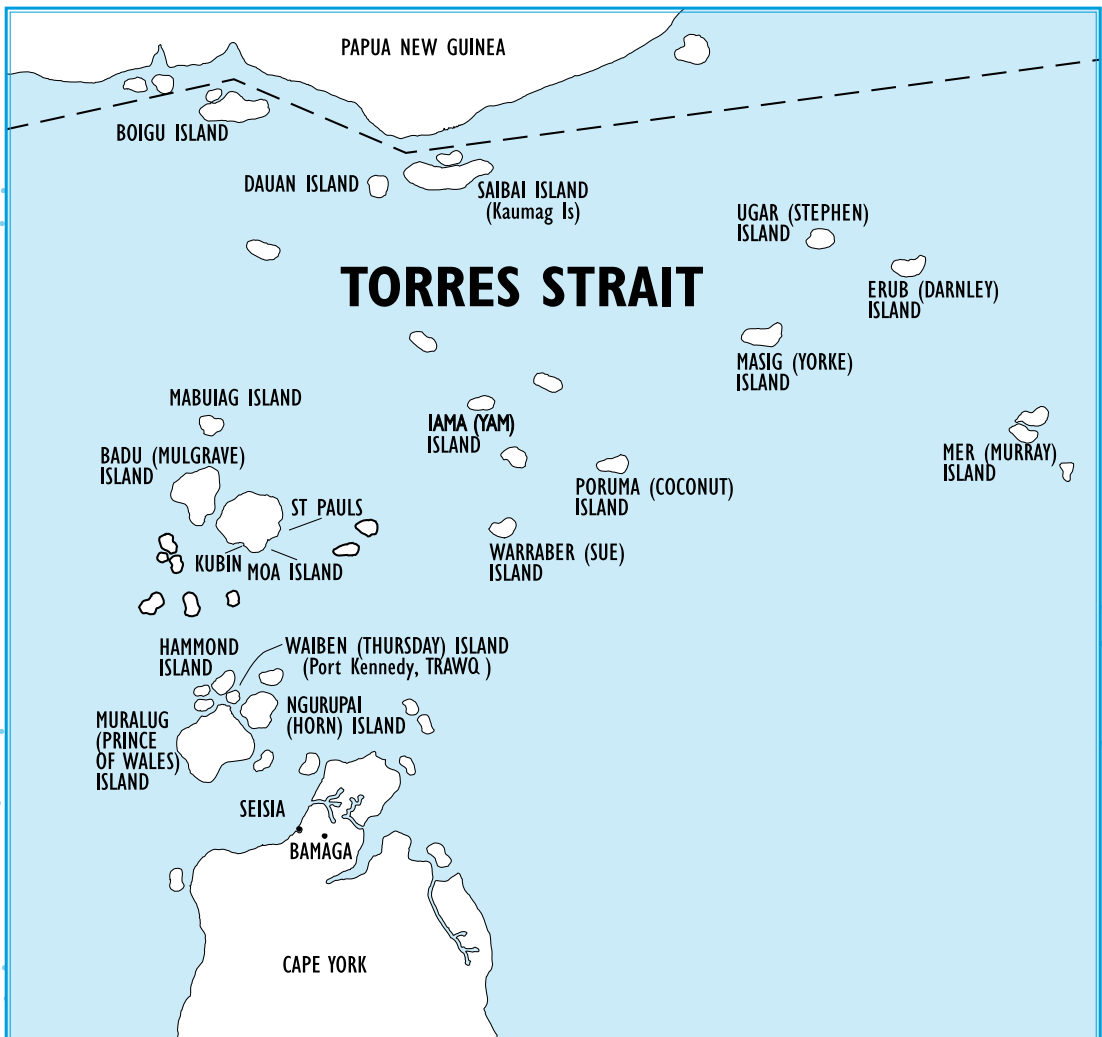




Australian Government



## TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008



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ISSN 1324 – 163X

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Australian Government



## TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

The Hon. Jenny Macklin MP  
Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

It gives me great pleasure to present you with the fourteenth 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 2007 to 30 June 2008.

As we enter our fifteenth 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  
29 September 2008

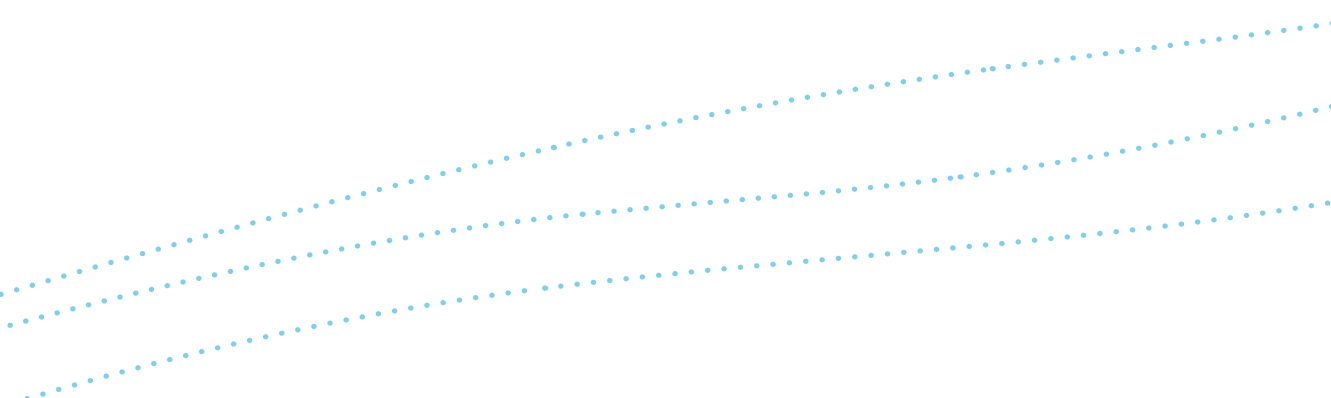


## OUR VISION

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 2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT

The Torres Strait Regional Authority's Annual Report 2007-2008 is the Chairperson's report on operations to the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs on the performance and achievements of the TSRA during 2007-2008. 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 2007-2008.

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 each program's 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.

### BRIEF HISTORY OF COUNCILS IN THE TORRES STRAIT

The theme of this year's Annual Report is "Community Councils", in commemoration of the 17 Community Councils across the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) that were replaced this year with three Regional Councils: the Torres Shire Council (TSC), the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) and the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC).

As the face of local politics changes it is appropriate that the previous Councils be acknowledged for the culture, lifestyle and traditions they fought to protect, and the progress they achieved over decades that were challenging for Australia's Indigenous people.

The Torres Strait region became part of Queensland in 1879. The region's first local government was the Divisional Board of Torres, established in 1885. In 1903 the Torres Shire Council was formed as the first part of a dual system of local government developed for the Torres Strait. The second part was the Island Councils.

In 1939, the Queensland Government enacted the *Torres Strait Islanders Act 1939* which established elected local government councils giving the people a greater role in how the Islands were run.

Queensland's *Community Services (Torres Strait) Act of 1984* (the 'Community Services Act') commenced on 31 May 1984 and established 17 island communities with local government status – Badu, Bamaga (Cape York), Boigu, Poruma, Erub (Darnley), Dauan, Hammond, Kubin, Mabuiag, Mer, Saibai, Seisia (Cape York), St. Pauls, Ugar, Warraber, Iama (Yam) and Masig. The aim of the Act was to provide for the wellbeing of the residents of each community, including the making of by-laws and the provision of physical infrastructure and essential services. In general, the Island Community Councils accepted a range of responsibilities that far exceeded those of most other Councils in Queensland.

The *Community Services Act* was administered by the Island Co-ordinating Council (ICC) whose function it was to advise governments and others on matters affecting the progress and wellbeing of Torres Strait Islanders, and to make recommendations to the State Minister. Membership consisted of 17 Chairpersons of the Island Councils plus one representative from Tamwoy Suburb on Thursday Island.

In March 2008, due to local government reforms, the Community Councils amalgamated, forming the three Regional Councils that exist today.

## 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](mailto:info@tsra.gov.au).



# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2007-2008

## INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to present the Torres Strait Regional Authority's 2007-2008 Annual Report of Operations under Section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

This year has seen changes with the previous TSRA Board retiring and a new incoming Board taking up office. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks for the dedication and commitment of the retiring Board who progressed a number of major issues to achieve the best possible results for the Indigenous people living in the Torres Strait region.

I also welcome returning and new Members who have taken up office on the TSRA Board. As the returning Chairperson of the TSRA, I extend my thanks to the incoming Members for their support and confidence in me to lead the Board over the next four years and look forward to working with each of them to build on the foundations of the previous TSRA Boards.



John Toshie Kris – Chairperson

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development continues to remain a high priority area for the TSRA to assist our communities become economically viable and financially sustainable.

Benefits continue through the Business Funding Scheme, Home Ownership Program and Community Enterprise Initiative Scheme grants for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people and their communities in achieving economic independence.

This year we have seen substantial developments in the Small Business Development framework with stronger support through training and mentoring being offered to clients through the Business Funding Scheme. Community Business Development Forums were held in St Pauls and Erub communities for those people wishing to develop business enterprises in the Near Western and Eastern Island communities. The forums have proven positive for all who attended and in the upcoming year, TSRA will continue to roll out these forums in all clusters of the region.

In addition to these three core sub-program areas, the TSRA employed a Tourism Development Officer in March 2008 to implement and progress key recommendations of the 2007 Cape York and Torres Strait Tourism Action Plan. This will involve working with key tourism stakeholders to progress opportunities that will benefit the Torres Strait region.

## THE GAB TITUI CULTURAL CENTRE

As the Gab Titui Cultural Centre enters into its fourth year of operations, it continues to support the maintenance and promotion of our unique Torres Strait identity, as our region's cultural safekeeping place.

This year, the Gab Titui Cultural Centre has continued to maintain its high profile and again won the 2007 Queensland Tourism Awards for Indigenous Tourism for the third year in a row, gaining entry into the Tourism Hall of Fame and becoming a finalist in the Australian Tourism Awards for Indigenous Tourism. The Centre was also a finalist in the

National Awards for Indigenous Tourism. This is an historic achievement considering the Gab Titui Cultural Centre has only been in operation for four years.

This year the Centre has launched a number of significant local and visiting exhibitions: "Kin and Country", an exhibition of West Coast Cape artists, was exhibited followed by "Bits and Pieces", works on paper by local artist, Kathryn Norris. The Referendum Project resulted in the exhibition "Bipotaim – Stories from the Torres Strait" and was launched at the Cultural Centre's fourth birthday which also saw the return of the Goeyga Thithuy Sailing Canoe. Other major exhibitions included "Culture Cult Clan", a contemporary headdresses exhibition by Janice Peacock, and "Kuniya Tidi" Dhari exhibition by George Nona.

Of significant note this year was the launch of the Gab Titui Cultural Centre Arts Awards in May 2008. The Art Awards were developed to provide all artists of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area an opportunity to exhibit their work and showcase local arts and crafts to the wider community. I congratulate all artists who took part in the Arts Awards. It is encouraging that exhibitions and Awards offered by the Centre remain a positive platform for our emerging artists.

## ARTS DEVELOPMENT

Additional to the work carried out by Gab Titui Cultural Centre, the TSRA continues to work with Arts Queensland in delivering the Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund (IRADF) Grant Program for the Torres Strait region. IRADF aims to build local skills and facilitate the economic independence of Indigenous artists in the region by assisting in one-off, short term projects that offer professional arts, cultural and heritage opportunities.

It provides support for our artists to develop their respective crafts and broadens the wider community's awareness of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal arts and culture.

This year artists have been supported under the categories of traditional and contemporary music, visual arts workshops and traditional craft.

## FISHERIES

The TSRA has continued to work closely with the Community Fisher representatives to progress the aspirations of our community fishers, over the last year.

The TSRA as a formal Member of the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) works equally beside the Australian and Queensland Ministers to progress marine and fisheries issues in the Torres Strait. The Community Fisher Group, who are representative of Torres Strait Islander commercial fishers are actively involved in stakeholder working groups, as well as management advisory committees to represent the aspirations of Indigenous people in Torres Strait Fisheries. The recommendations from these forums are considered at the PZJA twice each year on Thursday Island.

The reallocation of tropical rock lobster (TRL) resources was successfully completed in January 2008. The outcome from this voluntary tender process achieved an allocation of 25 percent to Papua New Guinea, 40 percent to the Torres Strait Islander commercial sector and 35 percent to the non-islander commercial sector. This means that Torres Strait Islander fishers will have 53.5 percent while non-islander fishers will have 46.5 percent of the Australian share of the TRL resources.

This year the Australian Government approved resources to begin the buy-out process of the Finfish Fishery in the Torres Strait region and in December 2007, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Hon. Tony Burke, announced that a 100 per cent buy-back of Torres Strait finfish entitlements worth \$10.6 million had been successfully achieved.

A key condition of the buy-back is for Torres Strait Islanders to lease back unused fishing entitlements to the non-Indigenous commercial sector to ensure continued flow of product to mainland markets. The TSRA has been nominated as the lead agency to progress quota management and leasing arrangements as well as hold the fishing entitlements in trust for Torres Strait Islanders. In March 2008 the TSRA establish a Finfish Quota Management Committee for good governance and to preside over finfish leasing and contractual arrangements on behalf of the Torres Strait Community Fisher Group. The TSRA will work in close consultation with the Australian and Queensland governments on a process for leasing the licenses. It is envisaged that profits made from the leasing of fishing entitlements be directed towards building and enhancing the capacity of indigenous fishers, enabling them to be more competitive in commercial fishing.

I extend my appreciation and thanks to the Community Fisher Group for their participation, input and continued dedication in progressing fisheries matters for our region.

## ENVIRONMENT

The TSRA was invited by Australian and Queensland Government Ministers to manage the delivery of the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and National Landcare Program (NLP) in the Torres Strait region, now incorporated into the Caring for our Country program. The objectives of the NHT are biodiversity conservation, the sustainable use of natural resources, and community capacity-building and institutional change. The TSRA created the Land and Sea management Unit (LSMU) to roll out these programs.

TSRA continues to participate in the implementation of the Land and Sea Management Strategy for Torres Strait. This Strategy forms the framework for the delivery of land and sea management initiatives. There are currently eighteen funding agreements in relation to NHT, NLP and Marine & Tropical Science Research Facility (MTSRF) projects that the LSMU implements.

The LSMU has been established for only two years and in this time it has effectively grown its capacity from one staff member to a team of nine staff managing a range of natural resource management investments for the region. The staff at LSMU plays a valuable role in supporting communities to manage their land and seas sustainably through fostering effective linkages with local and externally-based partner agencies at all levels of government to assist with implementation of these initiatives. These include local governments, state and federal agencies, and research and Indigenous organisations.

## Dugong and Turtle Management

In Torres Strait dugong and turtle play an important role in Ailan Kastom. Torres Strait Islanders, like mainland Aboriginal people, traditionally hunt dugong and turtle and have been practicing this custom for many hundreds of years.

The TSRA has received Natural Heritage Trust funds through the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) to implement turtle and dugong regional activity plans for Torres Strait, which supports sustainable hunting. The plan has four key components: community management plans for dugong and marine turtle, monitoring programs, catch sharing, and education and awareness-raising.

Six draft dugong and turtle management plans have been developed to date for Iama, Boigu, Mabuiag, Badu, Mer and Erub Islands. The plans present a range of management arrangements for the Dugong and Turtle Fisheries. These arrangements utilise a variety of traditional owner endorsed seasonal closures, gear restrictions, closed areas, effort reduction and limits on take. The plans also describe research and development priorities, education and training needs, as well as enforcement and compliance processes.

## **NATIVE TITLE**

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

### **Land Claims**

There are three remaining claims over land in the Torres Strait region that are steadily progressing through the mediation and court process. The NTO is continuing to assist the Traditional Owners over the uninhabited islands Zuizin, Naghir, Raine Island and Warral Et Ului reach determination.

### **Torres Strait Sea Claim**

Whilst the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim remains in mediation with the Australian and State Government and other parties to the claim, it remains a high priority area for the Native title Office.

Between September and October 2007, early evidence hearings in six Torres Strait communities were heard by Justice Finn from the Federal Court. First hand traditional evidence of Traditional Owner Elders have become part of the Court's records and will also help parties to either reach agreement or narrow down some of the issues to be contested. Work on the sea claim will continue to be progressed in the upcoming year.

### **PBC Workshops**

During the last year, several Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) Planning Workshops have been held and allowed representatives from 20 PBCs to discuss their priority issues and meet with other government agencies. The workshops have been positive and have aimed to improve communications and working relationships. Workshops to date have been held on Thursday Island in December 2007 and on Masig Island in April 2008.

## **HEALTH IN THE TORRES STRAIT**

A new five year Health Framework Agreement was signed in 2006 by the Australian Government Minister for Health and Ageing, the Queensland Minister for Health, Chair of the TSRA, Chair of the ICC and Chair of the Torres Strait and NPA District Health Council. The agreement commits the parties to work together to achieve positive health outcomes for the Indigenous people of the Torres Strait. The TSRA, along with other partnership agencies, have a significant role to play in helping to improve the standards and access to health services for the people of the Torres Strait.

A number of initiatives are pursued under this partnership and one of the key areas where TSRA maintains a watching brief is traditional movements between Australia and Papua New Guinea (PNG). The potential spread of diseases through cross border movements continues to be a concern in the region. With high rates of HIV and Tuber Colossus (TB) in PNG, frequent cross border travel presents a real risk of these diseases spreading to the Torres Strait and mainland Australia.

## **MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (MIP)**

The Major Infrastructure Program, a jointly and equally sponsored program between the Australian and Queensland governments continues to improve the health of Torres Strait Indigenous people by providing appropriate and sustainable environmental health infrastructure.

2007-2008 was the first year for MIP Stage 4 and thus far the program has delivered water supplies, reticulated sewerage, subdivisional developments, roads, drainage and waste management projects through the Torres Strait and



Northern Peninsula Area communities. It continues to have outstanding impacts on the health and well-being of Torres Strait residents.

As the MIP enters into its fourth stage over the next two years, it is expected to progress reticulated sewerage and treatment programs, roads and drainage programs, provision of electricity and community planning. As in previous years, the MIP will continue to work closely with associated programs including the Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program, the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme and the Airstrip and Marine Upgrade Program.

## **COASTAL MANAGEMENT**

The Coastal Erosion and Inundation Steering Committee was formed in December 2005 following significant impacts of island erosion and tidal surges on Torres Strait communities. Through this committee, the TSRA works in partnership with affected Torres Strait communities, the State Government and university stakeholders to develop and deliver long term solutions to address these problems. The Committee meets several times a year and provides a formal network for coordination of the involvement of the various State Government agencies and university stakeholders.

One of the key tasks of the Committee is to prioritise urgent mitigation works in affected islands. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently completed a coastal erosion rapid assessment report on the highest priority erosion areas and mitigation options on the islands of Boigu, Saibai, Masig, Poruma, Warraber and Iama. The report resulted in a prioritised set of mitigation options based on government legislation and existing policies that were submitted for funding assistance for these works.

The NHT funded project "Long-term management of erosion on cay islands in Torres Strait" is in its final stage of completion for Masig, Poruma and Warraber. This project is managed by James Cook University (JCU) on behalf of TSRA. Over the next year, it will be further extended to Iama Island. Through this project and engagement with communities, coastal erosion problems are identified and sustainable solutions are developed that work with, rather than against, natural processes. The results of the project provide valuable data for the Committee and individual communities in assessing longer term management options.

In addition, there are a number of other marine research projects that are currently assessing climate change information, marine species management and coastal erosion.

## **INTEGRATED PLANNING FRAMEWORK**

In order to achieve the best results for communities through a whole of government planning framework, a planning process is being undertaken by the TSRA and key agencies in the region, including the three Regional Councils - Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council and the Torres Shire Council. The process involves the coordination of community engagement, integrated development planning and service delivery to communities throughout the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. The process is strongly supported by the participating agencies that also includes the Indigenous Coordination Centre Cairns, Queensland Department of Local Government, Sports and Recreation and the Department of Communities.

The aim of this framework is to establish a regional partnership built on individual community plans which reflects their aspirations and aligns with a regional development plan that addresses lead national indicators for closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage. This will also provide strategic direction for the TSRA. It is important that these plans are recognised by both Australian and Queensland Government.

## TORRES STRAIT TREATY

The TSRA maintained a close working relationship with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to ensure that the Treaty between Papua New Guinea and Australia continues to protect the rights and resources of traditional inhabitants in the Torres Strait area.

In 2007–2008, the Joint Advisory Council to the Torres Strait Treaty and the Environmental Management Committee were hosted by Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby in November 2007. These meetings saw significant outcomes for the Torres Strait region in that the Australian Foreign Minister, the Hon. Stephen Smith, and the PNG Foreign Minister, the Hon. Sam Abal, agreed to extend the moratorium on mining and drilling in the Torres Strait, which has been in existence for some 23 years, for an indefinite period.

## CONCLUSION

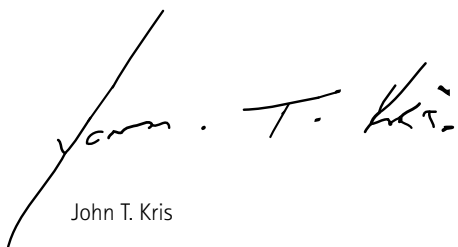
This year has seen significant progress towards our regional goals and delivering positive outcome for Torres Strait communities. While there have been some tough challenges and negotiations for the TSRA Board, the positive working relationship and cooperation of the TSRA Board Members has been tremendous.

In closing, I again extend my sincere thanks to the retiring TSRA Board Members for the dedication and commitment over the last term. It has been an honour working with each of you and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Building strong partnerships with our key stakeholders remains a fundamental element for the TSRA and I thank all stakeholders. Over the next year, the TSRA looks forward to again working closely with the Local Government Councils, Torres Strait Elders, Traditional Owners, Prescribed Bodies Corporate, Community Fisher Group, community members, partner agencies and organisations.

My thanks are also expressed to the TSRA Management and Administration for their continued commitment in driving forward the policies as set by the TSRA Board to achieve the outcomes that are mentioned in this report.

Over the next year, I look forward to working with the new TSRA Board to progress Torres Strait issues and continue to build a strong future for the Torres Strait region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John T. Kris', is written over a large, stylized diagonal line that starts from the bottom left and extends towards the top right.

John T. Kris

Chairperson

## TSRA BOARD

The TSRA consists of 20 Members. Due to the recent changes through the State Government's amalgamation of Community Councils to the recently formed Local Government Regional Councils, the TSRA Board is comprised as follows:

Fifteen Members hold office by virtue of their election under the *Local Government Act 1993* (Qld) when they were elected on 15 March 2008 as Councillors on the newly formed Torres Strait Island Regional Council. Two Members from Bamaga and Seisia communities also hold office by virtue of their election to the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council. The other three Members were elected on 17 May 2008 in accordance with Division 5 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* for the Wards of Port Kennedy, Horn & Prince of Wales Island and TRAWQ (Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine).

The TSRA outgoing Members were:			
Mr John Toshie Kris	Mr Fred Gela	Mr Jesse Sagaukaz	Mr Richard Bowie
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 John Mosby	Mrs Norah Pearson	Mr Robert Sagigi	Mr Saila Savage
Mr Bill Shibasaki	Mr Rocky Stephen	Mr Terry Waia	

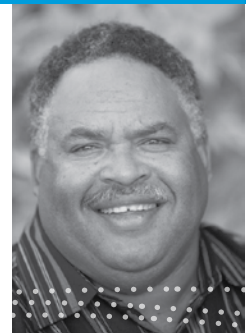
The TSRA incoming Members are:			
Mr John Toshie Kris	Ms Napcia Bin Tahal	Mr Kenny Bedford	Mr John Abednego
Mr Jeffery Aniba	Mr Donald Banu	Mrs Florianna Bero	Mr David Bosun
Mr Ron Day	Mr Ron Enosa	Mr Keith Fell	Mr Wayne Guivarra
Mr Willie Lui	Mr Walter Mackie	Mr Phillip Mills	Mr John Mosby
Mr Philemon Mosby	Ms Nancy Pearson	Mr Raymond Mario Soki	Mr Reg Williams

### Mr John Toshie Kris, TSRA Chairperson TSRA Member for St Pauls Community, Moa Island

Mr Kris returned to the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) for his third term as Member for St Pauls community. Mr Kris was elected as the Chairperson by the TSRA Board which brings him into his second term as the Chairperson of the TSRA.

Mr Kris aims to continue achieving real and measurable outcomes for the people of the Torres Strait region by working cooperatively with Commonwealth, State and Local Government agencies, including the three regional Councils in the Torres Strait.

Indigenous ownership of fisheries is a key area that Mr Kris believes is critical to improving good economic outcomes for the region. Two other focus areas for Mr Kris are increased tourism opportunities and Indigenous home ownership.



### Ms Napcia Bin Tahal, TSRA Deputy Chairperson & TSRA Member for Horn and Prince of Wales Islands

Ms Napcia Bin Tahal, TSRA Member for Horn and Prince of Wales, commenced her first term on the Board. She is also the Deputy Chairperson, the Portfolio Member for Housing and Infrastructure, and the Deputy Mayor of the Torres Shire Council.

Ms Bin Tahal aims for long-term economic sustainability through the development of local businesses that can operate independently of Government assistance. For Torres Strait Islanders to be able to achieve these goals, Ms Bin Tahal strongly supports higher education. She believes that through the development of professional skills people in the region will take control of their own future.



### Mr Kenny Bedford, TSRA Alternative Deputy Chairperson & TSRA Member for Erub Island

Mr Kenny Bedford commences his first term on the Board as Member for Erub. He is also the TSRA Alternate Deputy Chairperson and will carry the portfolio responsibilities for Marine and Fisheries.

Mr Bedford is concerned about inadequate housing in the Torres Strait, limited access to basic community services, particularly on the outer Islands, and the need to preserve cultural knowledge and traditional practices.

During his time on the Board, Mr Bedford will advocate for a more coordinated approach to regional planning and service delivery between the TSRA and Regional Councils. This will help Torres Strait secure funding for services and programs to benefit the Indigenous people in the region.



### Mr Wayne Guivarra, TSRA Member for Badu Island

Mr Wayne Guivarra is the TSRA Member for Badu Island and enters his first term on the TSRA Board. Mr Guivarra holds the Portfolio for Youth, Sport and Recreation.

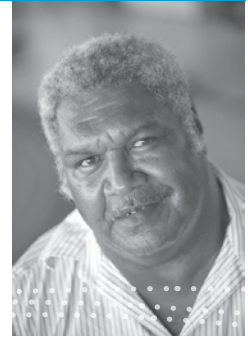
While on the Board, Mr Guivarra would like to pursue Native Title rights issues and the preservation and promotion of the culture and identity of the people in the Torres Strait region. He will advocate for improvements in employment, housing, education, and health services, and believes this is best achieved through progressing inter-agency relationships.



#### Mr Reginald Williams, TSRA Member for Bamaga

This is the fourth term on the TSRA Board for Mr Reg Williams, Member for Bamaga. Mr Williams was the TSRA Member for Bamaga from 1994 to 1997, 1997 to 2000, and 2000 to 2004.

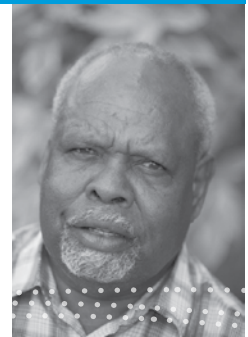
On returning to the TSRA, Mr Williams aims to achieve a better lifestyle and standard of living for Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people living in the region. Areas of concern for Mr Williams are housing, health and education. Through his representation on the Board, Mr Williams aims to facilitate increased funding for housing, increase awareness of health issues such as diabetes and heart disease, and push for an increase in the range of subjects available to secondary school students in the region.



#### Mr Donald Banu, TSRA Member for Boigu Island

Mr Donald Banu is the returning TSRA Member for Boigu Island and will sit as a TSRA Board Member for his second term. Previously, Mr Banu held the Portfolio for Native Title and will continue his work in this area during his second term. Increased capacity building for Prescribed Bodies Corporate is one area which Mr Banu would like to focus so that people in the Torres Strait can undertake opportunities, such as lease agreements, as they arise.

To maximise benefits for the Torres Strait community, Mr Banu aims to maintain positive working relationships across the whole of government framework and, in particular, with community stakeholders. Mr Banu will strive to ensure that there are developments in home ownership, as well as insure that health and associated cross border issues between Australia and Papua New Guinea are addressed through the Torres Strait Treaty.



#### Mr Raymond (Mario) Soki, TSRA Member for Dauan Island

This is the first term for Mr Raymond (Mario) Soki who is the TSRA Member for Dauan Island. During his term with the TSRA, Mr Soki will encourage major improvements in economic development and foster an increased focus on social issues and career pathways.

Mr Soki believes in educating, mentoring, and monitoring youth to ensure that their sense of respect and pride in their culture is not diminished by a diversifying population. Mr Soki wants more resources channelled into capacity building and training for community members so that they better understand government processes and can reap the benefits of a stronger economic base.



**Ms Nancy Pearson, TSRA Member for Hammond Island**

Ms Nancy Pearson commences her first term as a Member of the TSRA Board for Hammond Island.

Ms Pearson is an avid champion for women and families in the region. Economic development, environmental sustainability and strategies to increase employment are all areas that Ms Pearson sees as being of concern. She aims to encourage the preservation and revitalisation of 'Ailan Kastom' through lifestyle, art, story-telling, and dance to ensure each community's unique cultures are maintained and respected.

**Mr Walter Mackie, TSRA Member for Iama (Yam) Island**

Mr Mackie is a returning Member of the TSRA Board as the Member for Iama Island and retains his Portfolio for Health and the Environment. Mr Mackie will continue addressing major concerns relating to island erosion, as well as protection and preservation of the Torres Strait's land and sea resources.

As part of Mr Mackie's Health Portfolio, he will represent the TSRA on the Torres Strait Health Partnership forum to continue addressing and advocating for improved health outcomes in the region.

**Mr David Bosun, TSRA Member for Kubin Community on Moa Island**

Mr David Bosun enters his first term as the TSRA Member for the Kubin Community on Moa Island. During his term on the TSRA Board, Mr Bosun would like to see marked improvement in the Torres Strait's economy through sustainable tourism ventures and the promotion of arts and culture.

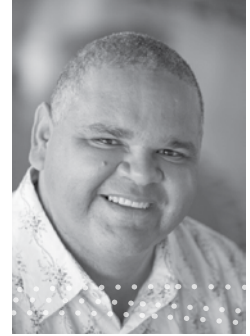
Mr Bosun emphasises a grass roots approach in addressing issues such as training, employment and economic development so that communities will be empowered to be self sufficient and independent.



**Mr Keith Fell, TSRA Member for Mabuiag Island**

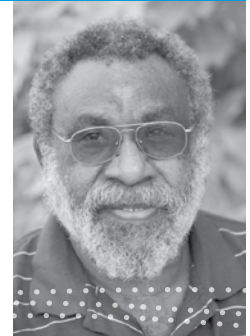
Mr Keith Fell is the TSRA Member for Mabuiag Island. Mr Fell believes that education, training and communication are the keys to success in all avenues of life and in achieving an increased standard of living for the people of the region. Other areas of importance for Mr Fell are economic development, and cultural and social issues.

During his term on the Board, Mr Fell will pursue affordable housing for Torres Strait Islanders in the region and will work towards the empowerment of his people through more accessible employment and training opportunities.

**Mr Ron Day, TSRA Member for Mer Island**

Mr Ron Day is the returning Member for Mer Island. Mr Day has been a Board Member since 2000.

Through his past experience on the TSRA Board, one issue Mr Day would like to see progressed is for all levels of Government to work closely together with the community towards shared goals for our region. The empowerment of his people through independence and a strong, autonomous economy is Mr Day's vision for the region.

**Mr Phillip Mills, TSRA Member for Port Kennedy**

Mr Phillip Mills commences his first term on the TSRA Board as the Member for Port Kennedy. Mr Mills will carry out the functions of the Chairperson on the TSRA Audit Committee over the next year and will also share the responsibilities of the Regional Governance portfolio.



**Mr Philemon Mosby, TSRA Member for Poruma Island**

Mr Philemon Mosby is the TSRA Member for Poruma Island and will hold the Portfolio for Small Business and Economic Development whilst on the TSRA Board. Mr Mosby is also a member of the TSRA Audit Committee.

**Mr Ron Enosa, TSRA Member for Saibai Island**

Mr Ron Enosa is commencing his first term on the TSRA Board as Member for Saibai Island. Mr Enosa would like to see a continuation of activities to support Torres Strait culture, not only in his home community of Saibai Island but throughout the whole Torres Strait region.

Mr Enosa will support the development of career pathways for students in the Torres Strait that will enhance and support further economic development in the region. He will also advocate on land and sea matters in the Torres Strait.

**Mr John Abednego, TSRA Member for TRAWQ**

Mr John Abednego joins the TSRA Board having previously been a Board Member from 1994 to 2004. Mr Abednego held office as the TSRA Chairperson 1997 to 2000 and is the TSRA Board Member for the Communities of Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine which are covered by the TRAWQ Ward.

During his time on the Board, Mr Abednego's aspirations include working with the TRAWQ Community and raising its public profile. He sees the establishment of a TRAWQ Development Plan and an increased focus on social services as important preliminary initiatives in achieving this goal.

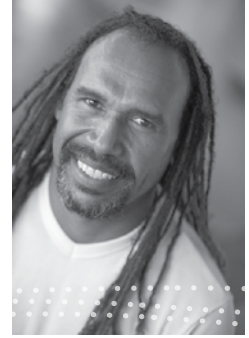




**Mr Jeffrey Aniba, TSRA Member for Seisia**

Mr Jeffrey Aniba is the TSRA Member for Seisia and commences his first term as a TSRA Board Member.

During his term as a Member of the Board, Mr Aniba aims to focus on the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP), and increasing loans for homeownership and small business development in the Torres Strait.

**Mrs Florianna Bero, TSRA Member for Ugar Island**

This is also the first term as a TSRA Board Member for Mrs Florianna Bero who joins the Board as TSRA Member for Ugar Island.

Ms Bero is enthusiastic about using her position on the Board to promote good health, education and housing for people in the Torres Strait region. Mrs Bero will advocate for increased funding in the education and health care sectors together with an increase in the promotion of small businesses to benefit all communities in the Torres Strait region.

**Mr Willie Lui, TSRA Member for Warraber Island**

Mr Willie Lui will commence his first term on the TSRA Board as Member for Warraber Island.

To build a stronger economic and social base for the Torres Strait region, Mr Lui aims to prioritise economic development, employment opportunities and increased cultural awareness. He will advocate for increased numbers of apprenticeships and traineeships with appropriate and accredited training tailored to suit individual communities and opportunities to Indigenous people in the Torres Strait region. Mr Lui also identifies erosion, fishing and housing in the region as three of the main areas requiring immediate attention.



### Mr John Mosby, TSRA Member for Masig (Yorke) Island

Mr John Mosby is the TSRA Member for Masig Island and holds the Portfolio for Education, Employment and Training.

During his term on the TSRA Board, Mr Mosby aims to concentrate on the issues of erosion and waste management affecting our communities. Mr Mosby applauds the progress made by the previous Board in relation to these concerns and intends to continue their good work through the engagement of skilled engineers and increased lobbying to all levels of government. Mr Mosby acknowledges the dedication of his portfolio predecessor, Mr Jesse Sagaukaz, and looks forward to creating even more opportunities for community members in the areas of his portfolio responsibilities.



## ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The TSRA had one advisory committee 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, Mr Ted Billy and independent member, Mr John Roney
- On 5 June 2008, a new Audit Advisory Committee was formed at the first meeting of the new Board. The new membership includes Ms Napcia Bin Tahal, Mr Philemon Mosby, Mr Phillip Mills, and independent member, Mr John Roney.

## PORTFOLIO POSITIONS

### The TSRA Portfolio members to 14 March 2008 were:

Women and Families	Mrs Margaret Mau
Small Business and Economic Development	The Late 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 Toshie Kris
Regional Governance and Legislative Reform	Mr Toshie Kris
Native Title	Mr Donald Banu

**Portfolio positions endorsed at the first meeting of the new TSRA Board on 5 June 2008 are:**

Mr Philemon Mosby	Small Business and Economic Development
Mr John Mosby	Education, Employment and Training
Mr Donald Banu	Native Title
Ms Napcia Bin Tahal	Housing and Infrastructure
Mr Walter Mackie	Environment and Health
Mr John Abednego	Legal and Media
Mr Mario Soki	Legal and Media
Mrs Nancy Pearson	Women and Families
Mr David Bosun	Arts and Culture
Mr Wayne Guivarra	Youth, Sport and Recreation
Mr Keith Fell	Youth, Sport and Recreation
Mr Kenny Bedford	Marine and Fisheries
Mr John (Toshie) Kris	Regional Governance and Legislative Reform
Mr Phillip Mills	Regional Governance and Legislative Reform

## TSRA MEETINGS

**The TSRA held four meetings between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008.**

Meetings	Date	Duration
No. 61	11-12 October 2007	2 Days
No. 62	5 – 7 December 2007	2.5 Days
No. 63	5 June 2008	1 Day
No. 64	6 June 2008	1 Day

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

Meeting No. 61 – Members for Iama, Mer, Seisia and Poruma

Meeting No. 62 – Members for Mabuiag and Bamaga

Meeting No. 63 – Member for Saibai

Meeting No. 64 – Member for Saibai

# ABOUT THE TSRA



*Photo: George Serras, National Museum of Australia*





# ABOUT THE TSRA

## TORRES STRAIT REGION

The Torres Strait stretches 150 kilometres between the tip of Cape York Peninsula in North Queensland to the southwest coast of Papua New Guinea. It is characterised by an array of islands, reefs, coral and sand cays which are scattered throughout its expanse. The northern-most island of Saibai reaches to within five kilometres of the neighbouring Papua New Guinean coastline.

Uniquely beautiful, the Torres Strait remains predominantly inhabited by Torres Strait Islander people who have retained their strong seafaring and trading traditions and maintain bonds to the sea through their culture, lifestyle and ancestry.

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 Torres Strait region includes 18 island communities and two mainland communities on the Northern Peninsula Area (NPA), located on the north coast of mainland Australia. 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 now achieved Native Title rights over all of 13 community islands and most of the uninhabited islands. 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 three remaining land claims and over their traditional sea area.

## OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

The change of Australian Government in late 2007 brought with it a shift in political priorities in relation to Indigenous Affairs in Australia. Confirming that shift and marking the beginning of a different approach, was the Prime Minister's apology made in Parliament House on 13 February 2008 on behalf of this Government and successive Governments, for the past mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and in particular, of the 'Stolen Generation'.

In an earlier speech at the National Press Club in Canberra on 27 January 2008 entitled "Closing the Gap – Building an Indigenous Future", the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Ms Jenny Macklin referred to the gap between the standard of living of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and recognised that there is no single solution to what she described as a systemic, complex problem. The Minister said that it does not make sense to think that what works in one remote Indigenous community can be effectively transposed to another and

that the problems must be tackled community by community, with local input and ownership.

The Minister also spoke of the Government's intention to engage Indigenous people in developing solutions. She said that to work and be sustainable, solutions must be developed on the ground and be driven by the communities who own them.

Since its inception in 1994, the TSRA has been working to implement these very priorities as effectively as possible in the Torres Strait region.

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 1991 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 when assessing the TSRA's programs.

The following report of the TSRA's operating environment has four sources:

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 1996 and 2001 Census information
- ABS 2006 Census information
- Australian Government strategies, policies and responses, which have shaped many of the TSRA's program activities
- Queensland Health regional statistics.

*One of the outer islands and reefs of the Torres Strait*

*Photo: George Serras, National Museum of Australia*



## EXTENT OF NEED

### POPULATION

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

- Increased from 6,168 in 2001 to 7,105 in 2006
- Represented 82.8 per cent of the total population of the region, approximately 2.3 per cent of the Indigenous population of Australia and approximately 5.5 per cent of the Indigenous population of Queensland
- Has 49.3 percent male and 50.7 percent female
- Had a Median age of 21 years compared with 37 years in the median age of Australia's resident population.

### EMPLOYMENT

The 2006 Census information showed:

- The number of unemployed Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait region was 136 and that a total of 2,705 people were employed. This represents an unemployment rate of 5.03 per cent for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people compared to 3.1 per cent for the non-Indigenous population of the region. In 2001 the unemployment rate in the Torres Strait Islander labour force was 5.5 per cent.

The 2006 Census information showed:

- During the week prior to the 2006 Census, 2,842 Indigenous people aged 15 years and over who were usually resident in the Torres Strait Indigenous Region were in the labour force. Of these, 2,705 were employed (95.2%) and 137 people (4.8%) were unemployed.
- There were 1,352 Indigenous people not in the labour force.

Note: Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) participants are counted as employed.

### 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 an additional 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, while 3.2 percent specified that they were undertaking further education through 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 Minister's 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 ATSIC region in the report.

- Of the total number of households surveyed in the Torres Strait, 20.7 per cent were overcrowded. This was above the total regional average (for all ATSIC regions) of 18.92 per cent
- The Torres Strait region has the third highest number of dwellings requiring major repair or replacement, being 369. This is 19 percent 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 \$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 ATSIC 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

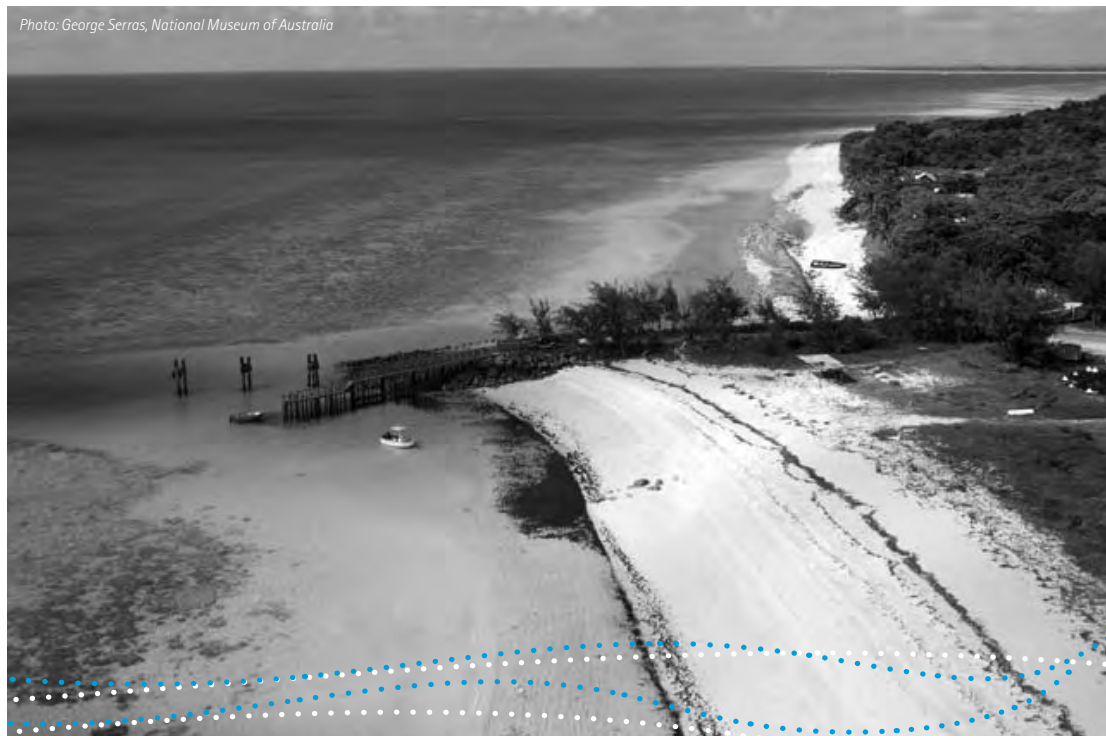
The following information is derived from the Report on Health Indicators for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Health Service District (2001) and is a publication of the Tropical Public Health Unit Network of Queensland Health.

- 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.

For the period 1999-2003, mosquito-borne diseases were 164 times higher than the rate for Queensland as a whole and, in 2005, a second mosquito capable of causing dengue fever was detected in the Torres Strait for the first time.

Over 300 cases of dengue fever were recorded from 2002 to 2006 and in response the Torres Strait Dengue Mosquito Eradication Strategy was implemented in 2007. The strategy will continue until April 2009 and there has already been a significant reduction in reported cases of dengue fever.

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.



Masig Island

## FORMATION

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) was established on 1 July 1994, under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989* (the ATSIC Act), following a review of that Act. Under the ATSIC 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 the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC).

Following consultation with the Torres Strait Regional Council, and the Council's subsequent historic idea of a Regional Authority, the Parliament of Australia established the Torres Strait Regional Authority within the framework of the 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. Seventeen TSRA Members are Island Councillors elected under the *Local Government Act 1993 (Qld)*, and three 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 affair 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, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Honourable Jenny Macklin, 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

The TSRA encountered and overcame numerous challenges over the 2007-2008 year in the effective delivery of services to Indigenous people living in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. Much has been achieved over that period and the TSRA is proud of the success of each of its programs.

### ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

In the past 12 months, the size of the TSRA has slightly increased. The increase is the result of minor expansion in the Land and Sea Management Unit to better service the community. As at 30 June 2008, TSRA had 68 staff.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Since my last report, the TSRA has maintained a strong focus on workforce development through a number of initiatives and innovative approaches addressing this priority area facing both government and the private sector.

Some of the initiatives adopted in 2007-2008 include:

- Launch of the new TSRA Reward and Recognition Program
- Sponsoring staff members in structured leadership development programs
- Strategic training delivery
- Continuation of cadetships into the TSRA
- Continuation of scholarships
- Continued hosting of Tagai State College School students for participation in the school-to-work program
- Continued hosting of state based traineeships
- Further refinement and development of the Performance Management Program
- Continued refinement of the Internal leadership program
- Active promotion of employment in the Australian Public Service and TSRA in particular.

The TSRA also contributed to the Australian Public Service Commission's *State of the Service Report for 2007-2008* as well as a number of other reports required of various agencies.

### PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL

The most meritorious award recipient of the TSRA Reward and Recognition program was nominated for a Public Service Medal this year. During the 2008 Queen's Birthday Honours announcements in June, the Governor General announced Mr Damian Miley of the TSRA's Land and Sea Management Unit as a recipient of this prestigious medal for outstanding public service in managing projects under the Land and Sea Management Strategy. Congratulations Damian.



Wayne See Kee – General Manager



*The TSRA Chairperson, John T Kris, congratulates Damian Miley of the Land and Sea Management Unit on receiving a Public Service Medal for his excellent performance in the public service*

## PROGRAM DELIVERY

The TSRA appropriation in 2007-2008 was impacted by the Government's efficiency dividend to the tune of \$238,000. This resulted in \$51,540,000 being available for the delivery of programs in the 2007-2008 financial year. In delivering these programs, the TSRA continued to create and foster strategic partnerships with Australian and Queensland Government Departments to ensure that a whole of government approach was used to improve the circumstances of Indigenous people living in the Torres Strait. The TSRA would like to thank those agencies that have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to partner initiatives during the past year in all of our six output areas. We look forward to maintaining these productive working relationships into the new year and beyond.

The organisation's program delivery structure is also being enhanced to allow the TSRA to deliver its programs more effectively into the future. This enhancement is underpinned by a program and project management capability which is set to be implemented throughout next year. It is being guided by the Managing Successful Programs methodology (created by the Office of Government Commerce in the UK) and will result in more effective monitoring and managing of performance, risks and benefits across the entire portfolio of projects.

## RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BOARD

As in previous years, 2007-2008 has seen the TSRA Board and Administration successfully build on their cooperative working relationship to achieve the best outcomes for Indigenous people of the region. Special thanks are extended from the Administration to the retiring Board and we look forward to continue this successful relationship with the new Members and office holders over the next four years.

## OUTLOOK FOR 2008-2009

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:

- Accelerate regional economic and small business development
- CDEP reform
- Continued workforce capacity building
- Improved whole of government planning and program delivery
- Finalise the Torres Strait Sea Claim
- Create Indigenous home ownership opportunities
- Fisheries capacity building.

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

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

### AUDIT

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

Internal: The Board identified the benefits of appointing an accredited internal auditor and this was progressed throughout 2007-2008. The results of the process are expected to culminate in the appointment of a Head of Internal Audit early in the 2008-2009 year. The Office of Evaluation and Audit (OEA) continued to undertake performance audit services in accordance with Section 193W of The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Act 2005* (ATSI Act). The outcomes of the OEA audit highlighted the positive performance of all the program and administrative areas covered.

External: The audit of the 2007-2008 financial statements commenced after the reporting period in August 2007. HLB Mann Judd conducted the audit on behalf on 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 members of the Audit Committee who served since election in November 2004 and formed the committee for most of the 2007-2008 financial year were:

Mr Terry Waia, Member for Saibai Island  
 Mr Bill Shibasaki, Member for Port Kennedy  
 Mr Ted Billy, Member for Warraber Island.

The current TSRA Members elected to the Committee are:

Mr Phillip Mills, Chairperson of the TSRA Audit Committee and Member for Port Kennedy

Ms Napcia Bin Tahal, Member for Horn and Prince of Wales Islands

Mr Philemon Mosby, Member for Poruma

Mr John Roney, Independent Member.

I would like to express my appreciation to the previous members of the Audit Committee for their dedication and guidance on maintaining the integrity of Corporate Governance in the TSRA over the last four years.

Mr John Roney was appointed to the Audit Committee following a decision by the Board to appoint an independent member with appropriate technical skills, competencies, and an understanding of accounting and auditing standards in a public sector environment. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr Roney to the Committee and look forward to his direction as Chairperson in maintaining a high standard of Corporate Governance for the TSRA.

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 Administration and Board in corporate governance areas, particularly in regard to compliance with obligations under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

During 2007-2008, the Audit Committee met twice:

- 25 September 2007
- 19 November 2007.

## **COMMONWEALTH AUTHORITIES AND COMPANIES ACT 1997 IMPROVED GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK**

The TSRA has progressed all recommendations from the Australian Government's review of *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* agencies in 2006-2007 within the required timeframes. These best practice approaches have been incorporated into the organisation's standard operation.

## **COMPLIANCE REPORT**

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 the second year of this requirement, which came into effect following the completion of the 2006-07 financial year. Last year the TSRA provided the Finance Minister and the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs a copy of this report and developed a comprehensive process for meeting the Compliance Report requirements. This process includes review points throughout the year to deliver the best possible outcome for this important report.

## **BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN**

TSRA recognises the importance of robust business continuity practices to ensure the continued delivery of critical business activities in the event of a serious incident. During 2007-2008, we strengthened our approach through



reviewing and updating our business continuity plan, integrating it into our IT service and undertaking a testing regime. We conducted a recovery test on several core administration systems and business services, some of which had not previously been tested. The exercise validated our business continuity strategies and provided a sound understanding of our capabilities.

Work also commenced on upgrading the IT section's remote access systems. It will facilitate connectivity to our secure network and provide staff with the option of performing their duties from a remote location. This is a significant requirement given the remote location of the programs being delivered and will increase productivity for staff required to travel. Remote access also offers an option to support business continuity in the event of a disaster that prevents access to the TSRA offices.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The TSRA has not given any indemnity to current or former officers against a liability. It pays an annual premium for insurance to Comcover, which in some cases, namely professional indemnity, protects against current or former officers' liability for legal costs. A TSRA Risk and Issue Management Framework and Toolkit was developed and implemented the throughout 2007-2008 in support of this key organisational activity.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority had a comprehensive Fraud Control Plan in place for 2007-2008 in accordance with the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines..

## **COLLECTIVE WORKPLACE AGREEMENT & INDIVIDUAL WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS**

A number of staff are employed under the TSRA Collective Workplace Agreement 2006-2009. Negotiations for the next collective agreement are planned to commence early in 2009. As at 30 June 2008 there are 47 staff employed under individual Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs), which will serve their remaining terms before expiry, in line with the workplace relations changes.

In accordance with direction from Government, the TSRA ceased offering AWAs to staff as at 13 February 2008. The TSRA now offers Section 24(1) determinations when it is appropriate to supplement existing conditions which are included in the Collective Agreement in order to maintain competitiveness in the employment market.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **Payroll**

The HR and payroll company Frontier Software Pty Ltd provides software and support services so that TSRA can provide these services in-house.

### **Staff development and training**

Staff attended various internal and external courses throughout the year including: Programme Management, Customer Service, Effective Communication and Interpersonal Skills, Business Writing Skills, Time Management, Ergonomics, Superannuation, Payroll and Information Technology, and Cultural Awareness.

The TSRA has a policy of offering office administration traineeships each calendar year and made two placements this year.

**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 68 staff and the TSRA Chairperson, providing an average of 14.40 square metres per person.

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EEO)**

The TSRA is an EEO employer and upholds the Australian Public Service Values. It 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 Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and numerous other agencies on employment related matters 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**

TSRA fosters and promotes industrial democracy through regular management, section and staff meetings. As appropriate, it consults with employees on:

- Major workplace changes
- The development of guidelines and policies applying to employment conditions
- Implementation of the Workplace Agreement.

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OH&S)**

The TSRA recognises its responsibilities under the Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991. The TSRA Management 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. A trained Health and Safety Representative is in place as well as an OH&S Committee.

**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

The TSRA is aware of and acknowledges the Commonwealth Disability Strategy 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 2007 and 30 June 2008, the TSRA finalised its 2006-2007 Annual Report. Additionally, the TSRA produced nine community newsletters (known as the TSRA News). This is a publication distributed throughout the Torres Strait region and Australian mainland via insertion in the local newspaper, the Torres News, and through the TSRA website. The aim of the publication 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

A federal election was held during the year resulting in a change of government to the Australian Labor Party. In the new Federal Cabinet, the Indigenous Affairs Portfolio operates under the umbrella of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). The Minister is the Hon. Jenny Macklin.

It is standard practice for the Chairperson and myself to meet with the Indigenous Affairs Minister each year to deliver an update on TSRA's programs and services.

Throughout the year, we have maintained dialogue with the respective Ministers by providing regular briefs and correspondence to ensure commensurate expectations and vision for the organisation. We were visited by Australian and Queensland Government Ministers, parliamentarians and government representatives, including the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Secretary, Dr Jeff Harmer. The Hon. Jim Lloyd, Australian Government Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, visited the region in July 2007 and the Queensland Government Minister for Communities, Disability Services, Seniors and Youth, the Hon. Warren Pitt, visited the region in October 2007. The TSRA were also invited to meet with the Hon. Sali Subam, Papua New Guinea Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration, and PNG Member for South Fly (Western Province), in June this year.

In conclusion, the valuable work performed by the TSRA would not be possible without the commitment and professionalism of the TSRA staff and Board members. I would also like to thank our families who provide strong and important support for us all as the TSRA continues to make a difference for the people in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. I look forward to building on the TSRA's successes and maintaining the productive relationships that the organisation has with a diverse and unique range of stakeholders during the coming year.



Wayne See Kee  
General Manager

# OUTCOME AND OUTPUTS







# OUTCOME AND OUTPUTS

## 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 2007–2008. 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 \$51.54m**  
**Actual Total Price of Outcome \$71.44m**

### OUTPUT 1

#### Economic Development

Budgeted Total Price	\$2.23m
Actual Total Price	\$2.33m

### OUTPUT 2

#### Community Development, Employment and Training

Budgeted Total Price	\$34.97m
Actual Total Price	\$32.33m

### OUTPUT 3

#### Native Title

Budgeted Total Price	\$1.39m
Actual Total Price	\$2.89m

### OUTPUT 4

#### Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure

Budgeted Total Price	\$3.07m
Actual Total Price	\$17.42m

### OUTPUT 5

#### Social and Cultural Development

Budgeted Total Price	\$8m
Actual Total Price	\$10.85m

### OUTPUT 6

#### Policy and Information

Budgeted Total Price	\$1.88m
Actual Total Price	\$5.62m

#### Notes:

1. Revenue from Government through appropriations contributes 72.14% to the total Output price for this Outcome, for 2007-2008.
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
<b>1. Economic Development</b>	Quality: 100 % of contracts settled within one to two months.	100% of contracts were settled within one to three months.
	Quantity: 13 new contracts.	A total of 4 Business Funding Scheme (BFS) & 3 housing loans were released to clients.
	Price: An average of \$25,000 per loan contract.	The average BFS loan was for \$69,485 and for Housing \$161,873.
	20 Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS) grants & 3 housing loans. Provide 9 loans to establish business.	The loan portfolio consists of 49 loans: 21 BFS loans and 28 housing loans. During the financial year 9 BFS and 6 housing loans were discharged.
	Budgeted Price for this Output: \$2.23M	13 CEIS grants, including Rollovers were approved for the Dauan Fuel Bowser, Saibai Take Away, Mabuiag Guesthouse, Warraber Resort, Poruma Resort Boat, Poruma Fuel Bowser, Poruma Resort Salaries Assistance, Ugar Store Building, Erub Fuel Bowser, Torres Strait Island Media Association Business Plan, Kailag Enterprises Ltd Bath Sponge Farm, Mer Fuel Bowser, NPARC - Seisia Enterprise Staff Accommodation.
Actual Price for this Output: \$2.33M		



Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
<h2>2. Community Development, Employment and Training</h2>	<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: \$34.97M</p>	<p>33.3% of CDEP organisations fully complied with the CDEP and general funding and operational guidelines. Compliance issues related to late reporting following the amalgamation of Island Councils.</p> <p>79.4% of targeted training was delivered.</p> <p>3 funded CDEP organisations delivered this program to 19 communities.</p> <p>34 Community Training Programs were programmed and 27 implemented, involving 149 apprenticeships and other traineeships.</p> <p>In 2007-2008, 17 former Island Councils delivering CDEP, and the amalgamated Regional Councils, were visited an average of 2.4 times. Former CDEP provider TRAWQ Community Council was visited 7 times and new provider Community Enterprises Australia was visited 5 times. The financial year ended with 1,750 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: \$32.33M		

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
3. Native Title	Quality: Progress negotiations with respondent parties with a view to resolving claimant applications by consent for all remaining areas of land under claim.	Three claims over land remaining. Three claims are in mediation with and between the parties.
	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.	The Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim has been listed for trial commencing on 29 September 2008. Some issues that relate to the claim are to be tested.
	Quality: Develop standard procedures for processing and responding to Future Act and other notifications within 7 days.	Standard procedures developed and implemented for processing and responding to Future Act notifications. 103 actions were taken in response to 243 Future Act notices.
	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.	The Regional Sea Claim continues in mediation with respondent parties. Anthropological material has been prepared and filed in Court. Evidence of seven traditional owners heard in the Torres Strait. Seven expert witnesses have been filed in support of the claim. A further 12 witness statements are to be prepared.
	Quality: Assist constituents with negotiations and to enter into Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) and other agreements where appropriate.	Three ILUAs finalised and registered. Assisted in relation to 8 disputes relating to native title applications, land use agreements and land access. Three ILUAs registered.
	Quality: To brief, recommend and take instructions from Island Councils and PBCs on the Infrastructure ILUA.	Detailed briefing given to one Island Council with a view to have the agreement signed and operating. Due to certain parties not signing the agreement, including TSRA, the agreement could not be registered.
	Budgeted Price for this Output: \$1.39M	
Actual Price for this Output: \$2.89M		

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
<b>4. Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure</b>	<p>Quality: Environmental Infrastructure projects commenced in 2007-2008, to be completed by 30 June 2008 in accordance with MIP Implementation Plan and Schedule.</p> <p>Quantity: Sewerage, housing subdivision, roads &amp; drainage, and water infrastructure projects for the 17 island communities in the Torres Strait to continue.</p> <p>Budgeted Price for this Output: \$3.07M</p>	<p><b>Major Infrastructure Program (MIP)</b></p> <p><b>MIP2:</b> Overall, MIP2 projects under construction in 2007-2008 were 90% complete as at 30 June 2008.</p> <p><b>MIP3:</b> Overall, 95% of the work on MIP3 projects under construction and scheduled for completion by 30 June 2008 were completed on schedule.</p> <p><b>MIP4:</b> Overall, 100% of the work on projects scheduled for completion by 30 June 2008 (the first year of MIP4) was completed.</p> <p>Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program (HEMTP):</p> <p>Maintenance works were completed at 6 communities: Kubin, St Pauls, Seisia, Bamaga, Badu &amp; Mabuiag.</p> <p>Minor infrastructure works were undertaken at 6 communities: Moa (St Pauls/Kubin Road), St Pauls Road restoration, Ugar Roads (Stage 2), Mabuiag Drainage upgrade, Dauan Sports Oval, &amp; Hammond Streets.</p> <p>Island Coordination Council Infrastructure Support Unit (from 15 March 2008: Torres Strait Island Regional Council Engineering Services):</p> <p>Water Supply related Infrastructure Maintenance at 15 Island Communities was successfully delivered.</p> <p>Airstrips &amp; Marine Upgrades:</p> <p>Work was completed on schedule for the following projects: Poruma Island Barge Replacement, and Dolphin facilities at St Pauls and Badu Islands.</p>
	<p>Actual Price for this Output: \$17.42M</p>	

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
5. Social, and Cultural Development	Quality: Approved grants for approved projects will be funded within 28 days of commencement of the financial year.	81% of funded organisations received all or part of their first quarterly release within 28 days of the commencement of the financial year.
	Quantity: 25 grants will be approved in the financial year.	31 grants were approved in the 2007-2008 financial year, representing 69 activities providing social, cultural and environmental assistance to communities.
	Provide assistance to communities to promote and improve their social and cultural wellbeing.	
	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.	
	Budgeted Price for this Output: \$8M	
Actual Price for this Output: \$10.85M		

## 6. Policy & Information

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
	<b>Quantity:</b>	
	4 Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee meetings.	100% achieved.
	4 MIP Steering Committee meetings.	100% achieved.
	1 PZJA meeting.	100% achieved.
	1 Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee meeting.	100% achieved.
	2 Torres Strait Finfish Working Group meetings.	100% achieved.
	2 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.
	2 PZJA Standing Officials meetings.	100% achieved.
	3 Torres Shire Council MOU Meetings.	100% achieved.
	<b>Quality:</b>	
	100% of Ministerial Correspondence dealt with within set timeframe.	22 Items of Ministerial Correspondence dealt with by set timeframe.
	98% TSRA Board Members queries responded to within 14 days.	98% of queries from TSRA Board Members and verbal queries were responded to within 14 days.
	98% of verbal queries responded to within 14 days.	98% of queries and correspondence were responded to within 14 days.
	All press releases are placed on the TSRA website within 48 hours of publication.	100% of press releases and columns were placed on the website within 48 hours.
	Information requests are responded to within 48 hours of receipt where possible.	90% of 166 information requests were responded to within 48 hours.
	<b>Quantity:</b>	
	Newsletters are published regularly to inform the public of the TSRA's programs.	9 monthly newsletters were produced.
	Press releases are circulated to promote TSRA initiatives.	15 press releases were circulated
	Budgeted Price for this Output: \$1.88M	13 Chairperson's Columns were published.
Actual Price for this Output: \$5.62M		



## 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
3. Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS)

### SUB-PROGRAM: BUSINESS FUNDING SCHEME (BFS)

#### Objective

To increase the economic independence of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in 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 provides Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region with the opportunity to establish, acquire, develop and own their own business thereby facilitating their economic independence. 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.

In 2007, the TSRA Board requested that additional business support activities be created and implemented to increase the potential for commercial enterprise success. Investigations subsequently identified that greater assistance is required for small business operators in the region, particularly during the initial development stages, to understand legal and financial requirements and successful marketing and operational practices. Consequently, the TSRA Economic Development Unit has developed a Small Business Development Framework, which now underpins the business loan process. The primary purpose of the Framework is to both accelerate economic development in the region and improve business success. It was endorsed by the TSRA Board on 7 December 2007 and has been implemented from 1 February 2008.

The Small Business Development Framework encompasses the following four activities.

#### *Community Economic Business Forums*

Regular Community Economic Business Forums held within island cluster groups provide an opportunity for community members to explore general business development principles. The forums stimulate discussion of community business aspirations and assist with the identification of potential local economic opportunities as well as the basic requirements

of starting/running a business. The forums are often supported by case studies of successful Indigenous businesses and successful Indigenous entrepreneurs regularly attend to share their business creation and success stories. The forums also provide an avenue for the TSRA and other stakeholders to outline potential available business support.

### *Small Business Training*

Eligible applicants with a commercially viable business idea are offered the opportunity to participate in a Small Business Training Program. The training is practically focused on creating a business plan with specific action steps to help facilitate success.

### *Financial Statement Submission*

To assist clients create successful businesses, and to highlight their business loan status, clients are required to submit their financial activity statement each quarter. The statements are analysed for performance and provide a basis for informed mentoring support.

### *Quarterly Mentoring or Additional Training*

Business loan clients will be provided with quarterly business mentoring support to monitor the financial and operational health of their business and provide business advice and support where possible.

## **Activities**

### *Community Economic Business Forums*

The forums are conducted quarterly and are held over a three day period on each island cluster with a focus on business success factors, identifying Indigenous business success stories, and exploring potential business opportunities.

*Moa Island Community Business Forum participants.*





Business ideas generated from the forum are assessed for initial potential viability. If an applicant meets the basic criteria they are offered a place in the Small Business Training Program to develop a business plan for final assessment.

The first community forum was held at St Pauls Community on Moa Island from 3-6 March 2008, with excellent feedback from the 22 participants. Recently the TSRA hosted the second Community Business Forum on Erub Island. Feedback from Community members indicated that they found the forum very informative and were appreciative of the opportunity to discuss potential business ideas and business support.

### *Small Business Training*

The Small Business Training program was developed in consultation with TAFE, community members, and the TSRA Economic Development Unit. The small business training consists of a new hybrid course including modules from Certificate II through to a Certificate IV in Small Business. This course is designed to provide entry level business skills and information required to operate a business in the Torres Strait region and focuses on participants creating their own business plan for practical implementation. On completion of training, participants receive a Statement of Attainment for all modules successfully completed which can be used as Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) towards gaining a Certificate IV in Small Business.

The tuition for the course was funded by the TSRA and the Department of Tourism and Regional Industry provided financial support towards some TSRA business activities.

The first Small Business Training Course was conducted from 31 March 2008 through to 23 May 2008 with six participants and was facilitated by TAFE Queensland at campuses on Thursday Island and Cairns. The next course commences on 21 July 2008.

In conjunction with the BFS, workshops were facilitated by Learning Network Queensland in Word, Excel, PowerPoint 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
Word	13
Excel	16
Intermediate Word	13
Intermediate Excel	11
PowerPoint	21
Digital Imaging	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94</b>

## Achievements

The TSRA has developed a Small Business Development Framework linked to the Business Funding Scheme (BFS) and is currently implementing the framework through a series of regional island community workshops designed to generate Indigenous small businesses with vocational educational accredited training and business support mentoring.

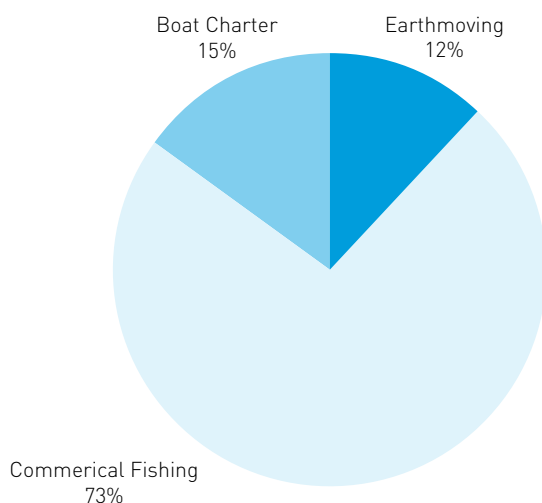
The BFS is proving to be an important source of commercial finance for Torres Strait Islanders wanting to establish or expand their businesses. During the financial period, a total of four loans were advanced at a total value of \$277,941. During the financial year nine clients paid out their loans.

As at 30 June 2008 a total of 21 BFS loans remain active. A total of \$431,082 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 2007-2008, loans were financed in the following sectors.

Industry Sector	No. Loans Disbursed	Value(\$)
Commercial Fishing	2	205,941
Earth Moving	1	32,000
Boat Charter	1	40,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>277,941</b>

BFS Loan - Investments 2007-2008



*Business funding scheme loans for 2007-2008*

The TSRA are working closely with the regional councils to assess the viability of community enterprises that utilise CDEP across the region. This includes building internal capacity of community organisations allowing them to operate commercially sustainable businesses in the regional economy.

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, with further support and assistance now available under the Small Business Development Framework.

## Case Study: Business Funding Scheme

<b>Title of Project:</b>	<b>Tony's Island Adventures</b>
<b>Island/Community:</b>	<b>Thursday Island</b>
<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Tony Titasey</b>

### Project Description

In 2001 Tony Titasey was considering a business opportunity that would combine his love of fishing with his love of meeting people. He came up with the idea of starting a fishing charter. At that time there were no small fishing charter businesses on Thursday Island and Tony received regular feedback from many visiting public servants and their families that there was a need for an affordable boat charter business for both fishing and island day trips.



*Glen Miller from Tourism Queensland catches a tuna while fishing with Tony*



### **TSRA Assistance**

As there was an obvious demand for this service, TSRA helped Tony make his dream a reality by providing a small business loan to purchase his charter vessel 'Madam Dugong'.

### **Achievements**

Tony's first BFS loan was repaid in three and a half years and he has since taken out a further loan to upgrade his vehicle and outboard.

Ideally, Tony's Island Adventures would be 100% self-supporting, but due to the restrictive weather conditions and strong winds that besiege the Torres Strait for eight months of the year the ideal tourism period is limited. The business operates as a seasonal, part-time venture and Tony supplements his income with a second business.

**Outlook**

Glen Miller of Tourism Queensland went out on a fishing trip with Tony and suggested that he get training in fly fishing from the shore where the strong winds and currents have less impact. This would reduce Tony's reliance on the weather and could lead to an expansion of his business. With support from Tourism Queensland and the TSRA, Tony will travel to Hinchinbrook Island for fly fishing training in August.

**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.

**Achievements**

This year a total of \$485,620 has been released to three housing loan clients for either the purchase of new homes or the re-finance of existing loans.


A total of \$988,425 in repayments has been returned during the financial year into the Housing Account. In addition, six housing loans have been paid out leaving the total housing loan portfolio at 28.

**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 a net amount of \$1,827,560 for CEIS projects, including roll-overs from 2006-07 and less projects not proceeded with. The projects are detailed in the table below.

Council	Project	Amount (\$)
TSIRC Division 2 – Dauan	Fuel Bowser	30,471*
TSIRC Division 3 – Saibai	Takeaway	236,232*
TSIRC Division 4 – Mabuiag	Guesthouse	289,500**
TSIRC Division 10 – Warraber	Resort	158,725**
TSIRC Division 11 – Poruma	Resort Boat	12,610**
TSIRC Division 11 – Poruma	Fuel Bowser	157,018**
TSIRC Division 11 – Poruma	Resort Salaries Assistance	44,700
TSIRC Division 13 – Ugar	Store Building	150,000***
TSIRC Division 14 – Erub	Fuel Bowser	160,295
TSIRC Division 15 – Mer	Fuel Bowser	168,009
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Business Plan	30,000***
Kailag Enterprises Ltd	Bath Sponge Farm	160,000
NPARC – Seisia	Enterprise Staff Accommodation	230,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,827,560</b>

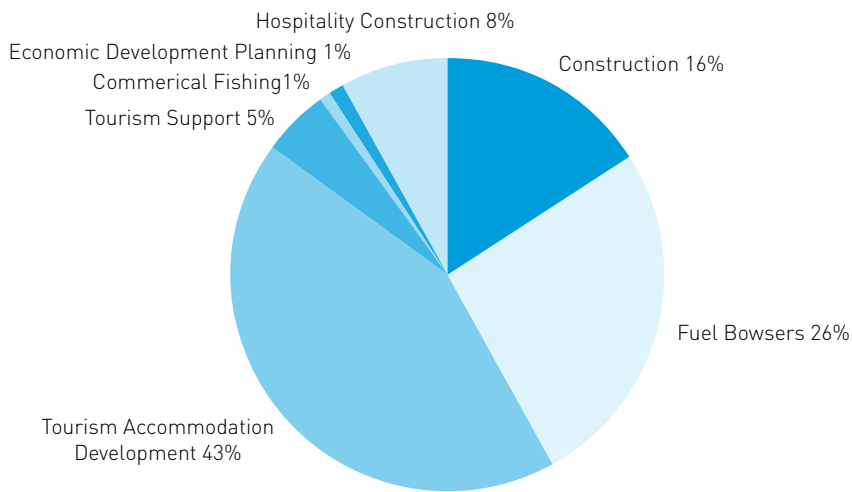
\* 2006/07 roll-over plus additional to complete the project

\*\* 2006/07 roll-over to complete the project

\*\*\* 2006/07 roll-over for project not commenced

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

### CEIS Grant - Areas of Investment



*Community Economics Initiative Scheme investment sectors for 2007-2008*

## OUTPUT TWO – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

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

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

### PROGRAM – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYMENT 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 TSRA currently manages a CDEP for approximately 1,750 participants across 19 Torres Strait Island communities, including Bamaga and Seisia in the Northern Peninsula Area. It enables unemployed Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people to undertake work on activities chosen by the community or an organisation and is an attractive alternative to unemployment benefits. Three service providers manage the CDEP projects: the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC), Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council and Community Enterprises Australia Ltd.

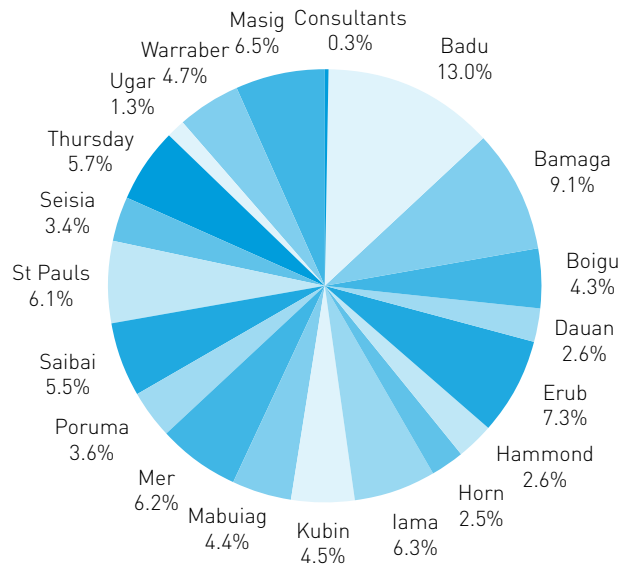
The CDEP facilitates community development by implementing projects prioritised by the communities themselves. The Program is flexible and can link with other programs, such as the Business Funding and Community Economic Initiatives Schemes, the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP), various Australian 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 land and sea management, and environmental and landscaping programs.

#### Funding

In 2007-2008, the TSRA was allocated \$33,618,148 for CDEP and committed \$32,762,205 of these funds to projects in the Torres Strait region, achieving 93.1% expenditure of commitment. As at 30 June 2008, there were 1,750 active participants in three CDEP schemes, covering 19 communities. Expenditure for the year was \$30,495,733, comprising wages totalling \$22,661,470 and recurrent/capital funds totalling \$7,834,263 (including \$77,927 expended as support activities).

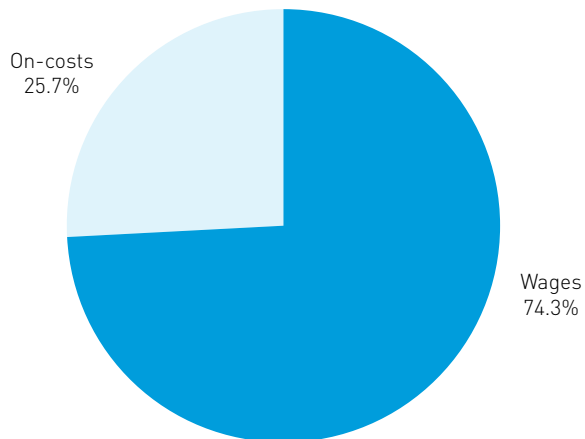


### 2007-2008 CDEP by Community



*CDEP Program community allocations and the total running costs and capital requirements (on-costs)*

### 2007-2008 total CDEP Funding



*Wages paid to CDEP participants for the reporting period and on-costs*

## Achievements

A process of CDEP reform commenced this year, utilising the following measures:

- Reducing the number of CDEP service providers across the region
- Investigating the amount of Local, State and Commonwealth Government agency positions currently being subsidised by CDEP
- Working with the newly formed Regional Councils to streamline CDEP across the region
- Managing the Community Training Program (CTP) to include only those CDEP organisations with structured training programs for participants
- Increasing the use of host agreements with employers
- Implementing new CDEP guidelines in areas with a recognised job and labour market
- Increasing the transition of CDEP participants to full time employment.

Projects this year included: Council and CDEP administration, fuel depots, public transport, landscaping, land-care 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.

## Case Study: Community Development Employment Program

<b>Title of Project:</b>	<b>CDEP gets results for Inner Island Region</b>
<b>Island/Community:</b>	<b>Thursday Island and Horn Island Communities</b>
<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Community Enterprises Australia</b>

### Project Description

In 2007, the TSRA Board approved the new TSRA CDEP Guidelines which were based on the national changes through the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations. The new guidelines emphasised the case management of individual CDEP participants through monitoring and building their skill levels for transitioning to full-time employment opportunities.

### TSRA Assistance

For the first time in the Inner Island region, the TSRA put the CDEP management contracts out to commercial tender. This provided the opportunity for competitive tendering and the introduction of the new CDEP Guidelines.

Community Enterprises Australia (CEA) was successful in winning the contracts for Horn Island from 3rd October 2007 and Thursday Island from 1 January 2008.

### Achievements

CEA have been operating in the Inner Island region for nine months and have achieved significant results in both locations. Results from labour market mapping, a skills needs-analysis of local and broader labour markets, and consideration of economic development strategies for the region, has provided a realistic basis for developing employment plans and sourcing opportunities.

Thirty-nine participants have transitioned to full-time jobs in local government, communications, private commerce, transport, marine, tourism, culture and arts, construction, retail, aviation, health, and education. The retention levels have been significant, with 90% transitioning through the 13 and 26 week milestone periods.

Fifty-seven participants developed employment plans that identified aspirations and appropriate training programs. Through individual case-management, CEA has taken advantage of available opportunities to achieve the participant's personal goals and has succeeded in building up confidence and enthusiasm to join the labour market.

CEA have been able to engage a wide range of host employers to strengthen employment and training pathways while assisting the broader community in projects that support community plans, cultural preservation, and increased social cohesion. They developed work experience models, delivered and implemented community capacity building frameworks, and fostered economic development opportunities.

### **Outlook**

CEA have been successful in retaining the CDEP for Thursday Island and Horn Island in 2008-2009. This will result in further full-time jobs through host employment opportunities within the Inner Island region. The TSRA is concentrating on future growth in tourism, fishing, and arts and craft, which will expand the employment prospects for participants and build community capacity.

## **PROGRAM – COMMUNITY TRAINING PROGRAM (CTP)**

### **Objective**

To improve individual and community skill levels to enable communities and individuals to improve self-management and 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 and financial management in service industries and trades, as well as training for environmental issues, health, heritage, culture and land management. This training can take the form of formal courses, on-the-job training, a mixture of both, or the employment of tradesmen assuming responsibility for apprenticeships.

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

### **Funding**

In 2007-2008, the TSRA allocated and committed \$1,029,000 for CTPs in various Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations, achieving 100% expenditure over commitment. \$1,000,000 went to CDEP organisations and \$24,000 rolled over from last year went to the Torres Strait Islander's Media Association for specialised staff training. A further \$5,000 was committed to two school-based projects.

### **Achievements**

During the year a total of 32 separate training projects were approved across 13 communities. Nineteen of these projects were in trades, where CTP funds paid tradesman for the training of apprentices and trainees. These projects

accounted for 93% of CTP funds and included plumbing, carpentry, welding, electrical, painting, mechanics, and butchery, and involved both apprentices and trainees. Other training included accounting (MYOB), plant operation, web design, dangerous goods handling, chainsaw operation, screen and lino printing, horticulture, management and hospitality.

## Case Study: Community Training Program

<b>Title of Project:</b>	<b>Training for the Future</b>
<b>Island/Community:</b>	<b>Erub (Darnley Island)</b>
<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Darnley Island Community Council</b>

### Project Description

For many years, the Erub Island community employed external tradespeople to undertake vital community building, maintenance and mechanical projects. The community set in place a plan for training local people in a number of trade and administration areas which are vital to the future of the community. During the year, the community had ten ongoing apprenticeships: four in mechanics, one in plumbing, and five in carpentry.

### TSRA Assistance

The TSRA provided \$70,000 CTP funding for the apprentices. The CTP is tied into the Erub Island CDEP, providing vital training for participants and access to qualified tradespeople for learning outcomes.

### Achievements

One apprentice carpenter completed their training during the year and is now a fully qualified tradesperson who now teaches future apprentices. Through the building team the apprentice carpenters built three houses on neighbouring Masig Island.

### Outlook

The community are planning a number of new houses around Erub Island in coming years. The CTP will greatly assist the Erub Island community to achieve its goal of having locally qualified tradespeople who can build the community, train local apprentices and save money by importing fewer external resources.



*Erub Island apprentices building houses as part of the Community Training Program*

## OUTPUT THREE – NATIVE TITLE

The operations of the Native Title Office fall under Output 3 – 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 assisting and representing Traditional Owners in the Torres Strait region in the performance of our functions under the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*.

### Description

The Native Title Office facilitates the securing of legal recognition of native title to land and waters in the Torres Strait, providing assistance for protection of native title rights in relation to all matters affecting Torres Strait land and waters and to assist Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) and Traditional Owners with support and capacity initiatives.

## PART A – OVERVIEW OF THE 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 (Cth)*. NTRBs are primarily responsible for providing native title and related assistance to 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 NTRBs is their responsibility to act in the best interests of their constituents.



Keith Pabai, Chairman of the Malu Kaia Corporation, hands a peace offering to Justice Finn

### Legislation Governing TSRA's Native Title Functions

The Torres Strait Regional Authority is recognised as the NTRB for the Torres Strait region. The TSRA was first appointed a NTRB under the *Native Title Act (Cth) 1993* in 1995. Under the 1998 amendments to the *Native Title Act (Cth) 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 NTRB for the Torres Strait region. In 2007 the Commonwealth announced reforms to the native title system including the recognition of all NTRBs. The then Minister invited TSRA to reapply for recognition and subsequently advised that TSRA would be recognised as the NTRB for the Torres Strait region for a further six year period.

The performance of the NTO functions are also consistent with the overall TSRA operational planning framework developed in response to the then Minister's stated expectations of the TSRA. The NTO developed an Operational Plan for the 2007-2008 reporting period which included the strategies required to progress each of the key output areas; the key activities proposed to undertake the strategies; proposed performance measures; priorities, start and end dates; allocation of staff resources for each project and estimates of activity costs.

These outputs and outcomes are consistent with the then Minister's expectation that:

- (1) The TSRA will fulfil its functions as the NTRB for the region, as defined under the *Native Title Act (Cwth) 1993*; and
- (2) Operate in accordance with relevant legislation, including the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*, the *Native Title Act 1993* and the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

### Legislative Functions of the TSRA in its NTRB Capacity

As a NTRB, the TSRA through the Native Title Office (NTO) fulfils specific functions under the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. These include:

- Facilitating the research, preparation and making of claims by groups of Aboriginal Peoples or Torres Strait Islanders, 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
- Assisting groups by representing them in negotiations if requested to do so and in proceedings relating to actions affecting native title, the provision of compensation in relation to such actions and any other matter relevant to the operation of the Act
- Facilitating support and assistance to PBCs.

The legislative functions of NTRBs are set out in section 203B of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* which states as follows:

A representative body has the following functions:

- (1) The facilitation and assistance functions referred to in section 203BB;
- (2) The certification functions referred to in section 203BE;
- (3) The dispute resolution functions referred to in section 203BF;
- (4) The notification functions referred to in section 203BG;
- (5) The agreement making function referred to in section 203BH;
- (6) The internal review functions referred to in section 203BI;
- (7) 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.

## Organisational Structure and Corporate Governance Policies

As a section of the TSRA, NTO staff are included in the organisational structure reproduced in Appendix 4 and are bound by the same corporate governance policies that apply to the TSRA generally.

### Staff Structure

The NTO staff structure consists of seven employees all of whom live in the region: a Principal Legal Officer, two Legal Officers, a Para-Legal, a PBC Project Officer and an Administration Assistant.

Since 2005 the NTO has, through the Aurora Project, also had seven students undertake legal internships. One further student undertook a six week Practical Legal Training placement at the NTO.

### Consultants

The NTO also uses external legal counsel and external consultants to meet its strategic objectives and Operational Plan requirements. The NTO engaged a total of 14 consultants during the reporting period, namely; four legal consultancies, five anthropological consultancies, one history consultancy, one archaeological consultancy, one linguistic consultancy and two miscellaneous consultancies relating to the NTO operational Plan and assistance at two PBC workshops. A list of NTO consultants is provided in Appendix 5.

## PART B – REPORT ON PERFORMANCE

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

The NTO has significant experience in providing legal representation and related services to native title claimants and holders in the region. The NTO has provided legal advice, representation and otherwise assisted native title claimants and holders in various proceedings under the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* and in relation to future acts, Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) and other matters relating to native title. The 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. The TSRA is currently providing legal representation and assistance to Torres Strait Islanders in respect of the four remaining claimant applications in the Torres Strait region. Three claims are over a number of uninhabited islands and a combined Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim. The TSRA anticipates that the majority of the remaining land claim applications will be resolved through consent determinations of native title.

There are presently 34 ILUAs that have been registered on the Register of ILUAs in relation to land and waters in the Torres Strait region. Twenty five of these are Area Agreements and the remaining nine are Body Corporate Agreements. The vast majority of these ILUAs were entered into by native title claimants to facilitate the making of consent determinations of native title.

The principal functions of the NTO will focus on finalising the three remaining land claims, progressing the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim, and working with PBCs facilitating capacity building and the provision of support. While resolving the remaining land claims and progressing the Regional Sea Claim remain priority matters, agreement making functions and assisting PBCs and Native Title Holders manage native title land also remain a key focus for the NTO 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 (Cth)*, associated regulations and relevant State and Commonwealth legislation. In light of the large number of determinations and the relatively large number of PBCs, the NTO will continue in its efforts towards developing capacity building and the provision of ongoing support for PBCs.

It is anticipated that by the end of 2010 all native title claims over land in the Torres Strait will be finalised. At this point, it is uncertain as to when the Regional Sea Claim will be finalised, however it is anticipated that the Federal Court will make a determination by the end of 2010. A mediated determination of the Sea Claim will largely depend on the approach of the Government as well as the availability of adequate levels of funding and resources.

## 1. Land Claims

During the 2007-2008 reporting period one land claim was finalised, one claim withdrawn with a new claim being simultaneously filed over the same area leaving three claims over land remaining.

### *Erubam Le#7 (Raine Island)*

This claim has been finalised through the making of an Area ILUA over the claim area. The Raine Island ILUA is registered and the claim has been discontinued. The parties to the ILUA are the Erubam Le, Ugarem Le, Miriam Le, the Wuthathi (Cape York) and the State of Queensland. The ILUA is unique in that it is the first ILUA that has been made by both a Torres Strait Islander party and an Aboriginal Party. The ILUA operates to, among other things, facilitate the transfer of the current reserve to that of a reserve for a special scientific purpose and set up a committee made up of representatives of the Traditional Owners and the Environmental Protection Authority. The NTO invested a significant amount of time and effort into assisting the Traditional Owners with negotiating this ILUA.

*Boigu Dancers perform a Warrior Dance for the Federal Court*





### *Naghir*

The Naghir claim has been "briefed out" pursuant to 203BB(5) of the Native Title Act and remains in mediation. The Federal Court recently made orders requiring both the Naghir and Mualgal to file and serve Notice of Facts and Contentions. The Federal Court has made comments that in the event that the claim is not resolved by mediation then it will be set down for trial and programming orders will be made.

### *Kulkalgal#2 (Zuizin)*

A fresh claim over Zuizin has been filed and is expected to be ordered to mediation. The NTO will arrange for anthropological material to be prepared in support of the claim and to be used for mediation with the State.

### *Warral and Ului*

The claim over Warral and Ului will be progressed concurrently with the Regional Sea Claim. The Kaurareg have indicated to the parties that they intend to file their own claim over Warral and Ului and parts of the southern boundary of the Sea Claim. In the event the Kaurareg file their own claim it is anticipated that this claim will be ordered to mediation and a mediation program is developed to assist the parties resolve the matter by consent.

## *2. Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim*

The 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, Naghir, Iama, Mabuiag, Mer, Boigu, Moa and Saibai Islands 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. The Kaurareg have chosen not to be part of the Regional Sea Claim and are represented by private lawyers. The Kaurareg have indicated that they will file their own claim over the southern boundary of the Sea Claim where they claim native title rights and interests.

*Father John Manas giving evidence in the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim*



The Sea Claim is a very complex claim which incorporates the sea estates of 14 groups of native title holders into the one regional claim. Due to its legal and anthropological complexities, as well as the logistical challenges associated with the area covered and number of claimants and respondents involved, progressing and case managing the claim for trial has proved to be an expensive, resource intensive and time consuming exercise. The costs however, should not detract from the pursuit of the goals and rightful interests of the various claimant groups.

There are a number of considerations that may impact on the costs of running the claim and these include: the position of the Commonwealth and State Governments; the position of other respondents including the PNG parties, the Indigenous parties; the commercial fishermen; the need for adequate resources to manage and progress the claim and the overall timeframe for progressing the claim. These issues all have the potential to impact on the cost of the claim. While a mediated outcome is the preferred way to finalise the Sea Claim, this does not appear to be a feasible option at the time of writing this report. Nonetheless, the NTO will continue mediation with the government parties and other respondents.

To date the NTO has committed significant finance, effort and resources to the Sea Claim. In particular Counsel for the Applicant has been working closely and extensively on the claim since April 2005. From 26 September 2007 to 11 October 2007 the Federal Court travelled to the Torres Strait and heard 13 days of early/preservation evidence from seven Traditional Owner witnesses at Boigu, Badu, Mua (Kubin), Saibai, Mer and Erub. The purpose of holding an early/preservation hearing was to hear and preserve the evidence of Elders, to provide the Court and the parties with a 'sample' of the evidence and to use that evidence to assist with mediation of the claim. Six parties made appearances at the early/preservation hearing, namely; the State, the Commonwealth, Kaurareg, Gudang/Yadekenu, counsel for a PNG National and counsel for numerous commercial fishermen. The NTO filed various materials leading up to the hearing including seven witness statements, maps, anthropological materials and numerous court documents.

In January 2008 the Federal Court made programming orders for the litigation of the claim. The programming orders require, among other things:

- The Applicant to file and serve points of claim indicating what the Applicant needs to prove
- The Respondents to file and serve points of response
- The Applicant to lead the evidence of Traditional Owners over five weeks in October, November and December 2008
- Expert reports to be filed and served by the parties
- The Federal Court to convene a conference of experts.

The Applicant has filed and served seven expert reports in support of the claim, namely; four anthropological reports, a historical report, an archaeological report and a linguistic report. The Federal Court will convene a conference of experts in July 2008, the purpose of which is to, among other things, identify and where possible narrow down or agree on, some of the issues that are in contention.

Substantial resources will also be required to progress the Sea Claim now that it has been substantively allocated to a Federal Court Judge who has made programming orders. Progression of the claim will place a significant burden on the NTO staff and will require some projects being put on hold until at least the traditional evidence is heard by the end of 2008.

The likelihood of success with the Sea Claim is difficult to determine however there is a good base on which to build given the high number of successful Determinations of Native Title in the Torres Strait to date and the extraordinary depth of knowledge about and use by Torres Strait Islanders of the seas and their resources.



The hearing of the remaining traditional evidence will require extensive logistical planning and the substantial allocation of financial and other resources. It is anticipated that the further preparation of the case will continue throughout the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 financial years and beyond. A Sea Claim Negotiating Team, made up of representatives of the claimants, will also be required to attend mediation and authorisation meetings. The Negotiating Team has been established to, among other things, participate directly in negotiations with other key parties.

### 3. Future Acts, Agreements and Other Land Matters

In the 2007-2008 reporting period, the NTO 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 which were subsequently registered on the Register of ILUAs. The ILUA between the Mer Gedkem Le (TSI) Corporation and Ergon Energy provides for native title consents to build and use a power facility. The Raine Island ILUA provides for native title consents for the transfer of Raine Island to a scientific reserve. The Warraber Helath Clinic ILUA was also registered and construction of the health clinic is almost completed. The NTO has

also assisted PBCs and Island Councils with a total of 3 Native Title Authorisation Agreements which provide for native title consents to major infrastructure projects.

### *Infrastructure ILUA*

Due to the Sea Claim early/preservation evidence hearing in September and October 2007, the continued preparation of the Sea Claim for trial and the amalgamation of all the Torres Strait Island Councils, briefing and seeking instructions from Traditional Owners and community consultations on the Infrastructure ILUA were put on hold. The NTO will recommence community consultations and briefings on how the ILUA is proposed to operate, in early 2009.

## **4. PBC Support**

A total of 21 PBCs have been incorporated and registered on the National Native Title Register following the making of the approved determinations of native title in the Torres Strait Region. The NTO 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.

It is imperative that these existing PBCs are adequately resourced to manage and protect the determined native title and to deliver the necessary certainty required by Government and other parties for dealings and activities regarding land and waters in relation to which native title has been determined to exist. TSRA also needs to be adequately resourced to enable it to perform its statutory functions under the Native Title Act to assist PBCs in the Torres Strait Region in relation to future acts, ILUAs, rights of access and other matters relating to 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 financial and other resources for PBCs. At present PBCs in the Torres Strait receive little or no grant funding. This makes it extremely difficult for these bodies to carry out their functions and obligations under the *Native Title Act* and associated regulations.

The NTO, through TSRA's Land and Sea Management Unit (LSMU), obtained grant funding from the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) to undertake a capacity development pilot project in partnership with PBCs in the Torres Strait. The PBC Capacity Building Project consists of two phases; first to consult with a sample group of PBCs regarding capacity building requirements, and second, the implementation of two capacity building strategies focussing on PBC specific governance training and the development of a business plan for one PBC to be used as a model for the remaining groups. The PBC Governance training project consisted of a 2-3 day workshop held in 11 communities with attendance from 17 participating PBCs. This training was designed to provide information on the fundamentals of governance and assist PBCs to manage the land and sea in their native title areas. The business plan was an important component of phase two as it enabled an individual PBC to have an in depth look at what was required to go into business and the importance of selecting a business that is complementary to the role and function of a PBC.

Both phases have now been completed and a final report will be completed outlining outcomes and recommendations for ongoing capacity building requirements. As this project was the first investigation into PBC development it was limited and will require more ongoing work, support and resources.

With three native title claims over land to be progressed during the 2008-2009 reporting period, and in the event that a determination of native title is made, this will necessitate the incorporation of at least three more PBCs. This

will bring the number of Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate in the Torres Strait to 24. This will, together with the requirements of the new Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (CATSI Act), increase the requirement for corporate, legal and administrative assistance to PBCs. PBCs, for example, are not resourced to rent an office space, store records, and carry out day to day administrative functions, all of which are essential tasks for their day to day operations.

Alongside the requirement for the funding of PBCs, is the urgent need for PBCs to be assisted to develop and strengthen their governance and corporate capacity.

In October 2006, the Commonwealth released a report which examined the structures and processes of PBCs (PBC Report). Section 2.2 of the PBC Report, said that available evidence suggests very few PBCs are operating effectively, if at all, in performing their statutory functions. This would also suggest that very few PBCs are able to meet any or all of their regulatory compliance obligations under the *Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act 1976* (ACA Act), which has now been replaced by the CATSI Act. This is very much the case in the Torres Strait Region, where the vast majority of PBCs remain solely reliant on the TSRA for assistance in the performance of their statutory functions under the NTA.

## 5. Other Relevant Matters

### *Torres Strait Islander Land Act*

In late November 2007, the State Government announced that changes were being made to both the *Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991* (TSILA) and the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991* (ALA) and released an exposure draft of the *Aboriginal Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2007* (the Bill) together with a *Guide to the Aboriginal Land and Other Legislation Bill 2007* (the Guide). The Minister invited stakeholders and interested parties to make submissions in relation to the amendments and the NTO made submissions on behalf of its constituents to the Minister to the effect that it welcomes the opportunity for the Bill to facilitate home ownership and economic opportunities. However, the NTO raised a number of concerns about the Bill, in particular about the compulsory acquisition of land by Government agencies.

The Bill was presented to Queensland Parliament on 17 April 2008 and proposed a number of amendments to the TSILA. In the earlier versions of the Bill, the compulsory acquisition amendments allowed for, among other things, a mandatory negotiation process of a minimum of 9 months before an acquiring party could apply to the Minister to acquire land under the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*. The Guide to the exposure draft of the Bill revealed the compulsory acquisition amendments were proposed for the delivery of essential infrastructure to communities but that compulsory acquisition of Indigenous land would be a 'last resort'. The Bill presented to Parliament on 17 April 2008, however, reflected a distinct policy reversal in relation to the acquisition of land. This Bill removed the requirement for an Act of Parliament to expressly allow a compulsory acquisition of land in the Torres Strait; omitted the minimum 9 month mandatory negotiation process; and, did not require infrastructure to be 'essential' for the community in which the land is being compulsorily acquired.

The TSRA wrote to the Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Water (DNRW), outlining serious concerns about the policy reversal in relation to the acquisition of land.

Other issues of concern were in relation to the unique nature of land tenure in the Torres Strait; the provision of adequate funding for the operation of Land Trusts; the affect of any transfer of land on native title; the limited consultation with Torres Strait Islanders in relation to the review of TSILA, permitting particular lands to be declared not transferable; dealings with transferred land; and, provisions relating mortgages of lease over Torres Strait Islander land.

*Mer Island dancers performing the Weris dance for the Federal Court*





## 6. Statistical Data

The following table provides statistical data in relation to the roles and functions of TSRA in its NTRB capacity:

FACILITATION AND ASSISTANCE	REPORT ON NUMBER ONLY
Claimant Applications	4
Filed this year	1
Number current	4
Number registered with NNTT	4
Non Claimant Applications	Nil
Agreements	
- Indigenous Land use agreements finalised	3
- Indigenous Land use agreements finalised but not yet executed	Nil
Leases	2
- Determination Deeds finalised but not yet executed	Nil
Other Agreements	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>
Compensation claims	Nil
Future Act Notices Received	246
Responses to Future Acts	103
Objections to Future Acts	106
Determinations of Native Title	Nil
ILUAs Registered	3
Disputes relating to Native Title Applications	15
Disputes relating to ILUAs, rights of access and other matters	Nil
Number of ILUAs effected	3
Number of reviews pending	Nil
Number of reviews completed	Nil
Number of PBCs established	Nil
Number of PBCs assisted	21
Number of claims certified	Nil
Number of ILUAs certified	2

### Statements for the Purpose of the *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*. In its capacity as a Native Title Representative Body, the Native Title Outputs as reported in the 2007-2008 TSRA Annual Report is also a report on the native title activities and expenditure for the 2007-2008 reporting period for the Purposes of the *Native Title Act*.

### Financial Performance of the TSRA in NTRB Capacity

For the 2007-2008 financial year the TSRA was funded an amount of \$1.555m 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 2008**

	Output Group 3	
	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Departmental expenses</b>		
Employees	542	605
Suppliers	2,339	1,041
Grants	7	7
Depreciation	32	40
Writedown and Impairment of Assets	7	5
<b>Total departmental expenses</b>	<b>2,927</b>	<b>1,691</b>
<b>Funded by:</b>		
Revenues from Govt.	1,392	1,424
Sale of Goods and Services	37	29
Interest	101	74
Reversal of Previous Asset	6	0
Net Gains from disposal of assets	-	0
Other	19	47
<b>Total departmental revenues</b>	<b>1,555</b>	<b>1,574</b>

Note:

1. These figures are sourced from the Audited Financial Statements of the TSRA for the year ended 30 June 2008.
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 outlined in this report.



## OUTPUT FOUR – HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

### PROGRAM – HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The output of Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure aims to increase the number of Indigenous people in the Torres Strait area who have 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: MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

#### Objective

Through the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP), which delivers environmental health infrastructure in Torres Strait communities, the TSRA aims to improve the health and general wellbeing of Indigenous people living in the region. MIP delivers such infrastructure as clean drinking water supplies, reticulated sewerage systems, and serviced sub-divisions. 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 Department of Main Roads (DMR) and Queensland Transport's Transport and Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS).

#### Description

The Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) works to deliver essential, appropriate and sustainable environmental health infrastructure to the fifteen Torres Strait communities and the two Northern Peninsula Area communities of Bamaga and Seisia. MIP is of vital importance to the health and wellbeing of the Indigenous people of the region.

The MIP is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments and is administered by an MIP Management Committee comprising representatives from the TSRA, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation (DLGSR), the Torres Strait Islands Regional Council (TSIRC), the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC) and the MIP Program Manager (Cairns-based consultant engineers Black and More).

The first ten years of MIP (1998 to 2008) has delivered over 60 major infrastructure projects. A further 18 projects are currently in construction or design phases. These key projects include:

- 19 sewerage and wastewater projects completed
- 7 reticulated sewerage schemes in construction phase
- 1 reticulated sewerage scheme in design phase
- 19 water supply upgrades/augmentation completed
- 1 water supply upgrade in construction phase
- 9 internal road and stormwater drainage upgrades completed
- 5 internal road and stormwater drainage projects in design phase

- 10 sub-division projects completed
- 1 sub-division in progress
- 2 solid waste projects completed
- 2 regional solid waste projects in progress
- Several infrastructure sustainability projects in planning and design phase.

These initiatives have had substantial and tangible impacts on the 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 ten year MIP period, the Australian and Queensland Governments have jointly provided a total in excess of \$120 million.

### **MIP Stage 4 Funding**

In September 2006, parallel submissions were put to the Australian and Queensland Governments by TSRA and DLGSR seeking to extend MIP for a further four years. \$14 million per year from each government for the four-year period 2007 to 2011 was requested (a total of \$56 million each). In response, the Commonwealth approved \$14 million per year for the first two years (\$28 million total) and the Queensland Government approved \$14 million per year for the full four years (\$56 million total). Commonwealth funding for the second two years of the above four year period is subject to review and submission of a fresh New Policy Proposal (NPP).

### **Achievements 2007–2008**

#### **MIP 4**

- A Project Manager was appointed to manage the construction of the Mabuiag Sewerage Project and the Mabuiag Water Project in December 2007
- A contract was awarded to connect power to the Seisia Sub-division in February 2008
- A Project Manager was appointed to manage the construction of the Warraber Sewerage Project in February 2008
- Working arrangements were confirmed in January 2008 for collaboration between MIP and the Department of Main Roads (DMR) for the construction of five MIP4 Roads and Drainage projects in Hammond, Saibai, Mabuiag, St Pauls and Kubin communities.

A project manager has been appointed for the Saibai Island Access Road Project and the Hammond Island Roads and Drainage Project construction is underway (a joint MIP/ DMR/ HEMTP project managed by DMR)

- The Hammond Island Reticulated Sewerage Project planning and design stage is well underway (as at 30 June 2008)
- The Masig Sewerage Project Tender was awarded in June 2007 and construction was 65% complete (as at 30 June 2008).

#### **MIP 3**

- Construction of the Bamaga Sub-Division (Stage 2) was completed in January 2008
- The Ugar Roads Upgrade was completed in February 2008
- The Worksop was confirmed in December 2007 for the Warraber Waste Pilot Project incorporating Regional Waste issues.

### MIP 1 and MIP 2

Approximately 73% of the 22 MIP1/MIP2 projects have been finalised with the remaining 27% (8) in final stages.

A summary of the status of MIP 1-2 Projects as at 30 June 2008 is as follows:

Location	Project	Status	% Complete
Badu	Sewerage - Full Sewer (70% Exist)	F	100%
Badu	Serviced Housing Subdivision	F	
Bamaga	Serviced Housing Subdivision (Stage 1)	F	100%
Boigu	Flood Mitigation	F	100%
Boigu	Serviced Housing Subdivision	F	
Saibai	Serviced Housing Subdivision	F	100%
Saibai	Water - Upgrade elevated water storage	F	
Dauan	Roads & Drainage	F	100%
Dauan	Water - Reticulation (Exist)	F	
Erub	Sewerage - Full Sewer	F	100%
Erub	Power Extension	F	100%
Hammond	Serviced Housing Subdivision	F	100%
Hammond	Roads Sealing & Drainage	F	
Horn	Sewerage - Full Reticulation & Lagoons	C	
Iama	Serviced Housing Subdivision	F	95%
Kubin	Serviced Housing Subdivision	F	100%
Kubin	Water - Reservoir Cover	F	
St Pauls	Water - Reservoir Cover	F	
Mabuiag	Water - Reservoir Upgrade & Reticulation	F	100%
Mer	Serviced Housing Subdivision	C	98%
Mer	Additional CEP Work	C	
Poruma	Elevated Water Tanks	F	100%
Warraber	Elevated Water Tanks	F	
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	95%
Region	Bulk Waste Removal	C	
Thursday Island	Rosehill Boat Ramp	F	100%
	Completion of MIP1Works		100%

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

A summary of the status of MIP 3 Projects as at 30 June 2008 is as follows:

Location	Project	Status	% Complete
Year 1			
Regional	Regional Mobil De-Sal Plant	M	95%
Regional	Regional Metering, Hammond and Mer Water	C	98%
Regional	Waste Management Strategy	P (due for completion December 08)	30%
Badu	Badu Roads and Water Main	M	100%
Year 2			
Masig	Masig Bores and Sewerage	F	100%
Moa	St Pauls and Kubin Sewerage	C	70%
St Pauls	St Pauls Drainage	F	100%
Year 3			
Mabuiag	Mabuiag Sewerage and Water Storage Cover (Design & Documentation)	D	100%
Warraber	Warraber Sewerage (Design & Documentation)	D	100%
Ugar	Ugar Roads	C	100%
Bamaga	Bamaga Subdivision	M	100%
Regional	MIP1 STP Modifications	C	99%
Horn	Horn Island Sewerage (additional funds)	C	100%
Iama	Iama Alternative Feedwater Intake	F	100%
Boigu	Boigu, Dau Street Drain	F	100%
P: Planning, D: Design, C: Construction, F: Finalised, M: Maintenance.			

A summary of the status of MIP 4 Projects as at 30 June 2008 is as follows:

Location	Project	Status	% Complete
Masig	Masig Island: Reticulated Sewerage and Treatment	C	100%
Warraber	Warraber Island: Reticulated Sewerage and Treatment	D	
Hammond	Hammond Island: Reticulated Sewerage and Treatment (Design Only)	P	
Hammond	Hammond Island: Roads and Drainage	C (due for completion October 08)	60%
Mabuiag	Mabuiag Island: Reticulated Sewerage and Rectification & Covering of the Water Supply Lagoons	D	
Saibai	Saibai Island: Access Road to Solid Waste Management Facility	D	
Seisia	Seisia: Land Servicing	D	30%
Regional	Community Planning	P	
Regional	Sustainability: Asset Renewal	P	
Mabuiag	Mabuiag: Roads and Drainage	P	
St Pauls	St Pauls: Roads and Drainage	P	30%
Kubin	Kubin: Drainage	P	
P: Planning, D: Design, C: Construction, F: Finalised, M: Maintenance.			

### *MIP outlook for 2008-2009*

MIP projects in progress will continue and it is anticipated that the following projects will be completed by 30 June 2009:

- Horn Island Reticulated Sewerage Project
- Hammond Island Roads and Drainage Upgrade Project
- Mabuiag Island Reticulated Sewerage Project
- Masig Island Reticulated Sewerage
- Regional Waste Management Pilot Project
- Saibai Access Road Project
- Seisia Serviced Land (Power) Project
- St Pauls and Kubin Reticulated Sewerage Projects
- Warraber Island Reticulated Sewerage Project.

## SUB-PROGRAM: WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

### Objective

In order to achieve improved health, economic and social outcomes for communities, assist communities in the operation and maintenance of water supply and sewerage services and strengthen community capacity to operate and maintain water supply and sewerage services.

This objective is achieved through TSRA funding and participation in the Major Infrastructure Program (see MIP above), and through funding of the TSIRC's Engineering Services (TSIRCES - previously known as the Island Coordinating Council Infrastructure Support Unit or ICCISU).

### Description

The ISU was originally established within the ICC (now into the Torres Strait Island Regional Council - TSIRC) in 2003 to provide management of water services and operations and maintenance of related infrastructure in 17 Torres Strait outer island communities.

Through MIP the Australian and Queensland Governments have committed substantial capital works funds for major infrastructure upgrades of water services and reticulated sewerage systems in the region. The current program of water services operations and maintenance manages this extensive investment in infrastructure.

### Achievements

The role of the Unit has been crucial in maintaining essential and high standard water services to outer island communities over recent years. This has been particularly important during periods of drought when a continuous supply of emergency drinking water was needed by several island communities.

TSRA financial support for the TSIRCES in 2007-2008 was \$1.7 million.

### Outlook for 2008-2009

It is anticipated that for 2008-2009, the TSRA will continue to assist TSIRCES at the current annual level of \$1.7 million as a contribution towards operation and maintenance of water supplies and sewerage services in island communities.

## SUB-PROGRAM: TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

### Objective

To achieve improved health, economic and social outcomes for communities, assist communities in the upgrade of community roads, airstrips and marine facilities, and strengthen community capacity to manage and participate in such upgrade projects.

This objective is promoted through TSRA contribution to funding of the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS).

### Description

Upgrade of roads, airstrips and marine facilities on remote island communities in order to improve access and transport safety.



*Flying into Poruma Island*

*Photo: George Serras, National Museum of Australia*

## Achievements

This year the TSRA funding contribution to TIDS was \$1.07 million.

This program has provided vital infrastructure to the Torres Strait Island Communities which in turn has contributed substantially toward improving the quality of life for the people of the region. The local economy has benefited from year-round access to communities, with visitor movements enhancing business opportunities. Residents also benefit by being able to safely and efficiently commute between islands to attend family and cultural events.

Now that all island airstrips in the Torres Strait have been sealed, the program is focusing on marine infrastructure and roads/drainage projects. During the year airstrip and marine upgrades proceeded with the planning of the Poruma Island Barge Replacement and site investigations and design for selected dredging works. Roads and drainage projects were also completed at Hammond and Mabuiag Islands.

By working with other programs such as the Heavy Equipment Management Training Program (HEMTP) and MIP, TIDS continues to have a substantial and beneficial impact on local employment and capacity building.

## Horn Island Airport Runway Extension

In order for larger and more efficient aircraft with increased capacity to be able to operate in and out of Horn Island (the central airport for the Torres Strait region), the main runway needs to be extended and its surface strengthened. The estimated cost for this work is approximately \$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. TSRA has agreed to contribute \$400,000 and the remainder will be raised by TSC.

Before TSC can commence this project, special tests must be carried out to ascertain the strength of the existing runway. This is necessary to determine what work needs to be done to bring the runway up to the standard required by the larger and more efficient aircraft (mainly the *Dash 8 Q400*). As these tests were not completed by 30 June 2008 this project will now commence in 2008–2009.

### Outlook for 2008–2009

It is anticipated that TSRA will continue TIDS contributions at approximately the current level (\$1.07 million) next year.

The following TIDS projects are due for completion during 2008–2009:

- St Pauls, Moa Island: Dolphin Facility
- Badu Island: Dolphin Facility
- Poruma Island: Barge Ramp Replacement
- St Pauls, Moa Island: Roads and Drainage
- Hammond Island: Town Roads and Drainage.

## 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 original parties to the Agreement were the Australian Government, the Queensland Government, the Island Coordinating Council (ICC) and the TSRA. The ICC became the Torres Strait Islands Regional Council (TSIRC) on 15 March 2008.

Clause 9 of the Agreement provides for a Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee (JTSHIC) with a membership of one Australian Government representative, two Queensland Government representatives, one TSRA representative, and one ICC (now TSIRC) representative.

The TSRA provides Secretariat support for JTSHIC, and the incumbent TSRA Chairperson sits as JTSHIC Chairperson. A more strategic coordination of housing and infrastructure delivery that is consistent with recent Indigenous Affairs and Local Government reforms is currently being developed by JTSHIC. In addition, the TSRA is holding direct talks with the TSIRC with a view to developing a new regional housing strategy.

### Achievements

Four JTSHIC meetings were held during 2007–2008, and JTSHIC continued its valuable work in Housing and Infrastructure coordination and planning. The continued smooth and coordinated delivery of infrastructure in the region is largely due to the value added by the JTSHIC and MIP/HEMPT/O&M committees.



The TSRA, together with other JTSHI partners, is 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. It is hoped that the report will enable all stakeholders to move ahead with coordinated and effective measures to address regional Indigenous housing issues.

The TSIRC participated in the March and June JTSHIC meetings after its establishment on 15 March 2008. This has allowed JTSHIC to progress review plans and discussions. Also, the TSRA and the TSIRC have agreed to commence joint talks with a view to developing and promoting strategies to address current Indigenous housing issues.

### **Indigenous Home Ownership**

Another area of focus 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). One of the greatest impediments is the high cost of housing and housing finance issues which are influenced among other things by land availability, type of land tenure and land prices. Legislation passed by the Queensland Government in May 2008 introduced new land tenure provisions, including 99-year leases for housing and commercial purposes.

The TSRA is currently negotiating with the Torres Shire Council (TSC) to initiate a joint Indigenous home-ownership project on Horn Island. The TSC has an Indigenous Land Use Agreement on 30 hectares of land on the island which it wishes to use for community housing purposes. The subject was first raised at the TSC/TSRA Memorandum of Understanding meeting on 30 October 2007, and since then the TSRA and TSC have visited possible development sites on Horn Island and discussed options for progressing the initiative.

The TSRA is also working with the Queensland Department of Housing (DoH) in assisting Indigenous home buyers to purchase homes. This initiative improves coordination of the home-ownership programs of both agencies and uses TSRA housing loan assistance to help home buyers take advantage of DoH's shared housing equity program.

## **SUB PROGRAM: ASIAN TIGER MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT**

### **Objective**

This project 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, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) executed a Memorandum of Understanding to fund the Asian Tiger Mosquito Control Project.

This \$1.08 million project is being delivered by the TSIRC, who is working with Queensland Health to take measures to control the Asian Tiger Mosquito population in the region. FaHCSIA contributed \$880,000 (2006-2007) and the TSRA contributed \$200,000 (over 2006-2007 and 2007-2008). The project commenced in April 2007 and is expected to run until March 2009. The TSRA is also assisting through its MIP and the JTSHIC.

The TSIRC operates as the Project Manager and the sub-program is being administered in accordance with a strategy document that addresses control of the Asian Tiger Mosquito in the Torres Strait. The strategy was developed and is overseen by a Steering Committee involving the Government agencies of the TSRA; the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service; QBuild; the Department of Local Government, Sports and Recreation; the Department of Communities (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships); and the Department of Housing.

One of many health initiatives being delivered by Queensland Government agencies, this project has contributed to an increased awareness of the Asian Tiger Mosquito threat and improved preventative measures to control outbreaks of dengue fever.

### Achievements in 2007–2008

Activities carried out to date include training for community council Environmental Health Workers to help them identify and treat mosquito breeding areas, develop community mosquito management plans, repair rainwater tanks to prevent breeding, remove irreparable rainwater tanks, and develop a promotional DVD educating homeowners and tenants on mosquito control around the home. There have been no dengue outbreaks in the Torres Strait since this project was initiated.

### Outlook for 2008–2009

Sub-Program resources will be channelled into the completion of activities that commenced in 2007–2008, as well as funding future activities such as mosquito collection and analysis and the development of a standardised training and information resources for use by Outer Island Environmental Health Workers. It is anticipated that with the benefit of increased community awareness, these measures will continue to maintain the low incidence of dengue fever and other mosquito-borne diseases in the region.

## Case Study 1: Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure

<b>Title of Project:</b>	<b>Warraber Waste Pilot &amp; MIP Regional Waste Management Projects</b>
<b>Island:</b>	<b>Warraber Island</b>
<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Torres Strait Island Regional Council</b>

### Project Description

A significant issue facing each island community is the future management of solid waste. The ever-diminishing land available for solid waste landfills makes this an issue that some communities are already facing.

The primary objective of this project is to demonstrate sustainable waste management and maximise resource recovery on Warraber Island. This knowledge and experience can then be utilised throughout the entire Torres Strait region.

In February and March 2008, a waste audit was undertaken at Warraber, Boigu, Badu and Mer Islands. This involved the environmental health workers from each community, an officer from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and a waste management consultant.

This project is a good example of collaboration between Government and Community. The project is jointly funded by the Australian Government (Department of the Environment and Water Resources and the TSRA) and the Queensland Government (DLGSR and the EPA) together with the Warraber Island community. The project is being delivered through the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP).



*Monitoring waste for the Warraber Waste Pilot Project*

## Outlook

It is envisaged that the Warraber Waste Pilot and MIP Regional Waste Management Project will be the first in a roll out of projects as part of a comprehensive and effective Torres Strait regional waste management strategy.

## Case Study 2: Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure

<b>Title of Project:</b>	<b>Regional Water Metering Program</b>
<b>Island/Community:</b>	<b>All Torres Strait Island Communities</b>
<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Torres Strait Island Regional Council Engineering Services</b>

### Project Description

The supply of water to Torres Strait communities is rainfall-dependant and as a result most islands in the region struggle to achieve a reliable and sustainable water supply. In the past, low rainfall or excessive loss of water from the water-reticulation system has often led to importing water into communities and/or producing water through the desalination of seawater. There is a need to closely manage this critical and valuable resource and water metering has been introduced as a means of more efficiently managing island water resources.

The primary aim of the project was to install water meters in each house on the 15 Outer Islands, providing each community with the tools necessary to manage and monitor water usage, calculate individual household consumption, and identify system leakages.



The \$1.125 million project was run through the Major Infrastructure Program which is jointly funded by the TSRA and the DLGSR. Contracts to install the water meters were awarded to several Island Councils (Iama, St Pauls, Mer, Hammond, Badu, Erub and Masig) and to the private contractor Trinity Developments.

**Achievements**

Delivery of the metering program has resulted in more sustainable water management practices being used across the Torres Strait. Evidence of this can be found in a significant reduction in overall water usage figures and the lowering of individual water consumption by identifying and repairing leaks. The project has also contributed to capacity building for several Island communities and provided valuable employment and experience for a number of Indigenous workers.

**Outlook**

Benefits to the communities will include improved health outcomes through better managed reticulated water supplies; improved social outcomes in knowing that water supplies are more sustainable; and improved economic outcomes through lower volumes of water being required in general and a reduction in the cost of emergency water.

Case Study 3: Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure

Title of Project:	Replacement of Berthing Dolphins at Outer Island Barge Ramps Project
Island/Community:	Erub, Kubin, Warraber, Iama, Hammond (all current); St Pauls, Badu, Mabuiag, Boigu (all commencing 2008); and Saibai, Masig, Poruma, Dauan, Ugar (all commencing 2010)
Applicant:	Queensland Transport with local Torres Strait Outer Island communities and TSIRC

## Project Description

This project arose as a response to the recommendations of the *Torres Strait Transport Infrastructure Plan of 2006*. This Plan was an initiative of Queensland Transport and the TSRA and is part of a strategy aimed at improving access and transportation facilities to the isolated outer island communities of the region. It also serves to improve the communities' quality of life through access to barge services which carry the bulk of the regions food and building supplies.

This multi-million dollar project is jointly funded by TSRA and the Queensland Department of Transport. The project involves the replacing of berthing dolphins at barge ramps of fourteen outer island communities. Current works during 2008 are nearing completion on Erub, Kubin, Warraber, Iama and Hammond Islands at a total project cost of \$2.8 million. The next group of communities to benefit will be St Pauls, Badu, Mabuiag and Boigu in late 2008. These communities will be followed by Saibai, Masig, Iama, Dauan, and Ugar Islands commencing in 2010.

## TSRA Assistance

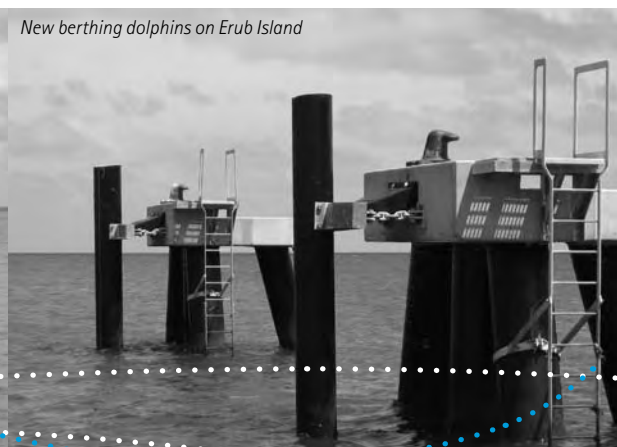
The TSRA is a joint sponsor with the Department of Main Roads under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) program. TSRA have contributed \$1.4 million to the dolphin project from 2004-2005 to 2006-2007, and committed \$400,000 this year as a contribution towards early purchasing of piles and fenders which have a long lead manufacturing time.

## Achievements

The Erub, Kubin, Warraber, Iama and Hammond Island communities now have improved dolphins at the barge ramps contributing to safer more reliable barge freight services.

## Outlook

The berthing dolphin replacement will continue to provide substantial outcomes and improvements in the quality of life for the Indigenous people of the region. The project also constitutes a good example of the importance of strategic planning and the need for a guide, such as the Torres Strait Transport Infrastructure Plan, for longer term direction and investment in costly infrastructure.



## 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 seven programs as outlined below:

1. Municipal Support
2. Broadcasting
3. Social Justice
4. Heritage and Culture
5. Environment
6. Sports
7. Social Support (Youth, 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
- Funding or contributing to the funding of the construction of community amenities, buildings, essential services and temporary accommodation.

#### Funding

In 2007-2008, the TSRA committed \$1,266,167 as a contribution to the operations of former Island Councils, \$260,000 towards the operational costs of the former Island Co-ordinating Council (ICC), \$105,380 for two non-Council organisations previously running CDEP programs, \$660,000 as the Australian Government contribution to the joint Australian/Queensland Government Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program (HEMTP) and \$71,516 in accounting costs to enable the timely acquittal of TSRA's 2006-2007 grants to former Island Councils, previously delayed due to the late certification of accounts by the Queensland Audit Office. An additional \$670,987 was committed for the purchase of vehicles and machinery.

## 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 the 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 \$660,000 in 2007-2008 to the former Island Co-ordinating Council. HEMTP is a joint initiative involving the Queensland Department of Main Roads, DLGPSR and the TSRA and provides a plant pool of heavy equipment and machinery for use in earthworks and road construction. 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).

\$71,516 was spent completing audits of all 2006-2007 TSRA grants to Island Councils, thereby allowing the timely acquittal and disposal of surplus funds.

\$670,987 was granted to the following former Island Councils to allow them to purchase vehicles and machinery:

Council	Amount (\$)
Badu Island	43,000
Bamaga Island	60,000
Boigu Island	57,000
Dauan Island	36,000
Erub Island	177,000
Kubin Island	51,000
Poruma Island	55,987
Saibai Island	65,000
Masig Island	126,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>670,987</b>

## PROGRAM – HEAVY EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM (HEMTP)

### Description

HEMTP is an initiative of the Department of Main Roads' (DMR) Remote Communities Services Unit (RCSU) which undertakes routine maintenance works on a two year rolling program and provides a plant pool of heavy equipment and machinery and supervision for minor capital works projects. The Program is jointly funded by the Department of Main Roads, Department of Local Government, Sports and Recreation (DLGSR) and the TSRA. For 2007-2008 all three agencies including TSRA contributed \$660,000 each.



HEMTP and the Torres Strait Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) coordinate their projects where possible and the joint MIP/HEMTP projects listed in the table below are examples of these partnerships. HEMTP also works closely with the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) on a number of these projects (*see Output Four for reports on MIP and TIDS*).

Projects on each island are scheduled into the HEMTP program and equipment and machinery are delivered to each island as needed. At the end of each project the machinery and RCSU are moved to the next project. HEMTP has provided substantial skills development, training and employment for local people throughout the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

HEMTP complements other infrastructure construction and maintenance projects in the region and is a substantial contributor to regional employment and training.

### Achievements of the 2007–2008 HEMTP Program

The HEMTP program for 2007–2008 was as follows:

Community	Project
Warraber	Maintenance
Masig	Maintenance
Mabuiag	Maintenance
Kubin	Drainage (with MIP)
St Pauls	Road and Drainage (with MIP)
Ugar	Road Upgrade (with MIP)
Hammond*	Town Street Sealing (with MIP)
Dauan	Sports Field Upgrade
Saibai	Maintenance & Waste Management Facility Road (with MIP)
Poruma	Maintenance
Iama	Maintenance
Seisia	Maintenance
Bamaga	Maintenance
Badu	Maintenance
Mabuiag	Roads and Drainage (with MIP)
Erub	Maintenance
Mer	Maintenance
Boigu	Maintenance

\*The Hammond Roads Upgrade and Town Streets Project is nearing completion. It was jointly funded by: the Hammond Island Council (now TSIRC) - \$100,000, MIP - \$600,000, DMR/TIDS - \$600,000 and the TSRA - \$300,000.



### Outlook for 2008-2009

For the fiscal year 2008-2009, it is anticipated that the the TSRA will continue to contribute towards the HEMTP program.

The following HEMTP projects (including those projects commenced but not completed in 2007-2008) are due for completion during 2008-2009:

Community	Project	Completion Date
Hammond	Town Street Sealing (with MIP & TIDS)	23 August 2008
Saibai	Dump Road (with MIP)	4 October 2008
	Maintenance	7 September 2008
	School sports oval upgrade	1 November 2008
Boigu	Maintenance	7 September 2008
Mabuiag	Maintenance Roads and Drainage Works	15 March 2009
Erub	Maintenance	7 April 2009
Warraber	Maintenance	29 April 2009
Poruma	Maintenance	29 April 2009
Masig	Maintenance	7 April 2009

## PROGRAM – BROADCASTING

### Objective

To provide Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people of the Torres Strait region access to 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 \$608,311 were allocated to the Torres Strait Islander Media Association (TSIMA) for operational and community broadcasting costs and achieved 100% disbursement. The TSRA also supported 16 BRACS units through untied contributions to the operating expenses of former 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 2007-2008.

The BRACS schemes are utilised based on individual island's needs. Some communities use 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 \$549,215 under this Program during 2007-2008 for the provision of a legal service to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region and 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) and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Legal Services (ATSICLS). \$218,120 was granted to TSNP, and \$331,095 to ATSICLS for their operating expenses.

In 2007-2008, the TSRA funded services gave preliminary legal advice, consultations, legal support and representation to 660 clients, including 55 civil cases and 605 criminal cases. They also handled 11 brief-outs and 22 referrals. They gave representation to a total of 605 defendants facing a total of 911 charges.

## **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.



Photography: Susan Reilly 2007

Staff of the Gab Titui Cultural Centre displaying three years of awards from Tourism Queensland as winner of the Indigenous Tourism Award for 2005, 2006 and 2007

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 art, culture and history to the wider Australian and global community.

Grantee	Project	Contribution (\$)
Mura Kosker	Ali Drummond Book Launch	1,443
TSC	Ariu Panipan - Pacific Arts Festival	7,500
Mabuiag	Travel to Yorke	3,180
St Pauls	Travel to Yorke	5,000
NPARC - Bamaga	Berlibal Dance Troupe Fiji Tour	15,000
TSIRC	Betty Tekahika - Mer Mabo Day	5,800
Mabuiag	Dance Team Perth travel	9,000
Kubin	David Bosun travel New Mexico	5,000
Mura Kosker	Deep Sea Dancers for Mabo Day on Mer	15,000

Grantee	Project	Contribution (\$)
TSIRC	Djarragun College NZ Tour	7,000
TSIRC	Dowar Day Celebrations (Mer)	2,000
Saibai	Film makers' travel to Saibai	2,467
Sacred Heart	Gold Coast Trip	5,000
TSRA	Incidentals	500
TSRA	Incidentals	1,477
TRAWQ	Gab Titui Trainees	31,858
TISHS	Jazz Musicians	3,000
TSY&RSA	Kaiwalagal Junior Rugby League	10,000
TSY&RSA	Kaiwalagal Rugby League Cairns trip	10,000
Sacred Heart	Literacy Competition Awards in Brisbane	2,000
TSIRC - Mer	Mabo Day Celebrations	7,000
TSIRC	Maluwap Nona travel to Perth NT Conference	5,420
TISHS	Model Car project	500
TSRA	Music Audit - Pegasus Variation	10,000
Seisia	Office opening - 20 year anniversary	10,000
Ugar	Seriako Stephen travel to Brisbane	1,500
St Pauls	Torres Strait Railway Conference	3,000
Erub	Travel - Telstra Awards	10,000
Sacred Heart	Visual Arts Program	8,000
Erub	Zogo Stones	5,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>202,645</b>

## THE GAB TITUI CULTURAL CENTRE

Gab Titui Cultural Centre was established in 2004 as a gallery for local and visiting artists to exhibit their works and currently has an operating staff of seven people. In 2005 a Torres Strait Arts Development Officer was established at TSRA and that position is housed at the centre as well.

The Gab Titui Cultural Centre is a facility that supports the retrieval, maintenance and evolution of a unique Torres Strait cultural identity. Through the Centre's cultural program, Torres Strait Islander people are further connected to the land and sea of the Torres Strait. This is demonstrated through the cultural practices in dance, music, song and language and through the display of artefacts and a great variety of artworks. The Gab Titui Cultural Centre has supported over 70 Torres Strait artists in developing their practice and careers. To date over 34,000 visitors have had the opportunity to engage with the Torres Strait culture through the cultural tourism program.

### Funding

In 2007-2008, the TSRA committed a total of \$202,654 for the support of artistic and cultural activities in the Torres Strait region, achieving 100% expenditure.

## Achievements

The last year saw an array of diverse and unique exhibitions held at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre, including:

- "Kin and Country": touring exhibition of West Coast Cape artists
- "Bits and Pieces": works on paper by Kathryn Norris
- GTCC's 4th Birthday: including the "Bipotaim: Stories from the Torres Strait" exhibition and return of the Goeysa Thithuy Sailing Canoe
- "Culture Cult Clan": Contemporary headdresses by Janice Peacock
- "Kuniya Tidi": Dhari exhibition by George Nona
- 2008 Gab Titui Cultural Centre's Inaugural Indigenous Art Award.

Numerous workshops, skills development classes and community events were held at the Cultural Centre to further the awareness of culture and art in the region and to educate the community in these areas. Events included:

- A lino printing children's workshop
- A copyright workshop for Indigenous arts at Murray, Erub and Thursday Islands held by Arts Law and Viscopy
- Janice Peacock workshops for primary and secondary students
- Janice Peacock contemporary art workshop for adult artists, involving six artists from five communities
- Holiday workshops pastel techniques by Kathryn Norris and carnival mask making by Gab Titui staff
- Ghost net weaving with Chantel Cordey
- An Indigenous film festivalon tour by the Australian Film Commission
- Martin Nakata's book launch: "Disciplining the Savages, Savaging the Disciplines".

The Cultural Centre also conducted two cultural maintenance projects: a Music and Dance Audit in which Karl Neuenfeldt documented dance, songs and stories from four communities in the Torres Strait to be released on CD/DVD in late 2008; and the Referendum Project which resulted in the exhibition 'Bipotaim (before time) – Stories from the Torres Strait' displayed in the Ephraim Bani Gallery. The exhibition represented 75 community members from four different communities within the Torres Strait and, together with a publication and 45 minute video, gave a first-hand record of the emotions, hardships, triumphs and changes experienced by our communities, and their recollections of the past, their achievements today, and their aspirations for the future.



*The dance group Arpaka Dance Company perform at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre's fourth birthday*

The Gab Titui Gift Shop remains a major draw card for the Centre. It has been extended and continues to do well, even outside the tourist season. Over 30 artists and craftspeople currently sell their pieces of artwork through the gallery shop.

This year, the Gab Titui Cultural Centre continued its impressive performance in Indigenous tourism, winning the 2007 Queensland Tourism Awards for Indigenous Tourism for the third year in a row and gaining entry into the Award's Hall of Fame. It also became a finalist in the Australian Tourism Awards for Indigenous Tourism.

### The Inaugural Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award

The inaugural Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award was opened on 16 May 2008. The Award was the first attempt at gathering a thorough representation of artwork from each of the island communities of the Torres Strait. Considering that the Torres Strait is made up of at least 274 small islands, with 17 different communities distributed across an area of 48,000km, and extending over 200km east to west, this was a real challenge. Many artists were exhibiting for the first time and learning the preparatory aspects of putting their work into a professional setting within the Gab Titui Cultural Centre gallery. Despite these considerable challenges the planning was done in only 12 months.

The Indigenous Art Award was a motivating experience for Torres Strait artists, providing them with a project to work towards and giving them vital professional experience in exhibition protocols. It was a resounding success with 15 of the 17 Torres Strait communities represented by 53 individual artists, making this exhibition one of the most comprehensive shows of Torres Strait art and craft ever shown. The exhibition had a strong representation from the art centres within the Torres Strait, including Erub Erwer Meta (Darnley Island Art and Craft) and the Mualgau Minaral Artists Collective (Kubin Art Centre). There was also a strong contribution from the smaller artists groups from Saibai, Iama, and Mer Islands.

The work submitted incorporated many different artforms including pearl shell carvings, weaving, shell jewellery, lino prints, paintings, pastel drawings, sculpture, screen printing and mosaic. The artists had varying backgrounds and experience giving a true cross section of the artists that represent the Torres Strait today. This includes established artists such as Rosie Barkus and Alick Tipoti, mid career artists such as Stanley Laifoo, emerging artists such as the Waigana brothers and William Akee, as well as student work.



*The dance group Arpaka Dance Company perform at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre's fourth birthday*

The judges for the prizes and commendations were Keith Munro, curator of Indigenous Contemporary Art, Museum of Contemporary Art, NSW, and Jesse Sagaukaz, TSRA's previous Portfolio Member for Employment, Education, Training and the Arts. George Serras, Senior Photographer at Australian National Museum (ANM), photographed all the artwork for the catalogue as part of an agreement between the TSRA and the ANM.

### The Gab Titui Cultural Centre Development Plan

The Gab Titui Cultural Centre continues to work in partnership with the Torres Strait Arts Development Officer to implement best practice and development of opportunities for Torres Strait artists and cultural practitioners. The following projects have been implemented to align with the ten year Torres Strait Arts Development Plan:

- Gab Titui Indigenous Art Awards
- Skills development opportunities for artists and craftspeople
- Art Materials Project: the Gab Titui Cultural Centre received funding through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Board of the Australia Council for the Arts to sell art materials at a subsidised rate to Indigenous Artists, which also facilitated the employment of an Indigenous employee to run the project.

## Case Study: Culture and Heritage

<b>Title of Project:</b>	<b>Bipotaim – Stories from the Torres Strait</b>
<b>Island/Community:</b>	<b>Masig, Saibai, St Pauls and Thursday Island</b>
<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>The Gab Titui Cultural Centre</b>

### Project Description

'Bipotaim' means 'before time', and is a cultural maintenance project that shares the personal stories of Torres Strait Islanders, particularly their experiences leading up to and after the historic Referendum of 1967.

The Referendum was a pivotal point in Australia's democratic history. It resulted in the nation's Indigenous people being recognised as citizens of Australia, giving Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people the right to vote and enjoy the same privileges as their non-Indigenous neighbours.

In November 2007, the Gab Titui Cultural Centre commissioned photographer David Callow to document the stories of four island communities recounting their experiences 40 years ago in the period of the Referendum.

The result is an exhibition of portraits of the participating people representing their community and their views, a 45 minute video of the interviews, and a publication incorporating the photographic portraits and comments by the participants.

### TSRA Assistance

This project was wholly funded, produced and managed by the TSRA staff at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre.

The work was executed by David Callow who said that the brief anecdotal memoirs offer a rich insight into the lives and culture of the Torres Strait people.



"Their thoughts and words offer a living memory, which will be sustained for centuries and is reminiscent of the traditional story teller," said Mr Callow.

### Achievements

This project provides a first hand account of a pivotal event that took place 40 years ago. It records the emotions, hardships, triumphs and changes experienced by Torres Strait communities, together with their recollections of the past, their achievements today, and their aspirations for the future.

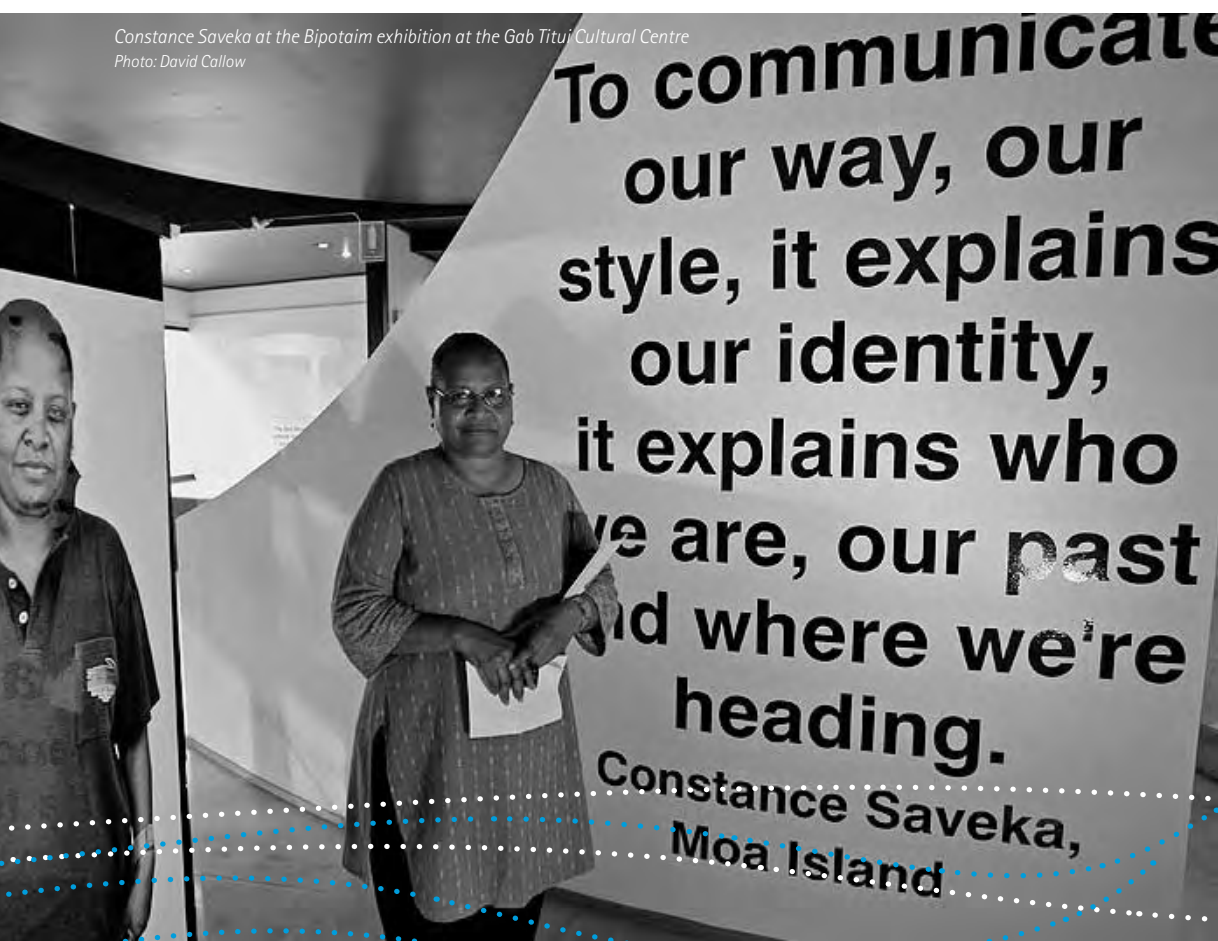
Seventy five people participated in this project and more than a thousand people from communities all over the Torres Strait and beyond came to see it. The exhibition gave everyone, young and old, an opportunity to share a time past.

Consultations with the communities preceded all the interviews and took place throughout the whole nine months of the project. Consultation was imperative while working with the community to ensure that cultural sensitivities were taken into account and that the communities actively involved in the project, particularly considering that the subjects touched on were so significant in the history of the Torres Strait Islander people.

### Outlook

The Queensland State Library has requested to have the exhibition on loan to tour throughout the state in 2009. The success of this project has encouraged the Gab Titui Cultural Centre staff to conduct similar projects in the future where the communities are engaged in telling their stories and are able to use the Cultural Centre to share their experiences.

*Constance Saveka at the Bipotaim exhibition at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre  
Photo: David Callow*







## INDIGENOUS REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund (IRADF) is a joint initiative between the TSRA and Arts Queensland and was established to build the skills and economic independence of Indigenous artists in the region. The grants are offered twice a year and are for one-off, short term projects that offer professional arts, cultural and heritage opportunities and it is hoped that they will help broaden the wider Australian community's awareness of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal arts and culture.

TSRA twice matched \$25,000 contributions received from Arts Queensland to create a pool of \$100,000 for Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund (IRADF) projects. Differences in funding years between the two organisations resulted in 45% expenditure, with the remaining money rolled over into the next year. Successful applications for the 2007-2008 Torres Strait IRADF included:

Applicant	Project	Community	Budget (\$)
James Passi	Local artist	Port Kennedy	5,000
Patrick Levi	Local musician	St Pauls	18,650
Rosie Barkus	Fabric artist	Port Kennedy	6,000
Erub Community	Arts & Crafts Workshop	Erub Island	5,350
Saibai Community	Arts & Crafts Workshops	Saibai Island	10,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>45,000</b>

## THE LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT UNIT

The TSRA was invited by Australian and Queensland Government Ministers to manage the delivery of natural resource management programs in the Torres Strait in 2005. In 2006, the TSRA established a Land and Sea Management Unit (LSMU) to coordinate these functions. The Unit is now comprised of nine staff members and is supporting the delivery of regional and local level land and sea management initiatives, including assisting communities to access additional financial and technical support and information about the sustainable management of their environments.

The objective of LSMU is 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*.

### Funding

During the 2007-2008 financial year, the LSMU coordinated the delivery of a range of land and sea initiatives through a combination of funding sources, including \$2,280,309 from the Natural Heritage Trust and National Landcare Programs; \$441,800 from the North Australian Indigenous Land & Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA); \$250,000 from the TSRA appropriation; \$121,000 from the Marine & Tropical Science Research Facility (MTSRF); and \$59,617 from the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA). In-kind support from the Queensland Government has also been negotiated.

The source and amount of funding allocated towards particular land and sea projects for the 2007-2008 financial year are set out in the table below.

Communities Involved	Project	Budget 07/08	Source of Funds
All	Core Operating Funding (for continued operations of the Land & Sea Management Unit)	\$550,484	NHT
All	Regional Natural Resource Management Facilitator	\$59,617	DEWHA
All	Regional Landcare Officer	\$56,625	NLP
All	Landcare Administrative Support	\$5,000	NLP
All	Community Liaison Officer	\$50,000 \$40,000	TSRA MTSRF
All	Integrated Report Card Project	\$66,000	MTSRF
All	Information Management Project	\$30,000	NHT
All	Land & Sea Management Training & Capacity Building Project	\$124,000	NHT
Boigu, Saibai, Dauan, Erub, Masig, Iama Islands	Sustainable Land Use Planning Project	\$1,100,000	NHT
Central and Top Western	Coastal Management Program	\$150,000	TSRA

Iama Island	Coastal Erosion Impacts Project	\$100,000	NHT
Badu, Boigu, Iama, Mer, Erub, Saibai, St Pauls, Horn Islands	Dugong & Marine Turtle Management Project	\$441,800	NHT
Various	Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate Capacity Building Project	\$86,100	NHT
Erub, Mer and Masig Islands	Landcare Project	\$30,500	NLP
Horn and Hammond Islands	Marine Debris Project	\$145,100	NHT
Badu Island	Badu Island Land and Sea Management Program	\$52,500 \$10,000	NHT DEWR
Masig Island	Sponge Aquaculture Project	\$15,000 \$50,000	MTSRF TSRA

The Natural Heritage Trust and National Landcare Programs have now been replaced by the new Australian Government Caring for our Country program, which will be a primary source of funding for program delivery in the future.

The TSRA Board has recently approved a TSRA allocation of \$1.1 million towards the ongoing operations of the Land & Sea Management Unit, including staffing costs. This will ensure greater continuity in terms of program delivery and improved coordination of land and sea management initiatives throughout the region. External program funds will still be essential to enable regional, local and on-ground projects to occur with the support of the Unit's staff.

## 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* under the new Caring for our Country program, as well as other government and non-government funding sources and programs, including research programs.

This Strategy forms the framework for the delivery of land and sea management initiatives 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 over twenty 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 undertaking local land and sea management activities through the engagement of project officers and rangers; 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 works in collaboration with a range of partner entities based in and outside 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.

Queensland and Australian Government Ministers have recently approved a suite of proposals submitted by the TSRA for funding under the Caring for our Country program during the 2008-2009 transitional year. These projects will enable the continuation and expansion of successful initiatives rolled out over the previous two years of the Unit's operation. The transitional funding will also be used to build the capacity of new regional organisations, such as the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, to become effective partners for the delivery of land and seas projects.

One key initiative to be rolled out in coming years is a regional Indigenous Ranger program, which will be critical to the future successful delivery of local, on-ground projects in the region, as well as the implementation of community-based Dugong & Turtle Management Plans.

### Achievements

Over the previous two years, the TSRA Land & Sea Management Unit has become fully operational and well integrated within the TSRA organisational structure. Land and Sea Management has now been included as a dedicated Output area under the Torres Strait Development Plan, and the Land & Sea Management Unit's operating and staffing costs are now to be funded out of the TSRA budget appropriation, enabling more external funding to be directed towards program delivery.

There is growing interest, enthusiasm and engagement 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 in and outside the region for land and sea initiatives currently underway and proposed for the region.

The Land & Sea Management Unit has initiated several processes that have now been taken up by partner agencies and applied as blueprint approaches across the region. Examples include the Dugong & Turtle Management Project and Sustainable Land Use Planning Project.

## Case Study 1: Land & Sea Management

<b>Title of Project:</b>	<b>Sustainable Land Use Planning</b>
<b>Islands:</b>	<b>Boigu, Saibai, Dauan, Erub, Masig, Iama Islands</b>
<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Conics Pty Ltd and 3D Environmental</b>

### Project Description

This project aims to enable Torres Strait communities to understand the impacts of development and to plan for the sustainable management of their islands into the future by:

- Identifying the islands' cultural and environmental assets
- Guiding the development of the islands under Council control
- Moderating development in line with available infrastructure and need
- Managing the pace and location of development on the islands

- Allowing Council to respond to land use demands in line with an agreed plan
- Guiding Council and supporting agencies in relation to development that is within the acceptable ecological footprint and carrying capacity of the islands
- Providing clarity in respect to future development on the islands for all stakeholders, including Australian and State government agencies and entities.

### TSRA Assistance

The Sustainable Land Use Planning Project was endorsed by the TSRA Board as the highest priority regional-scale project nominated for implementation with Natural Heritage Trust funding.

The Land and Sea Management Unit is supporting the delivery of this project by providing overall coordination and liaison between the project teams, participating communities and relevant agencies, including the Torres Strait Island Regional Council and Major Infrastructure Program partners.

### Achievements

The Sustainable Land Use Planning Project has resulted in six communities being supported to develop sustainable land use plans addressing a range of issues of concern, including the availability of water to support growing populations, waste management issues, erosion, inundation and landslide prone areas, cultural heritage impacts and impacts of development on fragile habitats. The project has also involved the mapping of regional ecosystems and the identification of eight new regional ecosystems.

### Outlook

In recognition of the importance of land use planning, and the success of the project approach to date, funding has been identified under the Major Infrastructure Program for the expansion of the project to the development of land use plans in all remaining Torres Strait communities. The maps and datasets associated with the plans developed under this project will also be used to inform a future statutory planning process.

## Case Study 2: Land & Sea Management

<b>Title of Project:</b>	<b>Dugong &amp; Turtle Management Project</b>
<b>Islands:</b>	<b>Badu, Mabuiag, Boigu, Mer, Erub, Iama, and Horn Islands, and St Pauls community on Moa Island</b>
<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>North Australian Indigenous Land &amp; Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)</b>

### Project Description

The primary objective of this cross-regional project is to empower Indigenous communities as decision makers and managers and to move towards sustainable community-based management approaches for dugongs and turtles.

The key components of the Torres Strait Dugong & Turtle Management Project include:

- The development of community-based management plans
- Community-based monitoring programs

- Catch-sharing arrangements
- Community education and awareness-raising.

### TSRA Assistance

A total of \$1.04 million in funding has been successfully obtained by the TSRA in order to deliver the project. A Regional Facilitator and Project Liaison Officer are employed within the TSRA's Land & Sea Management Unit to coordinate the implementation of the project and Project Officers have been employed by the Councils of the participating islands to facilitate the development of plans and to carry out local monitoring and management activities.

### Achievements

All eight communities engaged in the project have now been supported to develop plans for the sustainable management of dugongs and turtles. These community-based plans integrate a range of cultural hunting protocols and traditional knowledge with contemporary fisheries management strategies. Some proposed management arrangements include seasonal closures, gear restrictions, closed areas, effort reduction, limits on take, compulsory sharing, and permit systems. The plans also propose ways in which research and development priorities, and education and training needs can be addressed, as well as enforcement and compliance processes.

### Outlook

The Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) has agreed that community-based management of the Torres Strait Dugong and Turtle Fisheries is required to support sustainable management and use of the species and has supported the TSRA's implementation of community based initiatives under the Torres Strait component of the project.

Fisheries management agencies and other partners are now supporting TSRA in its efforts to secure ongoing funding for the implementation of the plans, including the establishment of a Regional Ranger Program.



*Performing a turtle population survey on Tudu Island*

## PROGRAM – SPORT

### Objective

To promote the social and physical wellbeing of the Indigenous peoples of the Torres Strait region and the development of a positive self-image through increased access to and participation in recreational and sporting activities.

### Description

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

### Funding

\$1,145,736 was rolled over from 2006-2007 to 2007-2008 to link in with the State program and, together with new funding of \$439,708, the TSRA committed a total of \$1,585,444 under this program. 56.1% expenditure was achieved, with 35.6% being rolled over to next year and 8.3% de-committed due to the liquidation of grantee TRAWQ Community Council Inc.

### Achievements

Funding of \$419,708 was provided in 2007-2008 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 43 separate sporting projects, including competition in track and field, volleyball, basketball, touch rugby, rugby league and women's rugby, as well as the purchase of various sporting equipment.

The Tamwoy Sports Courts Cover project was abandoned when Queensland Sports & Recreation withdrew joint funding following grantee TRAWQ Community Council Inc. going into liquidation. Funding from Regional Partnerships and TSRA remains committed to the Masig Community Hall, with construction due to commence before Christmas 2008. The Ugar Sports Facility project was completed, as has the Dauan Sports Oval, where surplus funding has been requested to enhance the project with spectator seating and an amenities block.

## PROGRAM – SOCIAL SUPPORT

### Objective

To ensure that the rights and wellbeing 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 centres for women, youth, the disabled and aged care. 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 2007-2008, the TSRA committed \$303,581 to this Program, achieving 100% expenditure.

Funding of \$154,841 was provided to the Port Kennedy Association (PKA) to assist in meeting the costs of their operations in delivering their programs.

A grant of \$148,240 was provided to the Mura Kosker Sorority for their administration costs.

A grant of \$45,281 to TRAWQ Community Council Inc for their Youth Activities Program had to be withdrawn when the organisation went into liquidation.

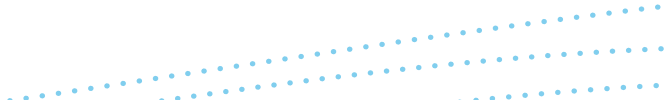
A minor grant of \$500 gave Thursday Island High School students the experience of applying for a grant and also enabled them to compete in a powered model car competition.

## 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's 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; dissemination of information for government departments and other community organisations; and regular community market days. A Social Worker program is operated under the Department of Child Safety and a vacation care program for school children is funded by the Australian Department of Families, Housing, 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 the Port Kennedy Association, has programs funded by other Australian and Queensland Government agencies, with their operating costs coming from the TSRA. These programs include, among others, Old Peoples Action Program (OPAP) and Emergency Relief Funding (ERF) and the organisation is a valuable resource centre for women, their children, and dependants.





## 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 Australian 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 the 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 the 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 unit's operational budget increased by more than 36 percent to \$300,000 this year to which the Australian and Queensland Fisheries contribute \$60,000 for the employment of the 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.

The table below summarises performance indicators in Marine and Fisheries:

Performance Indicator	Comments
Number of fisheries managed sustainably <sup>1</sup>	<p><b>Mackerel</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Finfish</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Prawn</b> The Torres Strait Prawn Fishery is regarded as being fully exploited at its current level of fishing.</p> <p><b>Trochus</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Crab</b> The most recent data suggest that the status of the crab stocks in the TSPZ is uncertain.</p> <p><b>Bech De Mer (BDM)</b> Sandfish, black "teat" or "teath" fish 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.</p> <p>Preliminary data from AFMA suggests that those species of BDM that are open to fishing are largely underutilised.</p>
Number of fisheries over-fished <sup>1</sup>	<p><b>Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL)</b> 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><i>Most Recent Catch Data (2005)</i> In 2005 Islander commercial fishers caught approximately 366 tonnes of lobster, while the non-Indigenous commercial fishing sector caught 524 tonnes of lobster. There is insufficient data available to assess the Tropical Rock Lobster fishing status in 2007-2008.</p> <p><b>Pearl</b> The abundance of pearl shell on fishing grounds is low, although there has been occasional recruitment to shell stocks in some places.</p>
Performance Indicator	Comments

1. The Spanish Mackerel, Reef Line (collectively making "Finfish") and the Tropical Rock Lobster Fisheries are moving to quota management to ensure future sustainability.

Percentage of the catch taken by Indigenous versus non-Indigenous in each Fishery (2007) <sup>2</sup>	<p><b>Mackerel</b> – Traditional Inhabitant Boat License (TIB) 3% - Transferable Vessel Holder (TVH) 97%.</p> <p><b>Coral Trout</b> - TIB 10% - TVH 90%.</p> <p><b>TRL</b> - TIB 44.6% - TVH 55.4%.</p> <p><b>Bech de Mer</b> - TIB 100% - TVH 0%.</p> <p><b>Trochus</b> - TIB 100% -TVH 0%.</p> <p><b>Pearl</b> - No activity from TIB &amp; TVH.</p> <p><b>Prawn</b> - TIB 0% -TVH 100% (No Islander involvement).</p>
Number of training courses provided to Indigenous fishers	An Australian Maritime College training course on 'Basic Fisheries Management Principals' provided to the Community Fisher Group in 2007.
Number of Fisheries Management Meetings attended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Fisher Group Meetings</li> <li>- Scientific Advisory Committee Meetings</li> <li>- Working Group Meetings (TRL, Prawn and Finfish)</li> <li>- Torres Strait Management Advisory Committee Meetings</li> <li>- Protected Zone Joint Authority</li> </ul>	1 PZJA Meeting. 1 PZJA Stakeholder Engagement . 2 x PZJA Standing Committee teleconference meetings. 1 Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee Meeting (TSFMAC). 1 Community Fisher Group Meeting. 2 x Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group Meetings. 2 x Finfish Working Group Meetings. 2 x Prawn Management Advisory Committee Meetings. 2 x Traditional Fisheries Dialogue Meetings (1x Teleconference). 2 x Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group Meetings. 1 x Hand Collectable Working Group Meeting.
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 was no complete catch data for 2006 or 2007.
Number of turtle and dugong Community Management Plans in place	The TSRA Land and Sea Management Unit has been working with eight communities to develop community management plans since 2006 and continued to do so in 2007-2008. 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 – 370. TRL – 349. Reef Line – 166. Spanish Mackerel – 185. Trochus – 110. Pearl Shell – 55. BDM – 73. Crab – 97.
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.

2. 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)

<b>Number of tonnes of catch taken by Indigenous fishers in each Fishery</b>	<p>Mackerel<sup>13</sup> – 3,179 kg (2007).  Coral Trout – 4,797 kg (2007).  Tropical Rock Lobster – 207,000 kg (2007).  Bech de Mer – 2007 (No official figures) 2005 – 7133 kg (Value in 2005 \$20,126).  Trochus – 8,500 kg (Value in 2007 \$34,000 assuming the mean price of \$4.00 per kilo).  Pearl Fishery – Catch data in 2007 remains confidential owing to the low level of participation in the Fishery.  Prawn Fishery – No Islander involvement.</p>
<b>Number of Fisheries-related TSRA business loans provided to Indigenous fishers</b>	<p>As at 30 June 2008:  Business loans: 3  Current value of BFS loans issued: \$245,941  Percentage of total TSRA business grants and loans directly for fishing-related enterprises:  Commercial fishing 88%  Seafood processing 1%</p>
<b>Number of foreign fishing vessels apprehended</b>	<p>There were 25 illegal foreign fishing vessels apprehended (10 Indonesian and 15 PNG) in the Torres Strait during 2007-2008.</p>

*Note: Data against performance indicators are not collected explicitly by the TSRA. Comments here are collected from a range of sources (particularly the AFMA 2005/06 Annual Report) and in some cases the figures are not for the year 2007-2008, although they are the most recent available.*

3. Data for Spanish mackerel, coral trout, Trochus, Bech de mer and TRL catch is from AFMA (2007)



*TSRA Chairperson, Mr John T Kris, meets with the Australian Government Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Tony Burke MP, and the Queensland Primary Industries Minister, the Hon Tim Mulherrin MP*

## 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 inhabitants and other officials, at the National, State and Provincial level. The TSRA continues to work closely with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to ensure Torres Strait participation continues at meetings of Traditional Inhabitants, Treaty Liaison, the Environmental Management Committee and the Joint Advisory Council.

## TORRES STRAIT HEALTH PARTNERSHIP FORUM

The Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum consists of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA), the Department of Health and Ageing, Queensland Health, the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC), the Torres Shire Council (TSC), the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC), the Health Community Council and the Queensland Ambulance Service.

The Health Framework Agreement that governs the Torres Strait Health Partnership (TSHP) and sets out the Partnership's strategic goals and objectives was signed during a special launch which took place on Thursday Island in July 2006. 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 confirmed the final phase of funding for the Asian Mosquito Prevention Project, under the Funding Agreement with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Part of the project has involved Q-Build, which has conducted dengue prevention works on the Outer Island communities. This involved screening of tanks, cleaning household gutters and destruction of old water tanks. The project will be completed on 30 April 2009.

The TSRA supported the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) to continue to donate refurbished Queensland Ambulance Emergency vehicles to Torres Strait islands in 2007-2008. This initiative will be completed once MOU's are agreed to by four more Island communities. The QAS Field Officer has provided vehicle and stretcher education to the communities who have received vehicles under the project.

The Torres Strait and NPA Regional Investment Strategy has been developed to provide the Australian Government with direction to inform investments until the Torres Strait and NPA Regional Health Plan is completed and endorsed by the TSHP. The TSHP Secretariat has responsibility for actively monitoring the progress of a sound regional plan which is to set the direction for the next five years for health. It is expected to be completed by December 2008 and will have the full endorsement of the TSHP.

### **Achievements for Objective 2**

#### *Torres Strait Development Plan*

The current Torres Strait Development Plan will expire in June 2009. The TSRA is in the process of developing a new plan

for 2009-2013. This process will involve extensive community consultation and information collection that will assist in forming the new 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

#### *Executive Services Section*

During 2007-2008, the TSRA Executive Services Section supported the TSRA Chairperson, Board Members and the General Manager to perform their functions as outlined in the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* and to achieve outcomes as directed by the TSRA Board.

Four Board Meetings were held during this period and eight Executive Committee Meetings were held in preparation for the Board Meetings.

Throughout this year, the Executive Services Section liaised with all sections of the TSRA and external agencies to provide 64 briefing papers and reports which resulted in the TSRA Board making 43 formal decisions. A total of 19 items of Ministerial correspondence were prepared for the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

### Achievements for Objective 2

#### *Public Affairs*

The TSRA provided information to the public in 2007-2008 using a number of mediums, including press releases, newsletters, website placements, advertising, and the production of promotional material.

A Public Affairs Officer is responsible for delivering this TSRA objective. During the past year, 15 media releases, 13 Chairperson's Columns published in the Torres News, 9 newsletters, 8 speeches and the 2006-2007 TSRA Annual Report were produced.

Pamphlets and promotional material were also produced focussing on:

- The TSRA Land and Sea Management Unit (newsletters, survey, articles)
- The TSRA Business Funding Scheme (pamphlet)
- The TSRA Community Business Forums
- TSRA promotional hats, polo shirts, wristbands, banner, notepads, pens and bags
- The TSRA elections on 17 May 2008 (posters)

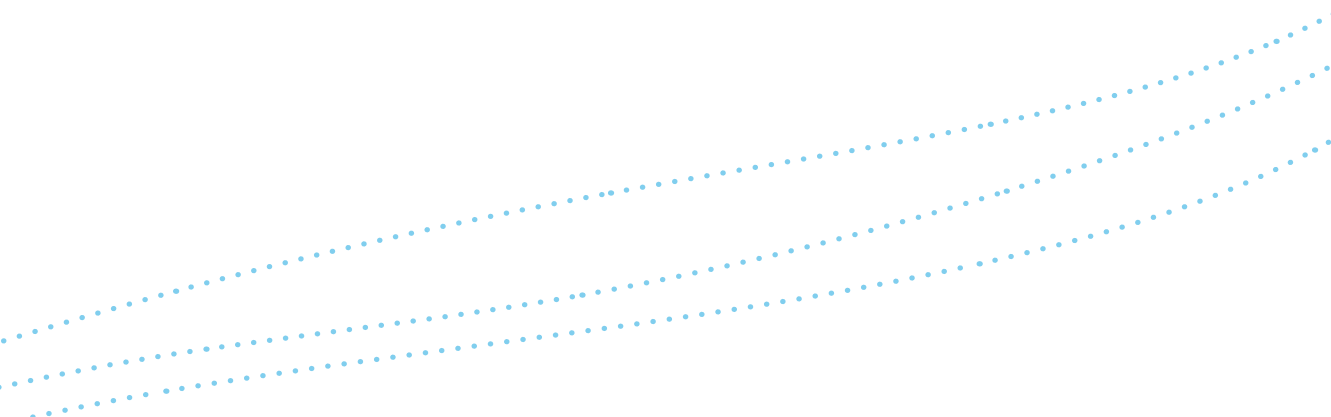
Public Affairs assisted in advertising and marketing of the Gab Titui Cultural Centre including drafting articles for submission to the local newspaper, a weekly advertisement in the Torres News, invitations and advertisements about exhibitions, workshops and the Café, and management of media involvement for the Centre's fourth birthday in April 2008.

All TSRA non-campaign press advertising is conducted through the Australian Government provider HMA Blaze. No campaign advertising was conducted in 2007-2008.

General enquiries from both the regional and mainstream media were attended to, as well as 166 information requests from the public via telephone, email, in person or mail.

The TSRA website ([www.tsra.gov.au](http://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. The new website was finalised in this financial year.

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](mailto:info@tsra.gov.au)) is also in use to further enhance communication between the public and the TSRA.





# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS







# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Families, Housing, 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 2008, which comprise: a Statement by the Directors and Chief Executive; Income Statement; Balance Sheet; Statement of Changes in Equity; Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Commitments; Schedule of Contingencies and Notes to and forming part of the financial statements, including a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

### *The Responsibility of the Chief Executive for the Financial Statements*

The Torres Strait Regional Authority's Chief Executive is 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*, including the Australian Accounting Standards (which include 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 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 Authority's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Authority's Chief Executive, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I 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 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*, including the Australian Accounting Standards; 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 2008 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Puspa Dash  
Acting Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra  
12 September 2008

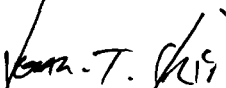
**STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTORS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2008 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 Torres Strait Regional 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

|| September 2008

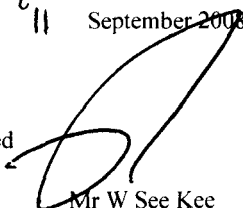
Signed



Ms N Bin Tahal  
Deputy Chairperson

|| September 2008

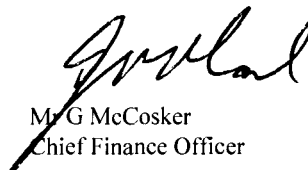
Signed



Mr W See Kee  
General Manager

|| September 2008

Signed



Mr G McCosker  
Chief Finance Officer

|| September 2008

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**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**INCOME STATEMENT**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2008**

	Notes	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
Revenue from Government	3A	51,540	54,948
Sale of goods and rendering of services	3B	865	1,157
Interest	3C	1,777	1,467
Other revenue	3D	20,648	2,702
<b>Total revenue</b>		<u>74,830</u>	<u>60,274</u>
<b>Gains</b>			
Sale of assets	3E	-	5
Reversals of previous asset write-downs	3F	76	35
<b>Total gains</b>		<u>76</u>	<u>40</u>
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>74,906</u>	<u>60,314</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Employee benefits	4A	5,580	4,973
Suppliers	4B	25,419	5,845
Grants	4C	40,438	46,573
Depreciation and amortisation	4D	448	564
Write-down and impairment of assets	4E	1,032	344
Loss on disposal of non-financial assets	4F	2	-
Other Expenses	4G	-	3
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<u>72,919</u>	<u>58,302</u>
<b>Surplus</b>		<u>1,987</u>	<u>2,012</u>

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

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**as at 30 June 2008**

	Notes	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Financial Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5A	16,255	17,196
Trade and other receivables	5B	6,278	5,449
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<u>22,533</u>	<u>22,645</u>
<b>Non-Financial Assets</b>			
Land and buildings	6A	17,434	16,479
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	6B	355	294
Heritage and Cultural Assets	6B	41	41
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<u>17,830</u>	<u>16,814</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u><u>40,363</u></u>	<u><u>39,459</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Payables</b>			
Suppliers	7A	492	121
Grants	7B	1,505	2,901
Other payables	7C	53	79
Income received in advance	7D	3,353	4,746
<b>Total payables</b>		<u>5,403</u>	<u>7,847</u>
<b>Provisions</b>			
Employee provisions	8A	1,332	1,213
<b>Total provisions</b>		<u>1,332</u>	<u>1,213</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>6,735</u>	<u>9,060</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><u>33,628</u></u>	<u><u>30,399</u></u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Contributed equity		32	32
Reserves		6,669	5,427
Retained surplus (accumulated deficit)		26,927	24,940
<b>Total Equity</b>		<u><u>33,628</u></u>	<u><u>30,399</u></u>
<b>Current Assets</b>		19,029	17,672
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		21,334	21,787
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		6,545	8,608
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		190	452

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



**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT of CHANGES in EQUITY**  
as at 30 June 2008

	Retained Earnings		Asset Revaluation Reserves		Contributed Equity/Capital		Total Equity	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Opening balance</b>								
Balance carried forward from previous period	24,940	22,928			32	32	30,399	27,965
<b>Income and expense recognised Directly in Equity</b>								
Income and expenses recognised Directly in Equity	-	-	1,242	422	-	-	1,242	422
<b>Sub-total income and expenses recognised Directly in Equity</b>								
Surplus for the period	-	-	1,242	422	-	-	1,242	422
<b>Total income and expenses</b>								
of which:	1,987	2,012	-	-	-	-	1,987	2,012
Attributable to the Australian Government	1,987	2,012	1,242	422	-	-	3,229	2,434
<b>Closing Balance attributable to the Australian Government</b>								
	26,927	24,940	6,669	5,427	32	32	33,628	30,399

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 2008**

	Notes	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Goods and services		18,931	3,492
Appropriations		51,540	54,948
Interest		1,699	1,296
Net GST received		3,950	6,148
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>76,120</b>	<b>65,884</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Employees		(5,461)	(4,905)
Suppliers		(25,953)	(5,928)
Loan payments		(87)	(49)
Grants		(46,016)	(53,214)
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>(77,517)</b>	<b>(64,096)</b>
<b>Net cash flows from (used by) operating activities</b>	9	<b>(1,397)</b>	<b>1,788</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Loan receipts		1,039	1,694
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		1	5
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,699</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Loan payments		(363)	(155)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(221)	(145)
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>(584)</b>	<b>(300)</b>
<b>Net cash flows from (used by) investing activities</b>		<b>456</b>	<b>1,399</b>
<b>Net increase or (decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>(941)</b>	<b>3,187</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		17,196	14,009
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	5A	<b>16,255</b>	<b>17,196</b>

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

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS**  
as at 30 June 2008

	<b>2008</b>	2007
<b>BY TYPE</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Commitments receivable</b>		
Sublease rental income	(853)	(762)
GST recoverable on commitments	(30)	(60)
<b>Total commitments receivable</b>	<b>(883)</b>	<b>(822)</b>
<b>Operating lease commitments payable</b>		
Operating leases	572	97
Project commitments	-	568
<b>Total other commitments</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>665</b>
<b>Net commitments by type</b>	<b>(311)</b>	<b>(157)</b>
<b>BY MATURITY</b>		
<b>Commitments receivable</b>		
<b>Operating lease income</b>		
One year or less	(171)	(152)
From one to five years	(682)	(610)
<b>Total operating lease income</b>	<b>(853)</b>	<b>(762)</b>
<b>Other commitments receivable</b>		
One year or less	(30)	(60)
<b>Total other commitments receivable</b>	<b>(30)</b>	<b>(60)</b>
<b>Operating lease commitments payable</b>		
One year or less	245	65
From one to five years	327	32
<b>Total operating lease commitments payable</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Other Commitments</b>		
One year or less	-	568
<b>Total other commitments</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>568</b>
<b>Net Commitments by Maturity</b>	<b>(311)</b>	<b>(157)</b>

NB: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:

**Commitments Receivable**

The TSRA 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 and residential accommodation**

Lease payments exist for office accommodation. One lease has a fixed rate for the term of the lease, which has a current expiry of 19 September 2008 with no option available for extension. A second office lease increases at CPI each year and is for a period of 4 years with an option to extend for 1 additional year.

The TSRA currently leases 5 houses for staff accommodation. This is a necessary activity given the geographic location and housing availability in the Torres Strait. Lease terms range from 1 year to 4 years with varying expiry dates. One lease has the option to extend for 1 further year.

**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 TSRA. There are no contingent rentals and no renewal or purchase options are available to the TSRA.

**Leases for information and communication technology equipment**

Leases are in place for telephone systems and standard office equipment for operating activities of the TSRA. 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.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES**  
as at 30 June 2008

Contingent assets	Guarantees		Land and Buildings		TOTAL	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance from previous period	-	-	-	-	-	-
New	-	-	800	-	800	-
Re-measurement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assets crystallised	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expired	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Contingent Assets</b>	-	-	800	-	800	-
Contingent liabilities	Guarantees		Land and Buildings		TOTAL	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance from previous period	116	116	-	-	116	116
New	-	-	-	-	-	-
Re-measurement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liabilities crystallised	-	-	-	-	-	-
Obligations expired	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Contingent Liabilities</b>	116	116	-	-	116	116
<b>Net Contingent Assets (Liabilities)</b>					684	(116)

Details of each class of contingent liabilities and contingent assets, including those not included above because they cannot be quantified, are disclosed in Note 10: Contingent Liabilities and Assets.

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

## TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2008

### Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### 1.1 Objectives of the Torres Strait Regional Authority

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 (TSRA) in its present form and with its present program is dependent on Government policy and on continuing appropriations by Parliament for the TSRA's administration and programs.

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

- Finance Minister's Orders (FMOs) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2007; and
- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and 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 statements are 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 TSRA 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 TSRA 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 as detailed in Note 1.16.
- 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.

#### 1.3 Statement of Compliance

##### Adoption of new Australian Accounting Standard requirements

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the effective date in the current period. The following new standard is applicable to the current reporting period:

**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 AASB 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.

The following new standards, amendments to standards or interpretations for the current financial year have no material financial impact on the TSRA.

AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*

AASB 1048 *Interpretation and Application of Standards*

AASB 2007-1 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 11 [AASB 2]*

AASB 2007-4 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from ED 151 and Other Amendments and Erratum: Proportionate Consolidation*

AASB 2007-5 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard - inventories Held for Distribution by Not-for-Profit Entities [AASB102]*

2007-7 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 1, 2, 4, 5, 107, 128]*

AASB 2008-4 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard - Key Management Personnel Disclosures by Disclosing Entities [AASB 124]*

ERR Erratum *Proportionate Consolidation [AASB 101, AASB 107, AASB 121, AASB 127, Interpretation 113]*

AASB Interpretation 10 *Interim Financial Reporting and Impairment*

AASB Interpretation 11 *AASB 2 Group and Treasury Share Transactions*

AASB Interpretation 1003 *Australian Petroleum Resource Rent Tax*

**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.

AASB 3 *Business Combinations*

AASB 8 *Operating Segments*

AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*

AASB 123 *Borrowing Costs*

AASB 127 *Consolidated and Seperate Financial Statements*

AASB 1004 *Contributions*

AASB 1050 *Administered Items*

AASB 1051 *Land Under Roads*

AASB 1052 *Disaggregated Disaclosures*

AASB 2007-2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 12 [AASB 1, AASB 117, AASB 118, AASB 120, AASB 121, AASB 127, AASB 131 & AASB 139]*

AASB 2007-3 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 8*

AASB 2007-6 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 123*

AASB 2007-8 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 101*

AASB 2007-9 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Review of AASB 27, 29 and 31 [AASB 3, AASB 5, AASB 8, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 116, AASB 127 & AASB 137]*

*AASB 2008-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard - Share Based Payments: Vesting Conditions and Cancellations [AASB 2]*

*AASB 2008-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Puttable Financial Instruments and Obligations arising on Liquidation [AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 132, AASB 139 & Interpretation 2]*

*AASB 2008-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 3 and AASB 127 [AASBs 1, 2, 5, 7, 101, 107, 112, 114, 116, 121, 128, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 137, 138 & 139 and Interpretations 9 & 107]*

*AASB Interpretation 1 Changes in Existing Decommissioning, Resoration and Similar Liabilities*

*AASB Interpretation 4 Determining Whether an Arrangement Contains a Lease*

*AASB Interpretation 12 Service Concession Arrangements*

*AASB Interpretation 13 Customer Loyalty Programmes*

*AASB Interpretation 14 AASB 119 – The Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset, Minimum Funding Requirements and their Interaction*

*AASB Interpretation 129 Service Concession Arrangements Disclosures*

*AASB Interpretation 1038 Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities*

#### **Other**

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

#### **AASB 1049 Financial Reporting of General Government Sectors by Governments**

AASB 1049 specifies the reporting requirements for the General Government Sector. The FMOs do not refer to this standard as it contains guidance applicable to the consolidated financial statements of the Australian Government, rather than financial reports of individual agencies or authorities.

#### **1.4 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 TSRA.

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

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

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

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 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 agency

or authority 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.

#### **Sale of Assets**

Gains from disposal of non-current assets are 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.

#### **Restructuring of administrative arrangements**

Net assets received from, or relinquished to, another Australian Government agency or authority under a restructuring of administrative arrangements are adjusted at their book value directly against Contributed Equity.

#### **Other distributions to owners**

The FMOs require that distributions to owners be debited to contributed equity unless in the nature of a dividend.

### **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 TSRA 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 TSRA's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The liability for long service leave has been determined by reference to the work of an actuary as at 30 June 2008. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

#### **Separation and redundancy**

Provision is made for separation and redundancy benefit payments. The TSRA recognises a provision for termination when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

#### **Superannuation**

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

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions for the appropriate portion of 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 TSRA does not have any finance leases.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a straight line basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets. In 2007-08, the TSRA leased four 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 TSRA 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 and cash equivalents includes notes and coins held and any deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value. Cash is recognised at its nominal amount.

### 1.11 Financial assets

The TSRA classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- 'financial assets 'at fair value through profit or loss';
- 'held-to-maturity investments';
- 'available-for-sale' financial assets; and
- 'loans and receivables'.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition.

Financial assets are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

#### Effective interest method

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts over the expected life of the financial asset, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis except for financial assets 'at fair value through profit or loss'.

#### Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets are classified as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss where the financial assets:

- have been acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the near future;
- are a part of an identified portfolio of financial instruments that the TSRA manages together and has a recent actual pattern of short-term profit-taking; or
- are derivatives that are not designated and effective as a hedging instrument.

Assets in this category are classified as current assets.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are stated at fair value, with any resultant gain or loss recognised in profit or loss. The net gain or loss recognised in profit or loss incorporates any interest earned on the financial asset.

#### Available-for-sale financial assets

Available-for-sale financial assets are non-derivatives that are either designated in this category or not classified in any of the other categories. They are included in non-current assets unless management intends to dispose of the asset within 12 months of the balance sheet date.

Available-for-sale financial assets are recorded at fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are recognised directly in the reserves (equity) with the exception of impairment losses. Interest is calculated using the effective interest method and foreign exchange gains and losses on monetary assets are recognised directly in profit or loss. Where the asset is disposed of or is determined to be impaired, part or all of the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in the reserve is included in profit for the period.



Held-to-maturity investments

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

Where a reliable fair value cannot be established for unlisted investments in equity instruments, cost is used. The TSRA has no such investments.

Loans and receivables

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. They are included in current assets, except for maturities greater than 12 months after the balance sheet date. These are classified as non-current assets. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

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

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.

*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.

*Available for sale financial assets (held at cost)* - If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred, 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.

**1.12 Financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities.

Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are initially measured at fair value. Subsequent fair value adjustments are recognised in profit or loss. The net gain or loss recognised in profit or loss incorporates any interest paid on the financial liability.

Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs.

Other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Supplier and other payables

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

### 1.13 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.

### 1.15 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 agency's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

### 1.16 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:

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

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 TSRA 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:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Buildings on freehold land	40 years	40 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 2008.

#### **Impairment**

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2008. 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 TSRA were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

#### **1.17 Taxation / competitive neutrality**

The TSRA 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.

#### **1.18 Change in Accounting Policy**

The TSRA has made a change in accounting policy in relation to the presentation of cash flows relating to concessional loans. The change in accounting policy is to segregate cash flows from loans as either being operating or investing, depending on the nature of the transaction. Previously all cash flows from loans had been recognised as operating activities in the cash flow statement.

The Statement of Cashflows and the related Cash Flow Reconciliation are effected in the following ways:

- In 2007-08, loan advances totalling \$450,000 (2007 : \$204,000) are split into their component parts, the concessional component as an operating outflow and the remainder as an investing outflow. This is comprised of \$87,000 representing the concessional component of new loan funding as an operating outflow (2007: Comparative restated at \$49,000) and \$363,000 representing the non-concessional component of new loan funding as an investing outflow (2007: Comparative restated at \$155,000).
- In 2007-08, loan receipts are split into their component parts, the interest component as an operating inflow and the principle component as an investing inflow. This is comprised of \$290,000 representing the interest component of loan repayments as an operating inflow (2007: Comparative restated at \$264,000) and \$1,039,000 representing the principle component of new loan funding as an investing inflow (2007: Comparative restated at \$1,694,000).
- In 2006-07, all loan receipts and payments were classified as operating cash flows. This was comprised of principle loan repayments of \$1,694,000, interest of \$264,000 and new loan funding of \$204,000.

There is no impact on revenue or expenses or to opening accumulated results as a result of the voluntary change in accounting policy. The comparatives for 2006-07 are reclassified in the Statement of Cashflows and the Cash Flow Reconciliation note (Note 9).

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**

**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2008**

**Note 2: Events after the Balance Sheet Date**

Following the Australian Government 100% buyout of commercial finfish entitlements finalised in 2007-08, in favour of the Torres Strait Islanders, a decision of the representative Torres Strait Community Fisher Group (CFG) has vested responsibility for administration of the asset in support of the CFG to the TSRA. Activities will include leasing of a percentage of un-used fishing entitlements back to the commercial sector to provide additional benefits and opportunities to traditional inhabitants to increase their fishing capacity. There is no financial impact to the TSRA in the 2007-08 financial year. Valuation of the asset will occur throughout 2008-09 and be recognised in the 2008-09 financial statements.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2008**

**Note 3: Income**

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
<b><i>Revenue</i></b>		
<b><u>Note 3A: Revenue from Government</u></b>		
Appropriation:		
Departmental outputs	51,540	54,948
<b><i>Total revenue from Government</i></b>	<b>51,540</b>	<b>54,948</b>
<b><u>Note 3B: Sale of goods and rendering of services</u></b>		
Provision of goods - external parties	173	207
Rendering of services - external parties	692	950
<b><i>Total sale of goods and rendering of services</i></b>	<b>865</b>	<b>1,157</b>
<b><u>Note 3C: Interest</u></b>		
Loans	368	435
Deposits	1,409	1,032
<b><i>Total interest</i></b>	<b>1,777</b>	<b>1,467</b>
<b><u>Note 3D: Other revenue</u></b>		
Rent	197	145
Other Government contributions	20,451	2,557
<b><i>Total other revenue</i></b>	<b>20,648</b>	<b>2,702</b>
<b><u>Gains</u></b>		
<b><u>Note 3E: Sale of assets</u></b>		
Plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale	-	5
<b><i>Net gain from sale of assets</i></b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>
<b><u>Note 3F: Reversals of previous asset write-downs</u></b>		
Reversal of losses from remeasuring financial instruments held at fair value	76	35
<b><i>Total reversals of previous asset write-downs</i></b>	<b>76</b>	<b>35</b>

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2008**

**Note 4: Expenses**

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
<b><u>Note 4A: Employee benefits</u></b>		
Wages and salaries	4,826	4,236
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	635	645
Leave and other entitlements	119	92
<b><i>Total employee benefits</i></b>	<b>5,580</b>	<b>4,973</b>
<b><u>Note 4B: Suppliers</u></b>		
Provision of goods – external parties	619	627
Rendering of services – external parties	24,585	5,105
Operating lease rentals:		
Minimum lease payments	151	103
Workers compensation premiums	64	10
<b><i>Total supplier expenses</i></b>	<b>25,419</b>	<b>5,845</b>
<b><u>Note 4C: Grants</u></b>		
Private sector:		
Non-profit organisations	40,438	46,573
<b><i>Total grants</i></b>	<b>40,438</b>	<b>46,573</b>
<b><u>Note 4D: Depreciation</u></b>		
Depreciation:		
Plant and equipment	115	238
Buildings	333	326
<b><i>Total depreciation</i></b>	<b>448</b>	<b>564</b>
<b><u>Note 4E: Write-down and impairment of assets</u></b>		
Asset writedowns from		
Loans provided for as doubtful debts	90	274
Write down of loans to net present value	942	-
Impairment of non-financial assets		
Plant and Equipment	-	70
<b><i>Total write-down and impairment of assets</i></b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>344</b>
<b><u>Note 4F: Loss on disposal of non-financial assets</u></b>		
Proceeds from sale	(1)	-
Carrying value of assets disposed	3	-
<b><i>Total loss on disposal of non-financial assets</i></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>
<b><u>Note 4G: Other expenses</u></b>		
Losses from remeasuring financial instruments held at fair value	-	3
<b><i>Total other expenses</i></b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2008**

**Note 5: Financial Assets**

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000

**Note 5A: Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash at bank	16,254	17,195
Cash on hand	1	1
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>16,255</b>	<b>17,196</b>

**Note 5B: Trade and other receivables**

Goods and services	1,323	134
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	1,451	342
Loans	4,064	5,452
<b>Total trade and other receivables (gross)</b>	<b>6,838</b>	<b>5,928</b>

Less allowance for doubtful debts:

Goods and services	-	-
Loans	(560)	(479)
<b>Total trade and other receivables (net)</b>	<b>6,278</b>	<b>5,449</b>

Receivables are aged as follows:

Not overdue	6,136	5,121
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	29	221
30 to 60 days	18	113
61 to 90 days	18	237
More than 90 days	637	236
<b>Total receivables (gross)</b>	<b>6,838</b>	<b>5,928</b>

The allowance for doubtful debts is aged as follows:

Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	-	-
30 to 60 days	(11)	(7)
61 to 90 days	(11)	-
More than 90 days	(538)	(472)
<b>Total allowance for doubtful debts</b>	<b>(560)</b>	<b>(479)</b>

Receivables are represented by:

Current	2,774	476
Non-current	3,504	4,973
<b>Total trade and other receivables (net)</b>	<b>6,278</b>	<b>5,449</b>

**Reconciliation of the allowance for doubtful debts:**

Movements in relation to 2008

	Goods and services 2008 \$'000	Loans 2008 \$'000	Total 2008 \$'000
Opening balance	-	(479)	(479)
Amounts written off	-	9	9
Amounts recovered and reversed	-	-	-
Increase/decrease recognised in net surplus	-	(90)	(90)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(560)</b>	<b>(560)</b>

Movements in relation to 2007

	Goods and services 2007 \$'000	Loans 2007 \$'000	Total 2007 \$'000
Opening balance	-	(205)	(205)
Amounts written off	-	-	-
Amounts recovered and reversed	-	-	-
Increase/decrease recognised in net surplus	-	(274)	(274)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(479)</b>	<b>(479)</b>

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2008**

**Note 6: Non-Financial Assets**

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
<b><u>Note 6A: Land and buildings</u></b>		
Freehold land at gross carrying value (at fair value)	6,024	5,255
Buildings on freehold land:		
– fair value	11,410	11,224
– accumulated depreciation	-	-
<b>Total land and buildings</b>	<u>17,434</u>	<u>16,479</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)	652	532
- accumulated depreciation	(297)	(238)
<b>Total infrastructure, plant and equipment</b>	<u>355</u>	<u>294</u>
Heritage and cultural:		
- Artworks – at fair value	41	41
<b>Total heritage and cultural</b>	<u>41</u>	<u>41</u>
<b>Total infrastructure, plant and equipment (non-current)</b>	<u>396</u>	<u>335</u>

All revaluations are conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1. In 2007-08, an independent valuer, Neill Teves, conducted the revaluations.

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

Revaluation increments of \$769,000 for land (2007: increment of \$50,000) and \$472,848 for buildings on freehold land (2007: increment of \$372,000) have been credited to the asset revaluation reserve by asset class and included in the equity section of the balance sheet.



**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
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**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 (2007-08)**

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Other P & E \$'000	Heritage and Cultural \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2007</b>					
Gross book value	5,255	11,224	532	41	17,052
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	-	(238)	-	(238)
<b>Net book value 1 July 2007</b>	<b>5,255</b>	<b>11,224</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>16,814</b>
Additions:					
by purchase	-	46	189	-	235
Revaluations and impairments through equity	769	473	-	-	1,242
Depreciation/amortisation expense	-	(333)	(115)	-	(448)
Disposals:					
Other disposals	-	-	(13)	-	(13)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2008</b>	<b>6,024</b>	<b>11,410</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>17,830</b>
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2008 represented by:</b>					
Gross book value	6,024	11,410	652	41	18,127
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	-	(297)	-	(297)
	<b>6,024</b>	<b>11,410</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>17,830</b>

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

Item	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Other P & E \$'000	Heritage and Cultural \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2006</b>					
Gross book value	5,205	11,155	405	35	16,800
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net book value 1 July 2006</b>	<b>5,205</b>	<b>11,155</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>16,800</b>
Additions:					
by purchase	-	93	139	6	238
Revaluations and impairments through equity	50	372	-	-	422
Reclassification	-	-	(11)	-	(11)
Depreciation/amortisation expense	-	(326)	(238)	-	(564)
Impairments recognised in the operating result	-	(70)	-	-	(70)
Disposals:					
Other disposals	-	-	(1)	-	(1)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2007</b>	<b>5,255</b>	<b>11,224</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>16,814</b>
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2007 represented by:</b>					
Gross book value	5,255	11,224	532	41	17,052
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	-	(238)	-	(238)
	<b>5,255</b>	<b>11,224</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>16,814</b>

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2008**

**Note 7: Payables**

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
<b><u>Note 7A: Suppliers</u></b>		
Trade creditors	492	121
<b><i>Total supplier payables</i></b>	<b>492</b>	<b>121</b>
Supplier payables are represented by:		
Current	492	121
<b><i>Total supplier payables</i></b>	<b>492</b>	<b>121</b>
Settlement is usually made net 30 days.		
<b><u>Note 7B: Grants</u></b>		
Private sector:		
Non-profit organisations	1,505	2,901
<b><i>Total grant payables</i></b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>2,901</b>
Grants payable are represented by:		
Current	1,505	2,901
<b><i>Total grant payables</i></b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>2,901</b>
<b><u>Note 7C: Other Payables</u></b>		
Accrued expenses	53	79
<b><i>Total other payables</i></b>	<b>53</b>	<b>79</b>
All other payables are current liabilities.		
<b><u>Note 7D: Income received in advance</u></b>		
Income received in advance	3,353	4,746
<b><i>Total income received in advance</i></b>	<b>3,353</b>	<b>4,746</b>
All income received in advance are current liabilities.		

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2008**

**Note 8: Provisions**

	<b>2008</b>	2007
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000
<b><u>Note 8A: Employee provisions</u></b>		
Salaries and wages	<b>88</b>	47
Long Service Leave	<b>482</b>	452
Annual Leave	<b>651</b>	589
Personal Leave	<b>111</b>	125
<b><i>Total employee provisions</i></b>	<b><u>1,332</u></b>	<u>1,213</u>
Employee provisions are represented by:		
Current	<b>1,142</b>	761
Non-current	<b>190</b>	452
<b><i>Total employee provisions</i></b>	<b><u>1,332</u></b>	<u>1,213</u>

The classification of current includes amounts for which there is not an unconditional right to defer settlement by 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 \$413,000 (2007: \$342,000), in excess of one year \$919,000 (2007: \$872,000)

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**

**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2008**

**Note 9: Cash flow reconciliation**

	<b>2008</b>	2007
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000
<b>Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per Balance Sheet to cash flow statement</b>		
<b>Report cash and cash equivalents as per:</b>		
Cash flow statement	<b>16,255</b>	17,196
Balance Sheet	<b>16,255</b>	17,196
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Reconciliation of operating result to net cash from operating activities:</b>		
Operating result	<b>1,987</b>	2,012
Depreciation /amortisation	<b>448</b>	564
Net writedown of non-financial assets	<b>944</b>	73
Bad and Doubtful Debts	<b>90</b>	274
Gain on disposal of assets	<b>-</b>	(5)
Interest	<b>(78)</b>	(52)
Concessional component of Loans funded	<b>(87)</b>	-
Reversal of previous loan writedowns	<b>(76)</b>	(35)
(Increase) / decrease in receivables from Goods and Services	<b>(1,189)</b>	(300)
(Increase) / decrease in GST receivable	<b>(1,109)</b>	585
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	<b>119</b>	68
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	<b>371</b>	(1,049)
Increase / (decrease) in income received in advance	<b>(1,393)</b>	1,380
Increase / (decrease) in Unexpended Grants	<b>(1,396)</b>	(1,803)
Increase / (decrease) in Other Payables	<b>(28)</b>	76
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash from / (used by) operating activities</b>	<b>(1,397)</b>	1,788
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**

**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2008**

**Note 10: Contingent Liabilities and Assets****Quantifiable Contingencies**

The Schedule of Contingencies in the Financial Statements reports a contingent asset in respect of land and buildings situated at 56 Douglas St, Thursday Island. The asset comprises a commercial property plus a semi-detached rear residential building located on a commercial site within the business precinct of Thursday Island. This property will be acquired by the TSRA from the T.S.N.P. Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal Corporation for Legal Services (T.S.N.P.) on completion of a grant funding agreement between the TSRA as grantor and T.S.N.P. as grantee. The agreement stipulates transfer to the TSRA of assets purchased with the grant funds on completion of the agreement. This property has been independently valued at \$800,000 as at 30 June 2008. The process of transfer resulting from a court decision in favour of TSRA is expected to be completed in early 2008-09.

The schedule also reports a contingent liability as at 30 June 2008 in respect of a Bank Guarantee in favour of the Torres Shire Council. As a result the TSRA has recognised the contingent liability of \$116,000 as at 30 June 2008 (2006-07 : \$116,000). There are no unquantifiable or remote contingencies (2006-07 : Nil).

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**

**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2008**

**Note 11: Directors Remuneration**

	2008	2007
The number of directors of the TSRA included in these figures are shown below in the relevant remuneration bands:		
\$Nil - \$14,999	30	14
\$15,000 - \$29,999	1	4
\$30,000 - \$44,999	-	1
\$165,000 - \$179,999	1	-
\$180,000 - \$194,999	-	1
<b>Total number of directors of the Authority</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>
Total remuneration received or due and receivable by directors of the TSRA:	<b>262,910</b>	364,686

The TSRA's Board consists of twenty director positions. Seventeen hold office by virtue of their election to Regional Councils last held in March 2008 under the *Local Government Act 1993* (Qld). The other three are elected in accordance with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth) (formerly the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*). The directors other than the Chairperson receive sitting fees when undertaking business of the TSRA.

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2008**

**Note 12A: 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 TSRA's Loan Scheme. The directors involved took no part in the relevant decisions of the TSRA.

Loans

The late Don Mosby - TSRA Board Member  
 Robert Sagigi - TSRA Board Member  
 Richard Bowie - TSRA Board Member  
 Reginald Williams - TSRA Board Member  
 Margaret Mau - TSRA Board Member  
 Bamaga Motel  
 - Jessie Sagaukaz – Bamaga Island Council Chairperson (until March 2008);  
 - Reginald Williams - Bamaga Island Council Councillor.  
 Bamaga Enterprise  
 - Jessie Sagaukaz – Bamaga Island Council Chairperson (until March 2008);  
 - Reginald Williams - Bamaga Island Council Councillor.  
 Poruma Island Council  
 - Norah Pearson - Poruma Island Council Chairperson (until March 2008).  
 Northern Star Seafoods  
 – Jack Ahmat – Badu Island Council Chairperson;  
 – Richard Bowie – Badu Island Council Chairperson (November 2007 to March 2008).  
 Seisia Island Council  
 - Joseph Elu - Seisia Island Council Chairperson (until March 2008);  
 - Jeffrey Aniba – Seisia Island Council – Councillor.  
 Seisia Island Council (#2)  
 - Joseph Elu - Seisia Island Council Chairperson (until March 2008)  
 - Jeffrey Aniba – Seisia Island Council – Councillor.

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Loans to current Directors outstanding at year-end:	11,072	-
Loan repayments during the year:	9,263	-
Loans to current Director-related Entities outstanding at year-end:	643,849	-
Loans to current Director-related Entities during the year:	-	-
Loan repayments during the year:	160,550	-
Interest revenue included in operating result from loans to current Directors/Director-related Entities:	32,919	-
Related party loans for current Directors provided for as doubtful debts:	22,443	-
Related party loans written off:	-	-

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Loans to Directors who resigned during 2007-08 outstanding at year-end:	134,044	185,224
Loan repayments during the year:	62,798	36,390
Loans to Director-related Entities (for Directors who resigned during 2007-08) outstanding at year-end:	406,681	1,094,520
Loans to Director-related Entities (for Directors who resigned during 2007-08) during the year:	-	10,159
Loan repayments during the year:	47,377	154,366
Interest revenue included in operating result from loans to Directors and related entities who resigned during 2007-08:	38,811	121,726
Related party loans for Directors who resigned during 2007-08 provided for as doubtful debts:	403,013	480,932
Related party loans written off:	-	-

The TSRA 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 2008

**Note 12B: 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 TSRA during the financial year.

Directors' Name	Council	Grants Received 2008	Grants Received 2007
		\$	\$
R. Sagigi	TRAWQ Community Council	951,058	2,447,822
The late J. Ahmat	Badu Island Community Council	4,325,740	4,505,216
T. Billy	Warraber Island Community Council	1,611,059	2,129,170
R. Day	Mer Island Community Council	2,025,602	2,150,999
D. Banu	Boigu Island Community Council	1,466,260	1,897,953
E. Doolah	Erub Island Community Council	2,731,119	2,368,520
J. Elu	Seisia Island Community Council	1,398,581	1,236,815
F. Gela	Hammond Island Community Council	868,314	797,444
J. Kris	St Pauls Community Council	2,133,494	2,292,567
W. Mackie	Iama Island Community Council	2,114,630	3,083,220
M. Mau	Dauan Island Community Council	1,102,120	1,001,812
The late D. Mosby	Yorke Island Community Council	2,298,527	2,329,829
N. Pearson/P. Mosby	Poruma Island Community Council	1,451,512	1,356,570
S. Savage	Kubin Community Council	1,496,994	1,470,371
B. Shibasaki	Port Kennedy Association	165,841	182,805
B. Shibasaki	Torres Shire Council	7,500	539,009
R. Stephen	Ugar Island Council	710,383	553,845
T. Waia	Saibai Island Community Council	2,086,626	2,101,702
L. Guise	Mabuiag Island Community Council	1,743,230	1,826,340
J. Saguakaz	Bamaga Island Community Council	3,091,672	2,851,386
*	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	15,000	-
*	Torres Strait Island Regional Council	1,088,220	-
*	Island Coordinating Council	3,219,545	8,479,916

\*All current directors, except Mr P Mills, Ms N Bin Tahal and Mr J Abednego are also Councillors of either the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council or the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Prior to 15 March 2008, all directors apart from Mr B Shibasaki and Mr M. Nona, were 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 2008**

**Note 13: Executive Remuneration**

	2008	2007
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	1	-
\$160 000 to \$174 999	2	1
\$175 000 to \$189 999	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
The aggregate amount of total remuneration of executives shown above.	<b>667,248</b>	305,380

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**

**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2008**

**Note 14: Remuneration of Auditors**

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
The cost of the financial statement audit services to the TSRA.	<b>40</b>	49
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 2008

**Note 15: Financial Instruments**

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
<b><u>15A Categories of financial instruments</u></b>		
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Loans and receivables		
Cash and cash equivalents	16,255	17,195
Receivables for goods and services	1,323	134
Loans	4,064	5,452
<b>Carrying amount of financial assets</b>	<b>21,642</b>	<b>22,781</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>		
Other Financial Liabilities		
Trade creditors	492	121
Grant liabilities	1,505	2,901
<b>Carrying amount of financial liabilities</b>	<b>1,997</b>	<b>3,022</b>
	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
<b><u>15B Net income and expense from financial assets</u></b>		
<b>Loans and receivables</b>		
Interest revenue (see note 3C)	1,777	1,467
Allowance for Impairment (see note 4E)	(90)	(274)
Write down of loans to Net Present Value (see note 4E)	(942)	-
<b>Net gain/(loss) loans and receivables</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>1,193</b>
<b>Net gain/(loss) from financial assets</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>1,193</b>

## TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2008

**Note 15C: Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities**

	Notes	Carrying Amount 2008 \$'000	Fair Value 2008 \$'000	Carrying Amount 2007 \$'000	Fair Value 2007 \$'000
<b>Departmental</b>					
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	5A	16,255	16,255	17,195	17,195
Receivables for goods and services	5B	1,323	1,323	134	134
Loans	5B	4,064	3,504	5,452	4,973
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>		<b>21,642</b>	<b>21,082</b>	<b>22,781</b>	<b>22,302</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities (Recognised)</b>					
Trade creditors	7A	492	492	121	121
Grant liabilities	7B	1,505	1,505	2,901	2,901
<b>Total Financial Liabilities (Recognised)</b>		<b>1,997</b>	<b>1,997</b>	<b>3,022</b>	<b>3,022</b>

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**

**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2008**

**15D Credit risk**

TSRA is exposed to minimal credit risk as the majority of loans and receivables are cash or high quality trade receivables. TSRA also holds a portfolio of concessional loans that are provided for business development and home ownership programs. The maximum exposure to credit risk is the risk that arises from potential default of a trade debtor or a concessional loan holder. This amount is equal to the total amount of trade and loan receivables (2008: \$5,387,000 and 2007: \$5,586,000).

In relation to housing loans, TSRA holds mortgages as sole mortgagor over the houses for which the loans are provided. TSRA receives market advice from a qualified valuer or market expert on the value of a property prior to the loan being approved. In relation to Business Funding Scheme loans, from 2007-08 TSRA requires that inexperienced business owner(s) successfully complete an approved business course and submit a business plan prior to the loan being approved. These policies mitigate against credit risk for the TSRA loans portfolio.

Credit risk of financial instruments not past due or individually determined as impaired:

	<b>Not Past Due Nor Impaired 2008 \$'000</b>	<b>Not Past Due Nor Impaired 2007 \$'000</b>	<b>Past due or impaired 2008 \$'000</b>	<b>Past due or impaired 2007 \$'000</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	16,255	17,195	-	-
Receivables for goods and services	1,181	398	142	78
Loans	3,504	4,974	560	479
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,940</b>	<b>22,567</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>557</b>

Ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired for 2008

	<b>0 to 30 days \$'000</b>	<b>31 to 60 days \$'000</b>	<b>61 to 90 days \$'000</b>	<b>90+ days \$'000</b>	<b>Total \$'000</b>
Receivables for goods and services	29	7	7	99	142
Loans	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>142</b>

Ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired for 2007

	<b>0 to 30 days \$'000</b>	<b>31 to 60 days \$'000</b>	<b>61 to 90 days \$'000</b>	<b>90+ days \$'000</b>	<b>Total \$'000</b>
Receivables for goods and services	50	-	-	28	78
Loans	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>78</b>

TSRA has assessed the risk of the default on payment and has allocated \$560,000 in 2008 (2007: \$479,000) to an allowance for impairment. Security underpinning this impairment include a 5 bedroom house, 2001 Toyota Camry taxi, 2 boats and motors with an estimated total value of \$311,000.

**15E Liquidity risk**

TSRA's financial liabilities are trade creditors and grant liabilities. The exposure to liquidity risk is based on the notion that TSRA will encounter difficulty in meeting its obligations associated with financial liabilities. This is highly unlikely due to appropriation funding available to TSRA and internal policies and procedures put in place to ensure there are appropriate resources to meet its financial obligations.

The following tables illustrates the maturities for financial liabilities:

	On demand 2008 \$'000	within 1 year 2008 \$'000	1 to 5 years 2008 \$'000	> 5 years 2008 \$'000	Total 2008 \$'000
Trade creditors	-	492	-	-	492
Grant liabilities	-	1,505	-	-	1,505
<b>Total</b>	-	1,997	-	-	1,997

	On demand 2007 \$'000	within 1 year 2007 \$'000	1 to 5 years 2007 \$'000	> 5 years 2007 \$'000	Total 2007 \$'000
Trade creditors	-	121	-	-	121
Grant liabilities	-	2,901	-	-	2,901
<b>Total</b>	-	3,022	-	-	3,022

TSRA is appropriated funding from the Australian Government. TSRA manages its budgeted funds to ensure it has adequate funds to meet payments as they fall due. In addition, the TSRA has policies in place to ensure timely payments are made when due and has no past experience of default.

**15F Market risk**

TSRA holds basic financial instruments that do not expose TSRA to certain market risks. The TSRA is not exposed to 'currency risk' or 'other price risk'.

Interest Rate Risk

The only interest-bearing items on the Balance Sheet are the 'Term Deposits', 'Cash at Bank' and 'Loans'. Interest earned on term deposits and cash at bank may be effected by changes in market interest rates. The following table represents the effect to the Income Statement (and corresponding effect to the cash value in the Balance Sheet) when the current market interest rate is varied by 1%. 1% is anticipated to be a reasonable estimate of the maximum movement in market interest rates in financial year 2008-09.

	Value \$'000	Effect on Income Statement Income (Expense) \$'000
Anticipated interest earned for 2008-09 financial year at current market interest rate	1,099	
Increase of 1% in market interest rate	1,262	163
Decrease of 1% in market interest rate	937	(163)

The value of concessional loans is derived by applying the amortised cost using the effective interest method. Because the loan portfolio is valued at net present value using market interest rates, movements in market interest rates will impact on the value of the loan portfolio and the Income Statement. The following table represents the effect to the Income Statement (and corresponding effect to the loan portfolio value in the Balance Sheet) when the current market interest rate is varied by 1%. 1% is anticipated to be a reasonable estimate of the maximum movement in market interest rates in financial year 2008-09.

	Value \$'000	Effect on Income Statement Income (Expense) \$'000
Net Present Value of Loans 30 June 2008	4,064	
Increase of 1% in market interest rate	3,849	(215)
Decrease of 1% in market interest rate	4,303	239

Assets past due and impaired are represented by loans individually assessed to be at high risk of default.

#### TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2008

#### Note 16: 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	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance carried from previous period	-	-	-	-
Appropriation Act:				
Appropriation Act (No.1)	51,540	54,948	51,540	54,948
Total appropriation available for payments	51,540	54,948	51,540	54,948
Cash payments made during the year (GST inclusive)	51,540	54,948	51,540	54,948
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 2008

**Note 17: Reporting of Outcomes**

The TSRA 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 17A: Net Cost of Outcome Delivery**

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Expenses</b>				
Departmental	72,919	58,302	72,919	58,302
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>72,919</b>	<b>58,302</b>	<b>72,919</b>	<b>58,302</b>
<b>Costs recovered from provision of goods and services to the non government sector</b>				
Departmental	-	-	-	-
<b>Total costs recovered</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other external revenues</b>				
Sales of goods and services to external entities	865	1,157	865	1,157
Interest	1,777	1,467	1,777	1,467
Reversal of previous asset writedowns	76	35	76	35
Other external revenues	20,648	2,702	20,648	2,702
Net Gain from Sale of Assets	-	5	-	5
<b>Total other external revenues</b>	<b>23,366</b>	<b>5,366</b>	<b>23,366</b>	<b>5,366</b>
<b>Net cost/(contribution) of outcome</b>	<b>49,553</b>	<b>52,936</b>	<b>49,553</b>	<b>52,936</b>

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY**  
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2008

**Note 17B: Major Classes of Departmental Revenues and Expenses by Output Groups and Outputs**

Outcome 1	Output Group 1		Output Group 2		Output Group 3		Output Group 4		Output Group 5		Output Group 6		Outcome 1 Total	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Departmental expenses														
Employees	873	767	537	398	542	605	255	168	1,907	1,816	1,466	1,219	5,580	4,973
Suppliers	746	658	375	300	2,339	1,041	14,291	433	3,511	2,189	4,157	1,224	25,419	5,845
Grants	712	1,061	31,418	31,338	7	-	2,870	8,650	5,431	5,524	-	-	40,438	46,573
Depreciation	75	95	42	52	32	40	20	26	172	217	107	134	448	564
Writedown and Impairment of Assets	955	289	9	7	7	5	4	3	36	27	23	16	1,034	347
Total departmental expenses	3,361	2,870	32,381	32,095	2,927	1,691	17,440	9,280	11,057	9,773	5,753	2,593	72,919	58,302
Funded by:														
Revenues from Govt.	2,233	2,327	34,970	33,316	1,392	1,424	3,069	8,611	7,998	7,375	1,878	1,895	51,540	54,948
Sale of Goods and Services	87	65	(48)	20	37	29	23	245	703	691	63	107	865	1,157
Interest	606	610	131	96	101	74	64	47	540	396	335	244	1,777	1,467
Net Gains from disposal of assets	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	5
Reversal of previous Asset writedowns	11	6	7	3	6	2	4	2	30	13	18	9	76	35
Other	45	321	46	1,284	19	47	14,589	372	2,981	567	2,968	146	20,648	2,702
Total departmental revenues	2,982	3,324	35,106	34,717	1,555	1,574	17,749	9,275	12,252	9,031	5,262	2,393	74,906	60,314

The TSRA's outcome and outputs are described at Note 17A.



# APPENDICES







THREE SISTERS



WARRABER ISLAND COUNCIL OF

# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1: TSRA GRANTS

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Legal Services (NQ)	Operating Expenses	\$331,095
Community Enterprises Australia Ltd.	Horn Island CDEP Wages	\$209,725
Community Enterprises Australia Ltd.	Horn Island CDEP Operations	\$305,760
Community Enterprises Australia Ltd.	Thursday Island CDEP Wages	\$332,151
Community Enterprises Australia Ltd.	Thursday Island CDEP Operations	\$557,500
Community Enterprises Australia Ltd.	Gab Titui Cultural Centre Wages	\$20,000
Community Enterprises Australia Ltd.	Turtle Et Dugong Officer - Horn Island	\$3,124
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation Inc.	CDEP Wages	\$180,799
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation Inc.	CDEP Operations	\$56,035
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation Inc.	Administration Salary	\$20,808
Island Co-ordinating Council	Infrastructure Support Unit Operating Expenses	\$1,700,000
Island Co-ordinating Council	Dengue Mosquito Eradication	\$100,000
Island Co-ordinating Council	Asian Mosquito Control Program	\$415,000
Island Co-ordinating Council	Water Education Project	\$84,545
Island Co-ordinating Council	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$110,000
Island Co-ordinating Council	FBT Supplementation	\$150,000
Island Co-ordinating Council	Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program (HEMTP)	\$660,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	Operating Expenses	\$148,240
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	Ali Drummond Book Launch	\$1,443
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	Deep Sea Dancers - Mabo Day	\$15,000
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council - Bamaga	CDEP Wages	\$2,117,709
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council - Bamaga	CDEP Operations	\$646,276
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council - Bamaga	Community Training Program	\$165,000

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council - Bamaga	Berlibal Dance Troupe - Fiji Trip	\$15,000
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council - Bamaga	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$102,687
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council - Bamaga	Medium Machinery	\$60,000
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council - Seisia	CDEP Wages	\$748,843
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council - Seisia	CDEP Operations	\$291,384
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council - Seisia	Enterprise Staff Accommodation	\$230,000
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council - Seisia	Community Training Program	\$50,000
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council - Seisia	Seisia Island Council 20th Anniversary	\$10,000
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council - Seisia	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$68,354
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Primary School	Kadisha Surha Travel to Brisbane for Literary Award Presentation	\$2,000
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Primary School	Gold Coast Excursion	\$5,000
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Primary School	Visual Arts Program	\$8,000
Port Kennedy Association Inc.	Operating Expenses	\$154,841
Port Kennedy Association Inc.	Rosie Barkus	\$6,000
Port Kennedy Association Inc.	James Passi	\$5,000
Tagai State College Thursday Island Secondary Campus	Jazz Musicians' Visit	\$3,000
Tagai State College Thursday Island Secondary Campus	Model Car Project	\$500
Torres Shire Council	Ariu Panipan Dance Group Travel to Samoa Pacific Arts Festival	\$7,500
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association Inc.	Operating Expenses	\$608,311
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association Inc.	Lagaw Asmer Business Plan	\$30,000
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association Inc.	Community Training Program	\$24,000

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme	\$1,070,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Djarragun College New Zealand Rugby Tour	\$7,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Betty Tekahika's Dance Group - Mabo Day Mer Trip	\$5,800
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Maluwap Nona's Travel to National Native Title Conference, Perth	\$5,420
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 1 - Boigu	CDEP Wages	\$985,512
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 1 - Boigu	CDEP Operations	\$321,270
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 1 - Boigu	Community Training Program	\$28,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 1 - Boigu	Turtle & Dugong Officer - Boigu	\$6,400
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 1 - Boigu	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$69,707
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 1 - Boigu	Medium Machinery	\$57,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 2 - Dauan	CDEP Wages	\$566,444
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 2 - Dauan	CDEP Operations	\$224,142
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 2 - Dauan	Dauan Fuel Bowser	\$30,471
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 2 - Dauan	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$70,747
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 2 - Dauan	Medium Machinery	\$36,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 2 - Dauan	Dauan Sports Oval	\$179,087
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 3 - Saibai	CDEP Wages	\$1,270,172
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 3 - Saibai	CDEP Operations	\$422,134
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 3 - Saibai	Saibai Takeaway	\$236,232
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 3 - Saibai	Dance Team Cairns Exhibition	\$10,260
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 3 - Saibai	Community Training Program	\$60,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 3 - Saibai	Dancing on Water Documentary Travel	\$2,467

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 3 - Saibai	Art & Craft Workshop	\$10,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 3 - Saibai	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$66,690
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 3 - Saibai	Medium Machinery	\$65,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 4 - Mabuia	CDEP Wages	\$1,005,725
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 4 - Mabuia	CDEP Operations	\$332,477
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 4 - Mabuia	Mabuia Guesthouse	\$289,500
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 4 - Mabuia	Community Training Program	\$30,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 4 - Mabuia	Travel to Masig August 23 Inaugural Council Meeting Anniversary	\$3,180
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 4 - Mabuia	Travel to Perth for Traditional Dancing Graduation Ceremony	\$9,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 4 - Mabuia	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$73,348
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 5 - Badu	CDEP Wages	\$3,043,618
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 5 - Badu	CDEP Operations	\$933,924
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 5 - Badu	Community Training Program	\$150,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 5 - Badu	Turtle & Dugong Officer - Badu	\$1,320
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 5 - Badu	Marine Ranger Program	\$70,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 5 - Badu	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$91,451
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 5 - Badu	Medium Machinery	\$43,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 6 - Kubin	CDEP Wages	\$1,106,095
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 6 - Kubin	CDEP Operations	\$268,970
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 6 - Kubin	David Bosun's Travel to Society of Historical Archeology Conference on New Mexico, USA	\$5,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 6 - Kubin	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$71,788
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 6 - Kubin	Medium Machinery	\$51,000

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 7 - St Pauls	CDEP Wages	\$1,418,875
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 7 - St Pauls	CDEP Operations	\$455,284
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 7 - St Pauls	Community Training Program	\$151,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 7 - St Pauls	Travel to Masig August 23 Inaugural Council Meeting Anniversary	\$5,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 7 - St Pauls	Attend Railways Histories Group Conference on McKay	\$3,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 7 - St Pauls	Patrick Levi, Writer & Singer	\$18,650
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 7 - St Pauls	Turtle & Dugong Officer - St Pauls	\$6,776
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 7 - St Pauls	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$74,909
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 8 - Hammond	CDEP Wages	\$565,320
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 8 - Hammond	CDEP Operations	\$224,142
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 8 - Hammond	Community Training Program	\$26,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 8 - Hammond	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$52,852
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 9 - Iama	CDEP Wages	\$1,514,269
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 9 - Iama	CDEP Operations	\$418,292
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 9 - Iama	Community Training Program	\$100,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 9 - Iama	Turtle & Dugong Officer - Iama	\$5,600
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 9 - Iama	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$76,469
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 10 - Warraber	CDEP Wages	\$1,225,034
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 10 - Warraber	CDEP Operations	\$171,245
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 10 - Warraber	Warraber Resort	\$36,952
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 10 - Warraber	Community Training Program	\$75,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 10 - Warraber	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$72,828



RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 11 - Poruma	CDEP Wages	\$841,987
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 11 - Poruma	CDEP Operations	\$248,992
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 11 - Poruma	Poruma Fuel Bowser	\$157,018
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 11 - Poruma	Poruma Resort Salaries Assistance	\$44,700
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 11 - Poruma	Community Training Program	\$30,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 11 - Poruma	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$72,828
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 11 - Poruma	Medium Machinery	\$55,987
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 12 - Yorke	CDEP Wages	\$1,487,302
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 12 - Yorke	CDEP Operations	\$504,319
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 12 - Yorke	Community Training Program	\$75,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 12 - Yorke	Land Care Project	\$22,900
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 12 - Yorke	Sea Sponge Project	\$5,600
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 12 - Yorke	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$77,406
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 12 - Yorke	Medium Machinery	\$126,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 13 - Ugar	CDEP Wages	\$295,670
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 13 - Ugar	CDEP Operations	\$112,071
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 13 - Ugar	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$35,663
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 13 - Ugar	Seri Steven's Travel to Native Title Negotiating Forum, Brisbane	\$1,500
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 13 - Ugar	Ugar Sports Facility	\$270,950
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 14 - Erub	CDEP Wages	\$1,718,202
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 14 - Erub	CDEP Operations	\$504,319
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 14 - Erub	Erub Fuel Bowser	\$160,295

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 14 - Erub	Community Training Program	\$60,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 14 - Erub	Zogo Stones Recovery	\$5,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 14 - Erub	Travel to Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards	\$10,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 14 - Erub	Art & Craft Workshop	\$5,350
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 14 - Erub	Land Care Project	\$14,900
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 14 - Erub	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$76,053
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 14 - Erub	Medium Machinery	\$177,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 15 - Mer	CDEP Wages	\$1,434,248
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 15 - Mer	CDEP Operations	\$466,962
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 15 - Mer	Mer Fuel Bowser	\$22,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 15 - Mer	Mabo Day Celebrations	\$7,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 15 - Mer	Dowar Day Celebrations	\$2,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 15 - Mer	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$82,192
Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Division 15 - Mer	Land Care Project	\$18,400
Torres Strait Youth & Recreational Sporting Association Inc.	Operating Expenses	\$419,708
Torres Strait Youth & Recreational Sporting Association Inc.	Kaiwalagal Rugby League Team	\$10,000
Torres Strait Youth & Recreational Sporting Association Inc.	Kaiwalagal Junior Rugby League	\$10,000
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Contribution to Operating Expenses	\$84,572
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	Gab Titui Cultural Centre Trainees Wages Support	\$31,858
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	CDEP Wages	\$563,770
TRAWQ Community Council Inc.	CDEP Operations	\$270,838
TSNP Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal Corporation for Legal Services	Operating Expenses	\$218,120



## 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 2008.

#### 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
- Funding for programs to be conducted by Community Councils up to 15 March 2008 and then by Local Regional Councils after that date.

The actual allocation of money to the various programs is guided by the policies and strategies set by the TSRA elected arm. 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; engagement of consultants; Occupational Health and Safety; Equal Employment Opportunities; Industrial Democracy; 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 Executive Services 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 Executive Service Section also maintains the Register for Ministerial Briefings and Responses to the Ombudsman

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 3: ADVERTISING AND MARKET RESEARCH

The TSRA advertises all ongoing and non-ongoing (those exceeding 12 months) vacancies using the Online APS Jobs and SEEK websites, as well as other selected national advertising. For national advertising, TSRA uses the Government's preferred supplier, HMA Blaze, for non-campaign advertising. 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: STAFFING OVERVIEW & MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

- a. Non-ongoing staff at 30 June 2008
- b. Nominal total staff at 30 June 2008 (including non-ongoing staff)
- c. Representation of EEO groups within salary levels at 30 June 2008
- d. Organisational chart at 30 June 2008
- e. Ministerial Appointments

### a. Staff classification breakdown at 30 June 2008 (includes non-ongoing staff)

Classification	Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal			Non Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Executive Level 2			0			0
Executive Level 1			0	1	1	2
APS Level 6	1	1	2	3	3	6
APS Level 5	3		3		4	4
APS Level 4			0	1		1
APS Level 3		3	3			0
APS Level 2		2	2			0
APS Level 1			0			0
Trainees		2	2			0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>

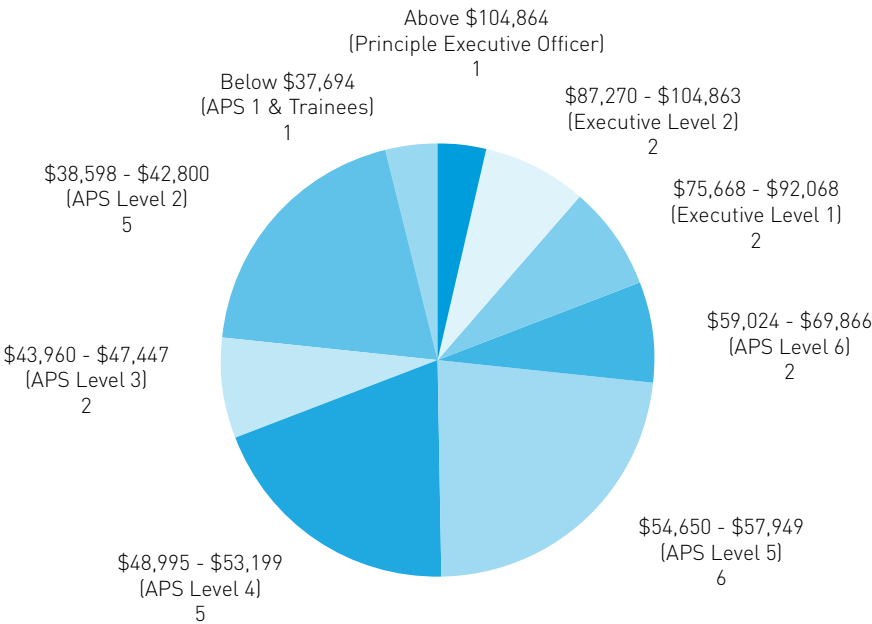
### b. Nominal total staff at 30 June 2008 (includes non-ongoing staff)

Classification	Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal			Non Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Principal Executive Officer	1		1			0
Executive Level 2	1		1	2		2
Executive Level 1	2	1	3	3	2	5
APS Level 6	2	2	4	6	4	10
APS Level 5	5	5	10	1	7	8
APS Level 4	1	3	4	1		1
APS Level 3		5	5			0
APS Level 2	1	7	8			0
APS Level 1	2	1	3			0
Trainees		2	2			0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>26</b>

c. Representation of EEO groups within salary level at 30 June 2008 (ongoing staff)

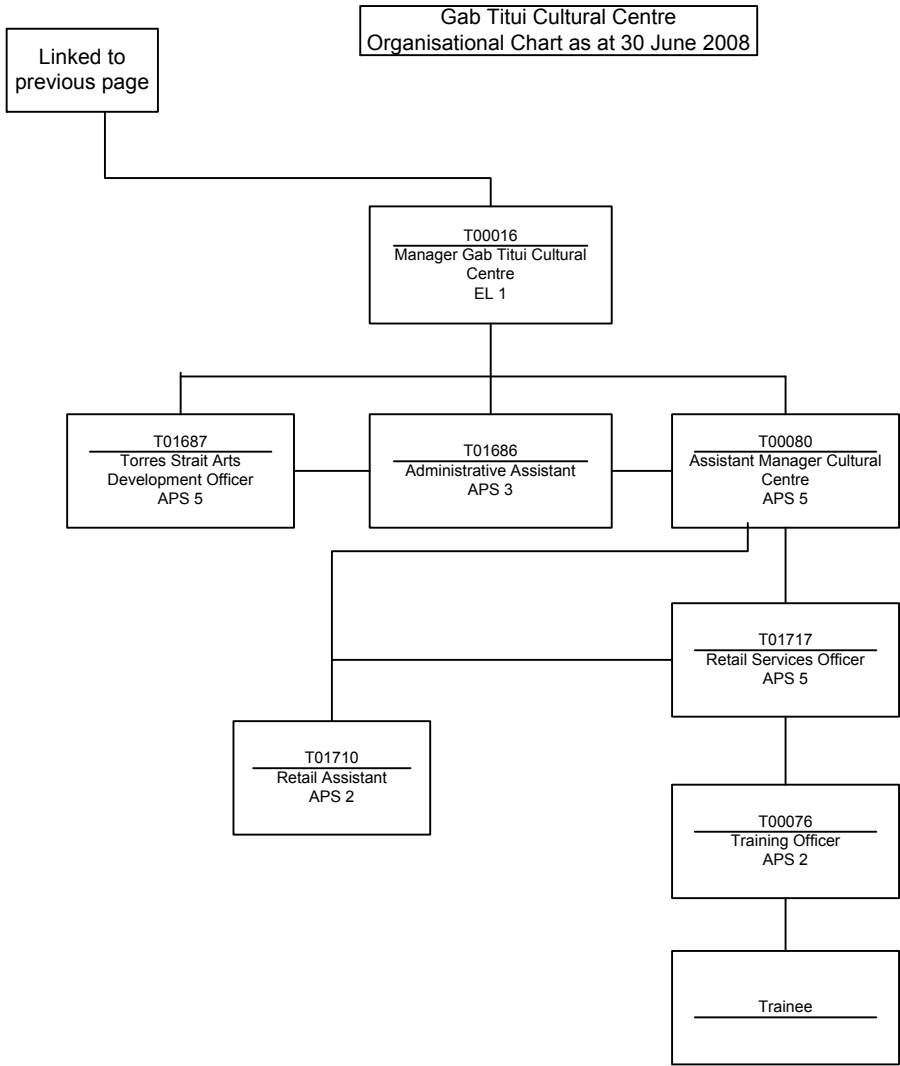
Salary	Women	TSI&A	NESB	PWD
Above \$104,864 (Principle Executive Officer)		1		
\$87,270 - \$104,863 (Executive Level 2)		2		
\$75,668 - \$92,068 (Executive Level 1)	2	2		
\$59,024 - \$69,866 (APS Level 6)	2	2		
\$54,650 - \$57,949 (APS Level 5)	7	6		
\$48,995 - \$53,199 (APS Level 4)	3	5		
\$43,960 - \$47,447 (APS Level 3)	2	2		
\$38,598 - \$42,800 (APS Level 2)	5	5		
Below \$37,694 (APS 1 & Trainees)	1	1		
Total	22	26		

Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal



Representation of EEO Groups as at 30 June 2008 (ongoing staff)





**e. Ministerial Appointments**

During 2007-2008, under Section 144G(2) of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*, the Minister appointed Mr Wayne See Kee as the General Manager of the Torres Strait Regional Authority on a full time basis from 30 September 2007 to the end of 29 September 2009.

The Minister appointed Mr Brendan O'Connor as the Acting General Manager under Section 144L of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* for the period 7 to 11 January 2008.

## APPENDIX 5: CONSULTANCIES

### CONSULTANCY SUMMARY

In 2007-2008 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 2007-2008 was \$3,649,906.

Consultant	Details of Consultancy	Amount (\$)
Indigenous Business Australia	Economic Study	23,866
Amarna Pty Ltd	Sports Feasibility Study	24,750
McPherson Maclean Wagon Chapman	TSRA Housing Development	990
KIDSON - DFK	Account Services & Grant Controller	255,597
Alexander J Dodd & Associates	Planning Services - NTO	52,049
Monash University	Project Services	27,500
Robert Blowes Barrister	T S Regional Sea Claim	464,864
Ebsworth & Ebsworth Lawyers	Native Title Services	22,900
RJ Howells Pty Ltd	T S Regional Sea Claim	135,918
Tina Jowett	Education Lease - Mer Island	14,658
Arafura Consulting	Anthropological Services	150,638
Kevin Murphy	Anthropological Services	109,278
Chalk & Fitzgerald	T S Regional Sea Claim	204,469
Tom Keely	T S Regional Sea Claim	73,468
Dr Colin Scott	T S Regional Sea Claim	85,804
Dr Jeremy Beckett	T S Regional Sea Claim	4,343
Rod Mitchell	T S Regional Sea Claim	12,160
Vance B Hughston SC	T S Regional Sea Claim	19,470
Centre for Professional Development	Commercial Insurance Fishing Cover	18,208
ANU Enterprise Pty Ltd	T S Regional Sea Claim	26,004
Nicola Piper	Linguist T S Sea Claim	11,771
P & E Law	Native Title Claim - Naghir People	52,738
Jim Brooks	Native Title Mediation - Naghir People	24,724
David Yarro	Native Title - Mualgal People	2,992
Applyby Consulting Pty Ltd	Native Title Determination - Naghir	1,412
Terwiel-Powell Associates	Naghir People - NTC	4,400
Hoad Business Development	Retail Software	13,838

Consultant	Details of Consultancy	Amount (\$)
David Callow Photography	Referendum Project	22,609
FNQ NRM Ltd	Transitional Support - LSMU	10,646
Primary Industries and Resources SA	Mualgal Corporate Plan	27,500
Desert Channels Queensland	T S Regional Plan	24,763
Northern Gulf Resource Management Group	Marine Debris Project	178,670
Dept of Primary Industries & Fisheries	Marine Debris Project	71,500
James Cook University	Coastal Erosion Project	124,700
C & B Group	Sustainable Land Use Project	243,826
3D Environmental Vegetation Assessment & Mapping Specialist	Ecosystem Mapping	197,579
Conics (Cairns) Pty Ltd	Sustainable Land Use Project	243,826
Savvy Community Development Consultants	Facilitation Services - LSMU	20,334
Cairns Regional Gallery Limited	Referendum Project	20,570
George Menham	Governance Planning	33,192
Marcus Finn	Fisheries Policy	4,968
Arenelle Pty Ltd	Program and Planning Review	42,164
Ross Naylor (Valentine Travel)	Health Services	26,432
Black & More	Major Infrastructure Program	7,475
Pacifica Chartered Accountants	Accounting Services	10,016
Longley Stapleton	Account System Support	197,130
Davidson Workplace Solutions	Human Resource Services	18,630
Icognition Pty Ltd	IT Support	163,993
Alfresco Design Aust Pty Ltd	IT Support	3,998
Axxess Consultancy Group	IT Support	62,193
Answerz IT Consulting	It Support CDEP Manager System	27,456
Delter Point Pty Ltd	Workforce Management Plan	11,962
Frontier Software	HR & Payroll System Support	14,965



## GLOSSARY

<b>ABS</b>	Australian Bureau of Statistics
<b>AFMA</b>	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>Ailan Kastom</b>	Island Custom
<b>AIMS</b>	Australian Institute of Marine Science
<b>ANAO</b>	Australian National Audit Office
<b>APSC</b>	Australian Public Service Commission
<b>ATES</b>	Assistance with Tertiary Education Scheme
<b>ATSI</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
<b>ATSIAC</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
<b>ATSICLS</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Legal Services
<b>ATSIIP</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
<b>BFS</b>	Business Funding Scheme
<b>BRACS</b>	Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme
<b>CAC</b>	Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997
<b>CDEP</b>	Community Development Employment Program
<b>CEIS</b>	Community Economic Initiatives Scheme
<b>CRC</b>	Cooperative Research Centre
<b>CSIRO</b>	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
<b>CTP</b>	Community Training Program
<b>DAFF</b>	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
<b>DEST</b>	Department of Education, Science and Training
<b>DEEWR</b>	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
<b>DFAT</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
<b>DLGSR</b>	Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation
<b>DOGIT</b>	Deeds of Grant in Trust
<b>DoTARS</b>	Department of Training and Regional Services
<b>DSDTI</b>	Queensland Department of State Development, Trade and Innovation
<b>EEO</b>	Equal Employment Opportunity
<b>EPBC</b>	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
<b>Erub</b>	Also known as Darnley Island
<b>FaHCSIA</b>	Dept of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs
<b>FOI</b>	Freedom of Information
<b>GBRMPA</b>	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
<b>GBRRF</b>	Great Barrier Reef Research Foundation
<b>GBRWHA</b>	Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
<b>GTCC</b>	Gab Titui Cultural Centre
<b>HEMTP</b>	Heavy Equipment and Management Training Program
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>Hon.</b>	Honourable
<b>HSD</b>	Health Service District
<b>Iama</b>	Also known as Yam Island
<b>ICC</b>	Island Coordinating Council
<b>ILUA</b>	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
<b>IRADF</b>	Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund

<b>JTSHIC</b>	Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee
<b>Latent Effort</b>	This refers to 'unused' effort in a fishery
<b>LSMU</b>	Land and Sea Management Unit
<b>Masig</b>	Also known as Yorke Island
<b>Mer</b>	Also known as Murray Island
<b>MIP</b>	Major Infrastructure Program
<b>Mura Kosker</b>	Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated
<b>NESB</b>	Non-English speaking background
<b>NFA</b>	PNG National Fisheries Authority
<b>NHT</b>	Natural Heritage Trust
<b>NNTT</b>	National Native Title Tribunal
<b>NPA</b>	Northern Peninsula Area
<b>NPARC</b>	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
<b>NTO</b>	Native Title Office
<b>NTRB</b>	Native Title Representative Body
<b>OEA</b>	Office of Evaluation and Audit
<b>OH&amp;S</b>	Occupational Health and Safety
<b>OIPC</b>	Office of Indigenous Policy and Coordination
<b>PBC</b>	Prescribed Bodies Corporate
<b>PKA</b>	Port Kennedy Association
<b>PMP</b>	Performance Management Program
<b>PNG</b>	Papua New Guinea
<b>Poruma</b>	Also known as Coconut Island
<b>PWD</b>	People with a disability
<b>PZJA</b>	Protected Zone Joint Authority
<b>QDPI</b>	Queensland Department of Primary Industries
<b>QHTN</b>	Queensland Heritage Trails Network
<b>QSIA</b>	Queensland Seafood Industry Association
<b>SES</b>	Senior Executive Service
<b>TIDS</b>	Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme
<b>TRAWQ</b>	Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine
<b>TRL</b>	Tropical Rock Lobster
<b>TSC</b>	Torres Shire Council
<b>TSIMA</b>	Torres Strait Islander Media Association
<b>TSIRC</b>	Torres Strait Islands Regional Council
<b>TSIREC</b>	Torres Strait Islander Regional Education Council
<b>TSIRCES</b>	Torres Strait Islands Regional Council Engineering Services
<b>TSLACC</b>	Torres Strait Local Agencies Coordination Committee
<b>TSNP</b>	Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Legal Service
<b>TSRA</b>	Torres Strait Regional Authority
<b>TSYSRA</b>	Torres Strait Youth, Sport and Recreation Association
<b>Ugar</b>	Also known as Stephen Island
<b>WACC</b>	Workplace Agreement Consultative Committee
<b>Warraber</b>	Also known as Sue Island
<b>YAS</b>	Youth Activities Services
<b>YDMS</b>	Yorke, Darnley, Masig and Stephen Islands

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