



Australian Government



TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007



The TSRA will always make every effort to respect Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal cultural sensitivity and advises that there may be some images of deceased persons in this publication.

© Commonwealth of Australia

ISSN 1324 -163X

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA). Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction rights should be directed to the Public Affairs Officer, TSRA, PO Box 261, Thursday Island, Qld 4875.

Copyright ©. The cover features “Waru Birth,” a lino-print by Torres Strait Islander artist, Mr Mario Assan.

Photos featured within this document were taken by the TSRA (some in partnership with the National Museum of Australia), unless otherwise indicated.

Copyright © Commonwealth of Australia (1986, 1988, 1993)





Australian Government



TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

The Hon. Mal Brough
Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

It gives me great pleasure to present you with the thirteenth Annual Report of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA), in accordance with Section 144ZB of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 and also Section 9 of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997. This annual report covers the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

As we enter our fourteenth year of operations, the TSRA will continue to work in partnership with the Australian Government to improve the quality of life for all Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John T. Kris'.

John T. Kris
Chairperson
Torres Strait Regional Authority
12 October 2007

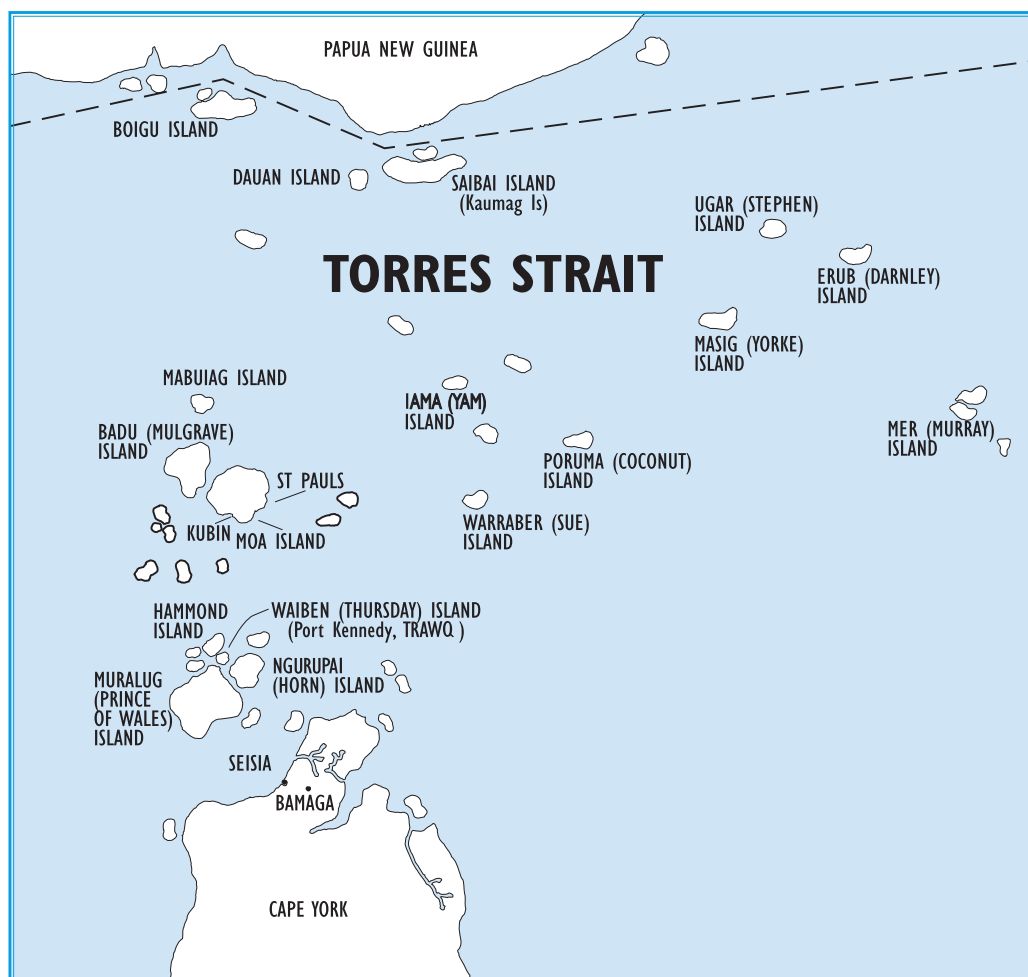


Australian Government



TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2006–2007



Contents

Letter of Transmittal	ii
Our Vision	v
Our Goals	v
Preface	vi
Chairperson's Report	1
TSRA Board	8
About the TSRA	19
Torres Strait Region	20
Operating Environment	20
Extent of Need	21
Formation	23
Enabling Legislation	24
Functions	25
Powers	26
Powers of Direction by the Minister	26
Corporate Overview by the General Manager	28
Corporate Governance	29
Corporate Documents	33
Outcome and Outputs	37
Prices of Outcomes and Outputs Planned and Actual	38
Performance Against Outputs	40
Output One – Economic Development	46
Output Two – Community Development, Employment and Training	55
Output Three – Native Title	62
Output Four – Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure	69
Output Five – Social and Cultural Development	84
Output Six – Policy and Information	103
Financial Statements	113
Appendices	151
Appendix 1: TSRA Grants	152
Appendix 2: Freedom of Information Section 8 Statement	159
Appendix 3: Advertising and Market Research	162
Appendix 4: Staffing Overview; Ministerial Appointments	163
Appendix 5: Consultancies	168
Glossary	170
Indexes	172

OUR VISION

To empower our people to determine their own affairs based on our unique Ailan Kastom bilong Torres Strait from which we draw our unity and strength.

OUR GOALS

- Gain recognition of our rights, customs and identity as Indigenous peoples.
- Achieve a better quality of life for all people living in the Torres Strait region.
- Develop a sustainable economic base.
- Achieve better health and community services.
- Ensure protection of our environment.
- Assert our native title to the lands and waters of the Torres Strait region.



PREFACE

GUIDE TO THE 2006-2007 ANNUAL REPORT

The Torres Strait Regional Authority's Annual Report 2006-2007 is the Chairperson's report on operations to the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs on the performance and achievements of the TSRA during 2006-2007. It is a key accountability document to the Parliament of Australia.

REPORT STRUCTURE

The Chairperson's Report provides broad comment on the Torres Strait Regional Authority's (TSRA) challenges and achievements during the reporting period and discusses the TSRA's performance with a political and economic perspective.

The second chapter provides details of the TSRA Board, Advisory Committees, Portfolio Positions and the TSRA meetings held during 2006-2007.

The following chapter 'About the TSRA,' provides some detail about the Torres Strait region and the people who live here. It also describes the environment in which the TSRA operates; how and when the TSRA was created; what the TSRA does; the framework in which it distributes grants and loans; and, contains the General Manager's Corporate Overview, which is a detailed administrative and organisational review of TSRA's performance during the financial year.

A section on Outcome and Outputs states the planned and actual costs of the organisation's outcome, and six outputs which include: Economic Development; Community Development, Employment and Training; Native Title; Social, Cultural and Development; Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure; Policy and Information. A table is provided giving details of the planned achievements and the actual achievements for the year in relation to each of these six outputs. This is followed by an overview of each of the outputs. The programs and subprograms are listed and the programs' objectives are stated. Details are provided on the strategies and activities the TSRA has undertaken during the year to meet its program objectives; the performance of the programs and subprograms; and how these programs fit in with the planned achievements as stated in the Torres Strait Development Plan. Where appropriate, the future direction of the program is outlined.

Audited financial statements and the Independent Audit Report are also provided. The appendices contain information on a range of topics including grants the TSRA has made during the year (Appendix 1); the TSRA's statutory functions and powers as described under Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Appendix 2); advertising and market research details are in Appendix 3; and Appendix 4 contains a full staffing overview including Ministerial Appointments. A Consultancy Summary is listed in Appendix 5.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To obtain more information please contact the Public Affairs Officer, Torres Strait Regional Authority, PO Box 261, Thursday Island, Queensland 4875, on telephone (07) 4069 0700, toll free 1800 079 093, facsimile (07) 4069 1879 or by email info@tsra.gov.au.



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2006-2007

INTRODUCTION

Following another exciting and challenging year for the Torres Strait region, I am pleased to present the 2006-2007 Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Report of Operations under Section 9 of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997.

I extend my thanks to the TSRA Board and Administration for their dedication, commitment and efforts during the past year in ensuring the TSRA functioned efficiently. During this time, the TSRA progressed some major issues and continued to work successfully towards positive results for the Torres Strait region.



John T. Kris
Chairperson

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To enable long term, viable economic and financial sustainability in our Torres Strait communities, economic development continues to be a high priority area for the TSRA.

The TSRA offers the Home Ownership Program, Business Funding Scheme and the Community Economic Initiatives Schemes, and through these programs our people and communities are continuing to benefit by building up their economic independence.

The TSRA continues to cooperatively work in close partnership with both the Queensland Government and private sector to enable positive outcomes to be achieved in business development for the Torres Strait.

During the past year, the TSRA Executive travelled to the Top Western, Western, Eastern and Central cluster groups as well as the Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) to meet with Community Councils and individuals with a focus on economic development and through this process, I am pleased that many people are now considering the progression of their own business initiatives.

THE GAB TITUI CULTURAL CENTRE

In April 2007, the Gab Titui Central Centre celebrated its third birthday and continues to maintain a high profile. During this past year, the Centre has strengthened its reputation as being an outstanding Indigenous cultural facility, winning for the second year in a row, the title of Queensland's best Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tourism entity at the 2006 State Tourism Awards. In addition, Gab Titui Cultural Centre was also a finalist in both the 2007 Australian Tourism Awards and the 2006 Tropical North Queensland Tourism Awards, and also received a High Commendation in the Queensland Government's 2007 Reconciliation Business Awards for emerging businesses.

Over the last year, there has been an increased number of visitors to the Cultural Centre and cruise ship visits have increased from an average of 9 back in 2004 to 17 in 2006. The First Pearl's Exhibition, Dennis Nona's "Sesserae" Exhibition, and a visual arts exhibition that coincided with the Third Birthday showcasing artists from almost every community in the Torres Strait are but a few examples of the major attractions at Gab Titui. It is pleasing to note that the range of exhibitions held has been a positive vehicle for our renowned and emerging artists to showcase their work not only locally but also to the wider national and international arenas.

Gab Titui Cultural Centre hosted a visit by popular Aboriginal Celebrity chef, Mark Olive as well as hosting the filming of the documentary "4", depicting Vivaldi's Four Seasons throughout the world.

The Gab Titui Cultural Centre together with the Poruma Island Resort was invited to participate at the first ever Aboriginal Experiences Roadshow in Europe and the United Kingdom in late February and early March by Indigenous Tourism Australia. The Roadshow was an excellent opportunity for the Torres Strait region, Gab Titui Cultural Centre and Poruma Island Resort to be exposed and promoted to the European tourism market.

ARTS DEVELOPMENT

The TSRA continues to work with Arts Queensland and through matching funding has been able to support ten arts projects through the Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund (IRADF) under the categories of traditional and contemporary music, visual arts workshops, documenting significant events and traditional crafts.

FISHERIES

Since our last Annual Report, there have been some major achievements within fisheries management for the Torres Strait Region.

The TSRA is a formal Member of the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA), working equally beside the Australian and Queensland Ministers to progress fisheries issues in the Torres Strait region. As part of this forum, the TSRA, with the Community Fisher representatives, continues to play an active role in its meeting processes to drive the aspirations of our community fishers.

At its most recent meeting, the PZJA committed to move quota for Tropical Rock Lobster and Finfish as far as possible in favour of the Traditional Inhabitants Boat licence holders and negotiations are currently underway to progress these matters further. Community and fisher representative views were sought during Stakeholder Engagement Sessions conducted by the PZJA at Masig and Badu Island communities during April 2007.

I express my appreciation to the Community Fisher Group for their participation and input into progressing fisheries matters for the Torres Strait.

ENVIRONMENT

The Australian and Queensland Government Ministers invited the TSRA to play a lead role in coordinating the delivery of the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and the National Landcare Programs in the Torres Strait region. The objectives of the NHT are biodiversity conservation, the sustainable use of natural resources, and community capacity-building and institutional change.

TSRA continues to participate in the implementation of the Land & Sea Management Strategy for Torres Strait. This Strategy forms the framework for the delivery of land and sea management initiatives, NHT and other sources of funding for environmental projects in the region. It is also useful in terms of encouraging the alignment of government and research effort to support land and sea management priorities at both the regional and local level.

The Land & Sea Management Unit (LSMU) has been operational for 12 months now and coordinates the delivery of land and sea management initiatives to support communities in accessing financial and technical support, as well as information about the sustainable management of their environment. LSMU continues to play a valuable role in supporting communities to manage their land and seas sustainably.

Eight staff work within the Unit, including a Manager, Regional Natural Resource Management Facilitator, Community Liaison Officer, Dugong & Turtle Project Facilitator, Dugong & Turtle Liaison Officer, Landcare Officer, Land Management Field Officer, and Administration Officer. The LSMU is currently coordinating the delivery of 18 projects, including regional-scale, local and cross-regional projects for land and sea management, as well as research initiatives in the region. Additional funds have also been sourced from the Marine and Tropical Research Program coordinated by the Reef and Rainforest Research consortium.

Dugong and Turtle Management

TSRA represents one of five regions across northern Australia participating in an NHT-funded Dugong & Marine Turtle Management Project, coordinated through the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA). This project is supporting communities to move towards sustainable management approaches for dugongs and marine turtles, through the development of community management plans, monitoring activities, education and awareness-raising programmes.

With funding available under the NAILSMA project, along with additional funding from the Minister for Fisheries, TSRA is supporting eight communities to participate in the project. We will continue to work in close collaboration with communities, Traditional Owners, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, and all project partners to ensure the objectives of this important project are realised.

NATIVE TITLE

Over the last year, the TSRA Native Title Office (NTO) has continued to assist Traditional Owners, Prescribed Body Corporates and Island Councils with native title and related matters.

Land Claims

The NTO is continuing to assist the Traditional Owners of the four remaining land claims over the uninhabited islands Zuizin, Naghir, Raine Island and Warral & Ului reach determination. To date, the NTO has provided assistance to 19 of the 26 determinations made over land and waters in the Torres Strait region.

Torres Strait Sea Claim

Work has been continuing on the Regional Sea Claim and remains a priority area for the Native Title Office. In July 2006, Justice French was allocated the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim and travelled to Thursday Island for a directions hearing. The sea claim remains in mediation and mediation conferences have been convened by the National Native Title Tribunal and the Native Title Office between the parties. Anthropological research required for the claim has been complex but has been progressing and work will continue over the coming months.

The TSRA has accepted an offer from the Minister to be re-recognised as the Native Title Representative Body for our region for a further six years. I take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Native Title Office for their continued dedication and assistance to the Torres Strait in progressing native title matters over the last year.

HEALTH IN THE TORRES STRAIT

This year has been a significant one in health. In July, the formal signing and launch of the Torres Strait Health Framework Agreement by both the Australian and Queensland Governments, the TSRA, Island Coordinating Council and the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area District Health Council took place. The signing of the Agreement demonstrates a whole of government commitment towards the improvement of our health status in the region. The TSRA remains an active member of the Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum and provides input into key health issues related to the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

Dengue remains a key environmental health issue for the Torres Strait Regional Authority. TSRA provided funds for the development of a Strategic Plan for the control of dengue. Additional funding was also provided to the Asian Mosquito Prevention Project in partnership with the Australian Government Department of Families, Communities and Indigenous Affairs towards the control of this mosquito.

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (MIP)

The Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) continues to achieve real outcomes by improving the quality of environmental health infrastructure in the Torres Strait region. This program is a good example of what a whole of government approach can achieve and is jointly funded by both the Australian and Queensland Governments. MIP works closely with the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme, the Airstrip and Marine Upgrade Program and the Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program that have built community and Council capacity, providing employment and training opportunities for many Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in our communities.

This year was the final one in MIP Stage 3 and thus far the program has delivered water supplies, reticulated sewerage, subdivisional developments, roads, drainage and waste management projects through the Torres Strait and NPA communities. The TSRA was also successful in securing a total of \$12m in further funds from the Australian Government for two years (2007-2008 and 2008-2009) to continue MIP rolling out.

Initiatives throughout the Major Infrastructure Program have contributed positively and enhanced living standards for people in the Torres Strait region.

AIRSTRIPS AND MARINE UPGRADES

To enhance the safety and accessibility of Torres Strait communities, the TSRA continued to work closely with the Queensland Department of Transport (QT) to upgrade airstrips throughout the region. In August, a major community and aviation milestone was achieved with the opening of the final sealed airstrip for our region at Iama Island.

The sealed airstrips not only contribute towards community development and aviation safety but also towards improving the quality of life for the people in our region allowing accessibility to communities during the monsoon season.

In addition to air links, our communities are also reliant on safe sea links and TSRA in partnership with the QT has now begun focusing on the upgrade of berthing dolphins. The upgrade of community roads will be another focus of this program in the upcoming year.

COASTAL EROSION AND INUNDATION

With the significant impacts of island erosion and tidal surges on Torres Strait communities, the TSRA continues to work in partnership with communities, the State Government and university stakeholders on long term solutions to address these problems through the Coastal Erosion and Inundation Steering Committee. The Steering Committee develops strategic focus and a pathway to assist Community Councils address coastal erosion and island flooding issues.

The Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has now completed rapid assessment technical reports for the six communities listed as the highest priorities whilst the James Cook University has extended their NHT funded project on the long term impacts prior to projecting the changes that have occurred in the past in order to do remedial works necessary in the communities. An application was submitted to the Australian Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS), through the Island Coordinating Council's Infrastructure Support Unit for continued work and we are currently awaiting their response.

It is expected that in the upcoming year, through the Marine and Tropical Science Research Facility (MTSRF), a Climate Change Project will be conducted by the University of New South Wales that will assist the work currently being conducted for island erosion. Another project designed to study historical variations in sea level change is also proposed for 2007-2008. This research will be conducted by leading scientists from the University of Wollongong and James Cook University and will compliment current studies.

TORRES STRAIT TREATY

The TSRA remains committed to engaging in the Treaty process to ensure that the interests of our people are protected under the Treaty and continues to work closely in cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other Australian and Queensland Government agencies in matters relating to the Torres Strait Treaty.

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

Following the release of the Queensland Government's paper on Community Government in the Torres Strait, *The Way Forward*, in April this year, there are considerable implications for the Torres Strait region and a submission was forwarded to the Queensland Local Government Reform Commission outlining our concerns and TSRA's legislative responsibilities in this regard.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The TSRA began community consultation visits in 2006-2007. The purpose of the visits are to inform Councils and community members on the TSRA's role, programs and services, as well as to hold direct and open discussions on current community issues with representatives from the TSRA, which include myself, the General Manager Mr Wayne See Kee, and a nominated Portfolio Member.

During the past year, community consultations were conducted for the:

- Top Western and Near Western Islands: 23-25 August 2006
(hosted by Boigu and Mabuiag Islands)
- Northern Peninsula Area: 25 September 2006
(hosted by Bamaga Community)
- Eastern and Central Islands: 17-19 April 2007
(hosted by Darnley and Iama Islands)

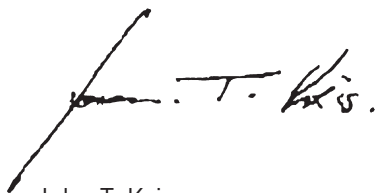
More community consultation visits are planned for 2007-2008.

CONCLUSION

In reviewing this past year, the TSRA Board has had to make comprehensive decisions that have resulted in positive impacts on our communities. There have been challenges that have confronted the Board, and I extend my thanks to the TSRA Members and the TSRA Executive Members for working through and progressing these issues to achieve the best outcomes for our Torres Strait communities.

I also express my sincere thanks to the TSRA Management and Administration for their commitment and dedication over the last year in ensuring that the TSRA and the Board has functioned effectively and efficiently, whilst progressing regional goals and delivering positive outcomes for our region.

With Queensland Local Government elections planned for March 2008, a new TSRA Board will come into effect shortly afterwards and I take this opportunity to also thank all stakeholders, including the region's Elders, Island Councils, Traditional Owners, Prescribed Bodies Corporate, Community Fisher Group, community members, partner agencies and organisations, for working in partnership with the TSRA to build a strong future for the Torres Strait.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John T. Kris'.

John T. Kris
Chairperson

TSRA BOARD

The TSRA consists of 20 Members, eighteen of whom hold office by virtue of their election to Island Council Chairperson positions on 27 March, 2004 under the Queensland Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984.

The other two Members are elected in accordance with Division 5 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* for the wards of Port Kennedy and Horn/Prince of Wales Islands on 3 April 2004. A casual vacancy exists for the Horn/Prince of Wales Island representative. This vacancy will be filled in the upcoming year.

The TSRA Members are:

Mr John Toshie Kris	Mr Fred Gela	Mr Jesse Sagaukaz
Mr Jack Ahmat	Mr Donald Banu	Mr Ted Billy
Mr Ron Day	Mr Elia Doolah	Mr Joseph Elu
Mrs Louisa Guise	Mrs Margaret Mau	Mr Walter Mackie
Mr Donald Mosby	Mrs Norah Pearson	Mr Robert Sagigi
Mr Saila Savage	Mr Bill Shibasaki	Mr Rocky Stephen
	Mr Terry Waia	

Mr Toshie Kris, Chairperson & Member for St Pauls Community, Moa Island



John T. Kris

Mr Kris is the Chairperson of the Torres Strait Regional Authority and has held this position since May 2004. Mr Kris shares responsibility for the TSRA Portfolio areas of Marine and Fisheries, Regional Governance and Legislative Reform and is also the Chairperson of St Pauls Community Council and a member of the Island Coordinating Council (ICC).

Previously, Mr Kris held the Portfolio for Housing and Infrastructure prior to becoming Chairperson and is the first Torres Strait Islander to complete studies with the Australian Rural Leadership Program, for which he was sponsored by Ports Corporation Queensland.

In his role as TSRA Chairperson, Mr Kris aims to further progress the areas of Fisheries and Native Title and pursue the Torres Strait people's desire for greater autonomy. He is also committed to continuing developing economic development opportunities, the Major Infrastructure Program, the provision of housing, and increased training opportunities for Torres Strait Islanders in the region.

Mr Fred Gela, Deputy Chairperson & Member for Hammond Island

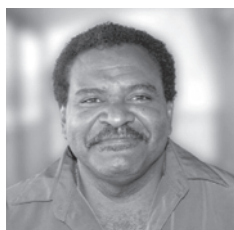


Fred Gela

Mr Gela is the Deputy Chairperson of TSRA, Chairperson of Hammond Island Council and member of the ICC. Mr Gela also holds the Portfolio for Housing and Infrastructure on the TSRA Board.

Mr Gela believes that the most important issues affecting Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in this region are access to appropriate housing and improvements to related infrastructure, access to education and training opportunities and progressing regional autonomy. Mr Gela is continuing negotiations to implement a Torres Strait Housing Strategy which would specifically address local key issues and broader housing aspirations for the Indigenous people living in the Torres Strait region. His vision is for Torres Strait Islander people to achieve self-governance and embrace a regional approach to issues to improve overall living standards throughout all Torres Strait communities.

Mr Jesse Sagaukaz, Alternate Deputy Chairperson & Member for Bamaga Community



Jesse Sagaukaz

Mr Sagaukaz is the TSRA Alternate Deputy Chairperson, TSRA Portfolio member for Employment, Education, Training and Arts and Chairperson of Bamaga Community Council.

Mr Sagaukaz believes that with personal empowerment, Torres Strait people will continue to accomplish significant achievements that will benefit their community and the region.

His desire is to encourage additional resources and support for new business ventures and existing small business operators. Mr Sagaukaz attributes education as the fundamental cornerstone for Torres Strait people to realise their ambitions and as an essential vehicle to obtaining autonomy.

In his view, culture is the foundation that identifies Torres Strait as a nation of people and he encourages all generations to embrace revitalisation strategies.

Mr Donald Banu, Member for Boigu Island



Donald Banu

Mr Banu is the Boigu Island Council Chairperson, a member of the ICC and the TSRA Portfolio Member for Native Title.

He is a traditional owner from Boigu and was an active participant in the Public Works dispute involving the Queensland Government and the traditional owners of Boigu, Erub, Ugar, Iama and Badu communities in the Torres Strait.

Mr Banu considers native title, economic development, regional governance, fisheries and home ownership, all through the engagement of grassroots people, as the key areas that need to be addressed.

Mr Ted Billy, Member for Warraber Island



Ted Billy

Mr Billy is the Chairperson of Warraber Island Council and a member of the ICC. Issues that are important to Mr Billy are health, housing, training, employment and education.

Mr Billy highlights the importance of raising health standards across the Torres Strait and developing better health education programs that will enable communities to build a defence against reoccurring health problems.

Mr Billy also considers an increase in traineeships and apprenticeships as a vital component of building community capacity and fulfilling youth ambitions. Accessible home ownership and full entitlement to land were two further issues that he endeavours to pursue during his term.

He also supports the pursuit of greater autonomy but would like to encourage leaders to focus on an agreeable model that has the full support of the wider community. Mr Billy firmly believes that to address regional priorities Torres Strait elected leaders, elders and clans must approach government as a unified people with one heart, mind and voice.

Mr Ron B. Day, Member for Mer (Murray) Island



Ron B. Day

Mr Day is the Mer Island Council Chairperson and a member of the ICC. He has been a member of the TSRA since 2000 and considers youth development a priority for the Torres Strait.

Mr Day believes that economic, social, spiritual and cultural developments are important outcomes that each Torres Strait community should strive to achieve.

Mr Day is confident that preparing youth to take a responsible stand on Torres Strait issues will help the region achieve these outcomes.

Mr Elia Doolah, Member for Erub (Darnley) Island



Elia Doolah

Mr Doolah is the Chairperson of Erub Island Council and the TSRA Portfolio member for Legal and Media. He also holds responsibilities as a member of the ICC Board.

Since being appointed to the Legal and Media Portfolio, Mr Doolah is focused on further improving the media service to the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area for enhanced communication and sharing of information, language and culture. He also aims to improve the legal service in the region to keep community members informed about legal matters and decrease the percentage of offenders coming in contact with the legal system and being removed from their communities.

Mr Joseph Elu, Member for Seisia Community



Joseph Elu

Mr Elu is the Chairperson of Seisia Council, Chairperson of Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) and a member of the ICC. Mr Elu is encouraging an increase in funding for business development, the establishment of a small business development agency, and an agreement on a regional economic development strategy that incorporates eco-tourism.

Under Mr Elu's direction, Seisia Island Council has successfully established a number of business enterprises and has achieved a greater degree of financial independence. Mr Elu has been appointed Co-Chair of the Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV), Chairman of Outback Stores, a wholly owned subsidiary of Indigenous Business Australia, member of the Reconciliation Australia Board and member of the SBS Board. Mr Elu places emphasis on the development of eco-tourism incorporating sports fishing as a means of achieving a measure of economic independence.

Mrs Louisa Guise, Member for Mabuiag Island



Louisa Guise

Mrs Guise is the TSRA Member for Mabuiag, Chairperson of Mabuiag Island Council and a member of the ICC.

Mrs Guise would like to see the standard of housing improved across the region and has highlighted the need to upgrade existing housing to accommodate extended families.

She supports the introduction of small accommodation ventures such as guesthouses throughout the outer islands, believing that they encourage business to communities, provide options to visitors and revenue for Councils to feed back into community initiatives.

Of particular interest to Mrs Guise are supporting education and training opportunities throughout the region for all ages and encouraging Torres Strait Islanders to establish small business enterprises through economic development schemes and perhaps explore the prospect of tourism in the region. She also sees improvement in health services as a major concern.

Mrs Margaret Mau, Member for Dauan Island



Margaret Mau

Mrs Mau is the TSRA Portfolio Member for Women and Families and the Chairperson of the ICC and Dauan Island Council. Issues of concern to Mrs Mau are providing people of the outer island communities with access to basic services, regular maintenance to current housing to ensure liveable standards and, most importantly, establishing a form of air service on Dauan and Stephen Islands to assist in emergency situations and daily travel.

In her role as Portfolio Member for Women's Issues, Mrs Mau pursues and encourages ongoing training and professional development of Torres Strait women and their families to enable them to gain sustainable economic development and employment opportunities, as well as equal representation in decision-making processes within the region.

Mrs Mau is committed to improving health and protecting the environment of communities throughout the Torres Strait and encourages broader support for families. Education is another key area that Mrs Mau is committed to and encourages students being supported to achieve their High School Senior Certificates and ongoing tertiary aspirations.

As an advocate for native title Mrs Mau encourages Traditional Owners to pursue their determinations and hopes she can also make a difference in the lives of Torres Strait women by progressing issues of importance to them.

Mr Walter Mackie, Member for Iama (Yam) Island



Walter Mackie

Mr Mackie is the TSRA Member for Iama Island. Mr Mackie is also the Chairperson of Iama Island Council, member of the ICC and TSRA Portfolio Member for Environment and Health.

Since taking on the Portfolio for Environment, Mr Mackie has been addressing the major concerns relating to island erosion as well as the protection and preservation of the region's natural resources through the establishment of the TSRA Land and Sea Management Unit.

Mr Mackie represents the TSRA on the Torres Strait Health Partnership and the District Health Council. In this role he is addressing the need to improve the quality of health services delivered in the region.

Mrs Norah Pearson, Member for Poruma (Coconut) Island



Norah Pearson

Mrs Pearson is the TSRA Member for Poruma, elected Chairperson of Poruma Island Council and a member of the ICC. This is Mrs Pearson's first term on the TSRA Board.

While on the TSRA Board, Mrs Pearson is interested in lobbying for further housing and infrastructure development and to improve education and training for the youth of the region. She is also devoted to empowering Torres Strait Islander people to gain skills and qualifications in order to occupy senior positions within their communities.

Mr Robert Sagigi, Member for TRAWQ, Thursday Island



Robert Sagigi

Mr Sagigi represents the TRAWQ communities on the TSRA Board and is a member of the ICC.

Mr Sagigi is a traditional owner of Badu Island and a strong advocate for native title rights.

Mr Saila Savage, Member for Kubin Community, Moa Island



Saila Savage

Mr Savage was elected Chairperson of Kubin Island Council for a second term in March 2004 and is a member of the ICC. His priorities include expansion of the community through the construction of more housing and the development of community enterprises.

Mr Savage aims to increase training opportunities and apprenticeships available for the region's youth so their skills can directly assist the community and help establish enterprises. He encourages youth to also undertake training on the mainland so they may bring experience, ideas and expertise back to their islands.

Mr Isao (Bill) Shibasaki, Member for Port Kennedy, Thursday Island



Isao Shibasaki

Mr Shibasaki is the Member for Port Kennedy on the TSRA Board.

Mr Shibasaki is also a member of the Torres Shire Council (TSC). He considers regional cooperation by stakeholders at all levels as the key to achieving community aspirations. Mr Shibasaki recently facilitated the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding between the TSRA and TSC which aims to strengthen the relationship between the two bodies.

He highlights industry development (in particular aquaculture), home ownership, improved corporate governance and improved communication between regional agencies as important issues.

Mr Rocky G. Stephen, Member for Ugar (Stephen) Island



Rocky G. Stephen

Mr Stephen is the TSRA Board Member for Ugar (Stephen Island). He is the Ugar Island Council Chairperson and a member of the ICC and Islanders Board of Industry and Service (IBIS) Boards.

Mr Stephen is a traditional owner and considers native title rights including ownership over land and sea as amongst the top priorities for the Torres Strait.

Other priority areas that he believes needs to be addressed is the establishment of economic development across the region, airstrips on Ugar and Dauan Islands, extending the dredging channel on Ugar for a better service delivery and establishing a store in his community for the future well being of his people. He also sees improving outer island sports facilities, housing, education, health services and youth development in island communities as major concerns.

Mr Terry Waia, Member for Saibai Island



Terry Waia

Mr Waia is a councillor for Saibai Island Council and a member of the ICC. Mr Waia was the former Chairperson of the TSRA from 2000 to 2004.

Mr Waia is a member of the Ait Koedal Clan and has been elected Saibai's regional representative by the Saibai Island Council.

He is keen to retain traditional values in the Torres Strait and has led several delegations, both in Australia and Papua New Guinea, to negotiate arrangements under the Torres Strait Treaty to protect the lifestyle of people living in the Torres Strait.

Ngurupai (Horn) and Muralug (Prince of Wales) Islands

Mr Nona, the previous Member for Horn and Prince of Wales Island, has submitted his resignation. This casual vacancy will be filled during 2007–2008.

In Memory

Prior to the publication of this Annual Report, the TSRA lost two of its Board Members with the sudden passing of Mr Donald Mosby, Member for Masig Island in August 2007 and the passing of Mr Jack Ahmat, Member for Badu Island in October 2007.



Mr Mosby was the Chairperson of Masig Island Council and a member of the ICC. He held the TSRA Portfolio for Small Business and Economic Development and shared the Portfolio for Marine and Fisheries.

Mr Mosby was also a member of the TSRA Fisheries Committee, PZJA Management Consultative Structure, Torres Strait Aquaculture Steering Committee and the North Queensland Indigenous Fisheries Committee.

Through his term on the TSRA Board and as Chairperson of Masig Island, Mr Mosby strived to develop tourism and establish commercial ventures on Masig as well as other communities in the region. He encouraged all community members to gain qualifications through tertiary education and training to increase opportunities to establish their own enterprises and gain sustainable employment.

Mr Mosby also campaigned for further development in the tourism, fisheries, building and commercial industries to move away from welfare dependence and progress to greater autonomy.



Mr Ahmat continued his representation on the TSRA Board for a third term. He was Chairperson of Badu Island Council and a member of the ICC.

Mr Ahmat acknowledged the main concerns in the region as health, housing, promotion of culture, economic development, and protection of the environment and fisheries. He believed it was important for the TSRA to support the youth of the Torres Strait.

Mr Mosby and Mr Ahmat are sadly missed by the TSRA and the people of the Torres Strait region.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The TSRA had one advisory committee as at 30 June 2007 in accordance with section 142M of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005. This was:

- Audit Advisory Committee – Membership: Mr Bill Shibasaki, Mr Terry Waia and Mr Ted Billy.

PORTFOLIO POSITIONS

The TSRA Portfolio Members for 2006-2007 are:	
Women and Families	Mrs Margaret Mau
Small Business and Economic Development	Mr Donald Mosby
Legal and Media	Mr Elia Doolah
Housing and Infrastructure	Mr Fred Gela
Environment and Health	Mr Walter Mackie
Employment, Education, Training and the Arts	Mr Jesse Sagaukaz
Marine and Fisheries	Mr Donald Mosby and Mr Toshie Kris
Regional Governance and Legislative Reform	Mr Toshie Kris
Native Title	Mr Donald Banu

TSRA MEETINGS

The TSRA held four meetings between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2007.

Meetings	Date	Duration
No. 57	28 – 29 September 2006	2 Days
No. 58	14 – 15 November 2006	2 Days
No. 59	15 - 16 March 2007	2 Days
No. 60	12 – 13 June 2007	2 Days

Members attended these meetings except for the following who forwarded their apologies prior to the meetings listed below:

Meeting No. 57 – Members for Port Kennedy, Warraber, TRAWQ, Dauan and Badu

Meeting No. 58 – Members for TRAWQ, Dauan, Mer and Badu

Meeting No. 59 – Members for Bamaga and Erub

Meeting No. 60 – Members for Mabuia, Mer and Port Kennedy



Mr Moses Waili, Mer Island Community's
Turtle & Dugong Project Officer





ABOUT THE TSRA

the East African

ABOUT THE TSRA

TORRES STRAIT REGION

The Torres Strait stretches 150 kilometres from the tip of Cape York Peninsula in North Queensland to the southwest coast of Papua New Guinea. Islands, reefs, coral and sand cays are scattered throughout the region, the northern-most island reaching to within five kilometres of the Papua New Guinea coastline.

Culturally unique and remarkably beautiful, the Torres Strait is predominantly inhabited by Torres Strait Islander people who possess strong seafaring and trading traditions, and maintain bonds to the sea through their culture, lifestyle and history.

The region was named after Torres, a Spanish explorer who sailed through the Torres Strait in 1606. After the arrival of missionaries and early settlers who were involved in the pearling, beche-de-mer and mining industries, the Queensland administration of the Torres Strait was established in 1877, relocating from Somerset to Thursday Island.

The region includes 18 island communities and 2 mainland communities on the Northern Peninsula Area. The region's total population is estimated at 8,576, of whom 7,105 are Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people.

Torres Strait Islanders first achieved recognition of their traditional rights over their land in 1992, through the High Court's landmark decision to grant the people of Miriam native title rights over Mer (Murray Island). This was the first time native title had been recognised under the common law of Australia. It set a precedent for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people throughout Australia who have since put forward their own claims under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), hoping to achieve equally successful outcomes. Torres Strait Islanders have since achieved native title rights over Moa, Saibai, Warraber, Poruma, Masig, Mabuiag, Dauan, Iama, Erub, Ugar, Boigu, Badu, Aureed, Gebar, Yarpur and Uttu, Sassie, Buru and Warral Kawa, Waiar and Dauar Islands in the Torres Strait. In addition, the Kaurareg people of the region have achieved recognition of their native title rights over seven inner islands - Ngurupai (Horn Island), Muralag (Prince of Wales Island), Zuna (Entrance Island), Yeta (Port Lihou Island), Mipa (Turtle Island), Tarilag (Packer Island) and Damaralag. Torres Strait Islanders are now pursuing their native title rights over four remaining land claims and over their traditional sea country.

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

The TSRA aims to improve the lifestyle and wellbeing of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region through implementing programs that address their poor socio-economic and health status. Due to the history of severe disadvantage suffered by the Indigenous people of the region, such improvements will be gradual. A report by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody revealed that significant improvements could only be

achieved through fundamental changes in society's attitudes and recognition of the rights of Australia's Indigenous citizens. Consideration should be given to these factors when assessing the TSRA's programs.

The following report of the TSRA's Operating Environment has four sources:

- statistics, taken from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) 1996 and 2001 Census information, which provide details of the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal population in the Torres Strait region, indicating the extent of need in several program areas;
- statistics taken from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) 2006 Census information which provide details of the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal population in the Torres Strait region;
- Australian Government strategies, policies and responses, which have shaped many of the TSRA's program activities; and
- Queensland Health, from which regional statistics have been obtained.

EXTENT OF NEED

Population

The 2006 Census showed that the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal population in the region:

- had increased from 6,168 (reported in 2001) to 7,105;
- represented 82.8 per cent of the total population of the region and approximately 2.3 per cent of the Indigenous population of Australia and approximately 5.5 per cent of the Indigenous population of Queensland;
- were 49.3 percent male and 50.7 percent female; and
- had a median age of 21 years compared with 37 years in the median age of Australia's resident population.

Employment

The 2001 Census information showed:

- the number of unemployed Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait region was 122 and altogether 2,116 people were employed. This represents an unemployment rate of 5.5 per cent for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people compared to 3.1 per cent for the non-Indigenous population of the region. In 1996 the unemployment rate in the Torres Strait Islander labour force was 5 per cent. Note: Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants are counted as employed and statistics from the 2006 Census were not available at time of print.

Education

The 2006 Census showed that in the Torres Strait region:

- 13.8 per cent of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people who were usually residents of the region and aged 15 years and over, completed year 10 or equivalent and 22.2 percent had completed Year 12 or equivalent.
- 3.5 percent of the Indigenous people of the region aged 15 to 19 years indicated that they were in full-time education, whilst 3.2 percent specified that they were undertaking further education through either technical/further educational institutions, university or other tertiary establishments.

Income

Household incomes of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people were, according to the 2006 Census, on average lower than those of other households. Of those households where all income data was available:

- \$809 was the reported median household weekly income for the region, compared with the Australian average of \$1,027.
- For an individual living in the Torres Strait region, the median individual income was \$270 a week, compared to the Australian average of \$466.

Housing

The following information is derived from the Report to the Housing Ministers Advisory Council Multi Measure Modelling of Indigenous Housing Needs August 2003. The source data for this report was based on Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 Census information and the Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey 2001. The Torres Strait area was defined as an ATSI region in the Report.

- Out of the total number of households surveyed in the Torres Strait, 20.7 per cent of those households were overcrowded. This was above the total regional average (for all ATSI regions) of 18.92 per cent.
- The Torres Strait region was the third highest region with the highest number of dwellings requiring major repair or replacement. The number of dwellings needing major repair or replacement was 369. This is 19 per cent of the total Queensland figure of 1,916. (Major repairs were defined as repairs of \$20,000 to less than \$60,000 in low cost areas, \$27,000 to less than \$80,000 in medium cost areas and \$33,000 to less than \$100,000 in high cost areas. Replacement was defined as repairs of \$60,000 or more in low cost areas, \$80,000 or more in medium cost areas and \$100,000 or more in high cost areas).
- This figure represented 36.8 per cent of the total number of dwellings surveyed (in the Torres Strait region) and is above the total regional average (for all ATSI regions) of 26.1 per cent.

The 2006 Census reported that there were 1,653 dwellings in the region with Indigenous persons. Of these:

- 7 percent of these were fully owned.
- 1.6 percent were being purchased.
- 87.6 percent were rented.

Health

The following information is derived from the Report on Health Indicators for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Health Service District (2001) and is a publication of the Tropical Public Health Unit Network of Queensland Health.

- Rates for all causes of death were higher in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Health Service District than in Queensland, with much of the excess occurring in the age group 40-70 years.
- Deaths due to Diabetes Mellitus were more than 10 times higher in the District than in Queensland. Information on deaths due to Diabetes Mellitus was sourced from Improving Diabetes Self-Care in the Torres Strait: a one-year randomised cluster trial 2002-2003.
- Hospital admission rates for Diabetes Mellitus were 10 times higher in the Torres Strait than rates for Queensland over the period 1994-1998.
- Mosquito-borne diseases are 164 times higher than rates for Queensland for the period 1999-2003. Recent Dengue Fever outbreaks resulted in 277 cases and the death of one person in 2003-2004.
- A further complication in the fight against dengue fever arose in 2005 when a second mosquito capable of causing dengue fever was detected in the Torres Strait for the first time.
- Data gathered from community consultation and available statistics and studies indicated that numerous factors impacted on the health status of the Torres Strait region including environment, housing, infrastructure, nutrition, access to health services, community involvement and traditional culture, alcohol and other substance abuse, infectious diseases, women's health and mental health.

FORMATION

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) was established on 1 July 1994, under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) Act 1989, following a review of the Act. Under the Act, the Torres Strait was one of 35 ATSIC regions throughout Australia. The review proposed the creation of a separate Torres Strait Authority with the same powers as ATSIC.

Following consultation with the Torres Strait Regional Council, and the Council's subsequent historic decision, the Parliament of Australia established the Torres Strait Regional Authority within the framework of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989 (ATSIC Act)*.

On 16 March 2005 Parliament passed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment Bill 2005 repealing provisions of the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989 (Cth), and in particular abolishing ATSIC. The legislation received Royal Assent and was proclaimed with effect from 24 March 2005. The Act is now referred to as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 (ATSI Act).

The TSRA consists of an elected arm and an administrative arm. The elected arm is comprised of 20 elected representatives who are Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region. Eighteen TSRA Members are Island Council Chairpersons elected under the Queensland Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984, and two TSRA Members are elected under Division 5 of the ATSI Act.

Members of the TSRA elect a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and an Alternate Deputy Chairperson. A General Manager is responsible for the TSRA's administration and staffing.

ENABLING LEGISLATION

The enabling legislation as stated in Part 3A Division 1 of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005, Section 142 is as follows:

- (1) A Torres Strait Regional Authority is established.
- (2) The TSRA:
 - (a) is a body corporate, with perpetual succession; and
 - (b) is to have a common seal; and
 - (c) may acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property; and
 - (d) may sue and be sued in its corporate name.

Note:

The Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 applies to the TSRA. That Act deals with matters relating to Commonwealth Authorities, including reporting and accountability, banking and investment, and conduct of officers.

- (3) The common seal of the TSRA is to be kept in such custody as the TSRA directs and must not be used except as authorised by the TSRA.
- (4) All courts, judges and persons acting judicially must:
 - (a) take judicial notice of the imprint of the common seal of the TSRA appearing on a document; and
 - (b) presume that the imprint was duly affixed.

FUNCTIONS

The functions of the TSRA as outlined in Section 142A of the ATSI Act, 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; and
- (m) to do anything else that is incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the preceding functions.

POWERS

The powers of the TSRA, as outlined in section 142C of the ATSI Act 2005, are the following:

- (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); and
 - (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.

POWERS OF DIRECTION BY THE MINISTER

The TSRA is directed by the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Honourable Mal Brough, under section 142E of the ATSI Act 2005, which states:

- (1) The TSRA must perform its functions and exercise its powers in accordance with any general written directions given to it by the Minister.
- (2) The Minister must not give directions about the content of any advice, information or recommendation that may be given by the TSRA to a Minister, Department of State or authority of the Commonwealth.
- (3) The Minister must not give directions about the content of any advice, information or recommendation that may be given by the TSRA to:
 - (a) a Minister of a State or Territory; or
 - (b) a Department of State of a State or Territory; or
 - (c) an authority of a State or Territory;

except for the purpose of protecting the confidentiality of information given to the TSRA by the Commonwealth or an authority of the Commonwealth.

- (4) Subject to subsection (5), the Minister must cause a copy of a direction to be laid before each House of the Parliament within 15 sitting days of that House after that direction was given.

- (5) The rule in subsection (4) does not apply if the laying of a copy of a direction before each House of the Parliament would result in the disclosure of a matter in a manner that would be inconsistent with the views or sensitivities of Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal persons.



CORPORATE OVERVIEW BY THE GENERAL MANAGER

2006-2007 has been a very eventful and challenging year for the TSRA's administration in delivering programs throughout the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area region.

Organisational Capacity

In the past 12 months, the size of the TSRA has slightly increased. Of note is the establishment of the Land and Sea Management Unit (LSMU) which began its operations in this financial year by delivering Natural Heritage Trust, National Landcare and other environmental focused programs on behalf of the Australian and Queensland Governments.



Wayne See Kee
General Manager

Workforce Development

The TSRA has increased its focus on workforce development since my last report through a number of initiatives and innovative approaches addressing this priority area facing modern government and the private sector alike.

Some of the initiatives adopted in 2006-2007 include:

- Sponsoring staff members in structured leadership development programs
- Strategic training delivery
- Introduction of cadetships into the TSRA
- Participation in the school to work program
- Continued traineeships
- Further development of the Performance Management Program
- Internal leadership program
- Active promotion of employment in the Australian Public Service

The TSRA also contributed to the Australian Public Service Commission's State of the Service Report for 2006-2007.

Public Service Medal

The TSRA also nominated three employees for public service medals this year. During the 2007 Queens Birthday Honours list announcements in June, the Governor General announced Ms Yoshiko Hirakawa (from TSRA's Secretariat Section), as a recipient of this prestigious medal for her excellent performance in the public service. Congratulations Yoshiko.

Program Delivery

In delivering its 2006-2007 budget of \$56,832,500 the TSRA has again worked closely with numerous Australian and Queensland Government Departments to ensure that a whole of

government approach was taken. The TSRA would like to thank those agencies that have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to partner initiatives during the past year in all of its six output areas. We look forward to maintaining these productive working relationships into 2007-2008.

The organisations' program delivery systems are also being enhanced to allow the TSRA to deliver its programs more effectively into the future.

Relationship with the Board

The TSRA Administration and Board maintained its good working relationship this year. In particular, TSRA Chairperson Mr Kris and the TSRA's Executive continued to be strong advocates for the Torres Strait, taking a whole of government approach and working with the Australian and Queensland Governments as well as at the community level, to discuss and address key regional issues in 2006-2007.

Outlook for 2007-2008

In line with the TSRA Board's directions, the Administration will focus on a number of key program and operational areas in the coming financial year. Some of the priority areas will be:

- CDEP Program Reform
- Enhancing Business Development Services
- Social Justice Program Reform
- Workforce Capacity Building
- Fisheries Reforms
- Regional Partnership Building
- Exploring Opportunities for Indigenous Home Ownership

The following pages contain a summary of the TSRA's activities in performing its functions under the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (CAC) Act 1997, the Public Service Act 1999, Financial Management and Accountability (FMA) Act 1997, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Act 2005 and various other public service initiatives/directives.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Audit

The TSRA continued to be scrutinised by government audit agencies during the year. The TSRA actively responds to deficiencies identified by audit agencies and endeavours to continually improve the quality of administrative and program procedures.

Internal: The Office of Evaluation and Audit (OEA) undertakes internal audits of the TSRA in accordance with Section 193W of the ATSI Act 2005. The internal audit will commence in July 2007 and focus on the evaluation of programs administered by the TSRA.

External: The 2006-2007 financial audit incorporated an IT General Controls Review which was undertaken in March 2007. The audit of the financial statements commenced after the reporting period in August 2007. HLB Mann Judd conducted the audit on behalf of the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), resulting in an unqualified audit opinion, as indicated by the delegate of the Auditor General, at the beginning of the Financial Statements.

Audit Committee

The TSRA Audit Committee was elected in November 2004 and the following Members form the present committee:

Mr Terry Waia, Member for Saibai Island

Mr Bill Shibasaki, Member for Port Kennedy

Mr Ted Billy, Member for Warraber Island (elected June 2006)

Membership of the Committee will increase following a decision of the TSRA Board to include an Independent Member who has the appropriate technical skills and competencies to meet the requirements of the position with an understanding of accounting and auditing standards in a public sector environment.

The Audit Committee is a crucial component of corporate governance and is fundamental to assisting myself and the Board to:

- ensure all key controls are operating effectively;
- ensure all key controls are appropriate for achieving corporate goals and objectives;
- meet statutory and fiduciary duties.

The Committee also assists the TSRA Administration and Board in corporate governance areas, particularly in regard to complying with obligations under the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997.

During 2006-2007, the Audit Committee met twice:

- 23 November 2006
- 16 April 2007

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (CAC) Act Improved Governance Framework

The TSRA has progressed all recommendations from the Australian Government's review of CAC agencies in 2006-2007 within the required timeframes. These best practice approaches have been incorporated into the organisation's standard operation.

Certificate of Compliance

In line with section 16(1)(c) of the CAC Act, the Finance Minister requires all Commonwealth Authorities to provide a Compliance Report on legislative compliance and financial sustainability. This is a new annual requirement, with the first report being provided for the 2006-2007 financial year. In line with this requirement, TSRA will be providing the Finance Minister, and the Minister for Family and Community Services and Indigenous Affairs with a copy of this report.

Business Continuity Plan

The TSRA prepared a Business Continuity Plan in accordance with the directive made by the Australian Government in 2006.

Business Continuity Planning has been defined as the discipline of developing and maintaining advance plans of action to enable an organisation to respond to an 'event' [risk event, disaster or emergency] to enable its time-critical business processes to continue with a politically (and commercially) acceptable impact from the organisation's perspective upon staff, clients and services, and at the same time protecting the reputation of the organisation.

In considering the request of the Australian Government, the TSRA recognised that a Business Continuity Plan would be a very valuable internal planning document and guide to staff on actions needed in the event of a major disaster.

Risk Management and Fraud Control

Indemnities and insurance premiums for officers:

- the TSRA has not given any indemnity to current or former officers against a liability.
- the TSRA pays an annual premium for insurance to Comcover, which in some cases, namely professional indemnity, does protect against a current or former officer's liability for legal costs.
- the review and update of the TSRA's Risk Management Strategy continues as a high priority and includes relevant training to all staff.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority had in place a Fraud Control Plan for 2006-2007. TSRA also started a cycle of fraud risk assessments and fraud control plan preparation and implementation. This cycle which will result in the fraud control plan will be finalised by 31 March 2008.

Collective Workplace Agreement & Individual Workplace Agreements

The TSRA Collective Workplace Agreement 2006-2009 was finalised in 2006-2007 and is in use with a number of staff employed under this Agreement. The majority of staff however, are employed under individual Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs), which have been approved by the Office of the Employment Advocate. There are a total of 56 AWAs at various APS levels within the organisation.

Personnel

Payroll: TSRA continues to provide its own payroll and Human Resources (HR) services in-house. Frontier Software Pty Ltd, a HR and Payroll company, provide software and support services to enable the organisation to provide these services.

Staff Development and Training: Staff attended various internal and external training and development courses throughout the year including, but not limited to Project Management, Risk Management, Contract Management, Superannuation, Payroll and Information Technology. The TSRA has a policy of offering office administration traineeships each calendar year and continued with two offers in 2006-2007.

Leave Records: All leave records are managed through the HR and Payroll electronic system.

Property

The TSRA has an office accommodation usage of 994 square metres for 79 staff and the TSRA Chairperson, providing an average of 15.58 square metres per person.

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)

The TSRA is an EEO employer and upholds the Australian Public Service Values. The TSRA provides a workplace that is free from discrimination and recognises and utilises the diversity of the Australian community it serves. Staff members and management receive up to date information and have access to the publications from the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC), Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) and numerous other agencies on employment related issues including, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Harassment Free Workplaces and Workplace Diversity. EEO statistical information is collected upon recruitment of all TSRA staff and provided to the APSC. The TSRA statistical data is set out in Appendix 4 (c).

Freedom of Information (FOI)

A statement outlining the structure of the TSRA, as required under Section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, can be found in Appendix 2. During the reporting period no FOI requests were received. No applications for Internal Review or applications to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of a decision in relation to a request, was received.

Industrial Democracy

As an integral part of the Workplace Agreement the TSRA has established a Workplace Agreement Consultative Committee, as the consultative body with representatives from management and employees. The TSRA fosters and promotes regular management, section and staff meetings.

Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S)

The TSRA recognises its responsibilities under the Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991. The TSRA and staff cooperate on OH&S Policy and operational matters. Staff members are informed of the current issues and receive OH&S publications from Comcare as they are published. All OH&S positions are currently filled.

Privacy

For the reporting period, the Privacy Commissioner did not issue a report on the TSRA under Section 30 of the Privacy Act 1988 and no personal privacy complaints were made against the TSRA.

Commonwealth Disability Strategy (CDS)

The TSRA is aware of and acknowledges the CDS, which is a planning framework that assists agencies to ensure their policies, programs and services are accessible for people with disabilities.

CORPORATE DOCUMENTS

Between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2007, the TSRA produced the TSRA 2005–2006 Annual Report. Additionally, the TSRA produced eleven community newsletters (known as the TSRA News). The TSRA News is a publication distributed throughout the Torres Strait region and Australian mainland via insertion in the local newspaper, Torres News and through the TSRA website. The aim of TSRA News is to inform people living in the Torres Strait and on the mainland of the TSRA's goals, progress and achievements. It consists of articles and photographs specifically relating to the activities and achievements of the TSRA's elected and administrative arms.

The TSRA continues to draw on the Torres Strait Development Plan. This plan is required under Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005. A revised Torres Strait Development Plan for the four years 2005–2009 was developed and printed in 2005.

Relationship with the Minister

Towards the end of the last reporting period, the Indigenous Affairs portfolio was moved and as a consequence, became part of the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA). This resulted in a new Minister, the Honourable Mal Brough.

During 2006–2007, both Mr Kris and myself had the opportunity to travel to Canberra to meet with Minister Brough and deliver an update on TSRA's programs and services, as well as on current and relevant Torres Strait matters. We also maintained dialogue with the Minister by providing regular briefs and correspondence.

This year we were again visited by a number of Australian and Queensland Government Ministers, parliamentarians and government representatives, including the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) Secretary, Dr Jeff Harmer.

In closing, I would like commend all of the TSRA Staff and Board Members for their continued dedication and commitment toward delivering positive social, cultural and economic development outcomes in the Torres Strait. I look forward to working in partnership with you all in 2007-2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne See Kee', with a stylized, cursive script.

Wayne See Kee

General Manager





Torres Strait Landcare team members caring for their environment: Masig Island Mothers' Well Landcare Team (top), Mr John Tabo of Mer Island (left) & Mrs Anima Pearson of Hammond Island (right)



OUTCOME & OUTPUTS

*Outcome
and Outputs*

Prices of outcomes and outputs planned and actual

PRICES OF OUTCOME AND OUTPUTS PLANNED AND ACTUAL

Since the Australian Government introduced a new financial management framework in 1999–2000, Outcomes and Outputs have become the focus of the way in which departments and agencies plan their activities, budget and manage resources at their disposal, and report to the government. It also introduced government agencies to the accrual method of financial reporting and budgeting, which matches revenues with the cost of outputs for a certain financial period. It was generally understood that these measures, together with the introduction of the method of budgeting based on the full cost of government activities (Outputs), would promote better accountability and professionalism and would facilitate more informed decision making.

The TSRA had just one planned Outcome for the financial period 2006–2007. The Outcome was 'to achieve a better quality of life and to develop an economic base for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal persons living in the Torres Strait'. There were six Outputs that contributed to the achievement of the planned Outcome. The budgeted and actual prices of the TSRA's six outputs are listed in the notes to the Financial Statements and in the following table.

BUDGET TOTAL PRICE OUTCOME

Budgeted Total Price Outcome \$54.98m Actual Total Price of Outcome \$57.39m		
Output 1 Economic Development	Budgeted Total Price	\$2.54m
	Actual Total Price	\$2.54m
Output 2 Community Development, Employment and Training	Budgeted Total Price	\$33.66m
	Actual Total Price	\$32.09m
Output 3 Native Title	Budgeted Total Price	\$1.47m
	Actual Total Price	\$1.39m
Output 4 Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure	Budgeted Total Price	\$8.65m
	Actual Total Price	\$9.30m
Output 5 Social and Cultural Development	Budgeted Total Price	\$6.47m
	Actual Total Price	\$9.58m
Output 6 Policy and Information	Budgeted Total Price	\$1.85m
	Actual Total Price	\$2.49m

- Notes:
- 1. Revenue from Government through appropriations contributes 95.74% to the total Output price for this Outcome, for 2006-2007.
 - 2. The TSRA has no administered expenses.
 - 3. Budgeted Total Price and Actual Price Outcomes, listed in the table above, include the addition of allocated administrative costs.

PERFORMANCE AGAINST OUTPUTS

The table below sets out the Planned Achievements in accordance with the TSRA goals, as stated in the Development Plan, and the Actual Achievements for the year.

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
1. Economic Development	<p>Quality: 100 % of contracts settled within one to two months.</p> <p>Quantity: 13 new contracts.</p> <p>Price: An average of \$25,000 per loan contract.</p> <p>20 Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS) grants & 3 housing loans. Provide 9 loans to establish business.</p> <p>Budgeted Price for this Output: \$2.54M</p>	<p>100% of contracts were settled within one to three months.</p> <p>A total of 6 Business Funding Scheme (BFS) & 3 housing loans were released to clients.</p> <p>The average BFS loan was for \$8,443 and the average Housing release of funds was \$20,730. The loan portfolio consists of 70 loans: 36 BFS loans and 34 housing loans. During the financial year 13 BFS and 4 housing loans were discharged.</p> <p>22 CEIS grants, including Rollovers were approved for the Badu Quarry extension, Boigu Fuel Bowser, Boigu Guest House, Dauan Fuel Bowser, Erub Freezer Accreditation, Kubin Economic Symposium, Mabuiag Fuel Bowser, Mabuiag Guesthouse, Mer Fuel Bowser, Mer Freezer Accreditation, Poruma Resort Boat, Poruma Resort Salaries Assistance, Poruma Fuel Bowser, Saibai Bistro/Takeaway, St Paul's Bloks Upgrade, TSIMA Business Plan, Ugar Multi-purpose Building, Ugar Freezer, Ugar Fuel Bowser, Warraber Resort, Masig boat and bus for Lodge and Masig Freezer Accreditation.</p>
	Actual Price for this Output: \$2.54M	

2. Community Development, Employment and Training

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
	<p>Quality: 90% of Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) Program communities comply with guidelines. 85% of targeted training delivered within the financial year.</p> <p>Quantity: 19 communities access CDEP.</p> <p>25 training programs to be funded.</p> <p>Ensure that the program is working effectively by scheduling community visits twice a year and checking quarterly financial returns and that up to 2,000 eligible participants are qualified to be on the program.</p> <p>Budgeted Price for this Output: \$33.66M</p>	<p>89.5% of CDEP organisations fully complied with the CDEP and general funding and operational guidelines.</p> <p>96.4% of targeted training was delivered.</p> <p>19 funded CDEP organisations delivered this program to 19 communities.</p> <p>28 Community Training Programs were programmed and 27 implemented, involving 115 apprenticeships and trade traineeships.</p> <p>In 2006-2007, 17 compliant CDEP organisations were visited an average of 2.9 times. The 2 non-compliant organisations were visited an average of 15.5 times. The financial year ended with 1958 eligible participants on the Program.</p> <p>The CDEP Manager System, on the TSRA website and connected to Centrelink, provided the administrative tool for the management of CDEP participants. Costs associated with CDEP Manager are included in the overall cost of this output. The TSRA has a Memorandum of Understanding with Centrelink.</p>
Actual Price for this Output: \$32.09M		

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
3. Native Title	<p>Quality: Progress negotiations with respondent parties with a view to resolving claimant applications by consent for all remaining areas of land under claim.</p> <p>Quality: Identify strategic test cases where appropriate and pursue resolution of land claims and Sea Claim by mediation or litigation, or by other means as appropriate.</p> <p>Quality: Develop standard procedures for processing and responding to Future Act and other notifications within 7 days.</p> <p>Quality: To progress the Regional Sea Claim through mediation and the court process and to develop and implement a strategy to assist with this process.</p> <p>Quality: Assist constituents with negotiations and to enter into Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) and other agreements where appropriate.</p> <p>Quality: Assist in resolving disputes between and within constituent groups, including through the conduct of anthropological research.</p> <p>Quality: To brief, recommend and take instructions from Island Councils and PBCs on the Infrastructure ILUA.</p> <p>Budgeted Price for this Output: \$1.47M</p>	<p>Four claims over land remaining. One ILUA negotiated to settle a claim over land. One claim discontinued and a new claim simultaneously filed over the same area. One claim has been 'briefed out' due to a conflict of interest. Negotiations continuing on the remaining land claim.</p> <p>The remaining claims over land and the Sea Claim are in mediation with a view to being settled by consent. Litigation of claims to be taken as a last resort.</p> <p>Standard procedures developed and implemented for processing and responding to Future Act notifications.</p> <p>36 actions were taken in response to 270 Future Act notices.</p> <p>The Regional Sea Claim continues in mediation with respondent parties. Mediation meetings held with Government parties. Anthropological material has been produced and sent to the State and the Commonwealth for mediation purposes. Further anthropological material will be produced to progress the claim. An early evidence hearing will be held in the Torres Strait from 27 September to 12 October 2007.</p> <p>Three ILUAs have been negotiated with one of those ILUAs registered. Three agreements (including two leases) were finalised in relation to proposed Future Acts.</p> <p>Assisted in relation to 22 disputes relating to native title applications, land use agreements and land access.</p> <p>Briefed six PBCs and six Island Councils on the terms of the Infrastructure ILUA. Further briefings to take place over the next financial year.</p>
Actual Price for this Output: \$1.39M		

4. Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
	<p>Quality: Infrastructure projects commenced in 2006-2007 year to be 58% completed by 30 June 2007.</p> <p>Quantity: Sewerage, housing subdivision, drainage and water infrastructure projects for the seventeen island communities to continue.</p> <p>Budgeted Price for this Output : \$8.65M</p>	<p>Major Infrastructure Program (MIP):</p> <p>MIP 2: MIP 2 projects that were under construction in 2006-2007 are 75% completed as at 30 June 2007.</p> <p>Of the four remaining MIP 2 projects under construction during 2006-2007: Horn Is Sewerage is 10% complete; Seisia Sewerage is 80% complete; Mer Subdivision is 90% complete; and Regional Tip Upgrade is 95% complete.</p> <p>Overall, MIP 2 projects are 93% complete.</p> <p>MIP 3: 100% of MIP 3 projects for have been awarded tenders.</p> <p>Of the 5 MIP3 projects under construction during 2006-2007: Regional Mobile Desal is 75% complete; Regional Metering is 90% complete; Masig Bores & Sewerage is 10% complete; Moa Island Sewerage is 10% complete;</p> <p>Ugar Roads is 40% complete; and Bamaga Subdivision is 10% complete.</p> <p>Overall, MIP 3 projects are 40% complete.</p> <p>Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program (HEMTP):</p> <p>Iama Island Airstrip Upgrade completed.</p> <p>Maintenance works in 7 communities carried out.</p> <p>Island Coordination Council Infrastructure Support Unit (ICC-ISU):</p> <p>Water: Supply and Maintenance to 15 Communities.</p> <p>Airstrips Upgrades:</p> <p>Iama Island Airstrip upgrade: complete. Total cost \$1.3</p>
Actual Price for this Output : \$9.30M		

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
5. Social, and Cultural Development	<p>Quality: Approved grants for approved projects will be funded within 28 days of commencement of the financial year.</p> <p>Quantity: 25 grants will be approved in the financial year.</p> <p>Provide assistance to communities to promote and improve their social and cultural wellbeing.</p> <p>Promote community involvement in environmental issues affecting them by providing financial assistance to suitable community organisations running appropriate programs and through publications produced by the TSRA.</p> <p>Budgeted Price for this Output: \$6.47M</p>	<p>All funded organisations received all or part of their first quarterly release within 28 days of the commencement of the financial year.</p> <p>29 grants were approved in the 2006-2007 financial year, representing 162 activities.</p>
Actual Price for this Output: \$9.58M		

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
6. Policy & Information	4 Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee meeting.	100% of Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee meetings held.
	4 MIP Steering Committee Meetings.	100% achieved.
	3 Coastal Erosion Committee Meetings.	100% achieved.
	3 Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum meetings.	100% of Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum meetings held.
	1 PZJA meeting.	100% achieved.
	1 Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee meeting.	100% achieved.
	3 Torres Strait Finfish Working Group meetings.	100% achieved.
	3 Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group meetings.	100% achieved.
	2 Torres Strait Prawn Working Group meetings.	100% achieved.
	1 Community Fisher Group meeting.	100% achieved.
	5 PZJA Standing Officials meetings.	100% achieved.
	3 Torres Shire Council MOU Meetings.	100% achieved.
	Quality: 100% of Ministerial correspondence dealt with within set deadline. 98% of TSRA Board Members queries responded to within 14 days. 98% of queries from the public responded to within 14 days.	21 Ministerial correspondences were dealt with by the set deadline. 80% of queries were responded to within 14 days. 100% of verbal queries were responded to in 14 days. 80% of written queries were responded to in 14 days.
	Quantity: 1500 number of queries and correspondence are anticipated.	1500 queries were received including 494 items of correspondence. No written complaints were received.
	Quantity: Newsletters are published regularly to inform the public of the TSRA's programs.	11 monthly newsletters were produced.
	Quantity: Press releases are circulated to promote TSRA initiatives.	23 press releases were circulated and 23 Chairperson's Columns were published.
	Quality: All press releases are placed on the TSRA website within 48 hours of publication.	Due to works in updating the TSRA website, 80% of press releases and columns were placed on the website within 48 hours.
	Quality: Information requests are responded to within 48 hours of receipt.	154 information requests were received. 89.61% of these were responded to within 48 hours.

Budgeted Price for this Output: \$1.85M

Actual Price for this Output: \$2.49M

OUTPUT ONE – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM – ECONOMIC

This output is comprised of one major program, the Economic Program, which supplements and contributes to mainstream programs aimed at increasing the economic empowerment and status of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region. The program also aims to develop opportunities for enhancing employment, training, enterprise development and home ownership.

The Economic Program is comprised of 3 sub-programs:

1. Business Funding Scheme (BFS);
2. Home Ownership; and
3. Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS).

SUBPROGRAM: BUSINESS FUNDING SCHEME (BFS)

Objective

To increase the economic independence of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people of the Torres Strait region by facilitating the acquisition, ownership and development of commercially viable enterprises in accordance with the principles of sustainable economic development.

Description

The BFS has enabled the establishment of a number of businesses within the Torres Strait region, all of which provide an important service to the wider community. The BFS promotes the economic independence of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people by helping them acquire, own and develop commercially successful enterprises. Over the years, the BFS has assisted many individuals and partnerships to establish successful business ventures in a range of industries. This in turn creates employment for the Indigenous people of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

One of the key success factors in the Economic Development Program is the use of business consultants to assist clients in establishing their business and, if required, to provide ongoing professional assistance. In addition, the TSRA pays clients' legal costs. This includes legal advice associated with forming the business and the preparation of legal documentation.

If required, the BFS provides an additional service to clients, organising and paying for insurance over the assets. The insurance cost is then charged back to the client's loan account. A total of \$43,460 in insurance costs was paid on behalf of BFS clients.

Achievements

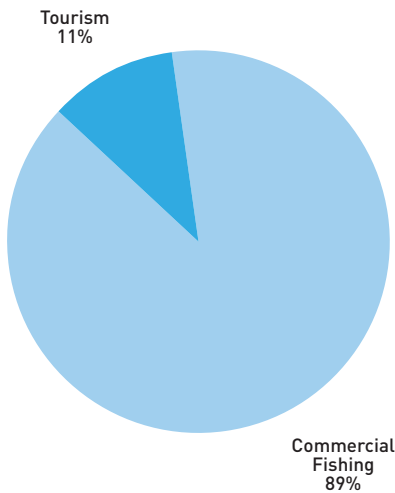
The Business Funding Scheme is proving a significant source of commercial finance for Torres Strait Islanders wanting to establish or expand their businesses. During the financial period, a total of six loans were advanced at a total value of \$48,333. During the financial year 13 clients paid out their BFS loans.

As at 30 June 2007 a total of 36 BFS loans remain active. A total of \$531,506 in repayments has been returned this financial year into the TSRA General account.

While the majority of the loans remain within the fishing industry, the BFS continues to support businesses in a diverse range of local industries. In 2006-2007, loans were financed in the following sectors.

Industry Sector	No. Loans Disbursed	\$ Value
Commercial Fishing	5	\$43,236
Tourism	1	\$ 5,097
TOTAL	6	\$48,333

BFS Loans – Investments in 2006-07



In conjunction with BFS, workshops were undertaken by Learning Network Queensland in Computer Basics, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Internet/Email and Digital Imaging. The following table provides a breakdown of the number of participants that attended workshops coordinated and hosted by the TSRA.

Course	No of Participants
Computer Basics	11
Word	24
Excel	25
PowerPoint	11
Internet/Email	11
Digital Imaging	11
TOTAL	93

The Business Funding Scheme remains a successful business mechanism for Indigenous people, as they take on the challenge of private enterprise in a varied range of commercial activities.

SUB-PROGRAM: HOME OWNERSHIP

Objective

To provide home ownership for the Indigenous residents of the Torres Strait region through home loans, thereby improving their economic status and social wellbeing.

Description

The Home Ownership Scheme provides home or land loans at concessionary interest rates to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region who would not normally be able to obtain assistance from conventional lending institutions. The scheme is targeted at low income, first home buyers according to a points system based on family size and rental circumstances. The scheme is self-funding.

If required, an additional service that the Home Ownership Scheme provides to clients is the organising and paying of insurance. The insurance cost is then charged back to the client's loan account. A total of \$6,534 in insurance costs was paid on behalf of housing clients.

Achievements

This year a total of \$67,080 has been released to three housing loan clients for either the purchase of new homes or the renovation and expansion of existing dwellings.

A total of \$1,161,573 in repayments has been returned during the financial year into the Housing Account. In addition, four housing loans have been paid out leaving the total housing loan portfolio at 34.

SUB-PROGRAM: COMMUNITY ECONOMIC INITIATIVES SCHEME (CEIS)

Objective

To contribute directly to the economic growth of communities by supporting the development of income generating projects with social, cultural and economic benefits.

Description

Through this component grants are provided to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal organisations for the establishment and/or expansion of commercial income generating ventures.

Achievements

During the financial year, the TSRA approved \$3,554,416 including roll-overs, which was committed for Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS) projects and is detailed in the table below:

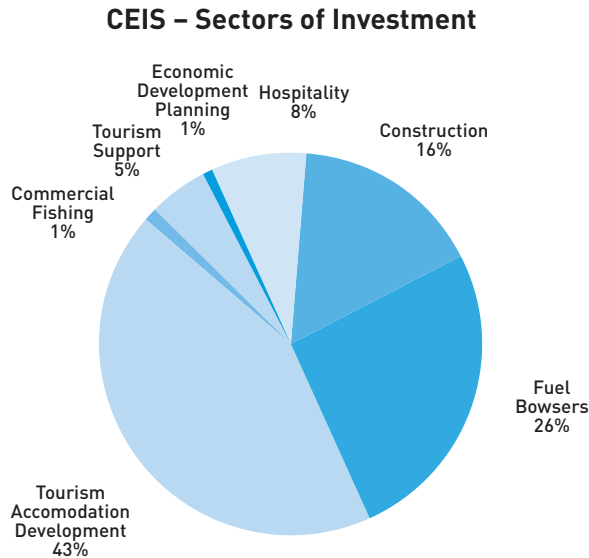
Council	Project	Amount
Badu Island Council	Quarry Extension ***	\$ 161,760
Boigu Island Council	Fuel Bowser ***	\$ 53,200
Boigu Island Council	Boigu Island Guesthouse ***	\$ 449,694**
Dauan Island Council	Fuel Bowser ***	\$ 53,200
Erub Island Council	Freezer Accreditation	\$ 6,500
Kubin Island Council	Economic Symposium	\$ 1,768
Mabuiag Island Council	Fuel Bowser ***	\$ 53,200
Mabuiag Island Council	Guesthouse ***	\$ 430,000
Mer Island Council	Fuel Bowser	\$ 258,133
Mer Island Council	Freezer Accreditation	\$ 6,500
Poruma Island Council	Resort Boat ***	\$ 56,510
Poruma Island Council	Resort Salaries Assistance	\$ 44,700
Poruma Island Council	Fuel Bowser	\$ 248,133
Saibai Island Council	Takeaway/Bistro ***	\$ 300,000
St Paul's Island Council	St Paul's Boks upgrade	\$ 240,000
TSIMA	Develop Business Plan ***	\$ 30,000
Ugar Island Council	Multi-Purpose Building ***	\$ 150,000
Ugar Island Council	Freezer ***	\$ 17,048
Ugar Island Council	Fuel Bowser	\$ 248,133

Council	Project	Amount
Warraber Island Council	Warraber Island Resort ***	\$ 648,000*
Yorke Island Council	Boat & Bus for Lodge ***	\$ 91,437
Yorke Island Council	Freezer Accreditation	\$ 6,500
TOTAL		\$ 3,554,416

Notes:

- * \$300,000 contribution from the Commonwealth Department of Transport & Regional Services
- **\$150,000 contribution from Qld Department of State Development, Trade & Innovation
- ***Funds rolled over from 2005-2006 financial year

The following pie chart provides a representation of the various CEIS investment sectors during the reporting period.



Two case studies for projects funded under the Community Economic Initiative Scheme (CEIS) are detailed in the following pages.

CASE STUDIES: COMMUNITY ECONOMIC INITIATIVE SCHEME

Case Study 1.

Title of Project:	Boigu Island Motel
Island:	Boigu
Applicant:	Boigu Island Council

Project Description

The Boigu Island Council had a vision to establish a community Motel in order to address a lack of visitor accommodation on the island and to create a sound economic development opportunity that would provide sustainable benefits to all island residents. The Guesthouse was identified as a high priority for the Council in their 2004-2008 Community Development Plan.

Given the size of the project, a Feasibility Study was completed and forwarded to the TSRA on 15 June 2005. The Feasibility Study highlighted a number of inconsistencies in the original cost estimates which had been prepared by a third party on behalf of the Council.

TSRA Assistance

The revised cost estimates for the project impacted on the original Motel design. Negotiations were undertaken with the Council and an agreement was reached for a design that met the Council's objectives.

The Feasibility Study highlighted the Council's aspiration to establish an enterprise on the island. Importantly, the enterprise would provide avenues for training and employment for CDEP participants on the island as well as increase the level of service delivery from government agencies (with agency staff being able to overnight on the island rather than return to Thursday Island). More time spent on the island would result in better service to the community.

The TSRA Native Title Office prepared a formal agreement prior to construction work commencing.

The Boigu Island Council applied for and received funding of \$150,000 from the QLD Department of State Development. The TSRA contributed \$500,000 under the Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS).

Outlook

When the Motel is officially opened (anticipated in early 2007-2008), it will:

- Provide improved visitor accommodation;
- Provide a genuine income stream for the Council and the community;
- Enhance employment and training opportunities within the community; and
- Provide a facility which could assist in any future move towards developing small-scale tourism within the community.

The Motel comprises of six self contained rooms. The overall management will be undertaken by the Boigu Island Council and employment opportunities for local staff have been identified. The facility will initially cater for visitors from various agencies and organisations assisting with essential services. Council have future plans to target tourism on a small scale with likely visitors taking advantage of fishing and bird watching. Small groups who have visited the island for these purposes in recent years indicate a potentially sustainable future niche tourist market may exist for Boigu Island.



The Boigu Motel, Courtesy Boigu Island Council

Case Study 2.

Title of Project:	Community Fuel Bowsers Stage II
Islands:	Boigu, Dauan and Mabuia
Applicants:	Boigu, Dauan and Mabuia Island Councils

Project Description

In response to requests from these Councils for improvement in delivery of fuel supplies, discussions were held with the TSRA and the following objectives were established:

- To provide safe and reliable fuel supplies
- To offer fuel at a reasonable cost to residents
- To create employment and training opportunities
- To generate positive financial returns to Councils

TSRA Assistance

Following the successful completion of the community fuel project at Hammond Island in November 2005, a report was developed recommending the best way to implement Stage II. The recommendation was for the installation of facilities at Boigu, Dauan and Mabuia Islands.

Expressions of Interest were invited from the three companies which were involved in the Hammond project, and Liquip Sales, a company based in Townsville, was the successful tenderer. The TSRA then approved funding of \$660,000 under the Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS) to implement the project. All three bowsers are now in operation.

Achievements

The Fuel Bowsers will enable the communities to have the ease of obtaining a local, affordable fuel supply with improved continuity outside retail hours and reduce disruptions to supply through equipment downtime.

Compliance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other regulatory bodies will reduce the environmental impact of the units on the marine ecology.

The new technology will allow community members to be employed and trained in an essential service.

In addition, the Fuel Bowsers will generate positive financial returns to these Councils by raising revenue from the sale of fuel cards.

By supporting such projects the Government is helping to raise community living standards and providing a more reliable base for fostering other commercial ventures, ensuring that adequate fuel supplies will favourably assist other essential infrastructure and services.

Outlook

Similar projects are now being undertaken on Poruma, Mer and Ugar with anticipated completion in the 2007-2008 financial year.



TSRA Chairperson Mr Toshie Kris (right) congratulates Boigu Island Council Chairperson Mr Donald Banu (left) at the opening the Boigu Community Fuel Bowser

OUTPUT TWO – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The Community Development, Employment and Training Output comprises of two programs:

1. Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) Program; and
2. Community Training Program (CTP).

PROGRAM – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS PROGRAM

Objective

To provide Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people living in the region with the opportunity to voluntarily work in community managed activities that contribute to economic, social and community development and cultural maintenance.

Description

The CDEP is available to Torres Strait Islander communities within the Torres Strait region. The Program enables unemployed Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal persons living in the region to undertake work on activities chosen by the community or organisation, as an alternative to unemployment benefits.

The Program facilitates community development through the implementation of projects decided upon by the communities themselves and in accordance with their own priorities. Community development is further enhanced through the Program's flexibility and capacity to link with other programs such as Business Funding and Community Economic Initiatives Schemes, the Major Infrastructure Program, various Australian and Queensland Government housing schemes, the Community Training Program (CTP), apprenticeships and various accredited training programs provided by the Australian and Queensland Governments. It also involves funding for environmental and landscaping programs.

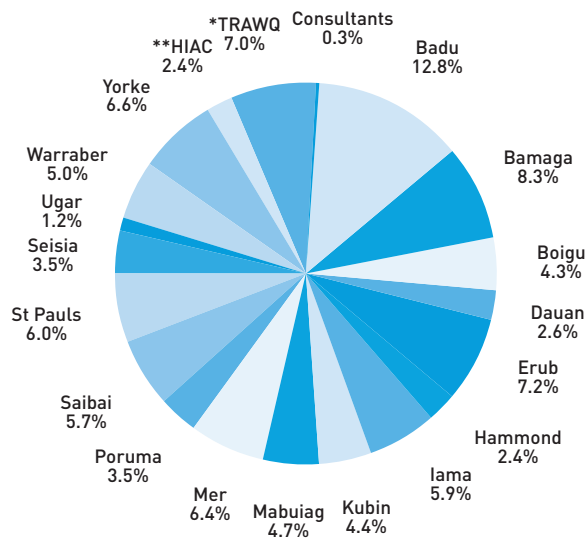
Funding

In 2006-2007, the TSRA was allocated \$31,865,094 for CDEP, and committed \$31,832,403 of these funds to projects in the Torres Strait region, achieving 94.9% expenditure over commitment. It is the TSRA's single largest program. As at 30 June 2007, there was a total

of 1,958 eligible participants in 19 CDEP schemes, covering 19 communities. Expenditure for 2006-2007 was \$30,213,442, comprising: wages (\$22,862,025) and recurrent/capital (\$7,351,417), which included \$93,080 as CDEP support comprising the conduct of 4 major reviews and costs associated with the engagement of a Grant Controller for TRAWQ CDEP.

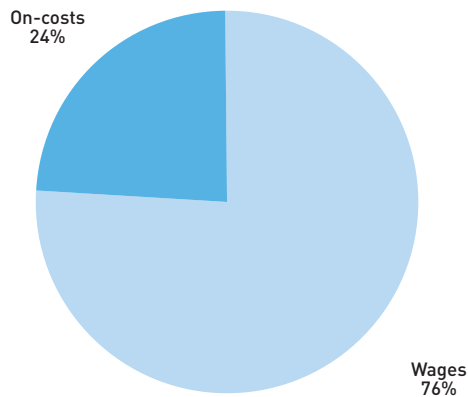
The following charts represent the CDEP Program community allocations and the total on-costs (the total running costs of the CDEP Program made up of running costs and capital requirements) and wages (the amount paid to CDEP participants) for the reporting period.

CEIS – Sectors of Investments



Notes:
*Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine (TRAWQ)
** Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation (HIAC)

2006-07 Total CDEP Funding



Achievements

Each of the 19 CDEPs develop their own CDEP Work Plans and Budgets according to priorities arrived at through community level consultations involving both the participants on the program and the whole community. This allows them to balance the training needs and aspirations of participants with projects contributing to community development.

During 2006-2007 such projects included Council and CDEP administration, fuel depots, public transport, landscaping, landcare and environment management programs fostered by the TSRA's Land & Sea Management Unit, recycling, contract cleaning, hydroponics, cemetery maintenance, road and drainage construction and maintenance, nursery projects, livestock management, an abattoir, stevedoring, mechanical workshops, tourism and hospitality, community policing, women, youth, culture and church projects, work experience as teachers' aides and health care assistants, fishing, seafood processing and marketing, take-away enterprises, a supermarket and other retail outlets, construction and maintenance of buildings, a quarry, sea walls, levee banks, screen-printing, art and crafts, child care and broadcasting.



The Seisa Abattoir

Essential Service Officers maintaining water supply and sewerage systems are trained through their participation on CDEP, and most of the CDEPs include apprentices being trained through the employment of tradesmen funded under TSRA's Community Training Program (CTP). Participants also worked for contractors on Major Infrastructure Program projects, and where this involved the deployment of Heavy Equipment, Management and Training Program (HEMTP) equipment, were able to gain recognition of their newly gained skills with upgraded licences and plant operators certificates.

A major review of TSRA's CDEP Program was undertaken and the final report issued in May 2007 identified areas where the Program is subsidising the responsibilities of the Local, Australian and Queensland governments.

One of the key recommendations from the report was for the TSRA to negotiate with relevant agencies, their acceptance for reform responsibilities within Island communities and appropriately increase resources to transform full CDEP funded jobs into real jobs that remunerate community workers according to appropriate awards. This is being pursued by the Policy Coordination and Development Section.

As a result of other recommendations from the CDEP review report, a working group is in place to revise the policy and guidelines to give the program linkages to training and employment outcomes and the development of community enterprises. This report was accepted by the TSRA Board and its recommendations will be implemented in 2007-2008.

An annual CDEP Budgeting & Planning workshop for all CDEP organisations is proposed for 2007-2008. All TSRA reforms of CDEP will be in place for the 2008-2009 financial year.



The Mer Island Building Crew

PROGRAM – COMMUNITY TRAINING PROGRAM

Objective

To improve individual and community skill levels to enable communities and individuals to improve self-management to become more competitive in the mainstream labour markets.

Description

This component provides community organisations with the opportunity to apply for funds to upgrade skills in administration, financial management, services industries and trades, as well as training related to environmental issues, health, heritage and culture, and land management. This training can take the form of formal courses, on-the-job training, a mixture of both, or employment of tradesmen assuming responsibility for apprenticeships.

Through this component, financial assistance may also be provided to a sponsoring organisation’s staff member to undertake a full-time accredited course at a recognised tertiary educational institution.

Funding

In 2006-2007, the TSRA allocated and committed \$1,138,363 to CTP for various Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations. \$1,114,363 was expended, achieving 97.9% expenditure over commitment.

Achievements

In 2006-2007 a total of 28 separate training projects were approved across 17 communities. 20 of these projects were in trades, where CTP funds paid for the tradesman training apprentices and trainees. These projects accounted for 86% of CTP funds, and included plumbing, carpentry, welding, electrical, painting, mechanical and butchery. 115 participants were involved in trades training, either as apprentices or trainees. Other training included accounting (MYOB), plant operators, security, hookah diving, netting and knotting, retail skills, landscaping and jewellery making.



*Jewellery making
at Erub Island*

CASE STUDY: COMMUNITY TRAINING PROGRAM

Title of Project:	Building and Construction training
Island:	Warraber
Applicant:	Warraber Island Council

Project Description

The project proposed that 6 participants would receive on the job training under the constant supervision of a qualified builder.

TSRA Assistance

The TSRA provided a CTP grant of \$65,000 to Warraber Island Council specifically for the salary of a qualified builder, as trainer. Warraber Island Council provided all other costs involved with the project, including travel and accommodation for the trainer.

Achievements

Although this project was affected by the Australian-wide shortage of tradesmen, and the isolation of the community, which left it without a trainer for a period, the results have been impressive. Two tradesmen completed their apprenticeships, and continued to work with the builder to add depth to their experience, and another apprentice continues to work towards his qualification.

The “value adding” of this project was twofold:

- a) 18 other workers, including 16 CDEP participants, gained experience in building construction under the direct supervision of a qualified tradesman; and,
- b) they worked on much needed community infrastructure, including the Warraber Resort, a project funded under the TSRA’s CEIS scheme.

Outlook

CDEP participants, under the supervision of a qualified local carpenter trained under CTP, have recently completed the construction of one new house and the upgrades of two old houses on Warraber. Through CTP, a pool of qualified local tradesmen is being developed across the Torres Strait that can serve their communities. Warraber Island Council has applied for CTP funding to continue this project in 2007-2008.



*Two of Warraber Community's Tradesmen working on a Housing Project,
Courtesy Warraber Island Council*

OUTPUT THREE – NATIVE TITLE

Objective

To be recognised as an organisation providing high quality and culturally appropriate professional services to Native Title Holders and claimants through consulting with and effectively representing Indigenous inhabitants in the Torres Strait region in the performance of our functions under *the Native Title Act 1993*.

Description

This component facilitates the securing of legal recognition of native title to land and waters in the Torres Strait and providing assistance for the legal protection of native title rights in relation to matters affecting Torres Strait land and waters.

PART A – OVERVIEW OF TSRA AS A NATIVE TITLE REPRESENTATIVE BODY

This output refers to the TSRA's functions as a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) under the *Native Title Act 1993*. Representative bodies are primarily responsible for servicing the needs of their constituents effectively and equitably. Constituents are those persons who hold or may hold native title in their area. On that basis, one of the guiding principles for the operations of representative bodies is their responsibility to act in the best interests of their constituents.

Legislation Governing TSRA's Native Title Functions

The TSRA was first appointed a Native Title Representative Body under the *Native Title Act 1993* in 1995. Under the 1998 amendments to the *Native Title Act 1993*, each representative body was required to re-apply for recognition. Following an independent examination, TSRA was recognised by the then Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs as the Native Title Representative Body for the Torres Strait region. The Native Title Office of TSRA performs the legislative functions as required by the *Native Title Act 1993*.

Legislative Functions of the TSRA in its NTRB capacity

As a NTRB, the TSRA fulfils specific functions under the *Native Title Act 1993*. These include:

- facilitating the researching, preparation and making of claims by groups of Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal Peoples, for determinations of native title and for compensation for acts affecting their native title;
- assisting in the resolution of disputes within groups about the making of such claims; and
- assisting groups by representing them, if requested to do so, in negotiations and

proceedings relating to the doing of future acts affecting native title, the provision of compensation in relation to such acts and any other matter relevant to the operation of the Act.

The legislative functions of Native Title Representative Bodies is set out in section 203B of the *Native Title Act 1993* which states as follows:

- (1) A representative body has the following functions:
 - (a) The facilitation and assistance functions referred to in section 203BB;
 - (b) The certification functions referred to in section 203BE;
 - (c) The dispute resolution functions referred to in section 203BF;
 - (d) The notification functions referred to in section 203BG;
 - (e) The agreement making functions referred to in section 203BH;
 - (f) The internal review functions referred to in section 203BI;
 - (g) The functions referred to in section 203BJ and such other functions as are conferred on representative bodies by this Act.

A representative body may only perform its facilitation and assistance functions if requested to do so.

The TSRA was required to re-apply for NTRB status in 2006-2007. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs has since recognised the TSRA as the NTRB for the Torres Strait region for a further six years.

Organisational Structure and Corporate Governance Policies

As a section of the TSRA, Native Title Office staff are included in the organisational structure reproduced at the end of this report. Similarly, Native Title Office staff are bound by the same corporate governance policies that apply to TSRA generally and are members of the Australian Public Service.

Part B – REPORT ON PERFORMANCE

Output 3 of TSRA's Performance Against Outputs table reproduced on page 42 of this report relates to TSRA's native title functions. As shown in that table, performance targets have been met.

Since being recognised as a Native Title Representative Body, TSRA has gained significant experience in providing legal assistance and representation, anthropological research and has provided related services to native title claimants and holders in the region. TSRA has provided legal advice, representation and otherwise assisted native title claimants, Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) and native title holders in various proceedings under the

Native Title Act 1993 in relation to future acts, Indigenous Land Use Agreements ('ILUAs') and other matters relating to native title.

At the time of writing this report, TSRA has provided legal representation and assistance to its constituents to enable them to obtain 19 of the 26 determinations of native title that have been made to date over land and waters in the Torres Strait Region, 25 of which have been obtained by consent.¹ TSRA is currently providing legal representation and assistance to Torres Strait Islanders in respect of three remaining claimant applications over land that are in the Torres Strait Region which cover a number of uninhabited islands, one claimant application outside the region and the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim. TSRA anticipates that the majority of the remaining claimant applications will be resolved through consent determinations.

With five claims remaining, the incorporation of 19 Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) and 33 ILUAs that operate in the region and a further three ILUAs anticipated to be registered in the next financial year, TSRA's principal functions are now directed to finalising the four remaining land claims, progressing the Regional Sea Claim and assisting PBCs with a range of matters including capacity development initiatives. While resolving the remaining land claims, progressing the Regional Sea Claim and assisting PBCs remain priority matters, the resolution of disputes, agreement making functions and assisting native title holders manage native title land continues to be the focus for TSRA as communities and PBCs come to terms with the recognition of native title over their communities and their obligations and responsibilities under the *Native Title Act 1993 (as amended)*. With most of the claims over land determined, the NTO will be directing more efforts to assisting Prescribed Bodies Corporate developing the capacity to perform their functions.

1. Land Claims

There are three claims over land remaining in the Torres Strait region and one claim that is outside the region. The four claims are being progressed through the Court and mediation process with the aim of resolving them with the consent of the parties. One claim will be discontinued upon the registration of an ILUA, one claim has been discontinued and a fresh claim simultaneously filed over the same area and two claims are the subject of mediation between Indigenous parties.

2. Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim

The Sea Claim was filed in the Federal Court in November 2001 and is brought on behalf of the Native Title Holders of Badu, Dauan, Erub, Ugar, Masig, Warraber, Poruma, Naghi, Iama, Mabuag, Mer, Boigu, Mua and Saibai and covers approximately 42,000 square kilometres of sea in the Torres Strait region. Both the Federal Court and the TSRA have identified the Regional Sea Claim as a priority claim for 2006-2007.

In 2005 the Sea Claim was substantially amended and remains on the Register of Native Title Claims. The notification process was finalised in the 2002-2003 financial year.

Mediation with the State of Queensland, the Commonwealth and other respondent parties is continuing. The Sea Claim has raised a number of complex legal issues and factual matters that will require further negotiation with the State and the Commonwealth. The Federal Court will be

holding an early evidence hearing in the Torres Strait from 27 September to 12 October 2007. The purpose of the early evidence hearing is to hear and preserve the evidence of elders who can give evidence in support of the claim. The anthropological research is continuing and given the nature of the claim the anthropological research is more complex than initially anticipated. The Sea Claim remains in mediation and the Native Title Office will put every effort into negotiating a settled outcome. In the event that the claim cannot be settled by consent it is likely that the claim will proceed to trial.

In July 2006, Justice French and the Federal Court travelled to Thursday Island to hold a directions hearing. At the hearing the Torres Shire Council and a Papua New Guinea party, Mr Pende Gamogab, made applications to join the claim as respondents. The Native Title Office was instructed to object to both joinder applications on the basis that both parties do not hold any interest in the claim area. Subsequently, Justice French exercised his discretion to not join both parties and dismissed both applications². Pende Gamogab appealed the decision of Justice French to the Full Court of the Federal Court. The Native Title Office instructed Counsel to appear at the Full Court hearing, however his appeal was upheld.

3. Future Acts, Agreements and Other Land Matters

In the 2006-2007 period, TSRA received and responded to numerous marine related future act notices and put a significant amount of time and effort into assisting native title holders, Island Councils and project proponents reach satisfactory native title agreements.

Agreements

Two ILUAs were certified by the TSRA in the 2006-2007 reporting period. One ILUA provided native title consents for an essential service on a community island and the other to facilitate the resolution of a native title claim. At the time of writing this report an Area Agreement ILUA is pending authorisation by the members of a claim group which will then be sent to the State for execution. TSRA will certify this ILUA and an application will be made to have it registered. The NTO also assisted PBCs and Island Councils with one Native Title Authorisation Agreement which provide for, among other things, native title consents for major infrastructure projects.

-
1. The other seven determinations of native title include *Billy Wasaga and others on behalf of the Kaurareg People -v- State of Queensland* [2001] FCA 657 [23 May 2001], which involved the making of five consent determinations of native title in favour of the Kaurareg People over Horn, Prince of Wales, Entrance and Dumaralag and other islands and who were represented by Cape York Land Council, the decision of the High Court in *Mabo -v- State of Queensland* (No 2) [1992] 175 CLR 1, (although litigated before the commencement of the NTA, is an approved determination of native title pursuant to section 13(7) of the NTA) and *Mualgal People v State of Queensland* [1999] FCA 157 [12 February 1999] who were represented by private solicitors.
 2. See *Akiba -v- QLD* [2006] FCA 1102 and *Akiba -v- QLD* FCA 1173

Infrastructure ILUA

The NTO continues to brief PBCs and Island Councils on the terms of the Infrastructure ILUA. The Native Title Office conducted 11 two day briefings with PBCs and Island Councils on an Infrastructure ILUA. The ILUA operates to, among other things, set out a future act process and to provide native title consents for infrastructure works that affect native title. One PBC and one Island Council have executed an Infrastructure ILUA. The NTO will undertake further consultations with Government Parties and proponents and anticipates making an application to register the ILUA in the coming months. The NTO will in the next financial year continue briefing Prescribed Bodies Corporate. However, major Local Government reforms that are expected to take place at the time of writing may delay the final execution of ILUAs.

4. Prescribed Bodies Corporate

A total of 19 PBCs have been incorporated and registered on the National Native Title Register following the making of approved determinations of native title in the Torres Strait region. TSRA has assisted with the incorporation and registration of the majority of these PBCs and continues to provide ongoing assistance, legal advice and representation for PBCs in relation to consultations, mediations and negotiations concerning matters relating to their respective approved determinations of native title.

In light of the number of native title determinations and the number of PBCs in the Torres Strait, a major ongoing issue for the region is the need for PBCs to be adequately resourced to perform their statutory and governance functions. PBCs in the Torres Strait receive either little or no grant funding which makes it extremely difficult for these bodies to carry out their functions.

There are a range of factors, in addition to lack of funding, which impact upon PBCs to restrict their governance and operational capacity which further reduces the ability of PBCs to perform their functions. The Native Title Office is now working in partnership with TSRA's Land and Sea Management Unit who have obtained grant funding from the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) to develop a capacity development project, in partnership with PBCs in the Torres Strait.

As reported last year, the PBC Capacity Building Project would be undertaken over two years and in two stages. Stage one of the project was significantly delayed due to, among other things, delays in approval of grant funding. Stage two of the Project will be undertaken over 12 to 18 months and its focus is on the development and implementation of capacity building initiatives with all Torres Strait PBCs.

5. Statistical Data

The following table provides statistical data for the 2006-2007 reporting period in relation to the roles and functions of TSRA in its NTRB capacity:

Facilitation and Assistance	Report on number only
Claimant Applications	5
Applications filed in 2006-2007	1

Number current	5
Number registered with NNTT	3
Non Claimant Applications	Nil
Agreements	
-Indigenous Land use agreements finalised	3
-Indigenous Land use agreements finalised but not yet executed	1
Leases	2
Determination Deeds finalised but not yet executed	NIL
Other Agreements	1
Total	7
Compensation claims	Nil
Future Act Notices Received	270
Responses to Future Acts	17
Objections to Future Acts	29
Determinations of Native Title	Nil
ILUAs Registered	1
Disputes relating to Native Title Applications	11
Disputes relating to ILUAs, rights of access and other matters	22
Number of ILUAs effected	2
Number of reviews pending	Nil
Number of reviews completed	Nil
Number of PBCs established	Nil
Number of PBCs assisted	15
Number of claims certified	1
Number of ILUAs certified	2

STATEMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF 203 FF NATIVE TITLE ACT

The Torres Strait Regional Authority is a recognised Native Title Representative Body and has legislative functions pursuant to section 203B of the *Native Title Act 1993*. Section 203DC of the *Native Title Act 1993* requires Native Title Representative Bodies to submit to the Minister an Annual Report. In its capacity as a Native Title Representative Body and pursuant to section 203FF(2) of the *Native Title Act 1993*, the Native Title Outputs as reported in the 2006-2007 TSRA Annual Report is also a report for the purposes of section 203DC of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

Financial Performance of TSRA in NTRB Capacity

For the 2006-2007 financial year the TSRA was funded an amount of \$1.574m for the ongoing operation of the Native Title Office and the provision of housing for Native Title Office staff.

The financial performance of TSRA in its NTRB capacity is outlined in the following expenditure report:

Torres Strait Regional Authority Output 3 Native Title Total Cost of Output As at 30 June 2007

	Output Group 3	
	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000
Departmental expenses		
Employees	605	428
Suppliers	1,041	1,381
Grants	-	4
Depreciation	40	36
Writedown and Impairment of Assets	5	20
Total departmental expenses	1,691	1,869
Funded by:		
Revenues from Govt.	1,424	1,336
Sale of Goods and Services	29	480
Interest	74	59
Net Gains from disposal of assets	0	-
Other	47	14
Total departmental revenues	1,574	1,889

Table Notes:

1. These figures are sourced from the Audited Financial Statements of the TSRA for the year ended 30 June 2007.
2. Other Revenue includes revenue received by Native Title and allocated revenue received by TSRA.

Part C - External Scrutiny

As a section of the TSRA, the Native Title Office has been audited in accordance with the audit reports set out in this report.

Part D - Management of Human Resources

As a section of the TSRA, Native Title Office staff members participated in training and development undertaken by all TSRA staff and are subject to the Collective Workplace Agreement and Australian Workplace Agreements outlined in this report.

OUTPUT FOUR – HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

PROGRAM – HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The output of the Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure Program aims to increase the number of Indigenous people in the Torres Strait area with access to adequate housing, infrastructure facilities and essential municipal services that are consistent with, and appropriate, to their needs. This output also aims to improve environmental health standards by providing appropriate and sustainable infrastructure and ensuring that adequate environmental health programs are implemented.

This output has one program, Housing and Environmental Health and is comprised of two sub-programs:

- 1) Environmental Health
- 2) Community Housing

SUB-PROGRAM: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Objective

Through the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP), which delivers and maintains environmental health infrastructure in Torres Strait communities, the TSRA aims to improve the health and general well-being of Indigenous people living in the region. MIP delivers such infrastructure as clean water supplies and reticulated sewerage systems. TSRA also contributes towards improved safety of the people of the region through the upgrade of community airstrips and marine infrastructure. This is achieved through TSRA funding contributions to the Queensland Department of Transport's *Transport and Infrastructure Development Strategy (TIDS)*.

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Description

The Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) works to deliver essential, appropriate and sustainable environmental health infrastructure in 15 outer island communities and the two Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) communities of Bamaga and Seisia. As such, MIP is of vital importance to the health and well-being of the Indigenous people of the region.

The MIP is jointly and equally funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments, and is administered by a MIP Management Committee comprising of representatives from the

TSRA, the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation (DLGPSR), the Island Coordinating Council (ICC), and the MIP Program Manager.

Since its inception in 1998 this successful program has achieved substantial and real outcomes. The first three 3-year MIP stages (1998-1999 to 2006-2007) have delivered water supplies, reticulated sewerage, subdivisional developments, roads, drainage and waste management projects across the entire region. These initiatives have had substantial and tangible impacts on health, quality of life and overall community sustainability in the Torres Strait region, and reflect the success of the *whole-of-government* partnership that guides MIP.

Over the nine year MIP period, the Australian and Queensland Governments have jointly provided a total of \$93 million.

MIP Stage 4 Funding

In September 2006, parallel submissions were put to the Australian and Queensland Governments by TSRA and DLGPSR seeking to extend MIP for a further four years (\$14 million per year from each government for the four year period 2007-2008 to 2010-2011 - i.e. a total of \$56 million each).

In response, the Commonwealth approved a sum of \$6m per year for the first two years (i.e. \$12 million). It has been confirmed that the Queensland Government will at least match this Commonwealth commitment.

Achievements

MIP 3

- The Project Construction Contract for St Pauls and Kubin (Moa) Sewerage was awarded to construction firm Kenfrost on 30 March 2007 and work commenced 30 April 2007.
- The Regional Mobile Desalination Plant Dauan Wash-down Slab Construction contract was awarded on 30 March 2007.
- Work commenced on Bamaga sub-division project on 23 April 2007.
- The Design and Documentation for Ugar Roads Stage 2 has been completed. Construction of Stage 1 of Ugar roads has been completed.
- The Design and Documentation for Masig Bores and Sewerage is complete. Tenders are currently being assessed and Tender Reports prepared for the Masig Sewerage Project.
- The Design Reports have been submitted and Designs are complete for Mabuag Water and Sewerage, and Warraber Sewerage projects.
- The Iama Island Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) upgrade work is now complete and the STP is meeting licensing requirements.

MIP 1 and MIP 2

- MIP 2 works on Badu, Kubin, Hammond, Saibai and Mabuiag have been completed and finalized following the 12 month defects liability period on these works.
- A Contract Variation was awarded to Boigu Island Council for construction of the Dau Street drain and the rectification of the low road carriageway that holds water outside the Council chambers (this work is additional to the MIP 2 scope). Works commenced on this drain during mid October 2006. These works have now been completed.
- Rubbish tip upgrades being undertaken by Remote Area Civil Earthmoving have been very well received by the Communities. Works have been completed on Iama, Saibai, Dauan, Erub, Masig, Hammond, Kubin and St Pauls, Poruma, Ugar, Mabuiag and Badu. Warraber and Boigu works are being completed as In House Bids.
- Native Title issues have been addressed and survey and geotechnical investigations have been completed for the Horn Island (Wasaga) Sewerage Project. Design and documentation has been completed and tenders have been called.



*Road works at Ugar Island,
Courtesy Black & More*

A summary of the status of MIP 3 Projects as at 30 June 2007 is as follows:

Location	Project	Status	% Complete
Year 1			
Regional	Regional Mobil De-Sal Plant	M	80%
Regional	Regional Metering, Hammond and Mer Water	C	80%
Regional	Waste Management Strategy		0
Badu	Badu Roads and Water Main	C	100%
Year 2			
Masig	Masig Bores and Sewerage	D	90%
Moa	St Pauls and Kubin Sewerage	D	15%
St Pauls	St Pauls Drainage	D	99%
Year 3			
Mabuiag	Mabuiag Sewerage and Water Storage Cover (Design & Documentation)	D	40%
Warraber	Warraber Sewerage (Design & Documentation)	D	85%
Ugar	Ugar Roads	C	40%
Bamaga	Bamaga Subdivision	D	10%
Regional	MIP1 STP Modifications #	C	
Horn	Horn Island Sewerage (additional funds) #	D	0%
Iama	Iama Alternative Feedwater Intake#	F	100%
Boigu	Boigu, Dau Street Drain	C	100%

Table Notes:

C: Construction, F: Finalised, M: Maintenance, D: Design

MIP 3 funds for MIP 2 projects. Transfer to MIP 2

A summary of the status of MIP 2 Projects as at 30 June 2007 is as follows:

Location	Project	Status	% Complete
Badu	Sewerage - Full Sewer (70% Exist)	F	100%
Badu	Serviced Housing Subdivision	F	100%
Bamaga	Serviced Housing Subdivision (Stage 1)	F	100%
Boigu	Flood Mitigation	C	95%
Boigu	Serviced Housing Subdivision	C	95%
Saibai	Serviced Housing Subdivision	F	95%
Saibai	Water - Upgrade elevated water storage	F	95%

Dauan	Roads & Drainage	F	100%
Dauan	Water - Reticulation (Exist)	F	100%
Erub	Sewerage - Full Sewer	F	100%
Erub	Power Extension	F	100%
Hammond	Serviced Housing Subdivision	F	100%
Hammond	Roads Sealing & Drainage	F	100%
Horn	Sewerage - Full Reticulation + Lagoons	D	10%
Iama	Serviced Housing Subdivision	F	100%
Kubin	Serviced Housing Subdivision	F	100%
Kubin	Water - Reservoir Cover	F	100%
St Pauls	Water - Reservoir Cover	F	100%
Mabuiag	Water - Reservoir Upgrade & Reticulation	F	100%
Mer	Serviced Housing Subdivision	C	90%
Mer	Additional CEP Work	C	90%
Poruma	Elevated Water Tanks	F	100%
Warraber	Elevated Water Tanks	F	100%
Seisia	Sewerage - Full Sewer + Pump to Bamaga	C	80%
Region	Waste Management Strategy	F	100%
Region	Land Servicing Strategy	F	100%
Region	Mapping	F	100%
Region	Tip Upgrades - Interim Works	C	85%
Region	Bulk Waste Removal	C	85%
Thursday Island	Rosehill Boat Ramp	F	100%

Table Notes:

C: Construction, F: Finalised, M: Maintenance, D: Design



*A new serviced housing
sub-division at
Hammond Island*

MIP Outlook for 2007-2008

- Commencement of the Regional Waste Management Project.
- Commencement of the Warraber Pilot Waste Management Project (to be delivered by MIP and jointly funded by the Australian Department of Environment and Water Resources, and the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency).
- Commencement of construction of Masig Bores and Sewerage Project.
- Commencement of construction of Mabuiag Sewerage and Water.
- Commencement of construction of Warraber Sewerage Project.

Projects already in progress will continue.



*The Rosehill boat ramp
on Thursday Island*

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Description

To assist island communities with the operation and maintenance of water supply and sewerage services, so that their ongoing capacity for infrastructure maintenance is strengthened, and that there are improved health, economic, and social outcomes for these communities.

Achievements

The TSRA contributed \$1.6 million to the Island Co-ordinating Council in 2006-2007 for the continued support and maintenance of water supply and sewerage infrastructure in the region.

Outlook for 2007- 2008

TSRA will continue to assist the Island Coordinating Council Infrastructure Support Unit (ICCISU) by contributing \$1.7 million towards operation and maintenance of water supplies and sewerage services in island communities.

AIRSTRIPS AND MARINE UPGRADES

Description

To upgrade airstrips and marine facilities on island communities so that access to these remote communities is enhanced along with improvements to aviation and marine safety, health, economic and social outcomes.

Achievements

The TSRA contributed \$1.1 million towards the Airstrip and Marine Upgrade Program in 2006-2007. The Program has provided vital infrastructure to Torres Strait island communities which has in turn contributed substantially toward improving the quality of life for the people of the region.

Moreover, the local economy has gained from year-round access to communities, with visitor movements enhancing business opportunities. Residents have also benefited by being able to safely and efficiently commute between islands to attend family and cultural events.



*Iama Island Airstrip, the final airstrip
in the region to be sealed*

General maintenance has been provided for marine infrastructure including jetties, barge ramps and berthing dolphins. Progress in replacement or upgrade of dolphins has been made at Hammond, Moa, Erub, Warraber and Iama Island communities, and upgrading of dolphins at Badu, Mabuiag, Boigu and Moa (St Pauls) is in the design stage.

With completion of the Yam Island airstrip in August 2006 all Torres Strait Island community airstrips are now sealed. Going forward, the program will focus on marine and local road upgrades.

The Program works closely with the Heavy Equipment and Management Training Program (HEMTP) and, like the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP), has a substantial and beneficial impact on local employment and capacity building.

Outlook for 2007-2008

For 2007-2008, TSRA will continue to contribute towards the Department of Transport's Torres Strait Airstrip and Marine Upgrade Program by providing a total of \$1 million. This is comprised of \$600,000 for Transport Infrastructure Projects and \$400,000 for the Horn Island Airport Runway extension.

- Transport Infrastructure Projects: The Program is yet to be finalized but will focus on marine infrastructure now that all island airstrips have been sealed.
- Horn Island Airport Runway Extension: In order for larger and more efficient aircraft with increased capacity to operate in and out of Horn Island (the central airport for the region), the main runway needs to be extended and its surface strengthened. The estimated cost for this work is in the order of \$1.7 million. The Airport owner and operator, the Torres Shire Council (TSC) is responsible for this project. The Department of Transport has undertaken to fund half of the eventual cost of the project. TSC will contribute \$400,000 and the remainder will be raised by TSC.

SUB-PROGRAM: COMMUNITY HOUSING

Objective

To maximise the provision of adequate and appropriate housing for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region by monitoring agencies responsible for Indigenous housing, and coordinating planning and delivery of housing services through the Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure (JTSHI) Agreement and Committee.

Description

Notwithstanding its expiration in late 2005, the Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Agreement continues to provide the framework for the planning, coordination and delivery of housing and infrastructure programs in the Torres Strait. The parties to the Agreement are the Australian Government, the Queensland Government, the Island Coordinating Council (ICC) and TSRA. Clause 9 of the Agreement provides for a Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee (JTSHIC) with a membership comprising of one Australian Government representative, two Queensland Government representatives, one TSRA representative, and one Island Coordinating Council (ICC) representative.

The TSRA provides Secretariat support for JTSHIC and TSRA Chairperson, Mr Kris, currently sits as JTSHIC Chairperson. A new approach to strategic coordination of housing and infrastructure delivery in the Torres Strait is being developed by the current JTSHIC members.

Achievements

Four JTSHIC meetings were held during 2006-2007, and JTSHIC continued its valuable work in Housing and Infrastructure coordination and planning.

The TSRA, together with other JTSHI partners are currently awaiting the release of the Queensland Department of Housing sponsored review of housing and town planning carried out by SGS Economics and Planning in May 2007. It is expected that this report will identify issues affecting housing and make recommendations to address the shortage of housing in the region. This will enable all stakeholders to move ahead with coordinated and effective measures to address regional Indigenous housing issues.

Similarly, the JTSHI partners are currently awaiting the establishment of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council which is expected to replace the Island Coordinating Council (ICC) and all Island Councils in 2008. Once these new bodies are up and running it is anticipated that TSRA and the JTSHI partners will be able to develop a Regional Housing Strategy/Plan that will address all current Indigenous housing issues.

Another focus area is the critical issue of Indigenous home ownership on communal title lands (mainly Deeds of Grant in Trust or DOGIT areas in the Torres Strait). Among other impediments such as housing finance issues, there are legislative changes required before all of these issues can be fully resolved. TSRA is monitoring developments in this area with a view to advancing Indigenous home ownership when an appropriate tenure arrangement can be established on island communities.



SUB PROGRAM

The Asian Tiger Mosquito Control Project

Objective

This program is aimed at controlling the Asian Tiger Mosquito population in the region thereby decreasing the incidence of Dengue fever and other mosquito borne diseases.

Description

In February 2007, TSRA and the Department of Family, Community Services, and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to fund the "Asian Tiger Mosquito Control Project."

This \$1.08 million project is being delivered by the Island Coordinating Council (ICC) who will work together with Island Councils and Queensland Health to take the necessary measures to help control the Asian Tiger Mosquito population in the region. FaCSIA will contribute \$880,000 (2006-2007), and TSRA will contribute \$200,000 (over 2006-2007 and 2007-2008). The project will commence in June 2007 and will run until March 2008. TSRA will also assist in coordinating the project's activities with the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) and the Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee (JTSHIC).

The Program and Project Manager is the Island Coordinating Council (ICC) and the program will be run in accordance with a Regional Operational Plan that addresses control of the Asian Tiger Mosquito in the Torres Strait. The lead Agency will be Queensland Health (Cairns Tropical Population Health Unit), while Island Councils will carry out most of the work on the ground. Other agencies such as the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, QBuild, DLGPSR, the Department of Housing and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (ATSIP) will also participate.

This Program along with other initiatives being delivered by Queensland Government agencies, has largely contributed to an increased awareness of this threat and better preventative measures to control outbreaks of Dengue Fever.

Outlook for 2007-2008

In its bid to control the region's Asian Tiger Mosquito population and reduce the associated health risks, it is expected that by its completion in March 2008, this project will have covered all solid waste facilities, collected, relocated and/or disposed of possible water collecting items, cleaned and repaired all roof guttering, screened water tanks, removed damaged tanks, and repaired external leaking taps. Communities will also have been made aware of measures that need to be taken to control mosquito breeding on a continuing basis.

It is anticipated that these measures will continue to maintain the low number of incidence of dengue fever and other mosquito borne diseases in the region.

CASE STUDIES – HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Case Study 1.

Title of Project:	MIP 2 Boigu Flood Mitigation Project
Island:	Boigu Island Community
Applicant:	Boigu Island Council

Project Description

A good example of the benefits delivered to communities by MIP Projects is the MIP 2 Boigu Flood Mitigation project.

These works on Boigu were aimed at mitigating the adverse affects of high tides and heavy rains during the wet season. Prior to the projects delivery, areas of Boigu Island were subject to regular flooding which reduced the usefulness of the land affected and presented a major mosquito breeding hazard. In order to solve this problem, the Community in conjunction with MIP management decided that it was necessary to raise the existing seawall, upgrade existing culverts, construct a bund wall and upgrade relevant drainage works.

Following necessary investigation and preliminary work, the Boigu Island Council was awarded the contract for construction of a bund wall on the eastern and southern boundaries of the new sub-division area. Also, the Council was awarded the contract for construction of the Dau Street drain, and rectification of surface ponding in and around the Council Chambers.

TSRA Assistance

TSRA assistance to the Boigu Island community in this project was through MIP of which TSRA, on behalf of the Australian Government, is a joint and equal co-sponsor with the Queensland Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation (DLGPSR). On this occasion the total cost of the project was \$873,000, with TSRA contributing \$436,500 towards this cost.

Achievements

This project not only delivered effective flood protection infrastructure and the follow-on environmental health benefits, but also contributed substantially to capacity-building both of the Boigu Island Council and Boigu community members. The Council undertook the project works and gave opportunities for the local workforce to acquire new skills and improve on existing skills. In total, 17 community members were employed during the project.

Training required was provided by Information Technology Employment Consultants (ITEC) and delivered Certificates II and III to 10 participants, Certificate II in General Construction

(Blue Cards) to 21 participants, Certificate II in General Construction to 19 participants, and Certificates for operating plant and machinery to 8 participants.

The Boigu project achieved 15,912 hours of Indigenous employment and accredited training. The project also resulted in a substantial portion of the project costs (\$873,000) going back into the local Boigu community's economy.



*The Boigu Island
local workforce taking
part in the Flood
Mitigation Project,
Courtesy Black & More*

Case Study 2.

Title of Project:	17 Islands Water & Wastewater Skills Enhancement Project
Island/Community:	All Torres Strait Island Communities
Applicant:	Island Coordinating Council: Infrastructure Support Unit

Project Description

Supply of water to Torres Strait communities is critical as most islands in the region do not have reliable and readily available water supplies. In the past during dry periods, water has often had to be imported into communities and/or produced by desalination of seawater.

As such, Torres Strait water supply for both consumption and sewerage consists of a range of water-catchments, water-treatment and water-distribution technologies of varying complexity.

This water supply infrastructure is managed and operated by a team comprising management and technical support which is provided by the Island Coordinating Council's Infrastructure Support Unit (ICC ISU). ICC ISU employs 54 Essential Service Officers (ESO's) who look after and operate the infrastructure at the community level on a daily basis.

As a whole, the infrastructure is maintained at an acceptable level and the Council operators demonstrate a sense of ownership towards their infrastructure. Nevertheless, the high turnover of ESO's, and the construction of new water supply and wastewater infrastructure necessitated ICC ISU to commission a skills audit. This assessment identified significant benefits in delivering formal water industry training at Certificate II and Certificate III levels to those ESO's who had little or no relevant training, and only limited operational experience.

TSRA Assistance

TSRA allocated the sum of \$1.6 million in 2006-2007 to support the ICC ISU in provision of ongoing operations and maintenance of water services to Island Councils in the region. In this initiative, TSRA is a co-sponsor with the DLGPSR.

Achievements

Delivery of the Training Plan for this valuable project was won by Brisbane-based Water and Environment Consultants, Simmonds & Bristow, who had previous design experience with several Torres Strait island water supply and wastewater facilities. Their experience in the region was helpful in understanding the need to deliver flexible training that allowed for Torres Strait Islander cultural considerations, and to match the training to the infrastructure that the students were using within their communities.

Training delivery consisting of two 1-week blocks and two 2-week blocks commenced in May 2007, and is anticipated to be completed by early September 2007. Assessment will include an on-the-job component conducted within the participants' individual communities. ICC ISU is also hosting the training on Thursday Island.

Early indications show that these operators are benefiting by having a greater sense of ownership, developing greater confidence in operating, maintaining and managing their systems, and being able to troubleshoot and rectify infrastructure faults.

Outlook

Benefits of this training to the communities will include improved health outcomes through quality reticulated water supplies and wastewater systems. Improved and sustainable economic and social outcomes will be realised through enhanced customer service; full utilisation and longer life of community assets; regulatory compliance; retention of trained staff; and a regional pool of skilled workers in delivery of essential services.



The region's Essential Service Officers taking part in a training workshop on Thursday Island, Courtesy ICC ISU

Case Study 3.

Title of Project:	Sealing of the Iama Island Airstrip
Island/Community:	Iama Island Community
Applicant:	Iama Island Council

Project Description

The project was the final airstrip to be sealed as part of a regional strategy to seal all airstrips in the Torres Strait. This strategy was aimed at improving access and transportation facilities to the isolated island communities of the region. It also served to improve the community quality of life and access to services such as medical and healthcare.

This \$2 million airstrip upgrade project was jointly funded by TSRA and the Queensland Department of Transport, and the works were carried out by the Queensland Department of Main Roads (DMR). The project included the completion of an 800-metre all weather airstrip, replacement of airstrip equipment, fencing and access tracks outside the airstrip perimeter.



*TSRA's Deputy Chairperson
Mr Fred Gela (right) congratulates
Iama Island Council Chairperson
Mr Walter Mackie (left) at the
opening of Iama Island's sealed airstrip*

TSRA Assistance

TSRA's assistance in this project was as a joint sponsor with the Department of Main Roads in the regional Airstrips and Marine Upgrades Program. TSRA contributed \$1.1 million to the program for 2006-2007. TSRA also assisted this and other projects through its key role in the Heavy Equipment Management Training Program (HEMTP). TSRA co-sponsors HEMTP with DMR and DLGPSR (contributing \$471,000 each for 2006-2007, i.e. a total of \$1,413,000).

Achievements

The Iama Island community now has an all-weather sealed airstrip that allows easy access to aircraft and provides a safer, more secure environment to the community.

Also, during the 14 week duration of the works, four local community members were employed and took part in the construction of the sealed airstrip. They received their training under the Heavy Equipment and Management Training Program (HEMTP).

Outlook

The Iama Airstrip project is a good example of the importance of the Airstrips and Marine Upgrade Program working in partnership with HEMTP. This partnership is making a substantial contribution to community capacity-building by up-skilling trainees in areas of construction and heavy machinery use, and enabling communities such as Iama to play an important part in maintaining local infrastructure. The trainees also become part of a skilled pool of local workers who can be called upon to assist in future projects.

OUTPUT FIVE – SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Through the Social and Cultural Development Output, the TSRA aims to enable Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people of the Torres Strait region to lead independent and healthy lives, with full recognition of their cultural heritage and rights to land. It aims to achieve this by providing coherent and responsive programs that will improve the quality of their lives and ensure equity in their access to services and participation in the wider community.

This output comprises six programs as outlined below:

1. Municipal Support;
2. Broadcasting;
3. Social Justice;
4. Heritage, Culture and Environment;
5. Sports; and
6. Social Support (Youths, Aged and Women's Issues).

PROGRAM – MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

Objective

To increase the number of Indigenous people of the Torres Strait region with access to and gaining benefit from community facilities and essential municipal services consistent with and appropriate to their needs.

Description

The TSRA may provide funding under this Program for:

- Contributions toward the operating costs of local and remote communities' councils and organisations.
- Replacement of vehicles and machinery considered essential for the efficient operation of those councils and organisations.
- Fund outright or contribute to the funding of the construction of community amenities, buildings, essential services and temporary accommodation.

Funding

In 2006-2007, the TSRA committed \$1,241,340 as a contribution to the operations of island councils, \$627,480 towards the operational costs of the Island Co-ordinating Council (ICC) and the two non-council CDEP organisations, \$480,000 as the Australian Government contribution to the joint Australian/Queensland Government Heavy Equipment Management and Training

Program (HEMTP) and \$69,155 in accounting costs to enable the timely acquittal of TSRA's 2005-2006 Grants to Island Councils, previously delayed due to the late certification of accounts by the Queensland Audit Office. An additional \$540,000 was rolled over from 2005-2006 for the purchase of vehicles and machinery. 100% disbursement of these funds was achieved.

Achievements

The Island Councils used TSRA's recurrent contribution to municipal operations for the employment of executive officers, council clerks, and resident or visiting financial consultants, all responsible for the management and coordination of the Councils' operations. TSRA funds supplement those funds provided by the Queensland Government for Council operations and capital equipment.

The TSRA again contributed to the Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program (HEMTP) by providing \$480,000 in 2006-2007 to the Island Coordinating Council. HEMTP is a joint initiative involving the Queensland Department of Main Roads, DLGPSR and TSRA, and provides a plant pool of heavy equipment and machinery for use in earthworks and road construction. Projects on each island are scheduled into the HEMTP program and equipment and machinery are moved from island to island as needed. This program has provided substantial skills development and employment for local people throughout Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area. A co-operative and mutual arrangement between the Queensland Department of Main Roads, the TSRA and the ICC has meant that HEMTP also efficiently and effectively provides the resources for infrastructure development in the region through the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP).



*HEMTP assisting in the
construction of the Iama Island Airstrip*

\$69,155 was spent completing audits of all 2005-2006 TSRA grants to Island Councils, thereby allowing the timely acquittal and disposal of surplus funds.

A total of \$540,000 rolled over from 2005-2006 was granted to the Island Councils and Town-based organisations to allow them to purchase vehicles and machinery as follows:

■ Badu Island Council	\$153,000
■ Bamaga Island Council	\$60,000
■ Iama Island Council	\$15,000
■ Mabuiag Island Council	\$122,000
■ Poruma Island Council	\$30,000
■ Saibai Island Council	\$90,000
■ Seisia Island Council	\$60,000
■ TRAWQ Community Council	\$10,000

PROGRAM – BROADCASTING

Objective

To enable Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people of the Torres Strait region access a range of broadcasting and communication services comparable to those provided to mainstream Australia.

To develop and extend the broadcasting and communications network of Indigenous residents of the Torres Strait in order to reinforce and promote their cultural identity and to foster general community awareness of their culture and priorities.

Description

This Program gives Indigenous residents of the Torres Strait control of their own broadcasting and television services. Through the Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme (BRACS), remote communities are provided with facilities to gain access to, and control of, television and radio services. It encourages the production of programs with local and cultural input for distribution within the Torres Strait region and the rest of Australia. It also supports the operations and development of the Torres Strait Islanders’ Media Association (TSIMA).

Funding

Broadcasting funds of \$596,384 were allocated, with 100% disbursement, to the Torres Strait Islander Media Association (TSIMA) for operational and community broadcasting costs. TSRA also supports 16 BRACS units through untied contributions to the operating expenses of Island Councils.

Achievements

Through its 24-hour broadcasting licence, TSIMA is providing a local service of news, music, current affairs and items of interest, which continued throughout 2006-2007.

The BRACS schemes are utilised based on individual island's needs, with some communities using the scheme for local productions revolving around local language and culture, while the majority use the BRACS facilities to relay four television channels to the communities.

PROGRAM – SOCIAL JUSTICE

Objective

To ensure that the human and legal rights of the Indigenous people of the Torres Strait region are enforced at international, national, state and local levels.

Description

The TSRA is providing financial assistance towards the provision of culturally appropriate, Indigenous legal aid services. It also supports advocacy services representing the interests of Indigenous people in contact with the juvenile and criminal justice system.

Funding

The TSRA provided \$457,086 under this Program during 2006-2007 for the provision of a legal service to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region. 100% expenditure was achieved.

Achievements

The principal achievement of this Program has been the continuing availability of legal representation for people living in the Torres Strait region at the Magistrate Courts of Thursday Island, Badu Island and Bamaga through the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Legal Service (TSNP). \$448,786 was granted to TSNP for their operating expenses.

In 2006-2007, the TSNP gave preliminary legal advice, consultations, legal support and representation to 5,286 clients, including 507 civil cases, 152 family cases and 934 criminal cases. They also handled 32 Traditional Adoption cases, and issued 38 brief-outs and 46 referrals. They gave representation to a total of 1,331 defendants facing a total of 2,690 charges.

However, an independent review of TSNP found that TSRA was not getting value for money with its funding to this organisation and a tender process began in early 2007-2008 to find a new provider to deliver this TSRA Program from 1 December 2007.

The Thursday Island Community Justice Group, through TRAWQ Community Council Inc., received \$8,300 to allow members to make visitations to Lotus Glen prison inmates.

PROGRAM – HERITAGE, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Objective

To assist the Indigenous people of the Torres Strait region in preserving, protecting and developing their cultural heritage and to promote their involvement in environmental issues affecting them.

Description

This Program provides funds designed to support projects seeking to preserve and protect the environment, heritage, culture and languages of the Indigenous people of the Torres Strait region; to promote and maximise their involvement in the management of their land, seas and sacred sites; and to ensure that they regain ownership and control of the areas and objects of cultural significance to them.

In addition, this Program provides funds to promote, develop and support the Torres Strait region's Indigenous people in their involvement with traditional and modern artistic and cultural activities as well as to promote awareness of the contribution made by the region's Indigenous art, culture and history to the wider Australian and global community.



*Members of the Saibai
Island Dance team*

Heritage and Culture

Funding

In 2006-2007, the TSRA committed a total of \$238,179 for the support of artistic and cultural activities in the Torres Strait region, including \$40,000 rolled over from 2005-2006 for the Erub Arts Centre, achieving 100% expenditure.

Grantee	Project	Contribution (\$)
Badu Island Council	Aibai Sagulau Dance team	10,000
Bamaga Island Council	60th Anniversary Muttee Heads landing	10,000
Erub Island Council	Arts Centre	40,000
Erub Island Council	July 1 Celebrations	2,000
Dauan Island Council	ANZSYS Conference - Tina Aswla	1,585
Kubin Island Council	Laura Festival - Betty Tekahika	5,000
Mura Kosker Sorority	Book Launch - Ellie Gaffney	9,000
Mura Kosker Sorority	Deep Sea Dancers Travel	13,000
Mer Island Council	Mabo Day	5,000
Mer Island Council	Tamwoy Town 50th Anniversary	7,000
Port Kennedy Association	Patrick Mau - Music Conference	8,000
Port Kennedy Association	Patrick Mau - Brisbane Festival	4,400
Saibai Island Council	Saibai Dance Team travel to T.I.	6,894
Saibai Island Council	Tamwoy Town 50th Anniversary	7,000
Yorke Island Council	August 23 Anniversary	10,000
TRAWQ Community Council	Gab Titui Trainees	52,000
TRAWQ Community Council	Rosie Barkus - Memento Awards	1,500
TRAWQ Community Council	50th Anniversary of Tamwoy Town	10,000
Thursday Island High School	Fashion Parade	2,000
Thursday Island High School	Culture Day Activities	2,300
Indigenous Festivals	Croc Festival	30,000
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	NAIDOC Activities	1,500



The Deep Sea Dancers showcased the Torres Strait at the 2006 Melanesian Arts & Cultural Festival in Fiji, Courtesy Ms Maria Tapim

Achievements

After another outstanding year of achievements, the Gab Titui Cultural Centre celebrated its third birthday in April 2007 and continues to focus on the cultural activities of the region, through art exhibitions and workshops as well as acting as an outlet for much of the artistic production of the Torres Strait region. Exhibitions hosted in 2006-2007 include, renowned Torres Strait Islander artist Dennis Nona's "Sesserae" collection and a tribute to the region's pearling history titled, "The First Pearlys."

To commemorate its third birthday, a week of activities commenced on Monday 16 April, beginning with a children's art workshop, the Asian Pacific Tri-Annual, followed by residents from the Star of the Sea Nursing Home being entertained by the Tagai College dancers. The highlight of the week was on Friday 20 April, when the Centre invited local community members to take part in the opening of a Regional Visual Art and Craft Exhibition and to witness the unveiling of a historic Chinese Bell, which is currently on loan from the Royal Australian Navy.

The Centre's work towards cultural preservation and tourism was again recognised this year, with Gab Titui Cultural Centre winning for the second year in a row, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Category of the Queensland Tourism Awards. In addition, Gab Titui was also a finalist at both the Australian and Tropical North Queensland Tourism Awards and received a High Commendation at the Reconciliation Business Awards for the Best Emerging Business.

Gab Titui Cultural Centre continues to employ three trainees, who are progressing well in the Tourism, Guiding and Hospitality, Certificate II.

TSRA again matched the \$25,000 received from Arts Queensland to create a pool of \$50,000 for Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund (IRADF) projects. 99.6% expenditure was achieved, and successful applications for the 2006-2007 Torres Strait IRADF included:

Applicant	Project	Community	Budget
Josh Mills	Local singer	Port Kennedy	1,500
Damien Fujii	Singer & song writer	Port Kennedy	1,100
Rosie Barkus	Fabric artist	Port Kennedy	10,000
Margaret Mau	Local writer	Dauan	8,500
Ugar Island Council	Arts & Crafts workshops	Ugar	10,000
Billy Missi	Artist	Kubin	5,568
Yorke Island Council	Arts workshops	Yorke	2,540
Harry Cook	Music workshops	Port Kennedy	6,000
Florence Ware	Woodford Dreaming Festival workshop	Mura Kosker	1,640
Kathryn Norris	Pastel works exhibition – Gab Titui	Mura Kosker	2,965
TOTALS			49,813

The TSRA, as the peak body, continues its commitment to assisting local individuals and organisations in the maintenance and development of the region’s culture and heritage.



The Gab Titui Cultural Centre Staff with the 2006 Queensland Tourism Award, Courtesy Torres News

ENVIRONMENT

The Land and Sea Management Unit

The TSRA was invited by Australian and Queensland Government Ministers to manage the delivery of the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) program in the Torres Strait region. The NHT program aims to promote biodiversity conservation, the sustainable use of natural resources, community capacity-building and institutional reform.

In June of 2006, the TSRA established a Land and Sea Management Unit to coordinate the delivery of regional and local level land and sea management initiatives, and to support communities to access additional financial and technical support, and information about the sustainable management of their environments. The Unit currently comprises eight staff.

Objective

To provide support to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal communities in the Torres Strait region to care for their land and sea through the implementation of the *Land & Sea Management Strategy for Torres Strait*.



*Staff of TSRA's newly established
Land and Sea Management Unit*

Funding

The TSRA Land and Sea Management Unit is coordinating the delivery of a range of land and sea initiatives through a combination of funding sources, including \$1,661,000 from the NHT and National Landcare Program (NLP), \$65,000 from the Marine & Tropical Science Research Program (MTSRF), \$100,000 from the TSRA, and \$334,000 from other sources. In-kind support from the Queensland Government has also been negotiated. The source and amount of funding allocated towards particular land and sea projects currently underway for the 2006-2007 financial year are set out in the table below.

Communities Involved	Project	Budget 2006-2007	Source of Funds
All	Core Operating Funding (for continued operations of the Land & Sea Management Unit)	\$394,716	NHT
All	Regional Natural Resource Management Facilitator	\$230,838	NHT
All	Regional Landcare Officer	\$99,500	NLP
All	Community Liaison Officer	\$50,000 \$30,000	TSRA MTSRF
All	Integrated Report Card Project	\$20,000	MTSRF
All	Information Management Project	\$74,000	NHT
All	Land & Sea Management Training & Capacity Building Project	\$71,000	NHT
All	Water Education Project	\$130,000	NHT
Central and Top Western	Coastal Management Program	\$150,000	TSRA
Badu, Boigu, Iama, Mer, Erub, Saibai, Dauan, Horn Islands	Dugong & Marine Turtle Management Project	\$363,200	NHT
Various	Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate Capacity Building Project	\$113,900	NHT
Erub, Mer and Masig Islands	Landcare Project	\$146,500	NLP
Horn and Hammond Islands	Marine Debris Project	\$145,100	NHT
Badu Island	Badu Island Land and Sea Management Program	\$87,500	NHT DEWR

Ugar Island	Ugar Island Water Quality Project	\$54,000	NHT
Masig Island	Sponge Aquaculture Project	\$15,000 \$50,000	MTSRF TSRA

Land and Sea Management Initiatives

The Land and Sea Management Unit is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the *Land & Sea Management Strategy for Torres Strait* with funding available under the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and National Landcare Programme (NLP) as well as other government and non-government funding sources.

This Strategy forms the framework for the delivery of land and sea management initiatives and NHT and other sources of funding for environmental projects in the region.

The Land and Sea Management Unit team are currently responsible for coordinating the delivery of 16 projects, including local, regional, cross-regional and collaborative projects. These projects fall under a number of key theme areas consistent with the Strategy, namely: land, sea and people.

Projects underway support a range of different outcomes of benefit to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region, including through the engagement of project officers and rangers to undertake local land and sea management activities, fostering sustainable community-based management approaches for iconic species such as dugongs and marine turtles, removal of ghost nets and harmful marine debris from shorelines and reefs, community education and awareness raising about the importance of sustainable water use, building the capacity of native title holders to become strong partners in land management, developing approaches for better understanding coastal erosion, and through carrying out horticultural training, revegetation and other on-ground land management activities.

The Unit also works in collaboration with a range of partner entities based within and outside of the region to facilitate the delivery of other initiatives aligned with the Strategy, including both Australian and Queensland Government departments, research organisations, the private sector, and philanthropic groups.

The TSRA has recently presented a suite of proposals for the expenditure of remaining NHT funds until June 2008 to the Queensland and Australian Government Ministers for approval. These proposals include the:

- Sustainable Land Use Planning Project
- Extension of the Coastal Erosion Impacts Project to Iama Island

The TSRA also intends to develop a Regional Investment Strategy to outline how the post-June 2008 allocation of NHT or other funds would be applied to support the continued operation of the Land & Sea Management Unit, and maintain sustainable environmental approaches and outcomes for the region and its communities.

Achievements

Over the previous twelve months, the TSRA Land and Sea Management Unit has become fully operational and well integrated within the TSRA organisational structure. There is growing interest on the part of regional communities about community based sustainable management of islands and surrounding seas, and strong levels of support from partner entities based within and outside of the region for land and sea initiatives currently underway and proposed for the region.

CASE STUDIES: LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT

Case Study 1.

Title of Project:	Marine Debris Project
Islands:	Horn and Hammond Islands – Kaiwalagal Region
Applicant:	Kaiwalagal Aboriginal Corporation & Hammond Island Council

Project Description

One of the forms of pollution that is having some impact on the coastlines of the Torres Strait is marine debris, which may pose a threat to fishery resources, wildlife and habitat, as well as human health and safety. Marine debris is difficult to address because it comes from a wide variety of sources, both on and off the shore, involves multiple jurisdictions, and ocean circulation patterns are likely to concentrate floating debris before dumping it on shorelines.

One type of marine debris that requires special attention is derelict fishing gear, composed of both whole and large sections of nets, as well as discarded fishing line and plastic parts associated with traps and nets. Shipping debris is also of growing concern to many communities in the Torres Strait region, particularly those adjacent to the major shipping channels where there is also a heightened risk from shipping accidents and oil spills.

While it is uncertain what quantities of debris are affecting the Torres Strait and the level of impact they are having, studies along other parts of the Australian coastline and anecdotal evidence suggests that the problem could be considerable. Although the impact of marine debris on turtles is relatively well known through the efforts of various Ranger groups in northern Australia, the impacts on seagrass beds, forming important habitat for dugongs and other significant marine species, are largely unknown.

This project involves two broad components:

- Community-based monitoring of seagrass habitat and condition, and marine debris monitoring and shoreline clean-up activities carried out by Rangers based within the Kaiwalagal Region;
- Aerial surveys of the islands in the vicinity of the pilot communities and along the

Great North-East Shipping Channel to generate baseline data on the distribution and extent of marine debris and ghost nets in relation to seagrass beds, algae, reefs and shipping lanes.

TSRA Assistance

The Land and Sea Management Unit is supporting the delivery of this project by linking the Ranger groups with project partners in the broader cross-regional Carpentaria Ghost Nets Programme, and Seagrass Watch initiative, managed through the Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries. The project is funded under the Natural Heritage Trust.

Achievements

With support from the Carpentaria Ghost Nets Program Project Officer, both the Kaiwalagal and Hammond Island Rangers have developed workplans describing the area and methodology for carrying out monitoring and clean up activities to address ghost nets washing up on shorelines in the Kaiwalagal region. Shoreline clean ups and monitoring are carried out by the Rangers within the area in accordance with their workplans.

Training in both monitoring and clean-up methodologies has been delivered to participating Ranger groups on Horn and Hammond Islands from the outset of the project to ensure consistency with national standards. Data generated under the project is incorporated into broader datasets maintained by project partners and accessible to communities, natural resource managers and government agencies.



*Kaurareg Ranger Mr Elizah Wasaga
with Dr Jane Mellors of the Department
of Primary Industries & Fisheries
monitoring seagrass.*

The Rangers have also been trained in seagrass identification and monitoring techniques, and have adopted sites on Horn and Hammond Islands to monitor the condition and trend of seagrass beds, which form important habitat for dugongs and turtles and other marine life. Training in data collection and GIS and GPS usage has been delivered by the Carpentaria Ghost Nets Program Project Officer for both Ranger groups.

Outlook

In the near future, aerial surveys of the shorelines and intertidal areas in the Kaiwalagal Region and the Great North-East Shipping Channel will be undertaken. This will assist in generating baseline data on the distribution and extent of marine debris and ghost nets in relation to seagrass beds, algae, reefs and shipping lanes, and assist in informing a community based management approach to tackling this issue.

Case Study 2.

Title of Project:	Water Education Project
Island/Communities:	Badu, Boigu, Poruma, Dauan, Hammond, Kubin, Mabuiag, Mer, Sabai, Ugar, St Pauls, TRAWQ, Warraber, Iama and Masig Community Councils.
Applicant:	The Island Coordinating Council Infrastructure Support Unit is project managing this project on behalf of TSRA and outer island communities.

Project Description

Torres Strait Islands have a limited water supply that is highly dependent on annual rainfall and underground stores. Often when reserves are depleted, the only options available to communities are emergency barged water and water provided through portable desalination units. The cost to supply barged water is \$14 a kilolitre (about 26 times the national average) and desalinated water is \$7 a kilolitre (about 10 times the national average).

This project, delivered through the TSRA's Land and Sea Management Unit and the Island Coordinating Council's Infrastructure Support Unit, supports water recycling and re-use in small island environments and helps Island Councils develop funding proposals to kick-start local water saving initiatives.

The aim is to build community capacity by involving the region's Water Officers and Councils in raising community awareness of water usage and the natural water cycle and promoting sustainable water use.

TSRA Assistance

The TSRA has received \$130,000 from the Natural Heritage Trust to coordinate the delivery of this project. The project is being managed through the Island Coordinating Council Infrastructure Support Unit, and involves all the Water Officers employed through the Island Councils.

Achievements

A Torres Strait "Water Wise" brand was developed through a regional art competition and media promotion to raise awareness about the project. This will be complemented by promotional products such as posters, pamphlets and stickers. A draft water education package will also be presented to all Island Councils, Torres Shire Council and TRAWQ Councils through a series of workshops.

Forty five trained Water Officers will help with promotion and educational activities such as installing 17 water use awareness signs across the region to increase awareness and understanding of this precious resource.

Seventeen sustainable water-use strategies are being developed in collaboration with Island Councils, which include an analysis of the cost of water, water-use patterns and water conservation strategies (water restriction options).

Community consultative meetings and support are available for interested communities on a pilot basis to develop funding proposals to implement water saving initiatives such as the Australian Government Community Water Grants initiative.

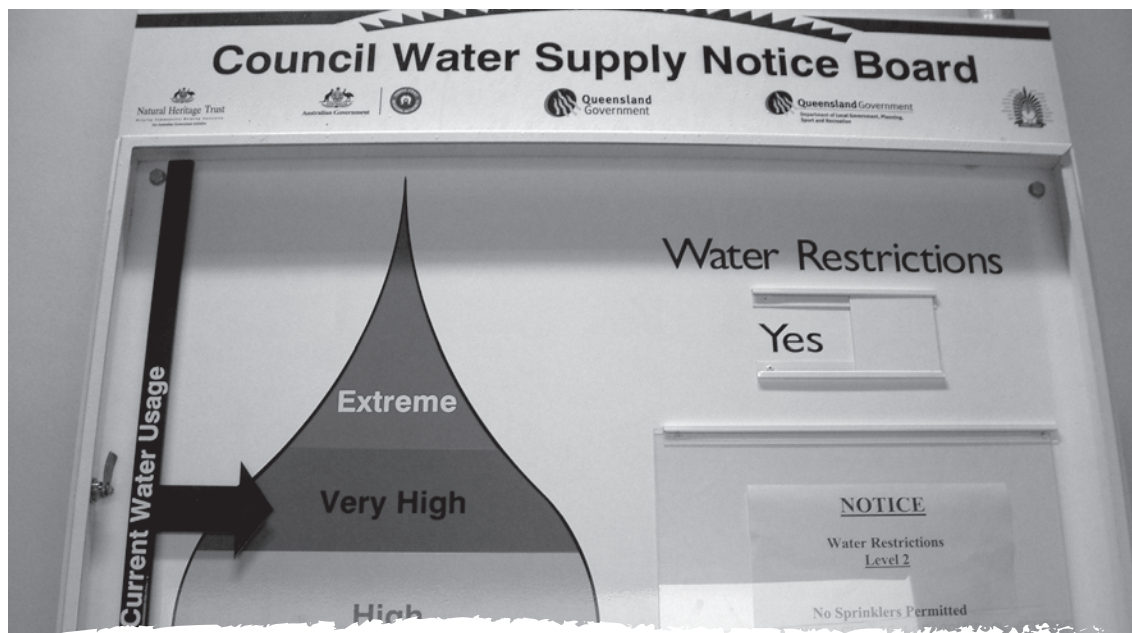
Local communities will gain a better awareness of the importance of the water cycle to the existence of native animals and plants. For example, as the underground water supply decreases in size through overuse, it damages the health of trees along the shoreline, eroding their numbers and in turn, sand banks.

As a result, communities have a better understanding of the need to save water, the cost of water, developing water saving approaches suitable for the needs of particular islands and households, and accessing funding to implement these practices.

In many communities, the level of water consumption and wastage can be minimised through changing household behavior such as reporting leaking taps or recycling and reuse of grey water.

Outlook

TSRA's Land and Sea Management Unit staff will assist communities to access funding and support to adopt water saving measures on the islands, including through external funding programs like the Community Water Grants program.



Community water usage signs that inform residents of water supply usage and restrictions are to be installed in all Island communities as part of the Water Education Project

PROGRAM – SPORT

Objective

To promote the social and physical well-being of the Indigenous people of the Torres Strait region and the development of a positive self-image through increased access to and participation in recreation and sporting activities.

Description

This Program provides funding for the operational costs of sporting associations. It also provides funding for the holding of and travelling to sporting events, as well as the construction and upgrading of sporting and community facilities and equipment.

Funding

\$1,429,292 was rolled over from 2005-2006 to 2006-2007 to link in with the State program, and together with new funding of \$815,678, the TSRA committed a total of \$2,244,970 under this program. However, only 41% expenditure was achieved, as four Major Sports Infrastructure Projects with matching funding from the Queensland Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation have not yet commenced.

Achievements

Funding of \$411,478 was provided in 2006-2007 to the Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association (TSYRSA) as a continuing contribution towards their operating costs and assistance, in terms of both funding and expertise, which they provide to the various Indigenous sporting associations in the Torres Strait. The funding assisted 44 separate sporting projects, including competition in track and field, volleyball, basketball, touch rugby, recreational fishing, rugby league, cricket, darts and women's rugby, and the purchase of various sporting equipment.

Upgrades occurred at the St Pauls and Masig community sports stadiums, and a contribution of \$537,009 was made to the Torres Shire Council's Horn Island Sports Complex project.

CASE STUDY: SPORT

Title of Project:	Torres Strait Women's Rugby League Participation at the 2007 Veronica White Cup, Cairns
Island/Community:	Thursday Island
Applicant:	Neguams Women's Rugby League Team

Project Description:

Women of the Torres Strait region have in the past supported their fathers, brothers, partners and uncles to play rugby league, through fundraising and management of their teams.

In November 2006, a group of women came together to form two teams to play a game of rugby league as a curtain raiser to the grand final of the men's Torres Strait Rugby League Cup.

The enthusiasm of the women, combined with positive community support, resulted in the women taking part in further training, focusing on developing their rugby league skills and forming the Neguams Women's Rugby League Team.

The team has since become a sub-committee of the region's Kaiwalagal Rugby League (KRL) association, and has attracted the support and interest from local coaches, a dietician and a physiotherapist.

TSRA Assistance

As a supporter of healthy lifestyles and sports development, the TSRA supported the Neguam Women's Rugby League Team (NWRLT) in May 2007, by providing a grant of \$10,000 under its Sports Program, to assist the NWRLT to participate at its first State Championship, the Veronica White Cup in Cairns.

Achievements

In just under a year of formation, the NWRLT has created a piece of Torres Strait sporting history by becoming the region's first female representative rugby league team to participate at State level. The team has shown that women of the Torres Strait have the confidence and talent to change the norm, by successfully participating in the usually male dominated sport of rugby league.

The team's commitment and dedication to sport led to the NWRLT reaching third place at the Veronica White Cup, and two members being selected to be part of the Queensland Merit Team with one, receiving both the Selector's Encouragement and Rising Star Awards.

Outlook

This project was a positive initiative that brought Torres Strait women together to build personal confidence in rugby league, identify new sporting talent for the region and promote women taking part in sport in general.

The team now aims to ensure that women in the region access further training to maintain a healthy lifestyle through regular physical activity and by becoming skilled in all aspects of Rugby League, including coaching, first-aid, training and event management.



The Neguams Women's Rugby League Team prior to travelling to Cairns for the Veronica White Cup, Courtesy Ms Bakoi Bon

PROGRAM – SOCIAL SUPPORT

Objective

To ensure that the rights and well-being of Indigenous women, youth, disabled and aged are respected and are commensurate with the norm applied in the wider Australian community and to reduce the incidence of drug abuse, domestic violence, neglect and other symptoms of social dysfunction affecting the Indigenous population of the Torres Strait.

Description

This Program provides funding for the operational costs of women, youth, disabled and aged care centres. Its funds may also be utilised toward partially or fully meeting costs associated with information tours and/or participation in relevant forums and conferences.

Funding

In 2006-2007, the TSRA committed \$348,832 to this Program, achieving 100% expenditure.

Funding of \$151,805 was provided to the Port Kennedy Association (PKA) to assist in meeting the costs of their operations in delivering their programs.

A grant of \$145,334 was provided to the Mura Kosker Sorority for their administration costs, and a further \$2,300 enabled them to host International Women's Day activities and assist the Lena Passi Women's Shelter.

A grant of \$44,393 was provided to the TRAWQ Council for their Youth Activities Program.

Minor grants of \$3,000 towards air-conditioning of Iama Primary School and \$2,000 for the Torres Shire Council to host National Youth Week activities were also provided under this program.

Achievements

The Social Support allocation provides for the operating costs of both the Port Kennedy Association (mostly Child Care and Youth issues) and the Mura Kosker Sorority (Women Issues), and has also funded TRAWQ Community Council for a Youth Activities Program.

The Port Kennedy Association operations include a number of programs funded by other Australian and Queensland Government agencies, with the operating costs met by the TSRA. The Association operates a disability support service and a childcare centre. They operate a community hall, catering to local functions, church groups, art and culture activities, school reunions, blue light discos, government departments' dissemination of information, and other community organisations, and they run regular community market days in their hall. A Social Worker program is operated under Department of Child Safety, and a vacation care program for school children is funded by the Australian Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Yearly activities include Carols by Candle Light and Christmas presents for the residents of the local Star of the Sea Home for the Aged.

The Mura Kosker Sorority is an organisation formed to address the issues affecting Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal women living in the Torres Strait region, and like Port Kennedy Association, has programs funded by other Australian and Queensland Government agencies, with their operating costs coming from TSRA. These programs include Old Peoples Action Program (OPAP) and Emergency Relief Funding (ERF), among others, and the organisation is a valuable resource centre for women, their children and dependants.

The TRAWQ Council Inc. continues to address the issues of the region's youth by using TSRA funding to employ a full-time Youth, Sports and Recreation Officer who organises ongoing sport, fitness, health and lifestyle programs. The "Just-Walk-It" program is very popular, as are basketball, volleyball, softball, touch football, rugby, indoor cricket, swimming lessons and darts.

OUTPUT SIX – POLICY AND INFORMATION

POLICY COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Objectives

1. To participate in the development of regional policies and the planning and coordination of initiatives undertaken by mainstream Commonwealth and State agencies to achieve a better outcome for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region.
2. To develop and maintain the Torres Strait Development Plan as required by Section 142D of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* and to assist in the review of TSRA's corporate documents.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR OBJECTIVE 1

Marine and Fisheries Coordination

The TSRA Chairperson together with the Australian and Queensland Government Ministers for Fisheries comprise the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA), which is responsible for determining fisheries regulations for Torres Strait.

Within TSRA a Fisheries Co-ordinator and a Fisheries Policy Officer are responsible for the co-ordination and support of 24 Torres Strait community fisher representatives in their participation in the PZJA consultative structure.



The operational budget for performing this function amounts to \$220,000 for 2006-2007 which the Australian and Queensland Fisheries contribute \$60,000 for the employment of a full-time position (Fisheries Coordinator). Approximately \$45,000 is provided each year by Queensland Fisheries from Indigenous commercial fishing licence revenue to build and improve the capacity of community fisher representatives in the community and at the PZJA consultative meetings.

Community Fisher Representatives meet with Members of the PZJA during a community Stakeholder Engagement session at Masig Island. From left to right, Mr Lota Warria, Mr Francis Pearson, TSRA Chairperson Mr Toshie Kris, Australian Fisheries Minister the Hon. Eric Abetz, Mr Kila Odo, Queensland Fisheries Minister the Hon. Tim Mulherin & Mr Kenny Bedford

The table below summarises performance indicators in Marine and Fisheries:

Performance Indicator	Comments
Number of fisheries managed sustainably ³	Mackerel Mackerel stocks have been relatively stable over a period of several decades. However, Begg <i>et al.</i> (2006) note that the fishery is being fished near or exceeding sustainable levels, but point out the uncertainty inherent in this assessment.
	Finfish The most recent data suggest that the status of the reef fish stocks in the Torres Strait Protected Zone (TSPZ) is uncertain at present, but is suspected to be under exploited at the moment. It is suggested that the Spanish Mackerel stocks in the Torres Strait are fully exploited and are being fished at somewhere near maximum sustainable levels.
	Prawn The Torres Strait Prawn Fishery is regarded as being fully exploited at its current level of fishing. Most Recent Prawn Catch Data (2005) Total catch 1311 tonnes, value A\$13 million; endeavour prawns 594 tonnes, tiger prawns 651 tonnes and king prawns 51 tonnes.
	Trochus The most recent data suggest that the status of Trochus in the TSPZ is uncertain at present. AFMA is currently reviewing its data for the Trochus fishery.
	Crab The most recent data suggest that the status of the crab stocks in the TSPZ is uncertain.
	Bech De Mer (BDM) Sandfish, Black teatfish and Surf redfish are closed from commercial fishing. Some species have a competitive total allowable catch limit. While BDM species are prone to over-fishing and some species have been overexploited in the past, these over-harvested species are now closed to commercial fishing or have a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) in place to help protect them. Preliminary data from AFMA suggests that those species of BDM that are open to fishing are largely underutilised.

Number of fisheries over-fished¹	<p>Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL) Increased recruitment in 2003 and 2004 were accompanied by increased fishing effort and catch.</p> <p>The 2005 season saw the highest catch rates on record (893 tonnes live weight), and although catches were low in 2006 it is likely that the fishery was over-fished.</p> <p>Most Recent Catch Data (2005) In 2005 Islander commercial fishers caught approximately 366 tonnes of lobster, while the non-Indigenous commercial fishing sector caught 524 tonnes of lobster. Preliminary data suggests that the Indigenous fishing sector caught the majority (approx. 60%) of lobster taken in 2006.</p> <p>Pearl The abundance of pearl shell on fishing grounds is low, although there has been occasional recruitment to shell stocks in some places.</p>
Percentage of the catch taken by Indigenous versus non-Indigenous in each fishery (2001-2005)⁴	<p>Mackerel – Traditional Inhabitant Boat License (TIB) 7% - Transferable Vessel Holder (TVH) 93%.</p> <p>Coral Trout - TIB 16% - TVH 84%.</p> <p>TRL - TIB 35% - TVH 65%.</p> <p>Bech de mer - TIB 100% - TVH 0%.</p> <p>Trochus – TIB 100% -TVH 0%.</p> <p>Pearl - No activity from TIB & TVH.</p> <p>Prawn – TIB 0% -TVH 100% (No Islander involvement).</p>
Number of training courses provided to indigenous fishers	<p>Australian Maritime College training course identified for 2006-2007 postponed to 2007-2008.</p>
Number of Fisheries Management Meetings attended: - Community Fisher Group Meetings - Scientific Advisory Committee Meetings - Working Group Meetings (TRL, Prawn and Finfish) - Torres Strait Management Advisory Committee Meetings - Protected Zone Joint Authority	<p>1 PZJA Meeting. 1 PZJA Stakeholder Engagement Session Meeting on Badu and Masig Island. 5 x PZJA Standing Committee Meetings. 1 Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee Meeting (TSFMAC). 1 Community Fisher Group Meeting. 3 x Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group Meetings. 3 x Finfish Working Group Meetings. 2 x Prawn Management Advisory Committee Meetings 2 x Traditional Fisheries Dialogue Meetings. 2 x Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group Meetings.</p>

Number of turtle and dugong taken	The most recent data indicate that the annual catch for 2000-2001 by communities in the Australian sector of the Torres Strait Protected Zone for Dugong was 619 ± 134 , and for turtles was 1619 ± 574 . There are no complete catch data for 2006.
Number of turtle and Dugong Community Management Plans in place	The TSRA Land and Sea Management Unit is working with eight communities to develop community management plans in 2006-2007/08. No community management plans are currently in place. No community management plans are currently recognised under legislation.
Number of Torres Strait Fishing licences/endorsements issued as at 30 June 2007.	Overall – 503. TRL – 476. Reef Line – 216. Spanish Mackerel – 242. Trochus – 156. Pearl Shell – 75. BDM – 120. Crab – 130.
Number of Torres Strait Islanders involved in commercial fishing	Although the number of licensed boats is known for each of the fisheries in the Torres Strait, it is unknown how many of these licensed fishers are active, or how many of them are full-time fishers as opposed to part-time fishers.
Number of tonnes of catch taken by Indigenous fishers in each fishery	Mackerel ⁵ – 13671 kg (2005). Coral Trout – 18851 kg (2005). Tropical Rock Lobster – 366128 kg (2005). Bech De Mer – 2006 (No official figures) 2005 – 7133 kg (Value in 2005 \$20126). Trochus – 35007.2 kg (Value in 2006 \$133,163 assuming the mean price of \$3.80). Pearl Fishery – No activity. Prawn Fishery – No Islander involvement.
Number of fisheries-related TSRA business Loans provided to Indigenous fishers	As at 30 June 2007: Business loans – 36.
Number of foreign fishing vessels apprehended.	The number of illegal foreign fishermen processed in the Torres Strait during April and May has dropped from more than 240 in 2006 to about 20 ⁶ so far in 2007.

Table Notes:

1. Data against performance indicators are not collected explicitly by TSRA. Comments here are collected from a range of sources (particularly the AFMA 2005/06 Annual Report) and in some cases are not for the year 2006, although they are the most recent available.

3. The Spanish Mackerel, Reef Line (collectively making "Finfish") and the Tropical Rock Lobster fisheries are moving to quota management to ensure future sustainability.
4. data for Spanish Mackerel, Coral Trout and TRL catch is from AFMA (2007) [http://www.pzja.gov.au/notices/notices/2007/n20070607/AFMA%20Starting%20point%20\(web\).pdf](http://www.pzja.gov.au/notices/notices/2007/n20070607/AFMA%20Starting%20point%20(web).pdf)
5. data for Spanish Mackerel, Coral Trout and TRL catch is from AFMA (2007) [http://www.pzja.gov.au/notices/notices/2007/n20070607/AFMA%20Starting%20point%20\(web\).pdf](http://www.pzja.gov.au/notices/notices/2007/n20070607/AFMA%20Starting%20point%20(web).pdf)
6. Minister for Fisheries Press Release Cairns Post 14 May 2007

Torres Strait Treaty

The Torres Strait Treaty is a bilateral instrument established to delineate borders and jurisdictions between Australia and PNG. Under the Treaty, both nations have established a Protected Zone which provides administrative protection to the traditional way of life and livelihood of traditional inhabitants in the Torres Strait.

The TSRA Board is a key advisory body, providing input across a broad range of cross border issues. Members of the Board participate in an annual cycle of bilateral consultative meetings with both PNG traditional inhabitant counterparts and other officials, at the National and State/Provincial level. The TSRA will continue to work with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to ensure Torres Strait participation continues at Treaty Liaison, Environmental Management Committee and the Joint Advisory Council Meetings.

Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum

The Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum consists of the TSRA, the Department of Health and Ageing, Queensland Health, the Island Coordinating Council (ICC), the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area District Health Council and the Queensland Ambulance Service.

The Health Framework Agreement that governs the Torres Strait Health Partnership and sets out the Partnership's Strategic Goals and Objectives was signed during a special launch in July 2006. The Australian Government Minister for Health and Ageing, the Queensland Minister for Health, the Chairperson of the Torres Strait Regional Authority, the Chairperson of the Torres Strait Island Coordinating Council and the Chairperson of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area District Health Council, participated in the signing and launch of the Agreement which took place on Thursday Island.

The aim of this Agreement is to improve Health outcomes for the residents of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area, in particular to improve the Health status of Indigenous residents to a level that is at least commensurate with that of the wider Australian community.

The TSRA engaged a consultant through funds provided by Department of Health and Ageing to work on the Community Health Management Committee Project. The project has been operating throughout 2006-2007 and most communities now have Health Committees or Steering Committees in place. Part of the role of a Health Committee is to develop local activities in liaison with the local Health Centre to improve the health and well being of local people.

The TSRA supported the Queensland Ambulance Service to donate refurbished Queensland Ambulance Emergency vehicles to Warraber, Masig, Hammond, Badu, Iama, Saibai, Mabuiag and Boigu in 2006-2007. This initiative will continue to roll out to other communities in 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.

TSRA has also negotiated an MOU and Funding Agreement with the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs for the implementation of the Asian Mosquito Prevention Project. The project is valued at \$880,000 and delivered by the Island Coordinating Council's Infrastructure Support Unit (ICC ISU). TSRA provided ICCISU with funding totalling \$100,000 for the development of a strategy for the implementation of this initiative. Q-Build has also conducted dengue prevention works on the outer island communities which involved screening of tanks, cleaning household gutters and destruction of old water tanks. This project was conducted in conjunction with the ICCISU.



Queensland Minister for Health the Hon. Stephen Robertson, TSRA Chairperson Mr Toshie Kris and the Australian Minister Health and Ageing the Hon. Tony Abbott signing the new Torres Strait Health Agreement

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR OBJECTIVE 2

Torres Strait Development Plan

The TSRA Administration provided TSRA Executive Board Members with updates against all portfolio areas in the Torres Strait Development Plan. A number of priorities for the Administration to work towards under each portfolio were endorsed by the TSRA Executive for 2007-2008.

The TSRA also received the Minister for Indigenous Affairs' Statement of Expectations which outlines what is expected of the TSRA over the next 12 months. In light of this document, the TSRA Board agreed that the Torres Strait Development Plan should be reviewed to align with the Minister's Expectations. The TSRA Board and Administration is now in the process of reviewing the Torres Strait Development Plan.

INFORMATION DELIVERY

Objectives

1. To provide information to the Minister and the TSRA Board on the TSRA's policies, goals, progress and achievements.
2. To provide information to the public on the TSRA's policies, goals, progress and achievements.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR OBJECTIVE 1

Secretariat

During 2006-2007, the Secretariat Section supported the TSRA Chairperson, Board Members and General Manager to perform their functions as set out in the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* and worked to achieve outcomes as set out in the Torres Strait Development Plan.

Four Board Meetings were held during 2006-2007 and in addition to this, five Executive Committee Meetings were held in preparation for Board Meetings. The TSRA Executive were supported in their visits to the Western, Top Western, Northern Peninsula Area, Central and Eastern Island cluster groups to conduct meetings with the Councils and communities.



*The TSRA Executive meets with
Bamaga Council and Community*

During the year, the Secretariat section liaised with relevant sections of the TSRA and external agencies to provide 52 briefing papers for the Board's consideration which resulted in the TSRA Board making 38 formal decisions. A total of 21 items of Ministerial correspondence were prepared for the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR OBJECTIVE 2

Public Affairs

The TSRA provided information to the public in 2006-2007 using a number of mediums, including press releases, newsletters, website placements, advertising, and production of promotional material.

A Public Affairs Officer is responsible for delivering this TSRA objective. During the past year, 23 press releases, 23 Chairperson's Columns published in the Torres News, 11 newsletters, 16 speeches and the 2005-2006 TSRA Annual Report were produced.

Pamphlets and promotional material were also produced focusing on:

- The TSRA Land and Sea Management Unit (pamphlet).
- The TSRA Native Title Office (pamphlet).
- The TSRA Business Funding Scheme (pamphlet).
- The TSRA Community Economic Initiative Scheme (pamphlet).
- The TSRA Home Ownership Scheme (pamphlet).
- TSRA Presentations (folder).
- The Gab Titui Cultural Centre (brochure).

Public Affairs assisted in advertising and marketing of the Gab Titui Cultural Centre as well as managing media involvement for the Centre's third birthday in April 2007. The TSRA also participated in the Thursday Island State High School's Careers Market in July 2006 and will again participate in the July 2007 Croc Festival.

All TSRA non-campaign press advertising is conducted through the Australian Government provider HMA Blaze. No campaign advertising was conducted in 2006-2007.

General enquiries from both the regional and mainstream media were attended to, as well as 154 information requests from the public via telephone, email, in person or mail. 89.61 per cent of these information requests were responded to within 48 hours.

The TSRA website (www.tsra.gov.au) continues to offer the community an opportunity to forward queries or feedback to the TSRA regarding its programs, policies, goals, progress and is updated regularly. In 2006-2007, Public Affairs commenced a project to revamp the TSRA website. It is expected that the TSRA will transfer to a new look website in 2007-2008.

In addition, the TSRA and Native Title Office have a toll free telephone number (1800 079 093) that the community is encouraged to use. An email address (info@tsra.gov.au) is also in use to further enhance communication between the public and TSRA.





Courtesy Hammond Island Council.

Hammond Island Rangers, Ms Judith Thaiday (left) & Ms Alice Garnier (right), monitoring & clearing ghost nets from their community's shoreline



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*Financial
Statements*



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Scope

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Torres Strait Regional Authority for the year ended 30 June 2007, which comprise: a statement by the Directors and Chief Executive; income statement; balance sheet; statement of changes in equity; cash flow statement; schedules of commitments and contingencies, a summary of significant accounting policies; and other explanatory notes.

The Responsibility of the Directors for the Financial Statements

The Directors of the Torres Strait Regional Authority are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* and the Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations). This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. My audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Torres Strait Regional Authority's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 Torres Strait Regional Authority's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness

of accounting estimates made by the Directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

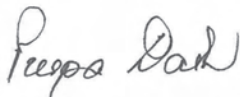
In conducting the audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the ethical requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Torres Strait Regional Authority:

- (a) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, and the Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations); and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders including the Torres Strait Regional Authority's financial position as at 30 June 2007 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Puspa Dash
Acting Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
25 September 2007

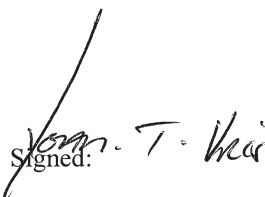
TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
For the year ended 30 June 2007

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTORS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007 are based on properly maintained financial records and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.


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

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


Signed:

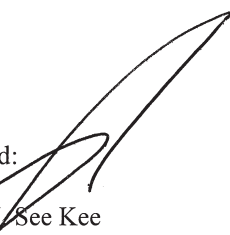
Mr J. T. Kris
Chairperson

25 September 2007

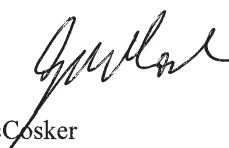
Signed: 

Mr F. Gela
Deputy Chairperson

25 September 2007

Signed: 
Mr W. See Kee
General Manager

25 September 2007

Signed: 
Mr G. McCosker
Chief Financial Officer

25 September 2007

Table of Contents

Income Statement	118
Balance Sheet	119
Statement of Changes in Equity	120
Cash Flow Statement	121
Schedule of Commitments	121
Schedule of Contingencies	122
Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies	123
Note 2: Events after the Balance Sheet Date	124
Note 3: Income	130
Note 4: Expenses	131
Note 5: Financial Assets	132
Note 6: Non-Financial Assets	133
Note 7: Payables	134
Note 8: Provisions	136
Note 9: Impact of change in accounting policy regarding Financial Instruments	137
Note 10: Cash Flow Reconciliation	138
Note 11: Contingent Liabilities	140
Note 12: Directors Remuneration	141
Note 13: Related Party Disclosures	142
Note 14: Executive Remuneration	144
Note 15: Remuneration of Auditors	145
Note 16: Average Staffing Levels	145
Note 17: Financial Instruments	146
Note 18: Appropriations	147
Note 19: Reporting of Outcomes	148

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
INCOME STATEMENT
for the year ended 30 June 2007

	Notes	2007 \$'000	2,006 \$'000
INCOME			
Revenue			
Revenue from Government	3A	54,948	53,664
Sale of goods and rendering of services	3B	1,157	1,354
Interest	3C	1,467	1,086
Other revenue	3D	2,702	781
Total revenue		60,274	56,885
Gains			
Sale of assets	3E	5	-
Reversals of previous asset write-downs	3F	35	155
Other gains	3G	-	37
Total gains		40	192
Total Income		60,314	57,077
EXPENSES			
Employee benefits	4A	4,973	4,283
Suppliers	4B	5,845	4,932
Grants	4C	46,573	47,204
Depreciation and amortisation	4D	564	360
Write-down and impairment of assets	4E	344	210
Other Expenses	4F	3	213
Total Expenses		58,302	57,202
Surplus (Deficit)		2,012	(125)

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
BALANCE SHEET
as at 30 June 2007

	Notes	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5A	17,196	14,009
Trade and other receivables	5B	5,449	7,547
Total financial assets		<u>22,645</u>	<u>21,556</u>
Non-Financial Assets			
Land and buildings	6A	16,479	16,360
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	6B	294	405
Heritage and Cultural Assets	6B	41	35
Total non-financial assets		<u>16,814</u>	<u>16,800</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>39,459</u></u>	<u><u>38,356</u></u>
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	7A	121	1,099
Grants	7B	2,901	4,703
Other payables	7C	79	102
Income received in advance	7D	4,746	3,366
Total payables		<u>7,847</u>	<u>9,270</u>
Provisions			
Employee provisions	8A	1,213	1,121
Total provisions		<u>1,213</u>	<u>1,121</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>9,060</u>	<u>10,391</u>
Net Assets		<u><u>30,399</u></u>	<u><u>27,965</u></u>
EQUITY			
Parent Entity Interest			
Contributed equity		32	32
Reserves		5,427	5,005
Retained surplus (accumulated deficit)		24,940	22,928
Total Parent Entity Interest		<u>30,399</u>	<u>27,965</u>
Total Equity		<u><u>30,399</u></u>	<u><u>27,965</u></u>
Current Assets		17,672	15,299
Non-Current Assets		21,787	23,057
Current Liabilities		8,608	10,253
Non-Current Liabilities		452	138

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT of CHANGES in EQUITY
as at 30th June 2007

Opening balance

Balance carried forward from previous period

Adjustment for errors

Adjustment for changes in accounting policies

Adjusted opening balance

Income and expense

Income and expenses recognised Directly in Equity (each item)

Sub-total income and expenses recognised Directly in Equity

Surplus (Deficit) for the period

Total income and expenses

of which:

Attributable to the Australian Government

Transactions with owners

Distributions to owners

Contributions by Owners

Sub-total transactions with owners

Transfers between equity components

Closing balance at 30 June

Closing Balance attributable to the Australian Government

Retained Earnings		Asset Revaluation Reserves		Contributed Equity/Capital		Total Equity	
2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006
\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
22,928	23,763	5,005	3,037	32	32	27,965	26,832
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	(710)	-	-	-	-	-	(710)
22,928	23,053	5,005	3,037	32	32	27,965	26,122
						-	-
						-	-
-	-	422	1,968	-	-	422	1,968
-	-	422	1,968	-	-	422	1,968
2,012	(125)	-	-	-	-	2,012	(125)
2,012	(125)	422	1,968	-	-	2,434	1,843
						-	-
						-	-
2,012	(125)	422	-	-	-	2,434	(125)
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24,940	22,928	5,427	5,005	32	32	30,399	27,965
24,940	22,928	5,427	5,005	32	32	30,399	27,965

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 30 June 2007

	Notes	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Goods and services		3,492	5,220
Appropriations		54,948	53,664
Interest		1,296	1,086
Net GST received		6,148	3,631
Loan receipts		1,694	1,580
Total cash received		<u>67,578</u>	<u>65,181</u>
Cash used			
Employees		(4,905)	(4,087)
Suppliers		(5,928)	(5,829)
Loan payments		(204)	(1,491)
Grants		(53,214)	(49,536)
Total cash used		<u>(64,251)</u>	<u>(60,943)</u>
Net cash from or (used by) Operating Activities	10	<u>3,327</u>	<u>4,238</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		5	8
Total cash received		<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(145)	(419)
Total cash used		<u>(145)</u>	<u>(419)</u>
Net cash from or (used by) investing activities		<u>(140)</u>	<u>(411)</u>
Net increase or (decrease) in cash held		<u>3,187</u>	<u>3,827</u>
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period		14,009	10,182
Cash at the end of the reporting period	5A	<u>17,196</u>	<u>14,009</u>

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS
as at 30 June 2007

	2007	2006
BY TYPE	\$'000	\$'000
Commitments Receivable		
Sublease rental income	(762)	(23)
GST recoverable on commitments	(60)	-
Total Commitments Receivable	(822)	(23)
Other commitments		
Operating leases	97	41
Project commitments	568	-
Total other commitments	665	41
Net commitments by type	(157)	18
BY MATURITY		
Commitments receivable		
Operating lease income		
One year or less	(152)	(23)
From one to five years	(610)	-
Total operating lease income	(762)	(23)
Other commitments receivable		
One year or less	(60)	-
Total other commitments receivable	(60)	-
Operating lease commitments		
One year or less	65	23
From one to five years	32	18
Total operating lease commitments	97	41
Other Commitments		
One year or less	568	-
Total other commitments	568	-
Net Commitments by Maturity	(157)	18

NB: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:

Nature of Lease/General Description of lease arrangement

Commitments Receivable

The Authority receives rental income from the provision of staff housing. This is a necessary activity given the geographic location and housing availability in the Torres Strait.

Lease for office accommodation

Lease payments exist for office accommodation at a fixed rate for the term of the lease, which has a current expiry of 12/03/2008. One renewal option is available to renew for one further year. The option is required to be exercised by giving the landlord not more than 6 months and not less than 3 months written notice. If this option was exercised, the rental rate would be equal to the then current market rent. This option is not expected to be exercised by the Authority.

Agreement for the provision of motor vehicles

One vehicle is leased for senior executive officer use. Three vehicles are leased for operating activities of the Authority. There are no contingent rentals and no renewal or purchase options are available to the Agency.

Leases for information and communication technology equipment

Leases are in place for telephone systems and standard office equipment for operating activities of the Authority. Rates are fixed for the term of all leases with no purchase options available. Telephone system leases began in June 2007 for a 5 year term and a multi-function device lease began in February 2006 for a 4 year term. There are no options for extension on these lease arrangements.

Specific project commitments

The Authority has committed to a number of priority projects for the region which are at varying stages of completion.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES
as at 30 June 2007

Contingent Liabilities	Guarantees		TOTAL	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance from previous period	116	116	116	116
New	-	-	-	-
Re-measurement	-	-	-	-
Liabilities crystallised	-	-	-	-
Obligations expired	-	-	-	-
Total Contingent Liabilities	116	116	116	116
Net Contingent Assets (Liabilities)			116	116

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

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Preparation of the Financial Report

The Financial Statements and notes are required by clause 1(b) of Schedule 1 to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* and are a General Purpose Financial Report.

The continued existence of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (the Authority) in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing appropriations by Parliament for the Authority's administration and programs.

The Financial Statements and notes have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders (or FMOs) for reporting periods ending on or after 01 July 2006; and
- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

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

Unless an alternative treatment is specifically required by an Accounting Standard or the FMOs, assets and liabilities are recognised in the Balance Sheet when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the Entity and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under agreements equally proportionately unperformed are not recognised unless required by an Accounting Standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrealised are reported in the Schedule of Commitments and the Schedule of Contingencies (other than unquantifiable contingencies, which are reported at Note 10).

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an Accounting Standard, revenues and expenses are recognised in the Income Statement when and only when the flow, consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

1.2 Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, the Authority has made the following judgements that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements:

- The fair value of land and buildings has been taken to be the market value of similar properties as determined by an independent valuer.
- 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 etc). 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.

No accounting assumptions or estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next accounting period.

1.3 Statement of Compliance

Australian Accounting Standards require a statement of compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) to be made where the financial report complies with these standards. Some Australian equivalents to IFRSs and other Australian Accounting Standards contain requirements specific to not-for-profit entities that are inconsistent with IFRS requirements. The Authority is a not-for-profit entity and has applied these requirements, so while this financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards including Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRSs) it cannot make this statement.

Adoption of new Australian Accounting Standard requirements

No Accounting Standard has been adopted earlier than the effective date in the current period.

The following adopted requirements have resulted in a change to the Authority's accounting policies or have affected the amounts reported in the current or prior periods or are estimated to have a financial affect in future reporting periods.

Restriction of the fair value option under AASB 139

The AASB through 2005-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 139, AASB 132, AASB 1, AASB 1023 and AASB 1038] restricted the option to designate a financial asset or liability at fair value through profit and loss.

The change was introduced with effect from the beginning of the comparative reporting period (1 July 2005). The Authority had previously designated loans issued for Housing and Enterprises at fair value through profit or loss. The amendment means that these items can no longer be designated as such. The Authority has elected to change the designation of these financial assets to Loans and Receivables under AASB 139.

Future Australian Accounting Standard requirements

The following new standards, amendments to standards or interpretations have been issued by the AASB but are effective for future reporting periods. It is estimated that the impact of adopting these pronouncements when effective will have no material financial impact on future reporting periods.

Financial instrument disclosure

AASB 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures* is effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2007 (the 2007-08 financial year) and amends the disclosure requirements for financial instruments. In general AASB 7 requires greater disclosure than that presently. Associated with the introduction of AASB 7 a number of accounting standards were amended to reference the new standard or remove the present disclosure requirements through 2005-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 132, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 117, AASB 133, AASB 139, AASB 1, AASB 4, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]. These changes have no financial impact but will effect the disclosure presented in future financial reports.

Other

The following standards and interpretations have been issued but are not applicable to the operations of the Authority.

- AASB 1049 Financial Reporting of General Government Sectors by Governments; and
- UIG 10 Interim Financial Reporting and Impairment.

1.4 Revenue

Resources Received Free of Charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as gains when and only when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

Other Types of Revenue

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:

- The risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
- The seller retains no managerial involvement nor effective control over the goods;
- The revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- It is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.

Revenue from rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date. The revenue is recognised when:

- The amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- The probable economic benefits with the transaction will flow to the entity.

The stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date is determined by reference to the proportion that costs incurred to date bear to the estimated total costs of the transaction.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any provision for bad and doubtful debts. Collectability of debts is reviewed at balance date. Provisions are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in AASB 139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*.

Revenues from Government

Amounts appropriated for Departmental outputs appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as revenue, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned.

Appropriations receivable are recognised at their nominal amounts.

1.5 Gains

Other Resources Received Free of Charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as gains when and only when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as gains at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition, unless received from another Government authority or agency as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements.

Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature ie. whether they have been generated in the course of the ordinary activities of the Entity.

Sale of Assets

Gains from disposal of non-current assets is recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

1.6 Transactions with the Government as Owner

Equity injections

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions) are recognised directly in Contributed Equity in that year.

1.7 Employee Benefits

Liabilities for services rendered by employees are recognised at the reporting date to the extent that they have not been settled.

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119) and termination benefits due within twelve months of balance date are measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

All other employee benefit liabilities are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave, long service leave and personal leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of the Authority is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration, including the Authority'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 liability for long service leave has been determined by reference to the work of an actuary as at 30 June 2007. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Superannuation

Staff of the Authority are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS) or the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap).

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.

The Authority makes employer contributions to the Employee Superannuation Scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the cost to the Government of the superannuation entitlements of the Authority's employees. The Authority accounts for the contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

From 1 July 2005, new employees are eligible to join the PSSap scheme.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions for the final fortnight of the year.

1.8 Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases and operating leases. Finance leases effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of leased non-current assets. An operating lease is a lease that is not a finance lease. In operating leases, the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

The Authority does not have any finance leases.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a straight line basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets. In 2006-07, the Authority leased for vehicles, office accommodation and equipment, commercial and residential property for the operation of the organisation.

1.9 Grants

Most grant agreements require the grantee to perform services, provide facilities, or to meet eligibility criteria. In these cases, the Authority recognises grant liabilities only to the extent that the services required have been performed or the eligibility criteria have been satisfied by the grantee.

In cases where grant agreements are made without conditions to be monitored, liabilities are recognised on signing of the agreement.

1.10 Cash

Cash means notes and coins held and any deposits held at call with a bank or financial institution. Cash is recognised at its nominal amount.

1.11 Financial Risk Management

The Authority's activities expose it to normal commercial financial risk. As a result of the nature of the Authority's business and internal and Australian Government policies, dealing with the management of financial risk, the Authority's exposure to market, credit, liquidity and cash flow and fair value interest rate risk is considered to be low.

1.12 Investments

Investments are initially measured at their fair value.

After initial recognition, financial investments are to be measured at their fair values except for:

- a) loans and receivables which are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method; and
- b) held-to-maturity investments which are recognised at cost.

1.13 Derecognition of Financial Assets and Liabilities

Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial assets expire or the asset is transferred to another entity. In the case of a transfer to another entity, it is necessary that the risks and rewards of ownership are also transferred.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the obligation under the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

1.14 Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at each balance date.

Financial Assets held at Amortised Cost

If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred for loans and receivables or held to maturity investments held at amortised cost, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount is reduced by way of an allowance account. The loss is recognised in the Income Statement.

Financial Assets held at Cost

If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred on an unquoted equity instrument that is not carried at fair value because it cannot be reliably measured, or a derivative asset that is linked to and must be settled by delivery of such an unquoted equity instrument, the amount of the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount of the asset and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the current market rate for similar assets. The Authority does not currently hold financial assets of this type.

Available for Sale Financial Assets

If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss on an available for sale financial asset has been incurred, the amount of the difference between its cost, less principal repayments and amortisation, and its current fair value, less any impairment loss previously recognised in expenses, is transferred from equity to the Income Statement. The Authority does not currently hold financial assets of this type.

1.15 Supplier and other payables

Supplier and other payables are recognised at their nominal amounts, being the amounts at which the liabilities will be settled. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

1.16 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but are reported in the relevant schedules and notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset, or represent an existing liability or asset in respect of which settlement is not probable or the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are reported when settlement is probable, and contingent liabilities are recognised when settlement is greater than remote.

1.17 Acquisition of Assets

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 revenues 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 authority's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

1.18 Property, Plant and Equipment

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the Balance Sheet, 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).

Revaluations

Fair values for each class of asset are determined as shown below:

Asset class	Fair value measured at:
Land	Market selling price
Buildings exc. Leasehold improvements	Market selling price
Plant & equipment	Market Selling Price
Heritage and cultural assets	Cost

Following initial recognition at cost, property plant and equipment are carried at fair value less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets do not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depends 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 reverses a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised through surplus and deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly through surplus and deficit except to the extent that they reverse 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 Authority 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:

	2007	2006
Buildings on freehold land	40 years	50 years
Plant and Equipment	3 to 5 years	3 to 5 years

Heritage and cultural assets are assessed as having a useful life greater than 100 years. Depreciation amounts are immaterial at 30 June 2007.

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2007. 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 to sell 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 Authority were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

1.19 Taxation / Competitive Neutrality

The Authority is exempt from all forms of taxation except fringe benefits tax (FBT) and the goods and services tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST:

- except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- except for receivables and payables.

1.20 Insurance

The Authority has insured for risks through the Government's insurable risk managed fund called "Comcover". Workers compensation is insured through Comcare Australia.

1.21 Comparative Figures

Comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation in these financial statements where required.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007**

Note 2: Events after the Balance Sheet Date

There has been no event that has occurred after the reporting date that would significantly affect the ongoing structure and financial activities of the Authority.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 3: Income

	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000

Revenue

Note 3A: Revenue from Government

Appropriation:

Departmental outputs	54,948	53,664
Total revenue from Government	54,948	53,664

Note 3B: Sale of goods and rendering of services

Provision of goods - external entities	207	242
Rendering of services - external entities	950	1,112
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	1,157	1,354

Note 3C: Interest

Loans	435	490
Deposits	1,032	596
Total interest	1,467	1,086

Note 3D: Other revenue

Rent	145	142
Other Government Contributions	2,557	639
Total other revenue	2,702	781

Gains

Note 3E: Sale of assets

Plant and equipment

Proceeds from sale	5	-
Net gain from sale of assets	5	-

Note 3F: Reversals of previous asset write-downs

Reversal of losses from remeasuring financial instruments held at fair value

	35	155
Total reversals of previous asset write-downs	35	155

Note 3G: Other gains

Resources received free of charge

	-	37
Total other gains	-	37

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 4: Expenses

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
<u>Note 4A: Employee benefits</u>		
Wages and salaries	4,236	3,746
Superannuation	645	424
Leave and other entitlements	92	113
<i>Total employee benefits</i>	<u>4,973</u>	<u>4,283</u>
<u>Note 4B: Suppliers</u>		
Provision of goods – external entities	627	279
Rendering of services – external entities	5,105	4,596
Operating lease rentals:		
Minimum lease payments	103	43
Workers compensation premiums	10	14
<i>Total supplier expenses</i>	<u>5,845</u>	<u>4,932</u>
<u>Note 4C: Grants</u>		
Private sector:		
Non-profit organisations	46,573	47,204
<i>Total grants</i>	<u>46,573</u>	<u>47,204</u>
<u>Note 4D: Depreciation and amortisation</u>		
Depreciation:		
Plant and equipment	238	209
Buildings	326	151
<i>Total depreciation and amortisation</i>	<u>564</u>	<u>360</u>
<u>Note 4E: Write-down and impairment of assets</u>		
Impairment of financial assets		
Loans Provided For as Doubtful Debts	274	-
Loans Written off	-	201
Impairment of non-financial assets		
Plant and Equipment	70	-
Net book value of assets disposed	-	17
Less proceeds from disposal of assets	-	(8)
Net (gain)/loss on disposal of plant and equipment	-	9
<i>Total write-down and impairment of assets</i>	<u>344</u>	<u>210</u>
<u>Note 4F: Other expenses</u>		
Losses from remeasuring financial instruments held at fair value	3	213
<i>Total other expenses</i>	<u>3</u>	<u>213</u>

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 5: Financial Assets

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
<u>Note 5A: Cash and cash equivalents</u>		
Cash at Bank	17,195	14,008
Cash on Hand	1	1
<i>Total cash and cash equivalents</i>	<u>17,196</u>	<u>14,009</u>
<u>Note 5B: Trade and other receivables</u>		
Goods and services	134	515
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	342	775
Loans	5,452	6,462
<i>Total trade and other receivables (gross)</i>	<u>5,928</u>	<u>7,752</u>
Less Allowance for doubtful debts:		
Goods and services	-	-
Loans	(479)	(205)
<i>Total trade and other receivables (net)</i>	<u>5,449</u>	<u>7,547</u>
Receivables are aged as follows:		
Not overdue	5,121	7,641
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	221	4
30 to 60 days	113	18
61 to 90 days	237	-
More than 90 days	236	89
<i>Total receivables (gross)</i>	<u>5,928</u>	<u>7,752</u>
The allowance for doubtful debts is aged as follows:		
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	-	-
30 to 60 days	(7)	-
61 to 90 days	-	-
More than 90 days	(472)	(205)
<i>Total allowance for doubtful debts</i>	<u>(479)</u>	<u>(205)</u>
Receivables are represented by:		
Current	476	1,290
Non-current	4,973	6,257
<i>Total trade and other receivables (net)</i>	<u>5,449</u>	<u>7,547</u>

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 6: Non-Financial Assets

	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 6A: Land and buildings</u>		
Freehold land at gross carrying value (at fair value)	5,255	5,205
Buildings on freehold land:		
– work in progress	35	-
– fair value	11,189	11,155
– accumulated depreciation	-	-
<i>Total land and buildings</i>	<u>16,479</u>	<u>16,360</u>

No indicators of impairment were found for land and buildings.

Note 6B: Infrastructure, plant and equipment

Infrastructure, plant and equipment:		
- gross carrying value (at fair value)	532	405
- accumulated depreciation	(238)	-
<i>Total infrastructure, plant and equipment</i>	<u>294</u>	<u>405</u>
Heritage and cultural:		
- Artworks – at fair value	41	35
<i>Total heritage and cultural</i>	<u>41</u>	<u>35</u>
<i>Total infrastructure, plant and equipment (non-current)</i>	<u>335</u>	<u>440</u>

All revaluations are conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1. In 2006-07, an independent valuer, Neill Teves, conducted the revaluations.

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

Revaluation increments of \$50,000 for Land and \$103,000 for buildings on freehold land have been credited to the asset revaluation reserve.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 6: Non-Financial Assets

Note 6C: Analysis of property, plant and equipment

TABLE A – Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment (2006-07)

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Other P & E \$'000	Heritage and Cultural \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2006					
Gross book value	5,205	11,155	405	35	16,800
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	-	-	-	-
Net book value 1 July 2006	5,205	11,155	405	35	16,800
Additions:					
by purchase	-	36	139	6	181
by finance lease	-	-	-	-	-
from acquisition of entities or operations (including restructuring)	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations and impairments through equity	50	429	-	-	479
Reclassification	-	-	(11)	-	(11)
Depreciation/amortisation expense	-	(326)	(238)	-	(564)
Impairments recognised in the operating result	-	(70)	-	-	(70)
Other movements (give details below)	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals:					
Other disposals	-	-	(1)	-	(1)
Net book value 30 June 2007	5,255	11,224	294	41	16,814
Net book value as of 30 June 2007 represented by:					
Gross book value	5,255	11,550	532	41	17,378
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	(326)	(238)	-	(564)
	5,255	11,224	294	41	16,814

TABLE B – Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment (2005-06)

Item	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Other P & E \$'000	Heritage and Cultural \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2005					
Gross book value	3,279	10,321	2,296	35	15,931
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	(208)	(1,902)	-	(2,110)
Net book value 1 July 2005	3,279	10,113	394	35	13,821
Additions:					
by purchase	770	453	165	-	1,388
by finance lease	-	-	-	-	-
from acquisition of entities or operations (including restructuring)	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations and impairments through equity	1,156	798	14	-	1,968
Reclassification	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation/amortisation expense	-	(209)	(151)	-	(360)
Impairments recognised in the operating result	-	-	-	-	-
Other movements (give details below)	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals:					
From disposal of entities or operations (including restructuring)	-	-	-	-	-
Other disposals	-	-	(17)	-	(17)
Net book value 30 June 2006	5,205	11,155	405	35	16,800
Net book value as of 30 June 2006 represented by:					
Gross book value	1,156	15,207	2,342	35	18,740
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	-	(1,940)	-	(1,940)
	1,156	15,207	402	35	16,800

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 7: Payables

	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000
Note7A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors	121	1,099
Total suppliers	<u>121</u>	<u>1,099</u>

Supplier payables are represented by:

Current	121	1,099
Total suppliers	<u>121</u>	<u>1,099</u>

Settlement is usually made net 30 days.

Note7B: Grants

Private sector:

Non-profit organisations	2,901	4,703
Total grants	<u>2,901</u>	<u>4,703</u>

Grants payable are represented by:

Current	2,901	4,703
Total grants	<u>2,901</u>	<u>4,703</u>

Note 7C: Other Payables

PAYG payable to Australian Taxation Office	-	79
Accrued expenses	79	23
Total other payables	<u>79</u>	<u>102</u>

All other payables are current liabilities.

Note 7D: Income received in advance

Income received in advance	4,746	3,366
Total income received in advance	<u>4,746</u>	<u>3,366</u>

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 8: Provisions

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
<u>Note 8A: Employee provisions</u>		
Salaries and wages	47	-
Long Service Leave	452	393
Annual Leave	589	531
Personal Leave	125	197
<i>Total employee provisions</i>	<u>1,213</u>	<u>1,121</u>
Employee provisions are represented by:		
Current	761	983
Non-current	452	138
<i>Total employee provisions</i>	<u>1,213</u>	<u>1,121</u>

The classification of current includes amounts for which there is not an unconditional right of deferral of one year, hence in the case of employee provisions the above classification does not equal the amount expected to be settled within one year of reporting date. Employee provisions expected to be settled in one year \$341,000 (2006: \$266,000), in excess of one year \$872,000 (2006: \$855,000)

Note 9: Impact of change in accounting policy regarding Financial Instruments

Reconciliation of total equity as presented under previous accounting policy.

	2006 \$'000
Total opening equity under previous application of AASB 139 Financial Instruments valuation method	26,832
Total opening equity under revised application of AASB 139 Financial Instruments valuation method	26,122
Difference	(710)

Represented by:

Loans valued at cost	6,965
Loans and receivables measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method	6,255
Difference	(710)

Reconciliation of change in operating result for the 2006 financial year due to the change in accounting policy resulting in the designation of financial instruments to Loans and Receivables under AASB 139.

	2006 \$'000
Operating result under previous application of AASB 139 Financial Instruments valuation method	(422)
Operating result under revised application of AASB 139 Financial Instruments valuation method	(125)
Difference	297

Represented by:

Reversal of loans income using revised application of AASB 139 Financial Instruments valuation method	(135)
Interest on loans recognised at market rates	490
Write down of loans to fair value at inception of loan	(213)
Reversal of losses from remeasuring loans held at fair value	155
Difference	297

Impact on 2006 comparative notes to the Financial Statements

Note 3C: Interest

Balance per 2006 audited financial statements	596
Movement	490
Balance per 2007 audited financial statements	1,086

The movement is due to the change in accounting policy which requires loan interest to be calculated at a market rate rather than recognising all loans receipts as loans income.

Note 3F: Reversals of previous asset write-downs

Balance per 2006 audited financial statements	-
Movement	155

Balance per 2007 audited financial statements	<u>155</u>
---	------------

The movement is due to the change in accounting policy which resulted in a reduced writedown to the loans portfolio resulting from the early repayments of some loans in the portfolio.

Note 4F: Other expenses

Balance per 2006 audited financial statements	-
Movement	<u>213</u>
Balance per 2007 audited financial statements	<u>213</u>

The movement is due to the change in accounting policy which resulted due to remeasuring financial instruments held at fair value at the inception of the new financial instrument.

Note 5B: Trade and other receivables

Loans Balance per 2006 audited financial statements (gross)	3,150
Movement	<u>3,312</u>
Balance per 2007 audited financial statements (gross)	<u>6,462</u>

The movement is due to the change in accounting policy which resulted in a significantly reduced writedown of the loans measured at cost due to the loans being valued at amortised cost using the effective interest rate as opposed to being valued at fair value through the profit and loss.

The AASB through *2005-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 139, AASB 132, AASB 1, AASB 1023 and AASB 1038]* restricted the option to designate a financial asset or liability at fair value through profit and loss. The change was introduced with effect from the beginning of the comparative reporting period (1 July 2005). The Authority had previously designated loans issued for Housing and Enterprises at fair value through profit or loss. The amendment means that these items can no longer be designated as such. The Authority has elected to change the designation of these financial assets to Loans and Receivables under AASB 139.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 10: Cash flow reconciliation

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per Balance Sheet to Cash Flow Statement		
Report cash and cash equivalents as per:		
Cash Flow Statement	17,196	14,009
Balance Sheet	17,196	14,009
Difference	-	-
Reconciliation of operating result to net cash from operating activities:		
Operating result	2,012	(126)
Depreciation /amortisation	564	360
Writedown/Impairment of Assets	73	213
Bad and Doubtful Debts	274	200
Loss/(Gain) on disposal of assets	(5)	(7)
Interest	(52)	-
Reversal of previous loan writedowns	(35)	(155)
(Increase) / decrease in net receivables	1,389	(727)
(Increase) / decrease in GST receivable	435	112
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	68	116
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	(1,049)	(42)
Increase / (decrease) in income received in advance	1,380	3,366
Increase / (decrease) in Unexpended Grants	(1,803)	849
Increase / (decrease) in Other Payables	76	79
Net cash from / (used by) operating activities	3,327	4,238

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 11: Contingent Liabilities

Quantifiable Contingencies

The Schedule of Contingencies in the Financial Report reports a contingent liability as at 30 June 2007 in respect of a Bank Guarantee in favour of the Torres Shire Council. As a result the Authority has recognised the liability of \$116,000 as at 30 June 2007 (2005-06 : \$116,000). There are no unquantifiable or remote contingencies (2005-06 : Nil).

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 12: Directors Remuneration

	2007	2006
The number of directors of the Authority included in these figures are shown below in the relevant remuneration bands:		
\$ Nil - \$ 14,999	14	17
\$ 15,000 - \$ 29,999	4	2
\$ 30,000 - \$ 44,999	1	-
\$ 135,000 - \$ 149,999	-	1
\$ 180,000 - \$ 194,999	1	-
Total number of directors of the Authority	20	20
	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Total remuneration received or due and receivable by directors of the Authority	364,686	318,189

The Authority's Board consists of 20 director positions. Eighteen hold office by virtue of their election to Island Council Chairpersons last held in March 2004 under the *Queensland Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984*. The other two are elected in accordance with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (formerly the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*). The directors other than the Chairperson receive sitting fees when undertaking business of the Authority.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 13A: Related Party Disclosures

Loans to Directors and Director-related Entities

Loans were held by the following directors and director related entities. They were approved under normal terms and conditions applying to the Authority's Loan Scheme. The directors involved took no part in the relevant decisions of the Authority.

Loans

Don Mosby - TSRA Board Member
Robert Sagigi - TSRA Board Member
Margaret Mau - TSRA Board Member
Poruma Island Council - Nora Pearson - Coconut Island Council Chairperson
Northern Star Seafood - Jack Ahmat - Badu Island Council Chairperson brother-in-law
Seisia Island Council - Joseph Elu - Seisia Island Council Chairperson
Seisia Island Council (#2) - Joseph Elu - Seisia Island Council Chairperson
Bamaga Motel - Jessie Sagaukaz - Bamaga Island Council Chairperson
Bamaga Enterprise - Jessie Sagaukaz - Bamaga Island Council Chairperson
Richard Bowie (Jnr) - Jack Ahmat - Badu Island Council Chairperson - nephew

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Loans to Directors outstanding at year-end:	185,224	205,005
Loan repayments during the year:	36,390	30,817
Loans to Director-related Entities outstanding at year-end:	1,094,520	783,687
Loans to Director-related Entities during the year:	10,159	231,729
Loan repayments during the year:	154,366	103,718
Interest revenue included in operating result from loans to Directors/Director-related Entities:	121,726	102,399
Related party loans provided for as doubtful debts:	480,932	181,628
Related party loans written off:	-	52,413

The Authority has adopted AASB 139 (Financial Instruments - Recognition and Measurement), and treated loans outstanding at year as Loans and Receivables valued at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 13B: Related Party Disclosures

Other Transactions with Directors or Director-related Entities

The following directors served on organisations which were in receipt of funding from the Torres Strait Regional Authority during the financial year.

Directors' Name	Council	Grants Received 2007 \$	Grants Received 2006 \$
	TSIMA	-	717,839
	TSNP Legal Services	-	419,300
R Sagigi	TRAWQ Community Council	2,447,822	2,673,983
J. Ahmat	Badu Island Community Council	4,505,216	4,539,286
T. Billy	Warraber Island Community Council	2,129,170	2,051,141
R. Day	Murray Island Community Council	2,150,999	2,244,525
D. Banu	Boigu Island Community Council	1,897,953	1,641,631
E. Doolah	Darnley Island Community Council	2,368,520	2,473,037
J. Elu	Seisia Island Community Council	1,236,815	1,386,338
F. Gela	Hammond Island Community Council	797,444	1,353,233
J. Kris	St Pauls Community Council	2,292,567	2,134,230
W. Mackie	Yam Island Community Council	3,083,220	2,190,077
M. Mau	Dauan Island Community Council	1,001,812	1,096,118
D. Mosby	Yorke Island Community Council	2,329,829	2,416,508
N. Pearson/P.	Coconut Island Community Council	1,356,570	1,132,972
S. Savage	Kubin Community Council	1,470,371	1,398,502
B. Shibasaki	Port Kennedy Association	182,805	170,116
B. Shibasaki	Torres Shire Council	539,009	-
R. Stephen	Stephen Island Council	553,845	463,940
T. Waia	Saibai Island Community Council	2,101,702	1,842,965
L. Guise	Mabuiag Island Community Council	1,826,340	1,636,673
J. Saguakaz	Bamaga Island Community Council	2,851,386	2,892,176
*	Island Coordinating Council	8,479,916	7,723,454

*All current directors, except Mr B Shibasaki and Mr M. Nona, are also directors of the Island Coordinating Council.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 14: Executive Remuneration

	2007	2006
The number of senior executives who received or were due to receive total remuneration of \$130,000 or more:		
\$130 000 to \$144 999	1	-
\$145 000 to \$159 999	-	-
\$160 000 to \$174 999	1	1
Total	2	1
	2007	2006
	\$	\$
The aggregate amount of total remuneration of executives shown above.	305,380	167,980

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 15: Remuneration of Auditors

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
The cost of the financial statement audit services to the Authority.	<u>49,000</u>	<u>72,000</u>

No other services were provided by the Auditor-General.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 16: Average Staffing Levels

	2007 57	2006 57
The average staffing levels for the Authority during the year were:		

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 17: Financial Instruments

Note 17A: Interest Rate Risk

Financial Instrument	Note	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate Maturing In						Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	
				1 Year or Less		1 to 5 Years		> 5 Years							
		2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2007 %	2006 %
Financial Assets															
Cash at bank and on hand	5A	5,010	4,746	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,010	4,746	4.35	1.25
Term Deposits	5B	-	-	12,186	9,263	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,186	9,263	5.00	5.50
Other receivables	5A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	476	1,290	476	1,290	-	-
Loans	5B	3,743	4,527	191	145	255	405	1,263	1,385	-	-	5,452	6,462	8.67	8.68
Total		8,753	9,273	12,377	9,408	255	405	1,263	1,385	476	1,290	23,124	21,761		
Total Assets												39,459	38,356		
Financial Liabilities															
Trade Creditors	7A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	121	1,177	121	1,177	-	-
Grant liabilities	7B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,901	4,704	2,901	4,704	-	-
Total		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,022	5,881	3,022	5,881		
Total Liabilities												9,060	10,391		

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 17B: Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities

		2007		2006	
	Notes	Total Carrying Amount \$'000	Aggregate Fair Value \$'000	Total Carrying Amount \$'000	Aggregate Fair Value \$'000
Departmental					
Financial Assets					
Cash at Bank	5A	5,010	5,010	4,746	4,746
Term Deposits	5A	12,185	12,185	9,262	9,262
Receivables for goods and services	5B	134	134	515	515
Loans	5B	4,973	4,973	6,257	6,257
Total Financial Assets		22,302	22,302	20,780	20,780
Financial Liabilities (Recognised)					
Trade creditors	7A	121	121	1,099	1,099
Grant liabilities	7B	2,901	2,901	4,703	4,703
Total Financial Liabilities (Recognised)		3,022	3,022	5,802	5,802

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 17C: Credit Risk Exposures

The Authority's maximum exposures to credit risk at reporting date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the carrying amount of those assets as indicated in the Balance Sheet.

The Authority has no significant exposures to any concentrations of credit risk.

All figures for credit risk referred to do not take into account the value of any collateral or other security.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 18: Appropriations

Table A: Acquittal of Authority to Draw Cash from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for Ordinary Annual Services Appropriations and borrowings

Particulars	Departmental Outputs		Total	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance carried from previous period	-	-	-	-
Appropriation Act:				
Appropriation Act (No.1)	54,948	53,664	54,948	53,664
Total appropriation available for payments	54,948	53,664	54,948	53,664
Cash payments made during the year (GST inclusive)	54,948	53,664	54,948	53,664
Balance of Authority to Draw Cash from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for Ordinary Annual Services Appropriations	-	-	-	-

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 19: Reporting of Outcomes

Note 19A: Outcomes of the Authority

The authority is structured to meet one outcome, being to achieve a better quality of life and develop an economic base for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal persons living in the Torres Strait. The following output groups have been identified in achieving this outcome:

Output Group 1	Economic Development
Output Group 2	Community Development Employment and Training
Output Group 3	Native Title
Output Group 4	Housing and Environment, Health and Infrastructure
Output Group 5	Social, Cultural and Development
Output Group 6	Policy and Information

Note 19B: Net Cost of Outcome Delivery

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Expenses				
Departmental	58,302	57,202	58,302	57,202
Total expenses	58,302	57,202	58,302	57,202
Costs recovered from provision of goods and services to the non government sector				
Departmental	-	-	-	-
Total costs recovered	-	-	-	-
Other external revenues				
Departmental			-	-
Sales of goods and services to external entities	1,157	1,354	1,157	1,354
Interest	1,467	1,086	1,467	1,086
Reversal of previous asset writedowns	35	155	35	155
Other external revenues	2,702	818	2,702	818
Total other external revenues	5,361	3,413	5,361	3,413
Net cost/(contribution) of outcome	52,941	53,789	52,941	53,789

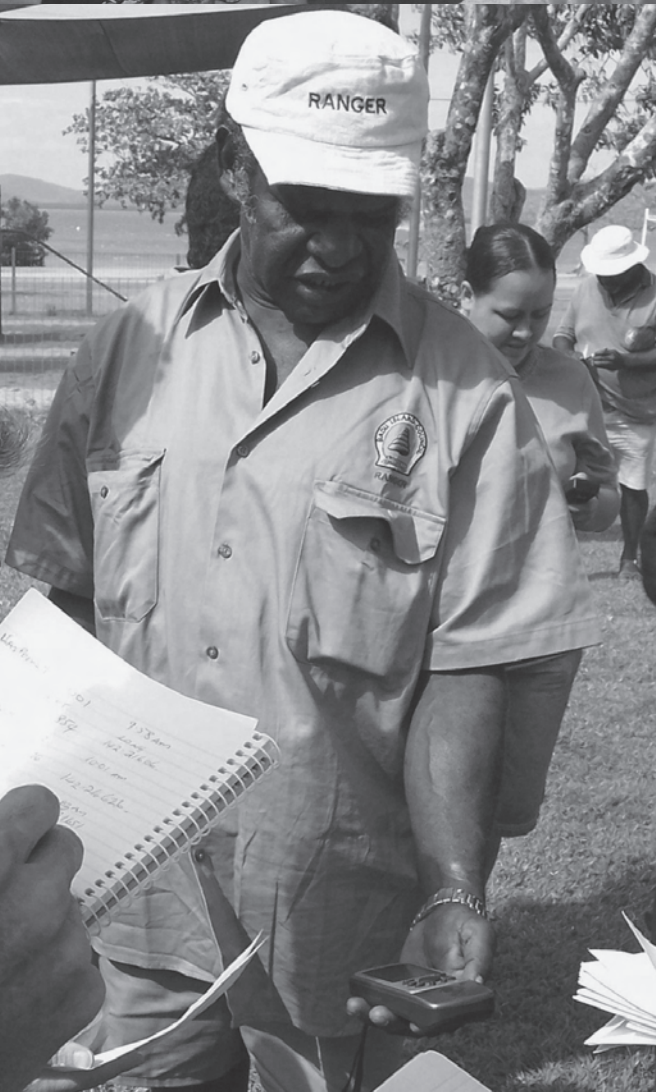
TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2007

Note 19C: Major Classes of Departmental Revenues and Expenses by Output Groups and Outputs

	Output Group 1		Output Group 2		Output Group 3		Output Group 4		Output Group 5		Output Group 6		Outcome 1 Total	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Outcome 1														
Departmental expenses														
Employees	767	729	398	942	605	428	168	814	1,816	385	1,219	985	4,973	4,283
Suppliers	658	887	300	569	1,041	1,381	433	372	2,189	262	1,224	1,461	5,845	4,932
Grants	1,061	1,649	31,338	30,834	-	4	8,650	8,111	5,524	6,534	-	72	46,573	47,204
Depreciation	95	62	52	79	40	36	26	68	217	32	134	83	564	360
Written down and Impairment of Assets	289	248	7	47	5	20	3	40	27	19	16	49	347	423
Total departmental expenses	2,870	3,575	32,095	32,471	1,691	1,869	9,280	9,405	9,773	7,232	2,593	2,650	58,302	57,202
Funded by:														
Revenues from Govt.	2,327	2,814	33,316	32,668	1,424	1,336	8,611	8,834	7,375	6,192	1,895	1,820	54,948	53,664
Sale of Goods and Services	65	266	20	183	29	480	245	158	691	75	107	192	1,157	1,354
Interest	610	592	96	131	74	59	47	114	396	54	244	136	1,467	1,086
Net Gains from disposal of assets	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	5	-
Other	321	254	1,284	31	47	14	372	27	567	81	146	566	2,737	973
Total departmental revenues	3,324	3,926	34,717	33,013	1,574	1,889	9,275	9,133	9,031	6,402	2,393	2,714	60,314	57,077

The Authority's outcome and outputs are described at Note 19A.



Engaging community participation in land and sea management initiatives: Thursday Island Sacred Heart School wins the school category of the region's Water-Wise logo competition (top), Badu Island Ranger Mr Jimmy Panvel (left) is equipped with new GPS & Mapping techniques & Water usage signs (above) established on the Outer Islands to encourage residents to be water-wise.



APPENDICES

Appendices

APPENDIX 1: TSRA GRANTS

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Badu Island Council	CDEP wages	\$2,951,481
Badu Island Council	CDEP operations	\$916,316
Badu Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$89,658
Badu Island Council	Machinery	\$153,000
Badu Island Council	Quarry Extension	\$161,760
Badu Island Council	Community Training Program	\$148,000
Badu Island Council	All Blacks Rugby Carnival	\$5,000
Badu Island Council	Marine Ranger Program	\$70,000
Badu Island Council	Abai Sagulau Dance Team	\$10,000
Bamaga Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,881,620
Bamaga Island Council	CDEP operations	\$634,092
Bamaga Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$100,674
Bamaga Island Council	Community training	\$165,000
Bamaga Island Council	Machinery	\$60,000
Bamaga Island Council	Muttee Heads Landing 60th Anniversary	\$5,000
Boigu Island Council	CDEP wages	\$975,306
Boigu Island Council	CDEP operations	\$315,213
Boigu Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$68,340
Boigu Island Council	Community training	\$24,100
Boigu Island Council	Boigu Guest House	\$449,694
Boigu Island Council	Community Fuel Bowser	\$53,200
Boigu Island Council	Turtle & Dugong Officer	\$9,600
Boigu Island Council	High School Transition Trip	\$2,500
Dauan Island Council	CDEP wages	\$580,222
Dauan Island Council	CDEP operations	\$219,916
Dauan Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$69,360
Dauan Island Council	Community training	\$74,500
Dauan Island Council	Margaret Mau - Local Writer	\$8,500

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Dauan Island Council	Tina Asela - ANZSYS Conference	\$1,585
Dauan Island Council	Community Fuel Bowser	\$47,729
Erub Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,685,073
Erub Island Council	CDEP operations	\$476,485
Erub Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$74,562
Erub Island Council	Community training	\$50,000
Erub Island Council	Turtle & Dugong Officer	\$8,000
Erub Island Council	Land Care Project	\$24,900
Erub Island Council	Arts Centre	\$40,000
Erub Island Council	Freezer Accreditation	\$6,500
Erub Island Council	July 1 Celebrations	\$2,000
Erub Island Council	Ken Bedford Travel to Strong Foundations Conference	\$1,000
Hammond Island Council	CDEP wages	\$502,912
Hammond Island Council	CDEP operations	\$219,916
Hammond Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$51,816
Hammond Island Council	Community training	\$20,200
Hammond Island Council	Warraber Sports Carnival	\$2,600
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	CDEP wages	\$500,355
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	CDEP operations	\$219,916
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	Administrator/CEO Salary	\$81,600
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	Community training	\$5,000
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	NAIDOC Activities	\$1,500
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	Basketball Team	\$1,000
Iama Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,348,307
Iama Island Council	CDEP operations	\$419,848

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Iama Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$74,970
Iama Island Council	Community training	\$59,700
Iama Island Council	Machinery	\$15,000
Iama Island Council	Airstrip Upgrade & Marine Dolphins	\$1,100,000
Iama Island Council	Land Fill Project	\$53,595
Iama Island Council	Turtle & Dugong Officer	\$8,800
Iama Island Council	Cooler Schools Program	\$3,000
Indigenous Festivals Australia	Croc Festival	\$30,000
Island Coordinating Council	Operating expenses	\$380,053
Island Coordinating Council	Heavy Equipment Management & Training	\$480,000
Island Coordinating Council	ICCISU	\$1,600,000
Island Coordinating Council	Major Infrastructure Program	\$5,500,000
Island Coordinating Council	Dengue Mosquito Eradication	\$100,000
Island Coordinating Council	Asian Mosquito Control	\$350,000
Island Coordinating Council	Ugar Groundwater Hydrology Project	\$54,000
Island Coordinating Council	Security Training	\$15,863
Kaiwalagal Aboriginal Corporation	Turtle & Dugong Officer	\$9,491
Kubin Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,080,082
Kubin Island Council	CDEP operations	\$245,573
Kubin Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$70,380
Kubin Island Council	Community training	\$55,210
Kubin Island Council	Billy Missi - IRADF	\$5,568
Kubin Island Council	Laura Festival	\$5,000
Kubin Island Council	David Bosun - Economic Symposium	\$1,768
Mabuiag Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,019,195
Mabuiag Island Council	CDEP operations	\$394,535
Mabuiag Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$71,910

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Mabuiag Island Council	Community training	\$25,000
Mabuiag Island Council	Community Fuel Bowser	\$53,200
Mabuiag Island Council	Guesthouse	\$140,500
Mabuiag Island Council	Machinery	\$122,000
Mer Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,455,493
Mer Island Council	CDEP operations	\$465,490
Mer Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$80,580
Mer Island Council	Land Care Project	\$32,900
Mer Island Council	Fuel Bowser	\$90,124
Mer Island Council	Turtle & Dugong Officer	\$7,912
Mer Island Council	Mabo Day Celebrations	\$5,000
Mer Island Council	Tamwoy Town 50th Anniversary	\$7,000
Mer Island Council	Freezer Accreditation	\$6,500
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	Operating expenses	\$145,334
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	Ellie Gaffney Book Launch	\$9,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	Deep Sea Dancers' Travel	\$13,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	Florence Ware Project	\$1,640
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	Kathryn Norris Project	\$2,965
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	International Women's Day 2007	\$1,600
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	Lena Passi Women's Shelter	\$700
Port Kennedy Association Inc.	Operating expenses	\$151,805
Port Kennedy Association Inc.	Patrick Mau - Music Conference	\$8,000
Port Kennedy Association Inc.	Josh Mills - Cultural Hip Hop	\$1,500
Port Kennedy Association Inc.	Damien Fujii - Hip Hop Rap Music Workshop	\$1,100
Port Kennedy Association Inc.	Rosie Barkus - Lino Screen Printing	\$10,000
Port Kennedy Association Inc.	Harry Cook - Music Workshop	\$6,000
Port Kennedy Association Inc.	Patrick Mau - Stylin' Up Festival	\$4,400
Poruma Island Council	CDEP wages	\$817,493
Poruma Island Council	CDEP operations	\$230,706
Poruma Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$57,147

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Poruma Island Council	Machinery	\$30,000
Poruma Island Council	Resort salaries assistance	\$44,700
Poruma Island Council	Community training	\$42,500
Poruma Island Council	Resort Boat	\$43,900
Poruma Island Council	Fuel Bowser	\$44,700
Saibai Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,294,049
Saibai Island Council	CDEP operations	\$421,506
Saibai Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$65,382
Saibai Island Council	Community training	\$60,000
Saibai Island Council	Machinery	\$90,000
Saibai Island Council	Saibai Island Dance Team	\$6,894
Saibai Island Council	Travel to Tamwoy Town's 50th Anniversary	\$7,000
Saibai Island Council	Takeaway building	\$156,871
Seisia Island Council	CDEP wages	\$759,249
Seisia Island Council	CDEP operations	\$300,552
Seisia Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$67,014
Seisia Island Council	Community training	\$50,000
Seisia Island Council	Machinery	\$60,000
St Paul's Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,374,760
St Paul's Island Council	CDEP operations	\$439,832
St Paul's Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$73,440
St Paul's Island Council	Community training	\$110,000
St Paul's Island Council	Sports Complex Upgrade	\$54,535
St Paul's Island Council	St Pauls Bloks	\$240,000
Thursday Island State High School	Technology Hub	\$10,000
Thursday Island State High School	Formula 1 Model Racing Team	\$500
Thursday Island State High School	English Experience Trip	\$8,500

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Thursday Island State High School	Fashion Parade	\$2,000
Thursday Island State High School	Culture Day	\$2,300
Torres Shire Council	National Youth Week	\$2,000
Torres Shire Council	Horn Island Sports Complex	\$537,009
Torres Strait Islanders' Media Association Inc.	Operating expenses	\$596,384
Torres Strait Youth & Recreational Sporting Association Inc.	Operating expenses	\$411,478
Torres Strait Youth & Recreational Sporting Association Inc.	Neguam Women's Rugby attending State Carnival in Cairns	\$10,000
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	CDEP wages	\$1,584,338
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	CDEP operations	\$531,464
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Contribution to Council operations	\$165,827
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Community training	\$40,000
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Youth Activities Program	\$44,393
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Gab Titui Trainees	\$52,000
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Medium Machinery	\$10,000
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Community Justice Group	\$8,300
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Rosie Barkus - Memento Australia Awards	\$1,500
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Tamwoy 50th Anniversary	\$10,000
TSNP Legal Services	Operating expenses	\$427,686
TSNP Legal Services	Special Funding - Court Appearance	\$21,100

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Ugar Island Council	CDEP wages	\$326,775
Ugar Island Council	CDEP operations	\$45,332
Ugar Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$64,566
Ugar Island Council	Arts workshop - IRADF	\$10,000
Ugar Island Council	Freezer Refurbishment	\$17,048
Ugar Island Council	Fuel Bowser	\$90,124
Warraber Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,236,662
Warraber Island Council	CDEP operations	\$266,833
Warraber Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$71,400
Warraber Island Council	Community training	\$65,000
Warraber Island Council	Resort	\$489,275
Yorke Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,488,653
Yorke Island Council	CDEP operations	\$494,811
Yorke Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$75,888
Yorke Island Council	Community training	\$75,000
Yorke Island Council	Lowatta Lodge Bus and Boat	\$91,437
Yorke Island Council	Arts Development - IRADF	\$2,540
Yorke Island Council	Land Care Project	\$26,900
Yorke Island Council	August 23 Celebrations	\$10,000
Yorke Island Council	Sea Sponge Project	\$7,600
Yorke Island Council	Freezer Accreditation	\$6,500
Yorke Island Council	Sports Complex Upgrade	\$50,500

APPENDIX 2: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Section 8 Statement

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY STRUCTURE UNDER SECTION 8 OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

This statement is correct to 30 June 2007.

ESTABLISHMENT

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) was established under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989 (ATSIC Act) on 1 July 1994. TSRA is now constituted under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 (ATSI Act).

FUNCTIONS

As stated in Section 142A of the ATSI Act the functions of the TSRA are to:

- (a) recognise and maintain the special and unique Ailan Kastom of Torres Strait Islanders living in the Torres Strait area;
- (b) formulate and implement programs for Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (c) 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) 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) assist, advise and co-operate with Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal communities, organisations and individuals at national, State, Territory and regional levels;
- (f) 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) 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) undertake such research as is necessary to enable the TSRA to perform any of its other functions;
- (m) do anything else that is incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the preceding functions.

STRUCTURE OF THE TSRA

The TSRA is a Commonwealth Statutory Authority constituted under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005. It consists of an elected arm and an administrative arm. The elected arm is made up of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Alternate Deputy Chairperson, and Members, who are elected to office by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in their respective communities (see the 'TSRA Board' section for more details). The administrative arm is the responsibility of the General Manager.

PROVISION OF FUNDING

The TSRA is required to prepare estimates of receipts and expenditure for each financial year for submission to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs under the Australian Government financial management framework of accrual accounting.

The TSRA operates a number of programs and sub-programs for the allocation of funds within the region including:

- loans and grants for enterprises;
- housing loans;
- economic, social and cultural grants to organisations and individuals;
- the administrative and elected arm operating costs;
- funding for programs to be conducted by the State; and
- funding for programs to be conducted by community councils.

The actual allocation of money to the various programs is undertaken by the TSRA elected arm. The administration is responsible for implementing funding decisions. The administration also ensures that grants and loans are used in accordance with the purposes for which they are provided, and that grants and loans are appropriately acquitted.

CATEGORIES OF DOCUMENTS

- The Corporate Services section maintains paper and electronic files on TSRA budget expenditure; financial records; wages; client accounts; financial procedures; asset register; property management records; workplace agreement; recruitment, personnel files of TSRA officers; and Grants and Personnel Policy documents including instructions from the Australian Public Service Commissioner; Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and the Remuneration Tribunal and ComCare. The Corporate Services section is also responsible for files containing Ministerial briefings; engagement of consultants; Occupational Health and Safety; Equal Employment Opportunities; Industrial Democracy; responses to Ombudsman's activities, responses to the Office of the Federal Privacy Commissioner, statistics for the Australian Bureau of Statistics, statistics for the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, survey for the Australian National Audit Office, statistics for the Australian Public Service, statistics and information for the Remuneration Tribunal and responses to Freedom of Information activities.
- The Secretariat section, continues to maintain copies of the submissions that have been presented to the TSRA meetings; minutes of the TSRA meetings; TSRA Decision Sheets; and financial records relating to payment of TSRA members and meetings, as well as providing administrative support services to the office of the Chairperson.
- The Field Operations section maintains files relating to grants and community profiles and community development.
- A number of manuals and guidelines are used in the TSRA's decision-making policies and guidelines, including the TSRA Decision Making Principles, Finance Procedures manual, and the Program, Administration and Personnel Delegation manuals.

Appendix three

APPENDIX 3

The TSRA advertises all ongoing and non-ongoing (those exceeding 12 months) vacancies using the Online Public Service Gazette. For national advertising, the Government Communications Unit is the preferred supplier for non-campaign advertising under the Central Advertising System. The TSRA also uses the local print media for advertising job vacancies, publishing media releases and for the distribution of TSRA newsletters under the Commonwealth Financial Guidelines.

No market research or polling and direct mailing of organisations was undertaken by the TSRA.

APPENDIX 4

- a. Non-ongoing staff at 30 June 2007
- b. Nominal total staff at 30 June 2007 (including non-ongoing staff)
- c. Representation of EEO groups within salary levels at 30 June 2007
- d. Organisational chart at 30 June 2007
- e. Ministerial Appointments

a. Staff classification breakdown at 30 June 2007(non-ongoing staff)

Classification	Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal			Non Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Executive Level 2						
Executive Level 1				1	1	2
APS Level 6	1	1	2	2	2	4
APS Level 5		1	1		2	2
APS Level 4				1	1	2
APS Level 3		1	1			
APS Level 2	1		1		1	1
APS Level 1	1	8	9		3	3
Trainees		2	2			
Sub total						
Total	3	13	16	4	10	14

b. Nominal total staff at 30 June 2007 (includes non-ongoing staff)

Classification	Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal			Non Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Principal Executive Officer	1		1			
Executive Level 2	2		2	2	1	3
Executive Level 1				4	1	5
APS Level 6	1	4	5	4	3	7
APS Level 5	5	6	11	1	4	5
APS Level 4	2	3	5	1	1	2
APS Level 3	1	2	3			
APS Level 2	1	6	7		1	1
APS Level 1	1	9	10		2	2
Trainees		2	2			
Total	14	32	46	12	13	25

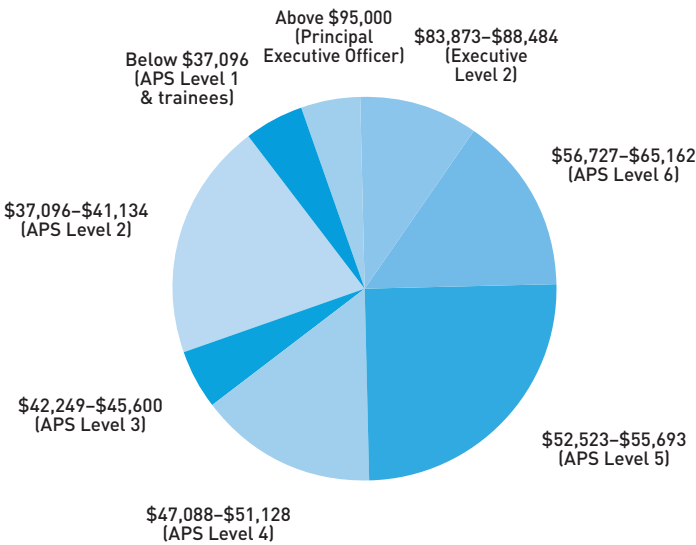
c. Representation of EEO groups within salary level at 30 June 2007 (ongoing staff)

Salary	Women	TSI&A	NESB	PWD
\$Above \$95,600 (Principal Executive Officer)		1		
\$83,873 to \$88,484 (Executive Level 2)		2		
\$72,723 to \$78,526 (Executive Level 1)	1			
\$56,727 to \$65,162 (APS Level 6)	4	3		
\$52,523 to \$55,693 (APS Level 5)	7	5		
\$47,088 to \$51,128 (APS Level 4)	3	3		
\$42,249 to \$45,600 (APS Level 3)	1	1		

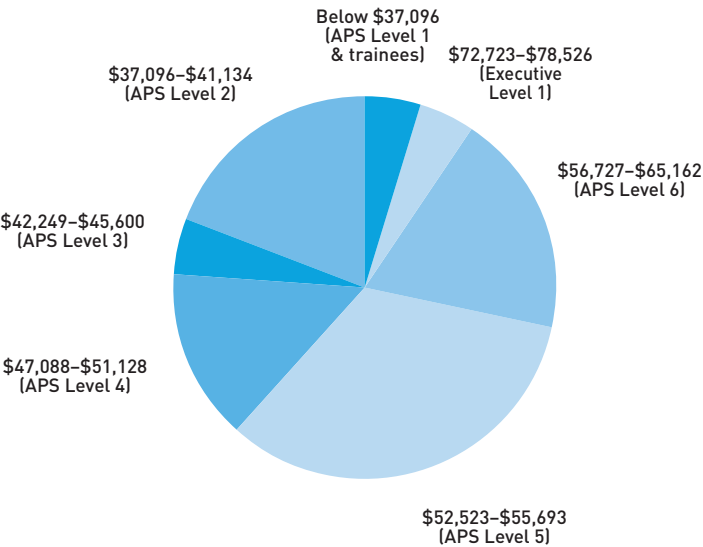
\$37,096 to \$41,134 (APS Level 2)	4	4		
Below \$37,096 (APS Level 1 and Trainees)	1	1		
Total	21	20		

Representation of EEO Groups as at 30 June 2007 (ongoing staff):

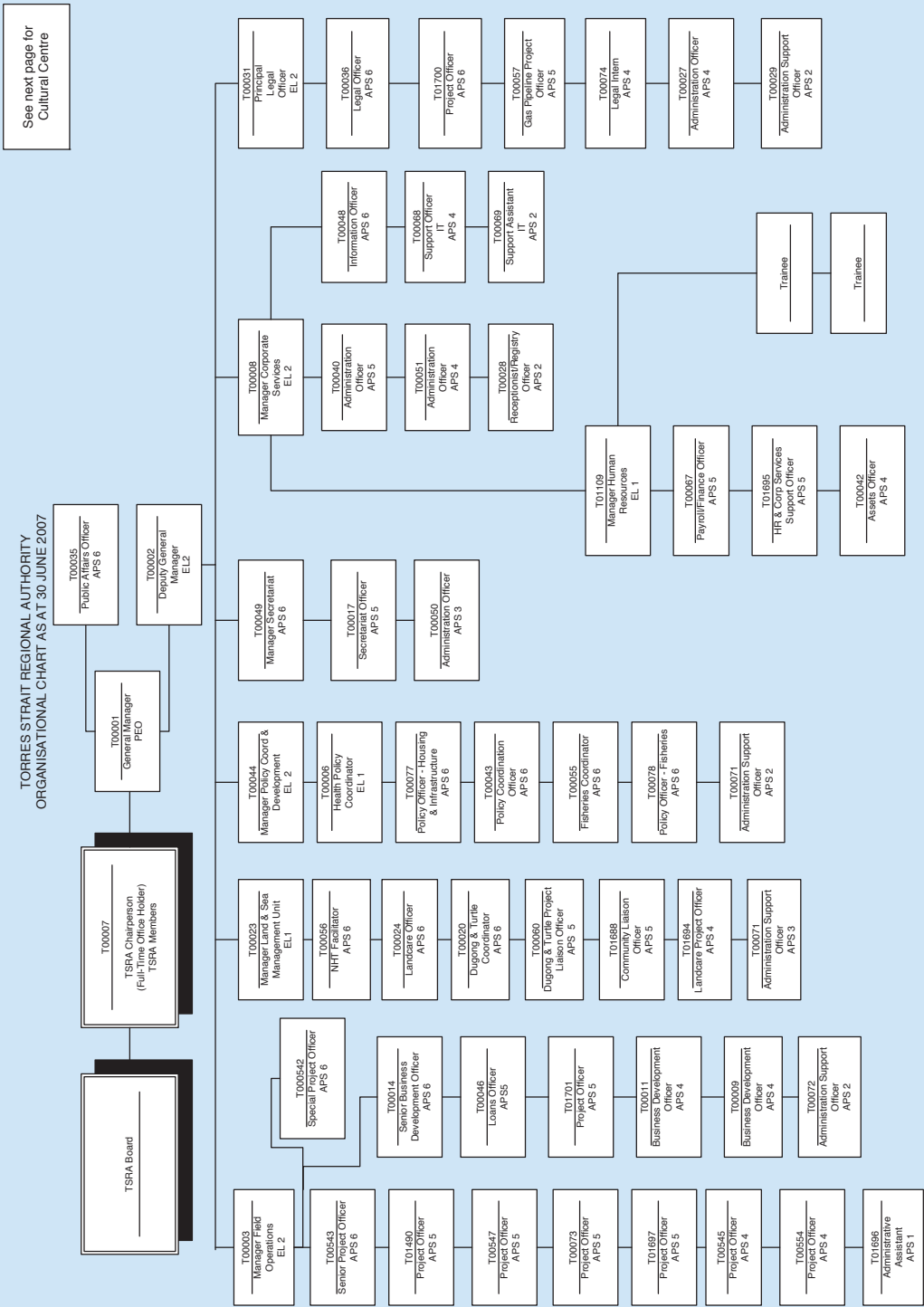
Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal Staff

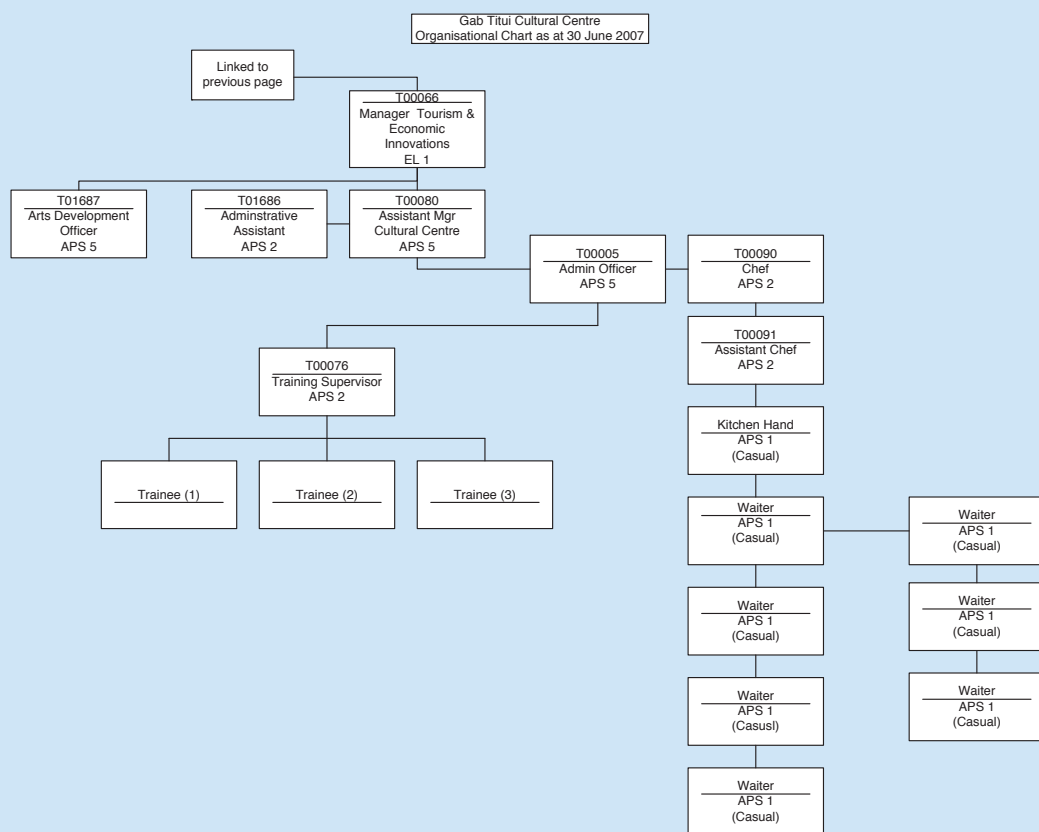


Women



d. Organisational Chart as at 30 June 2007





e. Ministerial Appointments

There were two appointments during the reporting period. Under the Section 144L of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*, the Minister appointed Mr Brendan O'Connor, Manager, Policy as Acting General Manager between 11 September 2006 and 15 September 2006 and Mr Greg Churchward, Manager, Corporate Services as Acting General Manager from 27 December 2006 to 12 January 2007.

APPENDIX 5

CONSULTANCY SUMMARY

In 2006-2007 the TSRA engaged and used the services of consultancy firms to undertake or assist with various assignments for which the TSRA did not have either the resources and /or expertise. The total cost of consultants in 2006-2007 was \$1,010,228.45.

Consultant	Details of Consultancy	Amount (\$)
Alexander J. Dodd & Associates	CDEP Review	\$53,053.00
Kidsons DFK	Accounting Services & Grant Controller	\$87,939.08
JPS Consultancy	Organisation Reviews	\$9239.00
Michael Walshe & Associates	Legal Service Review	\$21,114.00
Black & More	Major Infrastructure Program	\$51,267.72
Spin Communications & Marketing	Marketing & Public Relations	\$5,127.50
Oceania Maritime	Pearling Exhibition	\$23,337.03
Kevin Murphy	Anthropological Services	\$69,600.00
Dr Jeremy Beckett	Anthropological Services	\$6,111.48
RJ Howells P/L	T S Regional Sea Claim	\$36,280.91
Arafura Consulting	Anthropological Services	\$141,502.89
Dr Maureen Fuary	Anthropological Services	\$657.43
Appleby Consulting P/L	Naghir Native Title Determination	\$10,779.51
JG Menham	Professional Services - Policy	\$23,250.00
C Lin Stock	Financial & budgetary support	\$4,347.40
Longley Stapleton	Accounts systems support	\$204,902.30
Frontier Software	HR & Payroll systems support	\$34,939.46
Davidson Wilson Group	Human Resources	\$50,998.16
Bill Miller	Professional Services - Policy	\$16,648.89
Answerz IT Consulting	IT Support CDEP Manager System	\$17,027.50
Charles O'Neill	TSRA Housing	\$8,655.50
WDG Alfresco	IT Support	\$3,845.00

Consultant	Details of Consultancy	Amount (\$)
Jim Brooks	Naghir Native Title Determination	\$6,300.86
Ross Naylor (Valentine Travel)	Health Services	\$100,573.01
Lauren Butterly	TS Regional Sea Claim	\$1,558.00
McPherson MacLean Wargon Chapman	TSRA Housing Development	\$4,800.00
Ctenous	PNG-QLD Gas Pipeline	\$3,000.00
Dehne McLaughlin	PNG-QLD Gas Pipeline	\$2,250.00
Kylie Freebody	Land Care	\$3,182.82
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries	Torres Strait Marine Debris Project	\$7,500.00
Amarna	Sports and Recreation Plan	\$440.00

Glossary

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
Ailan Kastom	Island Custom
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
APSC	Australian Public Service Commission
ATES	Assistance with Tertiary Education Scheme
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
BFS	Business Funding Scheme
BRACS	Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme
CDEP	Community Development Employment Program
CEIS	Community Economic Initiatives Scheme
CRC	Cooperative Research Centre
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CTP	Community Training Program
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DEST	Department of Education, Science and Training
DEWR	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DOGIT	Deeds of Grant in Trust
DoTARS	Department of Training and Regional Services
DSDTI	Queensland Department of State Development, Trade and Innovation
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
EPBC	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
Erub	Also known as Darnley Island
FOI	Freedom of Information
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GBRRF	Great Barrier Reef Research Foundation
GBRWHA	Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
HEMTP	Heavy Equipment and Management Training Program
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
Hon.	Honourable
Iama	Also known as Yam Island
ICC	Island Coordinating Council
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
IRADF	Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund
JTSHIC	Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee

Latent Effort	This refers to 'unused' effort in a fishery
Masig	Also known as Yorke Island
Mer	Also known as Murray Island
MIP	Major Infrastructure Program
Mura Kosker	Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated
NESB	Non-English speaking background
NFA	PNG National Fisheries Authority
NHT	Natural Heritage Trust
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
NPA	Northern Peninsula Area
NTO	Native Title Office
NTRB	Native Title Representative Body
OEa	Office of Evaluation and Audit
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
OIPC	Office of Indigenous Policy and Coordination
PBC	Prescribed Bodies Corporate
PKA	Port Kennedy Association
PMP	Performance Management Program
PNG	Papua New Guinea
Poruma	Also known as Coconut Island
PWD	People with a disability
PZJA	Protected Zone Joint Authority
QDPI	Queensland Department of Primary Industries
QDPIF	Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
QHTN	Queensland Heritage Trails Network
QSIA	Queensland Seafood Industry Association
SES	Senior Executive Service
Sue	Also known as Warraber Island
TRAWQ	Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine
TRL	Tropical Rock Lobster
TSIMA	Torres Strait Islanders Media Association
TSIREC	Torres Strait Islander Regional Education Council
TSLACC	Torres Strait Local Agencies Coordination Committee
TSNP	Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula
TSRA	Torres Strait Regional Authority
TSYSRA	Torres Strait Youth, Sport and Recreation Association
Ugar	Also known as Stephen Island
WACC	Workplace Agreement Consultative Committee
YAS	Youth Activities Services
YDMS	Yorke, Darnley, Masig and Stephen Islands

INDEXES

A

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (ATSI Act), 24, 29
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, abolition of, 24
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989* (ATSIC Act), 23
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, 78
- Aboriginal Experience Roadshow, 2
- achievements, 40–45
 - Airstrips and Marine Upgrades Program, 75
 - Boigu Flood Mitigation Project, 79–80
 - Broadcasting Program, 87
 - Business Funding Scheme, 47–48
 - Community Development Employment Project, 41, 57–58
 - Community Economic Initiatives Scheme, 40, 49–50
 - Community Fuel Bowsers project, 53
 - community housing, 76–77
 - Community Training Program, 59, 60–61
 - economic development, 40
 - Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program, 43
 - heritage and culture, 90–91
 - Home Ownership Program, 48
 - Iama Island airstrip, 83
 - Island Coordinating Council Infrastructure Support Unit, 43
 - Land and Sea Management Unit, 95
 - Major Infrastructure Program, 70, 71
 - Marine Debris Program, 96
 - municipal support program, 85–86
 - native title, 42
 - Neguams Women's Rugby League Team, 100
 - policy and information, 45
 - public affairs, 110–111
 - Secretariat, 109–110
 - social and cultural development, 44
 - social justice program, 87
 - social support program, 102

sport, 99, 100
Torres Strait Development Plan, 108
Warraber Island building and construction training, 60
Water and Wastewater Skills Enhancement Project, 81–82
Water Education Project, 97–98
water supply and sewerage infrastructure, 74
advertising, 110, 162
Ahmat, Jack, 9
Ailan Kastom, 25
Airstrips and Marine Upgrade Program, 5, 43, 75–76, 83
artistic activities, 2, 89–91; *see also* cultural activities
Arts Queensland, 91
Asian Mosquito Prevention Project, 4, 78, 108
assets, 32
Audit Advisory Committee, 16
Audit Committee, 30
audits, 29–30, 68
Australian and Tropical North Queensland Tourism Awards, 90
Australian Bureau of Statistics, 21, 22, 25
Australian Fisheries Management Authority, 104
Australian Maritime College, 105
Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, 78
Australian Workplace Agreements, 31, 32, 68

B

Banu, Donald, 10, 54
Billy, Ted, 10
Board, 8–14, 29, 109
Boigu Island, 53
 Flood Mitigation Project, 79–80
 Motel, 51–52
Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme, 86

Business Continuity Plan, 31
Business Development Services, 29
Business Funding Scheme, 1, 46–48, 55

C

cadetships, 28
Chairperson's report, 1–7
Climate Change Project, 6
Coastal Erosion and Inundation Steering Committee, 5
Coastal Erosion Impacts Project, 5–6, 94
Collective Workplace Agreement 2006–2009, 31, 68
committees, 16
 Audit Committee, 30
 Coastal Erosion and Inundation Steering Committee, 5
 Executive Committee, 109
 MIP Management Committee, 69
 Workplace Agreement Consultative Committee, 32
Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997, 1, 24, 29
 Improved Governance Framework, 30
Commonwealth Disability Strategy, 33
communication, 86
community consultation, 6–7, 98
community development, employment and training, 55–61
Community Development Employment Project, 21, 29, 39, 41, 51–52, 55–58
Community Economic Initiatives Scheme, 1, 40, 49–50, 55
 Boigu Island Motel, 51–52
 Community Fuel Bowsers project, 53–54
Community Fisher Group, 105
Community Fuel Bowsers project, 53–54
Community Health Management Committee, 107
community housing, 76–77
community organisations, 44

Community Training Program, 55, 58, 59–61
 building and construction training, 60–61
Community Water Grants program, 98
compliance, 31
consultancies, 168–169
contact details, vii, 111
corporate governance, 29–33, 63
Corporate Services Section, 161
cultural activities, 87–91

D

Dauan Island, 53
Day, Ron B., 10
Deep Sea Dancers, 90
dengue fever, 4, 23, 78
Department of Family, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 78, 102, 108
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 107
Department of Health and Ageing, 107
desalination units, 97
Doolah, Elia, 11
dugong and turtle management, 3, 106

E

economic development, 1, 39
 Boigu Island Motel, 51–52
 Business Funding Scheme, 1, 46–48, 55
 Community Economic Initiatives Scheme, 1, 40, 49–50, 51–52, 55
 Community Fuel Bowsers project, 53–54
 Home Ownership Program, 48
 performance, 40
Elu, Joseph, 11
employment, 21

- environmental health infrastructure, 69–76
 - airstrips and marine upgrades, 5, 43, 75–76, 83
 - Asian tiger mosquito control project, 78
 - Boigu Flood Mitigation Project, 79–80
 - Iama Island airstrip, 83
 - Major Infrastructure Program, 69–74
 - Water and Wastewater Skills Enhancement Project, 81–82
 - water supply and sewerage infrastructure, 74
- environmental management, 3, 39, 43, 92–98
- equal employment opportunity, 32, 164
- Erub Arts Centre, 89
- Essential Service Officers, 58, 81, 82
- Executive Committee, 109
- expenditure, 39
- external scrutiny, 30, 68

F

- Federal Court, 64–65
- Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act), 29
- financial statements, 114–149
- Fisheries Coordinator, 103
- fisheries management, 2
 - performance indicators, 104–107
- Fisheries Management Meetings, 105
- Fisheries Policy Officer, 103
- fishing licences, 106
- flooding, 5–6, 79–80
- freedom of information, 32, 159–161
 - categories of documents, 161
- Freedom of Information Act 1982*, 32
- Frontier Software Pty Ltd, 32
- fuel supplies, 53–54
- Future Act notices, 42, 65

G

Gab Tutui Cultural Centre, 1–2, 90–91, 110, 167

Gela, Fred, 9

General Manager, 28–34

goals, v, 40

grants, 152–158

Great North-East Shipping Channel, 96

Guise, Louisa, 11

H

Hammond Island Council, 95

Harassment Free Workplaces, 32

health, 4, 20, 23, 39, 43

Diabetes Mellitus, 23

mosquito-borne diseases, 4, 23, 78, 108

Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program, 5, 43, 75, 83, 84–85

CDEP involvement, 58

heritage, culture and environment program, 88–91

Hirakawa, Yoshiko, 28

HMA Blaze, 110

Home Ownership Program, 1, 29, 48, 77

housing, 22–23, 39, 43, 69–83

community housing, 76–77

Home Ownership Program, 1, 29, 48, 77

overcrowding, 22

human resources management, 68

human rights, 87

I

Iama Island, 83

Indigenous Land Use Agreements, 42, 64, 65

Infrastructure ILUA, 66

Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund, 91
information delivery, 109–111
Information Technology Employment Consultants, 79
International Women’s Day, 102
inundation, 5–6, 79–80
Island Coordinating Council, 70, 77
 Infrastructure Support Unit, 43, 74, 76, 81–82, 97–98
IT General Controls Review, 30

J

James Cook University, 6
Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee, 45, 76, 77
‘Just-Walk-It’ program, 102

K

Kaiwalagal Aboriginal Corporation, 95
Kaiwalagal Rugby League association, 100
Kris, John Toshie, 1–7, 8, 29, 33, 54, 76

L

Land and Sea Management Strategy, 3, 94
Land and Sea Management Unit, 3, 57, 92–98
 Marine Debris Project, 95–96
 funding, 93–94
 projects, 94–95, 150
 Water Education Project, 97–98
land claims, 4, 42, 64
land rights, 4, 20
landcare programs, 3, 28, 36, 57, 93–94
leadership development programs, 28
legal aid, 64, 87

legal representation, 64

legislation

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 (ATSI Act), 24, 29

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989 (ATSIC Act), 24

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997, 1, 24, 29

compliance report, 31

Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 (FMA Act), 29

Freedom of Information Act 1982, 32

Native Title Act 1993, 20, 62

Public Service Act 1999, 29

and TSRA native title functions, 62

Lena Passi Women's Shelter, 102

Liquip Sales, 53

M

Mabuiag Island, 53

Mackie, Walter, 12

Major Infrastructure Project, 5, 43, 55, 69–74, 75

CDEP involvement, 58

Management Committee, 69

MIP 2 Projects, 72–73

MIP 3 Projects, 72

Stage 4 funding, 70

Major Sports Infrastructure Projects, 99

marine and fisheries coordination, 103–107

Marine and Tropical Science Research Facility, 6

Marine and Tropical Science Research Program, 93

Marine Debris Project, 95–96, 112

market research, 162

Mau, Margaret, 12

meetings, 16, 45, 105, 109

Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 26, 31, 33–34

Minister for Finance, 31

Minister for Health and Aging, 107

ministerial appointments, 167
ministerial correspondence, 45
MIP Management Committee, 69
Mosby, Donald, 15
mosquito-borne diseases, 4, 78, 108
Multi Measure Model of Indigenous Housing Needs, 22
municipal support program, 84–86
Mura Kosker Sorority, 102

N

National Landcare Programs, 3, 93, 94
National Native Title Register, 66
National Youth Week, 102
native title, 4, 20, 39, 62–68
 Future Act notices, 42, 65
 performance, 42, 63–67, 68
 statements for the purpose of Native Title Act s 203FF, 67–68
 statistical data, 66–67
 TSRA as a Native Title Representative Body, 62–63
Native Title Act 1993, 20, 62, 67–68
Native Title Office, 4, 51, 65, 66, 111
Native Title Representative Body, 62–63, 67–68
 legislative functions of, 63
Natural Heritage Trust, 3, 93, 94, 97
Neguams Women's Rugby League Team, 100–101
North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance, 3

O

occupational health and safety, 33
organisational structure, 166
outcome, 38–111
 prices of, 38–39

outputs, 38–111

- community development, employment and training, 55–61

- economic development, 40, 46–54

- housing and environmental health infrastructure, 43, 69–83

- native title, 42, 62–68

- policy and information, 45, 103–111

- prices of, 39

- social and cultural development, 44, 84–102

P

Papua New Guinea, 107

Pearson, Norah, 13

performance, 40–111, 44

- Community Development Employment Project, 41

- Community Training Program, 59–61

- economic development, 40, 44–54

- environmental management, 43

- financial performance of TSRA in NTRB capacity, 68

- fisheries management, 104–107

- health, 43

- housing and environmental health infrastructure, 43, 69–83

- native title, 42, 63–67, 68

- policy and information, 45, 103–111

- social and cultural development, 84–102

Performance Management Program, 28

policy and information, 39, 45, 103–111

- information delivery, 109–111

- policy coordination and development, 103–108

population, 21

Port Kennedy Association, 101, 102

Prescribed Bodies Corporate, 63, 64, 66

privacy, 33

property, 32

Protected Zone Joint Authority, 2, 105

public affairs, 110–111

Public Affairs Officer, 110
Public Service Act 1999, 29
Public Service Medal, 28
publications, 33, 45

Q

QBuild, 78, 108
Queensland
 Arts Queensland, 91
 Cairns Tropical Population Health Unit, 78
 Community Government in the Torres Strait report, 6
 Department of Health, 107
 Department of Housing, 77, 78
 Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation, 70, 78, 83, 99
 Department of Main Roads, 83
 Environmental Protection Agency, 6, 53
 Learning Network, 48
 support for the Land and Sea Management Unit, 93
 Transport Infrastructure Development Strategy, 69
 Tropical Public Health Unit Network, 23

R

Reconciliation Business Awards, 90
Regional Housing Strategy/Plan, 77
Regional Sea Claim, 4, 42, 64–65
rights, 87, 101
risk management, 31
Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, 20

S

Sagaukez, Jesse, 9
Sagigi, Robert, 13

Saibai Island Dance team, 88

Savage, Saila, 13

school to work program, 28

Scientific Advisory Committee, 105

Sea Claim, 4, 42, 64–65

See Kee, Wayne, 6, 28–34

Shibasaki, Isao (Bill), 14

Simmonds & Bristow, 81

social and cultural development, 39, 84–102

- broadcasting program, 86–87
- environmental management, 92–98
- heritage, culture and environment program, 88–98
- Land and Sea Management Unit, 92–96
- Marine Debris Project, 95–96
- municipal support, 84–86
- performance, 44
- social justice program, 87
- social support program, 101–102
- sport program, 99
- Water Education Project, 97–98
- women's rugby league team, 100–101

social justice, 87

social support program, 101–102

sport, 99

- Torres Strait Women's Rugby League, 100–101

staff, 3, 32, 87

- Australian Workplace Agreements, 31, 32
- classification breakdown, 163
- Collective Workplace Agreement 2006–2009, 31
- development and training, 32
- equal employment opportunity, 32
- Harassment Free Workplaces, 32
- human resource management, 68
- leave, 32
- representation of EEO groups, 164–165
- total, 164

- training, 28, 68
- workforce development, 29
- Workplace Diversity, 32

Stephen, Rocky G., 14

Sustainable Land Use Planning Project, 94

sustainable water use, 98

T

Thursday Island, 100–101

Thursday Island Community Justice Group, 87

Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Legal Service, 87

Torres Strait Development Plan, 33, 103

Torres Strait Health Framework Agreement, 4, 107

Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum, 45, 107–108

Torres Strait Island Regional Council, 77

Torres Strait Islander Media Association, 86

Torres Strait Management Advisory Committee, 105

Torres Strait region

- education, 22
- employment, 21
- extent of needs, 21–23
- health, 23
- housing, 22–23
- income, 22
- population, 21

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery, 104

Torres Strait Protected Zone, 104

- Protected Zone Joint Authority, 2, 105

Torres Strait Regional Authority, 20–34

- assets, 32
- Audit Advisory Committee, 16
- Board, 8–14, 29, 109
- Business Continuity Plan, 31

Collective Workplace Agreement 2006-2009, 31
corporate documents, 33
corporate governance, 29-33, 63
Corporate Services section, 161
enabling legislation, 24
Executive Committee, 109
expenditure, 160-161
Field Operations section, 161
Fisheries Coordinator, 103
Fisheries Policy Officer, 103
formation, 23-24, 159
functions, 25, 159-160
grants, 152-158
legislative functions in NTRB capacity, 62-63
meetings, 16, 45, 105, 109
Native Title Office 4, 51, 65, 66, 111
as a Native Title Representative Body, 62-63, 67-68
operating environment, 20-21
organisational capacity, 28
organisational structure, 63, 166
Policy Coordination and Development Section, 58
portfolio positions, 16
powers, 26
powers of direction by the Minister, 26-27
program delivery, 28-29
property, 32
Public Affairs Officer, 110
publications, 33, 45
relationship with the Minister, 33-34
risk management, 31
Secretariat, 109, 161
structure, 160
workforce development, 28
Workplace Agreement Consultative Committee, 32
Torres Strait Treaty, 6, 107
Torres Strait Women's Rugby League, 100-101
Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme, 5

U

University of New South Wales Climate Change Project, 6

University of Wollongong, 6

V

vision, v

W

Waia, Terry, 14

Wailu, Moses, 18

Warraber Island, 60–61

water

- recycling and re-use, 97

- Water Education Project, 97–98

- Water Officers, 97

- water supply and sewerage infrastructure, 74, 97

- Water and Wastewater Skills Enhancement Project, 81–82

- ‘Water Wise’ brand, 97–98, 150

website, 33, 45, 110

workforce development, 29

Workplace Agreement Consultative Committee, 32

Workplace Diversity, 32





Australian Government

