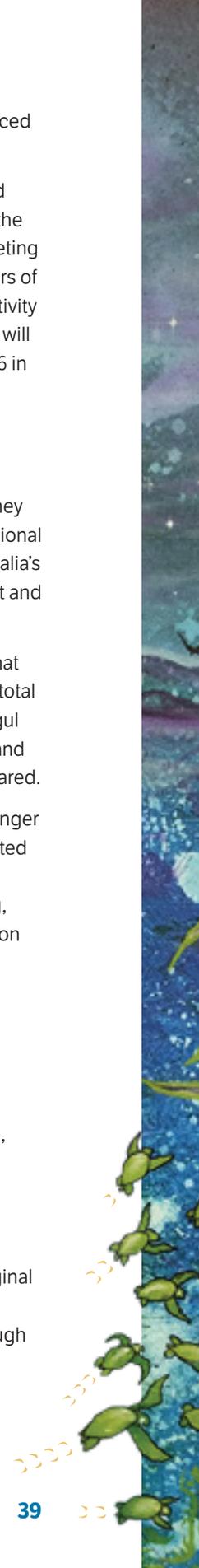
IPA management activities conducted in 2022–23 included advisory committee meetings, ranger training, ghost net removal, marine debris removal and island surveys. Surveys were conducted on 6 IPA islands: Ulu, Bara, Uttu, Yarpur, Bubui and Binnie. Traditional Owners accompanied these surveys, where rangers conducted fauna and flora surveys, hawksbill turtle monitoring, beach profiles, removal of marine debris and ghost nets, and weed eradication. TEK collection and storage continues to be an integral part of management activities.

Traditional ecological knowledge and information management

In 2022–23, Traditional Owners and TSRA rangers worked together to record, preserve, and manage access to culturally significant information. This information is collected and stored in a secure and confidential computer database knowledge repository, enabling the capture, storage, management, and controlled sharing of TEK.

Turtle and dugong management plans

Turtles and dugongs are a pivotal part of cultural identity for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people. The TSRA uses a community-based approach to the management of dugongs and marine turtles in the Torres Strait. This includes using traditional governance structures through cultural protocols to manage the sustainable traditional harvest of dugongs and turtles to achieve long-term conservation outcomes.





The plans are non-statutory and are supported through the Torres Strait Treaty's Traditional Inhabitant Meeting and the PZJA. The traditional take of turtles and dugongs is recognised as traditional fishery under the Torres Strait Treaty and is legislated through the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* (Cth). In partnership with Traditional Inhabitants, the TSRA continued to coordinate the 14 sustainable community-based dugong and turtle management plans on behalf of the PZJA. TSRA rangers actively support communities to implement these plans, which includes undertaking compliance training and carrying out monitoring, education and awareness-raising activities.

The plans now require a significant review and update. The TSRA will work closely with Malu Lamar (Torres Strait Islander) Corporation, the 21 prescribed bodies corporate across the region, and their respective communities on this work.

Climate change

During 2022–23, the TSRA continued to update the Torres Strait Regional Adaption and Resilience Plan following community consultations held in June 2022. The revised plan will support new and updated community-based climate adaptation and resilience plans.

The TSRA also continued to undertake coastal mapping, heat risk reporting and community resilience workshops throughout 2022–23, supported by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). These activities are contributing towards developing a climate change ecosystem model for the Torres Strait marine environment.

In the Budget announced in October 2022, the Australian Government allocated \$15.9 million of funding over 4 years to establish the Torres Strait Climate Centre of Excellence. As part of the establishment process, the TSRA assisted the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to facilitate a roundtable discussion with key stakeholders to mobilise resources. A draft memorandum of understanding between the TSRA and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water was progressed in 2022–23.

Research and education partnerships

During 2022–23, the TSRA continued strategic, high-benefit research partnerships with the Australian Institute of Marine Science and JCU's Centre for Tropical Water and Aquatic Ecosystem Research. These partnerships involved a range of monitoring and research exercises, as well as TSRA staff education and training.

TSRA rangers

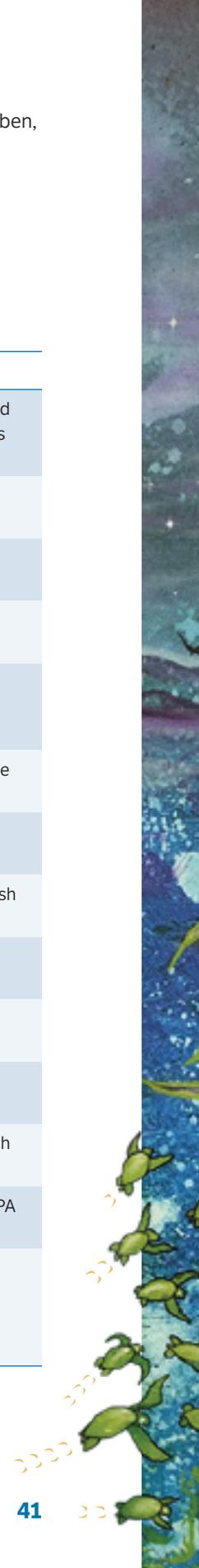
The TSRA ranger program continued through a 7-year (\$75 million) funding agreement with the NIAA that commenced in 2021. The agreement supports the employment of up to 60 full-time equivalent staff. The TSRA rangers worked closely with Traditional Owners, registered Native Title bodies corporate (RNTBCs), prescribed bodies corporate and other stakeholders, to deliver activities outlined in the ranger workplans.

The TSRA rangers also participated in BioCondition and regional ecosystem training on Waiben, funded through the Queensland Government’s Natural Resources Investment Program to continue legacy monitoring and capacity-building activities.

Table 3 provides an overview of key projects that were undertaken by rangers across the 14 communities in 2022–23.

Table 3 Key activities of TSRA rangers, 2022–23

Rangers in community	Key activities in community
Mura Badhulgal Rangers (Badu)	Weed eradication activities, cultural site maintenance activities, turtle and dugong community meetings, IPA activities, beach patrols, and seagrass monitoring activities
Malu Kiai Rangers (Boigu)	Biodiversity surveying, biocultural profiling, cultural site mapping, TEK activities, IPA activities, and weed eradication activities
Simakal Rangers (Dauan)	Weed eradication activities, community garden projects, IPA activities, and cultural site maintenance activities
Erubam Rangers (Erub)	School education using recycled pots for planting, toad detection activities, and uninhabited island clean ups
Iamagal Rangers (Iama)	Sacred site fence construction project, seagrass monitoring activities, IPA activities, weed eradication projects, and turtle and dugong community meetings
Mabuyigw Rangers (Mabuiag)	Seagrass monitoring activities, IPA surveys, and cultural site maintenance activities
Masigalgal Rangers (Masig)	Weed eradication activities, aquaponic nursery project, school horticulture project, and revegetation projects
Meriam Gesep Rangers (Mer)	Restoration of fish traps (Sai Arbir), TEK activities, crown-of-thorns starfish surveys, turtle and dugong monitoring, and education activities
Mua Lagalgau Rangers (Moa)	Beach clean-ups, crocodile management activities, and uninhabited island clean-ups and monitoring
Porumalgal Rangers (Poruma)	Backyard food gardens, community nursery development, community beautification projects, and IPA and TEK activities
Mura Buway Rangers (Saibai)	Historic cemetery restoration, multi-agency patrols, community garden projects, and IPA and TEK activities
Ugaram Rangers (Ugar)	Weed eradication projects, seagrass monitoring, crown-of-thorns starfish activities, and water well restoration project
Warraberalgal Rangers (Warraber)	Beach revegetation regeneration, community garden nursery projects, IPA surveys, uninhabited island shelter maintenance, and TEK activities
Kaurareg Rangers and support staff (Waiben)	Maintenance of land and sea Country in the Kaurareg archipelago, including weed management, cultural site management and marine debris collection Support for the ranger program



4. FISHERIES

The key activity for the Fisheries programme, as outlined in the portfolio budget statements, is to improve the use of fisheries by:

- » implementing commercially and environmentally sustainable strategies to increase Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal ownership of the local fishing industry.

Performance measure 4.1

Performance summary

Performance measure	Increase in the percentage of total allowable catch (TAC) of finfish/tropical rock lobster caught by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal peoples in the region when compared to the previous period
Methodology	Quantitative analysis of AFMA fish receivers licence reports and TAC advice
Target	Establish baseline
Data sources	AFMA fish receivers licence report and TAC percentage achieved
Measure source	<i>Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio Budget Statements 2022–23</i> , p. 296; and <i>TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23</i> , p. 16
Performance result	Baseline established The baseline for future reporting periods has been established at 20% finfish TAC and 55% tropical rock lobster TAC achieved by the TIB sector from the respective annual allocation

Analysis

Performance measure 4.1 aims to increase the percentage of the TAC of finfish (Spanish mackerel and coral trout) and tropical rock lobster caught by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region when compared to the previous period. The *TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23* stated that the TSRA would establish the baseline performance target for performance measure 4.1 in 2022–23.

The baseline was established at 20% of finfish TAC and 55% of tropical rock lobster TAC achieved by TIBs from the annual allocations. This was based on records over the previous 3 years.

The most recent proportions of TAC achieved were 20.1% of finfish TAC (July 2022 – February 2023) and 33.3% of tropical rock lobster TAC (December 2022 – July 2023). This was based on actual catch achieved and reflects the trend of reduced fishing effort evident over the past 3 years. The AFMA catch data used in this report reflects data available for individual species fishery seasons at the time of report compilation, and therefore may not include a full 12 months of data.

Commercial fishing by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people (the TIB sector) has a low uptake because of several factors, including limited onshore supply chain infrastructure, and high costs to purchase the required specialised assets (commercial boats).

The TSRA's recently redesigned Wapil Project is addressing these issues by facilitating options to increase fishing participation and supporting fishers to create more jobs, business growth and income. The Wapil Project plan reflects an extensive TSRA community consultation with stakeholders across the Torres Strait, including a review workshop held in March 2023 to present consultation findings, collect additional input and feedback, and present preliminary ideas.

Performance measure 4.2

Performance summary

Performance measure	Work towards and/or maintain 100% ownership of finfish and tropical rock lobster fisheries
Methodology	Quantitative analysis of PZJA records of fishing rights
Target	Establish baseline
Data sources	PZJA records of fishing rights; measures against roadmap milestones (Fisheries Advisory Committee Action Plan); and TSRA secretariat documentation
Measure source	<i>Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio Budget Statements 2022–23</i> , p. 296; and <i>TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23</i> , p. 16
Performance result	Baseline established The baseline for future reporting periods has been established at 100% finfish fishery ownership and 66% tropical rock lobster fishery ownership by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people of the region

Analysis

Performance measure 4.2 is for the TSRA to work towards and/or maintain 100% ownership of finfish and tropical rock lobster fisheries. The *TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23* stated that the TSRA would establish the baseline performance target for performance measure 4.2 in 2022–23.

The baseline has been established at 100% finfish fishery ownership and 66% tropical rock lobster fishery ownership by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people of the region. This is based on previous annual data, which has remained consistent over recent years.



Into the future, increasing the current 66% tropical rock lobster fishery ownership would require very high (materially significant) government budget allocation. The TSRA Fisheries programme continues to monitor this fishery and provide advice on any changes to the current 34% non-Indigenous private ownership.

Of the fisheries owned by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people, lease-out arrangements are in place for allocations not commercially utilised by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people. The TSRA is acting as the temporary custodian of revenue generated from the lease-out of the region’s commercial fisheries. These funds are held in trust (see p. 114). As soon as practical, and subject to PZJA agency support and legal advice, the TSRA will transfer this revenue to a commercial Torres Strait entity to manage fisheries interests (see the report on performance measure 4.3 for more information).

To ensure greater participation of Traditional Owners and Traditional Inhabitants, the TSRA makes recommendations on fisheries management and policy for sustainable usage. The TSRA is a member of the PZJA and supports the various PZJA advisory committees. Eight fishery representative committees support the management of the PZJA’s fisheries portfolio. The TSRA Fisheries programme supports them by providing advice about fisheries-related issues and needs within the Torres Strait Protected Zone.

In 2022–23, the TSRA attended 12 PZJA-related meetings, key engagements, and workshops. The TSRA Chairperson participated in 4 virtual PZJA meetings and 4 virtual PZJA Standing Committee meetings.

The TSRA Fisheries Advisory Committee, composed of 7 TSRA Board members, developed the Fisheries Workplan 2022–2024, which encompasses 14 deliverables to support achievement of the Fisheries programme performance measures. The Fisheries Advisory Committee met 7 times in 2022–23 to provide input into the Wapil Project review and regulatory changes impacting marine shipping. It also met twice in its role as the Finfish Quota Management Committee, to review the quota for finfish commercial catch and make recommendations to the board.

Performance measure 4.3

Performance summary

Performance measure	Completion of the transition, ownership and management of fisheries assets to a locally owned and operated business structure
Methodology	Qualitative assessment of achievement of key project/transition milestones
Target	On track to meet transition milestones
Data sources	Fisheries programme work plan
Measure source	<i>Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio Budget Statements 2022–23</i> , p. 296; and <i>TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23</i> , p. 16
Performance result	Not achieved

Analysis

The *TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23* commits the TSRA to achieve key milestones to transition ownership and management of fisheries assets to a locally owned and operated business structure.

The TSRA did not achieve performance measure 4.3. While the TSRA's fisheries assets continue to be held in trust and there have been delays, work has continued to progress towards local ownership and operation.

The TSRA will continue to consult with Torres Strait PZJA agencies and obtain legal advice on the transfer of fisheries assets, including catch allocations and commercial licenses. This work has faced delays because of complex, multilayered Torres Strait fisheries management arrangements and government compliance processes.



5. GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

The key activity for the Governance and Leadership programme, as outlined in the portfolio budget statements, is to enhance governance and leadership by:

- » strengthening Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal organisational leadership and governance.

Performance measure 5.1

Performance summary

Performance measure	Increasing the level of engagement of elected Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal leaders in policy development and decision-making
Methodology	Quantitative analysis and qualitative assessment of TSRA Chairperson and/or TSRA Board engagements and leadership program support
Target	Establish baseline
Data sources	TSRA secretariat documentation and TSRA grants administration systems
Measure source	<i>Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio Budget Statements 2022–23</i> , p. 296; and <i>TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23</i> , p. 17
Performance result	Baseline established The baselines for future reporting periods have been established at: <ul style="list-style-type: none">» 7 ministerial meetings with the TSRA Chairperson and/or TSRA Board» TSRA support for 3 leadership programs, including the Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP), a youth leadership program and tertiary scholarships

Analysis

Performance measure 5.1 aims to increase the level of engagement of elected Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal leaders in policy development and decision-making. The *TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23* stated that the TSRA would establish the baseline performance target in 2022–23.

Based on data from previous years, a baseline target was set for 7 ministerial meetings with the TSRA Chairperson and/or TSRA Board. Eleven such meetings occurred in 2022–23.

The baseline for the number of leadership programs supported by the TSRA was set at 3, based on its longstanding support of the ARLP, a youth leadership program, and tertiary scholarships. In 2022–23, outcomes aligned with the baseline targets established for future reporting periods.

Board engagement

Several official visits, including a visit by the Prime Minister of Australia, were made to the Torres Strait during 2022–23. The TSRA Board members also continued to engage directly with their communities to share updates and receive feedback.

Communities and the broader Australian public received TSRA updates through media platforms including Facebook, the TSRA website, *Torres News*, and the Torres Strait Islander Media Association (TSIMA) (Radio 4MW).

In 2022–23, the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Alternate Deputy Chairperson and other board members participated in and/or hosted 11 engagements at the ministerial level, supported by the TSRA CEO and senior staff members. Key dialogues continued with parliamentarians, including the Prime Minister and Australian Government ministers, and the Queensland Premier and Queensland Government ministers.

Leadership programs

In 2022–23, the TSRA continued to offer leadership programs through Assistance with Tertiary Education Scheme scholarships, supporting students both on campus and online. Participation in the scheme increased by over 50% this year, with 11 scholarships awarded, compared to 7 in 2021–22. In 2022–23, supported students were enrolled in studies such as nursing, arts, environmental practice, physiology, education, midwifery, architecture, and urban design.

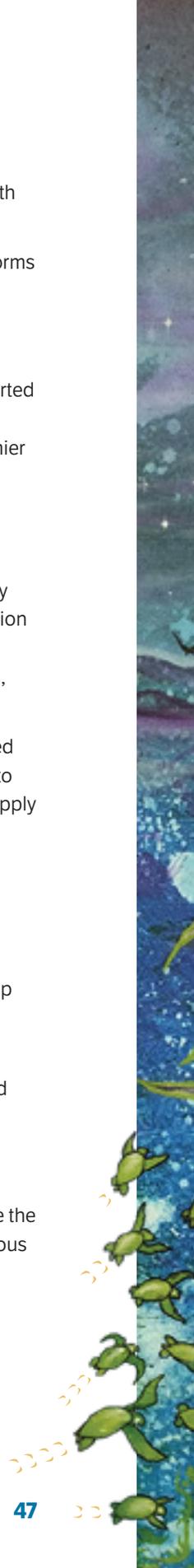
To improve education and leadership outcomes for the Torres Strait region, the TSRA modified the scheme eligibility criteria in 2022–23. This change allows existing scholarship recipients to receive ongoing support based on satisfactory academic records, rather than needing to reapply for support annually.

The TSRA contributed \$50,000 in sponsorship funding for the TSRA Member for Warraber, Mrs Iris Billy, to participate in the ARLP. Mrs Billy applied directly to the ARLP and was independently selected by the program panel, with the TSRA providing the sponsorship as part of an ongoing arrangement. To date, the TSRA has funded more than 10 Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal participants based in the region to undertake the 15-month leadership development course.

Four students from Tagai Secondary Campus attended a 3-day leadership conference in Townsville with support from the TSRA for registration costs. The annual conference provided students with an opportunity to build leadership capacity, explore their potential and strive for excellence.

During the Prime Minister's visit, in August 2022, the TSRA invited 30 Torres Strait Islander women and female children to attend a ministerial breakfast event to recognise and celebrate the achievements of local First Nations women. Attendees also met with the Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Linda Burney MP, and Queensland Senator Nita Green, on Ngurapai.

The TSRA continued to build relationships and work with women leaders and local women's groups to build greater leadership capacity in the Torres Strait.



Broadcasting to support community connection

In 2022–23, the TSRA committed \$2,687,500 over 3 years in operational funding to the TSIMA. This will cover the wages and on-costs for a total of 9 positions.

The TSRA Board supported local broadcasting with its first official visit to the TSIMA studios in 2022. The visit strengthened stakeholder relationships, with board members gaining a greater understanding of TSIMA broadcasting technologies, including internet streaming, and experiencing the state-of-the-art recording studio.

TSIMA is part of the Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Service and supports broadcasters on the outer islands.

6. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The key activity for the Healthy Communities programme, as outlined in the portfolio budget statements, is to improve community health and safety by:

- » implementing policies to support community managed delivery of primary and public health care services based on regional needs and priorities
- » improving access to affordable fresh and healthy foods.

Performance measure 6.1

Performance summary

Performance measure	Improved monitoring of the effectiveness of health services delivery in the region
Methodology	Quantitative analysis and qualitative assessment of the scale and nature of TSRA activities focused on understanding health needs and outcomes
Target	No target
Data sources	TSRA secretariat documentation; TSRA grants administration systems; and calendar of community events/stakeholder engagements
Measure source	<i>Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio Budget Statements 2022–23</i> , p. 296; and <i>TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23</i> , p. 17
Performance result	Progressing (no rating) The following baselines have been established for future reporting periods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » participation in health committees, forums, and government meetings » engagement with communities and community organisations for health projects » strategic partnerships to monitor and support access to fresh, affordable and healthy food

Analysis

Performance measure 6.1 aims to improve monitoring of the effectiveness of health services delivery in the region. The *TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23* did not specify performance targets or a measurement methodology for this performance measure.



The TSRA analysed performance measure 6.1 by comparing previously reported data across 5 years (spanning periods before, during and after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic). The analysis used the following metrics:

- » participation in health committees, forums, and government meetings
- » engagement with communities and community organisations for health projects
- » strategic partnerships to monitor and support access to fresh, affordable and healthy food.

In 2022–23, the TSRA made progress in enhancing the effectiveness of its approach to monitoring health service delivery in the region against those metrics.

These activities are undertaken in direct response to the higher rates of mortality and health issues in the Torres Strait population compared to the broader Australian population. While the TSRA does not directly deliver health services, the agency plays a pivotal role within the Torres Strait region through the optimisation of external funding, effective advocacy, and strategic stakeholder engagement.

Participation in health committees, forums and government meetings

The TSRA's engagement with diverse community, government, health, and research stakeholders ensured that policy and programme decision-making were effectively informed by relevant expertise and experience. These activities allowed the TSRA to monitor and rapidly respond to emerging health priorities.

Throughout 2022–23, the TSRA effectively advocated for better health outcomes in the region through participation in interagency forums, involving all tiers of government, such as Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Partnership meetings.

The TSRA continued to engage with a diverse range of regional stakeholders to support health initiatives, including the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service, Gur A Baradharaw Kod, local councils, and community organisations.

In February 2023, the TSRA hosted the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Healthy Communities Forum to consider the region's health and wellbeing priorities, from preventative health to the patient journey. Community representatives, Elders, regional leaders, health industry experts and other stakeholders provided input to inform future TSRA investments. Key recommendations from the forum highlighted the importance of:

- » ongoing consultation and engagement with communities
- » strengthening Torres Strait regional input into government health strategy
- » improving the sustainability and suitability of community health programs and infrastructure.

Participation in these activities supported the TSRA to maintain a strong relationship with its key stakeholders, and to monitor ongoing developments affecting Torres Strait health outcomes and health service delivery.

Grants, sponsorship and funding

Healthy Communities programme grants are an important avenue through which the TSRA invests in, and maintains relationships with, health-focused community stakeholders from the Torres Strait region. In 2022–23, the programme approved 8 new grants and sponsorships which totalled \$166,385 (see Appendix B). All the grants were awarded to private sector non-profit organisations and supported projects promoting healthy lifestyles within the Torres Strait region.

By providing grant opportunities to organisations and projects that are initiated from within the Torres Strait, the Healthy Communities programme is well-equipped to remain responsive to the needs of the region. The TSRA actively monitors the health services that these community organisations and other organisations deliver.

Support for sporting activities

The TSRA provides operational funding to the Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association (TSYRSA). In 2022–23, the TSRA provided \$413,999 to TSYRSA to support regional sporting groups and sporting events and worked closely with event organisers and stakeholders to deliver on the aim of supporting healthy communities.

TSYRSA provided sport and recreation grants to encourage participation in a range of sporting and recreational activities, including sporting events at the state and national levels, and funded 6 major local sporting carnival events.

Strategic partnerships to support access to fresh, healthy and affordable food

In 2022–23, the TSRA maintained a strategic focus on fostering partnerships to support and monitor Torres Strait communities' access to fresh, healthy and affordable food. These partnerships leverage the organisational capacity, resources, and information available to diverse organisations, and help the TSRA to inform its approach to promoting healthy food consumption.

In March 2023, the Queensland Government convened the Cost of Living Summit: Torres Strait Islands and Northern Peninsula Area, on Waiben. The summit was a response to concerns raised during a Queensland Government Country Cabinet meeting held on Waiben in September 2022. The TSRA participated in the initial meeting and submitted a cost-of-living paper to the summit. The agency subsequently engaged with the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads to progress a regional freight subsidies commitment and will be supporting the summit's Local Food Security Strategy.

Other key stakeholder connections that the TSRA focused on in 2022–23 were:

- » a partnership with Community Enterprise Queensland – Islanders Board of Industry and Service seeking opportunities to address gaps in the availability and affordability of food. Further initiatives of this partnership are under consideration for 2023–24.
- » an ongoing relationship with Health and Wellbeing Queensland to guide regional service delivery for programs addressing healthy eating and diabetes. The TSRA is a member of Health and Wellbeing Queensland's statewide Gather + Grow program.

The TSRA's maintenance of key partner relationships will support the agency to continue monitoring and responding to regional health challenges through ensuring the availability of fresh and affordable food.



7. REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The key activity for the Regional Infrastructure programme, as outlined in the portfolio budget statements, is to improve regional infrastructure by:

- » investing in whole-of-government infrastructure to support healthy homes and healthy living environments
- » ensuring communities have access to appropriate transport infrastructure.

Performance measure 7.1

Performance summary

Performance measure	Implementation of the Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee's Action Plan
Methodology	Qualitative assessment of the achievement of key action plan milestones
Target	On track to meet action plan milestones
Data sources	Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee project management documentation; stakeholder feedback; and TSRA secretariat documentation
Measure source	<i>Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio Budget Statements 2022–23</i> , p. 296; and <i>TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23</i> , p. 17
Performance result	Not achieved

Analysis

Performance measure 7.1 is for the TSRA to implement the Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee Action Plan. The TSRA's performance for the measure is rated as 'not achieved', due to the action plan remaining unapproved at 30 June 2023.

The TSRA established the Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee in 2020–21, with the aim of providing strategic oversight to current and future regional infrastructure for the Torres Strait region.

The Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee has prepared the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area (Bamaga and Seisia) Regional Infrastructure Action Plan, which is awaiting final review and approval by stakeholders. The TSRA continued to engage with key stakeholders to progress aspects of the approval in 2022–23, including a meeting with 3 members of the committee. A further 3 meetings are scheduled for 2023–24.

The TSRA plans to continue engaging with stakeholders to ensure that strong regional infrastructure governance mechanisms are in place. Existing mechanisms include the Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and Other Projects Trust Fund, which administers funding for the MIP and the Seawalls (Stage 2) scheme.

Performance measure 7.2

Performance summary

Performance measure	Provide advocacy and support services for the delivery of identified infrastructure projects
Methodology	Quantitative analysis and qualitative assessment of TSRA stakeholder engagement activities and infrastructure project delivery
Target	No target
Data sources	Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee project management documentation; stakeholder feedback; and TSRA secretariat documentation
Measure source	<i>Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio Budget Statements 2022–23</i> , p. 296; and <i>TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23</i> , p. 17
Performance result	Progressing (no rating) The following baselines have been established for future reporting periods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » increase the number of advocacy meetings annually (target set at 24) » deliver projects as per approved project plan milestones

Analysis

Performance measure 7.2 aims to provide advocacy and support services for the delivery of identified infrastructure projects. The *TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23* did not specify performance targets or a measurement methodology for this performance measure.

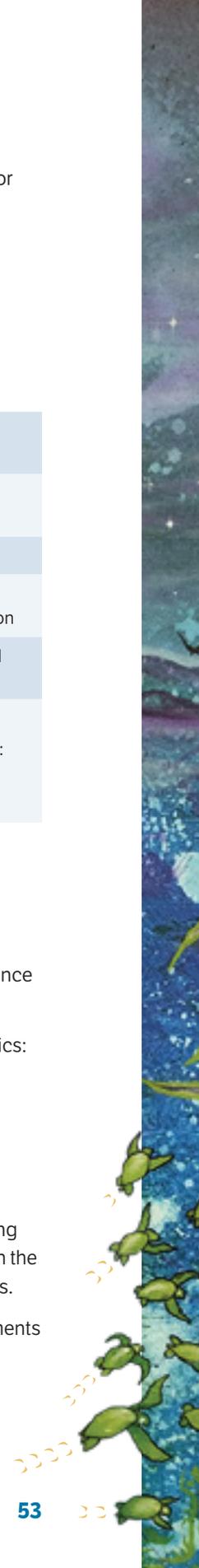
The TSRA analysed performance measure 7.2 by comparing annual data on the following metrics:

- » number of advocacy meetings annually (target set at 24, with an average of 2 per month)
- » delivery of projects as per approved project plan milestones.

Infrastructure advocacy

The advocacy engagement undertaken by the TSRA is a strategic activity crucial to identifying and securing new funding for regional infrastructure. It ensures that infrastructure spending in the region, from diverse sources, is effectively prioritised and suited to the needs of communities.

The TSRA participated in 28 advocacy meetings during the reporting period. These engagements were undertaken with government funding partners at the local, state and national levels.



Infrastructure project delivery

Throughout 2022–23, the TSRA supported a range of infrastructure projects and initiatives at various stages of the infrastructure lifecycle. The TSRA supports infrastructure projects aimed at improving connectivity between communities; creating healthier communities (for example, through water storage, sewage treatment and waste management); providing safer marine access; and creating more resilient communities (for example, through seawalls).

An analysis of project plan milestones for infrastructure projects currently under construction found that half (49%) were delivered in line with the milestones in the approved project plans.

The TSRA works with its delivery partners – the 3 local councils in the Torres Strait region – to identify and mitigate project risks. Infrastructure projects in the region face the same construction challenges as projects in the broader Australian community, but with additional complexity due to their remote location. Direct and indirect challenges include global supply chain shortages, difficulties accessing skilled construction workers, project management resource shortages and increased funding constraints due to rising freight and building material costs. The TSRA will continue to work in partnership with local councils to ensure that projects continue to proceed throughout 2023–24.

In 2022–23, the TSRA also carried out work to support its advocacy efforts and identify priority infrastructure projects in the region. In November 2022, a TSRA-supported marine infrastructure audit was completed, assessing the structural condition of marine infrastructure assets across the Torres Strait Island Regional Council region. The audit was the basis for funding commitments made by the TSRA and the Australian Government.

8. SAFE COMMUNITIES

The key activity for the Safe Communities programme, as outlined in the portfolio budget statements, is to improve community health and safety by:

- » investing in effective community and social services
- » supporting law enforcement and community safety programs.

Performance measure 8.1

Performance summary

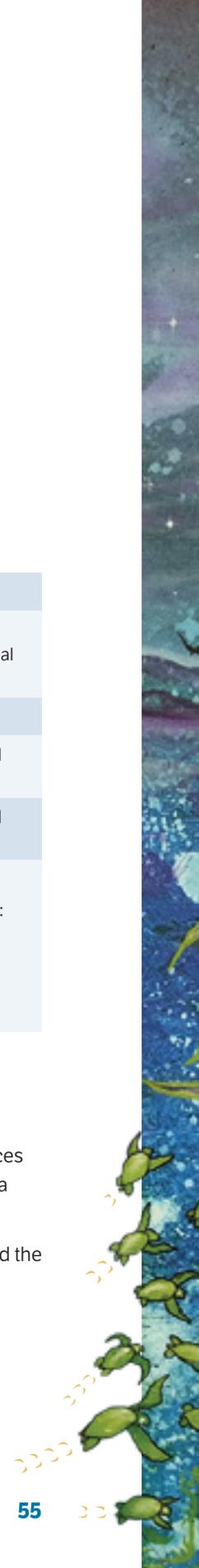
Performance measure	Improvement in the quality of and access to social and legal services
Methodology	Quantitative analysis and qualitative assessment of the scale and nature of TSRA activities focused on understanding the quality of and access to social and legal services
Target	No target
Data sources	TSRA secretariat documentation; TSRA grants administration systems; and contracts register
Measure source	<i>Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio Budget Statements 2022–23</i> , p. 296; and <i>TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23</i> , p. 17
Performance result	Progressing (no rating) The following baselines have been established for future reporting periods: <ul style="list-style-type: none">» implement and monitor the TSRA legal service delivery model» maintain support for social services and children's programs» actively participate in stakeholder engagements relating to social and legal services

Analysis

Performance measure 8.1 aims to improve the quality of and access to social and legal services across the region. The *TSRA Corporate Plan 2022–23* did not specify performance targets or a measurement methodology for this performance measure.

The TSRA analysed performance measure 8.1 by comparing previous data. The analysis used the following performance target metrics:

- » implement and monitor the TSRA legal service delivery model
- » maintain support for social services and children's programs
- » actively participate in stakeholder engagements relating to social and legal services.



Legal service delivery model

The TSRA's investment in core legal services, as well as prevention, intervention and community legal education services, remained an important contribution to the region's legal structure.

In 2021–22, the region's long-term legal service provider changed. This prompted the TSRA to coordinate a review of legal services in 2022–23, aimed at developing a more fit-for-purpose legal services delivery model.

An external provider consulted with community representatives, Social Justice Interagency Services, Community Justice Groups, the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service (QIFVLS), Richardson Eckersley Lawyers (E&H Law), Legal Aid Queensland, and the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Feedback was used to finalise a new service delivery model. On 30 June 2023, a tender process was underway for a new supplier.

Throughout 2022–23, TSRA legal services were delivered by an interim provider (QIFVLS), with the TSRA contributing \$309,687. In addition, E&H Law was contracted to support criminal cases, with the TSRA contributing \$780,413.

The new legal services contract is expected to be awarded by December 2023, and to be in full operation by 1 July 2024. QIFVLS and E&H Law will continue to run services until this process is finalised.

Support for social services and children's programs

Safe Communities programme grants provide direct funding and support for community services and facilities that contribute to the improved safety of communities. In 2022–23, the Safe Communities programme approved 4 grants and sponsorships which totalled \$824,195 (see Appendix B). All grants were awarded to private sector non-profit organisations with strong relationships to Torres Strait communities.

The TSRA continued its operational funding support to longstanding TSRA grant recipients Mura Kosker Sorority and Port Kennedy Association, for the provision of social support and children's services. During 2022–23, the TSRA conducted an independent review of its investments to both organisations, to better inform the growth of the organisations and consider opportunities to improve service delivery. The review recommendations are being considered for implementation in 2023–24.

Stakeholder engagements relating to social and legal services

Throughout 2022–23, the TSRA was represented on 12 interagency and integrated service consultations, committees and workshops. A key engagement was with the Australian Government Department of Social Services, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence. These consultations resulted in the development of Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander action plan under the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032*. The TSRA was also represented on the Department of Social Services Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children Steering Committee.

New partnerships were established in 2022–23, including with the Queensland Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. These partnerships will support a stronger voice, more funding, increased understanding of issues, additional support for communities accessing social support services, and greater collaboration across communities, local government and non-government organisations to address social issues in the region.







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TSRA BOARD

The TSRA Board sets the TSRA's vision for the Torres Strait, oversees the TSRA's strategic objectives and direction, and approves TSRA mandates. It reviews the TSRA's performance, objectives and outcomes, and manages strategic risk and regional stakeholder relations.

Elections

The board is composed of 20 democratically elected Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal members from communities in the Torres Strait, and Bamaga and Seisia in the Northern Peninsula Area.

Each member represents one of the 20 wards defined in Part 1 of the Torres Strait Regional Authority Election Rules 2017 (Cth). The wards align with the communities of Badu, Bamaga, Boigu, Dauan, Erub, Hammond, Iama, Kubin, Mabuig, Masig, Mer, Ngurapai and Muralag, Port Kennedy, Poruma, Saibai, Seisia, St Pauls, TRAWQ (Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine), Ugar, and Warraber.

As set out in section 142Y of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), board elections are held every 4 years, with the next election due in 2024. All Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people who are 18 years of age or older and enrolled within a contested ward are eligible to vote.

Officeholders

In accordance with the Torres Strait Regional Authority (Election of Officeholders) Regulations 2019 (Cth), the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Alternate Deputy Chairperson positions are filled by a formal nomination and ballot process overseen by the Australian Electoral Commission.

The following officeholders were appointed in February 2021:

- » Chairperson – Napau Pedro Stephen AM, Member for Port Kennedy
- » Deputy Chairperson – Horace Baira, Member for Badu
- » Alternate Deputy Chairperson – John Paiwan, Member for St Pauls.

Executive Committee

The board's Executive Committee provides advice and support to the Chairperson and operates with a mandate to guide and deliver outcomes which progress the priorities of the TSRA and to represent the TSRA at key meetings as required.

The structure and membership of the Executive Committee are as follows:

- » Portfolio Member for Governance and Leadership – Napau Pedro Stephen AM, Member for Port Kennedy (Committee Chairperson)
- » Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage – Cygnet Repu, Member for Mabuiag
- » Portfolio Member for Economic Development – Tailisa Yusia, Member for Bamaga
- » Portfolio Member for Environmental Management – Hilda Mosby, Member for Masig
- » Portfolio Member for Fisheries – Yen Loban, Member for Ngurapai and Muralag
- » Portfolio Member for Healthy Communities – Karyn Watson, Member for Seisia
- » Portfolio Member for Regional Infrastructure – John Paiwan, Member for St Pauls
- » Portfolio Member for Safe Communities – Iris Billy, Member for Warraber.

Assistant portfolio members work in partnership with the portfolio members, to ensure that experience and knowledge can be shared with the next generation of TSRA leaders.

Board member profiles

The following members were declared as elected to the board in December 2020, except for the Member for Saibai, who was elected in July 2022 in a by-election following the resignation of the previously elected member.



Napau Pedro Stephen AM

Ugar aemle descendant of the Magamram tribe of Mer

Chairperson • Member for Port Kennedy • Portfolio Member for Governance and Leadership • Chairperson of the Executive Committee • Chairperson of the Regional Governance Committee

Mr Stephen is in his third term as a board member and his second term as Chairperson.

Mr Stephen has over 40 years of extensive experience in executive leadership and management with Australian Government and state and local government agencies and community organisations. He is a former Mayor of the Torres Shire Council and served the community for 20 years in that role. He is an ordained minister of religion and a member of the Port Kennedy Association.

The key issues of concern for Mr Stephen are housing and home ownership, unemployment, health, domestic violence and climate change. He will continue to advocate for increasing the wealth of the region through developing local industries and jobs, and for supporting community organisations with service delivery.

During his term, Mr Stephen would like to provide strong leadership that promotes honesty, loyalty and outstanding customer service. He will continue his work to establish a single regional governance authority in the Torres Strait and the 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.





Horace Baira

Badhulaig, descendant of Badhu, Wakaid and Argun tribe of Badu

Deputy Chairperson • Member for Badu • Audit Committee Member

Mr Baira is in his second term as a member of the TSRA Board.

Mr Baira is a director of Zenadth Kes Fisheries Limited (ZK Fisheries), a former member of the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service Board, and a former Badu councillor on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council. He has experience in environmental health, community management, rural and remote operations, and small business management.

Mr Baira's key concerns are the effectiveness of integrated service delivery between stakeholders in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area region, and the allocation of resources and fit-for-purpose infrastructure to improve livelihoods and enhance community and economic development.

Mr Baira has a strong commitment to developing and improving policies and programs for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area communities, working towards a safe and healthy region with a strong economy while conserving Ailan Kastom and the region's pristine environment.



John Paiwan

Descendant of the Panay Tribe of Mabuyag

Alternate Deputy Chairperson • Member for St Pauls • Portfolio Member for Regional Infrastructure • Chairperson of the Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee

Mr Paiwan is in his second term as a member of the TSRA Board.

Mr Paiwan has 16 years of experience in local government. He holds a Diploma of Leadership and Management, a Diploma of Business and a Certificate IV in Occupational Health and Safety.

Mr Paiwan's key concerns are upgrading important infrastructure, such as health and marine infrastructure, in communities; continuing support for the delivery of affordable home ownership for local people in the region; continuing support for the training and employment of local people; and supporting small business and economic development in the region.

Mr Paiwan aims to achieve his goals by working in partnership with key stakeholders, service providers and local organisations in the region to address and support community concerns.



Tailisa Yusia

Member for Bamaga • Portfolio Member for Economic Development

In her first term, Ms Yusia brings a wealth of knowledge to her role on the TSRA Board.

Ms Yusia holds a Master of Social Work, a Bachelor of Business, a Bachelor of Community Services, a Certificate IV in Governance and a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. Her qualifications and management experience have led her to focus on working collaboratively with the TSRA Board and community members to better understand legislation and its impacts on the community.

Ms Yusia wants to ensure that strong cultural frameworks and policies are in place, as a way of guaranteeing strong, accountable leadership in the community. She also wishes to deliver more holistic health services for the community, including social and emotional wellbeing, with youth mental health becoming an emerging issue.

Another key focus for Ms Yusia is developing infrastructure projects and housing, and building capacity for communities to meet the economic opportunities that accompany development.



Dimas Toby

Tribe – Koey Buai, Totem – Dhoeybaw Augadhalaig

Member for Boigu • Assistant Portfolio Member for Environmental Management

In his first term, Mr Toby brings a wealth of experience to the TSRA Board, including experience working in the TSRA Land and Sea Management Unit, 12 years of working in local government and 7 years of working in the Australian Public Service.

Mr Toby is Councillor for Boigu Island on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, and Chair of Malu Ki'ai (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC. He holds a Certificate IV in Leadership Management and Administration.

Mr Toby has a strong commitment to developing local employment opportunities and establishing small businesses. He believes that providing local training and capacity-building opportunities in the local job market will increase the ability to self-determine and self-govern in the Torres Strait region. Mr Toby is keen to focus on more proactive steps to help community.



Patrick Mooka

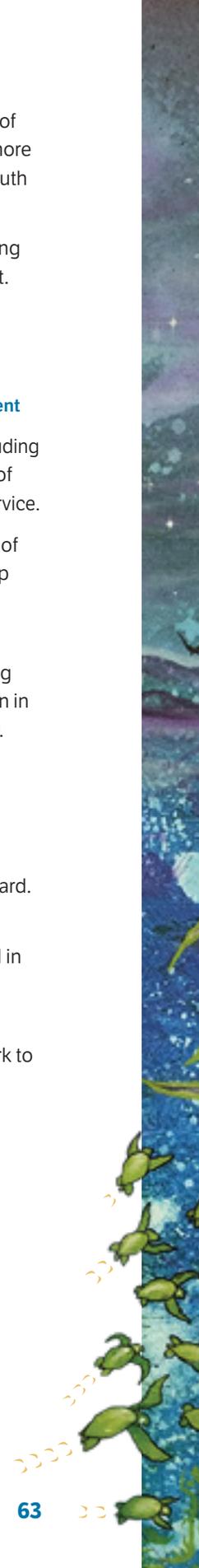
Member for Dauan • Assistant Portfolio Member for Regional Infrastructure • Audit Committee Member

In his first term, Mr Mooka brings a broad skillset to his role on the TSRA Board.

Mr Mooka is a member of ZK Fisheries, which complements his desire to work with community to identify marine infrastructure projects. He holds Certificates II and III in Tourism, and a Marine Engine Driver Certificate II.

Mr Mooka believes it is key to work in partnership with stakeholders to achieve the best outcomes. His strategic vision for Dauan is to establish a strong traditional cultural framework to be embedded within community, and to empower the next generation.

Mr Mooka wants the voice of community to be heard and will work with the TSRA Board to ensure that policies accurately reflect the needs of community.





Jimmy Gela

Erubam Le, descendant of the Peiudu, Sumsep and Meruam tribes of Erub

Member for Erub

Mr Gela is in his second term as a member of the TSRA Board.

Mr Gela is Chairperson of Erubam Le Traditional Land and Sea Owners (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC, and Councillor for Erub on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council. Mr Gela holds a Certificate IV in Local Government, which further drives his passion to enact change.

Mr Gela is interested in maintaining the coastal and upper regions of Erub Island, and preserving the island from further erosion, which includes a focus on roads and drainage. He wishes to work with the state government and police to address criminal activities within the wider region.

Mr Gela strives to meet the aspirations and priorities of the people in his community and the surrounding region. He also wishes to mentor young adults, to inspire them to follow their own leadership journeys. He would like to see all tiers of government maintain working relationships with Native Title holders that support the betterment and growth of people and community, acknowledging cultural laws and values.



Seriako Dorante

Member of the Kaurareg nation with Kaiwalagal connections to Muralag and Ngurapai and Eastern Island ties to the Kemer Meriam Nation

Member for Hammond

Mr Dorante is in his second term as a member of the TSRA Board.

Mr Dorante is Councillor for Kirirri on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council and a member of ZK Fisheries. He previously served as Deputy Chairperson of the Hammond Island Council.

As a Board member, Mr Dorante supports decisions that better the strategic aspiration of improving the lifestyles and wellbeing of all Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region.



Charles David

Member for Iama • Assistant Portfolio Member for Governance and Leadership

In his first term, Mr David brings to the TSRA Board a passion for the environment, from his background in sustainable traditional and commercial fishing.

Mr David is President of the Iamalgal Fisheries Association Corporation, and a member of the Fisheries Advisory Committee and ZK Fisheries. His key areas of focus include environmental conservation, sustainability of resources and support for infrastructure projects that create employment opportunities within the communities across the region.



Danie Savage

Member for Kubin • Audit Committee Member

In her first term, Ms Savage brings a unique skill set to her role on the TSRA Board.

Ms Savage has over 11 years of experience working for local government. She also holds a Diploma in Education and a Dual Diploma in Business and Administration. Her commitment to empowering her community is matched by her desire to make a difference for all people of the Torres Strait region.

Ms Savage wants to continue her advocacy for overcrowding and other housing issues and ensure that outcomes are achieved within the TSRA's Healthy Communities programme. Ms Savage believes that she is in the best position to address the needs of community, by aligning their concerns with the framework laid out by the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009–2029*.

As a member of the 2017 Torres Strait Women's Leadership Program, Ms Savage wants to empower women within the community to take on opportunities and leadership roles.



Cygnet Repu

Member for Mabuiaq • Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage

Mr Repu is in his second term as a member of the TSRA Board.

Mr Repu is Chairperson of the Goemulgaw Kod, a local cultural organisation on Mabuiaq. He is also Chairperson of the TSTLA Committee. He is an experienced culturalist who has presented overseas and is passionate about acquiring other skills.

Mr Repu received various awards during his 20-year service with Biosecurity Australia and will draw on that experience during his term. His key issues of concern for the Torres Strait are housing, children's welfare, cultural hunger, community unity, travel and transport.

He will engage the support of the community, believing that what is best for the Torres Strait should be identified by its people, and that minimising the effects of cultural challenges depends on identifying their impacts and gaining skills to effectively overcome them. Mr Repu's main focuses are land, families, language and nations.



Hilda Mosby

Member for Masig • Portfolio Member for Environmental Management

Ms Mosby is in her third term on the TSRA Board.

Ms Mosby has more than 20 years of experience as a Biosecurity Officer in the Australian Public Service and was employed as Senior Housing Officer for the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Ms Mosby is Councillor for Masig on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, where she works extensively as Chair of the Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee.



The primary focus for Ms Mosby has been delivering outcomes for 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 addressing coastal erosion issues by the relevant Australian Government and Queensland Government agencies.

Ms Mosby is passionate about the preservation of Torres Strait culture through language, music and art.



Bob Kaigey

Meriam Le descendant of the Komet Tribe of Mer

Member for Mer • Assistant Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage

In his first term, Mr Kaigey brings passion to his role on the TSRA Board.

Mr Kaigey's strong dedication to serving the community is further strengthened by his qualifications, including a Diploma in Community Leadership and Management and a Graduate Diploma in Health Promotion.

Previously, Mr Kaigey has worked for an organisation specialising in delivering psychological and counselling services to remote and rural areas of Australia, focusing on the social and emotional wellbeing of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people.



Yen Loban

Member for Ngurapai and Muralag • Portfolio Member for Fisheries • Chairperson of the Finfish Quota Management Committee • Chairperson of the Fisheries Advisory Committee

Mr Loban is in his third term on the TSRA Board.

Mr Loban is a director of the Torres Strait Co-operative Society Limited and ZK Fisheries and was elected Mayor of the Torres Shire Council in May 2022. His primary concerns are the lack of basic service infrastructure on Muralag, and the low level of support provided to the ongoing development of Ngurapai and the outer islands.

Mr Loban will work to ensure that communities have a supply of healthy drinking water, a constant supply of power and safe housing. He hopes to influence TSRA programs to focus on equity in the provision of services that benefit all communities in the region. He would also like to see an improvement in access to health services and education.

Mr Loban believes that the TSRA needs to work collaboratively with different levels of government to best deliver for community.



Nicholas Pearson

Member for Poruma • Assistant Portfolio Member for Fisheries

In his first term, Mr Pearson brings to the TSRA Board a commitment to sea and marine management, from his experience as a sole trading commercial fisherman.

Mr Pearson is a member of ZK Fisheries and holds a Certificate III in Civil Construction.

He has a strong interest in environmental management, community housing, and promoting health and wellbeing to members of the Poruma community.

Mr Pearson wishes to achieve better outcomes for his community by working in collaboration with stakeholders and putting a strong emphasis on communication and risk management. He believes an improved waste management system should be a priority.



Chelsea Aniba

Dhoeybaw Tribe Koey Buway, Saibai Island Mura Buway

Member for Saibai • Assistant Portfolio Member for Safe Communities

Miss Aniba is in her fourth term as a member of the TSRA Board after being re-elected in a by-election in July 2022.

Miss Aniba has qualifications in leadership, business and management, governance, radio broadcasting and social housing. She is a graduate of the Torres Strait Women's Leadership Program and the ARLP. She is currently studying for her Bachelor of Laws and believes having legal knowledge is vital when being in a leadership position of decision-making.

Miss Aniba has established a public profile through her involvement in radio broadcasting for the past 8 years and her membership of the TSIMA Board.

As Assistant Portfolio Member for Safe Communities, Miss Aniba advocates for working with non-government organisations to help women, children and families. Her key concerns are coastal erosion and rising sea levels, employment and economic development opportunities for local families, legal advocacy, and education.



Karyn Watson

Dhoeybaw clan of Dauan Island and Samu, Koedal clans of Saibai Island

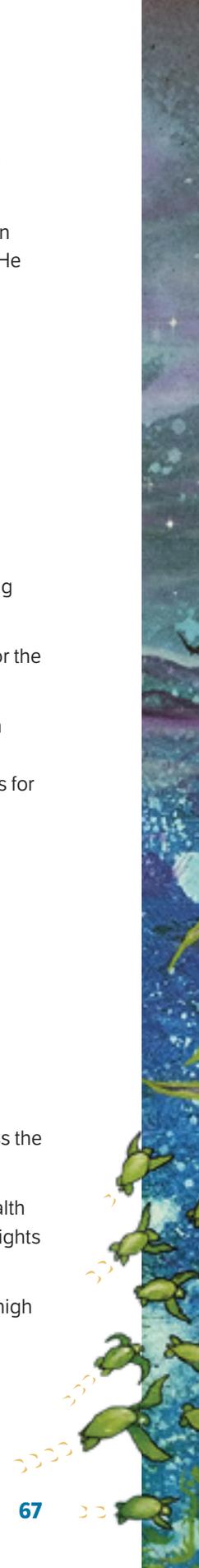
Member for Seisia • Portfolio Member for Healthy Communities

In her first term, Ms Watson (formerly Karyn Sam) brings to the TSRA Board extensive skills and knowledge of the corporate sector, including prior experience on other boards.

Ms Watson has experience working in the primary health care sector and holds tertiary qualifications in primary health care and corporate governance. She brings a pragmatic approach to the TSRA Board and wants a continuation of community engagement to address the needs that are raised.

Ms Watson has a key focus on preventative health and ensuring that specific gaps in the health care system are identified and addressed through reviews and recommendations. She highlights a need for more services in community for housing, alcohol and drug support.

Ms Watson has a strong connection to her community and wants to perform her duties to a high standard and to the best of her ability.





Sereako Stephen

Ugar aemle descendant of the Magamram tribe of Mer

Member for TRAWQ • Assistant Portfolio Member for Healthy Communities

Mr Stephen is committed to serving and representing the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in his community.

He will use his term to strongly advocate and continue to Close the Gap 'from disparity to parity' under the 4 priority reform areas of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

Mr Stephen will work with the TSRA Board and administration to ensure that programs are implemented in his community by addressing both the original 'building blocks' of the initial Closing the Gap initiative and the new socioeconomic target areas identified under the national agreement.



Rocky Stephen

Member for Ugar • Assistant Portfolio Member for Economic Development

Mr Stephen is in his third term as a member of the TSRA Board.

Mr Stephen brings a wealth of experience in serving the community, including his involvement in several community boards and committees in the region and over 15 years of working in government.

Mr Stephen is a Traditional Inhabitant member of the PZJA, as the Kemer Meriam Representative on the Finfish Working Group, Finfish Resource Assessment Group, and Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee. He is also a member of ZK Fisheries.

Mr Stephen looks forward to working closely with fellow members of the TSRA Board in addressing the various issues in the region, such as marine infrastructure, climate change and regional governance, as well as some key issues for his community, such as dredging, and ferry and helicopter services to improve service delivery by air and sea.



Iris Billy

Member for Warraber • Portfolio Member for Safe Communities • Audit Committee Member

Mrs Billy is a proud Torres Strait Islander woman living in the nation of Zenadth Kes. In her first term, she brings to the TSRA Board a strong commitment to her community and is honoured to serve them.

Mrs Billy has a solid leadership background in diverse voluntary roles and has always been an Indigenous voice to support Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people through education, employment and training opportunities; quality health and wellbeing services; social justice; and leadership and governance.

Mrs Billy was an inaugural graduate of the Torres Strait Women's Leadership Program and is currently undertaking the ARLP. She is a passionate advocate for women taking leadership positions, especially in governance roles driving changes in social justice, encouraging youth in leadership and supporting cultural heritage, for her community and the nation of Zenadth Kes.

Meetings and attendance

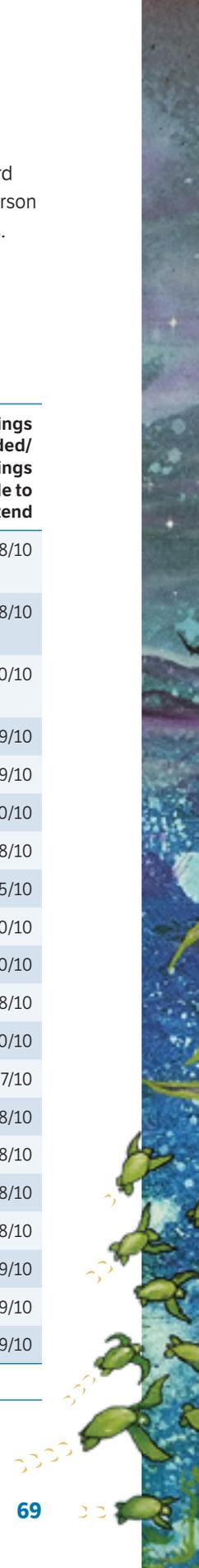
Under section 144E of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), the TSRA Board Chairperson is required to convene at least 4 board meetings each year. If necessary, the Chairperson can convene special board meetings to enable the TSRA to effectively carry out its functions.

The board met 10 times in 2022–23. Table 4 shows the number of meetings attended by each member.

Table 4 Board members and meeting attendance, 2022–23

Name	Position	Date of commencement	Meetings attended/ meetings eligible to attend
Napau Pedro Stephen AM	Chairperson Member for Port Kennedy	6 August 2016	8/10
Horace Baira	Deputy Chairperson Member for Badu	6 August 2016	8/10
John Paiwan	Alternate Deputy Chairperson Member for St Pauls	6 August 2016	10/10
Tailisa Yusia	Member for Bamaga	5 December 2020	9/10
Dimas Toby	Member for Boigu	5 December 2020	9/10
Patrick Mooka	Member for Dauan	5 December 2020	10/10
Jimmy Gela	Member for Erub	29 September 2017	8/10
Seriako Dorante	Member for Hammond	6 August 2016	5/10
Charles David	Member for Iama	5 December 2020	10/10
Danie Savage	Member for Kubin	5 December 2020	10/10
Cygnnet Repu	Member for Mabuiaq	6 August 2016	8/10
Hilda Mosby	Member for Masig	29 October 2012	10/10
Bob Kaigey	Member for Mer	5 December 2020	7/10
Yen Loban	Member for Ngurapai and Muralag	29 October 2012	8/10
Nicholas Pearson	Member for Poruma	5 December 2020	8/10
Chelsea Aniba	Member for Saibai	21 July 2022	8/10
Karyn Watson	Member for Seisia	5 December 2020	8/10
Sereako Stephen	Member for TRAWQ	5 December 2020	9/10
Rocky Stephen	Member for Ugar	12 October 2019	9/10
Iris Billy	Member for Warraber	5 December 2020	9/10

Note: All TSRA Board members are non-executive directors.



Advisory subcommittees

The TSRA Board has established 4 subcommittees under section 142M of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth) to help the board carry out its functions, as shown in Table 5.

Table 5 Board advisory subcommittees, 2022–23

Name	Purpose	Membership at 30 June 2023
Finfish Quota Management Committee ¹	Provide advice and make recommendations to the TSRA Board on leasing arrangements in the Torres Strait finfish fishery, which is 100% owned by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Traditional Owners.	Yen Loban, Member for Ngurapai and Muralag (Committee Chairperson) Horace Baira, Deputy Chairperson and Member for Badu Charles David, Member for Iama Nicholas Pearson, Member for Poruma Cygnet Repu, Member for Mabuia Rocky Stephen, Member for Ugar Dimas Toby, Member for Boigu
Fisheries Advisory Committee ¹	Provide advice to the TSRA Board on fisheries-related matters and strategic policy direction towards 100% ownership and management of Torres Strait commercial fisheries, and related processes and increased participation by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Traditional Owners in commercial fisheries within the region. Provide advice to the TSRA's Fisheries programme. Sit as the Finfish Quota Management Committee once per year to decide on the leasing of finfish licences from the TIBs to those with Torres Strait Fishing Boat Licences.	Yen Loban, Member for Ngurapai and Muralag (Committee Chairperson) Horace Baira, Deputy Chairperson and Member for Badu Charles David, Member for Iama Nicholas Pearson, Member for Poruma Cygnet Repu, Member for Mabuia Rocky Stephen, Member for Ugar Dimas Toby, Member for Boigu
Regional Governance Committee	Provide a forum for strategic discussion to provide advice and make recommendations to the TSRA Board in relation to Torres Strait regional governance.	Napau Pedro Stephen AM, Chairperson and Member for Port Kennedy (Committee Chairperson) Horace Baira, Deputy Chairperson and Member for Badu Iris Billy, Member for Warraber Charles David, Member for Iama Danie Savage, Member for Kubin

Table 5 Board advisory subcommittees, 2022–23 (cont.)

Name	Purpose	Membership at 30 June 2023
Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee	<p>Oversee and provide high-level strategic advice and recommendations to technical groups delivering regional infrastructure projects in the Torres Strait region.</p> <p>Assist better policy coordination of major infrastructure requirements for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area region and act as a vehicle to develop a system of collaborative advocacy where a whole-of-region view can be formulated to assist decision makers at the state government and Australian Government levels.</p>	<p>John Paiwan, Alternate Deputy Chairperson and Member for St Pauls (Committee Chairperson), and other TSRA representatives</p> <p>Ned David, Chairperson of Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council Torres Strait Islander Corporation and Chairperson of Malu Lamar (Torres Strait Islander) Corporation RNTBC²</p> <p>Patricia Yusia, Mayor of the Northern Peninsula Regional Council</p> <p>Yen Loban, Mayor of the Torres Shire Council</p> <p>Philemon Mosby, Mayor of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council</p> <p>Representatives of NIAA and the Queensland Government</p>

- 1 The Fisheries Advisory Committee made the decision on quota finfish leasing for the sunset licence sector for the 2022–23 season in lieu of the Finfish Quota Management Committee. Sunset licences allow non-traditional inhabitants to fish in these fisheries while there is capacity in the fishery to do so.
- 2 Ned David is serving on the Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee in 2 capacities.

Governance framework

Board charter

The third edition of the TSRA Board Charter was finalised in July 2022. It is a comprehensive document that includes the information board members need to fully exercise their powers and duties in an ethical and legal manner.

The charter assists members to understand their roles, responsibilities, board processes and organisational matters. It also provides a broad overview of key legislative governance requirements for TSRA Board members and the features of good public sector governance practices.

The charter sets out the roles, responsibilities and functions of the TSRA Board and is based on the TSRA's enabling legislation, the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth), ethical standards and good governance principles, as well as Torres Strait Ailan Kastom.

Key documents such as the Board Member's Code of Conduct and the Charter of Representation, Performance and Accountability are provided to assist members to undertake their duties effectively.



Remuneration

Board members are remunerated in accordance with determinations of the Remuneration Tribunal. Under the determinations, the Chairperson is considered a full-time officer, while the other members are part-time office holders.

Details of board members' remuneration in 2022–23 are provided in the 'Executive remuneration' section of this report.

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 actual and perceived conflicts of interest. This includes a register of directors' pecuniary interests and a requirement that directors make a formal declaration of their interests at each board meeting. The declarations are recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

The pecuniary interest process also applies to all TSRA Board committees.

Related entity transactions

The TSRA's Charter of Representation, Performance and Accountability sets out the roles and responsibilities of the TSRA Board and TSRA Administration. The board has delegated responsibility to the TSRA Administration, through its CEO, to ensure that funding decisions are made in line with the policies, priorities and general guidelines determined by the board.

Each board member is required to provide a Notice of Personal and Financial Interests to the minister. In addition, related party disclosure questionnaires must be completed to declare any change in a board member's circumstances, or any financial transactions between a board member or members of the board member's family and the TSRA. The register of pecuniary interests assists with the management of any potential real or perceived conflicts of interest.

The related entity transactions made by the TSRA Board in 2022–23 and reportable under section 17BE of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014* (Cth) are reported in note 3.3 of the financial statements (see p. 107).

AUDIT COMMITTEE

In accordance with section 45 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth), the TSRA Audit Committee is responsible for providing independent advice and assistance to the TSRA Board on risk, compliance and external accountability responsibilities. The committee’s charter can be found online at https://www.tsra.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/38830/TSRA-Audit-Committee-Charter_June-2023_ENDORSED-BOARD-144_Chair-Executed.pdf.

The TSRA Board is responsible for appointing Audit Committee members. The Chairperson of the Audit Committee is an independent member and provides technical expertise and advice on best practice accounting and auditing standards in the public sector. A new Chairperson was appointed in March 2023.

Table 6 sets out each member’s attendance during 2022–23, along with details of their qualifications, knowledge and experience and the remuneration they received for their service on the Audit Committee.

Table 6 Audit Committee members, meeting attendance and remuneration, 2022–23

Name and TSRA role	Qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience	Period of appointment	Meetings attended/ meetings eligible to attend	Total annual remuneration (GST inc.)
Adrian Kelly Audit Committee Chairperson and independent member	Chartered accountant and registered company auditor currently with Charterpoint Pty Ltd. Experience in providing specialist advisory services including tailored assurance, risk management and governance advice, and identifying improvements in financial and reporting systems.	2009 – 10 March 2023	4/4	\$43,667
Darren Schaeffer Audit Committee Chairperson and independent member	Highly experienced chief financial officer, auditor and governance practitioner. Studying a Doctorate of Business (Research), holds a Master of Business Administration (Public Sector) and a Bachelor of Business (Accounting). Has been working for Curijo Pty Ltd, a majority owned Aboriginal consultancy firm, for 8 years.	10 March 2023 – current	2/2	\$42,131



Table 6 Audit Committee members, meeting attendance and remuneration, 2022–23 (cont.)

Name and TSRA role	Qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience	Period of appointment	Meetings attended/ meetings eligible to attend	Total annual remuneration (GST inc.)
Horace Baira Member for Badu TSRA Board Deputy Chairperson	Deputy Chairperson of the TSRA Board, and experienced working on boards and as a local councillor. Experience in environmental health, community management, rural and remote operations and small business management.	21 November 2022 – current	3/5	\$2,923.20
Iris Billy Member for Warraber Portfolio Member for Safe Communities	Strong community-focused experience as a representative on the Torres Strait Islanders' Regional Education Council and Mura Kosker Sorority Inc. Former member of the Torres Strait Women's Leadership Program.	16 February 2021 – current	4/5	\$1,754.40
Patrick Mooka Member for Dauan Assistant Portfolio Member for Regional Infrastructure	Member of ZK Fisheries. Holds Certificates II and III in Tourism and a Certificate II in Medical Service First Response.	16 February 2021 – current	5/5	\$2,889.60
Danie Savage Member for Kubin	Experience working for local government. Holds a Diploma in Education and a dual Diploma in Business and Administration. Former member of the Torres Strait Women's Leadership Program.	16 February 2021 – current	4/5	\$2,889.60

PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE

The Programme Steering Committee is an administrative committee that monitors the performance of TSRA programmes. Its members are Executive Level 2 managers and the CEO.

The responsibilities of the committee include:

- » endorsing programme mandates for consideration and approval by the TSRA Board
- » setting governance and reporting requirements for TSRA programmes, including facilitating new or revised programme policies and/or related procedures
- » monitoring programme-level risks and issues and providing advice to the CEO on their impact on the TSRA's enterprise and strategic risks
- » endorsing the consolidated programme performance and risk report prior to consideration by the CEO and TSRA Board
- » considering and endorsing programme resources and ensuring that strategies align with the TSRA's overall strategic outcomes, programme risks are appropriately managed, and corporate services are prioritised.

The Programme Steering Committee meets on a quarterly basis, to consider resourcing and the alignment of operational activities with strategic outcomes; before each board meeting; and as required to review specific project risks and issues.



RISK MANAGEMENT

The TSRA has a standardised process for identifying, documenting and managing risk. The majority of TSRA projects and managed activities include risk assessments as part of the planning and approval process. Risks are identified through risk assessments at the programme or project level and through internal and external audits.

All TSRA employees are expected to identify and manage risks within their span of control, while TSRA managers are responsible for:

- » incorporating suitable risk management activities into business planning
- » ensuring that the risk management processes are followed
- » ensuring that risk mitigation actions are implemented.

The TSRA seeks to balance its risk position between investment in activities that may drive substantial growth in the region and the need to maintain capacity to continue to work for the community into the future.

The TSRA assesses its risk appetite as being in the middle of the risk-taking spectrum. Depending on the results from year to year, as well as community needs, the TSRA may choose to increase or decrease the appetite for higher-risk activities.

The current TSRA risk appetite accepts:

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

INDEMNITIES AND INSURANCE

The TSRA indemnifies current and former directors and staff members against liability or cost 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 cost of directors' and officers' liability insurance for 2022–23 was \$10,343.89. No indemnity-related claims were paid, or agreed to be paid, for the reporting period.



OUR PEOPLE

During 2022–23, the TSRA achieved the core objectives outlined in the *Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Recruitment and Career Development Strategy 2021–2024*. The strategy seeks to increase Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal participation in the Australian Public Service. In 2022–23, the TSRA increased Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal workforce representation across Australian Public Service Level 6, Executive Level 1 and Executive Level 2 classifications.

At 30 June 2023, the TSRA had 136 employees, including 36 non-ongoing employees. Of that workforce:

- » 58% were women
- » 90% identified as Torres Strait Islander and/or Aboriginal
- » 95% were located in the Torres Strait, with a small number (7 people) working outside the region.

In 2022–23, the TSRA's Environmental Management programme undertook a merit-based bulk recruitment round to provide ongoing employment within the TSRA ranger program. Twenty-five non-ongoing rangers were converted to ongoing roles in late June, and a further 26 new ongoing rangers commenced their TSRA careers on 17 July 2023. The TSRA ranger program is made up of 51 Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal public servants across 13 outer islands, with additional support staff based on Waiben.

In 2023–24, the TSRA will focus on enhancing the satisfaction of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal staff working for the TSRA, through promotion of a continuous learning environment, study assistance for approved vocational and tertiary studies, and opportunities to network with affiliated Indigenous organisations.

Further information about the TSRA's staffing profile in 2022–23 (current year) and 2021–22 (previous year) is provided in Tables 7 to 10.

Table 7 All ongoing employees at 30 June – current reporting period (2022–23)

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	35	0	35	63	2	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External Territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	35	0	35	63	2	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100

Table 8 All non-ongoing employees at 30 June – current reporting period (2022–23)

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	21	0	21	12	2	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External Territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	22	0	22	12	2	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36



Table 9 All ongoing employees at 30 June – previous reporting period (2021–22)

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	14	0	14	42	2	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External Territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14	0	14	42	2	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58

Table 10 All non-ongoing employees at 30 June – previous reporting period (2021–22)

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	42	2	44	34	3	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	81
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External Territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	42	2	44	34	3	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	81

EXECUTIVE REMUNERATION

The TSRA has determined that, for purposes of reporting against section 17BE(ta) of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014 (Cth), its 'key management personnel' comprise those persons who hold a role as a board member or CEO.

In 2022–23, the TSRA had no staff members within the rule's definitions of 'senior executives' and 'other highly paid staff'.

Table 11 sets out the remuneration of the TSRA's 21 key management personnel in 2022–23.

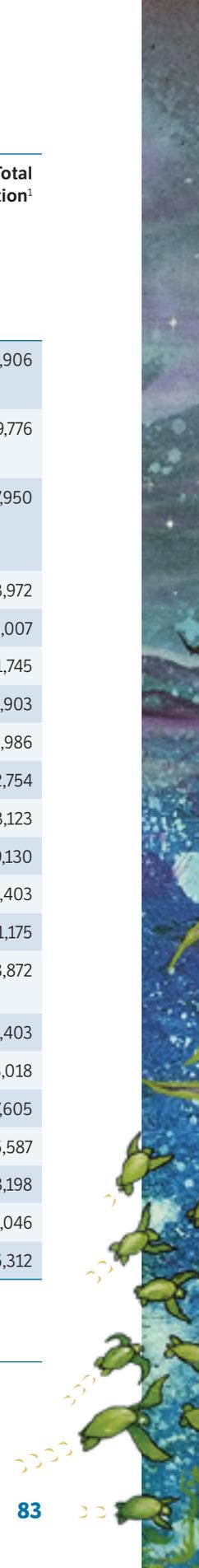


Table 11 Remuneration for key management personnel, 2022–23 (\$)

Name	Position title	Short-term benefits		
		Base salary	Bonuses	Other benefits and allowances
Napau Pedro Stephen AM	Chairperson Member for Port Kennedy	314,978	0	0
Horace Baira	Deputy Chairperson Member for Badu	108,019	0	0
John Paiwan	Alternate Deputy Chairperson Member for St Pauls	43,410	0	0
Tailisa Yusia	Member for Bamaga	12,652	0	0
Dimas Toby	Member for Boigu	22,634	0	0
Patrick Mooka	Member for Dauan	19,683	0	0
Jimmy Gela	Member for Erub	13,491	0	0
Seriako Dorante	Member for Hammond	5,442	0	0
Charles David	Member for Iama	38,702	0	0
Danie Savage	Member for Kubin	20,927	0	0
Cygnnet Repu	Member for Mabuiag	26,369	0	0
Hilda Mosby	Member for Masig	21,192	0	0
Bob Kaigey	Member for Mer	19,167	0	0
Yen Loban	Member for Ngurapai and Muralag	17,084	0	0
Nicholas Pearson	Member for Poruma	19,374	0	0
Chelsea Aniba	Member for Saibai	16,306	0	0
Karyn Watson	Member for Seisia	15,940	0	0
Sereako Stephen	Member for TRAWQ	14,110	0	0
Rocky Stephen	Member for Ugar	25,529	0	0
Iris Billy	Member for Warraber	25,392	0	0
Vonda Malone	Chief Executive Officer	256,404	0	0

- 1 Slight differences between the sums of the amounts and the totals shown are due to rounding.
- 2 The negative long service leave reported is due to the member no longer acting in the Chairperson position, leading to the loss of their entitlement to long service leave.

Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration ¹
	Long service leave	Other long-term benefits		
23,807	11,121	0	0	349,906
12,612	(856) ²	0	0	119,776
4,539	0	0	0	47,950
1,321	0	0	0	13,972
2,373	0	0	0	25,007
2,062	0	0	0	21,745
1,412	0	0	0	14,903
544	0	0	0	5,986
4,052	0	0	0	42,754
2,196	0	0	0	23,123
2,761	0	0	0	29,130
2,211	0	0	0	23,403
2,008	0	0	0	21,175
1,789	0	0	0	18,872
2,029	0	0	0	21,403
1,712	0	0	0	18,018
1,665	0	0	0	17,605
1,477	0	0	0	15,587
2,669	0	0	0	28,198
2,654	0	0	0	28,046
35,950	2,959	0	0	295,312







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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Indigenous Australians

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (the Entity) for the year ended 30 June 2023:

- (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and
- (b) present fairly the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Entity, which I have audited, comprise the following as at 30 June 2023 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Accountable Authority, Chief Executive 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 a summary of significant accounting policies 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 Entity 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 (including Independence Standards)* (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 Entity, the Directors are responsible under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (the Act) for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the rules made under the Act. The Directors are also responsible for such internal control as the Directors determine are necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the ability of the Entity 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 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
38 Sydney Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603
Phone (02) 6203 7300

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 the Accountable Authority 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



Peter Kerr
Executive Director
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
6 September 2023



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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 2023 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 Napau Pedro Stephen AM
Chairperson

5 September 2023

Signed



Ms Vonda Malone
Chief Executive Officer

5 September 2023



Signed

Mr Horace Baira
Deputy Chairperson

5 September 2023

Signed



Mrs Michelle Noack
Chief Financial Officer

5 September 2023



TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the period ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Employee benefits	1.1A	18,714	18,009	21,186
Suppliers	1.1B	14,001	16,884	18,644
Grants	1.1C	13,237	15,103	16,344
Depreciation and amortisation	2.2A	2,142	1,980	1,269
Finance costs	1.1D	272	339	158
Impairment loss on financial instruments		68	93	-
Loss on disposal of non-financial assets	1.1E	-	211	-
Total expenses		48,434	52,619	57,601
Own-source income				
Own-source revenue				
Revenue from contracts with customers	1.2A	796	662	505
Grant revenue	1.2B	20,426	12,606	19,833
Interest	1.2C	1,437	242	970
Other revenue	1.2D	795	4,992	334
Total own-source revenue		23,454	18,502	21,642
Gains				
Gains on sale of assets		-	2	-
Reversal of write-downs and impairment		10	66	-
Gain from acquisition of land and buildings	1.2E	565	-	-
Other gains		-	1	-
Total gains		575	69	-
Total own-source income		24,029	18,571	21,642
Net cost of services		24,405	34,048	35,959
Revenue from Government	1.2F	36,486	36,059	35,944
Surplus/(Deficit) on continuing operations		12,081	2,011	(15)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services				
Changes in asset revaluation reserve		9,240	6,238	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss)		21,321	8,249	(15)

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

The original budget represents the 2022-23 October budget reported in the October Portfolio Budget Statements 2022-23 Budget Related Paper No. 1.13, Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio, for the Torres Strait Regional Authority.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	2.1A	13,396	8,950	6,165
Trade and other receivables	2.1B	1,071	897	3,917
Loan receivables	2.1C	2,376	3,020	-
Other investments	2.1D	33,054	26,776	25,521
Total financial assets		49,897	39,643	35,603
Non-financial assets				
Land and buildings ¹	2.2A	72,447	62,721	66,492
Plant and equipment	2.2A	1,664	1,308	1,641
Heritage and cultural	2.2A	77	77	188
Other non-financial assets		87	188	-
Total non-financial assets		74,275	64,294	68,321
Total assets		124,172	103,937	103,924
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers	2.3A	917	2,696	2,696
Other payables		417	350	350
Total payables		1,334	3,046	3,046
Interest bearing liabilities				
Leases	2.4A	966	366	368
Total interest bearing liabilities		966	366	368
Provisions				
Employee provisions	3.1A	3,592	3,566	3,566
Total provisions		3,592	3,566	3,566
Total liabilities		5,892	6,978	6,980
Net assets		118,280	96,959	96,944
EQUITY				
Contributed equity		3,021	3,021	3,021
Reserves		34,425	25,185	25,185
Retained surplus		80,834	68,753	68,738
Total equity		118,280	96,959	96,944

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

1. Right-of-use assets are included in the following line items: Land and buildings.

The original budget represents the 2022-23 October budget reported in the October Portfolio Budget Statements 2022-23 Budget Related Paper No. 1.13, Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio, for the Torres Strait Regional Authority.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Statement of Changes In Equity
for the period ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022	Original Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	3,021	3,021	3,021
Closing balance as at 30 June	3,021	3,021	3,021
RETAINED EARNINGS			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	68,753	66,742	68,753
Adjusted opening balance	68,753	66,742	68,753
Comprehensive income			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	12,081	2,011	(15)
Total comprehensive income	12,081	2,011	(15)
Closing balance as at 30 June	80,834	68,753	68,738
ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	25,185	18,947	25,185
Adjusted opening balance	25,185	18,947	25,185
Comprehensive income			
Other comprehensive income	9,240	6,238	-
Total other comprehensive income	9,240	6,238	-
Closing balance as at 30 June	34,425	25,185	25,185
TOTAL EQUITY			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	96,959	88,710	96,959
Adjusted opening balance	96,959	88,710	96,959
Comprehensive income			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	12,081	2,011	(15)
Other comprehensive income	9,240	6,238	-
Total comprehensive income	21,321	8,249	(15)
Closing balance as at 30 June	118,280	96,959	96,944

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

The original budget represents the 2022-23 October budget reported in the October Portfolio Budget Statements 2022-23 Budget Related Paper No. 1.13, Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio, for the Torres Strait Regional Authority.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Cash Flow Statement

for the period ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Receipts from Government		36,486	36,059	35,944
Sale of goods and rendering of services		401	895	839
Grant funding recovered		570	4,951	-
Grant revenue		20,426	13,320	19,833
Interest		1,375	190	820
Net GST received		2,613	1,918	-
Total cash received		61,871	57,333	57,436
Cash used				
Employees		18,621	18,619	21,186
Suppliers		17,258	17,835	18,644
Interest payments on lease liabilities		9	7	8
Loan advances		16	-	-
Grants		13,858	15,855	16,344
Total cash used		49,762	52,316	56,182
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities		12,109	5,017	1,254
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Proceeds from loan repayments		497	710	-
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		-	2	-
Proceeds from sales of investments		-	-	1,255
Total cash received		497	712	1,255
Cash used				
Loan advances		63	321	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		1,761	1,668	5,185
Purchase of investments		6,277	2,059	-
Total cash used		8,101	4,048	5,185
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities		(7,604)	(3,336)	(3,930)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Cash used				
Principal payments of lease liabilities		59	78	109
Total cash used		59	78	109
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities		(59)	(78)	(109)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		4,446	1,603	(2,785)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		8,950	7,347	8,950
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2.1A	13,396	8,950	6,165

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

The original budget represents the 2022-23 October budget reported in the October Portfolio Budget Statements 2022-23 Budget Related Paper No. 1.13, Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio, for the Torres Strait Regional Authority.

Overview

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) was established as a body corporate under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (ATSIA Act). The TSRA under the direction of an Indigenous elected representative Board is the lead Commonwealth agency with responsibility to recognise and maintain Ailan Kastom belonging to all Torres Strait Islanders, develop policy, implement programmes and coordinate service delivery for the benefit of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait area.

Torres Strait Regional Authority
1st Floor, Torres Strait Haus
46 Victoria Parade
Thursday Island, QLD

The Basis of Preparation

The financial statements 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 - including simplified disclosures for Tier 2 Entities under AASB 1060 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.

New Accounting Standards

Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

Two amending standards (AASB 2021-2 and AASB 2021-6) were adopted earlier than the application date as stated in the standard. These amending standards, as below, have been adopted for the 2022-23 reporting period.

Standard/ Interpretation	Nature of change in accounting policy, transitional provisions and adjustment to financial statements
AASB 2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates (AASB 2021-2) and	AASB 2021-2 amends AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 108, AASB 134 and AASB Practice Statement 2. The amending standard requires the disclosure of material, rather than significant, accounting policies, and clarifies what is considered a change in accounting policy compared to a change in accounting estimate.
AASB 2021-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Disclosure of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and Other Australian Accounting Standards (AASB 2021-6)	AASB 2021-6 amends the Tier 2 reporting requirements set out in AASB 1049, AASB 1054 and AASB 1060 to reflect the changes made by AASB 2021-2. This amending standard is not expected to have a material impact on the TSRA's financial statements for the current reporting period or future reporting periods.

All new/revised/amending standards and/ or interpretations that were issued prior to the signing of the statement by the accountable authority and chief financial officer, were applicable to the current reporting period and 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 were no subsequent events 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 period ended 30 June 2023.

1.1 Expenses

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
1.1A: Employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	14,185	13,800
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	1,651	2,081
Defined benefit plans	369	406
Leave and other entitlements	2,509	1,722
Total employee benefits	18,714	18,009

Accounting Policy

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

1.1B: Suppliers

Goods and services supplied or rendered

Audit fees	60	60
Consultants and professional fees	3,326	6,859
Travel	3,605	2,642
Repairs and maintenance	740	727
Other staff costs	871	520
Office running costs	1,929	2,075
Property costs	379	457
Transport, freight and storage	479	774
Media, advertising and public relations	457	301
Strata Levies	38	66
Project Supplies	297	471
Other	1,038	713
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	13,219	15,665

Goods supplied

571

648

Services rendered

12,648

15,017

Total goods and services supplied or rendered

13,219

15,665

Other suppliers

Short-term leases

646

1,083

Workers compensation expenses

136

136

Total other suppliers

782

1,219

Total suppliers

14,001

16,884

The TSRA has no short-term lease commitments as at 30 June 2023.

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 1.1D, 2.2A and 2.4A.

Accounting Policy

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The TSRA has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of assets that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (less than \$10,000 per asset). The TSRA recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
1.1C: Grants		
Public sector:		
Australian Government entities (related parties)	-	300
State and Territory governments	550	3,282
Local governments	8,100	639
Private sector:		
Non-profit organisations	4,132	5,463
For-profit organisations	455	5,419
Total grants	<u>13,237</u>	<u>15,103</u>

The above grants to local governments should be read in conjunction with the accompanying note 5.2A.

Accounting Policy

The entity administers a number of grant schemes. Grant liabilities are recognised to the extent that (i) the services required to be performed by the grantee have been performed or (ii) the grant eligibility criteria have been satisfied, but payments due have not been made. When the Government enters into an agreement to make these grants and services but services have not been performed or criteria satisfied, this is considered a commitment.

1.1D: Finance costs

Write down of loans to net present value	263	332
Interest on lease liabilities	9	7
Total finance costs	<u>272</u>	<u>339</u>

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 1.1B, 2.2A and 2.4A.

Accounting Policy

Refer to accounting policy in note 2.1C relating to write down of loans to net present value.

1.1E: Loss on disposal of non-financial assets

Loss on disposal of non-financial assets - carrying value of assets disposed	-	211
Total loss on disposal of non-financial assets	<u>-</u>	<u>211</u>

1.2 Own-Source Revenue and Gains

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000

Own-Source Revenue

1.2A: Revenue from contracts with customers

Sale of goods	313	214
Rendering of services	483	448
Total revenue from contracts with customers	796	662

Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers

Type of customer:

State and Territory Governments	40	58
Non-government entities	756	604
	796	662

1.2B: Grant revenue

Grant revenue	20,426	12,606
Total grant Revenue	20,426	12,606

Accounting Policy

Revenue from the sale of goods and services is recognised when control has transferred to the buyer or when services have been rendered.

As required by AASB15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers, the TSRA determines whether a contract is in scope of AASB 15 by the following criteria:

- An enforceable contract must exist,
- There must be sufficiently specific performance obligations in the contract to enable the TSRA to determine when they have been satisfied, and;
- There must not be a significant donation component in the contract.

If these three criteria are met, the transaction price will be split between significantly specific performance obligations and recognised as revenue as those obligations are completed.

If any of these three criteria are not met, the TSRA refers to AASB 1058 Income of not-for-profit entities to recognise the revenue as follows:

- For transfers to enable the TSRA to acquire or construct a non financial asset, revenue is recognised as the non financial asset is acquired or constructed, otherwise;
- the transfer is accounted for as revenue when it is received.

The principal activity from which the TSRA generates its revenue is the delivery of State and Commonwealth Government funded projects in the Torres Strait that benefit Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region.

The transaction price is the total amount of consideration to which the TSRA expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring promised goods or services to a customer. The consideration promised in a contract with a customer may include fixed amounts, variable amounts, or both.

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.

1.2C: Interest

Loans	120	124
Deposits	1,259	66
Unwinding of concessional loan discount	58	52
Total interest	1,437	242

Accounting Policy

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method.

1.2D: Other revenue

Rent	30	41
Return of unused grant funding	570	4,951
Recoveries	195	-
Total other revenue	795	4,992

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Gains		
<u>1.2E: Gain from acquisition of land and buildings</u>		
Gain from acquisition of land and buildings	565	-
Total gain from acquisition of land and buildings	565	-
<u>1.2F: Revenue from Government</u>		
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet		
Corporate Commonwealth entity payments	36,486	36,059
Total revenue from Government	36,486	36,059

Accounting Policy

Revenue from Government

Funding received or receivable from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (appropriated to the TSRA as a corporate Commonwealth entity payment item for payment to this entity) is recognised as Revenue from Government by the TSRA 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

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
2.1A: Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand or on deposit	12,287	7,646
Cash on hand or on deposit - TSRA Housing Fund	<u>1,109</u>	<u>1,304</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>13,396</u>	<u>8,950</u>

The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (ATSI Act) s.144V(3) 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.

Accounting Policy

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents includes:

- a) cash on hand;
- b) demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value; and
- c) cash in special accounts.

2.1B: Trade and other receivables

Goods and services receivables

Goods and services	808	199
Total goods and services receivables	<u>808</u>	<u>199</u>

The TSRA has no contract assets as at 30 June 2023.

Other receivables

GST receivable from the Australian Tax Office	285	700
Interest	5	-
Other	<u>159</u>	<u>148</u>
Total other receivables	<u>449</u>	<u>848</u>
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	<u>1,257</u>	<u>1,047</u>

Less expected credit loss allowance

Goods and services	<u>(186)</u>	<u>(150)</u>
Total expected credit loss allowance	<u>(186)</u>	<u>(150)</u>

Total trade and other receivables (net)

	<u>1,071</u>	<u>897</u>
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Credit terms are net 30 days (2022: 30 days).



	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
2.1C: Loan receivables		
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	3,380	3,798
Less: unexpired discount	<u>(761)</u>	<u>(556)</u>
Concessional loans - (gross)	2,619	3,242
Less: expected credit loss allowance	<u>(243)</u>	<u>(222)</u>
Total loan receivables	2,376	3,020

Accounting Policy

Financial Assets

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that are held for the purpose of collecting the contractual cash flows where the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, that are not provided at below-market interest rates, are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method adjusted for any loss allowance.

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.

2.1D: Other investments

Term deposits	22,174	16,717
Term deposit - bank guarantee for Cairns office lease	54	-
Term deposits - TSRA Housing Fund	<u>10,826</u>	<u>10,059</u>
Total other investments	33,054	26,776

Accounting Policy

Term deposits are classified as other investments, and not cash, when they have an original maturity of greater than 3 months.

2.2 Non-Financial Assets

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

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Total land & buildings \$'000	Heritage and cultural ¹ \$'000	Plant & equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2022						
Gross book value	12,098	50,789	62,887	77	5,856	68,820
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(30)	(136)	(166)	-	(4,548)	(4,714)
Total as at 1 July 2022	12,068	50,653	62,721	77	1,308	64,106
Additions						
Purchase	860	653	1,513	-	797	2,310
Right-of-use assets	-	656	656	-	-	656
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	10,220	(980)	9,240	-	-	9,240
Depreciation	-	(1,582)	(1,582)	-	(441)	(2,023)
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	(11)	(108)	(119)	-	-	(119)
Other movements of right-of-use assets	18	-	18	-	-	18
Total as at 30 June 2023	23,155	49,292	72,447	77	1,664	74,188
Total as at 30 June 2023 represented by						
Gross book value	23,196	49,400	72,596	77	6,652	79,325
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(41)	(108)	(149)	-	(4,988)	(5,137)
Total as at 30 June 2023	23,155	49,292	72,447	77	1,664	74,188
Carrying amount of right-of-use assets	270	654	924	-	-	924

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.

Revaluations of non-financial asset

All revaluations were conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 4.3.

On 30 June, an independent valuer conducted the revaluations.

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

No 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 no current contractual commitment for the purchase of property, plant and equipment as at 30 June 2023. (2022: 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.

Lease Right of Use (ROU) Assets

Leased ROU assets are capitalised at the commencement date of the lease and comprise of the initial lease liability amount, initial direct costs incurred when entering into the lease less any lease incentives received. These assets are accounted for by Commonwealth lessees as separate asset classes to corresponding assets owned outright, but included in the same column as where the corresponding underlying assets would be presented if they were owned.

On initial adoption of AASB 16 the TSRA has adjusted the ROU assets at the date of initial application by the amount of any provision for onerous leases recognised immediately before the date of initial application. Following initial application, an impairment review is undertaken for any right of use lease asset that shows indicators of impairment and an impairment loss is recognised against any right of use lease asset that is impaired. Lease ROU assets continue to be measured at cost after initial recognition in Commonwealth agency, GGS and Whole of Government financial statements.

Revaluations

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment (**excluding ROU assets**) are carried at fair value (or an amount not materially different from fair value). 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:

	2023	2022
Buildings on freehold land	17 to 45 years	17 to 45 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.

The depreciation rates for ROU assets are based on the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the ROU asset or the end of the lease term.

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2023. 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.

Accounting Policy (continued)

Heritage and Cultural Assets

The TSRA has a limited collection of 23 (2022: 23) distinct Cultural and Heritage assets with an aggregated fair value of \$77,000 (2022: \$77,000). Cultural assets are comprised of artworks, carvings, and traditional headdresses. Heritage assets consist of models of 2 (2022: 2) sailing vessels and a brass Pearl Diver's helmet (2022: 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 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. Plant and Equipment is measured at depreciated cost.

No indicators of impairment were found for other non-financial assets.



2.3 Payables

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000

2.3A: Suppliers

Trade creditors and accruals	917	2,696
Total suppliers	917	2,696

Settlement was usually made within 30 days.

2.3B: Other payables

Salaries and wages	360	307
Superannuation	57	43
Total other payables	417	350

2.4 Interest Bearing Liabilities

2.4A: Leases

Lease liabilities	966	366
Total leases	966	366

Total cash outflow for leases for the period ended 30 June 2023 was \$682,225. (2022: \$1,135,084)

Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows

Within 1 year	230	83
Between 1 to 5 years	565	94
More than 5 years	263	258
Total leases	1,058	435

The TSRA in its capacity as lessee has a lease for office space in Cairns that expires in April 2027 with one 2 year option and office space on Thursday Island that expires in July 2024 with no options. The TSRA also has a lease for the land on which the Erub Multi-purpose facility is built on. This lease expires in April 2047.

The TSRA in its capacity as lessee has no leasing arrangements with below market terms.

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 1.1B, 1.1D and 2.2A.

Accounting Policy

For all new contracts entered into, the TSRA considers whether the contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'.

Once it has been determined that a contract is, or contains a lease, the lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, if that rate is readily determinable, or the TSRA's incremental borrowing rate.

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification to the lease. When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset or profit and loss depending on the nature of the reassessment or modification.

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

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
3.1A: Employee provisions		
Long service leave	2,114	2,015
Annual leave	1,414	1,487
Personal leave	64	64
Total employee provisions	3,592	3,566

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.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave, personal 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.

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 Board Members including the Chairperson, the Chief Executive Officer and the Portfolio Minister. Key management personnel remuneration is reported in the table below:

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits	1,057	778
Post-employment benefits	112	77
Other long-term employee benefits	13	(4)
Total key management personnel remuneration expenses¹	1,182	851

The total number of key management personnel that are included in the above table are 21 (2022: 22)

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. 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: 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

Loan Holder: Patrick Loban

- Yen Loban - TSRA Board Member - Close family member of Patrick Loban

Loan Holder: Basako Fishing Pty Ltd

- Sereako Stephen - TSRA Board Member - Basako Fishing Pty Ltd Owner

Loan Holder: Elthies Alion Bowie

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Loans to Related Parties		
Loans to directors and close family members outstanding as at year-end	421,337	495,938
Loans to directors and close family members during the year	5,720	-
Loan repayments by directors and close family members during the year	46,112	51,550
Loans to director-related entities outstanding as at year-end	96,973	92,540
Loans to director-related entities during the year	18,000	-
Loan repayments by director-related entities during the year	19,963	12,000
Interest revenue included in net cost of services from loans to directors/director-related entities	35,089	33,995
Related party concessional business loans for current directors provided for as doubtful debts	52,485	56,879

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	2023	2022
		\$	\$
Y Loban - Mayor (2021-22 financial year)	Torres Shire Council	-	25,000
J Gela - Chairperson	Erubam Le Traditional Land and Sea Owners (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC	-	22,210
J Gela - Director	Torres Strait Islander Media Association	960,202	828,015
H Baira - Director, Acting Manager	Mura Badulagal (TSI) Corporation	-	301,050
K Watson - Director, T Yusia - Acting CEO	NPA Family & Community Services	5,049	14,397
Y Loban - Chairperson, H Baira - Director	Zenadth Kes Fisheries Limited	200,000	1,050,000
J Gela - Director, S Stephen - Director, D Toby - Director	Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea & Land Council TSI	-	170,922
D Toby - Chairperson	Malu Ki' Ai (TSI) Corporation RNTBC	-	9,371

Other Transactions with Related Parties

Grant receipts were received from the following Australian Government Entities by the TSRA during 2022-23.

Government Entity	Purpose of Grant	2023	2022
		\$	\$
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	National Landcare Program	600,000	600,000
National Indigenous Australians Agency	Indigenous Protected Areas	509,252	502,221
National Indigenous Australians Agency	Torres Strait Indigenous Ranger Program	11,006,975	9,129,349
National Indigenous Australians Agency	Major Infrastructure and Other Projects - Seawalls	8,000,000	-
National Indigenous Australians Agency	Performance of Native Title Representative Body Functions - Warral and Ului Claim	-	1,885,000
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Indigenous Language Centre	250,000	555,000

Managing Uncertainties

This section analyses how the TSRA manages financial risks within its operating environment.

4.1 Contingent Assets and Liabilities

	Bank Guarantees		Total	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Contingent liabilities				
Balance from previous period	116	116	116	116
New contingent assets recognised	54	-	54	-
Total contingent liabilities	170	116	170	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 (2022: \$116,000) and \$54,000 of contingent liabilities in respect to a bank guarantee in favour of Carthel Developments Pty Ltd (2022: \$0).

The table contains no contingent assets. (2022: \$0).

Unquantifiable Contingencies

At 30 June 2023, the TSRA had no unquantifiable contingencies. (2022: \$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

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
4.2A: Categories of financial instruments		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Term deposits	33,054	26,776
Cash and cash equivalents	13,396	8,950
Trade and other receivables	786	197
Loan receivables	2,376	3,020
Total financial assets at amortised cost	49,612	38,943
Total financial assets	49,612	38,943
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Trade creditors	917	2,696
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	917	2,696
Total financial liabilities	917	2,696

Accounting Policy

Financial assets

In accordance with AASB 9 Financial Instruments, the entity classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- (a) financial assets at fair value through profit or loss;
- (b) financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income; and

(c) financial assets measured at amortised cost.

The classification depends on both the entity's business model for managing the financial assets and contractual cash flow characteristics at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contract and, as a consequence, has a legal right to receive or a legal obligation to pay cash and derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are transferred upon trade date.

Financial Assets at Amortised Cost

Financial assets included in this category need to meet two criteria:

1. the financial asset is held in order to collect the contractual cash flows; and
2. the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI) on the principal outstanding amount.

Amortised cost is determined using the effective interest method.

Effective Interest Method

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis for financial assets that are recognised at amortised cost.

Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period based on Expected Credit Losses, using the general approach which measures the loss allowance based on an amount equal to *lifetime expected credit losses* where risk has significantly increased, or an amount equal to *12-month expected credit losses* if risk has not increased.

The simplified approach for trade, contract and lease receivables is used. This approach always measures the loss allowance as the amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses.

A write-off constitutes a derecognition event where the write-off directly reduces the gross carrying amount of the financial asset.

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 Amortised Cost

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.

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).

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>4.2B: Net gains or losses on financial assets</u>		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Interest revenue - Term deposits	1,259	66
Interest revenue - Loans	120	124
Unwinding of concessional loan discount	58	52
Reversal of impairment losses	10	58
Reversal of losses from remeasuring loan	-	8
Write down of loans to net present value	(263)	(332)
Loans and receivables provided for as impaired	(68)	(93)
Net gains/(losses) on financial assets at amortised cost	1,116	(117)
Net gains on financial assets	1,116	(117)

4.2C: Net gains or losses on financial liabilities

There are no gains or losses on financial liabilities for the period ended 30 June 2023 (2022: \$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	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Non-financial assets		
Land	22,885	11,805
Buildings	48,638	50,547
Heritage and cultural	77	77
Total non-financial assets	71,600	62,429

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 Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

5.1A: Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Assets expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months		
Cash and cash equivalents	13,396	8,950
Trade and other receivables	1,071	897
Loan receivables	521	399
Other investments	33,054	26,776
Other non-financial assets	87	188
Total no more than 12 months	48,129	37,210
More than 12 months		
Loan receivables	1,855	2,621
Land and buildings	72,447	62,721
Heritage and cultural	77	77
Plant and equipment	1,664	1,308
Total more than 12 months	76,043	66,727
Total assets	124,172	103,937
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months		
Suppliers	917	2,696
Other payables	417	350
Leases	215	77
Employee provisions	1,621	1,541
Total no more than 12 months	3,170	4,664
More than 12 months		
Leases	751	289
Employee provisions	1,971	2,025
Total more than 12 months	2,722	2,314
Total liabilities	5,892	6,978

5.2 Assets held in trust

5.2A: 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. On 4 June 2019, a further variation was executed to reflect the additional contribution of \$20 million of Queensland Government funding for Seawalls Program Stage 2. On 1 December 2020, a further variation to the MOU was executed to reflect the additional contribution of an additional \$20 million of Australian Government funding for Seawalls Program Stage 2, with \$8 million made available by the TSRA in the 2022-23 financial year as disclosed in grants to local governments in note 1.1C.

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.

2023	2022
\$'000	\$'000

Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and Other Projects Trust Fund

Monetary assets

As at 1 July	41,822	52,410
Receipts	10,447	1,506
Payments	(7,713)	(12,094)
Total as at 30 June	44,556	41,822

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	2,279	2,110
Receipts	120	169
Total as at 30 June	2,399	2,279

Tropical Rock Lobster Trust Account

Torres Strait Islanders own 66.17 per cent of the Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL) fishery through licencing conditions imposed for the 2019 season. Any future leasing of quota will be through negotiations with the recently created Zenadh Kes Fisheries Pty Ltd.

Tropical Rock Lobster Trust Account

Monetary assets

As at 1 July	84	84
Total as at 30 June	84	84

Total monetary assets held in trust

47,039	44,185
---------------	---------------

5.3 Budget Variances Commentary

The below table provides commentary for significant variances between the TSRA's October budget estimates reported in the October Portfolio Budget Statements 2022-23 Budget Related Paper No. 1.13, Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio, for the Torres Strait Regional Authority, and the actual expenditure and net asset position for the year. Variances greater than 10% for budget items greater than \$1M in the statement of comprehensive income and cash flow statement, along with significant variances in the balance sheet have been explained.

Explanation of major budget variances	Affected line items (and Statement)
<p>The employee benefits budget assumed all positions would be filled by 1 July 2022. A combination of late recruitment and the effect of the average staffing level cap caused a variance of \$2.5M.</p>	Employee benefits (Statement of Comprehensive Income)
<p>The budgeted grant revenue and budgeted grants expenses include revenue and expenditure on funding agreements that had been executed at the time the budget was prepared. During the financial year, there was unspent grant revenue of \$3.3M, substantially related to the Indigenous Rangers Program and a \$3M variance in grants expenditure due to implementation of a new Grants framework. Suppliers expense had a variance of \$4.6M due to implemented efficiencies resulting in legal, professional fees and consultants expenses, and delays in gaining Board approval to transfer funding to support emergency infrastructure works through the Major Infrastructure and Other Projects Program. The variance of \$14.8M in cash and cash equivalents and investments reflects the variance in these items.</p>	Suppliers Expense, Grants Expense (Statement of Comprehensive Income) Cash used - Grants and Suppliers (Cash Flow Statement)
<p>The budget reflects the depreciation funding received as part of the annual budget appropriation. The actual depreciation expense represents depreciation on property, plant, equipment and ROU assets and is partly funded from reserves.</p>	Depreciation (Statement of Comprehensive Income)
<p>A combination of a substantial reduction in budgeted employees, grants and suppliers expenditure were the major contributors to a variance of \$14.8M in cash and cash equivalents and investments.</p>	Cash and cash equivalents (Statement of Financial Position)
<p>The variance of \$6.0M in Land and Buildings was due to increases in land valuations, partially offset by a reduction in building valuations following unexpected increases in building material costs.</p>	Land and buildings (Statement of Financial Position)







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APPENDIX A – REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Table A1 details annual reporting requirements for corporate Commonwealth entities under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth), as set out in the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014 (Cth), and shows how each requirement is covered in this annual report.

Table A1 Annual report requirements for corporate Commonwealth entities

PGPA Rule reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement
17BE	Contents of annual report		
17BE(a)	1 Overview – Our organisation	Details of the legislation establishing the body	Mandatory
17BE(b)(i)	1 Overview – Our organisation	A summary of the objects and functions of the entity as set out in legislation	Mandatory
17BE(b)(ii)	2 Annual performance statements – Performance reporting framework	The purposes of the entity as included in the entity's corporate plan for the reporting period	Mandatory
17BE(c)	1 Overview – Our organisation	The names of the persons holding the position of responsible Minister or responsible Ministers during the reporting period, and the titles of those responsible Ministers	Mandatory
17BE(d)	None to report	Directions given to the entity by the Minister under an Act or instrument during the reporting period	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(e)	None to report	Any government policy order that applied in relation to the entity during the reporting period under section 22 of the Act	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(f)	None to report	Particulars of non-compliance with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. a direction given to the entity by the Minister under an Act or instrument during the reporting period; or b. a government policy order that applied in relation to the entity during the reporting period under section 22 of the Act 	If applicable, mandatory

Table A1 Annual report requirements for corporate Commonwealth entities (cont.)

PGPA Rule reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement
17BE(g)	2 Annual performance statements	Annual performance statements in accordance with paragraph 39(1)(b) of the Act and section 16F of the rule	Mandatory
17BE(h), 17BE(i)	None to report	A statement of significant issues reported to the Minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the Act that relates to non-compliance with finance law and action taken to remedy non-compliance	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(j)	3 Management and accountability – TSRA Board	Information on the accountable authority, or each member of the accountable authority, of the entity during the reporting period	Mandatory
17BE(k)	1 Overview – Our organisation	Outline of the organisational structure of the entity (including any subsidiaries of the entity)	Mandatory
17BE(ka)	3 Management and accountability – Our people	Statistics on the entity’s employees on an ongoing and non-ongoing basis, including the following: a. statistics on full-time employees; b. statistics on part-time employees; c. statistics on gender; d. statistics on staff location	Mandatory
17BE(l)	1 Overview – Our organisation	Outline of the location (whether or not in Australia) of major activities or facilities of the entity	Mandatory
17BE(m)	3 Management and accountability	Information relating to the main corporate governance practices used by the entity during the reporting period	Mandatory
17BE(n), 17BE(o)	4 Financial statements	For transactions with a related Commonwealth entity or related company where the value of the transaction, or if there is more than one transaction, the aggregate of those transactions, is more than \$10,000 (inclusive of GST): a. the decision-making process undertaken by the accountable authority to approve the entity paying for a good or service from, or providing a grant to, the related Commonwealth entity or related company; and b. the value of the transaction, or if there is more than one transaction, the number of transactions and the aggregate value of the transactions	If applicable, mandatory



Table A1 Annual report requirements for corporate Commonwealth entities (cont.)

PGPA Rule reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement
17BE(p)	None to report	Any significant activities and changes that affected the operation or structure of the entity during the reporting period	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(q)	None to report	Particulars of judicial decisions or decisions of administrative tribunals that may have a significant effect on the operations of the entity	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(r)	None to report	Particulars of any reports on the entity given by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the Auditor-General (other than a report under section 43 of the Act); or a Parliamentary Committee; or the Commonwealth Ombudsman; or the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner 	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(s)	Not applicable	An explanation of information not obtained from a subsidiary of the entity and the effect of not having the information on the annual report	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(t)	3 Management and accountability – Indemnities and insurance	Details of any indemnity that applied during the reporting period to the accountable authority, any member of the accountable authority or officer of the entity against a liability (including premiums paid, or agreed to be paid, for insurance against the authority, member or officer's liability for legal costs)	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(taa)	3 Management and accountability – Audit Committee	The following information about the audit committee for the entity: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a direct electronic address of the charter determining the functions of the audit committee; the name of each member of the audit committee; the qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience of each member of the audit committee; information about each member's attendance at meetings of the audit committee; the remuneration of each member of the audit committee 	Mandatory
17BE(ta)	3 Management and accountability – Executive remuneration	Information about executive remuneration	Mandatory

APPENDIX B – ADDITIONAL MATTERS

This appendix provides information to address the annual report requirements of legislation applicable to the TSRA other than the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth).

Ministerial directions

In accordance with the requirements of section 144ZB(2)(a) of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), the TSRA reports that no ministerial directions were given by the Minister for Indigenous Australians under section 142E of the Act in 2022–23.

Consultants

In accordance with the requirements of sections 144ZB(2)(b) and 144ZB(5) of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), Table B1 provides details of consultants engaged by the TSRA in 2022–23.

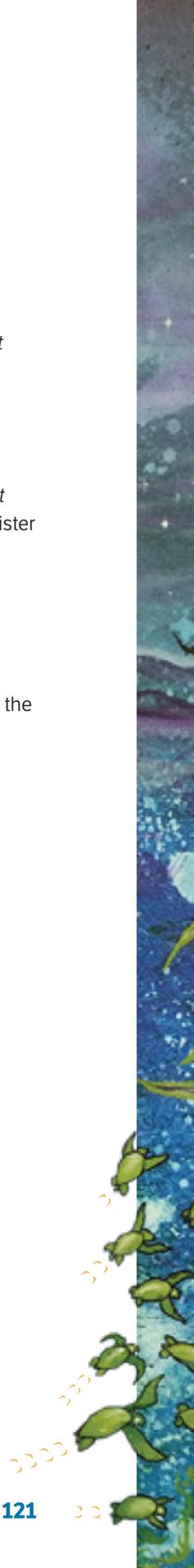


Table B1 Details of consultants, 2022–23

Name	Amount (GST excl.)	Purpose	Selection process	Justification code
Danielle Chesher	\$63,000	Strategic human resources	Direct sourcing	A
DFK Kidsons	\$12,270	Probity advisor	Direct sourcing	B
Fordham and More	\$32,000	Strategic policy	Direct sourcing	A
Fordham and More	\$60,400	Organisational review	Direct sourcing	A
Resilient Services Pty Ltd	\$110,125	Business continuity and risk management	Open tender	A
Six Degrees	\$45,760	Strategic human resources	Limited tender	A
James Cook University	\$157,014	Scientific advisory services	Direct sourcing	A
Baidam Solutions	\$19,800	Cybersecurity	Open tender	B
Jones Lang LaSalle Advisory Services Pty Ltd	\$38,300	Valuation services	Open tender	A
Orange Grapevine	\$116,700	Governance policy and statutory reporting	Direct sourcing	A
Worklogic Pty Ltd	\$11,730	Strategic human resources	Direct sourcing	B

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) of the Act. For the purposes of reporting, engagement of a 'consultant' is defined as the engagement of temporary services that involve the development of an intellectual output that assists with decision-making, where the intellectual output represents the independent view of the service provider. The independent intellectual output must be the majority element of the contract in terms of relative value or importance.

Justification code

A Need for specialised or professional skills

B Need for independent research or assessment

Grants

In accordance with the requirements of section 144ZB(3) of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), Table B2 provides details of grants made by the TSRA during 2022–23.

The TSRA's reports on grants approved are tabled in the Senate as part of the reports of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio. Portfolio responses to the Senate Orders for departmental and agency grants can be found on the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet website, at <https://www.pmc.gov.au/about-us/accountability-and-reporting/corporate-reporting/tabling-lists-senate-order-listing>.

Table B2 Details of grants, 2022–23^{1,2}

Grant recipient	Grant programme	Activity	Amount (GST excl.)
AFL Cape York	Healthy Communities	After School Sports Development Programme	\$7,250
AFL Cape York	Healthy Communities	On the Move with Deadly Foods	\$4,608
Cairns Indigenous Art Fair	Culture, Art and Heritage	2023 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair	\$60,000
Clara Tamu	Healthy Communities	Junior Rugby League and Careers Market – Warraber Island	\$15,000
Debra Nona	Healthy Communities	State of Mind Wellbeing Symposium – Badu Island	\$10,000
Diane Sabatino	Economic Development	Torres Strait Electrical	\$20,994
Erub Erwer Meta Torres Strait Islander Corporation, trading as Erub Arts	Culture, Art and Heritage	<i>Neap Tide</i> (art exhibition)	\$12,077
Ettie Mosby	Culture, Art and Heritage	<i>Seeds of Love</i> (Father and Son volume 3) (music recording)	\$21,440
Iama Mura Garkazil Men's Group	Safe Communities	International Men's Day Event	\$5,432
Jira Models Pty Ltd	Culture, Art and Heritage	Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Fashion Initiative	\$25,000
Kaurareg Native Title Aboriginal Corporation	Economic Development	Purchase of Kaurareg ranger barge	\$350,000
Mer Gedkem Le (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	Economic Development	Electrical upgrade to Mer Guesthouse	\$37,015
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	Safe Communities	Operational costs	\$514,999
Ngalmun Lagau Minalal Torres Strait Islander Corporation, trading as Moa Arts	Culture, Art and Heritage	Performance at exhibition opening at NorthSite and Cairns Indigenous Art Fair	\$25,000



Table B2 Details of grants, 2022–23^{1,2} (cont.)

Grant recipient	Grant programme	Activity	Amount (GST excl.)
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Culture, Art and Heritage	Artist development workshops	\$21,000
Northern Peninsula Area Family and Community Services Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation	Governance and Leadership	Northern Outlook Camp	\$28,503
OSE Group Pty Ltd	Economic Development	Mer Guesthouse further works	\$330,000
Queensland University of Technology – Carumba Institute	Healthy Communities	Lowitja Institute Conference	\$16,545
Salty Monkeys	Safe Communities	Dive safety workshop	\$3,764
Tagai State College	Governance and Leadership	yLead Australian Student Leadership Conference	\$1,956
Tagai State College	Governance and Leadership	STEM ambassador to deliver National Science Week activities	\$7,868
Tagai State College Thursday Island Secondary Campus	Culture, Art and Heritage	<i>Lugger Bort</i> exhibition performance	\$10,359
Thursday Island Justice Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Corporation	Safe Communities	Thursday Island Justice Regional Direct Initiatives	\$300,000
Torres Strait Heritage	Governance and Leadership	80th Anniversary of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion	\$25,000
Torres Strait Islander Media Association	Culture, Art and Heritage	Kala Lagaw Ya Learning Songs	\$12,500
Torres Strait Islander Media Association	Culture, Art and Heritage	Lingu Karay Women's Choir Recording Project	\$25,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Culture, Art and Heritage	86th Anniversary of the First Island Councillors Conference	\$87,500
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Economic Development	Enterprise Development Strategy	\$47,259

Table B2 Details of grants, 2022–23^{1,2} (cont.)

Grant recipient	Grant programme	Activity	Amount (GST excl.)
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Governance and Leadership	85th Anniversary of the First Island Councillors Conference	\$100,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Regional Infrastructure	Iama Water Storage Lagoon Construction Pre-feasibility Study	\$50,000
Torres Strait Islander Nurses Indigenous Corporation	Healthy Communities	Establishment of business plan	\$52,063
Torres Strait Kaziw Meta Inc	Healthy Communities	Healthy Food Leadership Programme	\$51,920
Torres Strait Outrigger Canoe Club	Healthy Communities	2023 Gubbi Gubbi	\$9,000
Zenadth Kes Fisheries Ltd	Fisheries	Administration of Zenadth Kes Fisheries Ltd	\$625,000

- 1 This table includes grants made in the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. Grants are considered made on the date there is a fully executed grant agreement in place between the TSRA and the grant recipient. This table does not include variations to pre-existing grants made prior to the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. Funding amounts have been rounded to the nearest dollar.
- 2 Due to differences in how data has been presented, grants data presented in the annual performance statements may not fully align with information presented in Table B2. For instance, the annual performance statements present summarised data by recipient type, while Table B2 provides information on each grant agreement executed during the reporting period.

Sacred matters

In accordance with the requirements of section 144ZB(4) of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), this report does not disclose any matters known to the TSRA to be held sacred by Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal persons.

Advertising and market research

The TSRA provides details of its expenditure on advertising and market research, including advertising campaigns, as required by section 311A of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Cth).

During 2022–23, the TSRA did not undertake any official campaign advertising as defined by the Department of Finance or make any reportable payments to market research, polling, direct mail or media advertising organisations.

Environmental sustainability

The TSRA provides information on its environmental performance as required by section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

The TSRA administers the Environmental Management programme, which aims to empower Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people to sustainably manage and benefit from their land, sea and cultural resources into the future. Key components of the TSRA's commitment to environmental sustainability are outlined in the *Land and Sea Management Strategy for Torres Strait 2016–2036*. Outcomes delivered by the Environmental Management programme in 2022–23 are presented in the annual performance statements in part 2 of the annual report.

The TSRA is committed to promoting environmental sustainability through its activities. The ways in which the TSRA does this include:

- » using energy-efficient office machinery and computer monitors
- » using low-wattage lights throughout the TSRA offices
- » reducing paper usage by centralising printers and setting them to double-sided printing as the default
- » using office paper that is carbon neutral, is recycled and/or has an environmental sustainability rating
- » improving invasive species control, including by supporting management strategies for invasive fish and cane toads
- » producing biodiversity profiles and fauna surveys for all inhabited Torres Strait islands
- » working with communities for the sustainable management of turtles and dugongs
- » developing and implementing actions to build sustainability and resilience across the region through planning for climate change impacts
- » monitoring environmental change across the region.

APS Net Zero 2030 emissions reporting

As part of meeting the requirements of section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth), the TSRA reports on the greenhouse gas emissions associated with its operations.

Emissions reporting has been developed using a methodology consistent with Australian Government reporting requirements, as part of the Australian Public Service Net Zero 2030 Policy. Not all data sources were available at the time of the report and adjustments to baseline data may be required in future reports.

The emissions reported in Table B3 are calculated using a location-based approach, which assigns emissions amounts to emissions sources on the basis of geographical location. Results are presented using carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂-e) emissions. The 3 categories of emissions presented are as follows:

- » Scope 1 relates to direct emissions from entity facilities and company-owned vehicles.
- » Scope 2 relates to indirect emissions from purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling for the TSRA's own use.
- » Scope 3 relates to other indirect emissions, including from leased assets up and downstream.

Table B3 Greenhouse gas emissions – location-based approach, 2022–23

Emission source	Scope 1 (kg CO ₂ -e)	Scope 2 (kg CO ₂ -e)	Scope 3 (kg CO ₂ -e)	Total (kg CO ₂ -e)
Electricity	N/A	8,515	1,750	10,265
Natural gas	0	N/A	0	0
Fleet vehicles	35,252	N/A	8,802	44,054
Domestic flights	N/A	N/A	310,873	310,873
Other energy	0	N/A	0	0
Total (kg CO₂-e)	35,252	8,515	321,425	365,192

Note: kg CO₂-e = kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions. N/A indicates where the location-based methodology was not applicable. Total figures may not match the sum of emissions sources due to rounding errors.

When applying the market-based method, which accounts for activities such as Greenpower, purchased large-scale generation certificates and/or being located in the Australian Capital Territory, the total emissions for the TSRA are as shown in Table B4.

Table B4 Greenhouse gas emissions – market-based approach, 2022–23

Emission source	Scope 1 (kg CO ₂ -e)	Scope 2 (kg CO ₂ -e)	Scope 3 (kg CO ₂ -e)	Total (kg CO ₂ -e)
Electricity	N/A	7,988	1,057	9,045
Natural gas	0	N/A	0	0
Fleet vehicles	35,252	N/A	8,802	44,054
Domestic flights	N/A	N/A	310,873	310,873
Other energy	0	N/A	0	0
Total (kg CO₂-e)	35,252	7,988	320,732	363,972

Note: kg CO₂-e = kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions. N/A indicates where the market-based methodology was not applicable. Total figures may not match the sum of emissions sources due to rounding errors.



Work health and safety

The TSRA provides information on its work health and safety initiatives and outcomes as required by Part 4 of Schedule 2 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (Cth).

During 2022–23, the TSRA complied with its responsibilities under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (Cth). There were no notifications, investigations, or notices arising from undertakings by the TSRA to Comcare under the Act during the reporting period.

In 2022–23, significant recruitment was undertaken, along with related staff movements. The TSRA identified that the existing work health and safety management system required review to ensure that it still meets key objectives. An external audit of TSRA compliance with its work health and safety obligations is scheduled to begin in July 2023.

The TSRA's employees undertake duties as first-aid officers, fire wardens, and health and safety representatives. Workers are informed of current issues and receive advice on managing their work health and safety risks.

The TSRA's rehabilitation management system includes an early intervention and injury management strategy and is in accordance with Comcare requirements. TSRA staff can access a healthy lifestyle reimbursement of up to \$200 per year.

The TSRA is updating its bullying and harassment policy and will train new harassment contact officers to provide employee support. The TSRA also provides support to staff through an employee assistance program delivered by an external provider.







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ABBREVIATIONS

AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
ARLP	Australian Rural Leadership Program
BGP	Business Growth Package
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
Cth	Commonwealth
E&H Law	Richardson Eckersley Lawyers
GTCC	Gab Titui Cultural Centre
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area
JCU	James Cook University
Mini BGP	Mini Business Growth Package
MIP	Major Infrastructure Programme
N/A	not applicable
NIAA	National Indigenous Australians Agency
PZJA	Protected Zone Joint Authority
QIFVLS	Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service
RNTBC	registered Native Title body corporate
TAC	total allowable catch
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
TEK	traditional ecological knowledge
TIB	Traditional Inhabitant Boat
TRAWQ	Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine
TSIMA	Torres Strait Islander Media Association
TSLIB	Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion
TSRA	Torres Strait Regional Authority
TSTLA	Torres Strait Traditional Languages Association
TSYRSA	Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association
ZK Fisheries	Zenadth Kes Fisheries Limited

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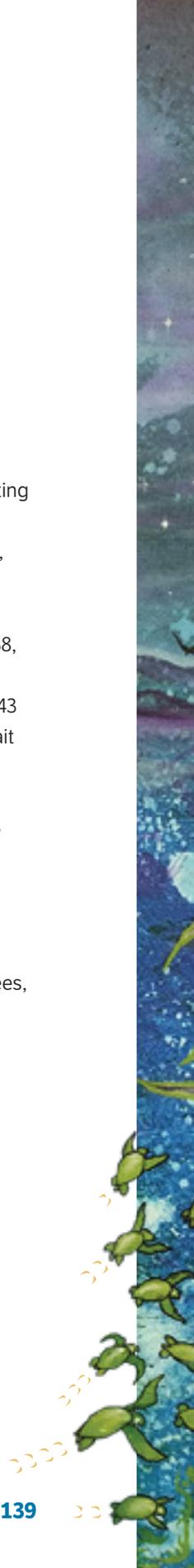
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An underwater scene with a blue-green color palette. In the upper right, a group of about ten turtles of various sizes swims towards the right. In the lower half, several fish of different species are swimming. On the left, there are some seagrass-like plants. The overall scene is a stylized illustration of marine life.

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