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TSRA LAUNCHES OFFICIAL CULTURAL POLICY AND CULTURAL PROTOCOLS

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) hosted the official launch of the new TSRA Cultural Policy and TSRA Cultural Protocols last Thursday, 24 November.

The launch, held at Gab Titui Cultural Centre, Thursday Island, was an important event in the TSRA's calendar, hosting over 100 community members, leaders, and representatives of key organisations operating with communities throughout the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area (NPA).

The TSRA Cultural Policy and TSRA Cultural Protocols Guide were officially launched by the TSRA Chairperson, Mr John Toshie Kris, who described the documents as integral to the development of inclusive and effective relationships between government organisations and communities in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

"The Cultural Policy document has been developed specifically to assist our organisation in achieving its vision statement" Mr Kris said – *empowering our people, in our decision, in our culture, for our future.*

"Promoting an understanding of the cultures of Torres Strait Islanders, Kaurareg people and Aboriginal people, it will provide a new benchmark for community engagement in our region," Mr Kris said.

The TSRA Cultural Protocols Guide is designed to be used in conjunction with the TSRA Cultural Policy and will assist the organisation in achieving its goal to provide consistent levels of support and service to each Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area community.

Guest speakers at the policy launch included Mr Phillemon Mosby, TSRA Portfolio Member for Culture Art and Heritage and Cultural Advisor and community elder, Mr Gabriel Bani, who acknowledged the importance of the documents to the Torres Strait and NPA communities.

A message delivered on behalf of Arts Queensland Deputy Director General, Ms Leigh Tabrett, also provided guests with insight into the ways in which the documents will be incorporated into Arts Queensland's Indigenous programming and policies.

Concluding the evening's events, guests enjoyed moving performances by Zuguwthiyam Dance Team, from Mabuiag Island.

Copies of the TSRA Cultural Policy and TSRA Cultural Protocols Guide can be obtained from the TSRA's website www.tsra.gov.au or by calling 07 4069 0700.

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