

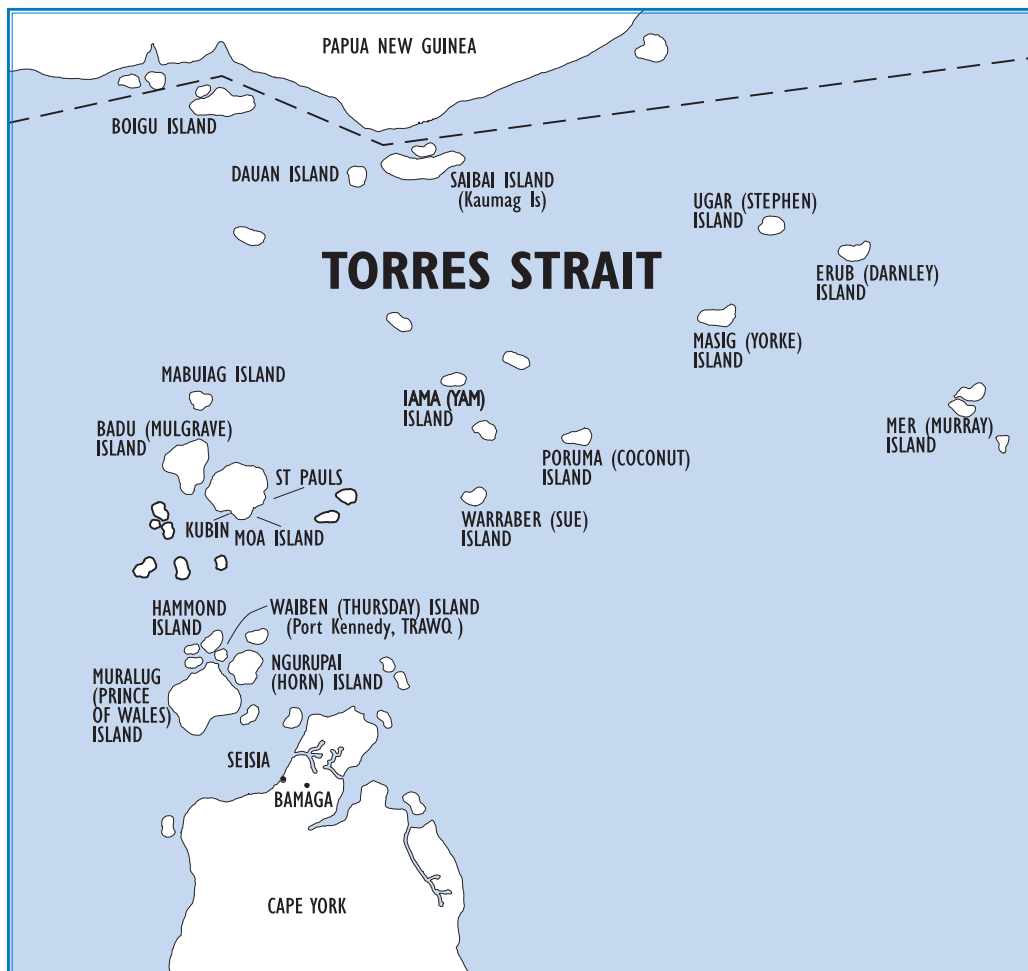


Australian Government



TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005



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

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Copyright ©. This Report commemorates the special sitting of the Federal Court of Australia on Erub, Ugar, Iama, Boigu and Badu Islands in December 2004 for the purpose of formally recognising each community's native title rights.

The cover features the Torres Strait flag by Bernard Namok and photographs depicting the native title determinations and their communities' celebrations. The images featured on the front cover represent the communities of: Ugar, Erub and Badu (left to right) and dancer, Mr Satrick Baluz who performed for his community of Iama. The back cover of this report features Boigu Island and their welcome to the Federal Court of Australia.

This Annual Report is a tribute to the late Justice Cooper who last visited our islands in December 2004 and who sadly passed away in March 2005. Justice Cooper will be remembered for his immense contribution to native title in the Torres Strait. He understood the pride we hold for our heritage and elevated our spirits - we honour his memory.

The TSRA is grateful for the contribution of the National Native Title Tribunal and photographer, Kenny Bedford who independently provided the photographs featured on the cover and chapter pages of this report.

The background image on the cover is featured courtesy of The Australian Museum. The scene shows palm trees and huts from Mabuiag Island in 1921. The photographer is Frank Hurley.

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*Traditional owners of
Erub achieved their
native title recognition on
8 December 2004.*



Australian Government



TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Senator the Hon. Amanda Vanstone
Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

It gives me great pleasure to present you with the eleventh 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 2004 to 30 June 2005.

As we enter our twelfth 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
27 September 2005

Our Vision

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 2004-2005 ANNUAL REPORT

The Torres Strait Regional Authority's Annual Report 2004-2005 is the Chairperson's report on operations to the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs on the performance and achievements of the TSRA during 2004-2005. It is a key accountability document to the Parliament of Australia.

REPORT STRUCTURE

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

The General Manager's Overview provides a more detailed administrative and organisational review of the TSRA's performance against its expected outcomes during the financial year.

The third chapter provides details of the TSRA Board, Advisory Committees, Portfolio Positions and the TSRA meetings held during 2004-2005. The following chapter 'About The TSRA' provides some detail about the Torres Strait region and the people who live there. 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 a corporate overview of the TSRA administration.

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

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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



INTRODUCTION

It is my pleasure to present the 2004-2005 Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Report of Operations under Section 9 of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997.

The TSRA Board has experienced another very busy and challenging year, successfully operating in a period of great change within Indigenous affairs. I am thankful to the Board Members, particularly the Executive Members for their support and commitment in addressing issues that have been raised during the past year.

I would also like to thank Mr Mike Fordham, the former TSRA General Manager, for his strategic leadership of the TSRA Administration and contribution towards achievements within the region. I wish him and his family well in their new ventures. The TSRA has advertised the General Manager's position and the selection process was conducted and is being finalised.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development still remains a high priority and the TSRA has continued to focus on increasing economic development initiatives within the region with the aim for long term economic and financial sustainability for our communities. The TSRA has achieved this through encouraging and providing support to local island councils and by negotiating partnerships with a variety of Australian and Queensland Government agencies to establish community based business initiatives for the benefit of our people.

The TSRA's Home Ownership, Business Funding Scheme and the Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS) grants is continuing to benefit many of our people and communities in achieving economic independence.

TORRES STRAIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The TSRA Board has completed the review of the Torres Strait Development Plan 2005-2009. The Development Plan sets out the TSRA's approach in addressing key development areas for our communities over the next four years. TSRA Board Members played an active role in the compilation of the Plan. The document is currently being published and will soon be made available to all communities, TSRA funded organisations and the public. A copy will also be available through the TSRA website.

GAB TITUI CULTURAL CENTRE

The Gab Titui Cultural Centre plays a crucial role in Torres Strait cultural revitalisation. Many visitors to the region have visited the centre to admire the unique cultural artworks on display. We are fortunate to have such a facility where we can showcase our culture to the world and to strengthen our cultural identity.

This year the TSRA celebrated the first anniversary of the Gab Titui Cultural Centre on 16 April 2005. To mark the event, the Centre held a week long Writers' Festival as well as an exhibition of photographs from the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology 19th Century Haddon collection and a number of contemporary colour photographs taken from the Opening in 2004.

Another major highlight for the year was the Visual Arts and Craft Forum, which was held in conjunction with Arts Queensland. The Forum gave local artists the opportunity to look at the future direction of Torres Strait Islander arts and to identify where the industry wants to position itself in the coming five to ten years.

Further works are also being earmarked for the Cultural Centre with the construction of a new amenities block scheduled to commence in July with the support of the Department of Transport and Regional Services.

FISHERIES

There have been some significant achievements within Torres Strait fisheries which have made 2004-2005 a very busy and rewarding year for the Torres Strait.

Through the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority's (PZJA) meeting process, important decisions have resulted in resource allocation for the Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL) and Finfish fisheries. These include a move to a quota management system for the TRL fishery from 2007 onwards and an in principle agreement to implement cost recovery for the TRL, Finfish and Pearl Shell fisheries. I would like to express my appreciation to the Community Fisher Group for their participation through this fisheries development process.

The PZJA also extended the employment tenure of the Fisheries Coordinator for a further three-year term with the TSRA, Queensland and Australian Governments each contributing \$30,000 per annum for that position and agreed to allocate the revenue raised from Traditional Inhabitant boat license fees to enable the Community Fisher Group to build capacity on the ground and participate in the PZJA consultative processes.

COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE (CRC) TORRES STRAIT

The TSRA is one of the key partners in the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Torres Strait program which commenced in January 2004 and looks at a coordinated and integrated approach to research, which will provide information about the marine environment to Torres Strait Islander fishers, non-Islander commercial fishers, fisheries' managers and to the local communities. In addition to the partnership contributions, the TSRA also supported the Sea Sponge aquaculture project in the Torres Strait.

Dugong and Turtle Management

The TSRA engaged CRC Torres Strait to develop the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for the sustainable management of dugong and marine turtles in the Torres Strait. The TSRA is a participant under this program and it is expected that the Torres Strait RAP will be completed by the end of July 2005.

NATIVE TITLE

The TSRA has achieved fifteen native title consent determinations of native title in the Torres Strait, twelve of which have been over community islands held under Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) achieved with the consent of all the parties, made under the Native Title Act (Cth) as amended in 1988.

In December 2004 seven consent determinations of native title were held in the Torres Strait, over the islands of Badu, Boigu, Iama, Erub, Ugar, Aureed and Gebar. These determinations were the result of two years of difficult negotiations with the State of Queensland, following the cancellation of consent determinations in September 2002 over the same islands. The cancellation resulted from a last minute argument by the State that native title had been extinguished over land where community infrastructure had been built on each of the islands.

There now remain ten claims over islands which are not community islands in the Torres Strait. The TSRA Native Title Office and the State of Queensland have identified four of these claims for final resolution by consent in August 2005. The Federal Court is putting pressure on all parties for the remaining claims to be finalised by the end of 2005, and this will be a priority for the Native Title Office for the remainder of this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the traditional owners and Prescribed Bodies Corporate for their participation and input towards achieving these milestones.

Torres Strait Sea Claim

The Federal Court has recently set out a timeframe for the progress of the Torres Strait Sea Claim. The regional Claim will be a key priority for the TSRA Native Title Office over the next two years. In the meantime, extensive anthropological work continues.

HEALTH IN THE TORRES STRAIT

During 2004-2005, Board members focussed on a number of health issues for the region including the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Torres Strait; the impact of PNG nationals movement under the Free Movement provision of the Torres Strait Treaty and its effect on health service provision in the region and the reoccurrence of the tropical mosquito borne disease Dengue Fever.

The TSRA has strategically positioned itself to inform and participate in a collaborative approach to addressing these concerns. The TSRA is a signatory member of the Torres Strait Health Partnership Agreement and works with other health stakeholders on the Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum to strategically plan the direction for health in the region.

Through this Forum the TSRA has contributed to the coordinated development of a regional health plan that will guide the role and implementation of health strategies for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Board considers environmental health outcomes a priority and as a result of persistent lobbying was successful in securing State Government commitment to fund the establishment of Environmental Health Officers on each island community. This is a major achievement for the region and one that took several years to realise.

During 2004-2005 a funding agreement was signed between the TSRA and the Queensland Government to continue the Major Infrastructure Program. A total of \$32.4 million will be provided

over three years to improve environmental health infrastructure in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. The Major Infrastructure Program is a ten-year commitment by the Queensland and Australian Governments to provide a cost effective way to improve environmental health for residents in our region.

Major Infrastructure Program (MIP)

The third stage of the MIP has commenced with the primary focus for this Stage being the completion of new sewerage works planned for Mabuiag, Masig, St Pauls, Kubin and Warraber Islands. An implementation study for the Waste Management Strategy will also be undertaken. This study will follow on from the Initial Waste Management Project that commenced in Stage 2, in particular, the Bulk Waste Removal and Tip Upgrade Project.

The MIP has been instrumental in improving the standard and quality of life for people living in the region, but there is still more work to be done.

The Major Infrastructure Program works closely with other programs including the Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program, the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme and the Airstrip and Marine Upgrade Program.

TORRES STRAIT TREATY

During 2004-2005 the TSRA worked closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and other Australian and Queensland Government agencies on matters relating to the Treaty. The TSRA remains committed to engaging in the Treaty process to ensure that the interests of our people are protected under the Treaty.

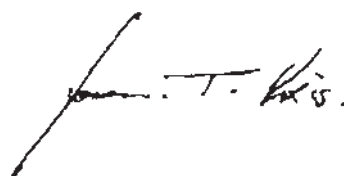
REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

The TSRA Board again discussed the issue of regional governance and is keen to consult and work with key stakeholder groups to determine the best governance model for our region.

CONCLUSION

Once again I thank the TSRA Members, TSRA Executive Members, Management and Administration staff, particularly the Native Title Office, for their good work and commitment to ensure that the Authority has functioned efficiently and delivered positive outcomes for the benefit of our communities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank key stakeholders such as the Community Fisher Group, Prescribed Bodies Corporate and traditional owners who through their efforts and cooperation during the year have achieved major outcomes for our people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John T. Kris', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the left.

John T. Kris
Chairperson

General Manager's Overview

GENERAL MANAGER'S OVERVIEW 2004-2005



This past year has been another exciting one for the TSRA as an organisation and once again the Authority's team should be commended for meeting the challenges presented in 2004-2005. Strategically, we continued to expand the organisation's capacity to support the Board, as well as engage other government and non-government agencies to assist in delivering outcomes in our region. Our approach to engaging in these partnerships has been guided by the policy direction set by the TSRA Board through its Development Plan to ensure that our communities benefit from new and existing initiatives.

On 15 October 2004, General Manager Mike Fordham and his family left the Torres Strait to take up a posting in Coffs Harbour, New South Wales. I wish to thank Mike for his tireless efforts leading the Authority (since February 2001) and wish him and his family our best regards in their travels ahead.

Some of the highlights from the past twelve months, as mentioned in the Chairperson's Report, include the community islands of Erub (Darnley), Ugar (Stephen), Boigu, Iama (Yam) and Badu receiving their native title in December 2004, the Gab Titui Cultural Centre celebrating its first birthday on 16 April 2005 and the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) which made important decisions for fisheries resources allocation within the Torres Strait.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development is a priority focus for the TSRA and once again our business, housing and community portfolios have performed strongly in assisting individuals, organisations and councils to develop and operate local enterprises. This year the TSRA increased its capacity in the area of mentoring support to these businesses by establishing a hub coordinator position in partnership with the Queensland Department of State Development, Trade and Innovation (DSDTI) to assist with business planning for upcoming enterprises. In addition, our partnership with DSDTI expanded to include the National Australia Bank to add further capacity to business planning within our economic development portfolios.

Our underlying philosophy is that by establishing financially viable and self-sufficient enterprises we generate employment and investment in the Torres Strait and create a sustainable regional economy.

At the end of 2004-2005, our business loan portfolio comprised seventy-three loans, while our home ownership program had a total of forty-one loans. Some new initiatives assisted by our economic output during this period include St Pauls' community block making plant, Ugar (Stephen Island) community freezer, a community fuel bowser at Hammond Island, Boigu guesthouse and a resort on Warraber Island, as well as ongoing assistance to many small businesses in fields such as fishing, car hire and tour operations.

Our approach to economic development is to ensure that there is a whole-of-government response to initiatives within our region and to this end we have worked closely with the DSDI and the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DoTARS) to assist a number of our enterprises. The TSRA looks forward to maintaining this strong working relationship with our partners in years to come.

This report contains more details of the TSRA's Economic Development output in later pages.

Tourism

The TSRA continues to support the Tourism Torres Strait community initiative, which aims to coordinate and enhance tourism opportunities for the region. Where possible, we have encouraged a collaborative approach to developing this industry and expanding our links with key North Queensland tourism groups. This included participating in tourism exhibitions and promoting the region in various media publications. Of course, tourism is an industry that each of our communities will individually make a decision to become involved in.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING

Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee (JTSHIC)

The Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee represents a coordinated approach to addressing the housing and infrastructure needs of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. In 2003-2004, the JTSHIC developed its strategic plan for the region and continued to roll out its responsibilities under that plan in 2004-2005. One significant aspect of implementation has been the improved coordination and planning of infrastructure by strengthening the relationship between partners and other stakeholders. In particular, the TSRA is partnering successfully with Queensland Transport to deliver upgrades to airstrips and marine infrastructure. This partnership is providing a more efficient delivery of infrastructure development in the region.

The JTSHIC also continued to improve its efforts in maximising the planning and coordinating of housing and infrastructure activities throughout Torres Strait by monitoring sub-committee meetings held during the year. These included: the Major Infrastructure Program Steering Committee, the Island Coordination Council Infrastructure Support Unit Steering Committee, the Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program Steering Committee, and the Torres Strait Housing Sub-Committee.

Major Infrastructure Program (MIP 2 and MIP 3)

A \$32.4 million funding agreement has been signed between the Australian and Queensland Governments for Stage Three of the Program. The Major Infrastructure Program, overseen by the JTSHIC, seeks to improve the infrastructure standards in the fifteen outer island communities, as well as the communities of Bamaga and Seisia in the Northern Peninsula Area of Cape York. The Australian and Queensland Governments have provided joint contributions amounting to \$60 million for Stages One and Two of the Program. The second stage of the Program (2001-2004) is being finalised.

Capital works to introduce sewerage to Horn Island and Seisia communities is progressing. The Seisia Sewerage Project is largely completed and negotiations continue to obtain approval to construct the rising main between Seisia and Bamaga treatment plant. Horn Island Sewerage Project is also being negotiated for land tenure issues. All other MIP Stage Two works have been completed on time or are on schedule.

Stage Three of MIP has commenced and the primary focus for this Stage will be the completion of new sewerage works planned for Mabuia, Masig, St Pauls, Kubin and Warraber communities. Water upgrades will occur at Hammond, Mer, Badu and Mabuia Islands and a mobile desalination plant will be available for use by all communities within the region. Roadwork is planned for Badu and Ugar with some drainage work at St Pauls. Subdivision work at Bamaga will complement the previous subdivision work undertaken by the Program. An implementation study for the Waste Management

Strategy will also be undertaken. This study will follow on from the Initial Waste Management Project that commenced in Stage Two.

The success of the MIP is due to the cooperative and collaborative efforts of a number of agencies including our partners: the Queensland Departments of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation; Main Roads and Transport.

Operations and Maintenance of Infrastructure

In 2004-2005, the TSRA and the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation provided \$1.5 million each to fund the operations of the Island Coordinating Council Infrastructure Support Unit. The Unit has a responsibility to ensure adequate operations and maintenance of infrastructure throughout the region. The work of the Infrastructure Support Unit complements the substantial benefits being delivered through the Major Infrastructure Program. Maintenance and operational management are essential to maintain the region's valuable infrastructure assets and the Unit will provide a solid foundation for future generations. The Infrastructure Support Unit also has a significant role to perform in ensuring that water quality and quantity are adequate to meet the needs of communities and that technical support is available throughout the region.

A Service Level Agreement review was carried out on the Unit this financial year by the Queensland Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation. The review was largely positive and funding partners reached agreement on the findings of the review and implementation of any recommendations.

Other Infrastructure

The TSRA has also implemented a number of other significant infrastructure improvements along with MIP projects, which are designed specifically to deliver direct benefits to the region through infrastructure and subsequently improve the environmental health and wellbeing of residents.

Major work to airstrips has occurred this financial year with the completion of an airstrip upgrade on Poruma Island and more recently, on Warraber Island. These upgrades were undertaken in partnership with Queensland Transport and resulted in substantial improvements to aviation safety, health, and social outcomes, as well as improved access to these remote communities.

Further airstrip upgrades are planned for Mer and Lama Islands in 2005-2006.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority, the Queensland Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation and the Queensland Department of Main Roads, continued to support the Heavy Equipment and Training Program (HEMTP) this past year.

The Torres Strait HEMTP provides a plant pool of heavy equipment and machinery on a share-basis to island communities to build roads, upgrade airstrips, excavate sewerage channels or other appropriate earth works. The Program is designed to deliver training outcomes for communities by providing opportunities for skill development during these projects.

Since the last annual report, the HEMTP has been involved in the construction of all-weather airstrips at Poruma and Warraber. A total of twelve local persons from these communities were involved in training and development of heavy machinery skills.

HEMTP road and drainage projects were undertaken at St Pauls and Kubin communities. Subdivisional work, including drainage work, was undertaken at Hammond Island and major drainage works were delivered at Saibai Island community.

A total of approximately thirty trainees were provided with accredited training and employment by the HEMTP in 2004-2005. Each trainee has received a broad range of on and off-site training and has

been employed under the Civil Construction Workers Award, in accordance with a Workforce Skilling Agreement entered into with the Queensland Department of Main Roads Remote Communities Services Unit.

The TSRA wishes to thank our partners in this positive initiative, as well as the communities that have participated in HEMTP, to deliver these important outcomes.

ASSISTANCE TO COUNCILS AND 'TOWN' ORGANISATIONS

The TSRA continued to provide funding and expert assistance to island councils and Thursday Island based organisations in 2004-2005. Support concentrated in the areas of social justice and legal assistance to Indigenous people of the Torres Strait and to various social programs related to women, aged care and youth issues, art, culture and environment, municipal support and broadcasting.

Organisations directly resourced under these programs include the Torres Strait Islanders Media Association (TSIMA), Mura Kosker Sorority, the Port Kennedy Association, and Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula (TSNP) Legal Service and TRAWQ¹ Community Council, along with each of the island councils. More details on the funds provided to these organisations are included in this report under Output Five.

This report also includes full details of all machinery and equipment grants made during the past year.

NATIVE TITLE

Torres Strait Islanders first achieved recognition of their traditional rights over land in 1992 through the High Court's landmark Mabo decision over Mer (Murray Island). This case set a precedent for Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people throughout Australia. Following the introduction of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), there have been a total of fifteen² consent determinations recognising native title rights and interests over land in the Torres Strait.

Land Claims

In December 2004, the TSRA and communities across the Torres Strait celebrated the end of a landmark native title struggle, which culminated in the community islands of Badu, Boigu, Iama, Ugar and Erub and the uninhabited islands of Aureed and Gebar having native title recognised by the Federal Court of Australia.

Over the last few years there was significant dispute between traditional owners in the Torres Strait and the State of Queensland over whether infrastructure constructed on land held in trust for the benefit of the traditional islander inhabitants, constitutes the establishment or construction of a "public work" and if any extinguishing effect building of such works has on native title.

This dispute was agonising and disappointing for Torres Strait Islander communities, delaying the resolution of five native title claims and making traditional owners reluctant to give island councils approval to build essential new works on their lands for fear their native title would be extinguished.

¹ TRAWQ represents Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine suburbs of Thursday Island.

² This figure does not include the Kaurareg People consent determination, which was determined on 23 May 2001. The Kaurareg People were represented by the Cape York Land Council.

It is pleasing to report that this dispute was finally resolved in 2004 with the State of Queensland agreeing that native title existed in the areas claimed by each of the five community islands. This allowed consent determinations to be made over each of the islands recognising the exclusive native title rights of the traditional owners, with no extinguishment where housing and other important community infrastructure had been built.

The traditional owners and the TSRA Native Title Office should be congratulated for their persistence and commitment in advancing these claims.

The finalisation of the ten remaining uninhabited land claims is a priority for the Native Title Office.

The Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim is progressing through the Court process. The Federal Court made directions at the Badu consent determination in December 2004 that the Applicants and the respondent parties engage in mediation during 2005 and 2006. The Native Title Office continues to undertake legal and anthropological research to progress the claim and has also assembled a negotiating team which consists of one representative from each of the fourteen islands bringing the claim, the two remaining Applicants and the TSRA Board Portfolio Member responsible for native title. There are likely to be some complex issues that need resolving and a mediation program will be developed to identify and where possible, address the issues of contention raised by the respondent parties.

Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA)

A further fifteen ILUAs, between the State of Queensland, Ergon Energy and Telstra Corporation were negotiated as part of the consent determinations last year, and are currently being considered by the National Native Title Tribunal for registration.

To hopefully prevent Future Act and native title disputes arising in the future, the Native Title Office has drafted and is currently recommending to all island councils and Prescribed Bodies Corporate that they discuss and enter into an ILUA. Developing ILUAs will establish a consistent approach to dealing with future works which affect native title, and will ensure that all such works are built validly and without extinguishing native title. It is hoped that these ILUAs will be in place by the end of 2005.

Support for Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs)

With nine Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate, and a further seven anticipated to be registered during the life of the current TSRA Native Title Strategic Plan, mediation, negotiation and assistance in dealing with Future Acts, as well as dispute resolution and agreement making, are emerging as primary functions for the NTO. The lack of funding for PBCs is a significant challenge for the TSRA, which continues to lobby for financial support for these bodies.

NTO Relocation

The Native Title Office (NTO) relocated in 2004-2005 to the offices above the Gab Titui Cultural Centre. The TSRA is grateful to the Island Coordinating Council for their support over the years by providing office accommodation for the NTO.

ARTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The TSRA continued to promote the arts within the Torres Strait during the past twelve months. We have funded a variety of activities including school dance tours, exhibitions and performances from Indigenous artists, celebrations of historical events, Indigenous workshops, as well as administer the Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund (IRADF), which is a partnership with Arts Queensland.

One of the highlights in this area was the Visual Arts Forum hosted by the TSRA and Arts Queensland at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre in June 2005, which explored strategies for increasing economic and market opportunities for local artists and performers.

The TSRA's ongoing strategic partnership with the National Museum of Australia was again valuable for promoting arts development within the Torres Strait and at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre.

"Gab Titui" Cultural Centre Torres Strait

Gab Titui celebrated its first birthday on 16 April 2005, marking an incredible year of achievement for the new centre. The celebration itself was a week long event incorporating Writers' Week and a photographic exhibition of the 19th Century Haddon collection from Cambridge University in England and was well attended.

Since its opening in April 2004, over three thousand visitors have taken the opportunity to explore this Torres Strait icon. The Centre showcases contemporary and traditional "Ailan" culture and provides a focal point for tourism in the region. Public programs and exhibitions are taking place at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre and have received strong support from the community. In addition to spearheading the Torres Strait's cultural revival movement, the Gab Titui Cultural Centre is also contributing to economic, educational and social outcomes for our region.

TORRES STRAIT TREATY

The TSRA maintained its close working relationship with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and agencies such as the Australian Customs Service, Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, the Australian Federal Police and others to ensure that the Treaty between Papua New Guinea and Australia continued to protect the rights and resources of traditional inhabitants in the Torres Strait area.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Sports and recreation in the Torres Strait again received substantial support from the TSRA, primarily through funding support programs administered by Torres Strait Youth Sport and Recreation Association (TSYSRA). TSYSRA delivers funding for community sports initiatives via its quarterly funding rounds. The TSRA also provided funding for the development of related infrastructure such as basketball courts and halls, through the island councils, which in 2004-2005 was partnered with funds from the Queensland Office of Sports and Recreation.

EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Community Development Employment Program (CDEP)

The TSRA continues to work closely with Centrelink, island councils and organisations in the delivery of the CDEP in the Torres Strait.

A diverse range of projects continue to benefit local communities. What is particularly pleasing is that housing and major infrastructure contracts continue to be won by CDEP organisations, providing participants with extended working hours and increased incomes, as well as valuable training. For councils, it is this trend that helps build their capacity to bid for their own construction contracts and is contributing significant benefits to their community.

The CDEP's online program, which commenced in 2003-2004 to link the TSRA directly with organisations administering CDEP, as well as Centrelink, was finalised this year. The new system is functioning well and eliminates the need for schedules, enabling movement of CDEP participants anywhere within the eighteen CDEPs operating across the Torres Strait.

Community Training Program

The Community Training Program (CTP), as in previous years, is improving skill levels to enable individuals and communities to improve self-management and become more competitive in mainstream labour markets.

A concerted effort is being maintained to link courses with CDEP and training and employment opportunities offered by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST), the Queensland Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and the Queensland Department of Employment and Training.

More details of the CDEP and CTP schemes are available in this report.

Assistance With Tertiary Education Scheme (ATES)

Since being established in 2002, this scheme has continued to assist Indigenous students from the region to study full time at university. Already three university students assisted by ATES have graduated with tertiary qualifications and it is our hope that we will see many others do the same in the future. Another five scholarships were awarded in 2004-2005.

HEALTH FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

The TSRA is a signatory member of the Torres Strait Health Partnership Agreement. Other signatories are: the Department of Health and Ageing and Queensland Health. The Queensland Ambulance Service participates as a member of the Health Partnership Forum.

The Torres Strait Health Partnership Agreement was reviewed during 2004-2005 and the ensuing recommendations were accepted by the Health Partnership Forum in November 2004. The review confirmed the work and direction of the Health Partnership in meeting its aims under the Agreement and explored capacity building for the framework.

A significant outcome for 2004-2005 has been the progress towards the development of a regional health plan for the Torres Strait. A first draft of the plan has been released with the final stage allowing community input through a Regional Community Health Workshop to be held in September 2005. Once this process is completed, a final Regional Health Plan will be formulated.

FISHERIES (PROTECTED ZONE JOINT AUTHORITY) AND ENVIRONMENT

Fisheries Management

2004-2005 was a truly historic year for fisheries in the Torres Strait as the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) undertook to make decisions on key fisheries issues, namely resource allocation in the Tropical Rock Lobster and Finfish fisheries and a quota management system among other priorities. Acknowledgements should be given to the TSRA Chair, who continues to represent the Torres Strait on the PZJA along side the Australian and Queensland Fisheries Ministers, the TSRA Portfolio Member for Fisheries and the traditional fishers who consistently contribute to PZJA discussions.

The PZJA's consultative structure demonstrated once again the immense value of having traditional fishers represented at all levels, as it has been highly effective in articulating the aspirations of Torres Strait Islanders when developing strategic policy for the region. Traditional fisher representatives continued to receive training to enhance their capacity for involvement in the new PZJA structure.

Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) For Torres Strait

The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) program will be making preparations to move to a larger research program in the 2005-2006 financial year. The TSRA aims to continue as a partner in this truly unique research initiative that since the inception of the Torres Strait CRC in 2003 has delivered \$23 million dollars of resources and research activities to our region.

The Torres Strait marine research program has commenced all its tasks with huge support and coordination on the ground from the Marine Research Liaison Officer based at the TSRA. There are immense rewards for the learning experiences gained by researchers and communities who have come together to share information, and support each other's aspirations and priorities. Some communities have been fortunate to have part-time employment opportunities on several research projects, working alongside researchers and learning to collect information, as well as boost their understanding of marine ecosystems.

Some of the major projects undertaken in 2004-2005 include:

- Cultural indicators for traditionally important marine resources in the Torres Strait.
- An information base for a sustainable traditional fishery of green turtles and dugongs in the Torres Strait.
- Exploring the potential for Sponge aquaculture in the Torres Strait.
- Biophysical processes in the Torres Strait marine ecosystem.
- Education opportunities for Indigenous involvement in marine ecosystem monitoring.
- Identification of critical habitats adjacent to shipping lanes and ports in the Torres Strait.

Natural Heritage Trust

The TSRA is working in partnership with a range of agencies to progress the delivery of the Natural Heritage Trust in the Torres Strait. There are a number of significant and complex environmental challenges facing our region and it is our preferred approach to continue liaising with the key stakeholders and government agencies responsible for delivering NHT funds into the region to ensure that these issues are being considered appropriately and that sufficient funds can be provided to address them.

The Badu Island Land & Sea Management Program is an example of a successful on-ground natural resource management initiative occurring at the community level in the Torres Strait. The TSRA has also developed a regional activity plan for managing dugongs and turtles in our communities, which was submitted to the Northern Australian Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) to seek funds to support communities in their efforts to sustainably manage dugongs and marine turtles. Additional funding will be sought through the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) to enable the delivery of the project across the entire Torres Strait region.

ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Staffing

The TSRA's workforce continues to be diverse and dynamic with a large percentage of our staff being Indigenous. The TSRA's staff numbers remained consistent with the previous year as the organisation experienced some minor fine-tuning of its administration function. Our Policy Coordination and Development and Economic Development sections continued to engage other government agencies to ensure that a whole-of-government approach was maintained for addressing key regional priorities.

For the first time in the Authority's history, we are now processing our own payroll, which is part of a new human resources system that was developed and installed during the financial year. The system is a state of the art resource that will significantly streamline and increase our capacity to deliver strategic human resources management.

The TSRA's Corporate Plan will be reviewed in 2005-2006 now that the Torres Strait Development Plan has been finalised by the Board. We are also committed to improving our service delivery standards to our clients, stakeholders, Board and staff. The TSRA's Service Charter was also updated in 2004-2005.

The Performance Management Program (PMP) continues to be an effective reward-based scheme for all employees. The PMP cycle involves a six-month mid-cycle review and a twelve-month review of all performance agreements. This program focuses on maintaining our current high standards and at the same time rewarding exceptional individual effort.

Our support for the Board

The close working relationship between the TSRA Board and administration continued during the past year. The efforts of the TSRA's Executive, under the leadership of the Chairperson, Mr Kris, should be also acknowledged as they have worked tirelessly as a team to meet the challenges facing the Torres Strait.

I am committed to maintaining this relationship between the two arms of the TSRA Administration and Board, to ensure that we can deliver maximum outcomes to the region.

Audit and Evaluation

The TSRA again performed well at audit. We were given a clean 'bill of health' by the Office of Evaluation and Audit in May 2005 and by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) in August 2004. The ANAO will again conduct our external audit in July 2005 for the 2004-2005 financial year.

Relationship with the Minister

The TSRA continued to service the Torres Strait region under the Indigenous Affairs portfolio, while new arrangements for the portfolio were introduced around the country. Our programs continue to be administered separately from the programs now being delivered by mainstream departments on the mainland.

Our relationship with the Minister and her office continues to be productive. This link has proved invaluable to meeting regional as well as national challenges in addressing Indigenous disadvantage.

A number of other State and Australian Ministers and Parliamentarians also paid welcome visits to the TSRA during the year to discuss our achievements and issues first-hand.

I wish to thank all the TSRA staff and the Board members for their great team effort in an eventful 2004-2005 and look forward to another productive year in 2005-2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne See Kee', written in a cursive style.

Wayne See Kee
Acting General Manager

TSRA BOARD

The TSRA consists of 20 Members, eighteen of whom hold office by virtue of their election to Island Council Chairperson positions on 27 March, 2004 under the *Queensland Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984*. The other two Members, representing Port Kennedy and Horn/Prince of Wales Islands, were elected on 3 April, 2004 in accordance with Division 5 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*.

The TSRA Members are:

Mr John Toshie Kris
Mr Fred Gela
Mr Jesse Sagaukaz
Mr Jack Ahmat
Mr Donald Banu
Mr Ted Billy
Mr Ron Day

Mr Elia Doolah
Mr Joseph Elu
Mrs Louisa Guise
Mrs Margaret Mau
Mr Walter Mackie
Mr Donald Mosby
Mrs Norah Pearson

Mr Maluwap Nona
Mr Robert Sagigi
Mr Saila Savage
Mr Bill Shibasaki
Mr Rocky Stephen
Mr Terry Waia

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



Mr Kris is the appointed Chairperson of the Torres Strait Regional Authority who was elected in May 2004. Mr Kris shares responsibility for the TSRA Portfolio areas of Marine and Fisheries, and Regional Governance and Legislative Reform and is also the Chairperson of St Pauls Community Council, a registered training organisation, and a member of the Island Coordinating Council (ICC).

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

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

Mr Fred Gela, Deputy Chairperson & Member for Hammond Island



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

Mr Gela believes that the most important issues affecting Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in this region are access to housing and improvements to related infrastructure, access to education and training opportunities and progressing regional autonomy. His vision is for Torres Strait Islander people to achieve self-governance and embrace a regional approach to issues to improve overall living standards throughout all Torres Strait communities.

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



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

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

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

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

Mr Jack Ahmat, Member for Badu Island



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

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

Mr Donald Banu, Member for Boigu Island



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

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

Mr Banu considers native title, economic development, regional governance, fisheries and home ownership as the key areas that need to be addressed during the TSRA's current four year term.

Mr Ted Billy, Member for Warraber Island



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

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

Mr Billy also considers an increase in traineeships and apprenticeships as a vital component of building community capacity and fulfilling youth ambitions.

Accessible home ownership and full entitlement to land were two further issues that he endeavours to pursue during his term.

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

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



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

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

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

Mr Elia Doolah, Member for Erub (Darnley) Island



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

Mr Doolah is particularly focused on training and education and is keen to see qualified Torres Strait Islander people serving their communities.

Improving the health of Torres Strait people is also of primary importance to Mr Doolah.

Mr Joseph Elu, Member for Seisia Community



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

Under Mr Elu's direction, Seisia Island Council has successfully established a number of business enterprises and has achieved a greater degree of financial independence. Mr Elu has been appointed Co-Chair of the Voluntary Service to Indigenous Communities Foundation, member of the Reconciliation Australia Board and member of the SBS Board. Mr Elu places emphasis on the development of eco-tourism incorporating sports fishing as a means of achieving a measure of economic independence.

Mrs Louisa Guise, Member for Mabuiag Island



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

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

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

Of particular interest to Mrs Guise are possible opportunities for economic development throughout the Torres Strait and she looks forward to the further investigation of fisheries and aquaculture ventures.

Mrs Margaret Mau, Member for Dauan Island



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

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

Mrs Mau is committed to improving the health and protecting the environment of communities throughout the Torres Strait and encourages broader support for families.

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

Mr Walter Mackie, Member for Iama (Yam) Island



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

One of Mr Mackie's priorities is to see a significant improvement in addressing the shortfall of housing allocation to communities.

He encourages more training and further educational opportunities for community members to become better skilled, which he believes will result in a greater capacity for communities to establish their own economic base. Lobbying for more accessible and sustainable employment prospects to meet the needs and expectations of community members will be one of his key objectives.

Mr Mackie is committed to Torres Strait achieving self-determination and full entitlements to land and sea as a right of the people. He advocates the maintenance and preservation of cultural history and traditional sites and desires to see residents enjoy the same right to development and infrastructure as those that live in regional centres.

Mr Donald Mosby, Member for Masig (Yorke) Island



Mr Mosby is the Chairperson of Masig Island Council and a member of the ICC. He holds the TSRA Portfolio for Small Business and Economic Development and shares the Portfolio for Marine and Fisheries. Mr Mosby is also a member of the TSRA Fisheries Committee, PZJA Management Consultative Structure, Torres Strait Aquaculture Steering Committee, North Queensland Indigenous Fisheries Committee and the TSRA representative on the Torres Strait Tourism Committee.

Mr Mosby aims to develop tourism and establish commercial ventures on Masig Island and encourages his community members to gain qualifications through training and tertiary education and to establish their own enterprises. Mr Mosby believes that Torres Strait communities should move away from welfare dependence and progress the issue of greater autonomy.

Mrs Norah Pearson, Member for Poruma (Coconut) Island



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

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

Mr Maluwap Nona, Member for Ngurupai (Horn) and Muralug (Prince of Wales) Islands



Mr Nona is the TSRA Member for Ngurupai (Horn) and Muralug (Prince of Wales) Islands and holds the Portfolio for Language, Culture, Sport and Youth and shares responsibility for the Portfolio of Regional Governance and Legislative Reform.

Mr Robert Sagigi, Member for TRAWQ, Thursday Island



Mr Sagigi's¹ represents the TRAWQ communities on the TSRA Board and is also the Chair of the ICC.

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

Mr Saila Savage, Member for Kubin Community, Moa Island



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

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

¹ Mr Sagigi did not act on the Board of TSIMA or the TSNP Legal Service as stated on page 106 of this report. Both these organisations received funding from the TSRA in the 2004-2005 financial year.

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



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

Mr Shibasaki is also a member of the Torres Shire Council. He considers regional cooperation by stakeholders at all levels as the key to achieving community aspirations.

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

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



Mr Stephen is the TSRA Board member for Ugar (Stephen Island). He is the Ugar Island Council Chairperson and a member of the ICC.

Mr Stephen is a traditional owner and considers native title rights and ownership among the top priorities for the Torres Strait.

Other priority areas that he believes need to be addressed are airstrips on Ugar and Dauan, improving outer island sports facilities, housing, improving health services and youth development in island communities.

Mr Terry Waia, Member for Saibai Island



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

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

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

At 30 June 2005 the TSRA had one advisory committee according to section 142M of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005. This was:

- Audit Advisory Committee – Membership: Mr Terry Waia, Mr Maluwap Nona and Mr Bill Shibasaki.

PORTFOLIO POSITIONS

The TSRA Portfolio members for 2004-2005 are:

Women's Issues, Families and Health	Mrs Margaret Mau
Small Business and Economic Development	Mr Donald Mosby
Language, Culture, Sport and Youth	Mr Maluwap Nona
Legal and Media	Mr Elia Doolah
Housing and Infrastructure	Mr Fred Gela
Environment	Mr Walter Mackie
Employment, Education, Training and Arts	Mr Jesse Sagaukaz
Marine and Fisheries	Mr Toshie Kris and Mr Donald Mosby
Regional Governance and Legislative Reform	Mr Toshie Kris and Mr Maluwap Nona
Native Title	Mr Donald Banu

TSRA MEETINGS

The TSRA held four meetings between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005.

Meetings	Date	Duration
No. 49	25-27 August 2004	3 days
No. 50	22-24 November 2004	3 days
No. 51	7-19 March 2005	3 days
No. 52	6-9 June 2005	4 days

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

Meeting No. 49 – Members for Erub and Badu

Meeting No. 50 – Members for Bamaga and Poruma

Meeting No. 51 – Member for Dauan, Mer, Seisia and Port Kennedy

Meeting No. 52 – Member for Badu and Seisia



About the TSRA



*Traditional owners of
Ugar achieved their
native title recognition on
9 December 2004.*

ABOUT THE TSRA

TORRES STRAIT REGION

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

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

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

The region includes 18 island communities, with populations ranging from approximately 55 to 1,631, and also two mainland communities. The region's total population is estimated at 8,306, of whom 6,168 are Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people. Approximately 37,406 Torres Strait Islander people live outside the Torres Strait region.

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

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

The TSRA aims to improve the lifestyle and wellbeing of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region through implementing programs that address their poor socio-economic and health status. Due to the history of severe disadvantage suffered by the Indigenous people of the region, such improvements will be gradual. A report by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody revealed that significant improvements could only be achieved through fundamental changes in society's attitudes and recognition of the rights of Australia's Indigenous citizens. Consideration should be given to these factors when assessing the TSRA's programs.

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

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

EXTENT OF NEED

POPULATION

The 2001 Census showed that the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal population in the region:

- 6,168 represents over 74 per cent of the total population of the region, approximately 1.5 per cent of the Indigenous population of Australia and approximately 5.5 per cent of the Indigenous population of Queensland;
- had increased by 1.7 per cent since 1996 – this small increase possibly indicating a continuing migration of people from out of the area but further research is required; and
- had a median age of 20 years compared to 35 years for the non-Indigenous population of the region.

EMPLOYMENT

The 2001 Census information showed:

- the number of unemployed Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait region was 122 and altogether 2,116 people were employed. This represents an unemployment rate of 5.5 per cent for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people compared to 3.1 per cent for the non-Indigenous population of the region. In 1996 the unemployment rate in the Torres Strait Islander labour force was 5 per cent. Note: Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants are counted as employed.

EDUCATION

The 2001 Census showed that in the Torres Strait region:

- 6.8 per cent (420) of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over indicated they had a tertiary qualification compared to 40.4 per cent of non-Indigenous people; and
- a further 3.7 per cent (227) of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over were studying for a tertiary qualification.

INCOME

Household incomes of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people were, according to the 2001 Census, on average lower than those of other households. Of those households where all income data was available:

- 29.2 per cent of households earned less than \$500 per week compared to 16 per cent of other households; and
- at the upper income levels, 6 per cent of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal households had incomes over \$1,500 per week compared to 24.9 per cent of other households.

HOUSING

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

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

HEALTH

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

- Rates for all causes of death were higher in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Health Service District than in Queensland, with much of the excess occurring in the age group 40-70 years.
- Deaths due to Diabetes Mellitus were more than 10 times higher in the District than in Queensland. Information on deaths due to Diabetes Mellitus was sourced from Improving Diabetes Self-Care in the Torres Strait: a one-year randomised cluster trial 2002-2003.
- Hospital admission rates for Diabetes Mellitus were 10 times higher in the Torres Strait than rates for Queensland over the period 1994-1998.
- Mosquito-borne diseases are 164 times higher than rates for Queensland for the period 1999-2003. Recent Dengue Fever outbreaks resulted in 277 cases and the death of one person in 2003-2004.

- Data gathered from community consultation and available statistics and studies indicated that numerous factors impacted on the health status of the Torres Strait region including environment, housing, infrastructure, nutrition, access to health services, community involvement and traditional culture, alcohol and other substance abuse, infectious diseases, women's health and mental health.

FORMATION

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

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

On 16 March 2005 Parliament passed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment Bill 2005 repealing provisions of the *Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989 (Cth)*, and in particular abolishing ATSI. 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*.

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

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

ENABLING LEGISLATION

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

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

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

- (3) The common seal of the TSRA is to be kept in such custody as the TSRA directs and must not be used except as authorised by the TSRA.

- (4) All courts, judges and persons acting judicially must:
 - (a) take judicial notice of the imprint of the common seal of the TSRA appearing on a document; and
 - (b) presume that the imprint was duly affixed.

FUNCTIONS

The functions of the TSRA as outlined in Section 142A of the ATSI Act, are:

- (a) to recognise and maintain the special and unique Ailan Kastom of Torres Strait Islanders living in the Torres Strait area;
- (b) to formulate and implement programs for Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (c) to monitor the effectiveness of programs for Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area, including programs conducted by other bodies;
- (d) to develop policy proposals to meet national, State and regional needs and priorities of Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (e) to assist, advise and co-operate with Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal communities, organisations and individuals at national, State, Territory and regional levels;
- (f) to advise the Minister on:
 - (i) matters relating to Torres Strait Islander affairs, and Aboriginal affairs, in the Torres Strait area, including the administration of legislation;
 - (ii) the co-ordination of the activities of other Commonwealth bodies that affect Torres Strait Islanders, or Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (g) when requested by the Minister, to provide information or advice to the Minister on any matter specified by the Minister;
- (h) to take such reasonable action as it considers necessary to protect Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal cultural material and information relating to the Torres Strait area if the material or information is considered sacred or otherwise significant by Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal persons;
- (i) at the request of, or with the agreement of, the Australian Bureau of Statistics but not otherwise, to collect and publish statistical information relating to Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (j) such other functions as are conferred on the TSRA by this Act or any other Act;
- (k) such other functions as are expressly conferred on the TSRA by a law of a State or of an internal Territory and in respect of which there is in force written approval by the Minister under section 142B;
- (l) to undertake such research as is necessary to enable the TSRA to perform any of its other functions;
- (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 Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, Senator Amanda Vanstone, 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

The Corporate Services section provides a range of administrative and program services and is responsible for managing the corporate and financial requirements of the TSRA including executive support, finance, property, human resources, Workplace Agreement 2003-2006, staff development and training, reception, registry and secretariat services to the TSRA Board and Office of the Chairperson.

Objectives:

- Support delivery of the TSRA services to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait region;
- promote the efficient and effective use of human, financial and physical resources;
- create a rewarding, safe, healthy and equitable working environment;
- ensure the provision of efficient services for the TSRA Administration and Board and the Minister in order to facilitate decision-making;
- manage and maintain assets of the TSRA; and
- create and maintain systems which promote good corporate governance within both the Board and Administration arms of the TSRA.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

AUDIT

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

Internal: The Office of Evaluation and Audit (OEA) undertakes internal audits of the TSRA in accordance with S. 76 of the ATSI Act 2005. In May 2005, OEA undertook an internal audit of the TSRA.

External: The 2004-2005 financial statement audit commenced after the reporting period in July/August 2005 by Ernst and Young on behalf on the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), resulting in an unqualified audit opinion, as indicated by the Auditor General, at the beginning of the Financial Statements.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

A new TSRA Audit Committee was elected in November 2004. The TSRA Board endorsed the following Members to form the committee:

Mr Terry Waia, Member for Saibai Island

Mr Maluwap Nona, Member for Ngurupai (Horn) and Muralag (Prince of Wales) Islands

Mr Bill Shibasaki, Member for Port Kennedy

The Audit Committee is formed primarily to assist the TSRA Board in fulfilling its responsibilities relating to the accounting and reporting practices of the TSRA. The committee also assists the TSRA and board in corporate governance areas, particularly in regard to complying with obligations under the Commonwealth and Securities Act 1997.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Indemnities and insurance premiums for officers:

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

CERTIFIED WORKPLACE AGREEMENT & INDIVIDUAL WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS

The TSRA Certified Agreement 2003-2006 continues to be in use with the majority of staff employed under this Agreement. A number of staff however are employed under individual Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs), which have been approved by the Office of the Employment Advocate. There are a total of 9 AWAs at various APS levels within the organisation.

PERSONNEL

Payroll: The TSRA continued to utilise the services of the Island Coordinating Council as their payroll service provider for 2004-2005, however Frontier Software Pty Ltd, a leading Human Resource and Payroll company were commissioned to install the TSRA's own computer-based HR & Payroll system to enable the organisation to complete these functions in-house from 2005-2006. This is the first time the TSRA will have administered its own payroll services and to effectively manage this service a new permanent Payroll/Finance Officer was appointed.

Staff Development and Training: Staff attended various internal and external training and development courses throughout the year including Team Development, Project Management, Comsuper, Taxation, Customer Service Training and Information Technology. The TSRA has a policy of offering three office administration traineeships each calendar year and has continued with a further three in 2004-2005.

Leave Records: The TSRA continued to manage all leave records through Human Resources, which operate within the Corporate Services Section. A major project was undertaken to conduct a reconciliation of all leave balances for current staff including Long Service Leave, Personal Leave, Annual Leave, Maternity Leave and Leave Without Pay. The response from staff was positive and the TSRA is now confident that leave balances indicate a true reflection of employee's entitlements.

PROPERTY

The TSRA has an office accommodation usage of 994 square metres for 48 staff and the TSRA Chairperson, providing an average of 20.29 square metres per person.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The TSRA is an EEO employer and upholds the Australian Public Service Values. The TSRA “provides a workplace that is free from discrimination and recognises and utilises the diversity of the Australian community it serves”. Staff members and management receive up to date information and have access to the publications from the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC), Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) and numerous other agencies on employment related issues including, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Harassment Free Workplaces and Workplace Diversity. EEO and Harassment officers for the TSRA have been elected from within the staff. EEO statistical information is collected upon recruitment of all TSRA staff and provided to the APSC on an annual basis. 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 request was received for access to native title documents. No applications for Internal Review or applications to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, for review of a decision in relation to a request was received.

INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY

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

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OH&S)

The TSRA recognises its responsibilities under the *Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991*. The TSRA and staff cooperate on OH&S Policy and operational matters as stated in the Certified Agreement, and take part in appropriate national consultation. Staff members are informed of the current issues and receive OH&S publications from Comcare as they are developed. An OH&S Officer for the TSRA has been selected from within the staff.

PRIVACY

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

COMMONWEALTH DISABILITY STRATEGY (CDS)

The TSRA is aware of and acknowledges the CDS, which is a planning framework that assist agencies to ensure their policies, programs and services are accessible for people with disabilities. The TSRA is in the process of developing an action plan in order to implement the principles of the CDS.

CORPORATE DOCUMENTS

Between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005, the TSRA produced the TSRA 2003–2004 Annual Report. Additionally, the TSRA produced eight community newsletters (known as the TSRA News). The TSRA News is a publication distributed throughout the Torres Strait region and Australian mainland via insertion in the local newspaper, Torres News and through the TSRA website. The aim of TSRA News is to inform people living in the Torres Strait and on the mainland of the TSRA's goals, progress and achievements. It consists of articles and photographs specifically relating to the activities and achievements of the TSRA's elected and administrative arms.

The TSRA continues to draw on the Torres Strait Development Plan 2000–2004. This plan is required under Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005. A revised Torres Strait Development Plan for the next four years 2004–2008 has been developed and will be printed in early 2005–2006.

These publications can be viewed on the TSRA website (www.tsra.gov.au).



Outcome & Outputs



*Traditional owners of
Boigu achieved their
native title recognition on
10 December 2004.*

Prices of Outcome and Outputs

PRICES OF OUTCOME AND OUTPUTS PLANNED AND ACTUAL

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.

Building on these changes the financial statements have further been refined this year, with the Finance Minister issuing instructions that the Outcome and Outputs budgeted and actual prices now be listed in detail in the notes to the Financial Statements.

Outcomes are the results that departments and agencies are expected to achieve and Outputs are the costs of goods and services that are produced and contribute to the achievement of those outcomes.

The TSRA had just one planned Outcome for the financial period 2004–2005. 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	\$52.63m
Actual Total Price of Outcome	\$53.25m

Output 1

Economic Development

Budgeted Total Price \$2.85m

Actual Total Price \$3.96m

Output 2

Community Development, Employment and Training

Budgeted Total Price \$32.08m

Actual Total Price \$31.54m

Output 3

Native Title

Budgeted Total Price \$1.46m

Actual Total Price \$1.20m

Output 4

Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure

Budgeted Total Price \$8.15m

Actual Total Price \$6.91m

Output 5

Social and Cultural Development

Budgeted Total Price \$6.73m

Actual Total Price \$7.18m

Output 6

Policy and Information

Budgeted Total Price \$1.37m

Actual Total Price \$2.47m

Notes:

1. Revenue from Government through appropriations contributes 98.88% to the total Output price for this Outcome, for 2004-2005.
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

PERFORMANCE AGAINST OUTPUTS

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

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
1. Economic Development	<p>Quality: 75% of contracts settled within one month and 20% within two months.</p> <p>Quantity: 29 new contracts.</p> <p>Price: An average of \$50,000 per loan contract.</p> <p>10 Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS) grants & 9 housing loans. Provide 20 loans to establish business.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$2.85m</p>	<p>50% of contracts settled in one month, 30% of contracts were settled within one to three months and 20% within three to six months.</p> <p>A total of 14 Business Funding Scheme (BFS) & 13 housing loans were released to clients. The average BFS loan was for \$37,798. The loan portfolio consists of 114 loans: 73 BFS loans and 41 housing loans. During the financial year 29 BFS and 4 housing loans were discharged.</p> <p>17 CEIS grants were approved for the Boigu Guesthouse, Poruma mooring buoy, Poruma salaries and work-cover, Warraber Resort, Thursday Island State High School Stage 2 Aquaculture Project, Badu Restaurant, Saibai Bistro/Restaurant, Masig Island Lowatta Lodge Stages 1 & 2, Hammond Island additional ferry costs, Hammond fuel facility, Seisia unit accommodation and extensions to the supermarket, TRAWQ mechanical workshop, St Pauls Block Works expansion, Ugar freezer upgrade, and Kubin Arts Centre.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$3.96m</p>

<p>2. Community Development, Employment and Training</p>	<p>Quality: 90% of Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) communities comply with guidelines. 85% of targeted training delivered within the financial year.</p> <p>Quantity: 18 communities are on CDEP. 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 1955 eligible participants are qualified to be on the program.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$32.08m</p>	<p>94.4% of CDEP organisations fully complied with the CDEP and general funding and operational guidelines.</p> <p>97.2% of targeted training was delivered within the 2004-2005 financial year. The remainder will be conducted within the first two months of the new financial year.</p> <p>18 funded CDEP organisations enabled 19 communities to be on the CDEP.</p> <p>57 Community Training Programs were programmed and 52 implemented, including 121 apprenticeships.</p> <p>In 2004-2005, each CDEP community and organisation was visited an average of 3.7 times. The financial year ended with 1897 participants on the program.</p> <p>The CDEP Manager System is now fully online and on the TSRA website. Costs toward the development and consultancies relevant to CDEP and accountability are included in the overall cost of this output. The TSRA has a regularly upgraded Memorandum of Understanding with Centrelink.</p> <p>Price for this Output: aggregate of \$31.54m</p>
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<p>3. Native Title</p>	<p>Quality: Progress negotiations with respondent parties with a view to resolving consent determinations for all remaining areas of land under claim.</p> <p>Quality: Identify strategic test cases where appropriate and pursue resolution of land claims and Sea Claim by mediation or litigation, or by other means as appropriate.</p> <p>Quality: Develop standard procedures for processing and responding to Future Act and other notifications within 7 days.</p> <p>Quality: To progress the Regional Sea Claim through mediation and the court process and to develop and implement a strategy to assist with this process.</p> <p>Quality: Assist constituents with negotiations and to enter into Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) and other agreements where appropriate.</p> <p>Quality: Assist in resolving disputes between and within constituent groups, including through the conduct of anthropological research.</p> <p>Quality: To brief, recommend and take instructions from island councils and PBCs on the Infrastructure ILUA.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$1.46m</p>	<p>Seven land claims proceeded to a consent determination. Negotiations on the remaining nine land claims continue and four claims have been substantially progressed.</p> <p>Public works case heard by the Federal Court and seven land claims subsequently resolved by consent determination.</p> <p>Standard procedures developed and implemented for processing and responding to Future Act notifications.</p> <p>48 actions were taken in response to 261 Future Act notices, 90% within seven days.</p> <p>23 agreements were entered into in relation to proposed Future Acts, including 15 significant Indigenous Land Use Agreements. The 15 ILUAs have been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal.</p> <p>10 Trustee Leases and 10 Determination Deeds were executed.</p> <p>Assisted in relation to 14 disputes relating to native title applications or land use agreements.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$1.20m</p>
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<p>4. Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure</p>	<p>Quality: Infrastructure projects commenced in 2004-2005 year to be 75% completed by 30 June 2005.</p> <p>Quantity: Sewerage, housing subdivision, drainage and water infrastructure projects for the seventeen island communities to continue.</p> <p>Price for this Output: an aggregate of \$8.15m</p>	<p>MIP 2 projects that commenced in 2004-2005 are 45% completed as at 30 June 2005.</p> <p>Of the 4 projects that commenced construction during 2004-2005, one is 70% complete another 50% complete and a further one 45% complete, while the remainder is 10% complete.</p> <p>Overall, MIP 2 projects are 87% complete.</p> <p>Warraber airstrip was upgraded and was 100% completed at 30 June 2005.</p> <p>100% of MIP 3 projects for Year 1 have been awarded tenders.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$6.91m</p>
<p>5. Social, Cultural and Development</p>	<p>Quality: Approved grants for approved projects will be funded within 28 days of commencement of the financial year.</p> <p>Quantity: 25 grants will be approved in the financial year.</p> <p>Provide assistance to communities to promote and improve their social and cultural wellbeing.</p> <p>Promote community involvement in environmental issues affecting them by providing financial assistance to suitable community organisations running appropriate programs and through publications produced by the TSRA.</p> <p>Price for this Output: an aggregate of \$6.73m</p>	<p>All funded organisations received all or part of their first quarterly release within 28 days of the commencement of the financial year.</p> <p>27 grants were approved in the 2004-2005 financial year, representing 107 activities.</p> <p>Price for this Output: aggregate of \$7.18m</p>

<p>6. Policy & Information</p>	<p>Quantity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee meetings • 4 Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum meetings • 4 CRC Torres Strait Board meetings • 2 PZJA meetings • 2 Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee meetings • 2 Torres Strait Finfish Working Group meetings • 2 Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group meetings • 2 Torres Strait Prawn Working Group meetings • 2 Community Fisher Group meetings • 2 Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee meetings • 2 PZJA Standing Officials meetings • 1 Latent Effort Advisory Committee meeting <p>Quality: 94% of Ministerial correspondence dealt with within 21 days. 98% of TSRA Board Members and Portfolio Member for Women's Issues queries responded to within 14 days. 98% of queries from the public responded to within 14 days.</p> <p>Quantity: 1435 number of publications, queries and correspondence are anticipated.</p> <p>Quantity: Newsletters are published regularly to inform the public of the TSRA's programs.</p> <p>Quantity: Press releases are circulated to promote TSRA initiatives.</p> <p>Quality: All press releases are placed on the TSRA website within 48 hours of publication.</p> <p>Quality: Information requests are responded to within 48 hours of receipt.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$1.37m</p>	<p>100% of Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee meetings held.</p> <p>100% of Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum meetings held.</p> <p>100% achieved.</p> <p>100% achieved.</p> <p>100% achieved.</p> <p>50% achieved.</p> <p>100% achieved.</p> <p>50% achieved.</p> <p>100% achieved.</p> <p>100% achieved.</p> <p>100% achieved.</p> <p>100% achieved.</p> <p>18 Ministerials were received. All were dealt with by the set deadline with the exception of one. 100% of queries were responded to within 14 days. 100% of verbal queries were responded to in 14 days. 80% of written queries were responded to in 14 days. 1169 queries were received including 593 items of correspondence. One written complaint was received.</p> <p>8 newsletters were produced.</p> <p>29 press releases were circulated and 17 Chairperson's Columns were published. 100% of press releases and columns were placed on the website within 48 hours.</p> <p>31 information requests were received. 95% of these were responded to within 48 hours.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$2.47m</p>
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OUTPUT ONE - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM – ECONOMIC

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

The Economic Program is comprised of 3 sub-programs:

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

SUBPROGRAM: BUSINESS FUNDING SCHEME (BFS)

Objective

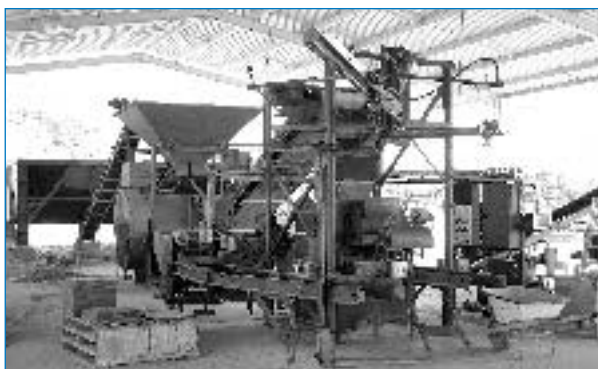
To increase the economic independence of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people of the Torres Strait region by facilitating the acquisition, ownership and development of commercially viable enterprises in accordance with the principles of sustainable economic development.

Description

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

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

If required, the BFS provides an additional service to clients, organising and paying for insurance over the assets. The insurance cost is then charged back to the client's loan account. A total of \$86,171 in insurance costs was paid on behalf of BFS clients.



St Pauls community block making plant has expanded to keep up with growing demand.

Achievements

The Business Funding Scheme is proving a significant source of commercial finance for Torres Strait Islanders wanting to establish or expand their businesses. During the financial period, a total of 14 loans were advanced at a total value of \$529,172.

During the financial year 29 clients paid out their BFS loans.

As at 30 June 2005 a total of 73 BFS loans remain active. A total of \$1,076,683 in repayments has been returned this financial year into the BFS account.

While the majority of the loans remain within the fishing industry, it is pleasing to see that Torres Strait Islanders are undertaking a diversified range of commercial activities. For example, of the loans financed in 2004-2005 period the following areas of commercial activity were undertaken.

Industry Sector	No. Loans Disbursed	\$ Value
Commercial Fishing	11	\$446,295
Construction	1	\$ 12,877
Transport	1	\$ 20,000
Retail	1	\$ 50,000
TOTAL	14	\$529,172

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

SUB-PROGRAM: HOME OWNERSHIP

Objective

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

Description

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

If required, an additional service that the Home Ownership Scheme provides to clients is the organising and paying of insurance. The insurance cost is then charged back to the client's loan account. A total of \$5,626 in insurance costs was paid on behalf of housing clients.

Achievements

This year a total of \$1,035,121 has been released to 13 housing loan clients for either the purchase of new homes or the renovation and expansion of existing dwellings.

A total of \$990,989 in repayments has been returned during the financial year into the Housing Account. In addition, 4 housing loans have been paid out leaving the total housing loan portfolio at 41.

SUB-PROGRAM: COMMUNITY ECONOMIC INITIATIVES SCHEME (CEIS)

Objective

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

Description

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

Achievements

During the financial year, the TSRA approved \$3,020,274, which was committed for Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS) projects and is detailed in the table below:

Council	Project	Amount
Boigu Island Council	Boigu Island Guesthouse	\$ 649,694
Poruma Island Council	Resort – mooring buoy	\$ 3,047
Poruma Island Council	Resort – salaries & work-cover	\$ 74,700
Warraber Island Council	Warraber Island Resort	\$ 650,000 *
Thursday Island State High School	Stage 2 Aquaculture Project	\$ 8,000
Badu Island Council	Restaurant	\$ 16,595
Saibai Island Council	Bistro/Restaurant	\$ 300,000
Masig Island Council	Lowatta Lodge Stage 2	\$ 300,000 **
Hammond Island Council	Additional ferry costs	\$ 19,172
Hammond Island Council	Fuel facility	\$ 140,700
Seisia Island Council	Unit accommodation – Holiday Park	\$ 275,000
Seisia Island Council	Extension to supermarket	\$ 188,250
TRAWQ Community Council	Mechanical workshop	\$ 15,116
St Pauls Island Council	Block pavers expansion	\$ 80,000
Ugar Island Council	Freezer update	\$ 50,000
Kubin Island Council	Arts Centre	\$ 250,000 ***
TOTAL		\$ 3,020,274

* \$200,000 contribution from the Commonwealth Department of Transport & Regional Services

** \$150,000 contribution from Qld Department of State Development, Trade & Innovation

*** \$50,000 contribution from Qld Department of State Development, Trade & Innovation

Funds were committed for a number of projects with work due to commence early 2005-2006. These include the construction of a Guesthouse on Boigu Island, the construction of the Warraber Island Resort, the construction of Stage 2 of Lowatta Lodge on Yorke Island, and upgrade and refurbishment of the freezer building and plant on Ugar Island. These enterprises are expected to continue the economic success of the island councils upon their completion.

The Hammond Island Fuel Project is progressing well with intensive planning being undertaken with Council. This facility will be an asset to the community and an opportunity for Council to generate income.

The Warraber Island Resort will consist of 8 self-contained units, a reception and office area, restaurant and commercial kitchen, conference room suitable for up to 30 persons, an open area for guest activities, Manager's residence and staff amenities building. The facility will provide employment and training for community members and income for Council.

The Boigu Guesthouse, to be completed in 2005-2006, will provide much needed accommodation for contractors, representatives from government departments and others, as well as providing employment and training for community members and income for Council.

The upgrade & refurbishment of the Ugar Freezer will ensure support for local fishermen and general economic and social benefits for the community. The freezer will enable fishermen to maintain a high standard of fresh product for market supply.

Completion of supermarket extensions and Holiday Park accommodation units at Seisia in 2005-2006 will enable Council to meet the ever-changing needs of tourists and a diversified range of visitors. These visitors require camping and/or villa accommodation, quality service, clean facilities and a location by the sea.

The Kubin Arts Centre has created a working environment that focuses on maintaining and nurturing the talents of the participating artists, thus encouraging them to create wealth and obtain a better standard of living. There are a number of emerging artists within the community, and art from Kubin is gaining recognition both within Australia and overseas.



Thursday Island State High School's Aquaculture Project is developing enterprise skills uniquely suited to Torres Strait's environment.

OUTPUT TWO – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

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

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

PROGRAM – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (CDEP)

Objective

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

Description

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

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

Funding

In 2004-2005, the TSRA was allocated \$29,973,269 and committed \$28,967,952 of CDEP program funds to projects in the Torres Strait region, achieving 100% expenditure over commitment. It is the TSRA's single largest program. As at 30 June 2005, there was a total of 1,897 eligible participants in 18 CDEP schemes, covering 19 communities. Expenditure for 2004-2005 was \$28,967,952 comprising: wages (\$21,602,089) and recurrent/capital (\$7,365,863), which included \$229,504 as CDEP support comprising the conduct of 6 major reviews (\$51,209); costs associated with the engagement of a Change Manager for the Horn Island CDEP (\$44,259); and the expenditure of \$88,668 relating to the development of the TSRA Website with the correspondingly altered version of the CDEP Manager software into a fully comprehensive electronic data transfer system, including the modification of Centrelink Forms. In addition, \$39,493 was spent on the conduct of an independent audit report of all island communities, and \$5,875 towards the development of the CDEP Award.

Achievements

CDEP communities within the Torres Strait region are involved in a number of work projects that CDEP members consider to be beneficial to their particular community. During 2004-2005, these projects continued to support activities such as: administration, storage yard and depot maintenance, fuel depots, public transport, landscaping, general land and environment management programs, waste

and rubbish recycling and removal, contract cleaning, hydroponics, cemetery maintenance, road and drainage construction and their upgrade and maintenance, market gardens and nursery projects, livestock management and abattoirs, cargo handling, garages and service stations, stevedoring, vehicle maintenance and mechanical workshops, tourism and hospitality, supermarket and groceries, cattle-work, piggeries, animal care and husbandry, traditional and community justice systems and policing, women, youth, culture and church projects, assistance to education and primary health care, fishing, seafood processing, live crustaceans management and marketing, take-away enterprises, construction and maintenance of buildings and community roads, quarries, sea walls, levee banks, airstrip upgrades and other public utilities such as community seafood storage and freezing facilities, screen-printing and art and crafts, home and child care, and broadcasting.



CDEP's labour force makes a significant contribution to each communities' service delivery and infrastructure development.

In addition to these ongoing activities, housing and major infrastructure contracts continued to be won by CDEP organisations, reinforcing the trend started some seven years ago. Once more major building contractors employed numerous CDEP participants, thus providing the workers with extended working hours and increased income, as well as valuable training. The utilisation of the local CDEP workforce is ongoing and forms a significant component of local councils' abilities to bid for construction contracts, including MIP, housing or general infrastructure.

The CDEP remains the focal point to which a host of other inter-agency programs, notably related to training and business development, can be connected. This feature, coupled with the inherent operational flexibility of the Program and the practically total Indigenous input into the formulation of the communities' Work Plans, still make it the ideal tool for community development.

Funds were committed for annual reviews of six TSRA-funded organisations. These recommendations from the review were implemented throughout the 2004-2005 financial year and will continue annually.

The 2004-2005 CDEP work plans and programs closely followed the local priorities outlined in the Four-Year Community Development Plans (2004-2008) compiled in 2003-2004 and reflected in the TSRA quadrennial system of funding.

CDEP On-Line

This financial year signified the finalisation of the project to link electronically the 18 CDEP schemes, the TSRA, and Centrelink. A series of meetings were held at senior level with Centrelink, both in Canberra and on Thursday Island. The issues were discussed in a very positive manner and a final Memorandum Of Understanding was signed by both TSRA and Centrelink. The re-write of the CDEP Manager software for adaptation to the Internet has been completed and internet facilities have been established by Telstra on the Outer Islands and TSRA on Thursday and Horn Islands, as well as both Bamaga and Seisia communities on Cape York. The new system is now functional. It eliminates the need for schedules and has enabled the registered movement of CDEP participants anywhere within the 18 CDEPs operating in the Torres Strait and for the community, Centrelink and TSRA to act upon this accordingly in real time. There will be no mailing back and forth of corrupt data diskettes and no more faxing of Centrelink forms.

CDEP Award

All CDEP communities and organisations are now fully aware of the fact that the 18 CDEP schemes operating in the Torres Strait region are now covered by an Award specific to the Torres Strait.

PROGRAM – COMMUNITY TRAINING PROGRAM (CTP)

Objective

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

Description

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

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

Funding

In 2004-2005, the TSRA was allocated \$1,342,002 of which it committed \$1,306,002 to various Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations for the continuation of the CTP, achieving 97.2% expenditure over commitment.

Achievements

As in previous years, the training funds were used to improve managerial, administrative and trade-based skills. A range of courses were conducted on the following: computer operation, accounting software, office management, painting, carpentry, electrical skills, plumbing, welding and other building trades, mechanical skills and small motor repairs and maintenance, screen printing, fashion studies, basic literacy and numeracy, conflict resolution, small business management, fishery/seafood processing, coxswain and other vocational marine training, fuel outlets, hazardous substances, retailing, take-away outlet operations, first aid, Work Place Health & Safety, community policing, airport reporting, child care, ranger operations, furniture making, cooking, sewing and other home management courses, fitness and sport coaching, horticulture, environmental health, coping with dementia and other challenging behaviours, nursing home documentation principles, risk management for aged care facilities and financial management. A total of 57 separate projects were planned and 52 achieved, involving more than 612 comprising 121 apprentices throughout the region.

A concerted effort to link these courses with CDEP and the training and employment opportunities offered to the communities by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST), the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR), the Queensland Department of Employment and Training (DET) as well as the network of Job Centres, continued during 2004-2005. Torres Strait communities utilised tradesmen and skilled residents to conduct training where possible, while in other instances expressions of interest were sought from accredited trainers based elsewhere. In 2004-2005, 121 apprenticeships were supported

and maintained. The TSRA Board has made it clear that it continues to consider community based training a priority in Torres Strait.

In 2004-2005, as in previous years, this output ensured the involvement of both Commonwealth and State mainstream employment and training agencies, whenever possible. The finalisation of the 2004-2005 training program reflected this, maintaining the relatively low rate of expenditure in comparison to 2001-2002 when proof of involvement and consultation with mainstream training and employment agencies became a condition of funding.

OUTPUT THREE – NATIVE TITLE

Objective

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

Description

This component facilitates the securing of legal recognition of native title to land and waters in Torres Strait and proper regard for native title rights in relation to all matters affecting Torres Strait land and waters.

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

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

Legislation Governing TSRA's Native Title Functions

The Torres Strait Regional Authority is recognised as the Native Title Representative Body for the Torres Strait region. The TSRA was first appointed a Native Title Representative Body 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 Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs as the Native Title Representative Body for the Torres Strait region.

Legislative Functions of the TSRA in its NTRB capacity

As a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB), the TSRA fulfils specific functions under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth). These include:

- facilitating the researching, 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; and
- assisting groups by representing them, if requested to do so, in negotiations and proceedings relating to the doing of acts affecting native title, the provision of compensation in relation to such acts and any other matter relevant to the operation of the Act.

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

(1) A representative body has the following functions:

- (a) The facilitation and assistance functions referred to in section 203BB;

- (b) The certification functions referred to in section 203BE;
- (c) The dispute resolution functions referred to in section 203BF;
- (d) The notification functions referred to in section 203BG;
- (e) The agreement making function referred to in section 203BH;
- (f) The internal review functions referred to in section 203BI;
- (g) The functions referred to in section 203BJ and such other functions as are conferred on representative bodies by this Act.

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

Organisational Structure and Corporate Governance Policies

As a section of TSRA, Native Title Office (NTO) staff are included in the organisational structure reproduced at the end of this report. Similarly, NTO staff are bound by the same corporate governance policies as apply to TSRA generally.

PART B – REPORT ON PERFORMANCE

Output 3 of TSRA's Performance Against Outputs table reproduced on page 57 of this report relates to TSRA's native title functions. As shown in that table, performance targets have been met.

The TSRA is continuing to experience significant changes to its principal functions as a result of: 7 native title consent determinations and a further 7 Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate, bringing the total number of Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate in the Torres Strait to 16; and a further four Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate to be established during the next financial year. While resolving land claims and progressing the Regional Sea Claim remain priority matters, the resolution of disputes and agreement making functions are becoming the primary focus for TSRA as communities and Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate come to terms with the recognition of native title over their communities and their obligations and responsibilities under *the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* and associated regulations.

1. Land Claims

Significant achievements were realised in the 2004-2005 reporting period with native title being legally recognised over seven claims throughout the Torres Strait. The consent determinations were the culmination of over three years work, including litigation of the public works issues in the *Erubam Le* case and negotiations between the TSRA, the Queensland Government and respondent parties, together with the relevant communities and the Native Title Holders.

Following the decision in the *Erubam Le* public works case, the TSRA continued negotiations with the State of Queensland during which time extinguishment arguments were resolved. In December 2004, the Federal Court of Australia held sittings in the Torres Strait for the Aureed, Erub, Ugar, Boigu, Iama, Gebar and Badu native title consent determinations. There are now a total of 15 native title determinations in the TSRA's Native Title Representative Body region², with 14 of these determinations resolved after negotiations and consent of the respondent parties.

Considerable pressure has now been placed on the TSRA to resolve all outstanding land claims by the end of 2005 with the late Justice Cooper making directions at the Badu consent determination that all remaining land claims in the Torres Strait region be resolved by December 2005. At the time of drafting this report, four outstanding native title claims were substantially progressed in

² This does not include the Kaurareg determinations as they are not represented by TSRA.

mediation with the State and respondent parties and it is anticipated that these four claims will proceed to a consent determination in August 2005. It is also anticipated that the remaining five land claims will progress substantially through mediation and be resolved by the end of the 2005-2006 financial year.

2. Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim

The Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim was filed in the Federal Court in November 2001 and it is currently listed on the Register of Native Title Claims with the notification process finalised in the 2002-2003 financial year.

The Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim is brought on behalf of the Native Title Holders of Badu, Dauan, Erub, Ugar, Masig, Warraber, Poruma, Naghi, Iama, Mabuiag, Mer, Boigu, Moa and Saibai and covers approximately 42,000 square kilometres of sea in the Torres Strait region. Both the Federal Court and the TSRA have identified the Regional Sea Claim as a priority claim for 2005 and 2006. The claim has previously been referred to mediation and the Federal Court after the Badu consent determination in December 2004 has made directions that the applicants and the respondent parties engage in substantial mediation until December 2006. The National Native Title Tribunal in conjunction with the TSRA and the respondent parties is developing a mediation timetable and agenda and it is anticipated that a number of case management and mediation conferences will occur over the next 18 months.

Considerable legal and anthropological work has been done to prepare a detailed structure for the claim and the expert anthropological report. The TSRA has been working closely with senior Counsel and other experts to finalise anthropological reports and to develop a strategy to progress the claim through the mediation and court process. Cluster Group meetings were held in April 2005 to update Traditional Owners on the progress of the claim. The TSRA has also established a negotiating team made up of representatives from each of the island communities to participate directly in mediation and negotiations with other key parties.

3. Future Acts, Agreements and Other Land Matters

In the 2004-2005 period, the TSRA put a significant amount of time and effort into assisting Native Title Holders, island councils, project proponents and respondent parties reach satisfactory agreements which protect the rights and interest of all parties.

AGREEMENTS

A total of 15 Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) were certified by the TSRA and subsequently registered by the National Native Title Tribunal in the 2004-2005 financial year. The 15 ILUAs were agreed to between the parties as part of the native title consent determination negotiations between the applicants of the Ugar, Iama, Badu, Boigu and Erub claims and the State of Queensland, Ergon Energy and Telstra.

A further 10 Determination Deeds, 10 Trustee Leases and 8 Native Title Authorisation Agreements were executed by Native Title Holders and island councils or project proponents.

INFRASTRUCTURE ILUA

As a result of the public works case and the determination of native title over all inhabited islands, more attention has focused on the process used by third parties wishing to carry out Future Acts and in particular, the construction of infrastructure on land where native title has been determined to exist. Parties are now increasingly relying on Indigenous Land Use Agreements or Native Title Authorisation Agreements to ensure that any Future Acts carried out are valid, and do not have an extinguishing effect on native title.

The TSRA has developed an Infrastructure ILUA and has commenced consultations with Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate and island councils. A large number of public works are constructed across the 14 community islands each year, including significant infrastructure for the provision of water, treatment of sewerage and community housing. To avoid confusion on whether community infrastructure is a public work for the purposes of section 253 of the *Native Title Act*, the TSRA will be recommending that an ILUA be entered into between each island council and the relevant Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate. The ILUA will operate to:

- ensure that all future infrastructure works are done validly; and
- set out an agreed process between the island council and the Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate to ensure that Native Title Holders are properly consulted about all new works and major infrastructure projects on the islands, and that the statutory requirements of the *Native Title Act* are being met. The ILUA should also assist TSRA as a project proponent and its consultants in properly addressing native title issues in a timely manner.

DEFENCE/CUSTOMS HIGH-FREQUENCY SURFACE WAVE RADAR PROJECT

The construction of the High Frequency Surface Wave Radar facilities by Customs Coastwatch and Defence on Dauan and Pumpkin Islands has been completed. Members of the Registered Native Title Body Corporate were employed to assist with the construction of works as well as environmental and cultural heritage monitoring under the terms of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement signed in early 2004. Compensation payable under the terms of each respective ILUA is being negotiated.

REGISTERED NATIVE TITLE BODIES CORPORATE

An emerging issue for the region is the financial support for Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate. With these bodies receiving little or no funding, a critical issue to be addressed is how these bodies can build capacity and access resources to carry out their functions and obligations under the *Native Title Act* and associated regulations.

4. 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	10
Filed this year	Nil
Number current	10
Number registered with NNTT	10
Non Claimant Applications	Nil
Agreements	
- Land use agreements finalised	23
- Land use agreements finalised but not yet executed	2
- Leases	10
- Determination Deeds finalised but not yet executed	Nil
- Other Agreements	10
Total	45
Compensation claims	Nil
Responses to Future Acts	48
Determinations of Native Title	7

ILUAs Registered	15
Disputes relating to Native Title Applications	14
Disputes relating to ILUAs, rights of access and other matters	Nil
Number of ILUAs effected	15
Number of reviews pending	Nil
Number of reviews completed	Nil
Number of PBCs established	Nil
Number of PBCs assisted	16
Number of claims certified	7
Number of ILUAs certified	15

STATEMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF 203 FF NATIVE TITLE ACT

The Torres Strait Regional Authority is a recognised Native Title Representative Body and has legislative functions pursuant to section 203B of the *Native Title Act*. Section 203 DC of the *Native Title Act 1993* requires Native Title Representative Bodies to submit to the Minister an Annual Report. In its capacity as a Native Title Representative Body and pursuant to section 203FF(2) of the *Native Title Act 1993*, the Native Title Outputs as reported in the 2004-2005 TSRA Annual Report is also a report for the purposes of section 203DC of the *Native Title Act*.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF TSRA IN NTRB CAPACITY

For the 2004-2005 financial year the TSRA was funded an amount of \$1.607m for the ongoing operation of the Native Title Office and the provision of housing for the 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 2005

	2005 \$	2004 \$
Operating Revenues:		
Appropriation	1,407,000	1,890,000
Other Revenue	250,000	200,000
Unexpended Grants	200,000	
Total Operating Revenues	1,857,000	2,090,000
Operating Expenses		
Advertising	7,135	319
Consultants	175,349	158,113
Incidental	31,180	15,873
Legal	669	22,265
Library	3,838	7,255
Meeting Expenses	62,837	28,560
Office Relocation	15,555	
Office Requisites	13,830	13,654
Office Rent	42,217	46,604
Employees	385,513	350,000
Incidental Employee Costs	7,655	3,026
Depreciation	37,300	35,000
Travel	108,411	167,262
Grant	78,000	
Allocated Overhead	229,127	203,000
Total Operating Expenses	1,198,616	1,050,930
Total Cost of Output	1,198,616	1,050,930

Note

1. These figures are sourced from the Audited Financial Statements of the TSRA for year ended 30 June 2005
2. Other Revenue includes revenue received by Native Title and allocated revenue received by TSRA
3. Unexpended grants is not shown separately in the Audited Financial Statements.

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 Certified 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 Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal persons in the Torres Strait area with access to adequate housing, infrastructure facilities and essential municipal services consistent with and appropriate to their needs. The output also aims to improve environmental health standards by providing appropriate and sustainable infrastructure and ensuring that adequate environmental health programs are implemented.

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

- 1) Environmental Health
- 2) Community Housing

SUB-PROGRAM: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Objective

Through the implementation of the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP), which addresses the various infrastructure needs of Torres Strait communities, the TSRA aims to improve the health status and general wellbeing of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region. The TSRA also contributes towards the continuing maintenance of water and sewerage infrastructure in the Torres Strait and aims to improve the standard of safety for passengers travelling to and from island communities by aircraft through the upgrade of airstrips.

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Description

The Major Infrastructure Program seeks to improve the infrastructure standards in the 15 outer island communities, as well as Bamaga and Seisia. The Australian and Queensland Governments have provided joint contributions amounting to \$60 million for Stages 1 and 2 of the Program. Further joint contributions totalling \$32.4 million have been approved for the third and final stage of the Program.

Achievements

While MIP Stage 2 works are being finalised, Stage 3 of MIP has commenced and the primary focus for this Stage will be completion of new sewerage works planned for Mabuiag, Masig, St Pauls, Kubin and Warraber communities. Water upgrades will occur at Hammond and Mer, Badu and Mabuiag Islands. Additionally, a mobile desalination plant will be made available for regional use. Roadwork is planned for Badu and Ugar with some drainage work at St Pauls. Subdivision work at Bamaga will compliment the previous subdivision work undertaken by the Program. An implementation study

for the Waste Management Strategy will also be undertaken. This study will follow on from the initial Waste Management Project that commenced in Stage 2.

MIP 2 PROJECT SUMMARY FOR 2004-2005

Community	Infrastructure	Status
Mer	Land servicing project	Project 35% completed. This project also includes additional CDEP work. Estimated cost is \$1 million.
Seisia	Reticulated sewerage project	Project 70% completed. Construction of trunk sewers and pump stations has commenced. Rising main to connect to the Bamaga Sewerage Treatment Plant. Estimated cost is \$2.2 million.
Iama	Subdivision project	Completed. Provided 14 fully serviced subdivision allotments. Cost of the project was \$1.2 million.
Hammond	Land development, roads and drainage projects	Project 95% completed. Coordination and planning of work in conjunction with the Department of Main Roads with HEMTP involvement. Estimated cost is \$1 million.
Boigu and Saibai	Lot filling, subdivision, elevated water tank, drainage work and new bund wall construction projects	The Saibai component is approximately 95% completed. The Boigu works are 30% completed. Project managers have been appointed and draft design completed. Estimated cost is \$1.8 million.
Dauan	Road and drainage upgrades and water reticulation projects	Completed. Estimated cost is \$700,000.
Mabuiag	Road and drainage project	Project 35% completed. Project manager appointed. Budget is \$1.1 million.
Erub	Power installation project	Completed. Cost of the project was \$171,000.
Torres Strait Region	Bulk waste removal and new tip sites development projects	Project 40% completed. Initial bulk waste and scrap removal from all outer islands. New tip site developments under way. Estimated budget is \$1.15 million.

MIP 3 PROJECT SUMMARY FOR 2004-2005 TO 2006-2007

Year	Project	Budget
1	Regional Mobile De-Sal Plant: • Mobile desal plant hardstand and intake at Warraber, Dauan and Ugar.	700,000
	Regional metering and establishment of dual supply: • Hammond – Rising main – Well 3 to elevated storage	1,950,000
	• Mer – Water works	300,000
	Waste Management Strategy: • Implementation Study	200,000
	Roads and water main: • Badu	1,230,000
2	Rehabilitation of two seawater bores and sewerage system and treatment plant: • Masig	4,170,000
	Sewerage and treatment plant: • St Pauls and Kubin	8,170,000
	Drainage: • St Pauls	90,000
3	Cover for excavated water storage and sewerage system and treatment plant: • Mabuiag	4,800,000
	Sewerage and treatment plant: • Warraber	3,590,000
	Roads: • Ugar	550,000
	Subdivision: • Bamaga	900,000

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Description

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

Achievements

The TSRA contributed \$1.5 million to the Island Co-ordinating Council, for the continued support and maintenance of water supply and sewerage infrastructure in the region.

AIRSTRIPS

Description

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



Upgrades to airstrips are improving access and safety for remote communities.

Achievements

The Warraber airstrip was upgraded during 2004-2005. The TSRA and Queensland Transport contributed funds to this project under the Airstrips and Marine Upgrades Program. Total funding for the Program during 2004-2005 was \$3 million.

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.

Description

The Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Agreement outlines the framework within which the delivery of housing and infrastructure programs are planned and coordinated in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. As a result of the Bilateral Agreement, the Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee was formed. The chief purpose of the Committee is to plan and coordinate housing and infrastructure development so that equitable outcomes for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region are achieved. As such, this committee has an overseeing role in guiding and implementing housing policy in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

Achievements

During 2004-2005 the TSRA participated in the Torres Strait Housing Sub-Committee. The committee has developed a proposal for the development of a Torres Strait Housing Strategy. The Committee endorsed the proposal and is awaiting the Department of Housing's approval to fund the strategy development.

The TSRA continued to have input into national and State policies through participation and representation on housing committees and advisory bodies such as the:

- Standing Committee for Indigenous Housing;
- The Home Ownership for Discrete Indigenous Communities Working Group; and
- The National Skills Development Strategy for Indigenous Community Housing Management Working Group (improving capacity for Indigenous housing organisations).

OUTPUT FIVE – SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENT

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

This output comprises six programs as outlined below:

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

PROGRAM – MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

Objective

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

Description

The TSRA may provide funding under this Program for:

- Contributions toward the operating costs of local and remote communities' councils and organisations.
- Supplement to the State's vehicle and machinery replacement program.
- Community amenities, buildings, essential services and temporary accommodation.

Funding

In 2004-2005, the TSRA committed \$1,955,558 as a contribution to the operations of the island councils (which included the incorporation of BRACS and Financial Administration Improvement Program funds), \$1,431,321 towards the purchase or replacement of earth moving and other machinery, and \$370,882 towards the construction of council buildings, community halls, resource centres, roads and other amenities.

Achievements

- The island councils used TSRA's recurrent contribution to municipal operations for: the employment of executive officers/council clerks, resident or visiting financial consultants, all responsible for the management and coordination of the councils' operations. The TSRA funds were also used to supplement the funds provided by the Queensland Government for council operations and the capital equipment replacement program. In the 2004-2005 financial year, the TSRA achieved 100% expenditure over council operations, machinery, and community buildings and amenities. The performance of expenditure versus commitment,

relating to community buildings and amenities, is due to a tightening of the preconditions necessary, notably ensuring that issues such as land tenure are addressed prior to commitment of funds.

- The Mer (Murray) Island Council Community Hall funds (\$300,000 rolled over from the previous year), in addition to \$293,000 released in 2004-2005 in the context of the CDEP workplan, were released once land tenure issues and funding from other agencies (Rural Transaction Centres and Island Watch) were resolved satisfactorily.
- The Kubin Island Council completed their staff accommodation units and their community centre.
- The Island Coordinating Council was allocated \$30,000 for the study of risk caused by natural disasters.
- \$24,895 was allocated towards the final audit of all 2003-2004 TSRA grants to island councils, thereby allowing the timely acquittal and disposal of surplus funds.
- The TSRA contributed to training and employment opportunities in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area by providing \$570,000 to the Island Coordinating Council (the third year of TSRA's contribution). The funds are used to support the training and employment of local people through the Heavy Equipment and Management Training Program (HEMTP). HEMTP is an initiative of the Queensland Department of Main Roads and provides a plant pool of heavy equipment and machinery for use in earthworks and road construction. Projects on each island are scheduled into the HEMTP program and equipment and machinery are delivered to each island as needed. At the end of the project the machinery is returned to the plant pool. The HEMTP has provided substantial skills development and employment for local people throughout Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area. A cooperative and mutual arrangement between the Queensland Department of Main Roads, the TSRA and the ICC has meant that HEMTP is also demonstrating an efficient and effective use of resources to provide infrastructure development in the region through the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP), in particular.
- Hammond Island Council completed the upgrading of their community roads.

In 2004-2005, the island councils received grants totalling \$1,431,321, which enabled them to purchase the following items of machinery and equipment:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| • Boigu Island Council | 1 Tipper truck |
| • Warraber Island Council | 1 Truck, 1 agitator |
| • Island Coordinating Council | Contribution to heavy equipment pool |
| • Masig Island Council | 1 Hi-Ace bus, 1 fire truck |
| • Ugar Island Council | 1 Tractor, 1 ferry |
| • Dauan Island Council | 1 Garbage compactor, 1 utility vehicle |
| • Kubin Island Council | 1 Concrete truck, 2 utility vehicles |
| • Saibai Island Council | Repair and maintenance to machinery |

PROGRAM – BROADCASTING

Objective

To enable Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people of the Torres Strait region access to the range of broadcasting and communication services available 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

In 2004-2005, the TSRA incorporated the BRACS program run by the island councils into the general contribution to council municipal operations, together with Financial Accountability Improvement Program (FAIP) funds. This legitimised the current situation where island councils were utilising BRACS funds with varying degrees of enthusiasm and efficiency, and gave them the flexibility of using BRACS funds for other purposes related to their operations.

The remainder of the broadcasting funds (\$573,220) were allocated to the Torres Strait Islander Media Association (TSIMA) for operational and community broadcasting costs, as well as urgent repairs, upgrades and maintenance of their building.

Achievements

The TSRA achieved 100% expenditure against the commitment. TSIMA is providing a local service of news, music, current affairs and items of interest, which continued throughout 2004-2005.

The BRACS operating on the outer islands has experienced an evolution different from island to island, with communities utilising BRACS for local productions, and 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, and is committed to the development of Torres Strait Indigenous perspectives to be brought to bear in international and national forums.

Funding

The TSRA provided \$411,090 under this Program during 2004-2005 for the provision of a legal service to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region. 100% expenditure was achieved.

Achievements

The principal achievement of this Program has been the continuing availability of legal representation for people living in the Torres Strait region at the Magistrate Courts of Thursday Island, Badu Island and Bamaga through the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula (TSNP) Legal Service.

In 2004-2005, the TSNP Legal Service gave preliminary legal advice, consultations, legal support and representation to 4,229 clients, including 217 civil cases, 91 family cases and 596 criminal cases. They also handled 24 Traditional Adoption cases, issued 34 brief-outs and referrals. They gave representation to a total of 928 defendants facing a total of 1934 charges in their representation at Thursday Island, Badu and Bamaga Magistrates Court, as well as the Justice of the Peace and Thursday Island District Courts.

The TSNP Legal Service continued an annual program of intensive legal and office training for their staff, including several sessions on dealing with clients.

PROGRAM – HERITAGE, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Objective

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

Description

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

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



Community celebrations continue to be an integral link to cultural tradition and values. These images were captured at the initiation of a new Chief to Mabuiag community.

A) HERITAGE AND CULTURE

Funding

In 2004-2005, the TSRA committed a total of \$265,587 for the support of artistic and cultural activities in the Torres Strait region, achieving 74% expenditure.

Grantee	Community Purpose	Contribution (\$)
Kubin Island Council	Gelam Nguzu Kazi Exhibition	2,570
TRAWQ Community Council	Gab Titui Trainees wages top-ups	60,932
Badu Island Council	Dance team	5,000
TI Primary School	Cultural exchange program	11,000
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	NAIDOC festivities	1,100
Island Coordinating Council	Seaman Dan concert	6,985
Indigenous Festivals	Croc Festival 2005	30,000
TI High School	IRADF dance performance project	1,300
Mabuiag Island Council	Initiation ceremony	5,000
Poruma Island Council	IRADF Arts Development project	8,823
TRAWQ Community Council	IRADF Arts Development projects	5,000
Sacred Heart Primary School	IRADF Arts Development project	5,650
Badu Island Council	Arts exhibitions	10,000
St Pauls Council, Moa Island	Centenary celebrations	10,000
Masig Island Council	67th anniversary celebrations	3,500
Boigu Island Council	Attending Masig and St Pauls	7,500
TI Primary School	Cairns Eistedfodd	2,000
Kubin Council, Moa Island	Billy Missi support	1,000
TRAWQ Community Council	Mabo Day	3,000
Erub Island Council	Coming of the Light	8,000
Erub Island Council	Attend St Pauls' celebrations	5,000
Gab Titui Cultural Centre	Exhibition programs	3,000
TOTAL		196,360

Achievements

The Gab Titui Cultural Centre saw its first complete year of operations and provides an interesting focus to the cultural activities of the region. Through its involvement with the CDEP scheme operated by TRAWQ, it provides training and employment to five Indigenous persons.

The TSRA matched \$25,000 received from Arts Queensland in October 2004 to create a pool of \$50,000 for Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund (IRADF) projects. After a first round of applications, \$21,000 was distributed to 5 projects in March 2005, and a second round was advertised in June 2005. Applications are to hand, and a panel led by the TSRA Chairperson and TSRA Arts portfolio member, will make recommendations on these to distribute the remaining \$29,000 early in 2005-2006. Successful applications for the 2004-2005 Torres Strait IRADF included:

Project	Community	Time Frame	Budget
TRAWQ – Art and craft workshops	Thursday Island	01/02/05-30/11/05	\$2,000.00
Poruma Council – Art and craft workshops and exhibition	Poruma Island	02/05/05-30/11/05	\$8,823.40
Tony Titasey – Develop pearl shell carvings for exhibition	Thursday Island	01/02/05-30/06/05	\$3,000.00
Sacred Heart Primary School – Art & dance program	Thursday Island	April 2005	\$5,650.00
TI High School – Choreography for school's participation in the 2005 Croc Festival	Thursday Island	05/04/05-17/06/05	\$1,300.00
			\$20,773.40

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

B) ENVIRONMENT

Funding/Achievements

There was no commitment from the TSRA for the delivery of purely environmental projects through grants procedures in 2004-2005. More details will be found in the Policy achievements section of this report, particularly relating to the Fisheries Management framework, the Cooperative Research Centre (Torres Strait), and the National Heritage Trust 2.

PROGRAM – SPORT

Objective

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

Description

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

Funding

In 2004-2005, the TSRA committed a total of \$568,153 under this program, achieving 100% expenditure, a marked improvement over the last financial year.

However, a significant percentage of the Sports total allocation of \$1,693,490 had to be rolled over into 2005-2006 because of the Board's policy to obtain matching funding from the responsible State agency (Queensland Department of Local Government, Planning Sport and Recreation).

Achievements

Funding of \$371,509 was provided in 2004-2005 to the Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association (TSYRSA) as a continuing contribution towards their operating costs and towards the assistance, in terms of both funding and expertise, which they provide to the various Indigenous sporting associations in the Torres Strait. The funding enabled various sporting codes (including indoor volleyball, darts, basketball and rugby league) to be conducted through their specific sporting associations, coaching clinics and competitions (including the annual "Island of Origin" rugby league tournament). In addition, this funding will also cater for fact finding tours of the Islands in support of a separately funded Torres Strait Sports Plan update.



Photo courtesy of 2005 Croc Festival

The TSRA support sporting initiatives across the region through the Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association.

A total of five capital sports infrastructure projects have been completed in 2004-2005 (Poruma, Dauan, Saibai, Warraber and Stephen Islands) and a further three (TSYRSA, Badu, Torres Shire Council, in addition to the development of a Sports Plan) committed for 2005-2006 in the region, totalling over \$1.225 million.

During the 2004-2005 financial year there continued to be significant development of sport in the Torres Strait region. The main sport is still rugby league, but other codes, such as Australian Rules and rugby union, are making good inroads into the community and sporting events are very well attended. Major upgrades, as well as new constructions of sporting facilities, available on Thursday Island and on the outer islands have greatly facilitated this process.

PROGRAM – SOCIAL SUPPORT

Objective

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

Description

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

Funding

In 2004-2005, the TSRA committed \$354,124 to this Program, achieving 100% expenditure.

Achievements

In 2004-2005, as in the previous year, the Social Support allocation was broadly divided between the Port Kennedy Association (mostly Child Care and Youth issues) and the Mura Kosker Sorority (Women Issues) to assist in meeting the costs of their operations. These two organisations have overlapping programs as well.

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 childcare centre, which opened during 1997-1998 (State funded). They operate a community hall (local functions, church group gatherings, art and culture activities, school reunions, blue light discos, government departments dissemination of information, and general community organisations), a Social Worker program (referrals from community health, hospital, police, family services, child protection, domestic violence agency and schools), a Local Justice Initiative Program through the Community Justice Group (State funded), and finally a vacation care program, providing school children with a variety of holiday activities, and a Play Group, both funded by the Commonwealth Department of Families and Community Service. Yearly activities include Carols By Candle Light; Christmas presents for the residents of the local Star of the Sea Home for the Aged; and the holding of several mini-markets.

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, along principles similar to those current at Port Kennedy (various functional programs funded by other State and Commonwealth agencies, with the operating costs funded by the TSRA). These programs included Home and Community Care (HACC), Old Peoples Action Program (OPAP), Victims of Violence Program (Lena Passi Women Shelter), Emergency Relief Funding (ERF) and many others.

The TRAWQ Council Inc. continues to address the issues of the region's youth in a very satisfactory manner. Their full-time Youth Officer has performed well coordinating youth activities and securing financial resources from government and private concerns.

Funding of \$145,910 was provided to the Port Kennedy Association (PKA) to assist in meeting the costs of their operations.

A grant of \$144,190 was provided to the Mura Kosker Sorority for their administration costs, also enabling the organisation to conduct a regional Women's Forum and an International Women's Day.

A grant of \$42,670 was provided to the TRAWQ Council, reflecting its status as the functioning agency for the delivery of youth programs.

A total of \$21,354 was allocated to the local schools for various student programs, including leadership, Optiminds, and various Student Council activities.

OUTPUT SIX – POLICY AND INFORMATION

POLICY COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Objectives

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

Achievements for Objective 1

MARINE AND FISHERIES COORDINATION

The TSRA continues to enjoy a cooperative working arrangement with members of the Community Fisher Group (CFG); traditional inhabitants of the region; the commercial fishing industry; the Australian Fish Management Authority (AFMA); the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF); Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (QDPI&F); the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT); Torres Strait Cooperative Research Centre (CRC); and Papua New Guinea National Fisheries Authority (NFA).

The TSRA also continues to employ a Fisheries Coordinator to coordinate participation and involvement of CFG members in the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) consultative structure processes. Under a cooperative funding agreement, AFMA, QDPI&F and the TSRA each contribute \$30,000 per annum towards the costs incurred by the Fisheries Coordinator.

Working towards the TSRA's long-term vision of having Torres Strait fisheries owned and managed by Australian traditional inhabitants for their benefit, the TSRA allocated an additional \$200,000 in 2004-2005. The sum of \$100,000 was used for CFG members to participate in the PZJA consultative structure and the remaining \$100,000 was allocated for marine training and to build CFG members capacity to participate in fisheries management.

The PZJA announced in February 2005 that it would make a decision on resource allocation in the Tropical Rock Lobster and Finfish fisheries this year and established a specialist group to develop options for resource allocation in both fisheries. The specialist group completed its report and the Chair of the PZJA released it for public consultation, which was completed on 30 June 2005. The PZJA is expected to make a decision on resource allocation at its 18th meeting scheduled for 5-6 July 2005.

During the year members of the Community Fisher Group and the TSRA Fisheries Coordinator participated in PZJA consultative structure meetings including: two CFG, one Prawn Working Group (PWG), one Finfish Working Group (FWG), two Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group (TRLWG), two Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (MAC), two Torres Strait Fisheries Scientific Advisory Committee, two PZJA Standing Officials, one Latent Effort Advisory Panel and two PZJA meetings including one out-of-session.

Some other major key achievements are:

- Successful completion of the Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL) Amnesty project.
- Successful completion of the latent effort removal process for the Finfish and TRL fisheries.
- Continued positive negotiations with the DAFF on the sale of the three traditional inhabitant prawn-fishing licenses to the Australian Government.
- Ensuring that all research in the region benefits traditional inhabitants through a grass roots focus.
- Exploring economic development opportunities for the top western communities of Boigu, Dauan and Saibai through commercial barramundi fishing.
- Developed new management arrangements for the TRL fishery including a 7 day hookah closure per month to coincide with the peak spring tide and lifting of the ceiling on Traditional Inhabitant Boat licenses with a TRL endorsement for vessels equal to or less than six metres.
- Agreement in principle to move to a quota management system for the TRL fishery.
- Ban on using hookah in the Trochus fishery.
- Implement a TRL recreational closure for the months of October and November.
- Agreement to close the commercial Finfish net fishery in the Torres Strait.
- Contributed to the new Queensland Occupational Dive Regulation and Code.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The TSRA has worked in cooperation with relevant Australian and Queensland Government departments to access Natural Heritage Trust funding for the Torres Strait. The Trust is a major Australian Government initiative designed to foster partnerships between communities, industry and all levels of government in pursuit of better environmental and natural resource outcomes.

The three overarching objectives of the Natural Heritage Trust are biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, and community capacity building and institutional change. The principal mechanism for delivery of Trust funds is through regional investments delivered in accordance with a regional natural resource management plan and investment strategy.

The TSRA hosts the Regional Natural Resource Management Facilitator, who is responsible for ensuring coordinated government support and input into Torres Strait natural resource management initiatives, and for enabling cross-sectoral, scientific and Indigenous community engagement in the delivery of the natural resource management programme in the region. The Regional Natural Resource Management Facilitator also supports Torres Strait Island community organisations to access funding and technical support to undertake local land and sea management projects.

THE COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE TORRES STRAIT (CRC TS)

Torres Strait Regional Authority entered into partnership with key Australian and Queensland Government management agencies to facilitate a unique opportunity to bring efficiencies and synergies to the current marine research effort; to improve the delivery of information needed for sustainable development of the Torres Strait for the benefit of its people; and to add considerably to the value of current research and extension efforts.

The result is an integrated, multi-disciplinary applied program of marine research far beyond that which could be achieved previously or by any of the participants acting independently. The expertise derives from considerable experience in the Torres Strait and the adjacent Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWA).

The core participants in the Cooperative Research Centre Torres Strait are AFMA, AIMS, CSIRO Marine, CRC Reef, GeoScience Australia, JCU, National Oceans Office, QDPI&F and the TSRA.

Overall, the participants bring substantial resources (over \$23 million over three years) to the program, as well as scientific and management expertise and have agreed to combine their current efforts into a single, integrated, multi-disciplinary research, education and communication program, directed towards the identified needs of stakeholders and end-users. The TSRA is one of the key partners in the project and will contribute \$150,000 over three years up to 2005-2006. In addition to the partnership contributions, the TSRA has invested another \$150,000 over 2003-2006, in the Sea Sponge aquaculture project in the Torres Strait.

The TSRA also support an Indigenous extension officer position within the TSRA, along with significant in-kind support to all CRC Torres researchers visiting or staying in the region who are involved in the 5 main areas:

1. Sustaining the harvest of marine resources
2. Understanding ecosystem processes
3. Evaluating management strategies and risks
4. Education and training
5. Extension and communications

Some short and medium term achievements in the Torres Strait include:

- A final report is available on the long-term seagrass monitoring in the port of Thursday Island. This report is part of a major project to survey the critical habitats adjacent to the Prince of Wales shipping lane and Port of Thursday Island to assist environmental planning, management of the Port of Thursday Island and regional oil spills.
- A satellite map of the Torres Strait sea floor was produced and is available to identify several sea floor structures and in particular, major sand wave crests in western Torres Strait, which have been negative influences on seagrass meadows and crayfish habitats.
- The efforts of the Marine Research Liaison Officer based at TSRA, is proving to be helpful to researchers and the successful implementation of research projects in Torres Strait communities.
- The research project to monitor the take of marine turtles and dugongs in Kaiwalagal will begin in July 2005. The project has the support of traditional owners, traditional hunters, community fisher organisations and the Australian Government. Traditional hunters, traditional owner and local fisher groups will be involved in gathering and analysing the details collated during the research project.



Photo courtesy of AIMS. Sea sponge aquaculture, Masig Island.

Research will provide vital information to decision makers considering the viability of economic opportunities and the sustainability of fisheries in the Torres Strait.

- The literature review for the research project titled 'Cultural indicators for traditionally important marine resources in Torres Strait' is completed and a final report is being compiled.
- The research project to collate and review Torres Strait Islander commercial catch history (1988-2003) in the reef-line fishery is completed and now available to assist alternate management strategies.
- The Sea Sponge aquaculture project on Masig Island is progressing very well with sound aqua farming outcomes, along with formal training and employment being provided to local people. Local Torres Strait people employed on the project have been trained, as well as certifying a diver who can participate fully in the monitoring of the aqua farm project.

TORRES STRAIT TREATY

The Torres Strait Treaty aims to protect the traditional way of life and livelihood of traditional inhabitants in the Torres Strait Protected Zone. Under the auspices of the Treaty, the TSRA continues to be a key participant in consultative meetings providing input to protect Torres Strait's traditional way of life.

This year, Papua New Guinea (PNG) hosted the Treaty cycle meetings. These meetings are fundamental in identifying a range of issues covered by the Torres Strait Treaty and provide an effective means for open communication between each party.

The TSRA worked cooperatively with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in coordinating traditional inhabitant representatives and officials from the Torres Strait to attend the Treaty Liaison and the Joint Advisory Council Meetings that were held in Daru in PNG's Western Province in July 2004 and Alotau in the Milne Bay Province in November 2004 respectively.

Recommendations arising from the Torres Strait and PNG traditional inhabitants are raised at the Treaty Liaison Meeting where all key agencies, including government and non-government agencies, are able to provide input prior to it being put to the Joint Advisory Council who are the decision making body established under the Torres Strait Treaty. Issues of bilateral interest were then contributed to the Papua New Guinea and Australian Ministerial Forum held in Port Moresby in December 2004.

JOINT TORRES STRAIT HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Through the Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee (JTSHIC) the TSRA continued to participate in a successful year of activities that reflected a determined collaborative approach to improving housing and infrastructure development in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. The committee met four times during 2004-2005 and continued to progress the aims and objectives of the Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Agreement.

During the year, the TSRA in partnership with the Committee, continued to assist in the roll-out and implementation of JTSHIC strategic priorities. The TSRA, along with its partners contributed to securing funds for Stage 3 of the Major Infrastructure Program with the signing of a funding agreement between the TSRA and the Queensland Government for \$32.4 million over three years. The JTSHIC also endorsed the priority list of projects for Stage 3, which received Queensland Government approval. The JTSHIC also continued to improve its efforts in maximising the planning and coordinating of housing and infrastructure activities in the region by monitoring the activities of 19 sub-committee meetings held during the year. These were the Major Infrastructure Program Steering Committee (6 meetings), the Island Coordination Council Infrastructure Support Unit Steering Committee (6 meetings), the Heavy Equipment Management Training Program

Steering Committee (4 meetings) and the recently formed Torres Strait Housing Sub-Committee (3 meetings).

The Committee provided input into national and State housing and infrastructure policies through partnership representation on housing committees and advisory bodies. These included TSRA's participation and representation on committees such as the:

- Standing Committee for Indigenous Housing;
- The Home Ownership for Discrete Indigenous Communities Working Group; and
- The National Skills Development Strategy for Indigenous Community Housing Management Working Group (improving capacity for Indigenous housing organisations).

The Committee continued to strengthen its partnership base with the inclusion of the Queensland Department of Transport as a regular participant in Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee meetings.

TORRES STRAIT HEALTH PARTNERSHIP FORUM

The Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum consists of the TSRA, the Department of Health and Ageing, Queensland Health, the Island Coordinating Council, the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area District Health Council and the Queensland Ambulance Service. The TSRA and other Health Partnership Forum members work to meet Framework Agreement aims and to monitor the implementation of Framework for Action top ten priorities. The Partnership met four times during 2004-2005 and a primary outcome was for partners to endorse the formation a Health Partnership Working Group to action business arising from meetings. The Working Group has met four times since it was established in May 2005.

The focus for the Health Partnership Forum during 2004-2005 has been the ongoing development of the Regional Health Plan, which is now expected to be released in September 2005. The Partnership will monitor the roll-out and implementation of strategies once the plan is finalised. To assist with this, the TSRA will coordinate the development of a database to monitor and evaluate strategy implementation.

The TSRA also delivered policy advice, information and reports on a range of other health issues, including PNG cross border matters and briefing papers to the Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum. The TSRA also participates in the Torres Strait Treaty Health Issues Committee. The Department of Health and Ageing chairs this Committee.

The TSRA has responsibility for monitoring and providing advice on all programs and services for Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people of the region and to ensure that there are linkages between the TSRA environmental health and community infrastructure programs and mainstream health and health related programs. The TSRA provides environmental health information at Health Partnership meetings to inform members of infrastructure activity and the subsequent health related links.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

To create better opportunities and participation in sports and recreation for the people of the Torres Strait region, the TSRA works cooperatively to coordinate funding with Sports and Recreation Queensland to improve delivery of sports and recreation infrastructure and enhance the social and physical wellbeing of the people of the region. The TSRA Board has nominated a Sports and Recreation Portfolio member to work with key stakeholders towards these improvements in the region.

The TSRA also continues to work with key stakeholders to develop a new Torres Strait Sports and Recreation Plan. A steering committee has been formed to guide the development of the Plan.

Achievements for Objective 2

TORRES STRAIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In accordance with TSRA's statutory responsibilities under Section 142D of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*, the TSRA Board has reviewed and developed a new Torres Strait Development Plan. The Plan sets out what the current TSRA Board aims to achieve over the next four years under each of the TSRA Portfolio areas. The plan provides a clear and concise policy direction and is the basis from which the TSRA can consult with other government agencies on new initiatives and programs for the Torres Strait region.

TSRA SERVICE CHARTER

In accordance with Australian legislation, the TSRA has a Service Charter in place. The TSRA Service Charter outlines the standard of service that it provides to its clients and sets out the steps that can be taken if a client has a complaint and is available on the TSRA Website at www.tsra.gov.au.

INFORMATION DELIVERY

Objectives

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

Achievements for Objective 1

SECRETARIAT

During the year the Secretariat Section assisted the TSRA Chairperson, Board Members and General Manager to perform their functions as set out by the ATSIC Act, 1989 (as amended: *The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*). This included working towards those objectives and outcomes set out in the Torres Strait Development Plan.

The Board also established an Executive Committee, which consists of the 11 Portfolio Members. In 2004-2005 the Secretariat Section liaised with relevant TSRA Sections to provide 47 briefing papers for the Board's consideration. The Board made 64 formal decisions. A total of 24 items of correspondence, including 9 Ministerials, were prepared for the Minister.

Achievements for Objective 2

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The TSRA provided information to the public in 2004-2005 using a number of mediums, including press releases, newsletters, website placements, advertising, and production of promotional material.

A Public Affairs Officer is responsible for delivering this TSRA objective. During the past year, 29 press releases, 17 Chairperson's Columns published in the Torres News, 8 newsletters, 9 speeches and the 2003-2004 TSRA Annual Report were produced.

Pamphlets and promotional material were also produced focusing on:

- The 2005 Career's Market (branded sharpeners, pencils, erasers, pencil cases, bubble pens and yo-yos);
- Charter of Representation, Performance and Accountability; and
- The Gab Titui Cultural Centre.

All TSRA publications are available on the TSRA website within 48 hours of circulation.

Public Affairs assisted in marketing the Gab Titui Cultural Centre and managing media involvement for the centre's first birthday in April 2005.

All TSRA non-campaign press advertising is conducted through the Australian Government provider HMA Blaze. No campaign advertising was conducted in 2004-2005.

General enquiries from both the regional and mainstream media were attended to, as well as 31 information requests from the public via telephone, email, in person or mail. 95 per cent of these information requests were responded to within 48 hours.



Photo courtesy of GBRMPA

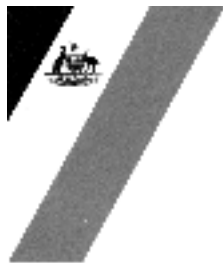
The TSRA website (www.tsra.gov.au) continues to offer the community an opportunity to forward queries or feedback to the TSRA regarding its programs, policies, goals, progress and is updated regularly. In addition, the TSRA and Native Title Office have toll free telephone numbers (1800 079 093 and NTO: 1800 029 719) that the community is encouraged to use.



Financials



*Traditional owners of
Iama achieved their
native title recognition on
13 December 2004.*



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

Scope

The financial statements and directors' responsibility

The financial statements comprise:

- Statement by Directors and Chief Executive;
- Statements of Financial Performance, Financial Position and Cash Flows;
- Schedule of Commitments and Contingencies; and
- Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

of the Torres Strait Regional Authority for the year ended 30 June 2005.

The directors of the Authority are responsible for preparing the financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Authority and that comply with accounting standards, other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, and the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. The directors of the Authority are also responsible for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial statements.

Audit approach

I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to you. My audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing and Assurance standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal controls, and the availability of persuasive, rather than conclusive, evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

While the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting was considered when determining the nature and extent of audit procedures, the audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

CPA No. 702 CAMBERA ACT 0201
Company No. 702 National Council
DARTON ACT
Phone 081 8415 7400 Fax 081 8415 0777

I have performed procedures to assess whether, in all material respects, the financial statements present fairly, in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, including accounting standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Authority's financial position, and of its performance as represented by the statements of financial performance and cash flows.

The audit opinion is formed on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- obtaining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used, and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors of the Authority.

Independence

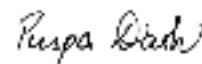
In conducting the audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the ethical requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Audit Opinion

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

- (a) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the Torres Strait Regional Authority's financial position as at 30 June 2005 and of its performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with:
 - (i) the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders; and
 - (ii) applicable accounting standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia.

Australian National Audit Office



Puspita Dash
Acting Executive Director

Deputy of the Auditor-General

Canberra
20 September 2005

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
2004-2005**

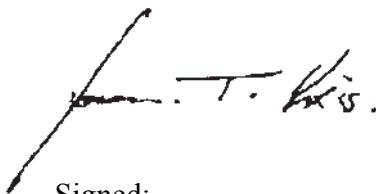
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TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2005 are based on properly maintained financial records and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders, made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

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

This Statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board.



Signed:.....

Mr J. T. Kris
Chairperson

27 September 2005



Signed:

Mr W. See Kee
General Manager

27 September 2005

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
For the year ended 30 June 2005

	Notes	2005 \$000	2004 \$000
REVENUE			
Revenues from ordinary activities			
Revenues from government	5A	52,042	51,034
Interest	5B	1,091	800
Revenue from sales of assets	5D	4	3
Other revenue	5C	1,860	1,627
Total revenues from ordinary activities		54,997	53,464
EXPENSES			
Expenses from ordinary activities			
Employees	6A	3,855	3,486
Suppliers	6B	4,527	3,379
Grants	6D	44,494	43,586
Depreciation and amortisation	6C	374	354
Total expenses from ordinary activities		53,250	50,805
Net profit	11	1,747	2,659
Net credit/debit to asset revaluation reserve	11	(25)	1,973
Total revenues, expenses and valuation adjustments attributable to the Australian Government and recognised directly in equity		(25)	1,973
Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners		1,722	4,632

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 30 June 2005

	Notes	2005 \$000	2004 \$000
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash	7A	10,182	10,277
Receivables	7B	7,901	7,538
Total financial assets		18,083	17,815
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings	8A,C	13,392	13,510
Plant and equipment	8B,C	429	442
Total non-financial assets		13,821	13,952
Total assets		31,904	31,767
LIABILITIES			
Provisions			
Employees	9	1,031	909
Total provision		1,031	909
Payables			
Suppliers	10A	186	613
Grants	10B	3,855	5,109
Other payables	10C	-	49
Total payables		4,041	5,771
Total liabilities		5,072	6,680
NET ASSETS		26,832	25,087
EQUITY			
Contributed Equity	11	32	9
Reserves	11	3,037	3,062
Accumulated Profit	11	23,763	22,016
Total Equity		26,832	25,087
Current assets		12,427	12,213
Non-current assets		19,477	19,554
Current liabilities		4,958	6,548
Non-current liabilities		114	132

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the year ended 30 June 2005

	Notes	2005 \$000	2004 \$000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriation		52,042	51,034
Interest		762	500
GST received from Australian Taxation Office		-	4,580
Other		3,924	1,310
Total cash received		56,728	57,424
Cash used			
Employees		(3,712)	(3,443)
Suppliers		(6,220)	(2,428)
Grants		(45,994)	(47,443)
Other		(1)	-
GST paid to Australian Taxation Office		(655)	-
Total cash used		(56,582)	(53,314)
Net cash from operating activities	12	146	4,110
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of plant and equipment		4	3
Total cash received		4	3
Cash used			
Purchase of plant and equipment		(268)	(2,800)
Total cash used		(264)	(2,800)
Net cash from (used by) investing activities		(264)	(2,797)

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the year ended 30 June 2005

Cont.

	2005	2004
	\$000	\$000
FINANCING ACITIVITIES		
Cash received		
Equity injection	23	9
<i>Total cash received</i>	23	9
Net cash from financing activities	23	9
<i>Net (decrease)/ increase in cash held</i>	(95)	1,322
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period	10,277	8,955
<i>Cash at the end of the reporting period</i>	10,182	10,277

7A

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS
as at 30 June 2005

	2005	2004
	\$000	\$000
BY TYPE		
Other Commitments		
Operating Leases	109	33
Total other commitments		
Commitments receivable	(10)	(3)
Net Commitments	99	30
BY MATURITY		
Operating lease commitments		
One year or less	49	19
From one to five years	60	14
Total Operating Lease Commitments	109	33
Commitments receivable	(10)	(3)
Net Commitments by Maturity	99	30

Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:

Nature of Lease: Leasing of four motor vehicles for operating activities of the Authority.

Motor Vehicles:

- No contingent rentals exist.
- There are no renewal or purchase options available to the Authority.

SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES
as at 30 June 2005

	2005	2004
	\$000	\$000
Bank Guarantee in favour of Torres Shire Council	116	116
Total Contingencies	116	116

The above schedules 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 2005

Note	Description
1	Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
2	Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS) from 2005-2006
3	Economic Dependency
4	Events Occurring after Reporting Date
5	Operating Revenues
6	Operating Expenses
7	Financial Assets
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9	Provisions
10	Payables
11	Equity
12	Cash Flow Reconciliation
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21	Major Departmental Revenues and Expenses by Output Groups
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TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements 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 statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders (being the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Orders (Financial Statements for reporting periods ending on or after 30 June 2005));
- Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations issued by Australian Accounting Standards Boards; and
- Urgent Issues Group Abstracts.

The Statements of Financial Performance and Financial Position have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets which, as noted, are at valuation. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results of the financial position of the Authority.

Assets and liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. Benefits and obligations arising under agreements equally proportionately unperformed are however not recognised unless required by an Accounting Standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the Schedule of Commitments and the Schedule of Contingencies.

Revenues and expenses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance when and only when the flow or consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

1.2 Changes in Accounting Policy

The accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements are consistent with those used in 2003-2004.

1.3 Revenue

The revenues described in this Note are revenues relating to the core operating activities of the Torres Strait Regional Authority ("Authority").

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised upon the delivery of goods to customers.

Interest revenue is recognised on a time proportionate basis that takes into account the effective yield on the relevant asset.

Revenue from rent is recognised when the time period to which it relates has passed.

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

Revenue from Government – Output Appropriations

The full amount of the appropriation for departmental outputs for the year is recognised as revenue.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

1.3 Revenue (continued)

Resources Received Free of Charge

Services received free of charge are recognised as revenue 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 revenue at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition.

1.4 Transactions by the Government as Owner

Equity Injections

Amounts appropriated by the Parliament as equity injections are recognised as ‘contributed equity’ in accordance with the Finance Minister’s Orders.

1.5 Employee Benefits

Benefits

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

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits), annual leave and sick leave are measured at their nominal amounts. Other employee benefits expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are also 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 as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Leave

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

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees’ remuneration, including the Authority’s employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at 30 June 2005. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

1.5 Employee Benefits (continued)

Superannuation

Employees of the Authority are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme and the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme. The liability for their superannuation benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course.

The Authority makes employer contributions to the Australian Government at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the cost to the Government of the superannuation entitlements of the Authority's employees.

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

1.6 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 benefits incidental to ownership of leased non-current assets. In operating leases, the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets. In 2004/05, the Authority leased four vehicles and a photocopier for the operation of the organisation.

1.7 Grants

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

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

1.8 Cash

Cash means notes and coins held and any deposits held at call with a bank or financial institution. Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.

1.9 Loans Receivable

Loans are recognised at the amounts lent. Provision is made for bad and doubtful loans when collection of the loan or part thereof is judged to be less rather than more likely. In rare circumstances, loan repayment may be waived. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.

1.10 Other Debtors

Receivables for other goods and services are recognised at nominal amounts due less any provision for bad and doubtful debts. Collectability of debts is reviewed at balance date. Provisions are made when collectability of the debt is judged to be less rather than more likely.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

1.11 Other Financial Assets

Debentures, term deposits and shares in listed companies are recognised at cost.

1.12 Other Financial Liabilities

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

1.13 Unrecognised Financial Liabilities

Other guarantees not recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance of the Authority are disclosed in the Schedule of Contingencies. At the time of completion of the financial statements, there was no reason to believe that these guarantees would be called upon, and recognition of a liability was therefore not required.

1.14 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.

1.15 Property (Land and Buildings), Plant and Equipment

Asset recognition threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the Statement of Financial Position, except for purchases costing less than \$1,000, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

Revaluations

Basis

Land and buildings, infrastructure are carried at valuation. A three year cycle revaluation in accordance with the “fair value” method of valuation was undertaken on 30 June 2004. In between formal valuations, these assets are revalued using an appropriate index reflecting movements in the value of similar assets.

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

Asset Class	Fair Value Measured at:
Land	Market selling price
Building	Market selling price
Plant & Equipment	Market selling price

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Assets that are surplus to requirements are measured at their realisable value. At 30 June 2005 the Authority held no surplus assets.

1.15 Land and Buildings, Plant and Equipment (continued)

Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the Authority using, in all cases, the straight line method of depreciation.

Depreciation rates (useful lives) and methods are reviewed at each balance date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate. Residual values are re-estimated for a change in price only when assets are revalued.

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable asset are based on the following useful lives:

	2004-2005	2003-2004
Buildings on freehold land	50 years	50 years
Plant and equipment	3 to 5 years	3 to 5 years

The aggregate amount of depreciation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 6C.

1.16 Impairment of Non-Current Assets

Non-current assets carried at up-to-date fair value at the reporting date are not subject to impairment testing.

The non-current assets carried at cost which are not held to generate net cash inflows, have been assessed for indications of impairment. Where indications of impairment exist, the carrying amount of the asset is compared to its net selling price and depreciated replacement cost and is written down to its higher of the two amounts, if necessary.

The Authority does not have any internally developed software.

1.17 Taxation

The Authority is exempt from all forms of taxation except fringe benefits tax 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 payable.

1.18 Insurance

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

1.19 Comparative Figures

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

1.20 Rounding

Amounts have been rounded to the nearest \$1,000 except in relation to the following:

- Remuneration of directors;
- Remuneration of officers (other than directors); and
- Remuneration of auditors.

Note 2. Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (“AEIFRS”) from 2005-2006.

The Australian Accounting Standards Board has issued replacement Australian Accounting Standards to apply from 2005-2006. The new standards are the Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS). The International Financial Reporting Standards are issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. The new standards cannot be adopted early. The standards being replaced are to be withdrawn with effect from 2005-2006, but continue to apply in the meantime, including reporting periods ending on 30 June 2005.

The purpose of issuing AEIFRS is to enable Australian entities reporting under the *Corporations Act 2001* to be able to more readily access overseas capital markets by preparing their financial reports according to accounting standards more widely used overseas.

AEIFRS contain certain additional provisions that will apply to not-for profit entities, including Australian Government agencies. Some of these provisions are in conflict with IFRS, therefore the Authority will only be able to assert that the financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

Accounting Standard AASB 1047 *Disclosing the impact of adopting Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards* requires that the financial statements for 2004-2005 disclose:

- an explanation of how the transition to AEIFRS is being managed;
- narrative explanations of the key policy differences arising from the adoption of AEIFRS;
- any known or reliably estimable information about the impacts on the financial report had it been prepared using the Australian equivalents to IFRS; and
- if the impacts of the above are not known or reliably estimable, a statement to that effect.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 2. Adoption of AASB equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards from 2005-2006 Impact Statement (continued)

The purpose of this note is to make these disclosures.

(a) *Management of the transition to AEIFRS*

The Authority has taken the following steps in preparation for the implementation of AEIFRS:

- The Authority's Audit Committee is tasked with the oversight of the transition to and the implementation of AEIFRS. The General Manager with the assistance of the Chief Finance Officer is formally responsible for the project and for reporting regularly to the Audit Committee for approval by the Committee.
- The plan includes the following key steps to be undertaken and recommends deadlines for their achievement.
 - Identification of all major accounting policy differences, if any, between current AASB Standards and the AEIFRS by 30 June 2005.
 - Identification of systems changes necessary to be able to report under the AEIFRS, including those necessary to enable capture of data under both sets of rules for, and the testing and implementation of those changes.
 - Preparation of a transitional balance sheet as at 1 July 2004, under AEIFRS.
 - Preparation of an AEIFRS balance sheet at the same times as the 30 June 2005 statements are prepared.
 - Meeting reporting deadlines set by the Department of Finance and Administration.
- The plan also addresses the risks to successful achievement of the above objectives and includes strategies to keep implementation on track to meet deadlines.
- External consultants will be engaged where necessary to provide the Authority with guidance and to assist in relation to each of the above steps.

(b) *Major changes in accounting policy*

Changes in accounting policies under AEIFRS are applied retrospectively i.e. as if the new policy had always applied. This rule means that a balance sheet prepared under AEIFRS must be made as at 1 July 2004, except as permitted in particular circumstances by AASB 1 *First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards*. This will enable the 2005/06 financial statements to report comparatives under AEIFRS also.

Changes to major accounting policies are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Management's review of the quantitative impacts of AEIFRS represents the best estimate of the impacts of the changes as at reporting date. The actual effects of the impacts of AEIFRS may differ from these estimates due to:

- continuing reviews of the impacts of AEIFRS on Authority operations;
- potential amendments to the AEIFRS and AEIFRS Interpretations; and
- emerging interpretations as to the accepted practice in the application of AEIFRS and the AEIFRS Interpretations.

Note 2. Adoption of AASB equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards from 2005-2006 Impact Statement (continued)

Property, Plant and Equipment

It is expected that the Finance Minister's Orders will continue to require property, plant and equipment assets to be valued at fair value in 2005/06. This is not dissimilar from the accounting policies currently in place for these assets which, up to and including 2003/04, have been re-valued to fair value progressively over a 3-year cycle. There will be no adjustment required by the Authority to comply with AEIFRS standards.

Impairment of Non-Current Assets

The Authority's accounting policy for impairment of non-current assets is at note 1.16

Under AEIFRS, these assets will be subject to assessment for impairment and, if there are indications of impairment, measurement of any impairment. The impairment test is that the carrying amount of an asset must not exceed the greater of (a) its fair value less costs to sell and (b) its value in use. 'Value in Use' is the net present value of net cash inflows for cash generating units assets of the Authority and depreciated replacement cost for other assets that would be replaced if the Authority were deprived of them.

Employee Benefits

The provision for long service leave is measured at the present value of estimated future cash outflows using market yields as at the reporting date on national government bonds.

The 2003/04 financial reports noted that AEIFRS may require the market yield on the corporate bonds to be used. The ASSB has decided that a deep market in high quality corporate bonds does not exist and therefore national government bonds will be referenced.

AEIFRS require that annual leave that is not expected to be taken within 12 months of balance date is to be discounted. After assessing the staff leave profile, the Authority does not expect that any material amounts of the annual leave balance will not be taken in the next 12 months. Consequently no adjustment is required.

Financial Instruments

AEIFRS includes an option for entities not to restate comparative information in respect of financial instruments in the first AEIFRS report. It is expected that Finance Minister's Orders will require entities to use this option. Therefore, the amounts for financial instrument presented in the Authority's primary financial instruments are not expected to change as a result of the adoption of AEIFRS.

The Authority will be required by AEIFRS to review the carrying amounts for financial instruments at 1 July 2005 to ensure they align with the accounting policies required by AEIFRS. It is expected that the carrying amounts of financial instruments held by the Authority will not materially change as a result of this process.

The table of reconciliation of impacts – AGAAP to AEIFRS is not required as no impact has been identified

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 3. Economic Dependency

The Authority was established under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*, which has since been replaced by the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*.

The Authority is dependent on appropriations from the Parliament of the Commonwealth for its continued existence and ability to carry out its normal activities.

Note 4. Events Occurring After Reporting Date

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 5. Operating Revenues

	2005	2004
	\$000	\$000
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<u>5A – Revenues from Government</u>		
Appropriations for outputs	52,042	51,034
Total	52, 042	51,034
<hr/>		
<u>5B – Interest</u>		
Loans	329	300
Deposits	762	500
Total	1,091	800
<hr/>		
<u>5C – Other Revenues</u>		
Rent	135	147
Resources provided free of charge	35	22
Proceeds from sale of goods and services	838	656
Other Government contributions	852	802
Total	1,860	1,627
<hr/>		
<u>5D – Net Gain from Sales of Assets</u>		
Plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale	4	3
Net book value at sale	-	-
Net gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	4	3
<hr/>		

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 6. Operating Expenses

<u>6A – Employee Expenses</u>	2005	2004
	\$000	\$000
Wages and salaries	3,415	3,130
Superannuation	440	356
Other	-	-
Total	3,855	3,486

<u>6B – Suppliers Expenses</u>		
Goods from external entities	967	1,132
Services from external entities	3,517	2,230
Operating lease rentals	43	17
Total	4,527	3,379

<u>6C – Depreciation and Amortisation</u>		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	374	354

The aggregate amounts of depreciation or amortisation expensed during the reporting period for each class of depreciable asset are as follows:

▪ Buildings on freehold land	208	151
▪ Plant and equipment	166	203
	374	354

6D – Grants Expense

The Authority makes grants to eligible persons and communities in the Torres Strait area. The accounting policy for grants is detailed in Note 1.7.

Private Sector - Non-Profit institutions	44,494	43,586
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TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 7. Financial Assets

	2005 \$000	2004 \$000
<u>7A – Cash</u>		
Cash at bank and on hand	10,182	10,277
	10,182	10,277
Balance of cash as at 30 June shown in the Statement of Cash Flows	10,182	10,277
<u>7B – Receivables</u>		
Loans	6,965	7,034
Less: Provision of doubtful debts	(139)	(290)
	6,826	6,744
Other debtors		
GST receivable	887	428
Other debtors	188	366
Total receivables	7,901	7,538
Receivable are categorised as follows:		
Current	2,245	1,936
Non-current	5,656	5,602
Total receivables (net)	7,901	7,538
Receivables (gross) which are overdue are aged as follows:		
Not Overdue	7,874	7,569
Overdue by:		
- less than 30 days	2	4
- 30 to 60 days	19	14
- 60 to 90 days	2	1
- 90 to 180 days	16	14
- more than 180 days	127	226
	166	259
Total receivables (gross)	8,040	7,828
The provision for doubtful debts is aged as follows:		
Overdue by: -more than 180 days	139	290
Note 8. Non-Financial Assets		
<u>8A – Land and Buildings</u>		
Freehold land – At fair value	3,279	3,279
Total freehold land	3,279	3,279
Buildings on freehold land – At fair value	10,321	10,231
Accumulated depreciation	(208)	-
Total buildings	10,113	10,231
Total land and buildings	13,392	13,510
<u>8B – Plant and equipment</u>		
Plant and equipment – at fair value	2,331	2,178
Accumulated depreciation	(1,902)	(1,736)
Total plant and equipment	429	442

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 8. Non-Financial Assets (continued)

8C – Analysis of Property, Plant and Equipment

TABLE A

Reconciliation of the openings and closing balances of infrastructure, plant and equipment.

Item	Land	Buildings on Freehold Land	Total Land & Buildings	Plant & Equipment	TOTAL
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
As at 1 July 2004					
Gross Book value	3,279	10,231	13,510	2,178	15,688
Accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	(1,736)	(1,736)
Net book value	3,279	10,231	13,510	442	13,952
Additions – purchase of assets	-	115	115	153	268
Revaluations: write-ups (write-downs)	-	(25)	(25)	-	(25)
Write offs	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation/amortisation charge for the year	-	208	208	166	374
As at 30 June 2005					
Gross Book value	3,279	10,321	13,600	2,331	15,931
Accumulated depreciation	-	(208)	(208)	(1,902)	(2,110)
Net book value	3,279	10,113	13,392	429	13,821

TABLE B

Assets at valuation

No independent valuation was performed in 2004/05. Refer Note 1.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

	2005	2004
	\$000	\$000
Note 9. Provisions		
<u>Employee Provisions</u>		
Salaries and wages	12	21
Superannuation	1	1
Long service leave	475	424
Annual leave	382	325
Personal leave	158	136
Aggregate employee entitlement liability	1,026	906
Workers' compensation	5	3
Aggregate employee benefit liability and related on costs	1,031	909
Employee provisions are categorised as follows:		
Current	917	777
Non-current	114	132
	1,031	909
Note 10. Payables		
<u>10A – Supplier Payables</u>		
Trade Creditors	186	613
<u>10B – Grants Payable</u>		
Non-profit entities	3,855	5,109
<u>10C – Other</u>		
Other Payables	-	49
All payables are current.		

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 11. Equity

Item	Accumulated profit		Asset revaluation reserve		Contributed Equity		TOTAL EQUITY	
	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004
Balance 1 July	22,016	19,357	3,062	1,089	9	-	25,087	20,446
Operating result	1,747	2,659	-	-	-	-	1,747	2,659
Net revaluation increase/(Decrease)	-	-	(25)	1,973	-	-	(25)	1,973
Appropriations (equity injections)	-	-	-	-	23	9	23	9
Balance 30 June	23,763	22,016	3,037	3,062	32	9	26,832	25,087
Total Equity attributable to the Commonwealth	23,763	22,016	3,037	3,062	32	9	26,832	25,087

2005
\$000

2004
\$000

Note 12. Cash Flow Reconciliation

Reconciliation of operating surplus (loss) to net cash provided by

Operating activities:

Operating surplus 1,747 2,659

Non-cash items

Depreciation and amortisation of property, plant & equipment 374 354

Doubtful loans written back (151) -

Gain on disposal of assets (4) (3)

Changes in assets and liabilities

(Increase)/decrease in receivables (212) (19)

Increase/(decrease) in liability to suppliers (427) 476

Increase/(decrease) in employee provisions 122 65

Increase/(decrease) in grants payable (1,254) 677

Increase/(decrease) in other payables (49) (99)

Net cash from operating activities 146 4,110

Note 13. Directors' Remuneration

2005 2004

The number of directors of the TSRA included in these figures are shown below in the relevant remunerations bands.

\$Nil - \$9,999 15 27

\$10,000 - \$19,999 2 2

\$20,000 - \$29,999 2 -

\$140,000 - \$149,999 1 -

\$180,000 - \$189,999 - 1

Total number of directors of the Authority 20 30

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 13. Directors' Remuneration (continued)

	2005 \$	2004 \$
Other remuneration received or due and receivable by directors of the Authority	298	307
Total remuneration received or due and receivable by directors of the Authority	298	307

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

Note 14. Related Party Disclosures

Directors of the Torres Strait Regional Authority

The Directors of the Authority during the year were:

Mr Jack AHMAT	Mr Rocky STEPHEN
Mr Ted BILLY	Mr Terry WAIA
Mr Ron DAY	Mr Donald BANU
Mr Elia DOOLAH	Mr Fred GELA
Mr Joseph ELU	Mrs Louisa GUISE
Mr John Toshie KRIS	Mr Walter MACKIE
Mrs Margaret MAU	Mr Maluwap NONA
Mr Don MOSBY	Mr Jesse SAGAUKAZ
Mr Saila SAVAGE	Mr Robert SAGIGI
Mrs Nora PEARSON/Mr Philemon MOSBY	Mr Bill SHIBASAKI

The aggregate remuneration of Directors is disclosed in Note 13.

Loans to Directors and Director related entities

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 14. Related Party Disclosures (continued)

Loans

D. Mosby
R. Sagigi
M. Mau

	2005 \$	2004 \$
Loans to directors outstanding at year end	160,224	221,735
Loan repayments during the reporting period	(12,092)	28,165
Loans to director related entities outstanding at year end	121,419	75,945
Loans to director related entities during period	50,000	-
Loan repayments during the reporting period	(67,933)	23,034
Interest revenue included in operating result from loans to directors/director related entities	13,978	10,362

Other Transactions with Directors or Director Related Entities

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

Director's Name	Council	Grants Received \$
R. Sagigi	TSIMA	573,220
	TSNP Legal Services	411,090
	TRAWQ Community Council	2,477,369
J. Ahmat	Badu Island Community Council	3,999,317
T. Billy	Warraber Island Community Council	1,591,770
R. Day	Murray Island Community Council	3,089,088
D. Banu	Boigu Island Community Council	1,320,882
E. Doolah	Darnley Island Community Council	2,055,977
J. Elu	Seisia Island Community Council	1,758,820
F. Gela	Hammond Island Community Council	965,690
T. Kris	St Pauls Community Council	2,167,438
W. Mackie	Yam Island Community Council	1,807,262
M. Mau	Dauan Island Community Council	1,028,760
D. Mosby	Yorke Island Community Council	2,372,528
N. Pearson	Coconut Island Community Council	1,242,645
S. Savage	Kubin Community Council	1,580,166
B. Shibasaki	Port Kennedy Association	159,910
R. Stephen	Stephen Island Council	349,540
T. Waia	Saibai Island Community Council	1,835,380
L. Guise	Mabuiag Island Community Council	1,380,007
J. Saguakaz	Bamaga Island Community Council	2,567,872
*	Island Coordinating Council	9,311,378

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 15. Remuneration of Officers

	2005 \$	2004 \$
Total remuneration of officers who received or were due to receive total remuneration of \$100,000 or more	104,701	193,758
The number of officers who received or were due to receive total remuneration of \$100,000 or more	Number	Number
• \$100,000 - \$109,999	1	-
• \$190,000 - \$199,999	-	1

Note 16. Remuneration of Auditors

	2005 \$	2004 \$
Remuneration to the Auditor-General for auditing the financial statements for the reporting period.	37,000	34,800

No other services were provided by the Auditor-General during the reporting period.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 17. Financial Instruments

a) Terms, conditions and accounting policies

Financial Instrument	Notes	Accounting Policies and Methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms and conditions affecting the amount, timing and certainty of cash flows)
<i>Financial Assets</i>		Financial assets are recognised when control over future economic benefits is established and the amount of the benefit can be reliably measured.	
Cash at bank and on hand	7A	Cash at bank and on hand is recognised at nominal amounts. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.	Interest is earned on cash at bank at the prevailing interest rate.
Other receivables	7B	These receivables are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any provision for bad and doubtful debts. Provisions are made when collection of the debt is judged to be less rather than more likely.	Credit terms are net 14 days (2004: 14 days)
Loans	7C	Loans are recognised at the amounts loaned. Provision is made for bad and doubtful loans when collection of the loan or part thereof is judged to be less rather than more likely. In rare circumstances, loan repayments may be waived. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.	Loans are generally secured and are made for periods of up to 10 years for enterprise loans and 30 years for housing loans. Repayments of principal are made during the term of the loan. Early settlement is at option for the parties. Effective interest rates on fixed rate loans between 3% and 6.5%.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 17. Financial Instruments (continued)

Financial Instrument	Notes	Accounting Policies and Methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms and conditions affecting the amount, timing and certainty of cash flows)
<i>Financial Liabilities</i>		Financial liabilities are recognised when a present obligation to another party is entered into and the amount of the liability can be reliably measured.	
Trade creditors	10A	Creditors and accruals are recognised at their nominal amounts, being the amounts at which the liabilities will be settled. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).	Settlement is usually made net 30 days.
Other liabilities	10C	Other liabilities are recognised at their nominal amount being the amounts at which the liabilities will be settled.	Settlement is usually made net 30 days.
Grant liabilities	10B	Grant liabilities are recognised on the acceptance of grant agreements by the grantee in instances where there are no services to be performed or no criteria to be met prior to payment. When services must be provided or criteria met the liability is only recognised to the extent that these have occurred.	Grant payments are made in accordance with fund requirements, subject to the grantee's satisfactory compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 17. Financial Instruments (continued)

b) Interest Rate Risk

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate	Fixed Interest Rate				Non-Interest Bearing	Total	Weighted Average			
			1 year or less	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	> 5years						
		04-05 \$000	03-04 \$000	04-05 \$000	03-04 \$000	04-05 \$000	03-04 \$000	04-05 \$000	03-04 \$000	Effective Interest Rate % 04-05 \$000	03-04 \$000	
Financial Assets (Recognised)												
Cash at bank and on hand	7A	447	10,277	-	-	-	-	-	10,182	10,277	4.9	4.9
Other receivables	7B	-	-	-	-	-	-	188	188	366	-	-
Loans	7B	-	2,758	893	-	1,935	12	-	6,965	7,034	4.5	4.5
Total		447	13,035	893	-	1,935	12	188	17,335	17,677		
Total Assets									31,904	31,767		

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 17. Financial Instruments (continued)

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate	Fixed Interest Rate				Non-Interest Bearing	Total	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate
			1 year or less	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	> 5 years			
		04-05 03-04 \$000	04-05 03-04 \$000	04-05 03-04 \$000	04-05 03-04 \$000	04-05 03-04 \$000	04-05 03-04 \$000	04-05 03-04 \$000	04-05 03-04 \$000
Financial Liabilities									
Trade creditors	10A	-	-	-	-	-	186 613	186 613	-
Grant liabilities	10B	-	-	-	-	-	3,855 5,109	3,855 5,109	-
Other liabilities	10C	-	-	-	-	-	- 49	- 49	-
Total		-	-	-	-	-	4,041 5,771	4,041 5,771	-
Total Liabilities							5,072 6,680	5,072 6,680	-

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 17. Financial Instruments (continued)

c) Net Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities

		2004-05		2003-04	
	Note	Total carrying amount \$000	Aggregate net fair value \$000	Total carrying amount \$000	Aggregate net fair value \$000
Financial Assets					
Cash at bank & cash on hand	7A	10,182	10,182	10,277	10,277
Other receivables	7B	188	188	366	366
Net loans receivables	7B	6,826	6,826	6,744	6,744
Total Financial Assets		17,196	17,196	17,387	17,815
Financial Liabilities					
Trade creditors	10A	186	186	613	613
Grant Payables	10B	3,855	3,855	5,109	5,109
Other	10C	-	-	49	49
Total Financial Liabilities		4,041	4,041	5,771	5,771

Financial assets

The net fair values of cash, approximate their carrying amounts due to the short term nature of the assets and because loan receivables are interest bearing.

Financial liabilities

The net fair values for trade creditors, grant liabilities, and other liabilities all of which are short term in nature, are approximated by their carrying amounts.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 17. Financial Instruments (continued)

(d) Credit Risk Exposures

The Authority's maximum exposures to credit risk at reporting date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the carrying amount of those assets as indicated in the Statement of Financial Position. Credit risk is reduced through stringent controls prior to loaning funds.

Note 18. Appropriations

	Equity		Departmental Outputs	
	2005 \$000	2004 \$000	2005 \$000	2004 \$000
The Authority received the following appropriations during the year out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.				
Annual Appropriations Act No 4 – equity injection	23	9	-	-
Annual Appropriations Acts No 1,3 – basic appropriation	-	-	52,042	51,034
TOTAL	23	9	52,042	51,034

There were no appropriations receivable at 30 June 2005 (2004: nil).

Note 19. Average Staffing Levels

	2005	2004
Full time equivalent employees at year end	49	49

Note 20. Reporting of outcomes

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

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 21. Major Departmental Revenue and Expenses by Output Group (continued)

	Output Group 1		Output Group 2		Output Group 3		Output Group 4		Output Group 5		Output Group 6		Non Specific		Total	
	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Departmental Expenses:																
Employees	655	592	848	767	386	350	347	662	732	313	887	802	-	-	3,855	3,486
Suppliers	1,136	782	572	453	698	666	206	386	464	183	1451	909	-	-	4,527	3,379
Grants	2,109	1,004	30,033	29,662	78	-	6,324	7,000	5,910	5,873	40	47	-	-	44,494	43,586
Depreciation and Amortisation	63	60	82	78	37	35	34	67	71	32	87	82	-	-	374	354
Write Down of Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total departmental expenses	3,963	2,438	31,535	30,960	1,199	1,051	6,911	8,115	7,177	6,401	2,465	1,840	-	-	53,250	50,805
Funded by:																
Revenue from Government	2,748	2,694	31,953	30,840	1,407	1,761	8,096	7,710	6,617	6,890	1,231	1,161	-	-	52042	51,034
Sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	4	3
Other Non Taxation Revenues	776	1,191	415	-	250	198	170	12	416	5	925	999	-	-	2,951	2,427
Total departmental revenues	3,524	3,885	32,368	30,840	1,657	1,959	8,266	7,722	7,033	6,895	2,156	2,160	4	3	54,997	53,464

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2005

Note 22. Total Cost / Contribution by Outcome

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000
Expenses				
Departmental	53,250	50,805	53,250	50,805
Total Expenses	53,250	50,805	53,250	50,805
Other external revenues				
Departmental				
Interest	1,091	800	1,091	800
Revenue from sale of assets	4	3	4	3
Other non-taxation revenues	1,860	1,627	1,860	1,627
Total Departmental	2,955	2,430	2,955	2,430
Total other external revenues	2,955	2,430	2,955	2,430
Net cost/(contribution) of outcome	50,295	48,395	50,295	48,395

The TSRA operates primarily in a single industry and geographic environment, being the administration of government programs in the Torres Strait region. The Authority is structured to meet one outcome. As there is only one outcome detailed information is contained in the Statement of Financial Performance and associated notes.



Appendices



*Traditional owners of
Badu achieved their
native title recognition on
14 December 2004.*

Appendix 1

APPENDIX 1: TSRA GRANTS

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Badu Island Council	CDEP wages	\$2,827,855
Badu Island Council	CDEP operations	\$861,316
Badu Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$87,551
Badu Island Council	Aibai Sagulau Buai Dance Tour	\$5,000
Badu Island Council	Contribution to Island of Origin	\$5,000
Badu Island Council	Community Training Program	\$168,000
Badu Island Council	Native Title celebration	\$15,000
Badu Island Council	Restaurant	\$16,595
Badu Island Council	Dancers performance at art exhibition	\$10,000
Badu Island Council	Mura Badulgal PBC	\$3,000
Bamaga Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,717,280
Bamaga Island Council	CDEP operations	\$583,470
Bamaga Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$98,122
Bamaga Island Council	Community training	\$167,000
Bamaga Island Council	Rumble in the Jungle	\$2,000
Boigu Island Council	CDEP wages	\$904,320
Boigu Island Council	CDEP operations	\$247,316
Boigu Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$56,219
Boigu Island Council	Medium machinery	\$70,000
Boigu Island Council	St Pauls Centenary celebration	\$4,000
Boigu Island Council	All Black Carnival	\$3,000
Boigu Island Council	Yorke August 23 celebrations	\$3,500
Boigu Island Council	Native Title celebration	\$15,000
Boigu Island Council	BRACS upgrade	\$17,527
Dauan Island Council	CDEP wages	\$598,393
Dauan Island Council	CDEP operations	\$208,382
Dauan Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$66,985
Dauan Island Council	Medium machinery	\$155,000
Erub Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,489,842
Erub Island Council	CDEP operations	\$427,184
Erub Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$72,327
Erub Island Council	St Pauls Centenary celebration	\$5,000
Erub Island Council	Community training	\$38,624
Erub Island Council	Native Title celebrations	\$15,000
Erub Island Council	July 1, Coming of the Light celebrations	\$8,000

Hammond Island Council	CDEP wages	\$628,477
Hammond Island Council	CDEP operations	\$208,382
Hammond Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$50,142
Hammond Island Council	Community training	\$12,000
Hammond Island Council	Ferry costs	\$19,172
Hammond Island Council	Roads	\$16,081
Hammond Island Council	Fuel bowser	\$31,436
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	CDEP wages	\$649,623
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	CDEP operations	\$195,382
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	Administrator	\$51,500
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	NAIDOC celebrations	\$1,100
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	Land purchase	\$53,000
Iama Community Council	CDEP wages	\$1,280,394
Iama Community Council	CDEP operations	\$338,367
Iama Community Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$73,301
Iama Community Council	Community training	\$76,000
Iama Community Council	Native Title Determination	\$15,000
Iama Community Council	Flood mitigation	\$24,200
Island Coordination Council	Operating expenses	\$498,893
Island Coordination Council	ICC Infrastructure Support Unit	\$1,500,000
Island Coordination Council	MIP	\$5,600,000
Island Coordination Council	Natural disaster risk management	\$30,000
Island Coordination Council	HEMTP	\$570,000
Island Coordination Council	Kaiwalagal Rugby League Football	\$3,000
Island Coordination Council	TSIREC - Youth leadership	\$2,500
Island Coordination Council	Seaman Dan's DVD	\$6,985
Island Coordination Council	Airstrips & marine facilities	\$1,100,000
Kubin Island Council	CDEP wages	\$686,832
Kubin Island Council	CDEP operations	\$387,720
Kubin Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$68,004
Kubin Island Council	Gelam Nguzu Kazi	\$2,570
Kubin Island Council	Arts Centre	\$250,000
Kubin Island Council	Business cards	\$1,000
Kubin Island Council	Community training	\$62,000
Kubin Island Council	Community Hall 2003-2004	\$19,676
Kubin Island Council	Medium machinery	\$100,000
Kubin Island Council	Staff accommodation	\$2,364

Mabuiag Island Council	CDEP wages	\$977,091
Mabuiag Island Council	CDEP operations	\$227,005
Mabuiag Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$70,488
Mabuiag Island Council	Community training	\$37,000
Mabuiag Island Council	Medium machinery	\$63,423
Mabuiag Island Council	Initiation ceremony	\$5,000
Mer Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,484,662
Mer Island Council	CDEP operations	\$443,262
Mer Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$78,604
Mer Island Council	Community training	\$70,000
Mer Island Council	Mer Airstrip upgrade	\$400,000
Mer Island Council	Purchase tyre changing machine	\$5,000
Mer Island Council	Screen printing materials	\$10,179
Mer Island Council	Upgrade to BRACS	\$4,381
Mer Island Council	Hall 2003-2004	\$593,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	Operating expenses	\$139,690
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	International Women's Day	\$2,500
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	Torres Strait Women's Forum	\$2,000
Port Kennedy Association	Operating expenses	\$145,910
Port Kennedy Association	Community Training Program	\$14,000
Poruma Island Council	CDEP wages	\$774,849
Poruma Island Council	CDEP operations	\$197,029
Poruma Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$68,669
Poruma Island Council	Community training	\$49,500
Poruma Island Council	Resort	\$77,747
Poruma Island Council	Regional Arts Development Program	\$8,823
Poruma Island Council	Re-design Council office	\$9,500
Poruma Island Council	Playground equipment	\$17,478
Poruma Island Council	Fencing of sports ground	\$39,050
Sacred Heart Primary School	Contemporary and traditional arts	\$5,650
Sacred Heart Primary School	Purchase of tables/chairs	\$5,000
Saibai Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,165,219
Saibai Island Council	CDEP operations	\$347,304
Saibai Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$56,330
Saibai Island Council	Community training	\$59,000
Saibai Island Council	Medium Machinery	\$90,000

Saibai Island Council	Sports Facility	\$100,000
Saibai Island Council	BRACS	\$17,527
Seisia Island Council	CDEP wages	\$886,619
Seisia Island Council	CDEP operations	\$166,315
Seisia Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$65,743
Seisia Island Council	Community training	\$48,000
Seisia Island Council	Medium machinery	\$110,893
Seisia Island Council	Unit accommodation	\$275,000
Seisia Island Council	Extension to supermarket	\$188,250
Seisia Island Council	Community Hall upgrade	\$18,000
St Pauls Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,301,821
St Pauls Island Council	CDEP operations	\$438,845
St Pauls Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$71,772
St Pauls Island Council	Community training	\$240,000
St Pauls Island Council	Medium machinery	\$25,000
St Pauls Island Council	Block Works (Pavers) expansion	\$80,000
St Pauls Island Council	Centenary celebrations	\$10,000
Thursday Island State High School	Work experience	\$2,354
Thursday Island State High School	Aquaculture Project - Stage 2	\$8,000
Thursday Island State High School	Purchase of costumes for Croc Festival	\$1,300
Thursday Island State High School	Block laying apprentice	\$14,296
Thursday Island State Primary School	NQ Student Council Conference	\$5,000
Thursday Island State Primary School	Contribution to Opti-Minds Challenge	\$4,000
Thursday Island State Primary School	Cultural Arts Exchange 2004	\$11,000
Thursday Island State Primary School	Cairns District Junior Eisteddfod	\$2,000
Torres Strait Islanders' Media Association	Operating expenses	\$573,220
Torres Strait Youth & Recreation	Operating expenses	\$336,675
Torres Strait Youth & Recreation	Community Training Program	\$1,500
Torres Strait Youth & Recreation	Contribution to boxing event in Torres Strait	\$19,694
Torres Strait Youth & Recreation	Contribution to Ted Mosby Memorial	\$13,900
Torres Strait Youth & Recreation	QLD Police Rugby League Carnival	\$6,000
Torres Strait Youth & Recreation	Consultations (Sports & Rec. Plans)	\$34,834
Torres Strait Youth & Recreation	2005 Island of Origin Carnival	\$5,000
TRAWQ Community Council	CDEP wages	\$1,634,210

TRAWQ Community Council	CDEP operations	\$493,171
TRAWQ Community Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$160,270
TRAWQ Community Council	Community training	\$63,000
TRAWQ Community Council	Mechanical workshop	\$15,116
TRAWQ Community Council	Arts Development Program	\$5,000
TRAWQ Community Council	Gab Titui trainees	\$60,932
TRAWQ Community Council	Youth Activities Program	\$42,670
TRAWQ Community Council	Mabo Day celebrations	\$3,000
TSNP Legal Services	Operating expenses	\$411,090
Ugar Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$62,376
Ugar Island Council	Medium machinery	\$90,000
Ugar Island Council	YDMS Sports	\$2,000
Ugar Island Council	Community Training Program	\$10,582
Ugar Island Council	Native Title Determination	\$15,000
Ugar Island Council	Ferry	\$146,321
Ugar Island Council	BRACS upgrade	\$23,261
Warraber Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,013,528
Warraber Island Council	CDEP operations	\$294,130
Warraber Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$69,112
Warraber Island Council	Community training	\$65,000
Warraber Island Council	Medium machinery	\$150,000
Yorke Island Council	CDEP wages	\$1,581,074
Yorke Island Council	CDEP operations	\$475,806
Yorke Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	\$74,255
Yorke Island Council	Community training	\$72,000
Yorke Island Council	Medium machinery	\$60,000
Yorke Island Council	Lowatta Lodge	\$105,893
Yorke Island Council	August 23 celebrations	\$3,500

APPENDIX 2: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SECTION 8 STATEMENT

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

This statement is correct to 30 June 2005.

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. The Act is now referred to as 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 established under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989, now known as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*. It consists of an elected arm and an administrative arm. The elected arm is made up of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Alternate Deputy Chairperson, and Members, who are elected to office by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in their respective communities (see the 'TSRA Board' section for more details). The administrative arm is the responsibility of the General Manager.

PROVISION OF FUNDING

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

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

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

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

CATEGORIES OF DOCUMENTS

- The Corporate 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 section is also responsible for files containing Ministerial briefings; engagement of consultants; Occupational Health and Safety; Equal Employment Opportunities; Industrial Democracy; responses to Ombudsman's activities, responses to the Office of the Federal Privacy Commissioner, statistics for the Australian Bureau of Statistics, statistics for the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, survey for the Australian National Audit Office, statistics for the Australian Public Service, statistics and information for the Remuneration Tribunal and responses to Freedom of Information activities.

- The Secretariat section, being a sub-section of the Corporate Service Section, continues to maintain copies of the submissions that have been presented to the TSRA meetings; minutes of the TSRA meetings; TSRA Decision Sheets; and financial records relating to payment of TSRA members and meetings, as well as providing administrative support services to the office of the Chairperson.
- The Field Operations section maintains files relating to grants and community profiles and community development.
- A number of manuals and guidelines are used in the TSRA's decision-making policies and guidelines, including the TSRA Decision Making Principles, Finance Procedures manual, and the Program, Administration and Personnel Delegation manuals.

Appendix 3

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

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

Appendix 4

- a. Non-ongoing staff at 30 June 2005
- b. Nominal total staff at 30 June 2005 (including non-ongoing staff)
- c. Representation of EEO groups within salary levels at 30 June 2005
- d. Organisational chart at 30 June 2005
- e. Ministerial Appointments

a. Staff classification breakdown at 30 June 2005 (non-ongoing staff)

Classification	Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal			Non Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Executive Level 2						
Executive Level 1	2		2	1	1	2
APS Level 6	1		1		2	2
APS Level 5		1	1		1	1
APS Level 4						
APS Level 3		1	1			
APS Level 2	1	2	3			
APS Level 1					1	1
Trainees		0	0			
Sub total						
Total	4	4	8	1	5	6

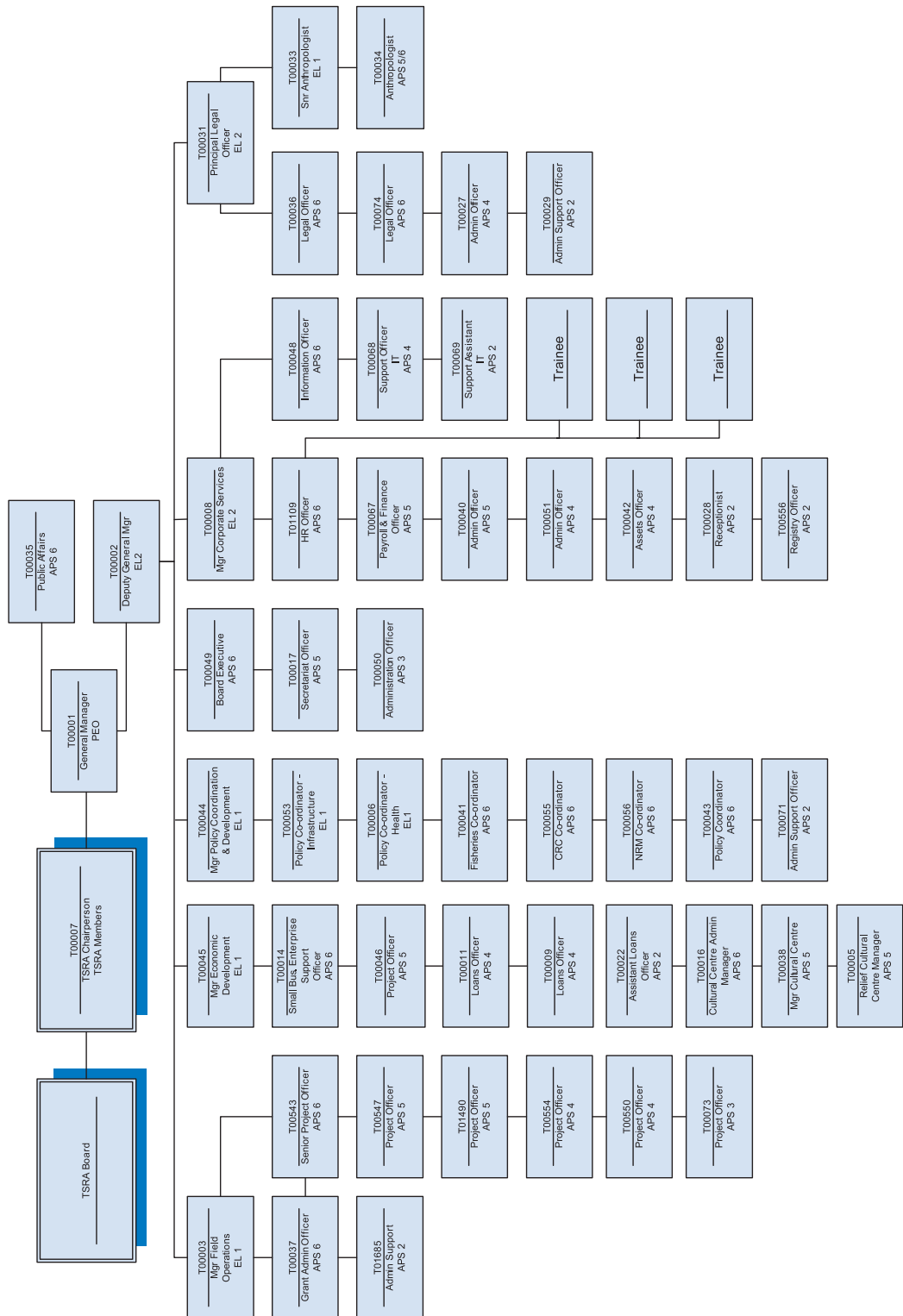
b. Nominal total staff at 30 June 2005 (includes non-ongoing staff)

Classification	Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal			Non Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Principal Executive Officer						
Executive Level 2	1	1	2	1		1
Executive Level 1	4		4	4	2	6
APS Level 6	1	4	5	0	2	2
APS Level 5		6	6	2	1	3
APS Level 4	2	5	7			
APS Level 3	1	2	3			
APS Level 2	1	7	8			
APS Level 1					1	1
Trainees						
Total	10	25	35	7	6	13

c. Representation of EEO groups within salary level at 30 June 2005

Salary	Women	TSI&A	NESB	PWD
\$Above \$95,600 (Principal Executive Officer)				
\$77,545 to \$93,178 (Executive Level 2)	1	1		
\$67,237 to \$81,809 (Executive Level 1)	2	3		
\$52,447 to \$62,081 (APS Level 6)	6	5		
\$48,561 to \$51,492 (APS Level 5)	7	7		
\$43,535 to \$47,271 (APS Level 4)	5	7		
\$39,062 to \$42,160 (APS Level 3)	2	3		
\$34,298 to \$38,031 (APS Level 2)	7	8		
Below \$33,493 (APS Level 1 and Trainees)	1			
Total	31	34		

d. Organisational Chart as at 30 June 2005



e. Ministerial Appointments

There were three Ministerial appointments during the reporting period. Under the ATSI Act 2005, Section 144L the Minister appointed Mr Wayne See Kee, Public Affairs Officer, to act as General Manager for the periods 15 July 2004 to 6 August 2004, 25 September 2004 to 31 October 2004, 31 December 2004 to 24 March 2005, and 30 March 2005 to 29 September 2005 until an appointment is made under section 144G of the Act.

CONSULTANCY SUMMARY

In 2004-2005 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 2004-2005 was \$1,503,071.03.

Consultant	Details of Consultancy	Amount (\$)
Aegis Consulting Australia Pty Ltd	Smartcard Feasibility Study	85,773.60
Answerz IT Consulting	Information Technology	15,259.75
Aurion Corporation Pty Ltd	Human Resource and Payroll Feasibility Study	6,187.50
Dr Jeremy Beckett	Anthropological Research - Native Title	9,336.87
Black & More Management Eng.	Project Management Services	237,734.05
Robert Blowes Barrister	Legal Services - Native Title	46,304.50
BMD Consulting	Gab Titui Cultural Centre - Stage 2	2,200.00
Clariti Pty Ltd	Information Technology	13,200.00
Commercial Dispute Resolution	Professional Services - Native Title, Policy	35,403.20
Kleinhardht FGI Pty Ltd	Financial Services - BFS Economic Development	35,458.15
Davidson Wilson Group	Human Resources	127,554.91
Devietti & Ritchie Pty Ltd	Financial Services - BFS Economic Development	1,440.00
Alexander J Dodd & Associates	Native Title Office Operational Plan	5,115.00
Ebsworth & Ebsworth Lawyers	Legal Services - Native Title	3,298.12
Michael Ferris & Partners P/L	Gab Titui Cultural Centre - Stage 2	9,370.00
FINH Pty Ltd	St Pauls Blockworks Project	64,480.23
Frontier Software Pty Ltd	Human Resources & Payroll Integrated System	98,236.01
Gordon & Jackson Barristers	Legal Services - Native Title	2,208.00
Garrick Hitchcock	Anthropological Research - Native Title	8,800.00
R J Howells Pty Ltd	Legal Services - Native Title	5,150.00
Hunter System Pty Ltd	Information Technology	54,515.72
Just Outcomes (Aust) Pty Ltd	Legal Services - Native Title	5,037.98
Kidson - DFK	Financial Management Services	118,889.81
Kleinhardht FGI Pty Ltd	Professional Services - BFS Economic Development	35,458.15
J M Lahn Anthropological Services	Anthropological Research - Native Title	7,708.69

Laurie Lindner Constructions	Gab Titui Cultural Centre - Stage 1	42,501.38
Longley Stapleton	Financial Management Accounting System	27,534.56
J G Menham	Professional Services - Policy	16,775.00
Monash University	Archaeological Survey - Native Title	58,482.05
Kevin Murphy	Anthropological Research - Native Title	35,145.00
Pacific Social Mapping Pty Ltd	Anthropological Research - Native Title	27,809.67
Nicolas Peterson	Anthropological Research - Native Title	2,079.20
Queensland Ship Surveyors Pty Ltd	Professional Services - BFS Economic Development	3,021.38
Spin Communications & Marketing	Public Affairs	37,928.00
Chung Lin Stock	Financial and Budgetary Advice	30,179.53
Wallenberg Enterprises Pty Ltd	Management - Gab Titui Cultural Centre Cafe	25,983.06
Williams Love & Nicol	Legal Services - Human Resources	12,709.40
Williams Graham & Carman	Legal Services for CEIS,BFS & Gab Titui Cultural Centre - Economic Development	46,842.45
Ray Wood	Professional Services - Native Title	2,526.64

GLOSSARY

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

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

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