Torres Strait Regional Authority

Annual Report
2012 - 2013

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The cover page and pages of this report feature the artwork of Torres Strait artist Ms Anita Nakata titled Nautilus Shell. This pastel on paper was entered into the Gab Titui Art Award 2013 and was commended. The art work was photographed by Mr George Serras from the National Museum of Australia.

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

The TSRA will always make every effort to respect Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people's cultural sensitivities when featuring the images or names of people who have recently died.

However, please be advised that this document may contain images of persons who have died after this Annual Report was tabled in Parliament in October 2013 and we offer our apologies for any distress caused if this occurs.

The TSRA's Contact Officer for the 2012 - 2013 Annual Report is Mr John Ramsay, Program Manager Governance and Leadership.
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The Annual Report is published on the TSRA website at www.tsra.gov.au.

Vision

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

Kala Lagau Ya

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

Meriam Mir

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

Kala Kawau Ya

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

The Indigenous people of the Torres Strait are of Aboriginal and Melanesian origin and speak two distinct traditional languages. In the Eastern Islands the traditional language is Meriam Mir, while the Western and Central Island groups speak either Kala Lagau Ya or Kala Kawau Ya, which are dialects of the same language. Torres Strait Creole and English are also spoken.

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

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

Torres Strait Region

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BOIGU ISLAND

SAIBAI ISLAND

DAUAN ISLAND

UGAR ISLAND

ERUB ISLAND

MASIG ISLAND

MER ISLAND

IAMA ISLAND

MABUIAG ISLAND

PORUMA ISLAND

BADU ISLAND

ST PAULS

KUBIN

MOA ISLAND

WARRABER ISLAND

KERIRI ISLAND

WAIBEN ISLAND

NGARUPAI ISLAND

MURALAG ISLAND

NEW MAPOON

SEISIA

BAMAGA

UMAGICO

INJINOO

CAPE YORK PENINSULA

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Highlights and Achievements

Engaging with our Communities

The 2011 changes to the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth) enabled the independent election of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Board in 2012. The Board consists of one elected Member from each of the 18 communities in the Torres Strait and one each from Bamaga and Seisia on the Northern Peninsula Area. The 20 Member Board provides a permanent presence on the ground in almost every community.

The TSRA Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer began a rolling program of Community workshops to create a greater awareness of the TSRA. The TSRA aims to conduct these workshops in every community over a two-year program.

Program Managers and staff conducted regular operational-level visits to all communities throughout the year on a diverse range of issues from grant management to policy consultation.

The TSRA Ranger Program has a permanent presence of 38 Rangers servicing 14 communities on 13 outer islands. The Rangers engage on all issues pertaining to land and sea environmental management.

The TSRA Governance and Leadership Program and the Native Title Program engage directly with the Prescribed Bodies Corporate in Communities to build capacity and resolve Native Title issues.

Closing the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage

The TSRA Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) project completed the draft ISD Action Plan which addresses the service gaps identified in Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Communities. The Action Plan is currently being reviewed by the Queensland Government through the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs (DATSIMA). At the end of the reporting period, 13 of the 16 Queensland Agencies delivering services to the region have advised of their commitment to the Action Plan.

The Australian Government has reaffirmed its full commitment to the funding of the Torres Strait Major Infrastructure Program Stage 5 (MIP 5). The TSRA is continuing its negotiations with the Queensland Government to extend their commitment to match funding. The MIP delivers a range of benefits to the region to help close the gaps in life expectancy, health, healthy homes and safe communities. The MIP is an example of a successful cross-government program that has delivered tangible, measurable benefits to the people in the region.

The TSRA Economic Development Program delivers low interest business loans to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal entrepreneurs in the region. The Program focuses on sustainable, economically viable ventures which can provide employment outcomes in the region. Business training and mentoring programs are available for successful applicants.

Promoting and Advocating Critical Issues for the Region

The Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has recognised the TSRA as the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) for the region. The TSRA has agreed not to seek the renewal of the NTRB function when it expires in 2015.

During the year, the TSRA worked closely with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC), Queensland Department of Local Government, Community Resilience and Recovery (DLGCRR), Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Art and Sport (DRALGAS), and Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) to identify funding for the construction of Seawalls and other coastal inundation works for six communities in the Torres Strait region. Funding, of up to $26 million will be required over a four-year period, for the construction of Seawalls for the Saibai, Poruma, Boigu, Iama, Warraber and Masig communities.

Commuting between Thursday and Hammond islands.

Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities

To improve the delivery of integrated whole-of-government services to the region

The TSRA distributed an ISD Action Plan to the federal Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and the Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs (DATSIMA). Thirteen of the 16 Queensland Government agencies delivering services to the region responded during the reporting period. The TSRA will continue working with DATSIMA and FaHCSIA to implement the plan.

To establish a whole-of-government lead agency

The TSRA could play a greater role as the 'lead agency' in the delivery of Australian Government services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities the region. There is an opportunity to re-examine the services delivered by Departments and Agencies and re-define the roles of groups, organisations and Departments in community development.

To improve communication throughout the region

The Torres Strait region has 14 Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Service (RIBS) stations; however throughout 2012 - 2013 only two were operating. The TSRA is working with the Torres Strait Islander Media Association and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council to develop a Regional Operations Plan that will help RIBS restore operations at the rate of four stations per financial year from 2013 - 2014.

Many communities in the Torres Strait do not have access to reliable mobile telecommunications over the 3G Network. There are no 4G or fibre-optic services in the region. The region as a whole does not have access to reliable broadband services. The TSRA is working in partnership with Telstra to develop a regional communications plan to address these shortfalls.

Challenges

To secure the resources required to deliver our programs

2012 - 2013 saw a significant reduction of financial commitments to the region from the Queensland Government. Both the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) and the Sea Walls Program are co-funded on the principle of a dollar for dollar match by the Australian Government and the Queensland Government. The TSRA has made successful representation to the Australian Government to maintain funding while maintaining representation to the Queensland Government to match the Australian Government commitment for MIP Stage 5.

Climate change adaptation

Global average temperatures are forecast to rise by as much as 2–3°C by 2050, with significant multi-level threats to Torres Strait communities and environments. If the region is to prepare for climate change impacts, it will need to establish a clear process to develop and implement appropriate adaptation measures regionally and at community level.

To provide resources to, and increase the capacity of Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate in the region

There are 20 Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (RNTBCs) in the region. These RTNBCs, also known as Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs), receive both legal and capacity-building assistance from the TSRA. While the TSRA has the resources to assist these PBCs to perform their legislated roles under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), it cannot assist PBCs with their expanding role in managing Reserve or Deeds of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) lands transferred to them by the Queensland Government.

Maritime training.

To support Prescribed Bodies Corporate in a post-determination environment

The majority of the Native Title claims in the Torres Strait have been determined and the TSRA, as the Native Title Representative Body, and the PBCs in the region operate in a predominantly post-determination environment.

To support fishers in the region

To support part-time and occasional commercial fishers to develop viable businesses that allow them to transition to full-time fishing operations and maximise the returns of commercial fishing to Torres Strait communities; and developing management arrangements to support sustainable fisheries for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the region for the long term.

Sea Claim Part B

The TSRA is working to successfully conclude Part B of the Native Title Sea Claim and deliver a result which meets the expectations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the region.

There is an opportunity to re-examine the services delivered by Departments and Agencies and re-define the roles of groups, organisations and Departments in community development.

Ranger boat blessing, Boigu Island.

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Ranger boat blessing, Badu Island.

Letter of Transmittal

Australian Government

TSRA
www.tsra.gov.au

30 September 2013

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

Dear Senator,

It is with pleasure that I present you with the nineteenth Annual Report of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) for 2012 - 2013.

This Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 144ZB of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), Section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth) and the *Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011*.

This Annual Report contains the Report of Operations, Financial Statements and Auditors-General Report on those Financial Statements, in accordance with Section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth), and the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (Report of Operations) Orders 2005* and the Finance Minister's Orders. The TSRA has fully complied with the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines under Regulation 16A of the *Financial Management and Accountability Regulations 1997*.

The Directors of the TSRA take responsibility for the preparation and contents of the Report of Operations in accordance with the resolution passed at Board Meeting Number 87 held on 12 September 2013.

During the reporting period the TSRA Board has prepared for the transition from the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013* to *Torres Strait Development Plan 2014 – 2018*. I am pleased to report that we continue to meet the objectives of the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 – 2029* which, together with our Development Plan, shape the TSRA's programs to contribute towards closing the gap in disadvantage between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians living in the region.

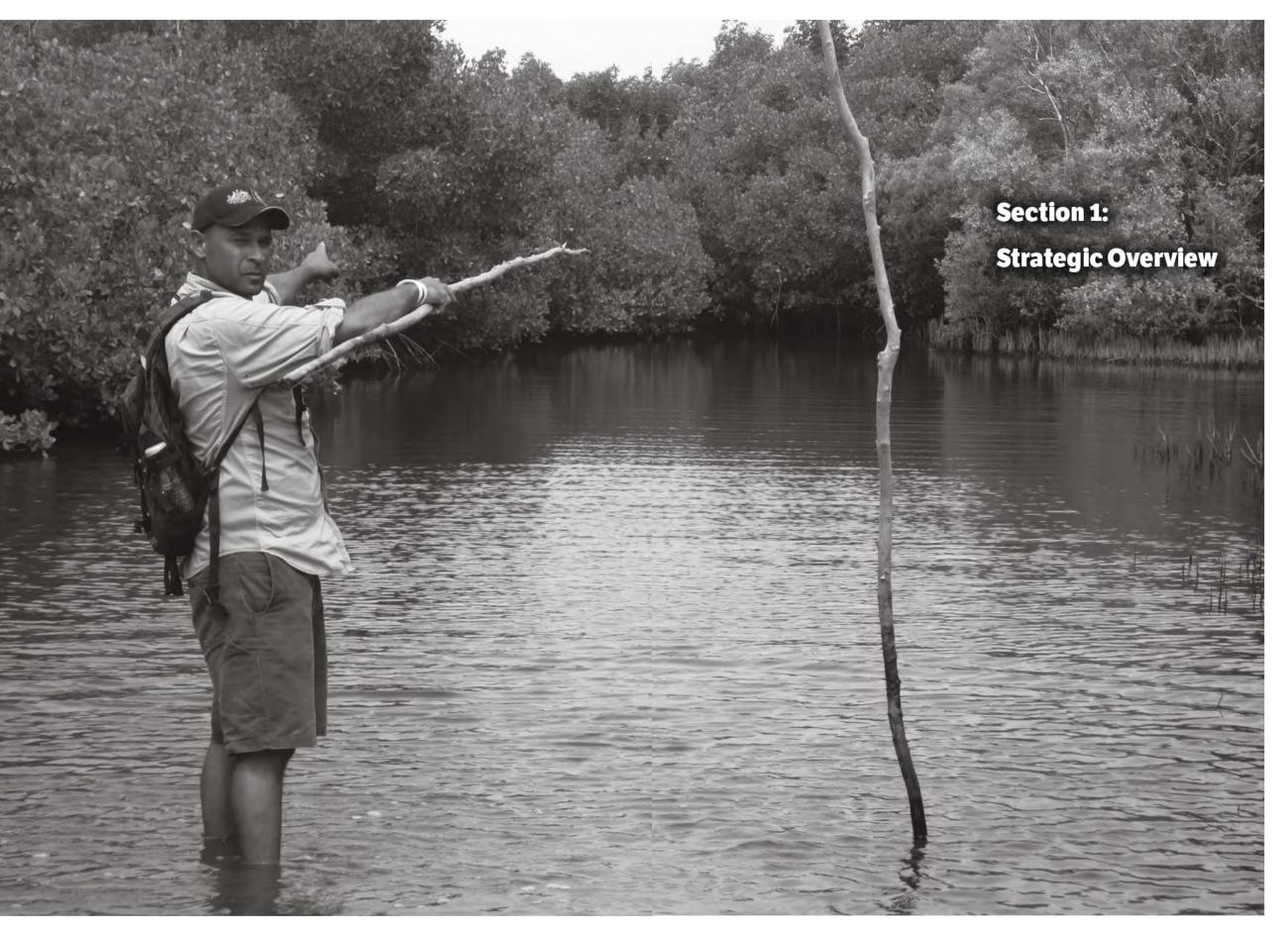The coming year will bring challenges, but we look forward to building on our many successes over the past 19 years.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Elu
Chairperson
Torres Strait Regional Authority

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Chairperson's Message

I am pleased to present the Torres Strait Regional Authority's nineteenth Annual Report, highlighting our progress and achievements in 2012 - 2013.

TSRA Elections

This year has seen a significant change in how Members are elected to the TSRA Board. For the first time since the establishment of the TSRA in 1994, independent elections were undertaken to appoint the full TSRA Board. This substantial move was initiated by the previous Board following a review of its governance structure.

Following changes to legislation in 2011, 20 TSRA electoral wards were established for the region. Nineteen Members were declared elected following the TSRA elections in September 2012, and in December 2012 one further election was held and declared for the ward of Kubin.

I congratulate all returning and new Members of the TSRA Board and extend my sincerest thanks to the previous Board Members for their foresight and work that they undertook to deliver the TSRA's programs for the betterment of our region.

I give special thanks to the outgoing Chairperson, Mr John (Toshie) Kris, who led the TSRA Board over the past two consecutive terms. During that period there was significant progress throughout the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area region. Through increased collaboration with our communities and leaders in all levels of government, the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029 was developed and adopted. This document remains pivotal as the strategic guide for the TSRA and other government bodies delivering services to and in the region. Key goals of the Regional Plan are to improve the coordination of service delivery and plan for better and more efficient outcomes and benefits for our communities.

During the current term, the TSRA Board will continue to progress the good work of the previous Boards to address the challenges that face the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area region.

Community Engagement

With the support of the TSRA Board, the Chief Executive Officer and I will be undertaking a program of community visits to ensure that communities are kept informed of the TSRA's initiatives and, most importantly, to consult with and listen to community views. Our schedule has commenced with visits to the Warraber Island and Boigu Island communities. Through these visits, the TSRA has been able to provide information about the work and projects being undertaken by all of the TSRA Programs. The TSRA met with community organisations, groups and individuals to provide information and answer questions. As part of an integrated approach to community engagement, the TSRA has worked in close partnership with the Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs (DATSIMA). A senior officer from DATSIMA accompanies the TSRA on our community visits. The elected Divisional Councillors from the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) also play an important role in supporting and participating in these visits. The TSRA looks forward to continuing this partnership when we visit our communities in the future.

Twelfth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

In May 2013, The TSRA was invited to attend the Twelfth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The TSRA delivered two interventions, one on cultural maintenance and support to our emerging artists, and one on climate change.

Meeting with members of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples.

Protected Zone Joint Authority forum, Thursday Island.

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations invited the Australian delegation to participate in a side event on Indigenous youth, education and culture. The intervention was in support of the promotion and protection of Indigenous people around the world. The invitation was extended to allow the TSRA to participate in the event itself. With support from the Tagai State College Campus on Thursday Island, the TSRA was able to showcase education in the Torres Strait and promote the Torres Strait region.

World Indigenous Network

The TSRA was invited to participate in the World Indigenous Network (WIN) which is an Australian Government initiative that is delivered by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC). WIN is an international knowledge-sharing network for Indigenous Land and Sea Managers to encourage conservation, biological diversity, the sustainable use of natural resources, improved social cohesion, increased economic opportunities and the reduction of poverty.

The first part of this initiative is an ongoing exchange program between Indigenous and local community Land and Sea Managers. In April 2013, with assistance from SEWPaC, I accompanied five TSRA Rangers to the Arnavons in the Solomon Islands to meet, share experiences and learn from Land and Sea Managers in the Solomon Islands.

The second part of the initiative involved the TSRA's Environmental Management Program hosting a delegation of Solomon Islands Rangers, in May 2013. During their visit to the Torres Strait, the Solomon Island Rangers visited Badu, St Pauls, Masig and Warraber. Our Rangers shared their knowledge of how the TSRA is working to conserve and sustain natural resources in the Torres Strait.

The third phase of the initiative was a conference which opened in Darwin on 26 May 2013 and included participants from over 55 countries. Our Torres Strait Rangers were featured in the opening presentation and presented on Land and Sea management in the Torres Strait.

The interactions between the Torres Strait and Solomon Islands Rangers have been valuable, and we have learnt significantly from each other.

United Nations Development Programme – Bangladesh

The UN Development Programme arranges study tours for delegates from countries that have addressed and/or are addressing Indigenous issues. In May 2013, the United Nations (UN) sponsored a visit to the TSRA by a delegation of Ministers, government officials and Indigenous leaders from the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh. The purpose of the visit was to gain an understanding of how the TSRA carries out its governance and service delivery role in the Torres Strait region and to promote mutual, peaceful coexistence and ethnic harmony in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. This was the third UN-sponsored delegation from Bangladesh to be hosted by the TSRA.

In May 2013, The TSRA was invited to attend the Twelfth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The TSRA delivered two interventions, one on cultural maintenance and support to our emerging artists, and one on climate change.

Regional Autonomy

The TSRA is cognisant of wider political aspirations in the region for greater autonomy. It advocates increased employment and economic growth as necessary precursors to support a change in regional governance.

Mer Reserve Handover

In December 2012, the Mer community celebrated the transfer of the Mer, Dauar and Waier Reserve back to the Mer Ged Kem Le (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate. On behalf of the TSRA Board, I extend the TSRA's congratulations to the Mer community.

Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority Forums

In January 2013 the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) announced the completion of a structural adjustment of the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL) Fishery which led to a small increase in the ownership of the fishery for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal fishers. The increase did not meet community fisher expectations and triggered a call for the reintroduction of interim management arrangements until a TRL Fisheries Management Plan could be put in place. It is the aspiration of Torres Strait Fishers that the TRL Fishery be 100 per cent owned by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal People in the region.

On 12 June 2013, Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig participated in a stakeholder forum on Thursday Island. The visit was particularly significant as it was the first time in five years that the Chair of the PZJA had visited the Torres Strait for a PZJA-related meeting. More than 100 Torres Strait TRL Fishery stakeholders participated in the meeting. Following the meeting, Senator Ludwig and I agreed that the PZJA's priority should be to progress a formal management plan for the fishery.

Ministerial and Visiting Officials

In 2012 - 2013 there were a number of visits by both Australian Government and Queensland Government Ministers and Officials to the region. The TSRA also met with Ministers of both Governments in Canberra and in Brisbane to progress matters of interest for the Torres Strait.

On 15 January 2013, Mr Andrew Laming, the Federal Member for Bowman and Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health Services and Indigenous Health, visited the TSRA on Thursday Island. This visit was helpful in developing a regional understanding of Torres Strait Cross Border health, immigration and related issues.

As part of developing the integration of service delivery to the region, both Ms Peta Winzar, the Queensland State Manager for the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and Ms Debbie Best, the Director-General, Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs, visited the region in January 2013. Both managers attended stakeholder meetings with Commonwealth and State agencies as well as community organisations to see the impacts of service delivery on the ground.

While in Brisbane, the CEO and I met with the Hon Glen Elmes, member for Noosa, State Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs, to gain support for our integrated services delivery approach.

Meeting a local government delegation from Bangladesh.

Arnarvon Islands ranger exchange, Solomon Islands.

In February 2013, the TSRA met with the Hon Tony Burke, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC), in Canberra to discuss the Torres Strait Ranger Program.

The CEO and I also met with the Hon Jenny Macklin, Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and Minister for Disability Services, on a range of Torres Strait matters including the Native Title Organisations Review which is currently underway.

The Premier of Queensland, the Hon Campbell Newman, held a Community Cabinet meeting on Thursday Island. As part of the visit, deputations were held on Sunday, 26 May 2013. The TSRA participated in deputations with the Premier and Ministers on matters including the funding for sea wall construction, ongoing commitment to the Major Infrastructure Program and financial support to Prescribed Bodies Corporate who are managing transferred Reserve and Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) lands.

Torres Strait Development Plan 2014 - 2018

As required under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*, the TSRA develops and maintains a Torres Strait Development Plan. The Plan is approved by the Minister and refreshed every four years, outlining how the TSRA will contribute towards realising the benefits and achieving the outcomes required to Close the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. The Plan explains how the TSRA's Programs are aligned with the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) building blocks and contribute to the Closing the Gap targets.

The current Torres Strait Development Plan will end on 30 June 2014. The TSRA Board is working on the 2014 - 2018 Development Plan and has determined the TSRA's Program outcomes and Program mandates for that period. Drafting of the Development Plan commenced in July 2013; we expect that the Plan will be delivered to the Minister for endorsement in December 2013 and implementation on 1 July 2014.

Conclusion

It has been a very busy start for the new TSRA Board and there has been significant progress made towards achieving outcomes for communities in the first 10 months of this term.

I look forward to working closely with all levels of government, our TSRA Members and the Administration over the next year to continue to work and build partnerships with our communities so that challenges are addressed and benefits are delivered for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region.

Joseph Elu
Chairperson

Chief Executive Officer's Message

The 2012 - 2013 Financial Year has been a year of change for the TSRA which saw the end of the term of the fifth TSRA Board and the appointment of the sixth Board in September 2012. 2012 was the first time that TSRA Board Members were elected through a totally independent election process. In the lead up to the elections the TSRA worked with the Australian Electoral Commission's Indigenous Electoral Participation Program to inform prospective candidates and electors of the changes in the process. The TSRA adopted a caretaker period between June and September 2012 until the new TSRA Members were declared. A four-day induction program was conducted for the new Board to introduce them to their roles and responsibilities under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act* (Cth) *2005* and the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 2008* (Cth).

In this reporting period, there has been further expansion to the scope of activates being delivered by the Ranger Program. This has been enabled through a five year finding commitment funding secured from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

The TSRA is continuing to engage with a range of stakeholders from communities and all levels of government to progress an integrated service delivery model to produce the best outcomes and benefits for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region.

Some of highlights for the TSRA in this reporting period are summarised below.

2011 - 2012 TSRA Annual Report of Operations

The TSRA was proud to receive recognition for its 2011 - 2012 Annual Report from the Institute of Public Administration Australia though the receipt of the highly commended Annual Report Award for Agencies under the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act. This acknowledgement follows awards in 2009 - 2010 and 2010 - 2011 for Printing and Graphic Excellence for the best Annual Report overall in two or three colours.

TSRA Performance Audit

The TSRA is working with the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) to conduct a performance audit of the Authority. The ANAO is scheduled to provide its report to Parliament in December 2013.

Torres Strait Rangers

In my report last year, the TSRA had 33 Rangers working on country. The Ranger Program has since expanded to 38 island-based Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers, including trainees. There are 14 ranger offices established in 13 Torres Strait island communities. Funding to continue the Ranger program for a further five years has been secured. Rangers have delivered significant environmental projects within their communities.

In the lead up to the elections the TSRA worked with the Australian Electoral Commission's Indigenous Electoral Participation Program to inform prospective candidates and electors of the changes in the process.

Community consultation, Ugar Island.

Board Member induction.

Common Funding Rounds

This year, the TSRA has again run two funding rounds. There were 76 successful applications that contributed $16.891 million to community groups, enterprises and individuals in the region for a range of outcomes. Providing information about the TSRA's Common Funding Rounds has been a key part of the information sessions that the TSRA delivers to communities. This year the grants program has been extended to include Indigenous broadcasting and language initiatives.

Native Title Representative Body Review

The Hon. Jenny Macklin, MP, Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs invited the TSRA to reapply for re-recognition as the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) for the Torres Strait to 30 June 2015. The TSRA Board has agreed that the TSRA would reapply and also that during the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2015, the NTRB functions should transition to the Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council Torres Strait Islander Corporation. The Department of Families Community Services and Indigenous Affairs contracted Deloitte Access Economics to undertake a national review of all Native Title Organisations. The TSRA will invite representatives from each of the Prescribed Bodies Corporate within the Torres Strait to participate in the review and to provide submissions to the review team.

Integrated Services Delivery

Over the last year, TSRA has developed the TSRA's integrated service delivery action plan for all levels of government.

In June 2013 the TSRA's Integrated Services Delivery team was nominated in the Outstanding Partnership and Collaboration category in the Australian Government Leadership Network, Queensland Awards. This nomination is for outstanding performance and achievement in developing productive partnerships and collaboration that has contributed to solving complex problems, providing substantial benefits and savings to communities and organisations.

Official Visits

In February 2013, the Secretary of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Mr Finn Pratt, met the new TSRA Board Members at the first business meeting of the new Board. The Secretary congratulated the Members and provided information relating to other Indigenous programs being delivered nationally.

Over the past year, the TSRA met with a number of Ministers, Directors and Regional Managers from all levels of government.

Community consultation, Boigu Island.

Conclusion

The TSRA is proud of its many achievements over the past year and throughout this report of operations are a selection of case studies to share some of the stories of the work the TSRA is doing to meet the aspirations of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region.

I look forward to the 2013 - 2014 financial year during which we will focus on the development of the Torres Strait Development Plan 2014 - 2018 which provides the mandate and guidance for delivering the outcomes and benefits from the TSRA's programs.

In closing, I express my sincere thanks for the previous TSRA Chairperson, Mr John (Toshie) Kris, and the Members of the TSRA Board for their support and strategic direction over the past four years. I look forward to working with the recently elected Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, AO and the new Board Members as the TSRA progresses the interests of the region.

I also extend my appreciation to agencies at all levels of government, community organisations, individuals and stakeholder groups for working with the TSRA in partnership to achieve the best possible outcomes for our communities.

Wayne See Kee
Chief Executive Officer

Economic development consultation, Badu Island.

Section 2:

Program Reporting
and Performance
Summaries

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How We Deliver Our Programs

Overview of TSRA's Program Structure

This section provides details of the TSRA's program areas:

› Culture, Art and Heritage

› Economic Development

› Environmental Management

› Governance and Leadership

› Native Title

› Healthy Communities

› Safe Communities

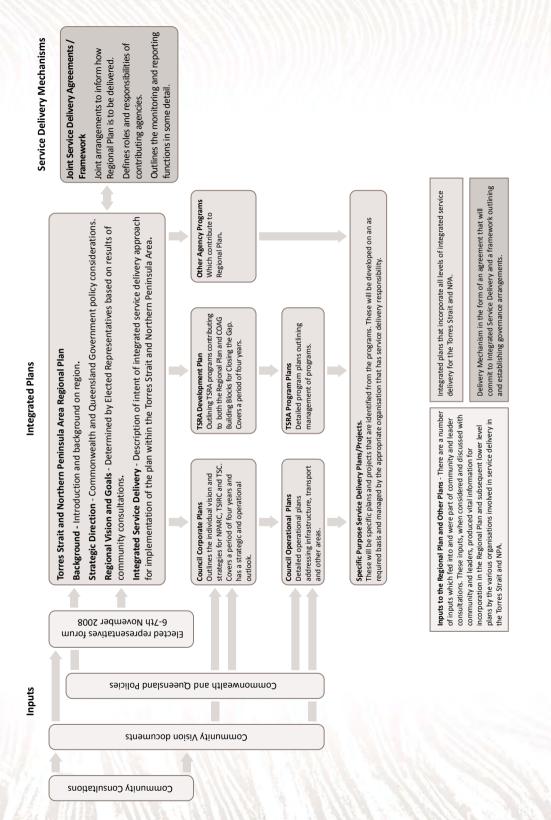Each program report provides the following information:

› A statement of the regional goal

› A statement of the Program goal

› Program objectives from the Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013

› Deliverables against the Portfolio Budget Statements 2012 - 2013

› Program expenditure (the information provided in Table 2-1 is unaudited)

› A program map, showing the linkages between program projects, outputs, benefits, outcomes, regional goals and COAG Closing the Gap building blocks

› A statement of the outcomes from the Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013

› Program projects and achievements

› A report against the Key Performance Indicators listed in the Portfolio Budget Statements and the objectives listed in the Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013, where the objectives expand upon the Key Performance Indicators.

Senior Boigu Ranger, Nelson Gibuma.

The Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013 was developed by the TSRA under section 142D of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). The Plan outlines seven TSRA programs, listing the desired outcomes and benefits to be delivered.

The Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013 is derived directly from the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan for 2009 - 2029. The Regional Plan was developed by the TSRA, the Torres Shire Council, the Torres Strait Island Regional Council and the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, in consultation with Torres Strait communities. The Regional Plan captures community challenges, priorities and aspirations. A key element of the Regional Plan is its focus on integrated development planning and Integrated Service Delivery. This process aims to coordinate the effective delivery of a range of government services to local communities while ensuring that duplication and service gaps are minimised.

Inputs

Integrated Plans

Service Delivery Mechanisms

Community Consultations

Community Vision documents

Commonwealth and Queensland Policies

Elected representatives forum 6-7th November 2008

Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan
Background - Introduction and background on region.
Strategic Direction - Commonwealth and Queensland Government policy considerations.
Regional Vision and Goals - Determined by Elected Representatives based on results of community consultations.
Integrated Service Delivery - Description of intent of integrated service delivery approach for implementation of the plan within the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

Council Corporate Plans
Outlines the individual vision and strategies for NPARC, TSIRC and TSC. Covers a period of four years and has a strategic and operational outlook.

Council Operational Plans
Detailed operational plans addressing infrastructure, transport and other areas.

TSRA Development Plan
Outlining TSRA programs contributing to both the Regional Plan and COAG Building Blocks for Closing the Gap. Covers a period of four years.

TSRA Program Plans
Detailed program plans outlining management of programs.

Other Agency Programs
Which contribute to Regional Plan.

Specific Purpose Service Delivery Plans/Projects.
These will be specific plans and projects that are identified from the programs. These will be developed on an as required basis and managed by the appropriate organisation that has service delivery responsibility.

Joint Service Delivery Agreements / Framework
Joint arrangements to inform how Regional Plan is to be delivered.
Defines roles and responsibilities of contributing agencies.
Outlines the monitoring and reporting functions in some detail.

Inputs to the Regional Plan and Other Plans - There are a number of inputs which fed into and were part of community and leader consultations. These inputs, when considered and discussed with community and leaders, produced vital information for incorporation in the Regional Plan and subsequent lower level plans by the various organisations involved in service delivery in the Torres Strait and NPA.

Integrated plans that incorporate all levels of integrated service delivery for the Torres Strait and NPA.

Delivery Mechanism in the form of an agreement that will commit to Integrated Service Delivery and a framework outlining and establishing governance arrangements.

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TSRA nursing scholarship recipient, Mary Mills.

How We Performed

Appropriation Program Expenditure
2012 - 2013 Budget as Compared to Actual

A summary of the TSRA's financial performance for each program area for 2012 - 2013 is provided in Table 2-1.

Section 5, Financial Statements, provides further information about expenditure for each program area as of 30 June 2013.

Table 2-1 Appropriation Program Expenditure 2012 - 2013: Budget Compared to Actual			
Program	**Budget $'000's**	**Actual $'000's**	**Variance $'000's**
Culture, Art and Heritage	4,023	3,847	-176
Economic Development	11,874	10,170	-1,704
Environmental Management	5,597	3,948	-1,649
Governance & Leadership	6,215	5,860	-355
Native Title Office	2,615	2,627	12
Healthy Communities	6,736	6,807	71
Safe Communities	4,317	4,277	-40
Total	**41,377**	**37,536**	**-3,841**

Notes:

1. The Fisheries Program outcomes are reported as part of the Environmental Management Program.
2. The Economic Development underspend is primarily due to a reduction in CDEP activity in the latter part of the reporting period.
3. The Environmental Management underspend is primarily due to a delay in a phased approach to establishing a formalised fishers program during the reporting period.

Details About Our Programs

Culture, Art and Heritage

Regional Goal

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

Program Goal

The Culture, Art and Heritage program component objectives are:

› Strong, supported and respected Ailan Kastom

› Active and sustainable arts and craft industry

Program Objectives

The Culture, Art and Heritage program component will:

› protect culturally significant sites and artefacts to ensure their longevity

› revitalise and maintain traditional cultural practices (art, dance, language, story-telling) throughout the Torres Strait and Aboriginal communities in the region

Program Deliverables
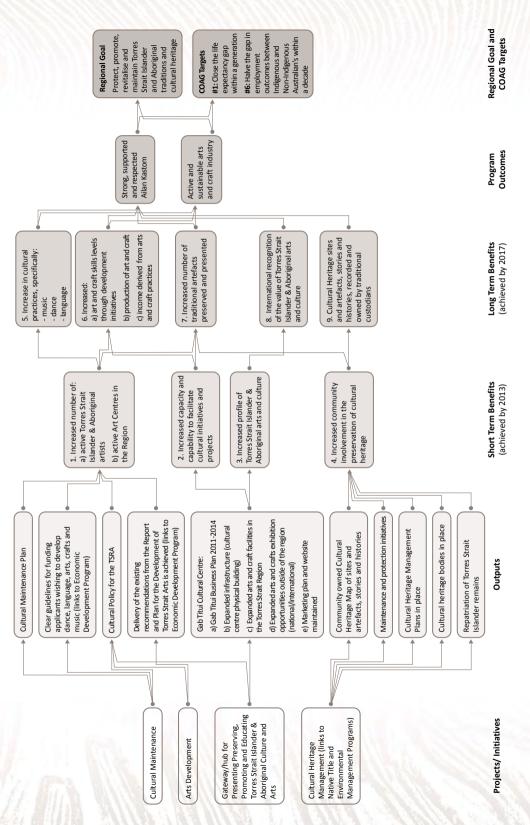
› Increased number of professionally active Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal artists and active art centres in the region.

› Increased capacity and capability to facilitate cultural initiatives and projects.

› Increased profile of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal arts and culture.

› Increased community involvement in the preservation of cultural heritage.

Program Expenditure 2012 - 2013

Table 2-2 Culture, Art and Heritage Program Expenditure 2012 - 2013		
Budget $'000's	**Actual $'000's**	**Variance $'000's**
4,023	3,847	-176

Gab Titui Cultural Centre renovation inspection by FaHCSIA Secretary, Mr Finn Pratt.

Regional Goal and COAG Targets

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

COAG Targets
#1: Close the life expectancy gap within a generation
#6: Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australian's within a decade

Program Outcomes

Strong, supported and respected Ailan Kastom

Active and sustainable arts and craft industry

Long Term Benefits (achieved by 2017)

5. Increase in cultural practices, specifically:
- music
- dance
- language

6. Increased:
a) art and craft skills levels through development initiatives
b) production of art and craft
c) income derived from arts and craft practices

7. Increased number of traditional artefacts preserved and presented

8. International recognition of the value of Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal arts and culture

9. Cultural Heritage sites and artefacts, stories and histories, recorded and owned by traditional custodians

Short Term Benefits (achieved by 2013)

1. Increased number of:
a) active Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal artists
b) active Art Centres in the Region

2. Increased capacity and capability to facilitate cultural initiatives and projects

3. Increased profile of Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal arts and culture

4. Increased community involvement in the preservation of cultural heritage

Outputs

Cultural Maintenance Plan

Clear guidelines for funding applicants wishing to develop dance, language, arts, crafts and music (links to Economic Development Program)

Cultural Policy for the TSRA

Delivery of the existing recommendations from the Report and Plan for the Development of Torres Strait Arts is achieved (links to Economic Development Program)

Gab Titui Cultural Centre:
a) Gab Titui Business Plan 2011–2014
b) Expanded infrastructure (cultural centre physical building)
c) Expanded arts and craft facilities in the Torres Strait Region
d) Expanded arts and crafts exhibition opportunities outside of the region (national/international)
e) Marketing plan and website maintained

Community owned Cultural Heritage Map of sites and artefacts, stories and histories

Maintenance and protection initiatives

Cultural Heritage Management Plans in place

Cultural heritage bodies in place

Repatriation of Torres Strait Islander remains

Projects/ Initiatives

Cultural Maintenance

Arts Development

Gateway/hub for Presenting Preserving, Promoting and Educating Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal Culture and Arts

Cultural Heritage Management (links to Native Title and Environmental Management Programs)

Culture, Art and Heritage Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Cultural Maintenance

Project purpose

To support the cultural development and maintenance of Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people residing within the Torres Strait.

To embed the TSRA Cultural Policy within all TSRA administrative and service delivery processes.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The program supported 23 grant applications for projects focused on arts development activities and a range of cultural maintenance projects relating to music, dance and language.

Stage five of the Music and Dance Audit continued, documenting and recording traditional and contemporary music and dance across the region. Mer and St Pauls communities were included in this stage of the audit. The Saibai community launched their CD and DVD package with traditional celebrations in February 2013. Cultural maintenance information will be presented as a CD and DVD package that will be on sale to the general public through the Gab Titui Cultural Centre. To date 10 Torres Strait communities have participated in this project, with seven audits still to be completed.

Ailan Kastom – The Culture of the Torres Strait is an important documentary sponsored by the TSRA. The documentary showcases the culture, history and heritage of the Torres Strait Islands people and the region. The film highlights the languages of the Torres Strait; sites of cultural significance; major ceremonies; the origins and development of art work, dance, music and song; and interviews with elders, community leaders and community members.

The third round of the Torres Strait Dance Strategy helped the Arpaka Dance Company from St Pauls community to participate in the World of Music, Arts and Dance (WOMAD) festival in Adelaide, South Australia in March 2013.

The Community Cultural Planning project continued in 2012 - 2013. The aim of the project is to engage with community members to develop a clear plan that assists each community to work towards achieving their cultural and artistic goals. Erub was the first community to participate in the project; consultation commenced in early 2012 and the draft plan was delivered in early 2013. Poruma was the second community nominated to be part of the project; consultations commenced in early 2013 and the final plan is to be completed in August 2013.

NAVIGATION

Culture, Art and Heritage Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Arts Development

Project purpose

To implement the Torres Strait Islander Arts Development Plan to achieve:

› *a skilled and professional Torres Strait Islander arts industry*

› *a regular supply of diverse Torres Strait Islander art to all identified markets, with a focus on high-quality work*

› *an increase in Torres Strait Islander art sold across all markets.*

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The Torres Strait Annual Art Award winners will be announced on 23 July 2013. As part of preparation for this year's award, TSRA helped artists throughout the region to enter works that relate to the theme of 'Ilan style'. The sixth event since the inception of the awards in 2008, this annual showcase of contemporary Torres Strait and Aboriginal art from across the region has grown in profile. This year a record 77 entries were received from 17 communities, with works ranging from prints, paintings, artefacts and sculptures to multimedia.

The three art centres based in Badu, Moa and Erub communities continued operating as independent incorporated bodies. Now into their fourth year and firmly established, each centre continues to develop its unique art and to improve practices to generate more works to supply market demand and increase income for their artists. Each art centre sells works through the Gab Titui Cultural Centre, through travelling exhibitions and direct to the market through arts fairs and online trading.

Gab Titui Cultural Centre staff attended both the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair and the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair in 2012. Participation at these events is part of the ongoing promotion and marketing of Torres Strait art and culture at major arts industry events. Works were sourced from the region and sold directly to a wider market base to increase income generation for local artists.

The partnership between the TSRA and Arts Queensland continued through the Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund. Funds went towards the common funding round for Culture, Art and Heritage projects and support the Arts Development Program.

In partnership with the Tropical North Queensland TAFE and Community Enterprises Australia, TSRA developed and supported the implementation of the Torres Strait arts worker training.

Arts skills development workshops were undertaken to support the development and maintenance of traditional arts and crafts, including drum making, weaving and carving.

Culture, Art and Heritage Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Gateway / Hub for the Presentation, Preservation, Promotion and Education of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Culture and Arts

Project purpose

To present, preserve, and promote Torres Strait and Aboriginal culture and provide education about the history of the region, its people and its culture, and a point of sale for art and craft.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The Gab Titui Cultural Centre closed from December 2012 to July 2013 to undergo major renovations. Program operations continued as normal during this period, but the Gallery was closed and sales activities were substantially reduced. The renovations provided extended climate-controlled exhibition areas, open viewing areas, museum-quality display facilities, new performance areas and a new outdoor stage, upgraded sales facilities, and improved visitor access.

During renovations, the Gab Titui Cultural Centre team visited each community in the region to strengthen relationships and to provide information about services, support and upcoming opportunities for cultural practitioners and artists. They also ran art workshops in conjunction with community schools.

Preparations for the re-opening of the Centre commenced with a formal program developed to showcase visual arts, through new exhibitions, arts demonstrations and workshops, and performing arts, through traditional dance and live music performance.

Operations and business practices have been reviewed and upgraded to package the Gab Titui Cultural Centre experience for artists, suppliers, community members, the general public, tourists and visitors to the region.

Project Name: Cultural Heritage Management (links to the Native Title and Environmental Management Programs)

Project purpose

To develop strategies to support community-owned Cultural Heritage Mapping to record cultural and sacred sites, artefacts, stories and histories.

To establish Cultural Heritage Bodies.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

Cultural Heritage Management continues to be factored into the work of the Culture, Art and Heritage Program, in particular for projects linked with other programs areas such as the Native Title and Environmental Management areas. An example of this is the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) pilot project.

The TEK pilot project is being delivered on Boigu, Badu, Mabuiag and Moa islands. It will assist the Ranger Program in natural resource management, cultural heritage mapping and maintenance.

The TSRA promotes the Cultural Policy and *Cultural Protocols Guide* to partners and stakeholders and implements the protocols in all management practices.

TSRA has built effective relationships with the Queensland Library's Indigenous Knowledge Centre program to assist communities to document their heritage.

The TSRA has helped Prescribed Bodies Corporate in the region in their preparation to become registered as Cultural Heritage Bodies under the *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld).

Key Performance Indicators – Portfolio Budget Statements

Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Artists

Number of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal artists and cultural practitioners supported

In 2012 - 2013 the TSRA Culture, Art and Heritage Program supported over 200 artists and cultural practitioners through a broad range of activities. These included grants; cultural and arts skills development projects; and the promotion and creation of sales opportunities through the Gab Titui Cultural Centre gallery, gift shop and exhibitions areas. As at 30 June 2013 there were 167 active artists who engaged directly with the cultural centre. The total number of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal artists and cultural practitioners supported in a year has increased and will grow with the increase in activities and opportunities.

Measured change in the number of professionally active Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and active art centres in the region.

The TSRA supported 23 grant applications jointly funded by the Culture, Art and Heritage Grant Program and the Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund. The TSRA received 77 entries for the sixth Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award in 2013 compared to 44 entries received for the 2012 awards. The number of entries received for the regional art awards is a key indicator of activity in the art sector.

Additional Key Performance Indicators – Torres Strait Development Plan

Professional Artists

Increased number of professionally active Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal artists and active art centres in the region

The TSRA provided funding to the three art centres established in the region: Erub Ewer Meta (on Erub Island), Ngalmun Lagau Minaral (on Moa Island) and Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh (on Badu Island). The centres have been in operation for four years. During this time there has been an increase in the production and quality of artworks, a regular supply has been established and there has been an increase in artists' income. It is anticipated that revenue generated via the sale of artworks and locally manufactured handicrafts will increase in 2003 - 2014 with the re-opening of the Gab Titui Cultural Centre and the improved online trading facilities the TSRA offers.

Short-term benefit description		
Increased number of:		
a) Active Torres Strait Islander artists		
b) Active art centres in the region.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
15 applications for funding supported through the Culture, Art and Heritage Program this year. Three art centres were established as at June 2011.	The TSRA supported 23 grant applications jointly funded by the Culture, Art and Heritage Grant Program and the Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund. 77 artist entries were received for the sixth Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award. Over 200 artists and cultural practitioners were supported through the Culture, Art and Heritage Program. Some 167 active artists engaged with the Gab Titui Cultural Centre. The TSRA worked in partnership with Community Enterprises Australia / My Pathway and TAFE to provide training to 23 arts workers. The TSRA continued to fund the three art centres established in the region: Erub Ewer Meta (on Erub Island), Ngalmun Lagau Minaral (on Moa Island) and Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh (on Badu Island).	Strong culture and respect of Ailan Kastom underpins the achievement of all the Closing the Gap targets.

Cultural Maintenance

Increased capacity and capability to facilitate cultural initiatives and projects

The TSRA, through the Culture, Art and Heritage Program, has worked closely with all the communities of the region to meet this performance measure. It has done this through three avenues:

› strengthening and building on existing community relationships and providing tailored support and opportunities to help achieve both short-term and long term-goals

› reviewing, upgrading and monitoring operational and business practice to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the program in meeting community needs and addressing priorities

› effectively working with all stakeholders to develop partnerships to meet the needs of all parties.

Recent activities in this area include:

› assisting artists and dance teams to package their products to enter the market more effectively

› renovating the Gab Titui Cultural Centre to improve access, increase storage requirements and create multifunctional spaces to enhance the Centre's capacity for programming

› working with key cultural institutions to ensure that Torres Strait culture and art can be promoted effectively to state, national and international audiences to the region's benefit.

The benefit achievements against the Torres Strait Development Plan related to this KPI are shown below.

Short-term benefit description		
Increased capacity and capability to facilitate cultural initiatives and projects.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
Increase display area.	Major renovations at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre have been completed, with official re-opening scheduled for 23 July 2013.	Strong culture and respect of Ailan Kastom underpins the achievement of all the Closing the Gap targets.
Develop two external partnerships for display by 1 July 2010.	Torres Strait culture and art were presented at both the Darwin and Cairns Arts Fairs in 2012. The Arpaka Dance Company was supported to perform at the World of Music, Art and Dance Festival (WOMAD) in Adelaide in 2013.	

Arts Development

Increased profile of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal arts and culture

The promotion of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal arts and culture continues to be a core activity of the TSRA through the Culture, Art and Heritage Program and the Gab Titui Cultural Centre. Exhibitions, ongoing displays of works, events, tours and attendance at art fairs all contribute to raising the profile of the arts and culture of the region. Networking with tourism operators and promotion of activities through industry publications and the Gab Titui Cultural Centre website all contribute to increasing the number of visitors seeking information about Torres Strait culture and the arts, artists and art centres in the region.

Short-term benefit description		
Increased profile of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal arts and culture:		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
14,000 visitors to Gab Titui Cultural Centre in 2010 - 2011. $240,000 generated through retail and activities in 2011 - 2012.	7,019 visitors recorded as at 30 June 2013. $105,276 was generated through retail and sales activities as at 30 June 2013. While the projected revenue and visitor targets for the Gab Titui Cultural Centre were not reached in 2012 - 2013 this was due to the renovations underway between December 2012 and July 2013.	Strong culture and respect of Ailan Kastom underpins the achievement of all the Closing the Gap targets.
20,000 hits on Gab Titui Cultural Centre website.	Over 48,212 hits recorded at 30 June 2013.	

Cultural Heritage

Increased community involvement in the preservation of cultural heritage

This target is jointly shared between the Culture, Art and Heritage, Environmental Management, and Native Title Programs. The Culture, Art and Heritage Program supports and funds grants for community-based cultural heritage projects; develops partnerships with communities for cultural maintenance and heritage projects through the Gab Titui Cultural Centre; and works with communities on a broad range of opportunities with external parties. It also works with the Environmental Management Program on the Traditional Ecological Knowledge project as an important cultural heritage management initiative.

Short-term benefit description		
Increased community involvement in the preservation of cultural heritage.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
One cultural heritage activity undertaken in 2011 - 2012.	The Gab Titui Cultural Centre worked closely with communities in 2012 - 2013 to identify important traditional stories that can be linked to artefacts and artworks that could be displayed to the general public.	Strong culture and respect of Ailan Kastom underpins the achievement of all the Closing the Gap targets.

Ugar Purple Spider Dance Team with Henley Festival organisers and Culture, Art And Heritage Program staff, July 2012.

Ugar Purple Spider Dance Team performing at Henley Festival, England July 2012.

Case Study: Henley Festival 2012

In July, TSRA staff and the former Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage, Mr Phillemon Mosby, accompanied the Purple Spider Dance Team to Oxford, UK, to perform at the 2012 Henley Festival. Held annually on the banks of the River Thames, the Henley Festival is a major international event that presents a mixture of music, visual art, culture, food and street theatre. In 2012 the festival also coincided with the lead-up to the London Olympic Games.

The Purple Spider Dance Team was selected to attend the event, from a field of four dance teams, through the Torres Strait Dance Strategy. An initiative of the TSRA's Culture, Art and Heritage Program, the Torres Strait Dance Strategy offers a strategic approach to the development and promotion of Torres Strait dance. Since 2011, the strategy has supported dance teams to perform at high profile events including the Henley Festival, the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and the World of Music, Art and Dance festival (WOMADelaide – in 2013).

In their debut international appearance, the Purple Spider Dance Team impressed audiences with two performances per day over the five-day festival, which also included acts by notable artists Sting, Lulu and Australian Tim Minchin.

They were officially received by the Australian Deputy High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Mr Adam McCarthy, and were guests of honour at the British Museum, where they performed a traditional *kab kar* and island hymn to pay respect to their ancestors.

An art exhibition accompanied the dance team to the Henley Festival, with contributions from Torres Strait artists including Flora Joe, Jimmy Thaiday and George Nona. The Purple Spider Dance Team's voyage from Ugar in the Torres Strait to Oxford will be the focus of a National Indigenous TV (NITV) documentary to air in 2013 as part of the launching of a new partnership between NITV and the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS). The TSRA made a financial contribution to this project to ensure that the tour was recorded for all Torres Strait Islanders to share in the international event.

The documentary will be one of the first to air on SBS's new national free-to-air Indigenous television service.

Economic Development

Regional Goal

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

Program Goal

The TSRA will take the lead as a 'Whole of Region Economic Development Solution Broker'. In this role, the TSRA will work in partnership with other government and non-government organisations and individual communities to advance the regional goal and ensure the efficient use of resources.

Program Objectives

The Economic Development program component will:

› Stimulate economic development across the region

› Advance business skills and align training initiatives with regional employment opportunities

› Advance Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal ownership and management of industries and enterprises.

Program Deliverables

› Increased number of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal individuals in non-Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) employment

› Increase in the participation of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in industry training

› Increased number of approved TSRA loans

› Increase in the annual total catch of finfish, kaiar (tropical rock lobster) and other marine resources by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people

Building industry training.
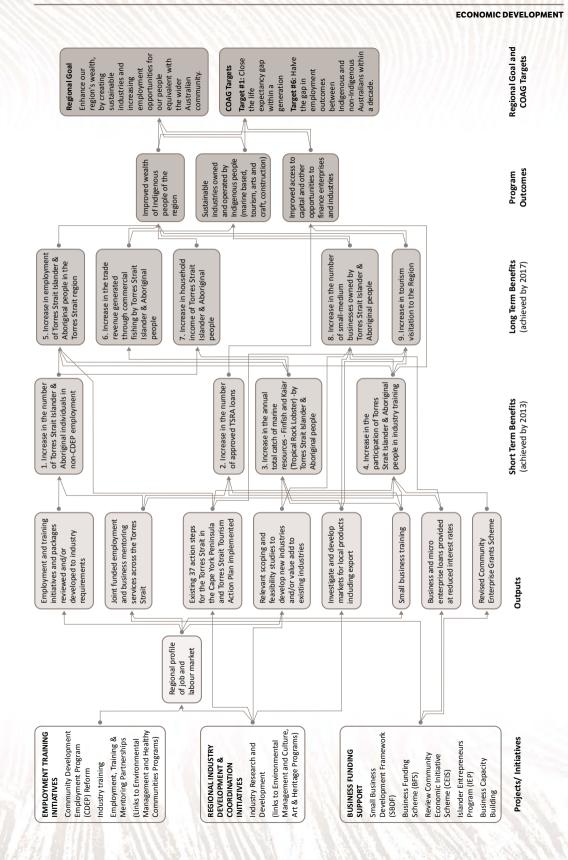
Program Expenditure 2012 - 2013

Table 2-3	Economic Development Program Expenditure 2012 - 2013	
Budget $'000's	**Actual $'000's**	**Variance $'000's**
11,874	10,170	-1,704

Torres Strait Development Plan Outcomes

› Improved wealth of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people of the region

› Sustainable industries owned and operated by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people (e.g. marine based, tourism, arts and craft, construction)

› Improved access to capital and other opportunities to finance enterprises and industries

Regional Goal and COAG Targets

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

COAG Targets
Target #1: Close the life expectancy gap within a generation
Target #6: Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

Program Outcomes

- Improved wealth of Indigenous people of the region
- Sustainable industries owned and operated by Indigenous people (marine based, tourism, arts and craft, construction)
- Improved access to capital and other opportunities to finance enterprises and industries

Long Term Benefits (achieved by 2017)

5. Increase in employment of Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait region

6. Increase in the trade revenue generated through commercial fishing by Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal people

7. Increase in household income of Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal people

8. Increase in the number of small-medium businesses owned by Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal people

9. Increase in tourism visitation to the Region

Short Term Benefits (achieved by 2013)

1. Increase in the number of Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal individuals in non-CDEP employment

2. Increase in the number of approved TSRA loans

3. Increase in the annual total catch of marine resources - Finfish and Kaiar (Tropical Rock Lobster) by Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal people

4. Increase in the participation of Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal people in industry training

Outputs

- Employment and training initiatives and packages reviewed and/or developed to industry requirements
- Joint funded employment and business mentoring services across the Torres Strait
- Existing 37 action steps for the Torres Strait in the Cape York Peninsula and Torres Strait Tourism Action Plan implemented
- Relevant scoping and feasibility studies to develop new industries and/or value add to existing industries
- Investigate and develop markets for local products including export
- Small business training
- Business and micro enterprise loans provided at reduced interest rates
- Revised Community Enterprise Grants Scheme

Regional profile of job and labour market

Projects/ Initiatives

EMPLOYMENT TRAINING INITIATIVES
Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) Reform
Industry training
Employment, Training & Mentoring Partnerships
(Links to Environmental Management and Healthy Communities Programs)

REGIONAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT & COORDINATION INITIATIVES
Industry Research and Development
(links to Environmental Management and Culture, Art & Heritage Programs)

BUSINESS FUNDING SUPPORT
Small Business Development Framework (SBDF)
Business Funding Scheme (BFS)
Review Community Economic Initiative Scheme (CEIS)
Islander Entrepreneurs Program (IEP)
Business Capacity Building

27

Economic Development Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Employment and Training Initiatives

Project purpose

To implement Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program reforms and to advance business skills and align training initiatives with regional employment opportunities.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

45 CDEP participants were transitioned into permanent full-time employment positions. These jobs were in state and federal government, construction, machinery operation, aged care, child care, business administration, customer service, hospitality and maritime services.

11 CDEP participants were transitioned into permanent part-time employment positions. These jobs were in construction, retail and education.

Training was delivered to 838 CDEP participants across a diverse range of areas such as construction, business administration, security operations, horticulture, workplace readiness, maritime, hospitality, tourism, conservation, land management, heavy machinery operations, asbestos removal and scaffolding, chainsaw operations, arts and crafts, and first aid.

Project Name: Regional Industry Development and Coordination Initiatives

Project purpose

To stimulate economic development across the region.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The TSRA helped 149 community members, including CDEP participants, to undertake training towards a Maritime Operations (Coxswain) Licence. Some 125 participants completed the course and obtained a Licence, which enables them to operate as a commercial fisher in the Torres Strait.

The TSRA supported 16 Community Economic Initiatives through its grant funding programs. Details of the Community Economic Initiatives Scheme grants are provided in Appendix 3.

The TSRA helped the Torres Shire Council, Torres Strait Island Regional Council and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council to each employ an Events Coordinator to assist in promoting the region and coordinate community-based events in each local government area.

Project Name: Business Funding Scheme

Project purpose

To advance Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal ownership and management of industries and enterprises.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

Eight business loans were completed under the Business Funding Scheme.

Two Loan applications were received under the Islander Entrepreneurs Program, a partnership between the TSRA and the National Australia Bank. One application was approved and one application was subsequently withdrawn by the client.

Advisory, technical, and financial support was provided to 48 individuals and 11 incorporated community organisations. This resulted in successful grant applications from five of the incorporated organisations.

The Economic Development team visited 18 communities to provide information and advice to community organisations and to conduct one-on-one consultations.

Key Performance Indicators – Portfolio Budget Statements

Number of CDEP Participants Who Have Moved into non-CDEP Employment

The Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program continued to deliver services to strengthen communities and community-based organisations. Targets were practically achieved in 2012 - 2013.

Short-term benefit description		
Increase in the number of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal individuals in non-CDEP employment.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
50 people per annum moved from CDEP into non-CDEP jobs per annum from July 2009 to June 2013.	45 people moved from CDEP into full-time non-CDEP jobs. These people were transitioned into permanent employment positions in the following fields: › state and federal government (7) › construction/machinery operations (11) › administration (14) › hospitality (5) › retail (2) › maritime (3) › child/aged care (3). 11 people moved from CDEP into part-time non-CDEP jobs. These people were transitioned into permanent employment positions in the following fields: › construction (7) › education (2) › retail (1) › child care (1).	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 6 – Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

The benefit achievements above are fully aligned to the Torres Strait Development Plan benefit targets.

Additional Key Performance Indicators – Torres Strait Development Plan

Business Funding Scheme and Housing Loans

The Business Funding Scheme and Housing Loans project met its targets in 2012 - 2013.

Short-term benefit description		
Increase in the number of approved TSRA loans.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
Five new business loans and three new home loans granted per annum from July 2009 to June 2013.	Eight business loans. Two home loans.	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 6 – Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

Marine Resource Utilisation

Progress against this target cannot be quantified at present. The requirement to report catch is not mandatory for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal fishers in the region so data to measure tangible outcomes does not exist. Discussions are continuing within the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) to identify and implement a more robust system of data collection, however, this is likely to be a medium to long term outcome and remains a challenge for the TSRA and the PZJA.

Short-term benefit description					
Increase in the annual total catch of marine resources (Finfish and Tropical Rock Lobster) by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people.					
Benefit target	**Progress**				**COAG target**
Kaiar (Tropical Rock Lobster): A five per cent increase in catch against the nominal 'total allowable catch' for the Traditional Inhabitant Boat (TIB) sector per year until 2013.	Two Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Corporations were supported through grant funding to re-establish freezer operations within their communities.				COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.
	Two business loans were approved for commercial fishers.				
	The TIB sector reported catch (as published in the Fishery Status Reports 2011, Woodhams, Vieira and Stobutzki):				COAG Target 6 – Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.
(The percentage increases are for the catch amounts for TIB fishers)	Fishery				
Spanish Mackerel: 3.5 tons per annum.	Tropical Rock Lobster	2009: 137 tonnes	2010: 191 tonnes	2011: 201 tonnes	
Coral Trout: 20 tons per annum.	Finfish - The published data does not separate the catch for the TIB sector	2009 - 2010: (Effort) 337 operation days	2010 - 2011: (Effort) 14 operation days	2011 - 2012 Figures not available	

Industry Training Initiatives

Significant progress with training Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region has continued. This has been progressed by the reforms to the CDEP Program and the location of a full-time training organisation in the region. The targets specified in the Torres Strait Development Plan have been exceeded.

Short-term benefit description		
Increase participation of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in industry training.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
50 people trained per annum to 2013 in the four core industries of tourism, construction, marine and arts.	Accredited training was provided to 437 people: › Cert I and II Construction and Cert II Indigenous Housing Maintenance (62) › Cert I Work Readiness and Cert II Workplace Practices (93) › Cert I Agrifood, Cert II Horticulture and Cert II Conservation and Land Management (107) › Cert II Security (1) › Cert I and II Business (55) › Cert I and II Hospitality (37) › Cert I Transport and Distribution (Maritime Operations)(Coxswain) (71) › Cert II Tourism (11) Non-accredited training was provided to 401 people: › Maritime: 209 › Apply First Aid: 5 › Chainsaw Operation and Operate Basic Machinery: 41 › Heavy Plant Operators:100 › Asbestos Removal and Scaffolding: 25 › Arts and Crafts: 21)	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 6 – Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

Case Study:
Torres Strait Marine Training Program

The Torres Strait Marine Safety Training project is an example of a partnership between the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Economic Development Program, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ). The three agencies recognised that, by adopting an integrated approach to planning and service delivery, a vital project could be delivered that would otherwise be unachievable. The focus for AMSA and MSQ was to deliver marine safety training. The focus for the TSRA Economic Development Program was to provide marine-based training to community members, including Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) participants, that would increase their employment opportunities in the Torres Strait region. Torres Strait Islanders own 100 per cent of the Finfish fishery and 56 per cent of the Tropical Rock Lobster fishery. These two fisheries present the best opportunity for Torres Strait Islanders to achieve economic independence. Therefore, it is a priority for the TSRA to develop projects that will increase the number of Torres Strait Islanders participating in the fisheries.

The TSRA provided funding to enable a dedicated training vessel to be leased and meet the cost of 80 days of on board certified training delivered by AMSA and Queensland Department of Technical and Further Education (TAFE). Participants were identified by the AMSA and the CDEP provider. Training included courses in boat safety and licensing, elements of shipboard safety, outboard motor maintenance, marine radio, navigation and first aid.

The Project was launched on Mer Island in February 2013 and built on a pilot training program conducted during 2011 - 2012. Community-based land and sea training was provided. The dedicated training vessel provided an on-board classroom, training tenders, integrated navigation suites and various other training aids. The use of a dedicated on-site training vessel adjacent to communities was an innovative solution to the problems usually faced in delivering training across a wide geographical area such as the Torres Strait. This brought the training to the participants, reducing the high cost of travel and accommodation. An additional benefit was an increased number of participants successfully completing the course modules than could have been expected from traditional training methods.

In 2012 - 2013, 125 participants completed the Certificate I Maritime Operations (Coxswain) licence). This licence enables them to participate in the commercial fishing industry in the Torres Strait. This is an excellent achievement for the course participants and an important outcome for the TSRA's Economic Development Program.

Safety at sea training, Mer Island.

Environmental Management

Regional Goal

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

Program Goal

The Program Goal is identical to the Regional Goal.

Program Objectives

This program component will contribute to sustainable environmental management by:

› promoting the sustainable management of natural resources

› managing the effects of climate change, tidal inundation and erosion

› increasing the utilisation of renewable energies

› reducing the environmental impacts of waste management

› improving land management for future generations.

Program Deliverables

The Environmental Management Program is delivered by the TSRA's Land and Sea Management Unit.

The program deliverables are to achieve the outcomes from the:

› Fisheries Project

› Land Project

› Garden and Horticulture Project

› Biodiversity Project

› Invasive Species Project

› Seagrass and other Research Activities Project

› Land and Sea Rangers Project

› Climate Change / Coastal Erosion Project

Seagrass monitoring.

and to:
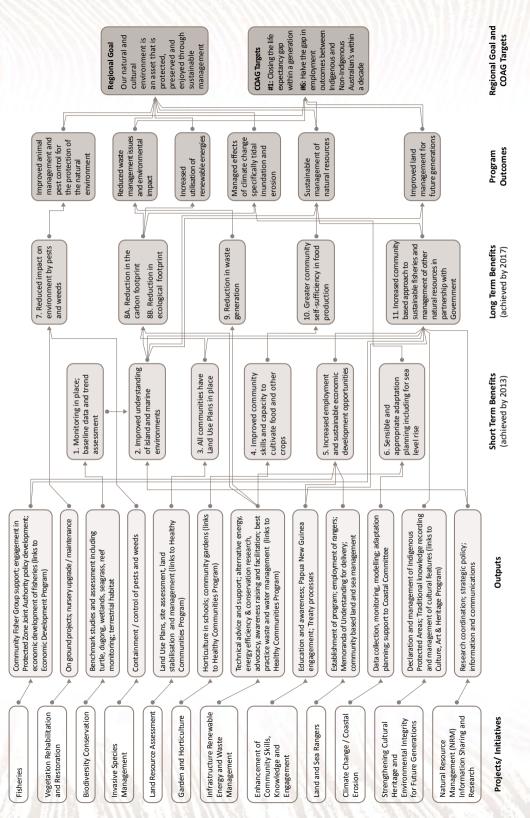
› strengthen cultural heritage

› share information and promote research.

Program Expenditure 2012 - 2013

Table 2-4 Environmental Management Program Expenditure 2012 - 2013		
Budget $'000's	**Actual $'000's**	**Variance $'000's**
5,597	3,948	-1,649

Torres Strait Development Plan Outcomes

› Improved animal management and pest control for the protection of the natural environment

› Reduced waste management issues and environmental impact

› Increased utilisation of renewable energies

› Managed effects of climate change, tidal inundation and erosion

› Sustainable management of natural resources

› Improved land management for future generations

Regional Goal and COAG Targets

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

COAG Targets
#1: Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation
#6: Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australian's within a decade

Program Outcomes

- Improved animal management and pest control for the protection of the natural environment
- Reduced waste management issues and environmental impact
- Increased utilisation of renewable energies
- Managed effects of climate change specifically tidal inundation and erosion
- Sustainable management of natural resources
- Improved land management for future generations

Long Term Benefits (achieved by 2017)

- 7. Reduced impact on environment by pests and weeds
- 8A. Reduction in the carbon footprint
- 8B. Reduction in ecological footprint
- 9. Reduction in waste generation
- 10. Greater community self-sufficiency in food production
- 11. Increased community based approach to sustainable fisheries and management of other natural resources in partnership with Government

Short Term Benefits (achieved by 2013)

- 1. Monitoring in place; baseline data and trend assessment
- 2. Improved understanding of island and marine environments
- 3. All communities have Land Use Plans in place
- 4. Improved community skills and capacity to cultivate food and other crops
- 5. Increased employment and sustainable economic development opportunities
- 6. Sensible and appropriate adaptation planning including for sea level rise

Outputs

- Community Fisher Group support; engagement in Protected Zone Joint Authority policy development; economic development of fisheries (links to Economic Development Program)
- On ground projects; nursery upgrade / maintenance
- Benchmark studies and assessment including turtle, dugong, wetlands, seagrass, reef monitoring; terrestrial habitat
- Containment / control of pests and weeds
- Land Use Plans, site assessment, land stabilisation and management (links to Healthy Communities Program)
- Horticulture in schools; community gardens (links to Healthy Communities Program)
- Technical advice and support; alternative energy, energy efficiency & conservation research, advocacy, awareness raising and facilitation; best practice waste and water management (links to Healthy Communities Program)
- Education and awareness; Papua New Guinea engagement; Treaty processes
- Establishment of program; employment of rangers; Memoranda of Understanding for delivery; community based land and sea management
- Data collection, monitoring, modelling; adaptation planning; support to Coastal Committee
- Declaration and management of Indigenous Protected Areas; Traditional knowledge recording and management of cultural features (links to Culture, Art & Heritage Program)
- Research coordination; strategic policy; information and communications

Projects/ Initiatives

- Fisheries
- Vegetation Rehabilitation and Restoration
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Invasive Species Management
- Land Resource Assessment
- Garden and Horticulture
- Infrastructure Renewable Energy and Waste Management
- Enhancement of Community Skills, Knowledge and Engagement
- Land and Sea Rangers
- Climate Change / Coastal Erosion
- Strengthening Cultural Heritage and Environmental Integrity for Future Generations
- Natural Resource Management (NRM) Information Sharing and Research

Environmental Management Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Terrestrial Biodiversity Conservation

Project purpose

To develop a baseline for terrestrial biodiversity inventories, assessments of ecological condition, identification of threatening processes and the development and implementation of key management actions.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

Terrestrial biodiversity management profiles about the plants, animals and habitats of Masig, Poruma, Warraber, Saibai, Dauan and Ugar were completed, providing the basis for ranger priorities and activities, and future investment.

Fire Management Profiles were completed on Badu, Moa, Erub, Boigu, Saibai and Dauan, including community consultation and review.

Ecological fire management was undertaken on Badu, Moa and Dauan. Formal fire training was completed for seven ranger groups on Badu and Moa.

Under the National Environmental Research Program Tropical Ecosystems program, in partnership with Environmental Management Program staff, including Rangers, research commenced to:

› determine disease dynamics across the Torres Strait and improve approaches for disease detection and management

› determine the status of regional mangrove and freshwater ecosystems.

The MangroveWatch Program continued in the Torres Strait, with Rangers trained and equipped for field monitoring.

Project Name: Invasive Species Management

Project purpose

To support monitoring and management of invasive species in the Torres Strait.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

Thirty-nine Environmental Management Program staff were trained in weed identification and control, including through the provision of specialised equipment and control program planning.

Several ecological and classified weeds have been targeted for control across 13 islands.

Rangers monitored pest animal impacts; supported the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (including Biosecurity Australia) in conducting island plant and animal health surveys; and followed up their recommendation with targeted control programs.

Pest rodent (rat) control programs were put in place on Warul Kawa Island, with support from the University of Queensland and the Traditional Owners.

Pest pig control was carried out on Moa and Badu.

Environmental Management Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Sustainable Horticulture

Project purpose

To provide Torres Strait communities with access to a wider range of fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs at affordable prices.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

Department of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry funds a Regional Landcare Facilitator to promote and support Landcare and food gardening activities.

A Project Advisory Group chaired by the Environmental Management Program, with membership from TAFE, Queensland Health, the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Community Enterprises Australia (as the Community Development Employment Projects provider), and community representatives met quarterly to share information, facilitate partnership opportunities and guide future activities.

The Horticulture in Schools program was run in partnership with Tagai State College Independent Public School. This project, which is being delivered as part of the school curriculum, includes food-growing activities on campuses.

Community fruit tree planting projects were completed on 12 islands.

Project Name: Dugong and Turtle Management

Project purpose

To implement community-based management plans for the sustainable management of dugong and turtle in the Torres Strait.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

James Cook University (JCU) and TSRA have conducted research suggesting that the Western Torres Strait is Australia's largest continuous seagrass meadow.

Large-scale aerial surveys enabled spatial models to be developed showing the distribution and abundance of dugong. Twenty-five year of surveys suggest dugong relative density has not changed significantly over time. JCU research also indicates that the Torres Strait has the highest population of dugongs in Australia, and possibly the world.

The TSRA plays a critical role in promoting the sustainable, community-based management of dugong, much of this through its Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Ranger Program.

Community-based dugong and turtle management plans have been completed for all 14 Torres Strait communities and endorsed by Traditional Owners.

The development of a Dugong and Turtle Catch Monitoring Database has been finalised.

The communities of Masig, Badu, St Pauls and Mabuiag are undertaking trials to develop a harness that can be used by traditional hunters to euthanase green marine turtles humanely. A Steering Committee has been formed to oversee the trials; it includes representatives from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, RSPCA, Australian Fisheries Management Authority, JCU, the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the University of Queensland, Queensland National Parks, and the national Indigenous Advisory Committee Chair.

TSRA Environmental Management Program staff participated in the Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee on the JCU research project 'Importation of Dugong meat by the Torres Strait Diaspora: quantities, motivations and potential effectiveness of management options'.

Environmental Management Program staff gave presentations on the Torres Strait Turtle and Dugong Management Plans at the Oceania Society for Conservation Biology Conference and at the First Australian Marine Turtle Bi-annual Symposium.

Environmental Management Program Projects and Achievements

Achievements for 2012 - 2013 continued

JCU, in collaboration with the Environmental Management Program, undertook a dugong satellite tracking project at Boigu. The project highlighted the need to modify the current equipment and for participants to undertake training on shallow water dugong catching. Another survey is planned for 2013 - 2014.

With the assistance of the Malu Ki'ai Traditional Owners of Boigu Island, the Environmental Management Program have successfully undertaken monitoring surveys of Warul Kawa (Deliverance Island) for Flatback marine turtles. Participants tagged a total of 46 turtles, including foraging Green and Hawksbill turtles as well as Flatback turtles. They also assisted JCU staff to conduct a beach profile and marine debris surveys. Regular annual surveys are planned for the future to maintain up-to-date information on turtle numbers.

Environmental Management Program Staff, in conjunction with Traditional Owners and the Tagai State College, successfully conducted the annual nesting Green turtle tagging project at Dauar Island and Maizub Kaur (Bramble Cay). The results show that the number of nesting Green turtles in both locations is greatly reduced from previous years due to habitat loss from Queensland flood events.

The Environmental Management Program facilitated engagement between Torres Strait and Cape York Traditional Owners in discussing the issues surrounding the decline of successful nesting and hatchling success for Green turtles on Raine Island, which supports the world's largest Green Turtle rookery.

The Environmental Management Program continues to liaise with PNG Traditional Inhabitants and the PNG Department of Environment and Conservation in planning and discussing agreed shared management arrangements for dugongs and turtles, particularly through the treaty cycle meetings led by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Project Name: Seagrass Monitoring and other Related Research Activities

Project purpose

To support community-based seagrass monitoring activities to assess the health, condition and extent of seagrass beds throughout the Torres Strait.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

Community volunteers and Rangers successfully undertook seagrass monitoring at 14 sites in eight Torres Strait communities. The monitoring program seeks to establish seagrass growth and abundance trends and detect any early effects of climate change which could impact the health of the animals that rely on this important resource and habitat.

Badu and Mabuiag Rangers have been accredited in sub-tidal seagrass video-monitoring techniques. The training is part of an ongoing Torres Strait Dugong Sanctuary seagrass monitoring program undertaken in collaboration with James Cook University to monitor the health of the seagrass in the sanctuary.

Environmental Management Program staff and Rangers collaborated with the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) in a Torres Strait Coral Reef Biodiversity Survey project.

The TSRA and AIMS installed data loggers at 13 sites to monitor marine water temperatures and coral distribution, health and bleaching under the Northern Environment Research Program Tropical Ecosystems (NERP TE) Coral Monitoring Project. The monitoring will help to predict the occurrence of coral bleaching events in the future, enabling the TSRA to develop and implement corrective measures, if possible, and to develop educational and awareness products for the community, including fishers.

Environmental Management Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Land and Sea Ranger Program

Project purpose

To employ Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Land and Sea Rangers to look after their land, sea and culture by carrying out on-ground works that address priorities identified by local communities.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

Thirty-eight Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Rangers are delivering natural and cultural resource activities across the 14 communities on 13 islands.

Funding is provided by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities through the Caring for our Country (Working on Country) Program.

Three Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal trainees have been employed. They have commenced formal training towards Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management.

All Rangers have undertaken professional development as part of formal qualifications in Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management and Certificate II in Transport and Distribution (Maritime Operations).

All Rangers have completed or are undertaking a number of accredited activities as part of the training, including first aid, advanced 4WD and recovery, fire accreditation, Coxswains, MangroveWatch, Seagrass-Watch, and 'I-Tracker' training.

Four Rangers participated in an exchange to the Solomon Islands as part of the World Indigenous Network.

Two Rangers attended the Saltwater Women's Gathering hosted by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Two Rangers have completed Certificate II in Indigenous Leadership.

Two staff completed the Training Rural Australians in Leadership program.

Ranger Vessels have been deployed to the Badu and Boigu communities. A further five will be delivered, in late 2013, one each to Saibai, Erub, Mer and Mabuiag and one to be shared between Warraber and Iama.

Project Name: Indigenous Protected Areas

Project purpose

To deliver the Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) program in the Torres Strait.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The TSRA helped Traditional Owners and Rangers to manage the existing IPAs of Warul Kawa and Pulu Islet.

The TSRA coordinated consultation with Traditional Owners of Warul Kawa and commissioned the development of a Plan of Management for Warul Kawa IPA.

The TSRA coordinated consultation with Traditional Owners of the Warraberalgahl Native title area on the proposed declaration of an additional IPA.

The TSRA commissioned the development of a draft Plan of Management for the Warraberalgahl and Porumalgahl IPA; consultation is underway.

Environmental Management Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)

Project purpose

To establish a traditional ecological knowledge recording system for the Torres Strait, to enable land and sea planning and management activities to be informed by Ailan Kastom using appropriate intellectual property and communication protocols.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The TSRA supported the development of a community-owned traditional ecological knowledge database system on Boigu Island. Boigu Rangers and community members are gathering traditional knowledge and information and recording it in the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) database.

A trial was conducted on Moa, Mabuiag and Badu Islands to expand the TEK database.

Rangers and community members were trained on the use of the database system, including on the management of culturally sensitive data.

Project Name: Climate Change and Coastal Management

Project purpose

To manage coastal hazards and climate change issues in the Torres Strait.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

James Cook University undertook Water quality hazard assessment through National Environmental Research Program (NERP) funding. Monitoring will continue in 2013 - 2014 subject to funding.

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) installed a sea surface temperature monitoring logger network as part of a collaborative project to monitor coral reefs. The project was funded through NERP.

A Geographic Information Systems officer is now in place to support and manage the use of spatial information (maps and other products).

The CSIRO hosted a regional workshop to consider sustainable futures and drivers of change in the Torres Strait. This was funded through NERP.

The CSIRO, on behalf of the TSRA, completed revised downscaled climate projections for the Torres Strait.

Minor coastal erosion control projects were delivered on Iama, Saibai, Mer, Masig, Poruma, Warraber, Erub, Mabuiag and Hammond islands in collaboration with Community Enterprises Australia.

Sand replenishment works were completed at Masig.

An oceanographic water circulation model was developed for the Torres Strait, funded through NERP.

Dr Kevin Parnell from James Cook University has completed studies on climate change driven coastal erosion and inundation on all island communities.

Environmental Management Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Fisheries

Project purpose

To increase employment in the fishing industry and create sustainable businesses whilst ensuring ecological sustainable management.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The Board's Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee (IFAC) met twice to provide advice and make recommendations to the TSRA Board on fisheries issues, including capacity building and support, the management of Torres Strait fisheries and research priorities.

Through the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) consultative structure, the TSRA helped IFAC members and other representatives to contribute to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal fisher and community perspectives at eight meetings.

The TSRA provided grants to two community fishing enterprises to assist with the development of fishing capacity in Torres Strait communities.

The TSRA represented Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people's interests and aspirations for ownership of access to fisheries resources at the PZJA level and through consultative forums.

Key Performance Indicators – Portfolio Budget Statements

Number of communities participating in natural resource management activities

Number of ranger groups in place to assist communities to carry out land, sea and cultural resource management activities

Number of sustainable land use plans developed

The TSRA helped 14 Torres Strait communities to participate in natural resource management activities across land and sea country. The Environmental Management Program provided information, technical support and access to resources and equipment to enable Torres Strait communities to carry out local projects and engage in regional and national projects important to the local region. The ranger groups on the islands played an integral part in facilitating these activities. Communities and Traditional Owners continue to be engaged in all stages of project design and delivery to ensure local and cultural priorities are adequately addressed. Ranger groups carry out cultural and natural resource management activities that encompass community environmental and cultural priorities. Funds have been secured under the Working on Country program for ranger operations to continue for the next five years.

Short-term benefit description		
Increased employment and sustainable economic development opportunities.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
Rangers employed in all 15 island communities by 2012 - 2013.	38 full-time Rangers, including three trainee Rangers, are employed in 14 communities on 13 islands.	COAG Target 6 – Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.
Short-term benefit description		
Improved community skills and capacity to cultivate food and other crops.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
Eight communities supported to establish sustainable horticulture activities by 2011 - 2012.	A Regional Landcare Facilitator is promoting and supporting Landcare and food gardening. Four pilot communities are actively involved in sustainable horticultural activities. Four additional communities are supported in conducting a preliminary analysis for implementing sustainable horticultural activities. An environmental education program that embeds sustainable horticulture within the school curriculum is being delivered.	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.
Short-term benefit description		
Number of sustainable land use plans developed.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
All communities have sustainable land use plans in place.	This benefit has been achieved. All communities have the plans in place and are using them in local planning decisions. The state government is currently developing a draft Local Government Plan for the region; the land use plans have been incorporated.	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.

The benefit achievements above are fully aligned to the Torres Strait Development Plan benefit targets.

Ranger visit to Maza Guiya.

Arnarvon Islands ranger exchange, Badu Island.

Additional Key Performance Indicators – Torres Strait Development Plan

Monitoring in place; baseline regional environmental data available

Baseline terrestrial and marine biodiversity datasets continue to be acquired to guide sustainable planning, priority setting, investment, project design, implementation and evaluation. Research through the National Environmental Research Program Tropical Ecosystems Hub, and previous programs, is contributing to the development of more comprehensive regional baseline datasets.

The TSRA has facilitated the development of partnerships between scientists and communities to identify and assess trends and the impacts of environmental change on key species and ecosystems in the region.

Short-term benefit description		
Monitoring in place; baseline data established and trend assessment in progress.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
Trend analysis contributing to environmental management initiatives realised progressively from July 2010.	There are now environmental baseline data to support sustainable land use planning for all inhabited islands. Biodiversity profiles for all outer island communities have been completed. Fire management profiles are available for Moa, Badu, Mabuiag, Saibai, Dauan, Boigu and Erub. Vegetation datasets and regional ecosystem maps have been completed for all communities. Currently there are 16 seagrass monitoring sites throughout the Torres Strait, including the communities of Mabuiag, Mer, Iama and Badu and also the Kaiwalagal area (Inner Islands) of the Torres Strait. Currently 15 data logger and potential coral monitoring sites have been identified and established. One real-time sea level temperature monitoring station is in place, with a second due for installation in July 2013. TSRA and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) have commenced a new project to review coral health, density and distribution. A recent survey highlighted the existence of coral bleaching in the Torres Strait.	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.

Short-term benefit description

Monitoring in place; baseline data established and trend assessment in progress.

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
	Turtle and Dugong catch data provided by community members continues to be processed.	
	Census records for green turtle foraging and nesting collated since 2006 suggest little change in projections. Preliminary results from annual Green turtle surveys completed at Dauar Island and Bramble Cay show that nesting turtles are in decline, but this could be due to limited food due to cyclone damage.	
	The Environmental Management Program has been working closely with the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage on Raine Island Green Turtle research. Predictions suggest that there will be a catastrophic decline in the next 10 years due to a collapse of hatchling success. A number of strategies are being implemented to reverse this decline.	
	James Cook University and the Environmental Management Program are establishing baseline data for Hawksbill and Flatback turtles.	
	Flatback turtle surveys were recently completed at Warul Kawa (Deliverance Island). Preliminary results show successful signs of hatchlings and a reasonable population of nesting females. More research is planned for February 2014.	
	Only one Hawksbill turtle survey was conducted in 2009 at Masig (Yorke Island) which failed to locate any turtles. A survey is planned for March 2014 at Sassie Island, where preliminary reports suggest Hawksbill turtles are present.	
	Aerial surveys indicate that the current population of Dugongs is more than 12,000 animals and that there has been no significant decline in the population in the Torres Strait since the mid-1980s.	
	The Environmental Management Program continues to monitor the impacts of climate change through data retrieved from the established sea surface temperature monitoring network, the installation of tide and sea level gauges and baseline data on coastal erosion.	
	Dr Kevin Parnell from James Cook University has completed research on coastal erosion and inundation research for all inhabited islands. The research provides a basis for technical analysis and modelling of erosion and inundation, preventative measures and consequences, and community input into preferred options. On some islands, community consultation is ongoing.	

Short-term benefit description		
Monitoring in place; baseline data established and trend assessment in progress.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
	Coastal engineering reports were completed, providing options for mitigating sea water inundation at Boigu, Saibai, Poruma, and Iama.	
	The Environmental Management Program has continued to establish the regional tide gauge network (four gauges) and sea level rise monitoring program (one National Tidal centre sea level gauge).	
	An ocean circulation model has been developed for water movement in the Torres Strait.	
	Water quality hazards have been assessed for a range of potential pollution sources, including shipping and development in Papua New Guinea.	
	Gauging boards have been installed on Saibai, Iama and Mabuiag, to collect data on high tide levels in the communities.	

Improved Understanding of Island and Marine Environments

Ranger Working on Country Plans have been drafted for all communities that have Rangers. These plans document the cultural and natural resource issues for each island and the surrounding marine environment, as well as the aspirations of the communities. The information will guide ranger work plans and future environmental activities. The Environmental Management Program will use the Plans to ensure there is community engagement in, and support for, the Torres Strait Land and Sea Ranger Project activities.

Short-term benefit description		
Improved understanding of island and marine environments		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
Ranger groups in place on all 15 islands to assist communities to carry out land, sea and cultural resource activities.	There are 38 Rangers in place in 14 communities on 13 islands.	COAG Target 6 – Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade
	Ranger Working on Country Plans are in place in seven communities; another eight are underway.	
	Terrestrial biodiversity profiles have been completed for seven islands; a further six island profiles are in preparation.	
	A traditional ecological knowledge database system is under development to assist communities to access information about the cultural and natural values of island and marine environments.	
	A Geographic Information System capability has been established to map and use spatial data.	
	Dr Alana Grech from James Cook University has undertaken a marine habitat risk assessment for current and potential threats.	

Improved Community Skills and Capacity to Cultivate Food and other Crops

Using a whole-of-government and community-based approach, the TSRA is facilitating a healthier lifestyle program for people in the Torres Strait, targeting the regional school curriculum, and delivering on ground projects at community level.

Short-term benefit description		
Improved community skills and capacity to cultivate food and other crops.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
Eight communities supported to establish sustainable horticulture activities.	All 15 communities have engaged in the project. The horticulture in schools program engaged all schools in Torres Strait by embedding horticulture in their curriculum and encouraging food growing activities at campuses. Small-scale pilot horticulture projects have been maintained in the Horn, Hammond, Masig, and St Pauls communities. Community fruit tree planting projects have been undertaken on Mer, Boigu, Moa, Erub, Mabuiag, Badu and Thursday Island.	COAG Target 6 – Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

Number of Communities Engaged in and Becoming Aware of Climate Change Impacts

The TSRA is working with all Torres Strait communities, government agencies and researchers to support whole-of-government policy coordination, research, planning and adaptive management for the threats posed by climate change, coastal erosion and inundation. The TSRA is also partnering with Community Enterprises Australia and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council to deliver minor coastal works programs on eight communities.

Short-term benefit description		
Sensible and appropriate adaptation planning including for sea level rise.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
Regional climate change modelling and adaptive planning strategies are in place for communities by 2011 - 2012.	Sea level modelling and coastal erosion and inundation studies have been completed. Lidar data have been compiled for inhabited islands. A tide gauge network is being installed to measure tidal dynamics and sea level rise and to improve the accuracy of datum points. Coastal hazard mapping is being incorporated into local government planning schemes.	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.
A Climate Change Strategy Action Plan is to be developed by 2011 and implemented progressively from 2011.	The action plan has been developed. Major research and modelling components have been completed. The environmental and climate change monitoring framework is being developed. A regional and community-based Adaptation and Resilience planning process is being developed.	

Turtle tracking.

Case Study:
Biodiversity Management and Planning – Ecological and Traditional Fire Management in Torres Strait

Project description

Between 2007 and 2012, the TSRA, with the support of Torres Strait communities, conducted detailed plant and animal habitat assessments on all inhabited islands and selected non-inhabited islands, including the mapping of all vegetation types. The Torres Strait has over 150 islands.

The detailed assessments resulted in a number of recommendations to make sure the habitats remain strong and healthy. One recommendation was about the need for good fire management to promote the long-term sustainability of natural habitats, in a way that closely replicates traditional burning.

Rangers from communities including Moa, Badu, Mabuiag, Erub, Boigu, Saibai and Dauan have each completed a Fire Management Plan for their island with support from technical staff. Twenty two Rangers are now qualified as fire management crew leaders and crew members, achieving their Certificate II in Public Safety. With approvals in place, State Emergency Service staff, Rural Fire Service officers and specialist fire officers support Rangers in carrying out the burning program.

Aims

The project has continued to blend traditional ecological knowledge shared by Traditional Owners, community elders and Rangers with environmental assessments based on western science. This merging of knowledge has identified ways to manage ecologically sensitive burning which will maintain the Torres Strait's rich terrestrial biodiversity, help to control weeds and protect gardens and public infrastructure.

Achievements

The studies highlight some of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in Australia, both in habitat and in the number of plant species recorded. The ecological burning carried out by Rangers is complex and requires an intimate understanding of the bush and the seasonal conditions. Rangers monitor conditions during patrols and, when conditions are perfect to achieve ecological maintenance and biodiversity preservation, implement pre-planned burning with approval from Traditional Owners, the local council and the Queensland Rural Fire Service.

Torres Strait Islanders and the Kaurareg Aboriginal people have always used fire as a management tool. Rangers and Traditional Owners have met with elders and conducted field surveys that identified ecological management practices previously unknown to western science. This knowledge has been incorporated into the fire management profiles. The project has built the interest and capacity of local communities to monitor and manage what they consider to be the most important aspects of their country.

The research and community feedback which makes up the profiles are incorporated into Ranger Working on Country work plans.

By participating in field assessment, training and ecological burning, Rangers have been able to gain the skills and confidence to implement ecological fire management using a range of new tools in their communities. The project has been invaluable in enhancing the Rangers' role as front-line caretakers of the unique landscapes shaped and preserved by the purposeful use of fire over thousands of years.

Controlled burning, Badu Island.

Governance and Leadership

Regional Goal

Effective, transparent self-government with strong leadership

Program Goals

To help maintain and improve the leadership and governance skills of current and future leaders of the Torres Strait to support development planning and coordination of integrated government service delivery in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

Component Objectives

The Governance and Leadership Program will:

› involve Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal leaders in legislative processes, policies and priorities in terms of setting direction for integrated planning and service delivery

› involve Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal leaders in monitoring progress towards reaching regional goals and outcomes

› develop the capacity of current and future leaders across the region and support effective communication between the community and organisations involved in the region.

Program Deliverables

› Integrated Service Delivery – Implementation

› Governance and Leadership Capacity Building

› Support to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Broadcasting

› Enhanced Support for Women in Leadership

› Support to Prescribed Bodies Corporate

› Support to the 2012 TSRA Board Election

› Support TSRA Governance Committees

TSRA Board Charter.
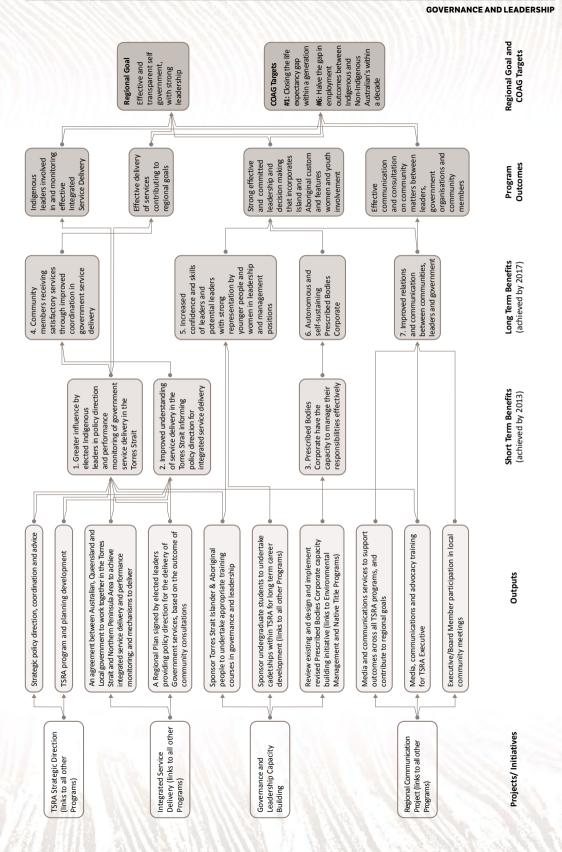
Program Expenditure 2012 - 2013

Table 2-5	Governance and Leadership Expenditure 2012 - 2013	
Budget $'000's	**Actual $'000's**	**Variance $'000's**
6,215	5,860	-355

Torres Strait Development Plan Program Outcomes

› Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal leaders involved and monitoring effective integrated service delivery

› Effective delivery of services contributing to regional goals

› Strong, effective, committed leadership and decision making that incorporates Aboriginal and Ailan Kastom and features women and youth involvement

› Effective communications and consultation on community matters between leaders, government organisations and community members

Regional Goal and COAG Targets

Regional Goal
Effective and transparent self government, with strong leadership

COAG Targets
#1: Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation
#6: Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australian's within a decade

Program Outcomes

- Indigenous leaders involved in and monitoring effective Integrated Service Delivery
- Effective delivery of services contributing to regional goals
- Strong effective and committed leadership and decision making that incorporates Island and Aboriginal custom and features women and youth involvement
- Effective communication and consultation on community matters between leaders, government organisations and community members

Long Term Benefits (achieved by 2017)

- 4. Community members receiving satisfactory services through improved coordination in government service delivery
- 5. Increased confidence and skills of leaders and potential leaders with strong representation by younger people and women in leadership and management positions
- 6. Autonomous and self-sustaining Prescribed Bodies Corporate
- 7. Improved relations and communication between communities, leaders and government

Short Term Benefits (achieved by 2013)

- 1. Greater influence by elected Indigenous leaders in policy direction and performance monitoring of government service delivery in the Torres Strait
- 2. Improved understanding of service delivery in the Torres Strait informing policy direction for integrated service delivery
- 3. Prescribed Bodies Corporate have the capacity to manage their responsibilities effectively

Outputs

- Strategic policy direction, coordination and advice
- TSRA program and planning development
- An agreement between Australian, Queensland and Local government to work together in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area to achieve integrated service delivery and performance monitoring; and mechanisms to deliver
- A Regional Plan signed by elected leaders providing policy direction for the delivery of Government services, based on the outcome of community consultations
- Sponsor Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal people to undertake appropriate training courses in governance and leadership
- Sponsor undergraduate students to undertake cadetships within TSRA for long term career development (links to all other Programs)
- Review existing and design and implement revised Prescribed Bodies Corporate capacity building initiative (links to Environmental Management and Native Title Programs)
- Media and communications services to support outcomes across all TSRA programs, and contribute to regional goals
- Media, communications and advocacy training for TSRA Executive
- Executive/Board Member participation in local community meetings

Projects/ Initiatives

- TSRA Strategic Direction (links to all other Programs)
- Integrated Service Delivery (links to all other Programs)
- Governance and Leadership Capacity Building
- Regional Communication Project (links to all other Programs)

Governance and Leadership Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) Implementation

Project purpose

To contribute to the design and implementation of an integrated service Delivery (ISD) Framework for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

Community-based statistical information relating to the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029 is collected every two years. The last activity was undertaken in 2011 - 2012 and indicated that of the 1,623 service gaps identified through the planning process in 2008, 369 (23 per cent) have been completed, 658 (40 per cent) are in progress and 596 (37 per cent) have not yet commenced, are not currently feasible or are identified as being a community or other non-government responsibility. An update on these figures will be available in the 2013 - 2014 Annual Report.

The draft action plan ISD in the region was completed in 2012 - 2013 and distributed to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and the Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs (DATSIMA). Sixteen Queensland Government agencies are involved in the delivery of services in the region. By the end of the reporting period 13 had responded to DATSIMA, providing commitment or comment on those extracts of the ISD Action Plan for which they have been identified as the lead agency.

The TSRA Board completed and endorsed the ISD Governance Framework at Meeting 85 in February 2013.

Project Name: Governance and Leadership Capacity Building

Project purpose

To deliver leadership, Governance and Capacity-building initiatives for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal persons and / or organisations within the Torres Strait region.

To increase the governance and leadership capacity of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal women in the region.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The TSRA sponsored Mr Kenny Bedford, the TSRA Board Member for Erub and Portfolio Member for Fisheries, to attend the Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP). Mr Bedford will complete this program in 2014. Ms Vonda Moar-Malone, the senior manager for health collaboration with the Medicare Local (Far North Queensland), completed the 18-month ARLP placement in 2013.

The TSRA sponsored three participants in the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation's Training Rural Australians in Leadership (TRAIL) Program. The TSRA sponsored seven participants in the Torres Strait Youth Leadership Program.

The TSRA is sponsoring six undergraduates to undertake university studies through the Assistance with Tertiary Education Scheme (ATES).

The TSRA has administered the Morey scholarship provided by Senator Susan Boyce, Senator for Queensland, to sponsor one Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal woman undergraduate to complete her tertiary studies. This scholarship is administered under the ATES Program.

The TSRA sponsored four women to participate in the Oxfam 'Straight Talk' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Summit in Canberra.

Governance and Leadership Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Support to Indigenous Broadcasting

Project purpose

To review the TSRA's contribution to communication services in the region to ensure that effective communication and consultation on community matters between leaders, government organisations and community members take place.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The TSRA sponsored the operations of the Torres Strait Islanders Media Association (TSIMA) for the provision of Indigenous Broadcasting services to the region.

The TSRA sponsored the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) to employ and train two Regional Indigenous Broadcasting Service (RIBS) operators.

The TSRA-appointed Grant Controller has delivered an assistance package to the TSIMA Board of Management to improve the governance and financial performance of the organisation. TSIMA is working towards the implementation of all 29 recommendations from the Regional Communications Review, including four key recommendations on governance and financial management. TSIMA has secured ongoing funding to operate the regional broadcasting service, Radio 4MW, and to perform its role as the Regional Indigenous Media Organisation for the coordination and support of community-based Regional Indigenous Broadcasting Services. TSIMA and TSIRC will work together to develop a regional broadcasting plan to reactivate four Torres Strait RIBS stations per year over the next three years.

Project Name: Enhanced Support for Women in Leadership

Project purpose

To increase the role of women in governance activities through the region.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The TSRA and Oxfam are working in partnership to build leadership capacity for women. In 2012 the TSRA sponsored Oxfam to visit the region to deliver training for 20 Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal women. In June 2013 the TSRA sponsored the attendance of four women at the 'Straight Talk' Summit in Canberra. The TSRA is working with local women's organisations to develop a visiting speaker program for successful women to deliver one-day seminars in the region. The speaker program will commence in the latter part of 2013.

Governance and Leadership Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Support to Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC)

Project purpose

To build the capacity of Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) so that they require less assistance from the TSRA, with a view to becoming more accountable for their own affairs.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) has determined that all 20 PBCs in the region either are compliant with the requirements or have been granted exemptions for specific compliance issues.

The TSRA's PBC capacity-building grant facility has provided assistance and administrative support funding to 10 PBCs in the region since its inception in 2011 - 2012. Six PBCs were supported in 2012 - 2013. These are:

› Daunalgaw (Torres Strait Islanders (TSI)) Corporation Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (RNTBC)

› Erubam Le Traditional Land and Sea Owners (TSI) Corporation RNTBC

› Kulkalgal (TSI) Corporation RNTBC

› Mer Gedkem Le (TSI) Corporation RNTBC

› Kaurareg Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

› Porumalgal (TSI) Corporation RNTBC

The TSRA has helped to coordinate PBC Support services to the region by working with the five agencies involved in delivering these services. Biannual coordination meetings are held between:

› the TSRA

› the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)

› the Aurora Project

› the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

› ORIC.

Project Name: Support to the 2012 TSRA Board Election

Project purpose

To facilitate the conduct of an election for the TSRA Board in 2012.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The TSRA commissioned the Australian Electoral Commission to conduct a general election for membership on the TSRA Board. Five Members were declared elected uncontested as only one nomination was received for the communities of Hammond, Iama, Mabuiag, Seisia and Warraber.

Fourteen elections were held during the week preceding 15 September 2012, with the main polling taking place on 15 September 2012. Elections were held for Badu (3 candidates); Bamaga (2 candidates); Dauan (3 candidates); Erub (2 candidates); Masig (2 candidates); Ngarupai and Muralag (3 candidates); Mer (2 candidates); Port Kennedy (2 candidates); Poruma (2 candidates); Saibai (3 candidates); St Pauls (2 candidates); Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine (TRAWQ) (6 candidates); and Ugar (2 candidates).

No candidate nominations were received for the September election in the Kubin community. A further election was conducted on 17 December 2012. Three candidates nominated for this election.

The TSRA has 20 directly elected Board Members.

Governance and Leadership Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Support TSRA Governance Committees

Project purpose

To support the effective governance of the TSRA.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

An induction program was conducted for the newly elected TSRA Board on Thursday Island over the four-day period 29 October to 1 November 2012. This Program was conducted by Effective Governance, a privately owned advisory firm that provides expertise and assistance on corporate governance, strategy, risk and corporate sustainability. The induction for the Member for Kubin was based on the Effective Governance package and was delivered by the Governance and Leadership team in January 2013.

Four Board Meetings were conducted in 2012 - 2013, including an inaugural Meeting for the new Board for the specific purpose of electing the TSRA Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Alternate Deputy Chairperson. The Australian Electoral Commission conducted this election on 13 November 2012.

Three members were appointed to the TSRA Audit Committee at the inaugural meeting.

Two Board Executive meetings were conducted. Three Audit Committee Meetings were conducted.

Two Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee Meetings were conducted.

Other Project Deliverables – Non PBS

Project Name: Review the Role of the Native Title Representative Body in the Region

Project purpose

To determine the role that the TSRA would play in delivering the functions of a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) after the expiry of current arrangements on 1 July 2013.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs invited the TSRA to reapply to be the NTRB in the region from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2015. The application was successful. The TSRA Board has determined that this will be the TSRA's last application for NTRB status and that it is time for this function to be conferred upon a Sea and Land Council in the region. The TSRA has informed the Minister that the Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council Torres Strait Islander Corporation (ICN 7689) has aspirations to apply to be the NTRB for the region from 1 July 2015.

The TSRA was successful in extending the level of engagement between Deloitte Access Economics and Native Title stakeholders in the region. The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) contracted Deloitte Access Economics to conduct a national review of Native Title Organisations. The TSRA worked with FaHCSIA and Deloitte Access Economics to conduct a regional forum with representation from all 20 Prescribed Bodies Corporate in the region and the TSRA Board. The forum was conducted on Horn Island on 10 July 2013 and outcomes will be reported in the 2013 - 2014 Annual Report.

Key Performance Indicators – Portfolio Budget Statements

Level of legislative compliance and measured change in capacity of Prescribed Bodies Corporate in the region

All 20 Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) in the region have met the minimum levels of compliance required by the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC). All PBCs have submitted General Reports. Fourteen PBCs held Annual General Meetings (AGMs) within the reporting period. ORIC gave a further six PBCs an exemption to extend their AGM compliance period past the 30 November 2012 deadline and authorised one PBC to conduct its AGMs on a biannual basis. In 2012 - 2013 the TSRA developed a compliance and capacity-building questionnaire to systematically measure levels of capacity within PBCs to meet their obligations under both the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (Cth). Data collection and analysis will be completed in 2013 - 2014 for inclusion in the 2013 - 2014 Annual Report.

The TSRA PBC Support Officer continues to work with all PBCs in the region to help them attain unqualified compliance.

Short-term benefit description		
Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) have the capacity to manage their responsibilities effectively.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
20 registered PBCs adhering to / complying with legislation by 30 June 2011.	The target was achieved in 2011 and maintained throughout 2011 - 2012 and 2012 - 2013.	Effective governance underpins all six COAG targets for Closing the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage.

Measured change in regional communications capacity

The Torres Strait Islanders Media Association (TSIMA) is a recipient of TSRA grant funding for the operation of the regional radio station 4MW which broadcasts to the Torres Strait Inner islands through a transmitter based on Thursday Island, and to the Outer Islands through the Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Service (RIBS). TSIMA is the Regional Indigenous Media Organisation for the Torres Strait.

The Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) is a recipient of TSRA grant funding for the operation of RIBS. There are 14 RIBS stations located on outer island communities within the Torres Strait.

Short-term benefit description		
Improved relations and communication between communities, leaders and government.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
Achieve an improvement in community satisfaction with the coordination of government services.	Radio 4 MW, operated by the Torres Strait Islanders Media Association (TSIMA), maintained the transmission of local programming at 168 hours per week. The Torres Strait RIBS network reduced operations from four active stations to two stations. The TSRA is facilitating a more cooperative working relationship between TSIMA and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council to revitalise the Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Service network in the region.	Effective communication underpins all six COAG targets for Closing the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage.

Additional Key Performance Indicators – Torres Strait Development Plan

Integrated Service Delivery

Number of ISD Meetings Conducted

The TSRA adopted a new governance framework for Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) in 2012. The Integrated Service Delivery Steering Group was disbanded and replaced with the ISD Operations Committee. There were 18 ISD Meetings conducted in 2012 - 2013. These comprised 14 community-based meetings for the validation of the Regional Plan Community Booklets and four policy meetings with the Queensland Government and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) to progress the implementation of the ISD Action Plan.

Short-term benefit description

Greater influence by elected Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal leaders in policy direction and performance monitoring of government service delivery in the Torres Strait.

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
TSRA Chairperson and Executive Members participate in 16 senior government and ministerial level meetings per annum.	The target was exceeded (29 Meetings)	COAG target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG target 6 – Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

Short-term benefit description

Improved understanding of service delivery in the Torres Strait informing policy direction for Integrated Service Delivery.

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
A service map showing all services delivered in the Torres Strait, highlighting gaps, duplications and inefficiencies. Analytical report on service delivery and community satisfaction delivered to the signatories to the Regional Plan. Integrated / Regional Service Delivery Meetings held.	The map has been completed. Community consultations have been completed to explain the Regional Plan Community Booklets developed for every community. The service mapping and analysis of service delivery on a community-by-community basis are contained in the booklets.	COAG target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG target 6 – Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

Short-term benefit description

Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) have the capacity to manage their responsibilities effectively

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
Twenty registered PBCs are compliant with the legislation.	The target has been achieved. The Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations has determined that there has been a full level of compliance or has endorsed exemptions.	COAG target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG target 6 – Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

TSRA Board Member induction.

Case Study: Board Charter and Induction Program

In 2012 the first 'independent' election was held for the 20 positions on the TSRA Board. Members represent each of the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal communities in the Torres Strait region, including Bamaga and Seisia in the Northern Peninsula Area. All TSRA Members are now appointed by election under Division 5 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (ATSI Act).
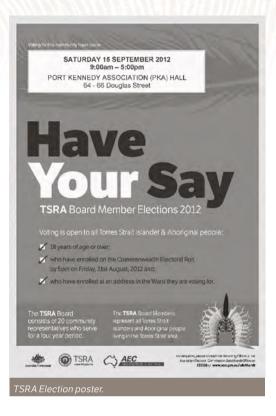
The TSRA Governance and Leadership Program engaged an independent governance trainer, Effective Governance, to develop the TSRA Board Charter and Board Induction Program.

The TSRA Board Charter brings together the information that Members require in order to perform their legislated functions. The Charter is based on the ATSI Act and the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. The Charter includes a Code of Conduct; Charter of Representation, Performance and Accountability; and the Terms of Reference for Advisory Committees. It also contains case studies relevant to the region to reinforce the understanding of Board Members' Duties under the legislation.

In effect, the Board Charter brings together all the key references into a single, easy to read resource that TSRA Members need to know in order to exercise their powers and delegations.

The Board Member's Induction Program was conducted over a four-day period from 29 October to 1 November 2012. In addition to facilitation and training by Effective Governance, the TSRA's managers delivered briefs on their Program and Corporate responsibilities so that the newly elected Board and administrative arms of the TSRA could begin to form a cohesive team.

The Induction Program included a combination of presentations, discussions and group activities to enable Board Members to become familiar with TSRA's legislation and with their roles, responsibilities, powers and delegations. The

TSRA Election poster.

new Board was introduced to the Torres Strait Development Plan, one of the key strategic planning documents for the TSRA that is to be renewed in 2014. Members received a certificate of attainment from Effective Governance, acknowledging their learning and governance skills.

The new TSRA Board held their inaugural meeting on 13 November 2013, when Office holder elections were conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission. The Board appointed an eight-member Executive Committee based on the eight TSRA Programs. This 'Portfolio Member' framework will continue the effective governance arrangements that the TSRA has established.

The recently appointed TSRA Board has received a strong foundation in governance principles focused on the Authority's enabling and compliance legislation. The Board is well placed to participate in effective, well-informed decision-making for its four-year term.

Native Title

Regional Goal

Effective and transparent self-government with strong leadership.

Program Goal

To provide high-quality and culturally appropriate professional services to native title holders and claimants in the Torres Strait region.

To facilitate the securing of legal recognition of native title to land and waters in the Torres Strait and thereby improve opportunities for improved economic, cultural and social participation for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region.

Program Objectives

This program component will:

› assist Traditional Owners to obtain legal recognition of native title over land and sea in the Torres Strait Region

› protect and manage native title rights

- ensure that mainstream services are contributing to and meeting regional goals and outcomes

- improve communication and information networks across communities

- build the capacity of Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs)

- involve Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal leaders in Integrated Service Delivery

- strengthen leadership within communities

- grow future leaders for the community

- encourage more women to seek leadership roles

- optimise and enhance the TSRA Board Member decision-making and communication capabilities
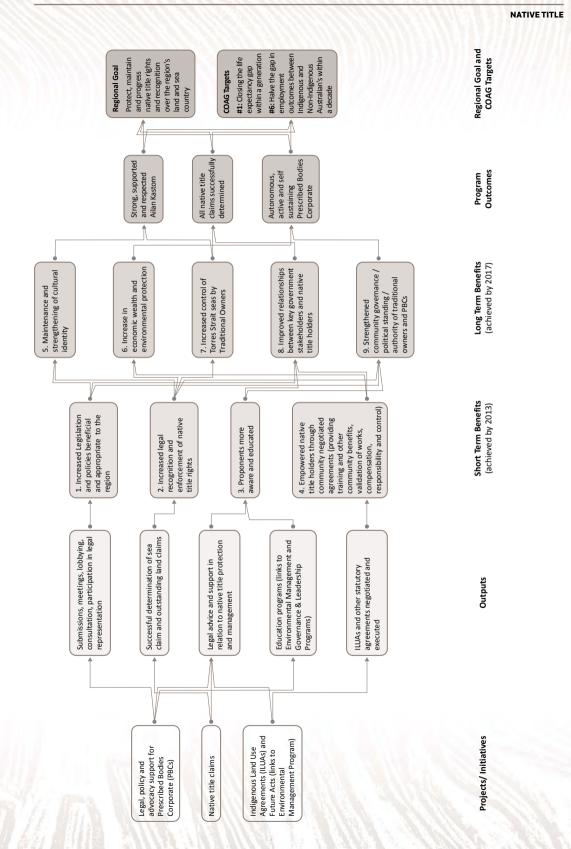
High Court sea claim supporters.

Program Deliverables

› Provide legal, policy and advocacy support for PBCs

› Support native title activities, including determination of claims and provision of legal advice and support

› Negotiate and execute Indigenous Land Use Agreements and other statutory agreements

› Provide legal advice and support in relation to Future Acts

Program Expenditure 2012 - 2013

Table 2-6 Native Title Program Expenditure 2012 - 2013		
Budget $'000's	Actual $'000's	Variance $'000's
2,615	2,627	12

Regional Goal and COAG Targets

Regional Goal
Protect, maintain and progress native title rights and recognition over the region's land and sea country

COAG Targets
#1: Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation
#6: Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australian's within a decade

Program Outcomes

Strong, supported and respected Ailan Kastom

All native title claims successfully determined

Autonomous, active and self sustaining Prescribed Bodies Corporate

Long Term Benefits (achieved by 2017)

5. Maintenance and strengthening of cultural identity

6. Increase in economic wealth and environmental protection

7. Increased control of Torres Strait seas by Traditional Owners

8. Improved relationships between key government stakeholders and native title holders

9. Strengthened community governance / political standing / authority of traditional owners and PBCs

Short Term Benefits (achieved by 2013)

1. Increased Legislation and policies beneficial and appropriate to the region

2. Increased legal recognition and enforcement of native title rights

3. Proponents more aware and educated

4. Empowered native title holders through community negotiated agreements (providing training and other community benefits, validation of works, compensation, responsibility and control)

Outputs

Submissions, meetings, lobbying, consultation, participation in legal representation

Successful determination of sea claim and outstanding land claims

Legal advice and support in relation to native title protection and management

Education programs (links to Environmental Management and Governance & Leadership Programs)

ILUAs and other statutory agreements negotiated and executed

Projects/ Initiatives

Legal, policy and advocacy support for Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs)

Native title claims

Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) and Future Acts (links to Environmental Management Program)

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Native Title Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) and Future Acts

Project purpose

Native Title Compliance and Infrastructure Delivery.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The Native Title Office (NTO) executed six ILUAs. Four of these have been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal.

Agreement was reached with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council on Native Title compliance for the Saibai sea wall project.

ILUA matters progressed in this reporting period include:

› drafting the Infrastructure and Housing ILUA template

› executing and registering the Mer reserve transfer ILUA

› progressing negotiations for six IBIS leases

› progressing negotiations for social housing ILUAs

› progressing negotiations for three ILUAs for DAFF Biosecurity (formerly the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service).

Project Name: Native Title Claims

Project purpose

Native Title Determination.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The Regional Sea Claim High Court Appeal was heard on 12 February 2013. The decision was deferred until August 2013.

There are three current ongoing native title Determination claimant applications in the Federal Court:

› Zuizin Island Claim

› Warral and Ului

› Regional Sea Claim Part B.

Anthropological research on Naghir Island is being undertaken with a view to lodging a native title claimant application in the future.

Native Title Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Legal, Policy and Advocacy Support for Registered Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate

Project purpose

Infrastructure delivery, law reform and interpretation of the Native Title Act.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

Responses to requests for submissions were sent on:

› amendment of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) regarding the tax status of payments under Indigenous land use agreements (Attorney-General's Department consultation)

› the provision of freehold title in Torres Strait Islander communities (Queensland Government discussion paper)

› the provision of ongoing support to Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) following the transfer of Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) land (Australian Government and Queensland Government).

DOGIT transfer matters were progressed with the successful transfer of the Mer reserve to Mer Gedkem Le Registered Native Title Body Corporate.

The Native Title Office, in partnership with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, funded 24 representatives from PBCs in the region to attend the 2013 National Native Title Conference in Alice Springs.

A Queensland PBC working group was established to act as a lobby group to further enhance the capacity of PBCs in the region.

Indigenous Land Use Agreement signing, Warraber.

Key Performance Indicators – Portfolio Budget Statements

Number of native title determinations, negotiated and registered ILUAs, and number of future act notifications facilitated in the Torres Strait.

The Regional Sea Claim appeal was heard in the High Court of Australia on 12 February 2013.

In summary, the grounds of appeal were as follows:

› The native title rights to access or take resources (including marine resources) are not restricted to traditional use only and can be for commercial use. Fisheries and other Legislation did not extinguish native title rights to trade commercially.

› Reciprocity rights under Islander customary law should be recognised as native title rights.

› Otherwise, the decision of Justice Finn stands in that Native Title exists in the determination area and native title rights and interests are subject to the traditional laws and customs of the native title holders and the laws of Queensland and the Commonwealth.

› The native title rights and interests are non-exclusive, which means that the Traditional Owners cannot prevent anyone from lawfully accessing the determination area. This does not prevent any person who has a fishing or other licence from engaging in that activity in the area.

Statistical Data

Table 2-7 Performance Statistics	
Facilitation and assistance	**Number**
1. The Claims Experience	
Claimant Applications	
Active claims represented at 30 June 2012	3
Plus Claims Filed this year by NTRB	0
Less Claims Determined 2012 - 2013	0
Less Claims Dismissed 2012 - 2013	0
Less Claims Withdrawn 2012 - 2013	1
Active Claims represented at 30 June 2013	3
– Number of these registered by NNTT	3
Claims in Development	1
Non-Claimant Applications	*0*
Compensation Claims	*0*
2. The Agreements Experience	
Future Act Notices received	60
Responses to Future Acts	52
Agreements Concluded	1
Agreements in Development	0
ILUAs concluded and registered	5
ILUAs in Development	12
Complaints and Disputes	
Complaints	
› Received	0
› Resolved	0
› Pending	0
Disputes relating to Native Title Applications	0
Disputes relating to ILUAs, rights of access and other matters	0
Requests for Review of decisions not to assist	
Requests Received	0
Reviews Completed	0
ILUA = Indigenous land use agreement, NNTB = National Native Title Tribunal, NTRBs = native title representative bodies	

Legal, policy and advocacy support for PBCs

Number of pieces of legislation and policies that are beneficial and appropriate to the Torres Strait

Reduced length of negotiation processes

Compliance with legislative requirements for Future Acts

The TSRA's Native Title Office (NTO) provides support to Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) and in-house advice, negotiation and advocacy for the Traditional Owners throughout the Torres Strait region. This includes the preparation of submissions to government agencies on changes in native title law.

Short-term benefit description

Increased legislation and policies beneficial and appropriate to the region.

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
One or more policies developed by the end of 2012 - 2013.	The Native Title Office (NTO) progressed Deeds of Grant in Trust and reserve transfer matters by providing legal support to Prescribed Bodies Corporate in their negotiations with Government representatives. A framework agreement was developed to recognise rights to compensation, cultural heritage and other native title rights under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). The NTO is successfully meeting legislative requirements for processing Future Act notices. The NTO developed a framework agreement requiring proponents to consider native title implications of proposed projects at an early stage in the process. The agreement included arrangements for compensation and economic benefits for Traditional Owners.	COAG Target 6 – Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian's within a decade. COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.

Short-term benefit description

Proponents more aware and educated.

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
Legislative requirements met for Future Acts (including timing and process) from 1 July 2012 onwards.	All legislative requirements were met.	COAG Target 6 – Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian's within a decade.

Support Native Title activities, including determination of claims and provision of legal advice and support

Number of Native Title Determinations in the Torres Strait

The Native Title Office (NTO) advocates for and assists Traditional Owners and Prescribed Bodies Corporate with land and sea claims. Following the judgement by Justice Finn on 2 July 2010, a Native Title determination for the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim was made on 23 August 2010. The determination was appealed by both the Australian Government and the Queensland Government. The NTO funded and provided legal representation for the claimant's appeal, with arguments heard between 16 and 18 May 2011. On 14 March 2012, the full bench of the Federal Court handed down judgement upholding the Australian Governments' appeal and rejecting the claimant's appeal. The NTO sought special leave to appeal this decision in the High Court of Australia; leave was granted on 5 October 2012, and the appeal was heard by the High Court of Australia on 12 February 2013. The court will hand down its decision in August 2013.

Short-term benefit description		
Increased legal recognition and enforcement of native title rights.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
One regional Sea Claim resolved.	The Regional Sea Claim appeal was heard in the High Court of Australia on 12 February 2013 after a special leave application was granted. Decision is expected in 2013.	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.
Two remaining land claims and Regional Sea Claim Part B progressed by June 2014.	The Native Title Office (NTO) has progressed the Kulkalgal number two (Zuizin) claim and is waiting for a response from the Queensland Government.	
	The Warral and Ului matter has been adjourned pending the resolution of the Regional Sea Claim Part A appeal in the High Court.	
	Regional Sea Claim Part B has been adjourned pending the resolution of the Regional Sea Claim Part A appeal in the High Court.	
	The NTO is currently assisting with a possible Naghir Native title claim, with agreement between the parties regarding further anthropological research.	
	The NTO is currently researching a possible compensation claim for past extinguishment of native title in the region.	

Indigenous land use agreements and future acts

Number of Indigenous Land Use Agreements

The Native Title Office (NTO) assists Prescribed Bodies Corporate and Traditional Owners with support, legal advice, and advocacy for Indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs) and Future Act notifications. The NTO has been involved in negotiations with all levels of government and stakeholders to formulate standard freehold land valuations for the Torres Strait region. It is the NTO's objective to adopt a template ILUA, with the agreement of all parties, in the near future.

Short-term benefit description

Empower native title holders through community-negotiated agreements (providing training and other community benefits, validation of works, compensation responsibility and control).

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
Reduction in outstanding Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) matters as at July 2012, by June 2013.	Seven ILUAs were negotiated, finalised and / or executed. 60 Future Act notifications were processed. Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) and Community consultations have been undertaken to progress the Major Infrastructure And Housing ILUAs. The Native Title Office assisted native title holders to negotiate compensation and other benefits for a number of ILUAs.	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 6 – Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian's within a decade.

The benefit achievements above are fully aligned to the Torres Strait Development Plan benefit targets.

Mer Island Reserve handover.

Case Study: Mer Reserve Transfer

In 1879, the State of Queensland annexed part of the Torres Strait which included Mer (Murray Island). In 1912, the State of Queensland declared Mer a reserve under the Land Act of the day.

On 3 June 1992, the High Court of Australia in an historic decision declared that native title existed over Mer and overturned the legal fiction of terra nullius.

On the 14 December 2012, Minister Glen Elmes, on behalf of the Queensland Government, cancelled the reserve and handed over the title deeds of Freehold in Trust of Mer, Dauar and Waiar to the Mer Gedkem Le (RNTBC). The transfer took place during a ceremony held on Mer. This historic transfer took place during the 20th anniversary of the decision of the High Court in the Mabo case and the 100th anniversary of the declaration of the Mer reserve.

The handover was the result of many months of intense negotiations with the Queensland Government, the Torres Strait Island Regional Council and the Mer Gedkem Le (RNTBC). The TSRA's Native Title Office provided legal and other support to Mer Gedkem Le (RNTBC) during the process.

The handover which took place under the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 (Qld), means that Mer Gedkem Le (RNTBC) not only holds native title in trust over Mer but also Torres Strait Islander Freehold in trust. The Torres Strait Islander Freehold co-exists with the existing native title, therefore, the native rights and interests of all Meriam people are protected.

This outcome has resulted in the Meriam People being amongst the first Traditional Owners in Queensland to hold both Native Title and freehold land title over their traditional lands. This is a significant step towards greater autonomy for the Meriam people.

In holding the land in trust for the benefit of all Meriam people, Mer Gedkem Le (RNTBC) will be the primary decision maker for what happens to the land on Mer. Prior to the transfer this role was exercised by the Queensland government. Although it holds title to land, Mer Gedkem Le (RNTBC) cannot sell this land and must consult with the traditional owners and the wider Meriam community when making decisions on how the land will be used and managed.

Native Title Representative Body Reporting

The information reported in this section is specific to TSRA Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) function under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

Overview of TSRA as a Native Title Representative Body

NTRBs are primarily responsible for providing effective and equitable native title and related assistance to constituents in their prescribed regions. Constituents are those persons who hold or may hold native title in the region where the NTRB performs its functions. One of the guiding principles for the operation of NTRBs is that they should act in the best interests of their constituents.

The TSRA, through its Native Title Office (NTO), performs the NTRB functions for the Torres Strait region. In 1996 the TSRA was appointed as a recognised NTRB under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). The 1998 amendments to the Act required that NTRBs reapply for recognition. The TSRA was invited to reapply and was subsequently recognised as the Torres Strait NTRB for the period 2013 - 2015.

The NTO Operational Plan for 2012 - 2013 is aligned to the TSRA Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013.

Prescribed Bodies Corporate

When a favourable determination of native title is made by the Federal Court, the Traditional Owners are required to establish a Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC). PBCs must be incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (Cth). The PBC model was adopted to enable native title communal property rights to interact meaningfully with Australian property law. It ensures that the body is represented by a legal entity vested with authority to make binding decisions on its behalf, thus ensuring legal certainty for any parties wishing to negotiate, conduct business or make agreements with the native title holding body. The TSRA recognises that PBCs have specific functions and obligations under both the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (Cth).

The TSRA has established a PBC capacity-building grants facility. All PBCs in the region are invited to apply for financial assistance to offset the administrative costs associated with their native title role. The PBC grants are managed as part of the TSRA's biannual common funding rounds. Capacity building for PBCs is managed by the TSRA's Governance and Leadership Program. The NTO was instrumental in establishing the Queensland PBC working group as a lobby group to highlight the issues facing PBCs in Queensland and the rest of Australia.

Legislative Functions of the TSRA in its NTRB Capacity

In its NTRB role, the TSRA through the NTO, performs specific functions under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). These include:

› facilitating the conduct of research, and the preparation and making of claims, by groups of Aboriginal peoples or Torres Strait Islanders, for determinations of native title and for compensation for acts affecting their native title

› assisting in the resolution of disputes within groups about the making of such claims

› assisting groups by representing them, 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

› facilitating support for and assistance to PBCs.

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

(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.

An NTRB may only perform its facilitation and assistance functions if requested to do so.

Organisational Structure and Corporate Governance Policies

NTO staff operate as a program within the TSRA and are therefore included within the TSRA's organisational structure (see Appendix 1). Similarly, NTO staff are bound by the same corporate governance policies that apply to the TSRA generally.

Report on Performance

In addition to the information below, the Native Title Program Report on pages 60 to 69 provides statistical data on claims, agreements and complaints.

The TSRA operates in a predominantly post-determination environment. There are no significant trends in operating statistics which require intervention.

The TSRA is continuing to negotiate with the Queensland Government to resolve specific points of the Infrastructure and Housing Land Use Agreement (ILUA). One of the unresolved issues is the methodology for valuing Native Title land. The ILUA is in its seventeenth draft and the TSRA expects the issues to be resolved in 2013 - 2014.

There have been no significant changes in the nature of the principal functions and services provided through the NTO.

The general nature of complaints received have been that the PBCs have not consulted widely in communities (with all Traditional Owners) when communicating decisions relating to the ILUAs and Future Acts. The NTRB response is generally that this is a matter for the PBCs themselves to resolve under their rules. The PBC Support Officer and visiting legal staff from the NTO reinforce this requirement with PBC members during community visits.

Summary Resources Table

For the 2012 - 2013 financial year, the NTO received $2.615 million for operations.

The financial performance of the TSRA in its NTRB capacity is outlined in the table 2-8.

Table 2-8 NTRB Financial Performance				
NTRB Functions	**Actual 2011 - 12 $'000**	**Budget 2012 - 2013 $'000**	**Actual 2012 - 2013 $'000**	**Variation 2012 - 2013 $'000**
Expenditure				
Capital				
Activities	1,601	2,013	2,032	19
Corporate	366	602	595	(7)
Total	1,967	2,615	2,627	12
Income				
FaHCSIA Funding	2,013	2,615	2,615	0
Activity Generated Income				
Interest				
Reversal of previous Asset write downs				
Other				
Total	**(46)**		**12**	**12**

FaHCSIA = Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Performance against Budget

In performing its NTRB role, the TSRA has operated within the planned budget for 2012 - 2013.

There have been no significant changes in funding from 2011 - 2012 or changes to the 2012 - 2013 budget during the year.

During the period between the end of the reporting period and the tabling of the Annual Report of Operations, the Regional Sea Claim (Part B) determination was handed down by the High Court of Australia. The determination made on 7 August 2013 confirms the decision of Justice Finn in July 2010. The determination means that the Traditional rights of Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal People in the seas that belong to island communities and the seas they share with other islands are not just traditional and recognised amongst themselves but are legal rights recognised and protected by the law of Australia. This determination may significantly affect the NTRB's operations in future.

Management of Human Resources

The NTO has six employees, all of whom live in the region. They are:

› a Principal Legal Officer

› a Senior Legal Officer

› a Legal Officer

› a Paralegal

› two Administration Support Officers.

Since 2005, the NTO has assisted 15 law students to undertake legal internships through the Aurora Project. One student has also undertaken Practical Legal Training.

Information about workforce planning, workplace health and safety, indemnities and insurance premiums for NTO staff are included within the TSRA's procedures and policies.

All NTO staff are subject to the TSRA Enterprise Agreement 2011 - 2014. No NTO staff are on Australian Workplace Agreements.

NTO staff members participated in training and development with other TSRA staff as well as training and development to meet the requirements for legal practitioners in Queensland under the relevant legislation.

Table 2-9 shows the representation of Equal Employment Opportunity groups and classification levels in the NTO as at 30 June 2013. Two NTO positions that were vacant on 30 June 2013 are under recruitment.

Table 2-9 Equal Employment Opportunity Groups, Native Title Office				
APS classification	Female	Male	Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal	People with a disability
Executive Level 2	0	1	0	0
Executive Level 1	1	0	1	0
APS Level 6	0	0	0	0
APS Level 5	0	0	0	0
APS Level 2	2	0	2	0
Total	**3**	**1**	**3**	**0**

NTO Consultancies for the 2012 - 2013 Reporting Period

The NTO uses external legal counsel and external consultants to meet its strategic objectives. Table 2-10 shows the consultants engaged during the reporting period.

Table 2-10 Consultants engaged by the NTO 2012 - 2013		
Expertise	**Consultant**	**Service**
Legal	Robert Blowes SC	Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim High Court Appeal
		Senior Counsel for the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim
		Establishment of a Regional Sea Claim PBC
	Bret Walker SC	Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim High Court Appeal
	Tom Keely	Junior Counsel for the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim
		Junior Counsel for the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim High Court Appeal
	Tina Jowett	Counsel assisting with the negotiation of ILUAs
	Michael Neal	Independent legal representation for Naghir matter
	Jim Brooks	Independent legal representation for Naghir matter
	Oliver Gilkerson	Advice and assistance with the DOGIT transfer
		Development of an Infrastructure and Housing ILUA
		Advice and assistance with the Mer Reserve Transfer ILUA
		Advice and assistance with the Saibai Sea Walls project
	Helen Bowskill	Advice and assistance with the DOGIT transfer
	Chalk & Fitzgerald	Kaurareg Native Title Claims
	Greg McIntyre SC	Independent Legal Representative for Naghir matter
	Paul Sheiner	Independent Legal Representative for Naghir matter
	Bottoms English	Badu DOGIT Transfer
Anthropological	Dr Garrick Hitchcock	Sea Claim anthropological advice and Zuizin anthropological research
	Dr Brendan Corrigan	Anthropological advice regarding the Warral and Ului Native title claim
		Research and advice for the Naghir matter

DOGIT = deeds of grant in trust, ILUA = Indigenous land use agreement, PBC = prescribed body corporate

Statements for the Purpose of the Native Title Act

The TSRA is a recognised NTRB and has legislative functions pursuant to Section 203B of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). Native Title Program reporting, as contained within the *TSRA Annual Report 2012 - 2013*, is also a report for the purposes of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

External scrutiny

The NTO has been audited in accordance with the audit reports set out in Section 5, Financial Statements.

Environmental Protection in Indigenous Land Use Agreements

Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) provide environmental and cultural heritage protection. While the clauses in each ILUA may differ, the ILUAs place responsibility on external stakeholders to take all reasonable steps to reduce and minimise the impact the proposed activity may have on the local environment. If there is an environmental incident, the external stakeholder will usually attempt to rehabilitate and minimise the damage in accordance with their contractual requirements. Under the *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld) each ILUA details a cultural heritage process and stipulates the procedures that must be followed if a cultural artefact or human remains are found.

While the clauses in each ILUA may differ, the ILUAs place responsibility on external stakeholders to take all reasonable steps to reduce and minimise the impact the proposed activity may have on the local environment.

Judicial Decisions

In 2010, the Federal Court of Australia handed down the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim judgement. Pursuant to the judgement, the determination was made on 23 August 2010 and was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal. This sea claim decision was appealed by the Australian Government and the Queensland Government on limited grounds involving the recognition of the right to trade in marine resources as a native title right. The full bench of the Federal Court heard the appeal in May 2011 and handed down their judgment in March 2012, upholding the appeal. The NTO lodged an application for special leave to appeal this decision in the High Court of Australia; leave was granted on 5 October 2012. The appeal was heard by the High Court of Australia on 12 February 2013, with a decision to be handed down in 2013.

Compliance Index

The NTRB compliance statements are included in the TSRA statements in Section 7.

Healthy Communities

Regional Goal

To enhance both healthy communities and our living environment.

To achieve the provision of adequate, appropriate and affordable housing.

Program Goal

To contribute to the Regional Goal. The TSRA seeks to influence policy for all health programs across all tiers of government, monitor health services and initiatives across the Torres Strait region and provide strategic policy advice.

The Program also provides direct support for initiatives that promote healthy lifestyles, supports home ownership and other specific housing initiatives that are linked to healthy lifestyles and economic development in the region.

Program Objectives

› Monitor and provide strategic policy advice regarding health service delivery in the region to ensure health service levels are equal to the national standard

  - Seek to influence policy for all health programs across all tiers of government.

  - Monitor health services and initiatives across the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area and provide strategic policy advice. This will be undertaken under the broad platform of Integrated Service Delivery and the Torres Strait Health Partnership, with reports being delivered at appropriate forums under the service level agreement intended for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

› Improve the health of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region through proactive healthy living initiatives

  - Direct support targeting healthy lifestyles including such areas as improving the availability of fresh produce and healthy food options and encouraging people to undertake healthy activities.

› Increase Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal home ownership

  - Provide direct support for home ownership and specific housing initiatives which are linked to economic development. This support could be for enterprises that assist people to develop trade skills or community initiatives to deliver environmental management services relating to water or renewable energies. The TSRA will also assist traditional owners to negotiate land releases for housing developments where appropriate.

Program Deliverables

Healthy homes initiatives:

› funding contributions towards community market garden and horticulture initiatives in conjunction with the Environmental Management Program

› engaging with food suppliers and retailers to explore improved healthy food options

Healthy lifestyles initiatives:

› monitoring and provision of strategic policy direction for health

› funding contributions towards health education initiatives in areas such as physical education, nutrition, obesity, diabetes programs, motivation, substance abuse and sport and recreation

› funding contributions towards sport and recreation minor infrastructure

Health check, Thursday Island.

Improved housing and home ownership initiatives:

› funding contributions towards essential services and infrastructure to support healthy living environments

› land tenure resolution through Indigenous Land Use Agreements and other formal agreements in conjunction with the Native Title and Environmental Management Programs.
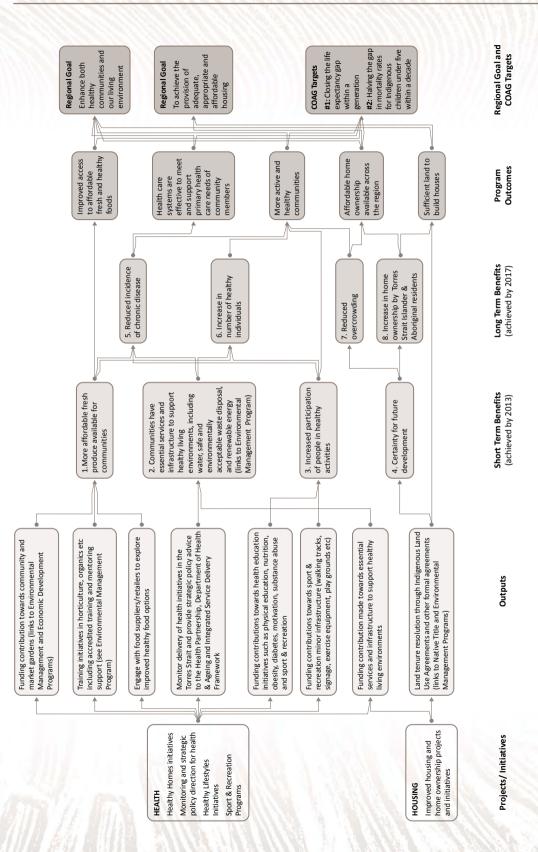
Program Expenditure 2012 - 2013

Table 2-11 Healthy Communities Program Expenditure 2012 - 2013		
Budget $'000's	Actual $'000's	Variance $'000's
6,736	6,807	71

Torres Strait Development Plan Outcomes

› Improved access to affordable fresh and healthy foods

› Health care systems are effective to meet and support the primary health care needs of community members

› More active and healthy communities

› Affordable home ownership available across the region

› Sufficient land to build houses

Regional Goal and COAG Targets

Regional Goal Enhance both healthy communities and our living environment

Regional Goal To achieve the provision of adequate, appropriate and affordable housing

COAG Targets **#1:** Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation **#2:** Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade

Program Outcomes

Improved access to affordable fresh and healthy foods

Health care systems are effective to meet and support primary health care needs of community members

More active and healthy communities

Affordable home ownership available across the region

Sufficient land to build houses

Long Term Benefits (achieved by 2017)

5. Reduced incidence of chronic disease

6. Increase in number of healthy individuals

7. Reduced overcrowding

8. Increase in home ownership by Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal residents

Short Term Benefits (achieved by 2013)

1. More affordable fresh produce available for communities

2. Communities have essential services and infrastructure to support healthy living environments, including water, safe and environmentally acceptable waste disposal, and renewable energy (links to Environmental Management Program)

3. Increased participation of people in healthy activities

4. Certainty for future development

Outputs

Funding contribution towards community and market gardens (links to Environmental Management and Economic Development Programs)

Training initiatives in horticulture, organics etc including accredited training and mentoring support (see Environmental Management Program)

Engage with food suppliers/retailers to explore improved healthy food options

Monitor delivery of health initiatives in the Torres Strait and provide strategic policy advice to the Health Partnership, Department of Health & Ageing and Integrated Service Delivery Framework

Funding contributions towards health education initiatives such as physical education, nutrition, obesity, diabetes, motivation, substance abuse and sport & recreation

Funding contributions towards sport & recreation minor infrastructure (walking tracks, signage, exercise equipment, play grounds etc)

Funding contribution made towards essential services and infrastructure to support healthy living environments

Land tenure resolution through Indigenous Land Use Agreements and other formal agreements (links to Native Title and Environmental Management Programs)

Projects/ Initiatives

HEALTH
Healthy Homes initiatives

Monitoring and strategic policy direction for health

Healthy Lifestyles Initiatives

Sport & Recreation Programs

HOUSING
Improved housing and home ownership projects and initiatives

Healthy Communities Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Health / Healthy Homes initiatives / Community Market Gardens

Project purpose

To provide funding contributions towards the establishment of community and market gardens and support training initiatives in horticulture for community members.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The TSRA is on track to exceed the target to establish eight community sustainable horticulture systems by 2013, as outlined in the Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013.

The Regional Landcare Facilitator continues to support four community market garden pilot projects, at St Pauls, Masig, Hammond and Horn Island, as part of the Environmental Management Program's sustainable horticulture program.

Community gardens and nurseries at Erub, Mer, Iama, Mabuiag and Badu are also being supported as part of the sustainable horticulture program.

The Regional Landcare Facilitator is working with community members from Dauan, Saibai to assist with traditional garden projects.

Project Name: Health / Healthy Homes initiatives / Improved Access to Healthy Foods

Project purpose

To engage with relevant retailers and food suppliers to explore options for improved access to affordable healthy food.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The TSRA monitors policies put in place by the Islanders Board of Industry and Service (IBIS) to promote healthy shopping choices. IBIS engaged a nutritionist to conduct in-store promotions and place material in all IBIS stores across the region, highlighting healthy foods and diets, and promoting the Healthy Food tick, which appears on shelf product labels. The policy extends to having a price differentiation between high and low sugar and/or fat products, not putting those with high sugar and/or fat content on special, and only promoting healthy foods in media advertisements.

Healthy Communities Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Health / Healthy Homes Initiatives / Monitoring and Strategic Policy Direction for Health

Project purpose

To monitor the delivery of health initiatives in the Torres Strait and provide strategic policy advice to the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Health Partnership to ensure that advances are being made in primary and preventative health care.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in place with the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA), the TSRA supported the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area (TS&NPA) Health Partnership, which provides a forum for community representation on matters affecting the health and wellbeing of the people of the region.

The TS&NPA Health Partnership played an important role in liaising directly with both State and Commonwealth Ministers in the roll-out of the National Health Reform agenda in the region.

Over the past year, activities focused on the following key issues:

› Supporting the establishment of a joint advisory committee for the TS&NPA Region Hospital and Health Services and the Medicare Local (Far North Queensland).

› Supporting regular representation of the Health Issues Committee (HIC) Chair at Partnership meetings to provide direct updates on HIC activities.

Project Name: Health / Healthy Lifestyles Initiatives

Project purpose

To provide funding contributions towards health education initiatives including:

› *physical education*

› *nutrition*

› *obesity*

› *diabetes*

› *substance abuse.*

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The TSRA provides grant funding for a range of healthy communities initiatives, including the Lift for Life Program delivered by the Torres Shire Council, and Healthy Ilan Homes and Live Long Live Strong delivered by the Kaziw Asesered Le Association.

Funding was granted to the Kaziw Asesered Le Association to create a second healthy lifestyle booklet as part of the Healthy Ilan Homes program. The booklet will be called 'Healthy Kai Kai (food) for Kids'.

The Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council received funding for the Northern Peninsula Area Show, which supports and promotes a range of traditional healthy lifestyle activities such as dancing and traditional games, and provided funding for a Farm Supervisor based at Bamaga.

Healthy Communities Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Health / Healthy Lifestyles Initiatives / Sport and Recreation Programs

Project purpose

To provide funding contributions towards the operation of the Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association (TSYRSA) and other funded organisations to contribute to the Healthy Communities Program objectives.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The TSRA provides funding to the TSYRSA.

This year, the TSYRSA supported 33 sporting events, of which two were major sporting carnivals.

Twenty-one Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal individuals were helped to participate in various sporting events at state and national championships.

Project Name: Major Infrastructure Program (MIP)
Note: This project is the featured case study in the Healthy Communities Program

Project purpose

To improve the health and general wellbeing of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region, through the delivery of essential environmental health infrastructure including clean water supplies, reticulated sewerage systems, and serviced subdivisions. This project is achieved through a partnership between the TSRA and the Queensland Department of Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience (DLGCRR), and through the TSRA's administration of the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP). The three regional Local Government Councils, Torres Shire Council (TSC) Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC), are the beneficiaries of environmental health infrastructure works constructed under the MIP.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

Stage 4 of the MIP has delivered the following projects:

› Bamaga Residential Subdivision

› Wasaga Roads and Drainage Stage 1

› Badu Island Sewerage Extensions

› Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) Asset Sustainability Group A (Dauan Island Water Supply Upgrade and Ugar Island Water Supply Upgrade)

› TSIRC Asset Sustainability Group C (Hammond, Mabuiag and Saibai Water Supply Upgrade and Saibai Island Sewerage Upgrade)

› Erub Roads and Drainage (Stage 2)

› Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council Asset Sustainability Project (comprising sewerage reticulation, roads and storm water upgrades)

› Saibai Waste Management Facility Access Road (Stage 2)

› Thursday Island Sewer Pump Station Controls

› Thursday Island Kerb and Channel Construction

› Regional Waste Management Feasibility Study

› Regional Tidal Gauges.

Healthy Communities Program Projects and Achievements

Achievements for 2012 - 2013 continued

The following MIP Stage 4 Projects are under construction:

› Poruma Reticulated Sewerage Treatment Plant

› TSIRC Asset Sustainability Group B (water supply and desalination upgrades at Mer, Masig and Poruma, Iama, Boigu and Warraber).

Planning and consultation for MIP Stage 5 has commenced.

As part of the planning process for the rollout of MIP Stage 5, the TSRA led a regional infrastructure needs planning and prioritisation process. Undertaken in conjunction with the DLGCRR, TSC, TSIRC and NPARC, this process resulted in a comprehensive list of regional environmental health infrastructure priorities which will guide the delivery of MIP works until 2015–16.

Project Name: Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program (HEMTP)

Project purpose

The Heavy Equipment Management & Training Program (HEMTP) is jointly funded by TSRA, the Queensland Department Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) and the Queensland Department of Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience (DLGCRR). The primary aim of HEMPT is to provide construction industry skills development and training for local Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal residents via routine maintenance works on environmental health infrastructure, and a plant pool of heavy equipment and machinery for the delivery of minor capital works.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The HEMTP funding provides essential support to projects delivered under both the MIP and the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme, providing accredited training and employment to local Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal workers whilst simultaneously reducing project costs.

The HEMTP completed the Erub Roads and Drainage Project in 2012 - 2013.

A Memorandum of Understanding signed between the TSRA and Queensland DTMR outlines the schedule of works to be delivered by the Torres Strait Island Regional Council in 2013.

The HEMTP will continue throughout the 2013 calendar year, during which time TSRA will work with DTMR and DLGCRR to establish a revised construction skills training and development program in 2014.

Healthy Communities Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Torres Strait Island Regional Council Engineering Services (TSIRC-ES): Water Services Operations and Maintenance Program

Project purpose

To achieve improved health, economic and social outcomes for communities through the provision of funding assistance to the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) for the operation and maintenance of water supply and sewerage services; and to strengthen community and local government capacity to operate and maintain water supply and sewerage services.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The TSRA provided funding through its grants program for the maintenance of essential water services to outer island communities throughout 2012 - 2013. The water standards achieved meet legislated requirements and an approved Drinking Water Quality Management Plan is in place. Reports on drinking water quality are provided to both the regulator and the TSRA.

The service was delivered in 2012 - 2013 by the TSIRC. The program is monitored through the detailed status and financial reporting required by the TSIRC and provided to the TSRA and Queensland Department of Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience.

Project Name: Horn Island Affordable Housing Project (HIAHP)

Project purpose

This joint TSRA and Torres Shire Council (TSC) project seeks to:

› provide safe, healthy, adequate, appropriate and affordable housing at Horn Island to local Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal families residing in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area region.

› provide an opportunity for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal employment and training in the development of land and housing construction.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

In 2011 a Funding Deed was agreed between TSRA and the TSC for the planning, design and construction of a serviced 30-lot subdivision for the Horn Island Affordable Housing Project (HIAHP). The TSRA and the TSC then made a formal agreement for the governance and operation of the Project.

The TSRA has allocated $3.4 million to HIAHP, which is being used in accordance with agreed activity milestones outlined in the Funding Deed.

The TSC has commenced the detailed Master Planning and Housing Design, Housing Eligibility and Governance Policy Framework and employed a dedicated HIAHP project officer to progress the project.

Construction work on the housing subdivision is scheduled to commence in late 2013.

Barramundi fishing, Saibai Island.

Key Performance Indicators – Portfolio Budget Statements

Infrastructure Projects

Number of environmental health infrastructure projects completed

Seven projects were completed under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS). Fifteen projects were completed through the Major Infrastructure Program. The Erub Roads and Drainage Project was completed under the Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program (HEMTP). These projects were possible through whole-of-government partnerships and joint funding arrangements.

Short-term benefit description		
Communities have essential health related infrastructure, including adequate water supply and safe and environmentally acceptable waste disposal.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
90 per cent of environmental health infrastructure projects completed per annum as per the Major Infrastructure Project (MIP) Implementation Plan.	90 per cent of MIP Stage 4B projects have been completed. On track to meet 2013 targets for the delivery of Major Infrastructure Program, Heavy Equipment Management Training Program and Torres Strait Island Regional Council Essential Services Water Services targets.	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 2 – Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.

Number of people participating in organised healthy activities

Approximately 2,390 individuals participated in healthy initiatives that were funded by the TSRA. Approximately 2,000 people participated in organised sporting activities delivered through the Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association. Nine communities participated in food garden projects. Programs have been tailored for all ages, including the Old People Action Program, the Live Long Live Strong Program, Lift for Life and the Healthy Ilan Homes Program. These initiatives and activities are funded by the TSRA and delivered by Torres Shire Council, Mura Kosker Sorority, Kaziw Asesered Le Association and the Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association.

Short Term Benefit Description		
Increased participation of people in healthy activities.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
A five per cent increase per annum in the number of people participating, realised progressively from July 2010 to 2013.	TSRA reached its target of increasing the rate of participation by five per cent from the previous year's rate. Individual participation increased by approximately 35 per cent in the 2012 - 2013 Financial Year, using benchmarks reported the 2011 - 2012 TSRA Annual Report. This target has been achieved through grant funded activities, including Live Long Live Strong, Lift for Life, Healthy Community Gardens and Sports activities through the Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association.	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 2 – Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.

The benefit achievements above are fully aligned to the Torres Strait Development Plan benefit targets.

Additional Key Performance Indicators – Torres Strait Development Plan

Future Development

Increase in Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal home ownership and affordable housing

The TSRA is supporting the development of the Horn Island Affordable Housing Project (HIAHP) in partnership with the Torres Shire Council. Torres Shire Council has commenced the detailed Master Planning and Housing Design, Housing Eligibility and Governance Policy Framework and employed a dedicated HIAHP project officer to progress the project. Construction work on the housing subdivision is scheduled to commence in 2013 - 2014.

Short-term benefit description		
Certainty for future development.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
Land made available for housing development through Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) from July 2010.	All ILUAs are managed by the Native Title Office, which is being supported in its efforts to negotiate a regional infrastructure ILUA which will underpin the roll out of Social Housing and Infrastructure initiatives. The Torres Shire Council has secured title to the land for the Horn Island Affordable Housing Project, which will make 30 lots available to eligible local Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal home loan applicants.	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 2 – Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.

Major Infrastructure Program works, Poruma.

Case Study:
Major Infrastructure Program Stage 4 (MIP4) – Torres Strait Island Regional Council – Poruma Reticulated Sewage Treatment Plant

Project Description

The Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) Poruma Sewage Treatment Plant project involves the construction of a fully reticulated sewerage system for the Poruma Community. The total project construction cost is $16.0 million as part of the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) Stage 4B. Prior to this MIP initiative the Poruma Community was serviced by septic tank systems.

At final completion the ongoing operations and maintenance of the infrastructure will be provided by the TSIRC. For this to be achieved a number of Council and Community members will receive extensive operator training during construction, allowing them to obtain the relevant qualifications required to operate this plant.

Aim

The aim of this project is to design; document; and construct a fully reticulated sewerage system for the Poruma Community. A reticulated sewerage scheme will make a significant contribution to the improvement of the environmental health of the Community.

Achievements

On 4 October 2011 an Indigenous Land Use Agreement was signed by the Poruma Prescribed Body Corporate and the TSIRC signifying both Community and Council consent for the project to proceed. A contract was issued to LDI Constructions in September 2012, with project scheduled for completion in October 2013.

Construction of these projects requires that the contractor employ local Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people under the Indigenous Employment and Training Policy. To date a total of 14 Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people have been employed as part of this project, providing 3,563 hours of employment.

Rangers patrolling seagrass flats.

Safe Communities

Jetty maintenance and replacement.

Regional Goal

Communities

› Safe, healthy, respectful and progressive communities, based on Ailan Kastom and Aboriginal traditions.

Social Services

› Strong families and safe and healthy communities that are guided by cultural and traditional lore.

Program Goal

The Program Goal is identical to the Regional Goal.

Program Objectives

This program component will contribute to the safety of communities by:

› contributing to the development of standards for the provision of all mainstream social services and facilities, including emergency response services, and through engagement with responsible agencies

› undertaking a policy advocacy, monitoring and supporting role with respect to mainstream services, advocating and acting as a solution broker on behalf of communities and the region, using integrated service delivery forums

› providing direct funding and resource support for some social support services, and infrastructure, facilities and equipment that contribute to improved safety and accessibility for communities and families (the TSRA does not provide mainstream social or community services).

Program Deliverables

Social services initiatives

› Developing a service map of social support services in the Torres Strait

› Funding contributions made to social service providers supporting Torres Strait Communities

› Contributing to the development of standards for the provision of services and facilities for safe communities through engagement with responsible agencies

Safe and accessible community initiatives
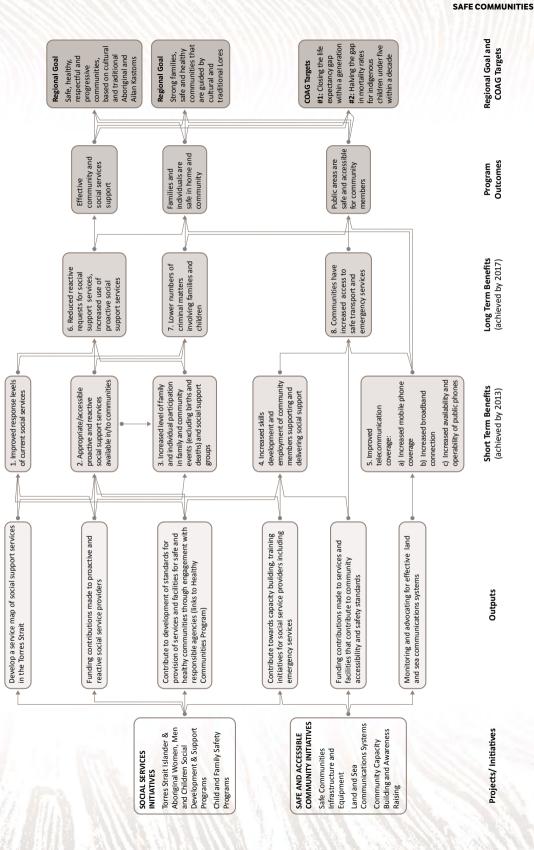
› Contributing towards capacity-building and training initiatives for social service providers, including emergency services

› Funding contributions to services and facilities that contribute to community accessibility and safety standards

› Monitoring and advocating for effective land and sea communications systems

Program Expenditure 2012 - 2013

Table 2-12 Safe Communities Program Expenditure 2012 - 2013		
Budget $'000's	**Actual $'000's**	**Variance $'000's**
4,317	4,277	-40

Torres Strait Development Plan Program Outcomes

› Effective community and social service support

› Families and individuals are safe in home and community

› Public areas are safe and accessible for community members

Regional Goal and COAG Targets

Regional Goal: Safe, healthy, respectful and progressive communities, based on cultural and traditional Aboriginal and Ailan Kastoms

Regional Goal: Strong families, safe and healthy communities that are guided by cultural and traditional Lores

COAG Targets: #1: Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation #2: Halving the gap in mortality rates for indigenous children under five within a decade

Program Outcomes

- Effective community and social services support
- Families and individuals are safe in home and community
- Public areas are safe and accessible for community members

Long Term Benefits (achieved by 2017)

6. Reduced reactive requests for social support services, increased use of proactive social support services

7. Lower numbers of criminal matters involving families and children

8. Communities have increased access to safe transport and emergency services

Short Term Benefits (achieved by 2013)

1. Improved response levels of current social services

2. Appropriate/accessible proactive and reactive social support services available in/to communities

3. Increased level of family and individual participation in family and community events (excluding births and deaths) and social support groups

4. Increased skills development and employment of community members supporting and delivering social support

5. Improved telecommunication coverage:
a) Increased mobile phone coverage
b) Increased broadband connection
c) Increased availability and operability of public phones

Outputs

- Develop a service map of social support services in the Torres Strait
- Funding contributions made to proactive and reactive social service providers
- Contribute to development of standards for provision of services and facilities for safe and healthy communities through engagement with responsible agencies (links to Healthy Communities Program)
- Contribute towards capacity building, training initiatives for social service providers including emergency services
- Funding contributions made to services and facilities that contribute to community accessibility and safety standards
- Monitoring and advocating for effective land and sea communications systems

Projects/ Initiatives

SOCIAL SERVICES INITIATIVES
Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal Women, Men and Children Social Development & Support Programs
Child and Family Safety Programs

SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
Safe Communities Infrastructure and Equipment
Land and Sea Communications Systems
Community Capacity Building and Awareness Raising

Safe Communities Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Support for the Provision of Mainstream Social Services and Facilities

Project purpose

Develop a service map of social support services in the Torres Strait.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The service mapping has been completed by the Integrated Service Delivery Project, under the Governance and Leadership Program.

The Mura Kosker Sorority has been funded by the TSRA to complete a Regional Community Safety Referral Plan. The implementation of the plan is scheduled for completion in 2013 - 2014.

Project purpose

Fund organisations and monitor their performance against outcomes that contribute to ensuring safe, healthy, respectful and progressive communities based on Ailan Kastom and Aboriginal traditions.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The TSRA supported a number of local non-government organisations such as Port Kennedy Association Incorporated and Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated to successfully deliver social support services to Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people in the region.

Port Kennedy Association Incorporated provides a number of programs for the community. These programs include: Vacation Care Services; the Mura Kaimel Playgroup; an After-school Child Care Program; Flexible Respite Care and Day Service Program; a Disability Support Service; a Family Support Program; a Recognised Entity Service under the Child Protection Act 1999 (Cth); and the development and coordination of community events.

Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated delivers a range of social service programs including: the Indigenous Domestic and Family Violence Counselling Service; Child and Family Support Services; the Emergency Relief Program; the Old People's Action Program; the Torres Strait Healthy Ageing Program (Warraber, Moa, Dauan and Masig); and Broadband for Seniors.

The TSRA provides funding support and works closely with the Attorney-General's Department in order to provide legal aid for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal residents in the Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area region via the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service.

Safe Communities Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Safe and Accessible Community Initiatives / Safe Communities Infrastructure and Equipment / Airstrips and Marine Transport Infrastructure

Project purpose

Contribute towards improved safety of the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people of the region through a contribution to the Transport Infrastructure Development (TIDS) Scheme. TIDS is a Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads program which provides for the upgrade of community airstrips, roads and marine infrastructure in the region.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

Marine infrastructure projects have been completed as follows:

› New berthing dolphins were installed at Boigu and a test pile at Saibai Island.
› New navigational aids have been placed at all islands with new dolphins, including Stephens Island, Moa, Badu, Boigu and Mabuiag.
› A new jetty has been erected on Ugar Island.
› Airport lighting has been installed at Iama, Erub, Badu, Poruma, Boigu, Moa, Mabuiag, Warraber, Masig and Saibai. Lighting at the Mer Islands is under construction.
› Seisia Jetty repairs have commenced, including the replacement of the fender system and the removal of an old dolphin to enable the new passengers access to the jetty.
› The Badu airstrip drainage project has commenced

In May 2013 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) and the TSRA, finalising the schedule of works to be completed under TIDS during the 2013 calendar year.

The following projects commenced in 2012 - 2013:

› improving drainage and sealing roads between Kubin and St Pauls on Moa Island
› improving drainage and sealing roads on Hammond Island
› repairing barge ramps at Badu, Erub, Kubin and Masig.

Project purpose

Contribute towards capacity-building and training initiatives for social service providers, including emergency services.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

TSRA supported 29 people who have either completed or are in the process of completing training initiatives for social services. Training courses included Certificate III in Children's Services, Certificate III in Aged Care, Certificate III in Disability, Advanced Diploma of Community Management and Certificate III in Business Administration and Case Management.

Safe Communities Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Safe and Accessible Community Initiatives / Safe Communities Infrastructure and Equipment / Airstrips and Marine Transport Infrastructure continued

Project purpose

Monitor and advocate for effective land and sea communications systems.

Achievements for 2012 - 2013

The TSRA advocates for effective land and sea communications systems. Through funding support to the Torres Strait Marine Safety Program, the TSRA has supported a number of initiatives including:

› provision of funding to the Land and Sea Support Group Project for a Charter Vessel (through Community Enterprises Australia)

› delivery of Traditional Inhabitant Boat coxswain's Certificate of Competency courses on Mer, Erub, Masig, Iama, Kubin/St Pauls and Badu, with training provided to 129 Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal residents

› provision of Safety Grab Bags for distribution to communities

› continuation of activities to promote the EPIRB exchange scheme.

The TSRA works closely with telecommunications providers to ensure that internet and other communications infrastructure is comparable to that of mainland communities.

Key Performance Indicators – Portfolio Budget Statements

Measured change in the number of social support services active in the Torres Strait

The TSRA provides funding to support the delivery of a range of social support services in the Torres Strait, including Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated, Port Kennedy Association Incorporated, Kaziw Asesered Le Association, the Torres Strait Islanders' Regional Education Council and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service. These organisations deliver programs including after-school care, child care, aged and disability care, domestic violence projects, child and family support and legal aid services.

Short-term benefit description

Appropriate and accessible proactive and reactive social services available for communities.

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
Service map showing all social support services and identifying service delivery gaps in the Torres Strait presented to Integrated Service Delivery Steering Committee.	Community Booklets detailing the services provided by government and the baseline progress against each of the COAG Building Blocks for each community in the region were published and distributed to all communities in the region. This work is part of the Integrated Service Delivery Initiative delivered through a partnership between the TSRA, local government and the Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs.	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 2 – Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.

Short-term benefit description		
Increased level of family and individual participation in family and community events and social support groups.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
Five per cent improvement in participation and two additional events supported, commencing in July 2010, to a maximum of six additional events by 2013.	A wide range of community events were supported through TSRA grant funding, including: › Mura Kosker Sorority's quarterly Twilight Markets, International Women's Day events, Family Fun Day and Movie Night in support of the National Families Week; Child Protection Week activities; and Mabo Day events › Port Kennedy Association's monthly mini markets; special Migi mini market; Biggest Morning Tea; Christmas events including Carols by Candlelight; and an event to celebrate National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day.	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 2 – Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.

Short-term benefit description		
Increased skills development and employment of community members supporting and delivering social support.		
Benefit target	**Progress**	**COAG target**
Two community members provided with skills development training. Two community members provided with employment in the social services area, realised annually from 2010 to 2013.	TSRA has exceeded targets for 2012 - 2013, as outlined in the Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013. The TSRA supported 29 individuals to undertake skills development training in the social services sector. Of the 29 individuals: › two are completing a Certificate III in Children's Services › five are completing a Certificate III in Aged Care and Certificate III in Disability › one is completing an Advanced Diploma in Community Management › one is completing a Certificate III in Business Administration › one participated in a Men's Mental Health & Wellbeing Seminar › five participated in the Remote Area Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care Forum › 12 participated in a Strategic Planning Workshop › three completed Case Management training. Training / courses reported are for current staff undertaking on-the-job training.	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 2 – Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.

Short-term benefit description

Improved telecommunications coverage:

a) increased mobile phone coverage

b) increased broadband connection

c) increased availability and operability of public phones.

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
Five per cent increase / improvement in coverage realised by 2013.	The TSRA will continue to negotiate with telecommunications providers for improved broadband and mobile phone coverage across the region. Thursday Island residents have access to broadband internet services over fixed line (ADSL), wireless (Next G) and satellite services. Broadband and mobile telephone services for the outer islands are limited by the capacity of the Next G and satellite links. The National Broadband Network will not include the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. The TSRA has engaged with regional telecommunications providers in order to assess the feasibility of expanding telecommunications coverage in the region and develop options to do so.	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 2 – Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.

The benefit achievements above are fully aligned to the Torres Strait Development Plan benefit targets.

Case Study:
Social Services Community Organisations Supported by the TSRA

The TSRA provides operational funding support to social services community organisations Mura Kosker Sorority and Port Kennedy Association to assist them with the delivery of social services to the Torres Strait region.
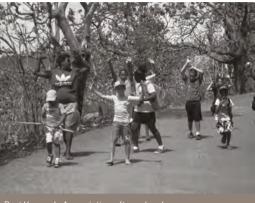
Mura Kosker Sorority

Aim

Mura Kosker Sorority deliver a range of social service programs and activities, including a domestic violence counselling service, a child and family support program and a program for the elderly. Their mission is to be a model for others to follow and to support strong, loving families reaching out to support each other.

Achievements

› Provision of the Indigenous Domestic and Family Violence Counselling Service

› Child and Family Support Program

› Emergency Relief Funding support for inner Island communities

› An Old People's Action Program for seniors aged 50 years and older living in inner island communities

› Participation in the Thursday Island Court Support Reference Group working in collaboration to deliver culturally appropriate court support through a domestic violence service

› Support for the Torres Strait International Women's Day Award Night dinner celebration to acknowledge the achievements and contributions of Women living in the Torres Strait region.

Port Kennedy Association after school care program.

Port Kennedy Association

Aim

Port Kennedy Association is a non-profit organisation which was established in 1987 to represent the views of the very diverse and multicultural community of the Port Kennedy area.

Achievements

› Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Support Services (child safety support, case management, support for families)

› Provision of After School Care and Vacation Care (school holiday program)

› Playgroup (for toddlers)

› Support for the Flexi Respite Disability Service, which helps people with disabilities and their carers or guardians to access literacy, numeracy and lifestyle skills and to be independent

› Migi Market stalls (supporting economic development, anti-smoking campaigns and cultural dancing for children).

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Where We Operate

Geography and Logistics

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

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

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

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

Culture

The picturesque Torres Strait region is predominantly inhabited by native Torres Strait Islanders and Kaurareg Aboriginal people. The 2011 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census estimated that the total population of the region is 8,752, of whom 6,901 are Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal people.

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

History

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

Native Title

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

Native title has been granted for 13 inhabited islands in the Torres Strait region and most of the uninhabited islands. In addition, the Kaurareg Aboriginal people have achieved recognition of their native title rights over seven inner islands: Ngarupai (Horn Island), Muralag (Prince of Wales Island), Zuna (Entrance Island), Yeta (Port Lihou Island), Mipa (Turtle Island), Tarilag (Packe Island) and Damaralag. Native title claims are being pursued over the remaining three land claims.

The TSRA delivers services across the entire Torres Strait region which includes 17 inhabited islands and two communities in the Northern Peninsula Area of mainland Australia.

The Regional Sea Claim determination was made on 23 August 2010 and is subject to appeal. The Australian Government and Queensland Government appealed the judgement of Justice Finn, and the full bench of the Federal Court of Australia heard the appeal matter in May 2011. A Special Leave Application was made on 8 June 2012 in the High Court of Australia to appeal from the decision of the Full Federal Court. If Special Leave is given then an appeal proper will be made to be heard by the High Court. It is anticipated that a decision by the High Court on the Special Leave Application will be made in August 2013.

Progress towards Closing the Gap

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

A national integrated Closing the Gap strategy has been agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), the peak intergovernmental forum in Australia. COAG brings together the Prime Minister, State Premiers, Territory Chief Ministers and the President of the Australian Local Government Association.

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

Targets

In 2008, COAG set specific and ambitious targets for Closing the Gap; these targets continue to remain a priority for the Australian Government:

› to close the life expectancy gap within a generation

› to halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade

› to ensure access to early childhood education for all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities within five years

› to halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for children within a decade

› to halve the gap for Indigenous students in Year 12 (or equivalent) attainment rates by 2020

› to halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

In 2012 - 2013, the TSRA continued to work towards the six COAG targets through the organisation's planned outcome statement:

> Progress towards Closing the Gap for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region through development planning, coordination, sustainable resource management, and preservation and promotion of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal culture.

Each of the TSRA programs is required to report against the COAG targets. Detailed reporting is contained in Section 2 of this Annual Report.

COAG Building Blocks

The TSRA's Program structure is based on the six COAG Building Blocks for Closing the Gap in disadvantage between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The Building Blocks are also used as the framework for the TSRA's Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) project.
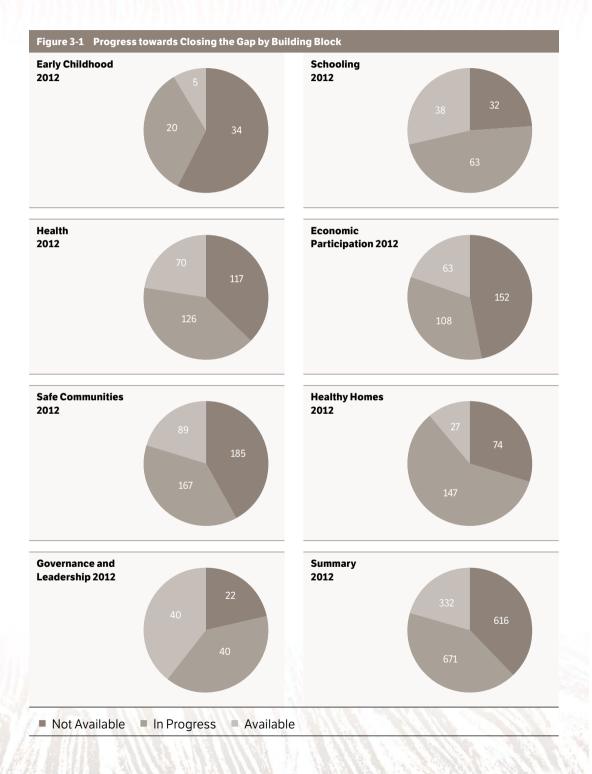
In 2008 - 2009, The TSRA completed community consultations as part of the development of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029. The first phase of the Regional Plan has been delivered through the Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013 and the second phase is under

development and will be published as the Torres Strait Development Plan 2014 - 2018 in June 2014. The ISD Project identified 1,619 gaps in service delivery across 20 Communities. Progress is measured every second year. The status as at 30 June 2012 measured using each of the Building Blocks is shown in Table 3-1 and Figure 3-1 below. Detail of the services by community is contained in the Torres Strait Regional Plan Community Booklets 2012, which have been prepared for each community and published through the TSRA's Information Publishing Scheme. The Booklets can be accessed on the TSRA website www.tsra.gov.au. The Booklets will be updated in 2014.

Table 3-1 Summary of Community Service Issues by Building Block						
Community Service Issues	**2008**			**2012**		
Early Childhood	59	0	0	34	20	5
Schooling	133	0	0	32	63	38
Health	313	0	0	117	126	70
Economic Participation	323	0	0	152	108	63
Healthy Homes	248	0	0	74	147	27
Safe Communities	441	0	0	185	167	89
Governance and Leadership	102	0	0	22	40	40
Community Total	**1619**	**0**	**0**	**616**	**671**	**332**

Key:

Dark brown	Not yet programmed / Not feasible / Not a government provided service
Medium brown	Funding has been secured / Planning is in Progress / Construction is Underway
Light brown	Service or infrastructure has been completed / is available / has been established.

Figure 3-1   Progress towards Closing the Gap by Building Block

**Early Childhood
2012**

5
20
34

**Schooling
2012**

38
32
63

**Health
2012**

70
117
126

**Economic
Participation 2012**

63
152
108

**Safe Communities
2012**

89
185
167

**Healthy Homes
2012**

27
74
147

**Governance and
Leadership 2012**

22
40
40

**Summary
2012**

332
616
671

■ Not Available   ■ In Progress   ■ Available

Regional Statistics

The latest data available at the time of writing this report was from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This data, collected in 2011, has been used to benchmark the progress of the TSRA's Programs against Closing the Gap targets. The data used throughout this section is taken from the ABS website (Census QuickStats) and was current at 30 July 2013.

Population

The 2011 Census of Population and Housing showed that the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal population in the region:

› decreased from 7,105 in 2006 to 6,901 in 2011

› represents 78.8 per cent of the total population of the region (8,752)

› represents 1.3 per cent of the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal population of Australia (548,369)

› represents 4.4 per cent of the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal population of Queensland (155,825)

› is 49.7 per cent male and 50.3 per cent female

› has a median age of 22 years.

Employment

Census data is collected for three regions in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. The census data only differentiates between non-Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal employment for the Torres Strait. The figures for Bamaga and Seisia in the Northern Peninsula Area include both the non-Indigenous and the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal work force.

Table 3-2 Employment Statistics Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area, 2011						
Category	**Torres Strait**		**Northern Peninsula Area**		**Total**	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Worked Full Time	1,039	45.7	676	64.4	1,715	51.6
Worked Part Time	837	36.8	258	24.6	1,095	32.9
Away From Work	226	9.9	48	4.6	274	8.2
Unemployed	173	7.6	68	6.5	241	7.2
Total Labour Force	**2,275**		**1,050**		**3,325**	

The Northern Peninsula Area encompasses the townships of Bamaga and Seisia and the Aboriginal Communities of New Mapoon, Umagico and Injinoo.

Unemployment in the region is 1.6 per cent higher than the Australian figure of 5.6 per cent; however, the number of people in in full-time employment is 8.1 per cent less than the Australian figure of 59.7 per cent.

A synthesis of ABS data from the 2011 Census and Queensland Health information shows that death rates continue to be higher in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area than in mainland Australia

Education

The 2011 Census showed that 2,583 people were undertaking some form of education. Of these:

› 151 were in pre-school

› 1,213 were in primary school

› 500 were in secondary school

› 139 were at technical colleges or TAFE

› 52 were at university

› 528 were undertaking other or non-stated courses.

Income

In 2011, household incomes of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people were significantly lower than the reported Australian average.

The reported median weekly household income for the region was $987, compared with the Queensland average of $1,453 and the Australian average of $1,481.

The median weekly individual income for an individual living in the Torres Strait region was $387, compared to the Queensland average of $587 and the Australian average of $577.

Housing

The 2011 Census reported that there were 1,737 private dwellings in the region with Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal residents. Of these:

› 5.5 per cent of these were fully owned

› 2.1 per cent were owned with a mortgage

› 86.2 per cent were rented

› 6.2 per cent had other or non-stated tenancy arrangements.

Health

A synthesis of ABS data from the 2011 Census and Queensland Health information shows that death rates continue to be higher in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area than in mainland Australia, with cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, mental illness and substance use, accident and injury, neoplasms (cancer) – particularly lung cancer – and chronic respiratory disease being responsible for over 64 per cent of the burden of disease in the region.

The TSRA shares the concerns of Torres Strait Communities regarding confirmed cases of drug resistant tuberculosis on Saibai Island and the death in 2013 of a Saibai woman from this disease. The TSRA has raised cross-border health issues as critical issues for the region and encourages an appropriate whole-of-government response.

How the TSRA Operates

Formation

The TSRA is a Commonwealth Statutory Authority which was established on 1 July 1994 under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989* (Cth), and now the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). The TSRA is the leading Commonwealth representative body for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait, including two communities (Bamaga and Seisia) in the Northern Area Peninsula.

The TSRA comprises 20 elected representatives (the Board) and Australian Public Service administrative staff. The elected representatives are Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people who live and work in the region. The TSRA Board elects a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and an Alternate Deputy Chairperson. A Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the TSRA's administration and staffing.

The TSRA performs separate functions under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) as the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) for the Torres Strait Region. In 2013 the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs renewed the TSRA's NTRB status for a further two years. The TSRA holds this NTRB responsibility until 30 June 2015.

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

The Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013 is the fourth development plan since the establishment of the TSRA. The plan outlines seven TSRA program components: Culture, Art and Heritage; Economic Development; Environmental Management; Governance and Leadership; Healthy Communities; Native Title; and Safe Communities. In recognition of the importance of fisheries to economic development

in the region, the TSRA separated responsibility for fisheries management from the Environmental Management Program and established a standalone Fisheries Program. This change will be reflected in the fifth Torres Strait Development Plan, which is currently being prepared and which will be released in June 2014. For consistency of reporting against the Portfolio Budget Statements and the current Torres Strait Development Plan, the outcomes from the Fisheries Program have been reported under the Environmental Management Program.

Enabling Legislation

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

(1) A Torres Strait Regional Authority is established.

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

Functions

The functions of the TSRA, as outlined in Section 142A of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act* 2005 (Cth), are:

   (a) to recognise and maintain the special and unique Ailan Kastom of Torres Strait Islanders living in the Torres Strait area;
   (b) to formulate and implement programs for Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
   (c) to monitor the effectiveness of programs for Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area, including programs conducted by other bodies;

(d) to develop policy proposals to meet national, State and regional needs and priorities of Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;

(e) to assist, advise and co-operate with Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal communities, organisations and individuals at national, State, Territory and regional levels;

(f) to advise the Minister on:

　(i) matters relating to Torres Strait Islander affairs, and Aboriginal affairs, in the Torres Strait area, including the administration of legislation;

　(ii) the co-ordination of the activities of other Commonwealth bodies that affect Torres Strait Islanders, or Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;

(g) when requested by the Minister, to provide information or advice to the Minister on any matter specified by the Minister;

(h) to take such reasonable action as it considers necessary to protect Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal cultural material and information relating to the Torres Strait area if the material or information is considered sacred or otherwise significant by Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal persons;

(i) at the request of, or with the agreement of, the Australian Bureau of Statistics but not otherwise, to collect and publish statistical information relating to Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;

(j) such other functions as are conferred on the TSRA by this Act or any other Act;

(k) such other functions as are expressly conferred on the TSRA by a law of a State or of an internal Territory and in respect of which there is in force written approval by the Minister under Section 142B;

(l) to undertake such research as is necessary to enable the TSRA to perform any of its other functions; and

(m) to do anything else that is incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the preceding functions.

Powers

The powers of the TSRA are outlined in Section 142C of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), which states:

(1) The TSRA has power to do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of its functions.

(2) The powers of the TSRA include, but are not limited to, the following powers:

　(a) to accept gifts, grants, bequests and devises made to it;

　(b) to act as trustee of money and other property vested in it on trust;

　(c) to negotiate and co-operate with other Commonwealth bodies and with State, Territory and local government bodies;

　(d) to enter into an agreement for making a grant or loan under Section 142GA to the State of Queensland or an authority of that State (including a local government body);

　(e) to enter into an agreement (other than an agreement referred to in paragraph (d) with a State or a Territory.

(3) Despite anything in this Act, any money or other property held by the TSRA on trust must be dealt with in accordance with the powers and duties of the TSRA as trustee.

(4) The powers of the TSRA may be exercised in or out of Australia.

TSRA Landcare Coordinator, George Saveka.

Responsible Minister

During the 2012 - 2013 reporting year the TSRA was an Agency within the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs portfolio. The responsible Minister for the TSRA was the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP.

Ministerial Directions

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

(1) The TSRA must perform its functions and exercise its powers in accordance with any general written directions given to it by the Minister.

(2) The Minister must not give directions about the content of any advice, information or recommendation that may be given by the TSRA to a Minister, Department of State or authority of the Commonwealth.

(3) The Minister must not give directions about the content of any advice, information or recommendation that may be given by the TSRA to:

(a) a Minister of a State or Territory; or

(b) a Department of a State or Territory; or

(c) an authority of a State or Territory; except for the purpose of protecting the confidentiality of information given to the TSRA by the Commonwealth or an authority of the Commonwealth.

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

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

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

Statement of Expectations and Statement of Intent

In 2011, the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, provided a Statement of Expectations to the TSRA concerning the operation and performance of the TSRA for the period to June 2012. In response, the TSRA provided a Statement of Intent to the Minister.

The Statement identifies the TSRA's focus, outcomes and priorities:

> The TSRA's primary focus is to improve the lifestyle and wellbeing of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region by implementing programs that address their socio-economic and health status.

> As an Australian Government agency, the TSRA will respond to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) reform agenda by making a contribution to achieving Closing the Gap targets, and in particular through the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy and the National Partnership Agreements.

The TSRA will formulate and implement programs in regards to the principles detailed in the COAG National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery and will continue to: maximise employment, education and training benefits to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal communities, assist and maintain close liaison with national, state, territory and regional agencies, brief the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs on important issues and implement the Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013 and other planning instruments as necessary.

The TSRA will consider and act on opportunities that will increase the level of female representation on its Board.

In 2013, the Deputy Secretary of FaHCSIA forwarded a draft Statement of Expectations to the TSRA. The TSRA has provided comments on this draft to the Minister and is preparing a Statement of Intent, to be submitted when the final Statement of Expectations is received.

Ministerial Appointments

In 2012 - 2013, three people acted consecutively in the position of Torres Strait Regional Authority Chief Executive Officer.

The appointments were delegated by the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in accordance with section 144L(a) of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth) and made by the Secretary, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to. The appointees were:

› Damian Miley, from 17 December 2012 to 6 January 2013

› John Ramsay, from 7 January 2013 to 11 January 2013

› Christopher de Mamiel, from 16 May 2013 to 26 May 2013.

Briefings and Information

Throughout the reporting period the TSRA provided ministerial minutes and briefings to the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Judicial Decisions and Reviews
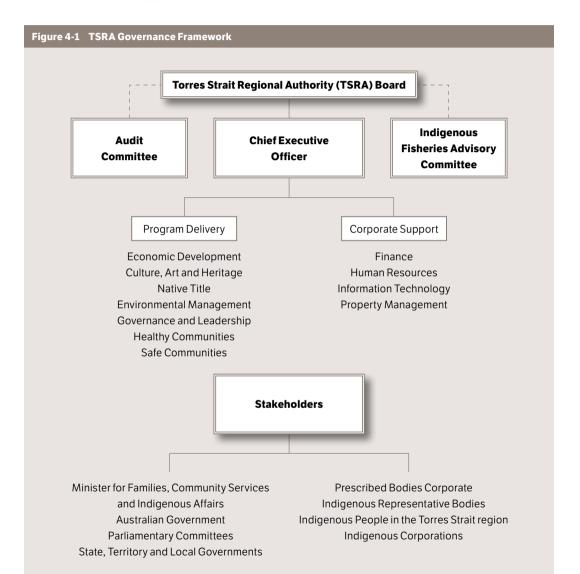
In 2012 - 2013, one judicial decision relating to the Torres Strait Sea Claim was made in the Full Federal Court and one judicial decision was made regarding the Naghir Native Title Claim. No decisions of administrative tribunals, Parliamentary Committees, the Commonwealth Ombudsman or the Australian Information Commissioner impacted on the TSRA's operations.

Section 4:

Corporate governance and accountability

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Overview of Governance Structure

Figure 4-1   TSRA Governance Framework

Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Board

Audit Committee

Chief Executive Officer

Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee

Program Delivery

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

Corporate Support

Finance
Human Resources
Information Technology
Property Management

Stakeholders

Minister for Families, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs
Australian Government
Parliamentary Committees
State, Territory and Local Governments

Prescribed Bodies Corporate
Indigenous Representative Bodies
Indigenous People in the Torres Strait region
Indigenous Corporations

Governance Framework

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

TSRA Board

The TSRA Board is an elected, representative body, which participates in scheduled quarterly meetings and issue-specific out-of-session meetings. The primary functions of the Board are to:

› set out the TSRA's vision for the Torres Strait

› oversight the TSRA's strategic objectives and direction

› approve program mandates

› review the TSRA's performance, its objectives and outcomes

› manage strategic risk and regional stakeholder relations.

The Chairperson and executive members of the TSRA are elected by the Members at the first Board meeting following the local government and Division 5 elections. All TSRA Board Members are also Directors under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth) and are classified as Non-Executive Directors.

2008 - 2012 Board

The four-year term of the TSRA Board elected in 2008 ended in September 2012 when new Members were elected and a new was Board formed.

The 2008 - 2012 Board consisted of 20 community representatives. Fifteen Members were elected under the *Local Government Act 1993* (Qld) as Councillors on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council. Two Members, representing the Bamaga and Seisia communities in the Northern Peninsula Area, held office by virtue of their election to the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council. The remaining three Members were elected in accordance with Division 5 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth) for the Wards of Port Kennedy, Ngarupai (Horn Island) and Muralag (Prince of Wales) Island (combined) and the combined Ward of Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine (TRAWQ) on Thursday Island.

2012 - 2013 Appointments

The current TSRA Board consists of 20 Members elected under Division 5 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*. Following a review in 2010 - 2011 of the TSRA Board's Governance arrangements, the method of appointing the TSRA Board was changed. Twenty new TSRA electoral wards were created and the first independent TSRA Board Member elections were held in September 2012. Nineteen members for the communities of Badu, Bamaga, Boigu, Dauan, Erub, Hammond, Ngarupai/Muralag, Iama, Mabuiag, Masig, Mer, Port Kennedy, Poruma, Seisia, Saibai, St Pauls, TRAWQ, Ugar and Warraber were declared elected by the Australian Electoral Commission. One further election was required in the Ward of Kubin as there were no candidates in the general election. Following that election, the Australian Electoral Commission declared a new Member for Kubin in December 2012.

Profiles of TSRA Board Members

Chairperson and Member for Seisia

In October 2012 Mr Joseph Elu was elected for the fifth time to the TSRA Board. Mr Elu's previous terms were 1994-1997, 1997-2000, 2000-2004 and 2004-2008.

Mr Joseph Elu

At the Inaugural Meeting of the new TSRA Board in November 2012, Mr Elu was elected as the TSRA Chairperson and Portfolio Member for Governance and Leadership.

During his career, Mr Elu has been an influential leader in Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Affairs and Indigenous economic development. Mr Elu has been instrumental in assisting Indigenous people throughout Australia develop sustainable economic enterprises. Over the next term, Mr Elu will continue to advocate for, and encourage Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area communities generate, sustainable enterprises to create their own income.

Mr Elu became the Chairperson of Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) (formally known as ATSI Commercial Development Corporation) in 1996 and remained there for 12 years. During his time as the Chairperson of IBA, Mr Elu influenced dynamic changes and grew the organisation, creating economic and employment opportunities for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people nationally.

In 2001, Mr Elu was awarded the Centenary Medal for his achievements and in 2002 Mr Elu was also presented with an Honorary Doctorate from the Queensland University of Technology for his lifelong work in fostering the economic development of Indigenous people throughout Australia.

During 2008, Mr Elu was made an Officer of the Order of Australia and awarded the NAIDOC Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr Elu has been the Chairperson of a number of organisations and committees nationally during his career. He has also held the position of Mayor of the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council and Chairperson of the Cape York Natural Resource Management Board, from which he recently resigned.

Mr Elu is the Chairperson of Seisia Enterprises Pty Ltd and Seisia Community Torres Strait Islander Corporation.

Deputy Chairperson and Member for Mer

In September 2012 Mr Aven Noah was elected to the TSRA Board for the first time. He was elected by the Board as Deputy Chairperson and Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage.

Mr Aven Noah

Mr Noah's passion is greater autonomy for the people of the Torres Strait. He believes traditional land and sea rights are paramount to control over resources, and that the TSRA must work closely with traditional owners as these resources will form the foundation of the region's economic independence as an autonomous state.

Mr Noah also considers that supporting Torres Strait and Aboriginal senior and middle managers in the private and public sectors is essential to reaching the goals of self-management and self-determination.

Mr Noah has extensive experience in media and communications and is interested in the development of the media and communications in the region and the implications for the region of the rollout of the National Broadband Network.

Mr Noah wishes individuals, families and organisations at Mer Island and the other remote island communities of the region to have easier access to TSRA services and opportunities such as small business loans, cultural grant funding and home loans.

In his portfolio, Mr Noah will work towards empowering artists in communities to be more creative and assertive in expressing their unique artistic talents in connection with their traditional cultural heritage. He would also like each community to have a place where artists can come together to express their work. He believes the TSRA needs to support artists to build a long-term future in the art industry.

In describing the perspective he bring to the TSRA Board, Mr Noah cites the late Elder Statesman Mr George Mye MBE OAM who said, 'Torres Strait is not Thursday Island, Torres Strait is out there'.

Alternate Deputy Chairperson and Member for Warraber

In September 2012 Mr Willie Lui was elected for his second term to the TSRA Board. He was elected as the Alternate Deputy Chairperson and Portfolio Member for Environmental Management. Mr Lui previously served on the Board from 2008 to 2011.

Mr Willie Lui

Mr Lui served as the elected Torres Strait Island Regional Councillor for Warraber from 2008 to 2012. Mr Lui has a Certificate IV in Finance and is also a qualified carpenter.

Key areas of concern for Mr Lui are the high cost of living, lack of employment opportunities and native title issues. He aims to work to see those concerns addressed through effective implementation of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029, and the TSRA's Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013.

Member for Badu

In September 2012 Mr Maluwap Nona was elected for a second time to the TSRA Board. He was elected by the Board as the Portfolio Member for Native Title.

In his previous term (2004 - 2007) Mr Nona held the

Mr Maluwap Nona

Portfolio for Language, Culture, Sport and Youth and shared responsibility for the Portfolios of Regional Governance and Legislative Reform.

Member for Bamaga

In September 2012 Mr Reg Williams was elected for his fifth term to the TSRA Board. Mr Williams was the Member for Bamaga from 1994-1997, 1997-2000, 2000-2004 and 2008-2012.

Mr Reginald Williams

Mr Williams was formerly the Chairperson of the Bamaga Island Council prior to its amalgamation into the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC). He is a former Deputy Mayor of NPARC.

Mr Williams has specialist knowledge of his community, Bamaga, and possesses strong communication, negotiation and relationship management skills. Mr Williams also has unique communications skills that relate to Ailan Kastom.

In his previous terms, one of Mr Williams's key concerns was housing in the Northern Peninsula Area. In his term he will continue to advocate for the development of more serviced housing blocks to cater for the needs of families in the region.

Member for Boigu

Mr Eric Peter was elected to the TSRA Board as the Member for Boigu for the first time in September 2012.

Mr Peter was previously on the Board of the Malu Ki'ai (TSI) Corporation Regional Native Title Body Corporate and

Mr Eric Peter

was the elected Councillor for Boigu between 1997 and 1999. Mr Peter is currently the Boigu Divisional Manager for the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Mr Peter holds a Diploma in Community Administration/Management and Certificate IV in Quarantine and Export. He has completed Australian Public Service (APS) Leadership and Indigenous Leadership programs and has worked in the APS for more than 21 years.

Mr Peter's key concerns relate to the low level of funding for community infrastructure, the weak regional economy, and the low number of private enterprises and businesses owned and operated by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal People in the region.

As a TSRA Board Member, Mr Peter aims to empower the people of the region by supporting them to start up businesses and enterprises.

Member for Dauan

Mr Sam Maka was elected as the Member for Dauan in September 2012. This is Mr Maka's first term on the TSRA Board.

At the Inaugural meeting of the new TSRA Board in November 2012, Mr Maka

Mr Sam Maka

was elected as the Portfolio Member for Economic Development.

Mr Maka plays an important role in the Dauan community, being an office holder for a number of organisations, including the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Bio-Security Officer); the Dauanalgaw (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC; Holy Cross Church Parish, Diocese of Torres Strait; and Outer Islands Rugby League.

Mr Maka gained his decision-making, strategic planning and leadership experience from his time in the military, community policing, the public service and community volunteer groups.

Mr Maka has a wide range of concerns, such as building the capacity of the Dauan Prescribed Body Corporate, protecting sacred sites, further developing the Dauan Island town plan and a recycling plant, and fostering awareness of natural resources. He seeks to be proactive, consistent and persistent in seeking to address these issues.

During his term on the TSRA Board Mr Maka wishes to establish and strengthen working relationships with other TSRA Board Members so projects can be progressed and realised; the TSRA and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council can work together to achieve concrete outcomes for his community; and continuity in government funding for the region can be achieved.

Member for Erub

Mr Kenny Bedford was elected to the TSRA Board as Member for Erub for the second consecutive term in September 2012. Mr Bedford was elected as the TSRA Portfolio Member for Fisheries, a post he held during his first term (2008 - 2012). In his first term, Mr Bedford was also the TSRA Alternate Deputy Chairperson.

Mr Kenny Bedford

Mr Bedford is President of the Erub Fisheries Management Association, serves on the Board of Reconciliation Australia and is a member of Erubam Le Traditional Land and Sea Owners (TSI) Corporation RNTBC and the Abergowrie College Community Consultative Committee.

Mr Bedford has a Bachelor of Applied Health Science and Diploma of Youth Welfare. He received the Vincent Fairfax Fellowship in 2000.

As a commercial fisher as well as the Portfolio Member for Fisheries, Mr Bedford is acutely aware of the challenges the Indigenous people of the region face to gain greater ownership and control over management of Torres Strait marine resources.

Mr Bedford's key issues of concern relate to land management, housing, and education and health, as well as how the community's expectations for an improved standard of living and access to the same level of service delivery available to mainland Australians will be met.

Mr Bedford believes some issues can be addressed through clear and regular communication of the factors influencing Torres Strait policy development, and by ensuring individuals, families and communities are able to access their TSRA Member in a two-way flow of information.

In his second term Mr Bedford aims to continue to diligently represent Erub and the region and, in particular, to play a constructive role in the economic development of Torres Strait commercial fisheries, including by increasing Torres Strait Islander participation in the industry.

Member for Hammond

Mr Mario Sabatino was elected to the TSRA Board as the Member for Hammond for the first time in September 2012. Mr Sabatino is the Councillor for Hammond Island on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Mr Mario Sabatino

Mr Sabatino is well known in his community as a businessman – he currently owns and operates M&M Mini Mart on Hammond Island and the Hammond Island Ferry, for which he is the Ships Officer. Mr Sabatino is a Director on the Boards of a number of community organisations.

Mr Sabatino has a Master Class 3 Diploma of Transport and Distribution (Maritime – Deckwatch Keeping) and has 25 years commercial marine experience as Master and Officer.

Mr Sabatino's key concerns are the need for regional and island economic development, improved training and employment outcomes in communities and achievement of real land tenure throughout the Torres Strait. He is also concerned that Hammond does not have a community-based organisation.

Mr Sabatino will advocate for enhanced networking with government agencies and the private sector to facilitate economic development, on-the-ground training that meshes with established organisations, businesses and partnerships in the region, and real land tenure to encourage outside investment in communities.

Member for Ngarupai and Muralag

In September 2012 Mr Yen Loban was elected to the TSRA Board for the first time as the Member for Ngarupai and Muralag. He is a member of the TSRA Board Audit Committee.

Mr Yenny Loban

Mr Loban is well known in his community. He is Deputy Mayor for the Torres Shire Council as well as a businessman with 30 years experience in the light marine industry. He is owner/ operator of a sea cat marine charter, and a director of the Torres Shire Co-op.

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

As a TSRA Board Member, Mr Loban will be working to ensure that the communities of Ngurupai and Muralag are healthy and safe and that they receive the same services as other communities across the Torres Strait, and that TSRA Programs focus on equity in service provision to the benefit of both those communities.

Member for Iama

In September 2012 Mr Lui Jr was elected for the fourth time to the TSRA Board. Mr Lui's previous terms were from 1994-1997, 1997-2000, and 2000-2004. Mr Lui was the TSRA's first chairperson and during his term in 2000-2004 he shared responsibility for the Regional

Mr Getano Lui Jr AM

Governance and Legislative Reform Portfolio.

Mr Lui is Councillor for Iama on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council. He previously held the positions of Councillor and Chairperson of the Iama Community Council (1974-2004), Chairman of the Island Coordinating Council (1985-2000), and Chairman of the Islander Board of Industry and Service (1985-2000).

Mr Lui's key areas of concern are health, housing and infrastructure, and the transfer of decision-making powers to local communities to enable them to control and manage their own affairs. He plans to advocate for community empowerment through self-determination and self-management.

Member for Kubin

Mr Saila Savage was elected to the TSRA Board as the Member for Kubin on 8 December 2012. This is Mr Savage's third time on the TSRA Board; he previously served from 2000 - 2004 and 2004 - 2008.

Mr Saila Savage

Mr Savage is a Board Member of the Mualgal (TSI) Corporation RNTBC and the Kaurareg Land Trust and sits on the Cape York Land Council. He held the position of Chairman of Kubin Community for nine years between 2000 and 2009.

Mr Savage has many years experience working on the railways, and for the past four years has worked in the technical division of the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Mr Savage's key concerns for the Kubin community include the lack of public/community transport; the impact of drugs and alcohol; the inadequate number of in-community traineeships offered for youth; the safety of children; the provision of social housing; the control of dogs and horses; the lack of a Queensland Police presence; and insufficient numbers of Land and Sea Rangers.

During his time on the Board, Mr Savage will be dedicated to serving his community and his people to the best of his ability to achieve positive and satisfying outcomes. He will be their voice at the table.

Mr Keith Fell

Member for Mabuiag

In September 2012 Mr Keith Fell was re-elected to the TSRA Board for a second consecutive term. He was subsequently elected by the Board as Portfolio Member for Healthy Communities, an office he held in his first term.

Mr Fell also holds the office of Deputy Mayor of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Mr Fell has a Diploma in Local Government Administration and a Certificate III in Sports and Recreation.

Mr Fell believes that education, training and communication are vital to achieving individual success and increasing the standard of living of people in the region. He is concerned with economic development and cultural and social issues.

Mr Fell is passionate about sports, recreation and good health practices for all people in the Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area: more activities, more participation, a better lifestyle and a healthier future.

During his previous term on the TSRA Board, Mr Fell focused on achieving affordable housing for Torres Strait Islander people, and worked towards empowering his people through accessible employment and training opportunities. He aims to continue this work in his second term.

Ms Hilda Mosby

Member for Masig

Ms Hilda Mosby was elected as the Member for Masig in September 2012. This is Ms Mosby's first term on the TSRA Board.

Ms Mosby has more than 15 years experience in the Australian Public Service, working for AQIS (now DAFF Biosecurity), and for the Department of Immigration and Citizenship as a Movement Monitoring Officer under a Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

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

Of key concern to Ms Mosby is the impact of coastal erosion on low-lying Torres Strait communities, including her own community of Masig, and over her term she will advocate that coastal erosion issues continue to be addressed through an integrated approach by the relevant Australian Government and State Government agencies.

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

Member for Port Kennedy

In September 2012 Mrs Romina Fujii was elected to the TSRA Board for a second time. Mrs Fujii previously served on the TSRA Board from 1994 to 1997. Mrs Fujii is a member of the TSRA Audit Committee.

Mrs Romina Fujii

Mrs Fujii is an active member of the Port Kennedy Association Inc. (Chair), Torres Strait Health of the Aged Association Inc. (Chair), James Cook University Advisory Board, Queensland Women's Health Network Committee, and Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak Ltd.

Mrs Fujii has experience in health education, employment and training; governance training; and working with non-government organisations (NGOs). She has a Certificate IV in Workplace Training and Assessment and is aiming to complete a degree in Social Work.

Mrs Fujii's key concerns are the lack of skilled local people and private enterprise, and poor or absent social services, especially permanent facilities for young children and youth. She is also concerned with economic development and housing. Mrs Fujii believes some of these concerns can be addressed through progressing the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029 and identifying, through discussion with community, the appropriate agency for capacity building.

During her time on the Board, Mrs Fujii aims to advocate for the up-skilling of Indigenous middle management in organisations and departments, an increase in support to NGOs, and improved social service provision. She will support initiatives to facilitate economic development and home ownership.

Member for Poruma

In September 2012 Mr Francis Pearson was elected for the second time to the TSRA Board as the Member for Poruma. He previously served on the Board from 2000 - 2004.

Mr Francis Pearson

Mr Pearson is a member of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) Consultative Committee and is the TSIRC Airport Coordinator. He also holds the position of Divisional Engineering Officer at Poruma.

Mr Pearson has a Diploma in Teaching from James Cook University.

Mr Pearson's key concerns are climate change and associated coastal erosion and the impact of high tides on low-lying Poruma, overcrowding, and community representation in Indigenous fisheries management.

Mr Pearson aims to advocate for more say from communities in decisions concerning fisheries in Torres Strait waters, and to push for a solution – that satisfies community expectations and concerns – to the erosion of low-lying islands.

Member for Saibai

Miss Chelsea Aniba was elected as the Member for Saibai in September 2012. This is Miss Aniba's first term on the TSRA Board.

Miss Chelsea Aniba

Miss Aniba has established a profile through her involvement in local radio, her eight years in radio broadcasting, and her membership of the Torres Strait Islanders Media Association (TSIMA) Board. She is also a member of the Saibai Community Development Corporation.

Miss Aniba has qualifications in Radio Broadcasting, Business Administration, Social Housing and Justice Studies.

Miss Aniba's two primary concerns, which closely affect her home of Saibai Island are coastal erosion and rising sea levels resulting from climate change, and the insufficient supply of social housing. Over her term, Miss Aniba will advocate for the construction of seawalls throughout the affected Torres Strait communities and the rollout of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing.

Miss Aniba's other concerns relate to employment and economic development opportunities for local families; helping to keep, restore and revitalise our culture; and strengthening Prescribed Bodies Corporate to enable them to progress Native Title issues. Miss Aniba will advocate for the best outcomes in these areas.

Member for St Pauls

In September 2012 Mr Kiwat Lui was elected to the TSRA Board for the first time. Mr Lui is also a member of the TSRA Audit Committee.

Mr Lui is a pastor at Kozan Outreach Church on St Pauls and a member of the St Pauls

Mr Kiwat Lui

Elders Group. Previously, he was a member of the Indigenous Fishers Advisory Committee.

Mr Lui holds a Bachelor of Arts (Aboriginal Affairs Administration), and has over 20 years experience working with Local and State Government agencies in administration and financial services.

Mr Lui's prime concerns are the lack of a long-term stable income stream for the people of the Torres Strait, continuing poor health outcomes, and families struggling to make ends meet. He believes two means to address these concerns are to give Indigenous people of the region first preference for jobs, and to direct resources to health services that produce enormously tangible outcomes for the wellbeing of Indigenous people living within the region.

In his term on the TSRA Board Mr Lui will be working to create wealth for the Torres Strait and its people, through private consortiums, State Government and Australian Government assistance to small businesses to enable them to become self-sufficient, and by ensuring all TSRA decisions are transparent and meet the region's needs and aspirations.

Member for TRAWQ

In September 2012 Mr Abednego was re-elected to the TSRA Board as Member for TRAWQ (Communities of Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine on Thursday Island) for a fifth time. His previous terms on the TSRA Board were 1994-1997, 1997-

Mr John Abednego

2000, 2000-2004 and 2004-2008.

Mr Abednego held the office of TSRA Chairperson in his 1997-2000 term and was the Portfolio Member for Legal and Media in 2000-2004. Currently, Mr Abednego is the Portfolio Member for Safe Communities.

Mr Abednego is a Councillor on the Torres Shire Council and member of the Parents and Citizens Committee of Tagai Secondary Campus. He also plays a role in the Anglican Church.

Mr Abednego has considerable experience in Board management and administration, and policy development and strategic planning. Over his career he has been involved in mediation and counselling, court referrals and social justice interagency networking.

Mr Abednego's key concerns are land tenure, home ownership, social and alcohol-related issues and funding difficulties.

Mr Jerry Stephen

Member for Ugar

In September 2012 Mr Jerry Stephen was elected to the TSRA Board for the first time.

Mr Stephen has over 20 years experience working in the private and public sectors. His work has included the delivery of Australian Government programs throughout the Torres Strait.

Mr Stephen's main concern is that goods and services cannot be delivered to Ugar each week because the access channel has not been properly dredged. As a TSRA Board Member he will seek funding for a sustainable solution to that problem, and will support all Torres Strait communities to achieve their identified priorities.

During Mr Stephen's four-year term he will be working vigorously to support the TSRA Board to achieve positive outcomes for the Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait) region.

Board Meetings

The Chairperson of the TSRA must convene at least four TSRA Board Meetings each year in accordance with section 144E of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). The Chairperson can convene other meetings of the TSRA Board if it is considered necessary for the efficient performance of the TSRA's functions.

Following its meeting in June 2012, the TSRA Board elected for the 2008 - 2012 term entered a caretaker period and did not meet in 2012 - 2013.

After the election of new Members in September 2012 - 2013, the incoming TSRA Board met four times, as shown in Table 4-1 and Table 4-2.

Table 4-1 Board Meetings and Apologies			
Meeting no.	**Dates**	**Apologies**	**Absent**
83	13 November 2012	Nil	Nil
84	14 and 15 November 2012	Nil	Nil
85	28 February and 1 March 2013	Nil	Nil
86	13 and 14 June 2013	Mr Getano Lui, Member for Iama	Nil

Table 4-2 Board Meeting Attendance	
Member	**Number of meetings attended**
Mr Joseph Elu	4 of 4
Mr Aven Noah	4 of 4
Mr Willie Lui	4 of 4
Mr John Abednego	4 of 4
Ms Chelsea Aniba	4 of 4
Mr Kenny Bedford	4 of 4
Mr Keith Fell	4 of 4
Mrs Romina Fujii	4 of 4
Mr Getano Lui (Jr)	3 of 4
Mr Kiwat Lui	4 of 4
Mr Sam Maka	4 of 4
Ms Hilda Mosby	4 of 4
Mr Aven Noah	4 of 4
Mr Maluwap Nona	4 of 4
Mr Francis Pearson	4 of 4
Mr Eric Peter	4 of 4
Mr Mario Sabatino	4 of 4
Mr Saila Savage	4 of 4
Mr Jerry Stephen	4 of 4

TSRA Board Charter

A TSRA Board Charter was developed with assistance from the independent governance consultants Effective Governance. The TSRA Board Charter brings together in one handbook all the resources that Board Members will need to enable Members to exercise their powers and responsibilities. The handbook is based on good governance and contains the Board Member's Code of Conduct, Charter of Representation, Performance and Accountability as well as the Terms of Reference for Board committees. The TSRA Board Charter and Induction Program is covered in the Governance and Leadership Case Study.

Board Member Induction Process

The TSRA has a comprehensive and formal induction process for Board members based on the TSRA Board Charter. The induction is delivered over one-week and covers the legislative framework, code of conduct, separation of powers, administrative decision-making, the TSRA's committees, programs and projects, member and executive member responsibilities, training and Board administration. The induction program is delivered by the TSRA administration with assistance from an external facilitator and subject matter experts. The induction program was delivered to 19 Members of the newly elected Board in October 2012.

Board Member's Code of Conduct

The TSRA Board's Code of Conduct and Ethics policies are included in the training provided in the Board induction program.

Executive Coaching

An Executive coaching program is available for all Board Members.

Performance Review

The TSRA undertakes a performance review at the mid-term point of the TSRA Board period of appointment. The last review was conducted in 2010 - 2011 and the next is scheduled in 2014 - 2015. Performance reviews are conducted by external independent consultants.

Education

The TSRA provides an opportunity for Board Members to undertake accredited training in Governance or Business during their term. Individual qualifications are stated in the Board Member's Profiles on pages 112 - 120.

Executive Committee

An Executive Committee consisting of eight TSRA Board Members has been formed to assist the TSRA Chairperson to carry out the functions of the TSRA. The Executive Committee's portfolio structure is aligned to the TSRA's Programs. The TSRA Board decides the Membership of the Executive Committee by open ballot. The TSRA Executive Committee meets quarterly, prior to TSRA Board meetings. The Chairperson may call additional meetings as required. The objectives of TSRA's Executive Committee are to:

› ensure that policies and future directives are made in accordance with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth), and other relevant legislation

› advocate for improved outcomes in the Torres Strait region

› represent the views of the TSRA on internal and external committees

› assist the TSRA Chairperson to communicate to Torres Strait communities government policy, TSRA decisions and achievements as they relate to the Executive Committee's portfolio responsibilities.

The outgoing 2011 - 2012 TSRA Executive Committee Members and their portfolio responsibilities are shown at Table 4-3

Table 4-3 Membership of the 2011 - 2012 Executive Committee	
Mr John T Kris	Chairperson Portfolio Member for Governance and Leadership
Ms Napcia Bin Tahal	Deputy Chairperson Portfolio Member for Economic Development
Mr Kenny Bedford	Alternate Deputy Chairperson Portfolio Member for Fisheries
Mr Donald Banu	Portfolio Member for Native Title
Mr Keith Fell	Portfolio Member for Healthy Communities
Mr Walter Makie	Portfolio Member for Environmental Management
Mr Phillemon Mosby	Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage
Ms Nancy Pearson	Portfolio Member for Safe Communities

The 2012 - 2013 TSRA Executive Committee members
and their portfolio responsibilities are shown at
Table 4-4.

Table 4-4 Membership of the 2012 - 2013 Executive Committee	
Mr Joseph Elu	Chairperson Portfolio Member for Governance and Leadership
Mr Aven Noah	Deputy Chairperson Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage
Mr Willie Lui	Alternate Deputy Chairperson Portfolio Member for Environmental Management
Mr John Abednego	Portfolio Member for Safe Communities
Mr Kenny Bedford	Portfolio Member for Fisheries
Mr Keith Fell	Portfolio Member for Healthy Communities
Mr Sam Maka	Portfolio Member for Economic Development
Mr Maluwap Nona	Portfolio Member for Native Title

The 2012 - 2013 TSRA Executive Committee met twice
in 2012 - 2013. Those meetings are shown in Table 4-5.

Attendance at TSRA Executive Committee meetings is
shown in Table 4-6.

Table 4-5 Executive Committee Meeting Dates and Apologies	
Dates	**Apologies**
26 February 2013	Nil
11 June 2013	Nil

Table 4-6 Executive Committee Meeting Attendance	
Member	**Number of meetings attended**
Mr Joseph Elu	2 of 2
Mr Aven Noah	2 of 2
Mr Willie Lui	2 of 2
Mr John Abednego	2 of 2
Mr Kenny Bedford	2 of 2
Mr Keith Fell	2 of 2
Mr Sam Maka	2 of 2
Mr Maluwap Nona	2 of 2

Other Boards and Committees

Program Steering Committee

The Program Steering Committee (PSC) monitors the performance of the TSRA's programs and operations. Each program consists of projects and managed activities, contributing to the outcomes identified in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029. Programs are further defined in the Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013.

The PSC includes the TSRA Chief Executive Officer, Program Managers, Project Managers and the Chief Financial Officer. The PSC has scheduled quarterly meetings and also meets out of session to deal with specific risks and issues. The PSC prioritises resources across program boundaries, ensuring that the programs, strategies and operational activities align with the TSRA's Outcome. Further detail on program reporting is contained in Section 2 of this report.

Advisory Committees

The TSRA has two Advisory Committees: the Audit Committee and the Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee (IFAC).

Torres Strait Coastal Management Committee (TSCMC)

The Torres Strait Coastal Management Committee (TSCMC) was formed by the TSRA in 2006 to "develop a strategic coordinated approach to dealing with disaster mitigation, coastal erosion, inundation and long-term coastal planning issues in the Torres Strait through collaboration with all parties; with an emphasis on the most severely impacted islands; and to provide a pathway for community members to address coastal issues on their islands." The TSCMC meets biannually.

Membership of the TSCMC includes the TSRA, the Torres Strait Islands Regional Council, Torres Shire Council, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Emergency Management Queensland, James Cook University, CSIRO, Reef and Rainforest Research Centre and the Australian Government Department of Climate Change.

The TSRA's membership of the TSCMC is shown in Table 4-7

Table 4-7	Torres Strait Coastal Management Committee
Mr Joseph Elu	Chairpersons and Member for Seisia
Ms Chelsea Aniba	Member for Saibai
Mr Eric Peter	Member for Boigu
Mr Getano Lui Jr	Member for Iama
Mr Willie Lui	Member for Warraber
Mr Francis Pearson	Member for Poruma
Ms Hilda Mosby	Member for Masig

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee has four members. The committee was established in accordance with Section 32 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth). The TSRA Board is responsible for the appointment of the Audit Committee. The Committee provides independent assurance and assistance to the TSRA Board on the risk, control and compliance frameworks and the TSRA's external accountability responsibilities.

The Chairperson of the Audit Committee is an independent member from Moore Stephens Accountants and Advisors. The Chairperson of the Audit Committee provides technical expertise and experience, supplying advice on best practice accounting and auditing standards in the public sector. Special meetings of the Audit Committee can be held if deemed necessary by the TSRA Chairperson or the Chairperson of the Audit Committee.

Membership, meetings and attendance for the TSRA Audit Committee are shown in tables 4-7, 4-8 and 4-9.

Membership

Table 4-8 Outgoing Audit Committee Members	
Mr Adrian Kelly	Chairperson and Independent Member
Ms Napcia Bin Tahal	Member for Horn and Prince of Wales Islands
Mr David Bosun	Member for Kubin
Mr Phillemon Mosby	Member for Poruma

Table 4-9 Current Audit Committee Members	
Mr Adrian Kelly	Chairperson and Independent Member
Mrs Romina Fujii	Member for Port Kennedy and Rotational Member
Mr Yen Loban	Member for Horn and Prince of Wales Islands
Mr Kiwat Lui	Member for St Pauls

Meeting dates

One Special Audit Committee Meeting was held before the previous Audit Committee's term ended in 2012 - 2013, as shown in Table 4-9.

Table 4-10 Outgoing Audit Committee Meeting	
Date	**Apologies**
6 September 2012	Mr David Bosun, Member for Kubin

The current TSRA Audit Committee met three times in 2012 - 2013, as shown in Table 4-10.

Table 4-11 Current Audit Committee Meetings	
Dates	**Apologies**
16 November 2012	Nil
27 February 2013	Nil
12 June 2013	Nil

Members' attendance at TSRA Audit Committee meetings is shown in tables 4-11 and 4-12.

Table 4-12 Outgoing Board Audit Committee Meeting Attendance	
Member	**Number of meetings attended**
Mr Adrian Kelly	1 of 1
Ms Napcia Bin Tahal	1 of 1
Mr David Bosun	0 of 1
Mr Phillemon Mosby	1 of 1

Table 4-13 Current Board Audit Committee Meeting Attendance	
Member	**Number of meetings attended**
Mr Adrian Kelly	3 of 3
Mrs Romina Fujii	3 of 3
Mr Yen Loban	3 of 3
Mr Kiwat Lui	3 of 3

Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee

The IFAC was established in 2012 under Section 142M of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). The objectives of the IFAC are to:

› Provide a forum for the discussion of strategic management and policy matters relevant to Torres Strait Fisheries and act as an additional medium for the flow of information between the TSRA and Torres Strait communities.

› Provide advice and make recommendations to the TSRA Board with respect to:

  - investment of resources into capacity building and support programs for traditional fishers,

  - policy proposals and management advice for Torres Strait fisheries,

  - policy direction and approach to resource sharing and leasing,

  - engagement and establishment of effective relationships with all fisheries stakeholders, and

  - research strategic priorities and provide advice on research proposals.

› Establish sub-committees as required to ensure the range of issues requiring consideration are given proper attention.

› Undertake additional functions on behalf of the TSRA as determined by the TSRA Board.

Membership

One new member, Mr Bert Matysek, was appointed to the Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Council, on 4 June 2013.

Table 4-14 Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee Members

Gavin Mosby	Ned Larry
Dimas Toby	Ralph Bann-Pearson
Daniel Takai	Michael Passi
Cyril Gabey	Bert Matysek

Meetings

Table 4-15 Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee meetings

Dates	Apologies
30 January 2013	Cyril Gabey, Daniel Takai
30 April 2013	Nil

Table 4-16 Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee Attendance

Member	Number of meetings attended
Gavin Mosby	2 of 2
Dimas Toby	2 of 2
Daniel Takai	1 of 2
Cyril Gabey	1 of 2
Ned Larry	2 of 2
Ralph Bann-Pearson	2 of 2
Michael Passi	2 of 2
Bert Matysek	0 of 0

Enabling Functions

Information Management and Technology

The TSRA Information Communications and Technology (ICT) team had an extremely busy year. Key activities are noted in the following paragraphs. The corporate services business plan for 2012 - 2013 has additional information.

During 2012 - 2013 TSRA data links for all of the core offices were updated, migrating from basic small business links with Internode to enterprise level links managed by Telstra. Planning for the next stage, when all the outer island offices will move across to the new corporate network, is currently underway.

High Definition videoconferencing units have now been installed in four locations, leveraging the new Telstra network to allow better communications between TSRA offices and other agencies.

All telecommunications services have now been moved from the old ISDN-based systems and are running over the new data links. The old ISDN systems will be decommissioned by the end of July 2013.

Telstra Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephones were trialled in the Cairns office before being rolled out to all the remote offices in the outer islands. The Cairns trial has been successful and test units are now being arranged for several outer island offices.

The new public TSRA website was successfully launched and feedback has been universally positive.

All networking equipment in the three Thursday Island offices was replaced as part of the standard maintenance replacement cycle. Significant improvements were made to office networks during the process. Phone and data networks were merged, allowing all wall ports to service all devices and a major re-cabling project was completed, removing all aging excess cabling from both data centres on Thursday Island and implementing best practice cabling standards.

Significant upgrades to storage and backup systems in the Thursday Island data centres were completed successfully. They included firmware upgrades for all TSRA Dell storage arrays and upgraded storage network switches to increase the storage access speed for all servers. This has significantly improved backup times, allowing backups to be completed outside business hours.

A number of challenges in records management were addressed. For example, two containers of records were shipped from various Thursday Island storage locations to secure record storage in Cairns. Significant improvements were made to digital records management in 2012 - 2013, and many more improvements are planned over the next 12 months.

A Network Operations Centre was established in the Thursday Island office. Different monitoring systems are currently being assessed to proactively manage the various components of the TSRA network. The centre has already allowed us to identify and remove a number of performance bottlenecks in our communications systems and datacentre hosting systems.

Environmental Sustainability

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) requires Australian Government organisations to detail their environmental performance and contribution to Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD). Table 4-16 (below) provides an overview of the TSRA's environmental activities and operations in relation to Section 516A of the EPBC Act.

Table 4-17   Compliance with the EPBC Act, section 516A (Environmental Reporting)

ESD reporting requirement	TSRA response
How the TSRA's activities accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.	The TSRA has issued an environmental policy outlining measures to improve its ecological sustainability. During 2012 - 2013, the TSRA implemented its Environmental Management system which is focused on ensuring that the TSRA is taking all reasonable steps to reduce its ecological footprint. The TSRA's environmental risks are managed at the project, program and portfolio levels and are captured in the organisation's risks and issues registers. The TSRA maintains an Environmental Legal and Other Requirements Register. The TSRA has established a biennial audit process for its Environmental Management system. The next audit is scheduled for 2014.
Outcomes contributing to ecologically sustainable development.	The TSRA's Environmental Management Program contributes to ecologically sustainable development across all Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Communities. This includes: › improving animal management and pest control › reducing waste management issues and environmental impact › increasing the use of renewable energies › managing the effects of climate change, specifically tidal inundation and erosion.
Environmental impacts of operations	The TSRA is committed to managing its operations and those of its contractors to minimise adverse environmental impacts and protect the environment. There were no recorded adverse environmental impacts from TSRA activities in 2012 - 2013.

Table 4-17 Compliance with the EPBC Act, section 516A (Environmental Reporting)	
ESD reporting requirement	**TSRA response**
Measures taken to minimise environmental impacts	The TSRA requires its employees, contractors and suppliers to comply with the TSRA's Environment Policy and environmental management systems by: › implementing conservation measures in the TSRA's offices › minimising the environmental impacts through better design and material selection for new staff housing › requiring contractors to comply with relevant environmental regulatory requirements and minimum environmental performance requirements › managing and reporting environmental incidents. The TSRA monitors a range of environmental performance indicators, including energy use within TSRA offices, energy ratings of white goods purchased for TSRA staff housing, fuel consumption and vehicle performance. The TSRA has adopted appropriate technologies to reduce travel and its dependency on paper-based filing systems. Those technologies include: › telephone and video conferencing facilities › iPads, to be used at all formal meetings, reducing paper consumption › an electronic document and records management system. The TSRA continues to modernise its computing operations through the adoption of new virtual technologies and desktop solutions. The new technology provides the TSRA with the opportunity to further reduce energy consumption and the impact of computers on the environment.

Risk Management

The TSRA faces risks that can significantly affect the achievement of its objectives. Risk is inherent in the achievement of its corporate strategies and in attaining the objectives of its programs and projects at every level of activity.

While the TSRA aims to minimise risks in critical areas such as health, safety and the environment, it adopts a risk managed approach to decision- making and devolves the management of risk to the most appropriate level within the organisation. The TSRA has formal risks and issues management processes for all projects, managed activities and programs.

The TSRA manages risk in the following ways:

› dynamic – by being responsive to change and assisting corporate learning and continuous improvement

› systematic – by being rigorous, transparent and explicit and taking into account stakeholder perspectives

› integrated and embedded – in so far as practicable, by reviewing established management planning, decision-making and reporting processes.

Risk management at TSRA is based on the better practice principles and processes outlined in the International Standard AS/NZ ISO 31000: 2009 Risk Management – principles and guidelines on implementation.

Accountability

External Scrutiny

During the 2012 - 2013 reporting period the TSRA was a statutory authority of the Australian Government and was accountable to the Parliament of Australia and the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

The Auditor-General is the TSRA's external auditor. The audit of the TSRA's financial statements is conducted in accordance with an audit strategy agreed to by the Auditor- General and the TSRA. The 2012 - 2013 Audit was conducted in August 2012. A copy of the Independent Auditor's report including the Auditor's Opinion, is provided as part of the Financial Statements in Section 5 of this Annual Report.

Fraud Control

The TSRA has implemented a fraud control framework in accordance with the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines. In June 2012, the TSRA's Audit Committee and Board approved the TSRA's 2012 - 2014 Fraud Control Plan for distribution to staff. No incidences of fraud were detected in 2012 - 2013.

Internal Audit

The TSRA Board has established the Audit Committee as a key component of its governance framework. The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing internal and external audit reports and for monitoring the implementation of audit recommendations. The Audit Committee's charter provides the framework for the conduct of the internal audit function in the TSRA and has been approved by the TSRA Board on the advice of the Audit Committee.

The external contractor, PDM Consultancy, is responsible for implementing the TSRA's internal audit program, which aims to provide assurance that key risks are being managed effectively and efficiently, including that the TSRA complies with regulatory requirements and policies.

Compliance Report

In accordance with Section 16(1)(c) of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth), the TSRA provided the Finance Minister and the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs with a letter from the TSRA Directors. The letter advised that the TSRA had:

› complied with the provisions and requirements of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth)

› complied with the provisions and requirements of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Regulations 1997 and Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011.

A Compliance Index is in Section 7 of this Annual Report and a table, Compliance with Australian Government Statutes and Policies, is in Appendix 5.

Indemnities and Insurance Premiums for Officers

The TSRA indemnifies current and former directors and staff members against liability or costs incurred in connection with any claim brought against them as a result of, or in connection with, their appointment to any office or position in the TSRA. The TSRA holds directors' and officers' liability insurance cover through Comcover, the Australian Government's self-managed fund. As part of its annual insurance renewal process, the TSRA reviewed its insurance coverage in 2012 - 2013 to ensure it remained appropriate for operations.

During the year, no indemnity-related claims were made, and the TSRA knows of no circumstances likely to lead to such claims being made.

The cost of directors' and officers' indemnity insurance for 2012 - 2013 was $5,363.

Directors' Interests Policy

In accordance with the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth), the TSRA Board has a policy and process to manage all direct and indirect conflicts of interest, including a register of all directors' pecuniary interests and a requirement that directors make a formal declaration of their interests at each TSRA Board meeting. The declarations are recorded in the minutes of the meeting, which are distributed to all communities by their elected TSRA Board members. The pecuniary interest processes apply to all governance committees of the TSRA.

Desalination plant, Warraber Island.

Human Resources

The majority of the TSRA's employees are located at TSRA facilities on Thursday Island, Queensland. A small TSRA office in Cairns continues to be used to increase TSRA's capacity to attract people with skills and experience not available in the Torres Strait. During 2012 - 2013, the TSRA increased the size of its presence in outer communities.

Workplace Agreement

All TSRA staff operate under the TSRA Enterprise Agreement 2011 - 2014. The terms and conditions of employment are set out in this agreement which, while designed to end on 30 June 2014, will remain in effect until replaced by a future agreement. The salary ranges for staff covered under the Enterprise Agreement range from $41,092 for an APS level 1 staff member to $126,348 for an EL2 staff member (effective from 1 August 2012).

Payroll and Leave Records

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

Staff Development and Training

The TSRA's employees attended internal and external training courses throughout 2012 - 2013. This included program and project management training, career development training, cultural awareness training, effective writing skills, accredited university studies and various other learning and development courses.

As part of their induction, all new TSRA employees complete the Australian Public Service Commission's induction program, which is delivered online.

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

Health and Safety Management Arrangements

The TSRA fulfilled its responsibilities under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (Cth) in 2012 - 2013.

There were three accidents or dangerous occurrences during the year that arose out of the conduct of undertakings by the TSRA that required the giving of notice under workplace, health and safety legislation.

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

The TSRA's Health and Safety Committee comprises TSRA staff and managers who are responsible for developing and implementing strategies to protect employees from risks to their health and safety. The Health and Safety Committee works cooperatively to manage all the TSRA's occupational health and safety policy and operational matters. Employees are informed of current issues and receive occupational health and safety publications from Comcare and other sources when available. The TSRA has trained employees who undertake duties as first-aid officers, fire wardens and occupational health and safety representatives.

Workplace Health

The TSRA has an active early intervention and injury management strategy in place and continues to use occupational therapy services to provide ergonomic support, advice and case management services. On site flu vaccinations and a healthy lifestyle reimbursement of up to $200 per year are also available to all employees.

The TSRA has a Preventing Bullying and Harassment Policy and two trained Harassment Contact Officers are available to provide employee support. The TSRA engages Ingeus Australia Pty Ltd trading as Assure Programs (ACN 152 509 37) to provide Employee Assistance Program (EAP) services to all employees where required.

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Equal Employment Opportunity

The TSRA is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer and upholds the Australian Public Service Values. The TSRA strives to provide a workplace that is free from discrimination and recognises the diversity of the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal communities that it serves. All TSRA staff receive up-to-date information on key developments in human resources, including developments in EEO, harassment free workplaces and workplace diversity. Employees can also access publications from the Australian Public Service Commission, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and other related agencies.

A range of statistical information is collected during the recruitment of TSRA staff and is provided to the Australian Public Service Commission on request. The TSRA's statistical data on its workforce profile is set out on in Tables 4-18 and 4-19.

Workplace Consultative Arrangements

The TSRA fosters and promotes workplace consultation through regular management, program area and staff meetings. In addition, the TSRA conducts regular meetings with staff representatives on the Workplace Consultative Committee. As appropriate, management consults with employees on:

› major workplace changes

› the development of guidelines and policies applying to employment conditions

› the development and implementation of an Enterprise Agreement.

Privacy

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

Staffing Profile

Tables 4-17 and 4-18 below provide information on the TSRA's employee numbers and classifications as at 30 June 2013.

Table 4-18 Staff Profile at 30 June 2013, by APS Level	
Classification	**Number of staff**
PEO	1
Executive Level 2	7
Executive Level 1	20
APS 6	21
APS 5	22
APS 4	5
APS 3	27
APS 2	11
APS 1	20
Trainee	3
Total	**137**

Table 4-19 Staff Profile at 30 June 2013, by EEO Group				
Classification	Male	Female	Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal	People with a disability
PEO	1	0	1	
Executive Level 2	6	1	0	
Executive Level 1	9	11	6	
APS 6	12	9	10	1
APS 5	5	17	14	
APS 4	1	4	4	
APS 3	16	11	26	1
APS 2	2	9	11	
APS 1	17	3	20	
Trainee	2	1	3	
Total	**71**	**66**	**95**	**2**

Other Reportable Matters

Changes to Disability Reporting in Annual Reports

Since 1994, Commonwealth departments and agencies have reported on their performance as policy adviser, purchaser, employer, regulator and provider under the Commonwealth Disability Strategy. In 2007–08, reporting on the employer role was transferred to the Australian Public Service Commission's State of the Service Report and the APS Statistical Bulletin. These reports are available at www.apsc.gov.au. From 2010 - 2011, departments and agencies are no longer required to report on these functions.

The Commonwealth Disability Strategy has been overtaken by a new National Disability Strategy 2010 - 2020 which sets out a 10-year national policy framework to improve the lives of people with disability, promote participation and create a more inclusive society. A high level two-yearly report will track progress against each of the six outcome areas of the strategy and present a picture of how people with disability are faring. The first of these reports will be available in 2014, and will be available at www.fahcsia.gov.au.

The Social Inclusion Measurement and Reporting Strategy agreed by the Australian Government in December 2009 will also include some reporting on disability matters in its regular *How Australia is Faring* report and, if appropriate, in strategic change indicators in agency annual reports. More detail on social inclusion matters can be found at www.socialinclusion.gov.au.

Exemption from Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders

The TSRA has not relied upon any exemption from the Finance Minister from any requirement of Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders in the preparation of this report.

Significant Events

There were no significant events notifiable under Section 15 of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 to the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs during the reporting period.

Freedom of Information

Agencies subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth) (FOI Act) are required to publish information to the public as part of the Information Publication Scheme (IPS). This requirement is in Part II of the FOI Act and has replaced the former requirement to publish a section 8 statement in an annual report. An agency plan showing what information is published in accordance with the requirements is available on the TSRA's website (www.TSRA.gov.au/publications/information-publication-scheme/TSRA-information-publication-scheme-agency-plan.aspx).
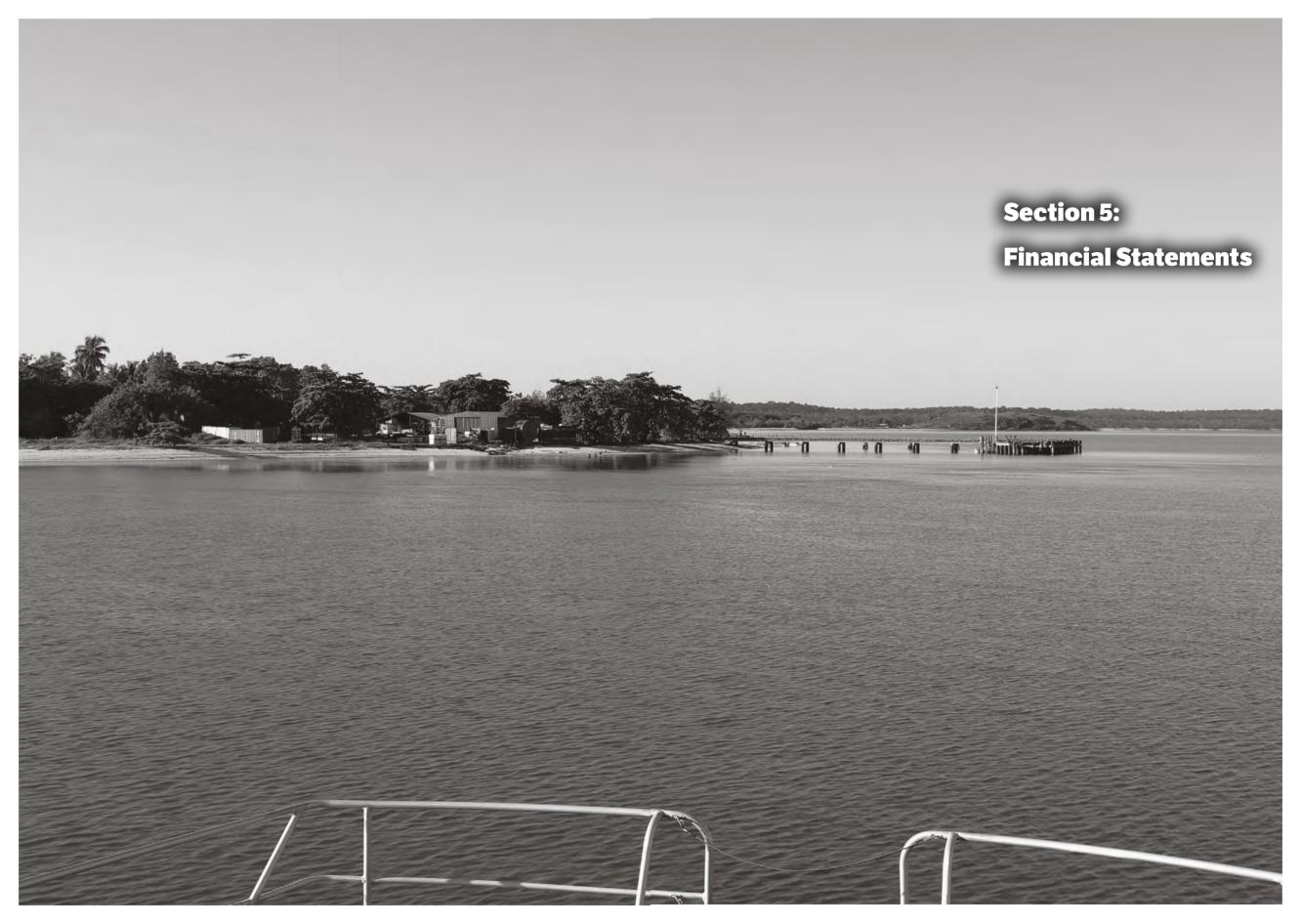
Property Management

The TSRA has a significant property portfolio which includes office accommodation at two sites on Thursday Island; residential accommodation, consisting of 38 houses and apartments; and the Gab Titui Cultural Centre. The TSRA also owns and maintains Green Hill Fort. Green Hill Fort is a Listed Place on the Commonwealth Heritage List.

Disclosure of Sacred Matters

In accordance with Section 144ZB(4) of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 (Cth), the TSRA Annual Report 2012 - 2013 does not disclose any matters known to the TSRA to be held sacred by Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal people.

TSRA Corporate team.

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Australian National
Audit Office

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Torres Strait Regional Authority for the year ended 30 June 2013, which comprise: a Statement by the Directors, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer; the Statement of Comprehensive Income; Balance Sheet; Statement of Changes in Equity; Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Commitments; and Notes to and forming part of the financial statements, including a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The directors of the Torres Strait Regional Authority are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Torres Strait Regional Authority's preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Torres Strait Regional Authority's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

GPO Box 707 CANBERRA ACT 2601
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Phone (02) 6203 7300 Fax (02) 6203 7777

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

Independence

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

Opinion

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

(a) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards; and

(b) give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders including the Torres Strait Regional Authority's financial position as at 30 June 2013 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office

Colin Bienke
Senior Director
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
11 September 2013

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTORS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013 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, as amended.

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

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

Signed

Mr J Elu
Chairperson

11 September 2013

Signed

Mr A Noah
Deputy Chairperson

11 September 2013

Signed

Mr W See Kee
Chief Executive Officer

11 September 2013

Signed

Mr C de Mamiel
Chief Financial Officer

11 September 2013

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TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the period ended 30 June 2013

	Notes	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
EXPENSES			
Employee benefits	3A	**13,801**	12,046
Supplier	3B	**15,811**	13,929
Grants	3C	**16,891**	29,038
Depreciation	3D	**1,268**	1,121
Finance costs	3E	**132**	157
Write-down and impairment of assets	3F	**77**	47
Total Expenses		**47,980**	56,338
LESS:			
OWN-SOURCE INCOME			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	4A	**384**	506
Interest	4B	**2,372**	1,777
Other revenue	4C	**5,399**	13,739
Total own-source revenue		**8,155**	16,022
Gains			
Sale of assets	4D	**-**	14
Reversals of previous asset write-downs and impairments	4E	**144**	320
Total gains		**144**	334
Total own-source income		**8,299**	16,356
Net cost of services		**39,681**	39,982
Revenue from Government	4F	**45,680**	50,454
Surplus attributable to the Australian Government		**5,999**	10,472
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to profit or loss			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		**411**	733
Total other comprehensive income		**411**	733
Total comprehensive income		**6,410**	11,205
Total comprehensive income attributable to the Australian Government		**6,410**	11,205

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
BALANCE SHEET
as at 30 June 2013

	Notes	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5A	**1,476**	21,412
Trade and other receivables	5B	**8,055**	6,734
Other investments	5C	**36,800**	22,298
Total financial assets		**46,331**	50,444
Non-Financial Assets			
Land and buildings	6A,C	**32,176**	27,938
Plant and equipment	6B,C	**1,640**	1,743
Total non-financial assets		**33,816**	29,681
Net assets		**80,147**	80,125
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	7A	**(5,491)**	(9,205)
Grants	7B	**(1,828)**	(4,438)
Other payables	7C	**(378)**	(467)
Total payables		**(7,697)**	(14,110)
Provisions			
Employee provisions	8A	**(2,875)**	(2,850)
Total provisions		**(2,875)**	(2,850)
Total liabilities		**(10,572)**	(16,960)
Net assets		**69,575**	63,165
EQUITY			
Contributed equity		**32**	32
Reserves		**13,678**	13,267
Retained surplus		**55,865**	49,866
		69,575	63,165

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT of CHANGES in EQUITY
for the period ended 30 June 2013

	Retained earnings		Asset revaluation surplus		Contributed equity/capital		Total equity	
	2013 $'000	2012 $'000	2013 $'000	2012 $'000	2013 $'000	2012 $'000	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
Opening balance								
Balance carried forward from previous period	49,866	39,394	13,267	12,534	32	32	63,165	51,960
Adjusted opening balance	49,866	39,394	13,267	12,534	32	32	63,165	51,960
Comprehensive income								
Other comprehensive income	-	-	411	733	-	-	411	733
Surplus for the period	5,999	10,472	-	-	-	-	5,999	10,472
Total comprehensive income	5,999	10,472	411	733	-	-	6,410	11,205
of which:								
Attributable to the Australian Government	5,999	10,472	411	733	-	-	6,410	11,205
Closing Balance attributable to the Australian Government as at 30 June 2013	55,865	49,866	13,678	13,267	32	32	69,575	63,165

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

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TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the period ended 30 June 2013

	Notes	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Receipts from Government		**45,680**	50,454
Sales of goods and rendering of services		**6,238**	19,031
Interest		**2,325**	1,694
Net GST received		**825**	-
Total cash received		**55,068**	71,179
Cash used			
Employees		**(13,687)**	(11,326)
Suppliers		**(21,478)**	(7,712)
Loan payments		**(103)**	(90)
Grants		**(20,241)**	(25,627)
Net GST paid		**-**	(2,582)
Total cash used		**(55,509)**	(47,337)
Net cash flows from (used by) operating activities	9	**(441)**	23,842
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Loan receipts		**562**	541
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		**-**	14
Total cash received		**562**	555
Cash used			
Loan payments		**(563)**	(665)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		**(4,992)**	(1,079)
Investments		**(14,502)**	(22,298)
Total cash used		**(20,057)**	(24,042)
Net cash flows from (used by) investing activities		**(19,495)**	(23,487)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		**(19,936)**	355
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		**21,412**	21,057
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	5A	**1,476**	21,412

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS
as at 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
BY TYPE	**$'000**	$'000
Commitments receivable		
Sublease rental income[1]	**1,467**	1,341
Net GST recoverable on commitments	**20**	30
Total commitments receivable	**1,487**	1,371
Commitments payable		
Other commitments		
Operating leases[1]	**(986)**	(741)
Total other commitments	**(986)**	(741)
Total commitments payable	**(986)**	(741)
Net commitments by type	**501**	630
BY MATURITY		
Commitments receivable		
Operating lease income		
One year or less	**283**	258
From one to five years	**1,184**	1,083
Total operating lease income	**1,467**	1,341
Net GST commitments receivable		
One year or less	**18**	17
From one to five years	**2**	13
Total net GST commitments receivable	**20**	30
Commitments payable		
Operating lease commitments payable		
One year or less	**(586)**	(493)
From one to five years	**(400)**	(248)
Total operating lease commitments	**(986)**	(741)
Total commitments payable		
Net commitments by maturity	**501**	630

Note: Commitments were GST inclusive where relevant.

Footnote
1. Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:
Commitments Receivable

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

Lease for office and residential accommodation
Lease payments exist for 3 office accommodations. The leases increase at CPI each
year. One lease is for a period of 22 months with no renewal option to extend for 1
additional year, the second lease is for a period of 2 years with an option to extend for
an additional 2 years and the third lease is for a period of 3 years with an option to
extend for an additional 3 years.

The TSRA currently leases 9 houses for staff and contractor accommodation. Lease
terms range from 1 month to 3 years with varying expiry dates.

Agreement for the provision of motor vehicles
Two vehicles are leased for operating activities of the TSRA. There are no contingent
rentals and no renewal or purchase options available to the TSRA.

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2013

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1   Objective of the Torres Strait Regional Authority

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) is an Australian Government controlled entity. It is a not-for-profit entity. The objective of the Torres Strait Regional Authority is 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 TSRA is structured to meet one outcome:

Progress towards closing the gap for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait Region through development planning, coordination, sustainable resource management, and preservation and promotion of Indigenous culture.

The continued existence of the TSRA in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing funding by Parliament for the TSRA's administration and programs.

1.2   Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements and are required by clause 1(b) of Schedule 1 to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

   a) Finance Minister's Orders (FMO's) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2011; and

   b) Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified.

Unless an alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard or the FMOs, assets and liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to TSRA or a future sacrifice of economic benefits will be required and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under executor contracts are not recognised unless required by an accounting standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the schedule of commitments or the schedule of contingencies.

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

1.3   Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

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

   · The fair value of land and buildings has been taken to be the market value of similar properties as determined by an independent valuer as detailed in Note 1.16.

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

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

1.4   New Australian Accounting Standards

Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the application date as stated in the standard. There have been no new standards, revised standards, amended standards or interpretations that were issued by the AASB prior to the sign off date that are applicable to the current reporting period and have a material financial impact on TSRA.

Future Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

The following new standards/revised standards/interpretations/amending standards were issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board prior to the sign-off date, which are expected to have a financial impact on the TSRA for future reporting periods:

- AASB 13 - Fair Value Measurement - December 2012 (Principal) effective date 1 January 2013
- AASB 1055 - Budgetary Reporting - March 2013 (Principal) effective date 1 July 2014

Other new standards/revised standards/interpretations/amending standards that were issued prior to the sign-off date and are applicable to the future reporting period are not expected to have a future financial impact on the entity.

1.5   Revenue

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

Revenue from rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date. The revenue is recognised when:
   a) the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably
      measured; and
   b) the probable economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.

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

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

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

Resources Received Free of Charge

Resources received free of charge are recoginised 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.

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

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as gains at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition, unless received from another Government agency or authority as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements (this did not occur in 2012-13 or 2011-12).

Revenue from Government

Funding received or receivable from agencies (appropriated to the agency as a CAC Act body payment item for payment to TSRA) is recognised as Revenue from Government unless they are in the nature of an equity injection or a loan.

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1.6 Gains

Resources Received Free of Charge

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

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

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as gains at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition, unless received from another Government entity as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements (this did not occur in 2012-13 or 2011-12).

Sale of Assets

Gains from disposal of assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

1.7 Transactions with the Government as Owner

Equity Injections

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions) and Departmental Capital Budgets (DCBs) are recognised directly in contributed equity in that year.

Other Distributions to Owners

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

1.8 Employee Benefits

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits due within twelve months of the end of the reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the Other long-term employee benefits are measured as net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) out of which the obligations are to be settled directly.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. A provision for personal leave payable also exists for a select number of staff as personal leave is vesting for these staff due to a clause in their employment agreement.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that will be applied at the time the leave is taken, including the TSRA's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on

The liability for long service leave has been determined by reference to the work of an actuary as at 30 June 2013. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Separation and Redundancy

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

Superannuation

The TSRA's staff are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS) or the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap).

The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Australian Government. The PSSap is a defined contribution scheme.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course. This liability is reported in the Department of Finance and Deregulation's administered schedules and notes.

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

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

1.9 Leases

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

The TSRA does not have any finance leases.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a straight line basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets. In 2012-13, the TSRA leased three vehicles, office accommodation and equipment, commercial and residential property for the operation of the

1.10 Grants

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

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

1.11 Cash

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents includes:
  a) cash on hand; and
  b) demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

1.12 Financial Assets

The TSRA classifies its financial assets in the following categories:
   a) loans and receivables; and
   b) held-to-maturity investments.

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

Financial assets are recognised and derecognised upon trade date.

Effective Interest Method

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

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

Financial Assets at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss
Financial assets are classified as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL) where the financial assets:

   a) have been acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the near future;

   b) are derivatives that are not designated and effective as a hedging instrument.; or

   c) are parts of an identified portfolio of financial instruments that the TSRA manages together and has a recent actual pattern of short-term profit-taking.

Assets in this category are classified as current assets.

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

Available-for-Sale Financial Assets
Available-for-sale financial assets are non-derivatives that are either designated in this category or not classified in any of the other categories.

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

Where a reliable fair value can not be established for unlisted investments in equity instruments, these instruments are valued at cost. The TSRA has no such instruments.

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

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

Impairment of Financial Assets
Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period.
Financial assets carried at amortised cost - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred for loans and receivables or held to maturity investments held at amortised cost, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount is reduced by way of an allowance account. The loss is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.
Available for sale financial assets - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss on an available-for-sale financial asset has been incurred, the amount of the difference between its cost, less principal repayments and amortisation, and its current fair value, less any impairment loss previously recognised in expenses, is transferred from equity to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.
Financial assets carried at cost - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred the amount of the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount of the asset and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the current market rate for similar assets.

1.13 Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit and loss' or other financial liabilities. Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised around trade date.

Financial Liabilities at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss

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

Other Financial Liabilities

Other financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. These liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

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

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

1.14   Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

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

1.15   Acquisition of Assets

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and income at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

1.16   Property, Plant and Equipment

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the balance sheet, except for purchases costing less than $1,000, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).
The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

Revaluations

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

Asset class	Fair value measurement:
Land	Market selling price
Buildings excluding leasehold improvements	Market selling price
Leasehold improvements	Depreciated replacement cost
Other Plant and equipment	Depreciated replacement cost
Heritage and cultural assets	Market selling price

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment were carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations were conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets did not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depended upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments were made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment was credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reversed a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets were recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reversed a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date was eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset was restated to the revalued amount.

Depreciation

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

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

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

	2013	2012
Buildings on freehold land	40 years	40 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Other Plant and Equipment	3 to 5 years	3 to 5 years

All heritage and cultural assets have indefinite useful lives and are not depreciated

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2013. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the TSRA were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

Derecognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

Heritage and Cultural Assets

The TSRA has a limited collection of 21 (2012 : 21) distinct Cultural and Heritage assets with an aggregated fair value of $60,000 (2012: $60,000). Cultural assets are comprised of artworks, carvings, and traditional headdresseses. Heritage assets consist of models of two (2012 : 2) sailing vessels and a brass Pearl Diver's helmet (2012 : 1) each of which has historical significance to the region. The assets are on display at the TSRA's main office and the Gab Titui Cultural Centre. The conservation and preservation of TSRA's cultural heritage assets is achieved by a variety and combination of means including: the provision of education and awareness programs; asset management planning; professional training and development; research; and the provision of appropriate storage and display

1.17 Taxation / Competitive Neutrality

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

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST except:
>a) where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian
>Taxation Office; and
>b) for receivables and payables.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2013

Note 2: Events After the Reporting Period

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2013

Note 3: Expenses

	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
Note 3A: Employee Benefits		
Wages and salaries	(10,999)	(9,322)
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	(949)	(944)
Defined benefit plans	(477)	(335)
Leave and other entitlements	(1,376)	(1,445)
Total employee benefits	(13,801)	(12,046)
Note 3B: Suppliers		
Goods and services		
Consultants and professional fees	(5,419)	(3,635)
Travel	(2,607)	(2,318)
Repairs and maintenance	(859)	(439)
Other staff costs	(966)	(953)
Office running costs	(1,210)	(1,232)
Media, advertising, public relations	(280)	(412)
Other	(3,760)	(4,262)
Total goods and services	(15,101)	(13,251)
Goods and services are made up of:		
Provision of goods – external parties	(576)	(536)
Rendering of services – external parties	(14,525)	(12,715)
Total goods and services	(15,101)	(13,251)
Other supplier expenses		
Operating lease rentals - external parties:		
Minimum lease payments	(645)	(648)
Workers compensation expenses	(65)	(30)
Total other supplier expenses	(710)	(678)
Total supplier expenses	(15,811)	(13,929)
Note 3C: Grants		
Public sector:		
Australian Government entities (related Entities)	(700)	-
State and Territory Governments	(48)	(6)
Local Governments	(6,654)	(9,977)
Private sector:		
Non-profit organisations	(9,489)	(18,994)
For-profit organisations	-	(61)
Total grants	(16,891)	(29,038)

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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	2013 **$'000**	2012 $'000
Note 3D: Depreciation		
Depreciation:		
Buildings	**(656)**	(662)
Plant and equipment	**(612)**	(459)
Total depreciation	**(1,268)**	(1,121)
Note 3E: Finance Costs		
Finance costs:		
Write down of loans to net present value	**(132)**	(157)
Total finance costs	**(132)**	(157)

Finance costs are comprised of amortisation charges for new loan advances and amortisation charges as a result of revaluations to the total concessional loan portfolio using current market interest rates.

	2013 **$'000**	2012 $'000
Note 3F: Write-Down and Impairment of Assets		
Asset writedowns and impairments from:		
Receivables goods and services - external parties provided for as impaired	**(77)**	(47)
Total write-down and impairment of assets	**(77)**	(47)

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 4: Income

	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
OWN-SOURCE REVENUE		
Note 4A: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services		
Provision of goods - external parties	**105**	250
Rendering of services - external parties	**279**	256
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	**384**	506
Note 4B: Interest		
Loans	**369**	388
Deposits	**2,003**	1,389
Total interest	**2,372**	1,777
Note 4C: Other Revenue		
Rent	**12**	67
Other Government contributions	**5,387**	13,672
Total other revenue	**5,399**	13,739

GAINS

	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
Note 4D: Sale of Assets		
Proceeds from sale	**-**	14
Net gains from sale of assets	**-**	14
Note 4E: Reversals of Previous Asset Write-Downs and Impairments		
Reversal of losses from remeasuring loans and receivables	**96**	301
Reversal of impairment losses	**48**	19
Total reversals of previous asset write-downs and impairments	**144**	320

REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT

	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
Note 4F: Revenue from Government		
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs		
CAC Act body payment item	**45,680**	50,454
Total revenue from Government	**45,680**	50,454

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 5: Financial Assets

	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
Note 5A: Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash on hand or on deposit	931	21,231
Cash on hand or on deposit - TSRA Housing Fund	545	181
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,476	21,412

TSRA's financial performance and balance sheet must be read in the context of its enabling legislation, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 (ATSI Act) and the impact of accounting standards on the valuation of financial assets.

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

	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
Note 5B: Trade and Other Receivables		
Goods and services		
Goods and services - external parties	1,235	1,729
Total receivables for goods and services	1,235	1,729
Other receivables:		
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	1,681	-
Loans - external parties	5,319	5,185
Total other receivables	7,000	5,185
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	8,235	6,914
Less impairment allowance account:		
Goods and services - external parties	(65)	(57)
Loans - external parties	(115)	(123)
Total impairment allowance account	(180)	(180)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	8,055	6,734
Receivables are expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months	3,524	2,377
More than 12 months	4,531	4,357
Total trade and other receivables (net)	8,055	6,734
Receivables are aged as follows:		
Not overdue	8,030	6,511
Overdue by:		
0 to 30 days	18	16
31 to 60 days	7	7
61 to 90 days	8	5
More than 90 days	172	375
Total receivables (gross)	8,235	6,914
The impairment allowance account is aged as follows:		
Overdue by:		
More than 90 days	(180)	(180)
Total impairment allowance account	(180)	(180)

Credit terms for goods and services were within 30 days (2012: 30 days).

TSRA holds a portfolio of concessional loans that are provided for business development and home ownership programs. The values of these loans as at 30 June 2013 are as follows:

	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
Concessional loans - nominal value	5,761	5,638
Less: unexpired discount	(442)	(453)
Concessional loans - carrying value	5,319	5,185

Loans to individuals and businesses were made under the Business Funding Scheme for periods up to 10 years and Home Loans for periods up to 32 years. In relation to the housing loans, TSRA holds mortgages as sole mortgagor over the houses for which the loans are provided. TSRA receives market advice from a qualified valuer or market expert on the value of a property prior to the loan being approved. In relation to Business Funding Scheme loans, from 2007-08 TSRA has required that inexperienced business owner(s) successfully complete an approved business course and submit a business plan prior to the loan being approved. Security is not required for Business Funding Scheme loans. Principal is repaid in full at maturity. Interest rates for Business Funding Scheme loans were fixed in accordance with the loan contracts. Housing Loan interest rates were varied on 1 January 2013 in accordance with the loan contracts. Effective interest rates average 4.17% (2012: 3.57%) for Business Funding Scheme loans and 5.29% (2012: 5.76%) for Housing loans.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Reconciliation of the impairment allowance account:

Movements in relation to 2013

	Goods and services $'000	Loans $'000	Total $'000
Opening balance	**(57)**	**(123)**	**(180)**
Amounts written off	**-**	**3**	**3**
Amounts recovered and reversed	**-**	**5**	**5**
Increase recognised in net surplus	**(8)**	**-**	**(8)**
Closing balance	**(65)**	**(115)**	**(180)**

Movements in relation to 2012

	Goods and services $'000	Loans $'000	Total $'000
Opening balance	-	(246)	(246)
Amounts written off	-	104	104
Amounts recovered and reversed	-	19	19
Increase recognised in net surplus	(57)	-	(57)
Closing balance	(57)	(123)	(180)

	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
Note 5C: Other Investments		
Term deposits	**30,000**	19,168
Term deposits - TSRA Housing Fund	**6,800**	3,130
Total other investments	**36,800**	22,298
Other investments are expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months	**36,800**	22,298
Total other investments	**36,800**	22,298

Term deposits were invested at 30 June 2013 for $6,000,000 (4.15% interest rate maturing on 12 October 2013), $14,000,000 (4.18% interest rate maturing on 18 October 2013), $8,000,000 (4.2% interest rate maturing on 21 October 2013) and $8,800,000 (4.20% interest rate maturing on 28 October 2013).

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 6: Non-Financial Assets

	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
Note 6A: Land and Buildings		
Land:		
Land at fair value	**9,360**	9,185
Total land	**9,360**	9,185
Buildings on freehold land:		
Work in progress	**175**	482
Fair value	**22,641**	18,237
Total buildings on freehold land	**22,816**	18,719
Leasehold Improvements:		
Fair value	**-**	34
Total leasehold improvements	**-**	34
Total land and buildings	**32,176**	27,938

No indicators of impairment were found for land and buildings.
No land or buildings were expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
Note 6B: Plant and Equipment		
Heritage and cultural:		
Artifacts and artworks		
Fair value	**60**	60
Total heritage and cultural	**60**	60
Other plant and equipment:		
Fair value	**3,517**	3,008
Accumulated depreciation	**(1,937)**	(1,325)
Total other plant and equipment	**1,580**	1,683
Total plant and equipment	**1,640**	1,743

No indicators of impairment were found for plant and equipment.
No plant or equipment is expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Revaluations of non-financial assets
All revaluations are conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1. In 2012-13, an independent valuer, Neil Teves- AAPI Registered Valuer No. 382, conducted the revaluations as at 30 June 2013.

There was a revaluation increment recorded for land of $175,000 (2012: Nil). There were no revaluation increments or decrements recorded for plant and equipment (2012: Nil). Revaluation increments were recorded for buildings on freehold land of $235,711 (2012: $732,796) and have been credited to the asset revaluation surplus by asset class and included in the equity section of the balance sheet and the other comprehensive income section of the statement of comprehensive income.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2013

Note 6: Non-Financial Assets

Note 6C: Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment 2013

Item	Land $'000	Buildings $'000	Total land & buildings $'000	Heritage [1] & cultural $'000	Other plant & equipment $'000	Total $'000
As at 1 July 2012						
Gross book value	**9,185**	**18,753**	**27,938**	**60**	**3,008**	**31,006**
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(1,325)**	**(1,325)**
Net book value 1 July 2012	**9,185**	**18,753**	**27,938**	**60**	**1,683**	**29,681**
Additions:						
By purchase	**-**	**4,483**	**4,483**	**-**	**509**	**4,992**
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	**175**	**236**	**411**	**-**	**-**	**411**
Reclassification						**-**
Depreciation expense	**-**	**(656)**	**(656)**	**-**	**(612)**	**(1,268)**
Net book value 30 June 2013	**9,360**	**22,816**	**32,176**	**60**	**1,580**	**33,816**
Net book value as of 30 June 2013 represented by:						
Gross book value	**9,360**	**22,816**	**32,176**	**60**	**3,517**	**35,753**
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(1,937)**	**(1,937)**
Net book value 30 June 2013	**9,360**	**22,816**	**32,176**	**60**	**1,580**	**33,816**

Note 6C (Cont'd): Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment 2012

	Land $'000	Buildings $'000	Total land & buildings $'000	Heritage [1] & cultural $'000	Other plant & equipment $'000	Total $'000
As at 1 July 2011						
Gross book value	9,185	18,264	27,449	41	2,394	29,884
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(24)	(24)	-	(870)	(894)
Net book value 1 July 2011	9,185	18,240	27,425	41	1,524	28,990
Additions:						
By purchase	-	442	442	19	618	1,079
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	-	733	733	-	-	733
Depreciation expense	-	(662)	(662)	-	(459)	(1,121)
Net book value 30 June 2012	9,185	18,753	27,938	60	1,683	29,681
Net book value as of 30 June 2012 represented by:						
Gross book value	9,185	18,753	27,938	60	3,008	31,006
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	-	-	-	(1,325)	(1,325)
Net book value 30 June 2012	9,185	18,753	27,938	60	1,683	29,681

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

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 7: Payables

	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
Note7A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors and accruals	**(5,491)**	(9,205)
Total suppliers payables	**(5,491)**	(9,205)
Suppliers payables expected to be settled within 12 months:		
External parties	**(5,491)**	(9,205)
Total	**(5,491)**	(9,205)

Settlement was usually made within 30 days.

	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
Note7B: Grants		
Public sector:		
State and Territory Governments	**(900)**	-
Local Governments	**(714)**	(297)
Private sector:	-	
Non-profit organisations	**(214)**	(4,141)
Total grants	**(1,828)**	(4,438)
Total grant payables are expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	**(1,828)**	(4,438)
Total grant payables	**(1,828)**	(4,438)
Note 7C: Other Payables		
Wages and salaries	**(340)**	(258)
Superannuation	**(38)**	(32)
GST payable	-	(177)
Total other payables	**(378)**	(467)
Total other payables are expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	**(378)**	(467)
Total other payables	**(378)**	(467)

Settlement was usually made within 30 days. (2012: 30 days)

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
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Note 8: Provisions

	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
Note 8A: Employee provisions		
Long Service Leave	**(1,367)**	(1,293)
Annual Leave	**(1,414)**	(1,443)
Personal Leave	**(94)**	(114)
Total employee provisions	**(2,875)**	(2,850)
Employee provisions are expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	**(709)**	(449)
More than 12 months	**(2,166)**	(2,401)
Total employee provisions	**(2,875)**	(2,850)

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Note 9: Cash Flow Reconciliation

	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per Balance Sheet to Cash Flow Statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per:		
Cash flow statement	**1,476**	21,412
Balance sheet	**1,476**	21,412
Difference	**-**	-
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from operating activities:		
Net cost of services	**(39,681)**	(39,982)
Add revenue from Government	**45,680**	50,454
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Depreciation	**1,268**	1,121
Net writedown of financial assets	**107**	114
Interest on concessional loans	**(45)**	(83)
Reversal of previous loan writedowns and impairments	**(144)**	(320)
Changes in assets / liabilities		
(Increase) / decrease in net receivables	**(1,416)**	702
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	**25**	720
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	**(3,714)**	7,124
Increase / (decrease) in grants payable	**(2,610)**	4,202
Increase / (decrease) in other payable	**89**	(210)
Net cash from operating activities	**(441)**	23,842

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Note 10: Contingent Assets and Liabilities

Quantifiable Contingencies
There are no contingent assets or contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2013 (2011-12: Nil).

Unquantifiable Contingencies
There are no unquantifiable contingencies as at 30 June 2013 (2011-12 : Nil).

Significant Remote Contingencies
There are no significant remote contingencies as at 30 June 2013 (2011-12 : Nil).

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 11: Directors Remuneration

	2013 No.	2012 No.
The number of non-executive directors of the TSRA included in these figures are shown below in the relevant remuneration bands:		
$0 to $29,999	31	19
$30,000 to $59,999	2	-
$60,000 to $89,999	1	-
$150,000 to $179,999	1	-
$270,000 to $299,999	-	1
Total	**35**	20
	$	$
Total remuneration received or due and receivable by directors of the TSRA:	**461,723**	424,508

The TSRA Board consists of 20 elected members who are Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal people living within a ward in the region. In accordance with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth) the 2012 election was the first time all Members were directly elected to the TSRA board. The Australian Electoral Commission conducted the TSRA Board Member Elections on 15 September 2012.
They will now be elected every four years from 2012 with previous terms being three years. All Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living within contested TSRA wards who are 18 years of age and over were eligible to vote.
The directors other than the chairperson receive sitting fees when undertaking business of the TSRA.
Remuneration of senior executives is included in Note 13: Senior Executive Remuneration.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 12A: Related Party Disclosures

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 TSRA's loan schemes. The directors involved took no
part in the relevant decisions of the TSRA.

TSRA Director Name	Council Relationships
Mr Wayne Guivarra	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Donald Banu	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Phillemon Mosby	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Kenny Bedford	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Torenzo Elisala	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mrs Nancy Pearson	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr David Bosun	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Keith Fell	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Ron Day	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Ron Enosa	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mrs Florianna Bero	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr John Toshie Kris	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Ted Fraser Nai	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Walter Makie	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Eric Peter	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Marjo Sabatino	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Getano Lui	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Reginald Williams	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
Mr Jeffrey Aniba	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
Mr Joseph Elu	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
Ms Napcia Bin Tahal	Torres Shire Council
Mr John Abednego	Torres Shire Council
Mr Yen Loban	Torres Shire Council

The table below outlines the loan holder/s and the TSRA director with whom a related party
connection exists.

Loans
Anthony Titasey
- Mr Keith Fell - TSRA Board Member
Ruth Doolah
- Mr Keith Fell and Mr Mario Sabatino - TSRA Board Members
Triple A Family Values
- Mr Keith Fell and Mr Mario Sabatino - TSRA Board Members
Robert Sagigi
- Mr John Abednego - TSRA Board Member
Elthies Alion Bowie
- Mr John Kris - TSRA Board Member
Mica Newie
- Mr John Kris and Mrs Nancy Pearson - TSRA Board Members
Derek Brank
- Mrs Nancy Pearson and Mr Mario Sabatino - TSRA Board Members
James Mills
- Mr Keith Fell and Mr Mario Sabatino - TSRA Board Members
Quintin Mills
- Mr Keith Fell and Mr Mario Sabatino - TSRA Board Members
Seisia Island Council
- Mr Jeffrey Aniba and Mr Joseph Elu - TSRA Board Members
Loban Marine
- Mr Yen Loban - TSRA Board Member
Seisia Community Torres Strait Islander Corporation
- Mr Joseph Elu - TSRA Board Member
Harry Nona
- Mr Maluwap Nona and Mrs Romina Fujii - TSRA Board Members
Thomas Fujii
- Mr Maluwap Nona and Mrs Romina Fujii - TSRA Board Members
Yen Loban
- TSRA Board Member
Bonita Yamashita and Kevin Sabatino
- Mario Sabatino - TSRA Board Member
Nicholas Charles Loban
- Mr Yen Loban - TSRA Board Member
Michael Paul Mills
- Mr Keith Fell and Mr Mario Sabatino - TSRA Board Members
Samuel Lewin
- Mr Yen Loban and Mr Mario Sabatino - TSRA Board Members

	2013	2012
	$	$
Loans to current Directors outstanding at year-end:	10,563	5,324
Loan repayments during the year:	12,000	-
Loans to current Director-related Entities outstanding at year-end:	1,159,106	1,239,833
Loans to current Director-related Entities during the year:	421,234	361,524
Loan repayments during the year:	265,576	261,980
Interest revenue included in operating result from loans to current Directors/Director-related Entities:	76,003	90,461
Related party loans for current Directors provided for as doubtful debts:	-	5,324
Related party loans written off:	5,369	104,066

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 12B: Related Party Disclosures

Other Transactions with Directors or Director-Related Entities

Grants were made to the following Director-related entities. They were approved under normal terms and conditions applying to the TSRA's grant programs. The directors involved took no part in the relevant decisions of the TSRA.

Directors' Name	Council	Grants Received 2013 $	Grants Received 2012 $
*	Torres Shire Council	254,000	1,035,000
*	Torres Strait Island Regional Council	5,967,536	8,721,266
*	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	476,850	287,755
A Noah	Andrew Passi	5,000	-
M Nona & W Guivarra	Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	25,000	65,000
M Nona	Badu Art Centre	124,000	-
M Nona & W Guivarra	Badu Island Foundation Ltd	101,440	408,417
F Pearson & P Mosby	Buthu Lagau Saral (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	45,000	21,730
M Sabatino & N Pearson	Ceferino Sabatino	10,000	-
K Lui & S Savage	Community Enterprises Australia Ltd	4,608,204	-
S Maka & T Elisala	Dauanalgaw	10,000	-
M Sabatino & N Pearson	Edwin Turner	10,500	-
K Bedford	Erub Erwer Meta (TSI) Corporation	60,000	85,000
K Bedford	Erub FisheriesManagement Association	9,460	-
K Bedford	Erubam Le Traditional Land and Sea Owners Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate	-	18,000
F Pearson & P Mosby	Fred David	5,000	-
K Bedford	Ged Erub Trading Homeland Enterprise (Torres Strait Islander) Corporation	-	35,000
G Lui (Jnr) & W Makie	Iama Mura Mabaigal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	15,000	20,000
T F Nai	Kailag Enterprise Ltd	-	96,000
K Lui & J Kris	Kaziw Asesered Le Association	21,615	-
J Stephen & F Bero	Kos and Abob Fisheries (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	30,000	125,000
H Mosby, J Mosby, W Makie, P Mosby & W Lui	Kulkalgal (central Islands) Development Association Inc	12,712	-
R Day	Mer, Dowar & Waier Torres Strait Islanders Corporation For Fisheries	-	100,000
A Noah & R Day	Mer Gedkem Le	39,000	70,100
M Nona & W Guivarra	Mura Badulgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate	14,000	11,500
R Fujii & N Pearson	Mura Kosker Sorority Inc	697,000	372,000
S Savage & D Bosun	Ngalmun Lagu Minaral (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	50,000	50,000
R Fujii	Port Kennedy Association	790,500	-
F Pearson & P Mosby	Porumalgal	14,000	-
P Mosby	Power of the Spirit Ltd	-	113,773
J Abednego	Relationships Australia Queensland	98,000	-
C Aniba & R Enosa	Saibai Community Development (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	7,700	123,500
J Elu	Seisia Community (TSI) Corporation	39,000	-
W Lui	Tony Harry	5,000	-
J Abednego & A Noah	Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	1,347,636	-
K Fell & W Guivarra	Torres Strait Youth and Recreation Sporting Association Inc	1,183,000	450,000
K Lui & JT Kris	Wug Danalaig Incorporated	30,000	20,000

*Please refer to Note 12A for information regarding Director relationships with these entities.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 13: Senior Executive Remuneration

Note 13A: Senior Executive Remuneration Expense for the Reporting Period

	2013	2012
	$	$
Short-term employee benefits:		
Salary	**954,775**	911,947
Annual leave accrued	**110,153**	96,763
Performance bonuses	**-**	19,694
Other allowances	**156,682**	130,409
Total short-term employee benefits	**1,221,610**	1,158,813
Post-employment benefits:		
Superannuation	**165,052**	109,891
Total post-employment benefits	**165,052**	109,891
Other long-term employee benefits:		
Long-service leave	**38,484**	60,634
Total other long-term employee benefits	**38,484**	60,634
Total senior executive remuneration expenses	**1,425,146**	1,329,338

Notes
1. Note 13A is prepared on an accrual basis.

2. Note 13A excludes acting arrangements and part-year service where remuneration expensed as a senior executive was less than $180,000.

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 13B: Average Annual Reportable Remuneration Paid to Substantive Senior Executives during the Reporting Period

Average annual reportable remuneration paid to substantive senior executives in 2013

Average annual reportable remuneration[1]	Substantive senior executives No.	Reportable salary[2] $	Contributed superannuation[3] $	Reportable allowances[4] $	Bonus paid[5] $	Total reportable remuneration $
Total reportable remuneration (including part-time arrangements):						
less than $180,000	5	115,381	17,971	-	-	133,352
$180,000 to $209,999	1	161,788	28,665	-	-	190,453
$210,000 to $239,999	1	188,138	22,588	-	-	210,726
$240,000 to $269,999	1	208,744	32,484	-	-	241,228
Total number of substantive senior executives	**8**					

Average annual reportable remuneration paid to substantive senior executives in 2012

Average annual reportable remuneration[1]	Substantive senior executives No.	Reportable salary[2] $	Contributed superannuation[3] $	Reportable allowances[4] $	Bonus paid[5] $	Total reportable remuneration $
Total reportable remuneration (including part-time arrangements):						
less than $180,000	4	119,485	14,500	-	6,220	140,205
$180,000 to $209,999	1	162,830	20,244	-	12,514	195,588
$210,000 to $239,999	2	196,455	22,480	-	6,427	225,362
Total number of substantive senior executives	7					

Notes:

1. This table reports substantive senior executives who received remuneration during the reporting period. Each row is an averaged figure based on headcount for individuals in the band.
2. 'Reportable salary' includes the following:
a) gross payments (less any bonuses paid, which are separated out and disclosed in the 'bonus paid' column);
b) reportable fringe benefits (at the net amount prior to 'grossing up' to account for tax benefits);
c) exempt foreign employment income; and
d) salary sacrificed benefits
3. The 'contributed superannuation' amount is the average actual cost to the entity for the provision of superannuation benefits to substantive senior executives in that reportable remuneration band during the reporting period.
4. 'Reportable allowances' are the average actual allowances paid as per the 'total allowances' line on individuals' payment summaries.
5. 'Bonus paid' represents average actual bonuses paid during the reporting period in that reportable remuneration band. The 'bonus paid' within a particular band may vary between financial years due to various factors such as individuals commencing with or leaving the entity during the financial year.
6. Various salary sacrifice arrangements were available to senior executives including superannuation, motor vehicle and expense payment fringe benefits. Salary sacrifice benefits are reported in the 'reportable salary' column, excluding salary sacrificed superannuation, which is reported in the 'contributed superannuation' column.

Note 13C: Other Highly Paid Staff
There were no other employees where total remuneration exceeded $180,000.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2013

Note 14: Remuneration of Auditors

	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
Financial statement audit services were provided by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO).		
Fair value of the services provided		
Financial statement audit services	46	44
Total	46	44

No other services were provided by the ANAO

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2013

Note 15: Financial Instruments

	2013	2012
	$'000	$'000
Note 15A: Categories of Financial Instruments		
Financial Assets		
Held-to-maturity		
Term deposits	**36,800**	22,298
Total	**36,800**	22,298
Loans and receivables		
Cash and cash equivalents	**1,476**	21,412
Receivables for goods and services	**1,170**	1,672
Loans receivable	**5,204**	5,062
Total	**7,850**	28,146
Carrying amount of financial assets	**44,650**	50,444
Financial Liabilities		
At amortised cost:		
Trade creditors and accruals	**(5,491)**	(9,205)
Grant liabilities	**(1,828)**	(4,438)
Total	**(7,319)**	(13,643)
Carrying amount of financial liabilities	**(7,319)**	(13,643)

TSRA holds a portfolio of concessional loans that are provided for business development and home ownership programs.

The values of these loans as at 30 June 2013 are as follows:		
Concessional loans - nominal value	**5,761**	5,638
Less: unexpired discount	**(442)**	(453)
Less: impairment allowance	**(115)**	(123)
Concessional loans - carrying value	**5,204**	5,062

	2013	2012
	$'000	$'000
Note 15B: Net Income and Expense from Financial Assets		
Loans and receivables		
Interest revenue (see note 4B)	**2,372**	1,777
Impairment (see note 4E)	**48**	19
Reversal of losses from remeasuring loans and receivables (see note 4E)	**96**	301
Write down of loans to Net Present Value (see note 3E)	**(132)**	(157)
Receivables Goods and services - external parties provided for as impaired (see note 3F)	**(77)**	(47)
Net gain from loans and receivables	**2,307**	1,893
Net gain from financial assets	**2,307**	1,893

The net income from financial assets not at fair value from profit or loss is $2,307,000 (2012: $1,893,000)

Note 15C: Net Income and Expense from Financial Liabilities

There is no income or expense from financial liabilities for the year ending 30 June 2013 (2012: $Nil)

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2013

<u>**Note 15D: Fair Value of Financial Instruments**</u>
The carrying amount of financial instruments matches their fair value in 2012-13 as in 2011-12.

<u>**Note 15E: Credit risk**</u>
TSRA was exposed to minimal credit risk as the majority of loans and receivables and all held-to-maturity fancial instruments are cash or high quality trade receivables. TSRA also holds a portfolio of concessional loans that are provided for business development and home ownership programs. The maximum exposure to credit risk is the risk that arises from potential default of a trade debtor or a concessional loan holder. This amount is equal to the total amount of trade and loan receivables (2013: $6,374,000 and 2012: $6,734,000)

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

TSRA has assessed the risk of the default on payment and has allocated $179,945 in 2013 (2012: $180,031) to an allowance for impairment. Security underpinning this impairment includes a 5 bedroom house, which was independently valued in June 2011 at an estimated total value of $546,000.

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

	Not past due nor impaired 2013 $'000	Not past due nor impaired 2012 $'000	Past due or impaired 2013 $'000	Past due or impaired 2012 $'000
Cash and cash equivalents	1,476	21,412	-	-
Receivables for goods and services	1,084	1,383	151	346
Loans receivable	5,150	5,005	169	180
Term Deposits	36,800	22,298	-	-
Total	**44,510**	50,098	**320**	526

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2013

	0 to 30 days $'000	31 to 60 days $'000	61 to 90 days $'000	90+ days $'000	Total $'000
Receivables for goods and services	5	-	2	79	86
Loans receivable	13	7	6	28	54
Total	**18**	**7**	**8**	**107**	**140**

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2012

	0 to 30 days $'000	31 to 60 days $'000	61 to 90 days $'000	90+ days $'000	Total $'000
Receivables for goods and services	2	-	-	287	289
Loans receivable	14	7	5	31	57
Total	16	7	5	318	346

Note 15F: Liquidity Risk

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

Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities 2013

	On demand $'000	within 1 year $'000	1 to 2 years $'000	2 to 5 years $'000	>5 years $'000	Total $'000
Trade creditors and accruals	-	(5,491)	-	-	-	(5,491)
Grant liabilities	-	(1,828)	-	-	-	(1,828)
Total	**-**	**(7,319)**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(7,319)**

Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities 2012

	On demand $'000	within 1 year $'000	1 to 2 years $'000	2 to 5 years $'000	>5 years $'000	Total $'000
Trade creditors and accruals	-	(9,205)	-	-	-	(9,205)
Grant liabilities	-	(4,438)	-	-	-	(4,438)
Total	-	(13,643)	-	-	-	(13,643)

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

The entity has no derivative financial liabilities in either 2013 or 2012.

Note 15G: Market Risk

TSRA holds basic financial instruments that did not expose TSRA to certain market risks such as 'currency risk' and 'other price risk'.

The interest-bearing items on the balance sheet are cash at bank, loans and term deposits. Interest earned on cash at bank and term deposits after they mature may be effected by changes in market interest rates. The following table represents the effect to the statement of comprehensive income (and corresponding effect to the cash value in the balance sheet) when the current market interest rate is varied by 1.20%. 1.20% is anticipated to be a reasonable estimate of the maximum movement in market interest rates in financial year 2013-14.

	Value $'000	Effect on Statement of Comprehensive Income Income (Expense) $'000
Anticipated interest earned for 2013-14 financial year at current market interest rate	1,738	0
Increase of 1.20% in market interest rate	2,269	531
Decrease of 1.20% in market interest rate	1,207	(531)

The value of concessional loans is derived by applying the amortised cost using the effective interest method. Because the loan portfolio is valued at net present value using market interest rates, movements in market interest rates will impact on the value of the loan portfolio and the income statement. The following table represents the effect to the income statement (and corresponding effect to the loan portfolio value in the balance sheet) when the current market interest rate is varied by 1.20%. 1.20% is anticipated to be a reasonable estimate of the maximum movement in market interest rates in financial year 2013-14.

	Value $'000	Effect on Statement of Comprehensive Income Income (Expense) $'000
Net Present Value of Loans 30 June 2013	5,319	-
Increase of 1.20% in market interest rate	4,905	(414)
Decrease of 1.20% in market interest rate	5,800	481

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2013

Note 16: Financial Assets Reconciliation

		2013	2012
		$'000	$'000
Financial assets	**Notes**		
Total financial assets as per balance sheet		**46,331**	**50,444**
Less: non-financial instrument components			
Other receivables	5B	**1,681**	**-**
Total non-financial instrument components		**1,681**	**-**
Total financial assets as per financial instruments note		**44,650**	**50,444**

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2013

Note 17: Compensation and Debt Relief

	2013 **$'000**	2012 $'000
Compensation and Debt Relief		
No payments were made during the reporting period. (2012: No payments made).	-	-

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2013

Note 18: Assets Held in Trust

Monetary Assets

MIP trust account

On 17 October 1998, the Queensland State and the TSRA entered into a Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) Funding Agreement under which $15 million for major infrastructure projects was provided by the State over three years with matching funds from the Commonwealth. The co-funding arrangement between State and TSRA has continued over the years and the current arrangement for the period ending June 2013 is set out in a Memorandum of Understanding between TSRA and the State.

The recipients/ beneficiaries of infrastructure projects developed under the MIP are the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, (TSIRC), Torres Shire Council, (TSC) and the Northern Peninsular Area Regional Council, (NPARC).

TSRA's role in MIP is set out in the Memorandum of Understanding between the State and TSRA. TSRA has a fiduciary duty in respect of the MIP funds and in the development of MIP projects but not as the owner of any assets under construction. This is evidenced by the fact that no future economic benefit will flow to TSRA during or on completion of the assets. In addition, and for accounting purposes, TSRA does not consolidate the MIP funds into its financial statements as TSRA is of the opinion that it does not have control of the funds. TSRA adopts AASB 127 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements - paragraph 17.9 (b) as a policy position for this opinion. This is further evidenced by the fact that the TSRA cannot redirect MIP funds for its own use.

	2013	2012
	$'000	$'000
MIP trust account - Monetary Assets		
Total amount held at the beginning of the reporting period	**57,885**	85,459
Receipts	**15,533**	16,086
Payments	**(32,140)**	(43,660)
Total amount held at the end of the reporting period	**41,278**	57,885

Finfish trust account

Torres Strait Islanders own 100 per cent of the Finfish fishery. Finfish quota that is not used by Traditional Inhabitant fishers is leased to Non-Traditional fishers. Leasing revenue is held in trust by the TSRA and disbursed to the beneficiaries for the benefit of the fishery. For example, capacity building activities to increase the number of Torres Strait Islanders fishing in an economical and environmentally sustainable way in the fishery.

	2013	2012
	$'000	$'000
Finfish trust account - Monetary Assets		
Total amount held at the beginning of the reporting period	**603**	692
Receipts	**226**	78
Payments	**(380)**	(167)
Total amount held at the end of the reporting period	**449**	603

The values above are estimated fair values at the time when acquired.

Non-Monetary Assets

The entity had no non-monetary assets held in trust in both the current and prior reporting period

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2013

Note 19: Reporting of Outcomes

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2013	2012	**2013**	2012
	$'000	$'000	**$'000**	$'000
Expenses	**47,980**	56,338	**47,980**	56,338
Own-source income	**8,299**	16,356	**8,299**	16,356
Net cost of outcome delivery	**39,681**	39,982	**39,681**	39,982
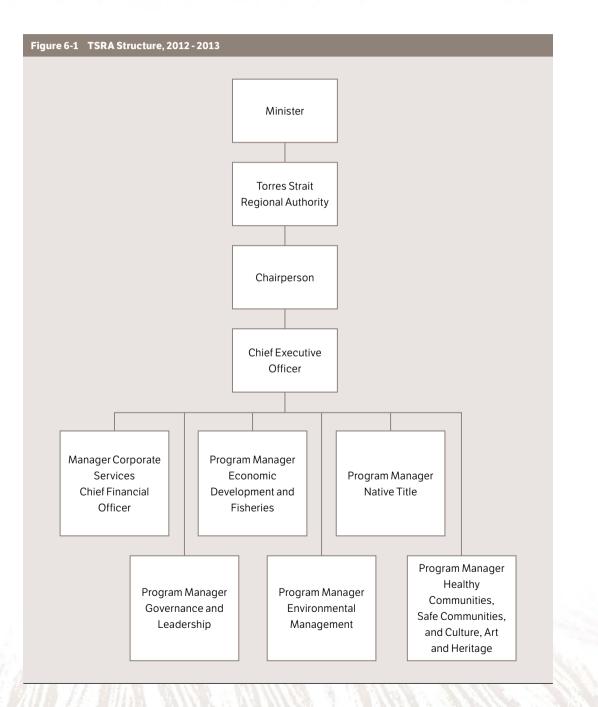
Outcome 1 is described in Note 1.1.

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Appendix 1: Organisational Structure

Figure 6-1   TSRA Structure, 2012 - 2013

Appendix 2: Advertising and Market Research

The TSRA advertises all ongoing vacancies and non-ongoing vacancies which exceed 12 months duration using the Online Australian Public Service Jobs and SEEK websites, as well as other selected national advertising. The TSRA uses the Australian Government's preferred supplier AdCorp Australia Ltd National to advertise tenders and recruitment notices.

The TSRA also uses Far North Queensland region-based print media for advertising job vacancies, publishing media releases and for the distribution of the TSRA Community Newsletters, in line with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.

The TSRA did not conduct any advertising campaigns or make payments to market research, polling, direct mail or media advertising organisations in 2012 - 2013.

Appendix 3: Details of Grants

Table 6-1	Details of Grants	
Grantee	**Purpose**	**Amount**
Andrew Passi	Purchase carving tools	5,000
Australian Maritme Safety Authority	Torres Strait Marine Pathways Project	700,000
Badhulgaw Kutinaw Mudh	Record 10 significant traditional stories	25,000
Badhulgaw Kutinaw Mudh	Purchase digital printer	74,000
Badhulgaw Kutinaw Mudh	Badhulgaw Kutinaw Mudh operations	50,000
Badu Island Foundation	Consultants to develop a concept design and construction documentation for the Tama Mudh Motel extension	50,060
Badu Island Foundation	Construct a storage shed for the Lagau Supermarket	51,380
Buthu Lagau Saral (TSI) Corporation	Attend Pulima National Indigenous Language & Technology Forum	15,000
Buthu Lagau Saral (TSI) Corporation	Miromaa Language Data Project	25,000
Buthu Lagau Saral (TSI) Corporation	Traditional activities for Determination Day on Poruma Island	5,000
Ceferino Sabatino	Support for Kirri Arts & Crafts Development Group	10,000
Community Enterprises Australia Ltd	Community Development Employment Program	4,608,204
Dauanalgaw (T.S.I.) Corporation RNTBC	Capacity building	10,000
Edwin Turner	Hand crafted souvenirs and handicrafts	10,500
Elthius Bowie	Produce eight childrens digital story books	10,000
Erub Erwer Meta (TSI) Corporation	Promote art from Erub Erwer Meta and support artists participation in exhibitions and Arts Fairs	10,000
Erub Erwer Meta (TSI) Corporation	Art Centre operational funding	50,000
Erub Fisheries Management Association	Upgrade Erub freezer office	9,460
Fred David	CD Launch Tour	5,000
Iama Mura Mabaigal TSI Corporation	Thaiwa Dancers trip to 2012 Cultural Festival	15,000
Kaurareg Native Title Aboriginal Corporation	PBC Support	48,100
Kaziw Asesered Le Association	Reprint of Healthy Kaikai cook books	10,000
Kaziw Asesered Le Association	St Pauls raft race	4,400

Table 6-1 Details of Grants		
Grantee	**Purpose**	**Amount**
Kaziw Asesered Le Association	Yam Island Youth Project	3,500
Kaziw Asesered Le Association	Helathy Ilan Home Booklet	3,715
Kos and Abob Fisheries TSI) corporation	Upgading of the Ugar freezer	30,000
Kulkalgal (TSI) Corporation RNTBC	PBC Support	12,712
Mer Gedkem Le (TSI) corporation (RNTBC)	PBC Support	24,000
Mer Gedkem Le (TSI) corporation (RNTBC)	PBC Support	15,000
Mura Badulgal (TSI) Corporation RNTBC	2013 Mabo Day Celebrations	14,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc	Deep Sea Dancers 21st Mabo Day Celebrations Mer Island	20,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc	Donation to Domestic Violence Prevention Month	1,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc	Operational funding	348,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc	Kerkar Bau Shaping the warrior within	35,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc	Mura Kazil Sagul Early Intervention and Family Support	293,000
Ngalmun Lagau Minaral (TSI) Corporation	Operational funding	50,000
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Funding for Farm Supervisor position at Bamaga Farm	89,000
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Host the 2012 Northern Peninsula Area Show	30,000
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Emergency Response Group Training Facility	49,000
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Multi Sports Carnival 2012	5,000
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Set up Hydroponic Farm	120,000
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Dance team to attend the Top Laura Festival	25,000
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Events co-ordinator position	100,000
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Seisia Internet access	58,850
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School	Host regional camp for TSI and Cairns based Gondwana National Indigenous Childrens Choir	10,000
Oxfam Australia	Sponsorship of the Straight Talk National Summit 2013	15,500
Port Kennedy Association	Operational Support	350,000

Table 6-1 Details of Grants		
Grantee	**Purpose**	**Amount**
Port Kennedy Association	Wabunau Geth Dance Team tour to Blak Nite Adelaide	25,000
Port Kennedy Association	Danny Bani music CD production	24,000
Port Kennedy Association	Operational funding	278,000
Port Kennedy Association	Community After School care	97,000
Port Kennedy Association	Produce music CD of traditional and contemporary songs	16,500
Porumalgal (TSI) Corporation RNTBC	PBC support	14,000
Relationships Australia Queensland	We feel prapagud, we feel safe	98,000
Robert Kaigey	Arts workshop	7,500
Saibai Community Development (TSI) Corporation	Security Officer training	7,700
Seisia Community (TSI) Corporation	Upgrade office space	39,000
Tagai State College	Dauan Island preparations for Cultural Festival	13,000
Tagai State College	Mer Island preparations for Cultural Festival	15,000
Tagai State College	Poruma Island preparations for Cultural Festival	10,000
Tony Harry	Purchase art supplies	5,000
Torres Shire Council	Events co-ordinator position	100,000
Torres Shire Council	Lift for life	154,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme	900,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Heavy Equipment Management & Training Program	500,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Repairs to Mer Island Guest House prior to divestment	81,810
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Repairs to Saibai Guesthouse, Variety Store and Fuel Bowser	49,091
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Major Infrastructure Program	2,536,635
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Events co-ordinator position	100,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Water Related Infrastructure	1,800,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council*	Refund of Grant for purchse of a boat for the Poruma Resort	-43,854

Table 6-1 Details of Grants		
Grantee	**Purpose**	**Amount**
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Financial Assistance for Provision of Indigenous Broadcasting	1,047,636
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Studio upgrade	300,000
Torres Strait Youth & Recreational Sporting Association	Operational Support	450,000
Torres Strait Youth & Recreational Sporting Association	Ensuring a Strait start	118,000
Torres Strait Youth & Recreational Sporting Association	Operating, recurrent and sporting subsidies	615,000
Wug Danalaig Incorporated	Dance Team attendance at WOMAD 2013	30,000
Total		**16,891,399**

(Total from audited Financial Statements – Detail unaudited)

Appendix 4: Details of Consultants

Table 6-2 Details of Consultants				
Name	**Amount**	**Purpose**	**Selection Process**	**Justification**
Accsys Consulting	70,087	System review	Open tender	B
Analytics Group Pty Ltd	16,682	Review of travel options in the Torres Stait	Direct sourcing	B
Arafura Consulting	85,000	Anthroplogical services	Direct sourcing	B
Arenelle Pty Ltd	85,103	Program and planning support and mentoring	Direct sourcing	C
Australian Federal Police	11,058	Security review	Direct sourcing	B
Business Mapping Solutions	21,364	Business Support Services	Open tender	B
c2o Consulting	10,000	Review and update the Torres Strait Climate Change Strategy	Direct sourcing	B
Contact First Business Solution	4,277	Business Support Services	Open tender	B
Deltapoint Pty Ltd	3,525	Human Resources support	Direct sourcing	B
Department of Environment & Heritage Protection	90,000	Sand replenishment trials	Direct sourcing	B
Alan Dick	2,550	Advice in relation to public Housing structural options on Mer Island	Direct sourcing	B
Effective Governance	90,544	Board Induction	Direct sourcing	B
Environmental Systems Solutions	132,000	Traditional Ecological Knowledge System	Open tender	B
Catherine Holmes Consulting	13,301	Facilitate Program Planning meeting	Direct sourcing	B
Island Air & Ice	1,360	Refrigeration advice	Direct sourcing	B
James Cook University	220,000	Intertidal seagrass monitoring	Direct sourcing	B
James Cook University	190,000	Mapping intertidal marine habitats	Direct sourcing	B
James Cook University	9,660	Mangrove Watch training	Direct sourcing	B
Julie Baker-Smith & Associates Pty Ltd	18,334	Human Resources Support	Direct sourcing	C

Table 6-2	Details of Consultants			
Name	**Amount**	**Purpose**	**Selection Process**	**Justification**
Katherine Vet Care Centre Pty Ltd	18,000	Mer Island dog control	Direct sourcing	B
Menzies School of Health and Research	6,216	Facilitate Program Planning meeting	Direct sourcing	B
Menzies School of Health and Research	7,500	Advice and material for Improved Organisational Strategies	Direct sourcing	B
M.I. Murren Trust	86,182	Poruma Community Cultural Planning	Open tender	B
Omega Performance Corporation Pty Ltd	14,720	Business lending training	Direct sourcing	B
Pegasus Studios	110,000	Music and Dance audit	Direct sourcing	B
People & Strategy	29,193	Human Resources support	Direct sourcing	B
Positive Solutions Pty Ltd	20,000	Develop the Torres Strait Culture and Language Strategy	Direct sourcing	B
Tagai State College	100,000	Environmental Education Co-ordinator	Direct sourcing	B
Alo Tapim	6,818	Language and Culture workshop	Direct sourcing	B
Total Safety Services	4,620	Workplace Health and Safety services	Direct sourcing	B
Tracker Development	4,077	Governance and Workplace mediation	Direct sourcing	B
University Of Queensland	20,000	Develop a humane method for the euthanising of green turtles	Direct sourcing	B
Patrick Whop	6,818	Language and Culture workshop	Direct sourcing	B
Total Consultants	**1,508,989**			

(Total from audited Financial Statements – Detail unaudited)

Justification Code:

A: Skills currently unavailable within TSRA
B: Need for specialised or professional skills
C: Need for independent research or assessment

Appendix 5: Compliance with Australian Government Statutes and Policies

Under the Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011, Schedule 1, Clause 12, the TSRA is required to provide particulars of:

› directions issued by the responsible Minister, or other Minister, under the enabling legislation of the TSRA or other legislation;

› general policies of the Australian Government that were notified to the TSRA before 1 July 2008 under

Section 28 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Company Act 1997* (Cth) and which continue to apply to the TSRA;

› General Policy Orders that apply to the TSRA under Section 48A of the CAC Act.

Table 6-3 details the directions and government policies that apply to the TSRA;

Table 6-3 Compliance with Australian Government Direction and Policy	
Direction and Government Policy	**Compliance**
Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Act 2005 (Cth), including the Indigenous Affairs legislation Amendments Bills numbers 1 and 2 of 2011	Compliant, see Compliance index, section 7
Advertising and Market Research	Compliant
Australian Competitive Grants register (ACGR)	Not applicable
Competitive neutrality (CN)	Compliant
Disability reporting Mechanisms	Compliant
Energy Efficiency in Government Operations	Compliant
Fraud Policy	Compliant, the TSRA has a fraud control plan in place
Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth)	Compliant
Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)	Compliant, no breaches to Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) during 2012 - 2013
Protective Security Policy Framework	Compliant, no breaches to the Protective Security Policy Framework during 2012 - 2013
Senate Continuing Order no.6, as varied by the senate on 3 December 1998	Compliant. No new files were created in 2012 - 2013. The TSRA is using an Electronic Document records Management system and is working with the National Archives to ensure that it continues to comply with this order.

Appendix 6: Explanation of Program Budget Variance

This appendix is in reference to the Appropriation Program Expenditure Table 2-1 on page 15 and provides additional information on the reason for the variances for each program area's expenditure as compared to budget allocations.

During 2012 - 2013, the TSRA operated under a program structure which was focused on the delivery of outcomes and realisation of measurable benefits against the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029 and the Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013.

Table 2-1 on page 15 provides actual program spend for 2012 - 2013 compared to budget allocations from appropriation. The actual 2012 - 2013 program spend from appropriation totalled $37.536 million compared to a budget allocation of $41.377 million, resulting in a variance ($3.841 million).

In the main, the variances can be attributed to a delay in the phased approach to establishing a formalised fisheries program during the reporting period and a reduction in CDEP activity in the latter part of the reporting period. Where possible, other program underspends were identified early and reallocated to initiatives that could not be funded earlier in the year or allocated toward planned capital expenditure in the out years.

The following programs recorded variances against budget for the financial year 2012 - 2013.

Table 6-4	Program Budget Variance (unaudited)
Program	**Variance $'000's**
Culture Art and Heritage	-176
Economic Development	-1,704
Environmental Management[1]	-1,649
Governance and leadership	-355
Native Title	12
Healthy Communities	71
Safe Communities	-40

1 Includes fisheries.

Section 7:
Compliance Indexes

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Commonwealth Authority

This Annual Report is prepared in accordance with section 144ZB of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), and all other sections.

As a Commonwealth Authority, the TSRA is also required to prepare an Annual Report in accordance with:

› requirements of the *Commonwealth and Companies Act 1997* (Cth), as set out in the Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011

› requirements of other Commonwealth legislation, namely the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.

Table 7-1 below details the reporting requirements and provides the location of the relevant information within this Annual Report.

Any inquiries relating to this Compliance Index can be directed to the TSRA by phone on (07) 4069 0700 or (toll free) 1800 079 093, or by email to info@tsra.gov.au.

Table 7-1 TSRA Compliance Index	
Guiding Legislation Requirement	**Page reference**
***Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*- Section 144ZB**	
(2) Certain matters must be included in the Annual Report. The TSRA must include in each Annual Report details of:	
Any directions given by the Minister under section 142E	Page 106
Any consultants engaged under section 144T	Page 194
(3) Report must include details of grants. If a grant was made by the TSRA during a financial year to an individual or body, then, in addition to the matters referred in subsections (1) and (2), the Annual Report for that year must set out:	
The name of the individual or body	Page 190
The amount and purpose of grant	Page 190
(4) Report must not disclose sacred matters:	
The TSRA must not disclose in any annual report any matters known by the TSRA to be held sacred by Torres Strait islander or Aboriginal persons	Page 136
(5) Report must include certain details about consultants	
If an annual report gives details of a consultant engaged under section 144T, the report must set out any significant differences between the terms and conditions on which that consultant was engaged and the standard terms and conditions for the engagement of consultants by the TSRA as set out in the instrument referred to in subsection 144T(3)	There have been no deviations from the standard terms and conditions

Table 7-1 TSRA Compliance Index	
Guiding Legislation Requirement	**Page reference**
Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 **(Cth) – Part 3, Division 2—Reporting Obligations, Subdivision A—Annual report and related obligations**	
(9) Directors must prepare an annual report	
(1) the Directors of a Commonwealth Authority must: (a) prepare an annual report in accordance with schedule 1 for each financial year; and (b) give it to the responsible Minister by the deadline for the financial year for presentation to the Parliament.	(a) this requirement has been met (b) this requirement has been met
Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 **(Cth) – Schedule 1 Annual Report for Commonwealth Authority**	
Part 1 – Contents of Annual Report	
(1) Summary of contents the annual report must include:	
(a) A report of operations, prepared by the directors in accordance with the Finance Minister's orders;	Page 12 - 107
(b) financial statements, prepared by the directors under clause 2 of this schedule; and	Page 140 - 184
(c) the Auditor-General's report on those financial statements, prepared under Part 2 of this schedule and addressed to the responsible Minister.	Page 140 - 141
(2) Financial Statements	
(1) The financial statements must be prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's orders and must give a true and fair view of the matters that those orders require to be included in the statements.	Compliant
(2) If financial statements prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's orders would not otherwise give a true and fair view of the matters required by those orders, the Directors must add such information and explanations as will give a true and fair view of those matters.	Financial statements give a true and accurate record Page 140 - 184
(3) In the financial statements the directors must state whether in their opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's orders.	Page 142
(4) if the Commonwealth Authority is a GBE or SMA, the directors must state whether or not, in their opinion, there are, when the statement is made, reasonable grounds to believe that the authority will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.	The TSRA is not a GBE or SMA

Table 7-1 TSRA Compliance Index	
Guiding Legislation Requirement	**Page reference**
Part 2 – Auditor's report on Financial Statements	
(3) Whether the statements comply with the Finance Minister's Orders	
(1) The Auditor-General must state whether in the Auditor-General's opinion, the financial statements: (a) Have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's orders; and	Page 141
(b) Give a true and fair view of the matters required by those orders.	
(2) If the Auditor-General is not of that opinion, the Auditor-General must state the reasons.	Page 141
(3) If the Auditor-General is of the opinion that failing to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Finance Minister's orders has a quantifiable effect, the Auditor-General must quantify that financial effect and state the amount.	Page 141
(4) Proper accounting records not kept	
If the Auditor-General is of the opinion that the Authority has contravened section 20, the Auditor-General must state particulars of the contravention.	The TSRA has not contravened Section 20
(5) Inadequate information and explanations	
If the Auditor-General is of the opinion that the Auditor-General did not obtain all the necessary information and explanations, the Auditor-General must state particulars of the shortcomings.	The TSRA obtained all necessary information and explanations
(6) Subsidiaries' financial statements	
(1) this clause applies if the authority's financial statements are consolidated financial statements	The TSRA financial statements are not consolidated statements
(2) the Auditor-General must state the name of each entity (if any) that satisfies the following description: (a) the entity was a subsidiary of the authority at any time during the financial year; and (b) the Auditor-General has not: (i) Acted as auditor of the entity for the financial year; or (ii) Audited the entity's financial statements for the financial year.	Not applicable, as above 6(1)
(3) if the consolidated financial statements include information derived from financial statements of an entity of a kind referred to in subclause (2), then: (a) if the Auditor-General has not examined those financial statements and the auditor's report (if any) on them, the Auditor-General must state that fact; and (b) if an auditor's report on any of those financial statements included any qualification, the Auditor-General must state the name of the subsidiary and the particulars of the qualification.	Not applicable, as above 6(1)

Table 7-1 TSRA Compliance Index	
Guiding Legislation Requirement	**Page reference**
(7) Deficiencies in consolidation	
If the Auditor-General is of the opinion that: (a) Any of the financial statements that were used in preparing consolidated financial statements were not appropriate and proper, in both form and content, to be used in that way; or (b) there was any deficiency in the procedures and methods used in arriving at the amounts taken in to consolidated financial statements; the Auditor-General must state the particulars of the deficiency	Not applicable, as above 6(1)
Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011	
Preliminary	
(6) Approval by directors	
The Annual Report of Operations must be approved by a resolution of directors of a Commonwealth authority. if the Commonwealth authority has only one director, the report of operations must be approved by that director.	Page 142
The Annual Report of Operations must be signed by a director and include details of how and when approval was given. The Annual Report of Operations must also state that directors are responsible for the preparation and contents of the Annual Report of Operations (as required in section 9 of the CAC Act and in accordance with the Finance Minister's orders).	Page xv
(7) Exemptions	
The Finance Minister may grant a written exemption to the directors of a Commonwealth authority, or a class of Commonwealth authorities, from any requirement of these orders. An exemption must be in writing and may be subject to conditions.	No exemption was granted
Details of an exemption relied upon by the Commonwealth authority must be provided in the Annual Report of Operations.	No exemption was granted
Requirements	
(8) Parliamentary standards of presentation	
The annual report of a Commonwealth authority is tabled in Parliament by the responsible Minister under paragraph 9(1)(b) of the CAC Act. Once tabled in Parliament, the annual report becomes part of the Parliamentary Papers series and as such, the report must comply with the presentation and printing standards for documents presented to the Parliament.	The annual report is compliant with the presentation and printing standards for documents presented to the Parliament.

Table 7-1 TSRA Compliance Index	
Guiding Legislation Requirement	**Page reference**
(9) Plain English and clear design	

The Annual Report of Operations must be constructed having regard to the interests of the Parliament and other users. Information included in the report must be relevant, reliable, concise, understandable and balanced. For example, to the extent practicable:
    a. use clear design, including through headings and adequate spacing;
    b. define acronyms and technical terms (such as through a glossary);
    c. use tables, graphs, diagrams and charts; and
    d. include any additional matters that may be appropriate.
	Information included in the report is relevant, reliable, concise, understandable and balanced.

(10) Enabling legislation	
The Annual Report of Operations must also specify the Commonwealth authority's enabling legislation, including a summary of its objectives and functions, as specified in its legislation.	Page 104
(11) Responsible Minister	
The Annual Report of Operations must specify the name of the current responsible Minister and the names of any other responsible Ministers during the relevant financial year being reported on.	Page 106
(12) Ministerial directions and other statutory requirements	

Directions and Government policies
The Annual Report of Operations must provide details of:
    a. directions issued by the responsible Minister, or other Minister, under the enabling legislation of the Commonwealth authority or other legislation; and
    b. general policies of the Australian Government that were notified to the Commonwealth authority before 1 July 2008 under section 28 of the CAC Act (as in force before 1 July 2008) and which continue to apply to the Commonwealth authority; and
    c. General Policy Orders that apply to the Commonwealth authority under section 48A of the CAC Act.
Where a direction or applicable policy has not been fully complied with, the report must include an explanation of the non-compliance.
	Page 106

(13) Information about directors	
The Annual Report of Operations must include information on the directors of the Commonwealth authority. This information includes directors' names, qualifications, experience, attendance of board meetings and whether the director is an executive or non-executive director.	Page 111 - 124

Table 7-1 TSRA Compliance Index	
Guiding Legislation Requirement	**Page reference**
(14) Outline of organisational structure and statement on governance	
Organisational structure The Annual Report of Operations must provide an outline of: a. the organisational structure of the Commonwealth authority (including subsidiaries); and b. the location, in Australia or elsewhere, of major activities and facilities.	Page 110 Page iv, v Page 98
Statement on governance The Annual Report of Operations can assist a Commonwealth authority to demonstrate that its governance is sound. Consequently, the Annual Report of Operations must include information on the main corporate governance practices that the Commonwealth authority used during the financial year. For example, details should be provided on: a. board committees of the authority and their main responsibilities; b. education and performance review processes for directors; and c. ethics and risk management policies.	Page 111 Page 122 - 127
(15) Related Entity Transactions	
The Annual Report of Operations must disclose the decision-making process undertaken by the board of the authority when: a. it approves for the authority to pay for a good or service from another entity, or provide a grant to another entity; and b. a director of the authority is also a director of the other entity that provides the good or service or receives the grant; and c. the value of the transaction, or if there is more than one transaction, the aggregate value of those transactions, exceeds $10,000 (GST inclusive). If decision-making processes relate to multiple transactions to a single entity, with an aggregate value of more than $10,000 (GST inclusive), then a single report can be provided that explains the number of transactions and the aggregate of expenditure. The aim is to improve transparency around potential conflicts of interests in the operations of Commonwealth authorities.	Page 172 - 173
(16) Key activities and changes affecting the authority	
Highlighting key activities and changes that have affected the Commonwealth authority can assist the reader to understand the authority's performance over the past financial year. Consequently, the annual report must detail any key activities and changes that affected the operations or structure of the authority during the financial year. this may include: a. significant events under section 15 of the CAC Act such as forming or participating in the formation of a company, significant partnership or trust; b. operational and financial results of the authority; c. key changes to the authority's state of affairs or principal activities; d. amendments to the authority's enabling legislation and to any other legislation directly relevant to its operation.	Page vi - ix Section 5

Table 7-1 TSRA Compliance Index	
Guiding Legislation Requirement	**Page reference**
(17) Judicial decisions and reviews by outside bodies	
As entities of the Australian Government, Commonwealth authorities are expected to have levels of accountability suitable for the public sector. Part of demonstrating these qualities involves reporting on judicial decisions and reports by third parties. As such, the Annual Report of Operations must include particulars of: 　a. judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals that have had, or may have, a significant effect on the operations of the Commonwealth authority; and 　b. reports about the authority made by the Auditor-General, a Parliamentary committee, the Commonwealth Ombudsman or the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.	Page 107
(18) Obtaining information from subsidiaries	
Where directors of a Commonwealth authority are unable to obtain information from a subsidiary that is required to be included in the Annual Report of Operations before the annual report is submitted under section 9 of the CAC Act, the directors must include an explanation on the missing information and how this affects the annual report.	The TSRA does not have subsidiaries.
(19) Indemnities and insurance premiums for officers	
The Annual Report of Operations must include details of any indemnity given to an officer against a liability, including premiums paid, or agreed to be paid, for insurance against the officer's liability for legal costs.	Page 131
(20) Disclosure requirements for GBEs	
Changes in financial conditions and community service obligations	The TSRA is not a GBE
(21) Index of annual report requirements	
To assist readers to locate the information required by the CAC Act (including these orders) or other applicable legislation, the Annual Report of Operations must provide an index of annual report requirements, identifying where relevant information can be found in the annual report.	Page 218
Other Legislation	
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	
The annual reports of Commonwealth authorities must under s516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*, now include a report on environmental matters in their annual reports. Details of what is required can be found at http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/about/reports.html#annualcwth	Page 128
Work Health and Safety Act 2011	
The annual reports of Commonwealth authorities must include information set out in sub-item 4(2) of Schedule 2 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*	Page 133

Table 7-1 TSRA Compliance Index	
Guiding Legislation Requirement	**Page reference**
Freedom of Information Act 1982	
Section 93 requires agencies, including the TSRA, to provide information and statistics to the Australian Information Commissioner. Further details about these requirements can be obtained from the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's website at www.oaic.gov.au.	Page 136

Native Title Representative Body

As a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB), the TSRA is required to provide an Annual Report of its operations and performance of Representative Body functions together with financial statements prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

The following table is the checklist of reporting requirements for 2012 - 2013 for an NTRB as supplied by the Land Programs Branch of FaHCSIA on 30 August 2013.

All CAC Act requirements have already been referenced in the Compliance Index .

Any inquiries relating to this Compliance Index can be directed to the Principal Legal Officer, Native Title Office, TSRA, by phone on (07) 4069 2581 or by email to info@tsra.gov.au.

Table 7-2 NTRB Compliance Index	
Requirement	**Page Reference**
Letter of Transmittal	Page xv
Table of Contents	Page xi - xiii
Index	Page 218
Glossary	Page 216
Contact Officer, Internet Home Page Address and Internet Address for the Report	Page ii
Report by Chairperson	Page 2
Report by Chief Executive Officer including:	Page 6
(a) summary of significant issues and developments; (b) overview of performance and financial results; (c) outlook for the following year.	
NTRB Overview	Page 70 - 75

(a) overview description of NTRB
 (b) role and functions
     (i)   legislation
     (ii) legislative functions
     (iii) Corporate Governance Policies	

(c) organisational structure	
(d) outcome and output structure	
(e) Key features – strategic plan, operational plan	

Table 7-2 NTRB Compliance Index	
Requirement	**Page Reference**
Report on Performance	

(a)
   (i)   of performance during the year in relation to strategic and operational
       plan and by function
   (ii) summary data on outputs. Discussion of outputs achieved.
	Page 62 - 68

(b) narrative discussion and analysis of performance
   (i)   trend information
   (ii) factors, events or trends influencing performance
   (iii) significant changes in nature of principal functions/services
   (iv) performance against service charter/standards, complaints data and
       the NTRB's response to complaints
	Page 70 - 75

(c) summary resources tables by outputs, budget / actual by main heads of
    expenditure and revenue
   (i)   discussion of analysis of NTRB's financial performance against budget
   (ii) discussion of any significant changes from the prior year or from budget
	Table 2-8

(d) developments since the end of financial year that have affected or may significantly affect the NTRB's operations in future.	The review of Native Title organisations is in progress and is due to report to Government in December 2013.
Corporate Governance – statement of the main practices in place	
(a) name of the senior executive and their responsibilities	

(b) senior Management committees and their roles – separation of powers
   (i)   number of Board and Committee Meetings, attendance by Members
   (ii) training arrangements for Board Members
	Page 110 - 127

(c) corporate and operational planning and associated performance reporting and review	Page 131
(d) approach adopted to identifying areas of significant financial or operational risk and arrangements in place to manage risks	Page 130
(e) policy and practices on the establishment and maintenance of appropriate ethical standards	Page 125
(f) nature and amount or remuneration for senior management and how it is determined	Page 174

Table 7-2 NTRB Compliance Index	
Requirement	**Page Reference**
External Scrutiny – Significant developments in external scrutiny	
(a) judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals	Page 75
(b) evaluation and / or audit reports – findings and responses	Page 140
(c) other external reviews	FaHCSIA initiated review of the functions of all Native Title Organisations 2013.
Management of Human Resources – Assessment in effectiveness in managing and developing human resources to perform NTRB functions and achieve NTRB objectives	
(a) workforce planning, staff turnover and retention	Page 133
(b) training and development undertaken and its impact	Page 133
(c) impact and features of Certified Agreements and AWA's	Page 133
(d) occupational health and safety performance	Page 133
(e) statistics on staffing	Page 73
(f) indemnities and insurance premiums for officers	Page 131
Consultants and Competitive tendering and Contracting	
(a) competitive tendering and Contracting practices	Page 13
(b) number of consultancy services contracts let and total expenditure on consultancy services	Page 74 Page 194 - 195
Financial Statements	
(a) auditor's report	Page 140 - 141
(b) statement by Governing Committee and CEO	Page 142
(c) financial statements	Page 144 - 148
(d) notes to financial statements	Page 150 - 184
Other information	
(a) index	Page 218

Section 8:

Glossary and Indexes

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Saibai Island dancers.

Glossary

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
AIATSIS	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
APS	Australian Public Service
ARLP	Australian Rural Leadership Program
ATES	Assistance with Tertiary Education Scheme
AWA	Australian Workplace Agreement
CDEP	Community Development Employment Projects
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry
DATSIMA	Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs
DEHP	Department of the Environment and Heritage Protection
DLGCRR	Queensland Department of Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience
DOGIT	Deeds of Grant In Trust
DOHA	Department of Health and Ageing
DTMR	Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads
EAP	Employee Assistance Program
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
EMQ	Emergency Management Queensland
EPIRB	Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
FaHCSIA	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
FOI	Freedom of Information
GTCC	Gab Titui Cultural Centre
HEMPT	Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program
HIAHP	Horn Island Affordable Housing Project
IBA	Indigenous Business Australia
IBIS	Islander Board of Industry and Service
ICT	Information Communications Technology
IFAC	Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area
IPS	Information Publication Scheme
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network

ISD	Integrated Service Delivery
JCU	James Cook University
NITV	National Indigenous Television
NPARC	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
MIP	Major Infrastructure Program
MSQ	Maritime Safety Queensland
NERP	Northern Environmental Research Program
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NTO	Native Title Office
NTRB	Native Title Representative Body
ORIC	Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations
PBC	Prescribed Body Corporate
PSC	Program Steering Committee
PKA	Port Kennedy Association
PZJA	Protected Zone Joint Authority
RIBS	Remote Indigenous Broadcast Service
RNTBC	Registered Native Title Body Corporate
RJCP	Remote Jobs and Communities Program
RRRC	Reef and Rainforest Research Centre
SEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
TE	Tropical Ecosystems
TEK	Traditional Ecological Knowledge
TIB	Traditional Inhabitant Boat
TIDS	Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme
TSC	Torres Shire Council
TSIRC	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
TRAWQ	Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine
TRAIL	Training Rural Australians in Leadership
TRL	Tropical rock lobster
TSCMC	Torres Strait Coastal Management Committee
TSYRSA	Torres Strait Youth and Recreation Sporting Association
TS&NPA	Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area
TSIMA	Torres Strait Islanders Media Association
TSRA	Torres Strait Regional Authority
UN	United Nations
VOIP	Voice Over Internet Protocol
WIN	World Indigenous Network

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