

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

2003–2004



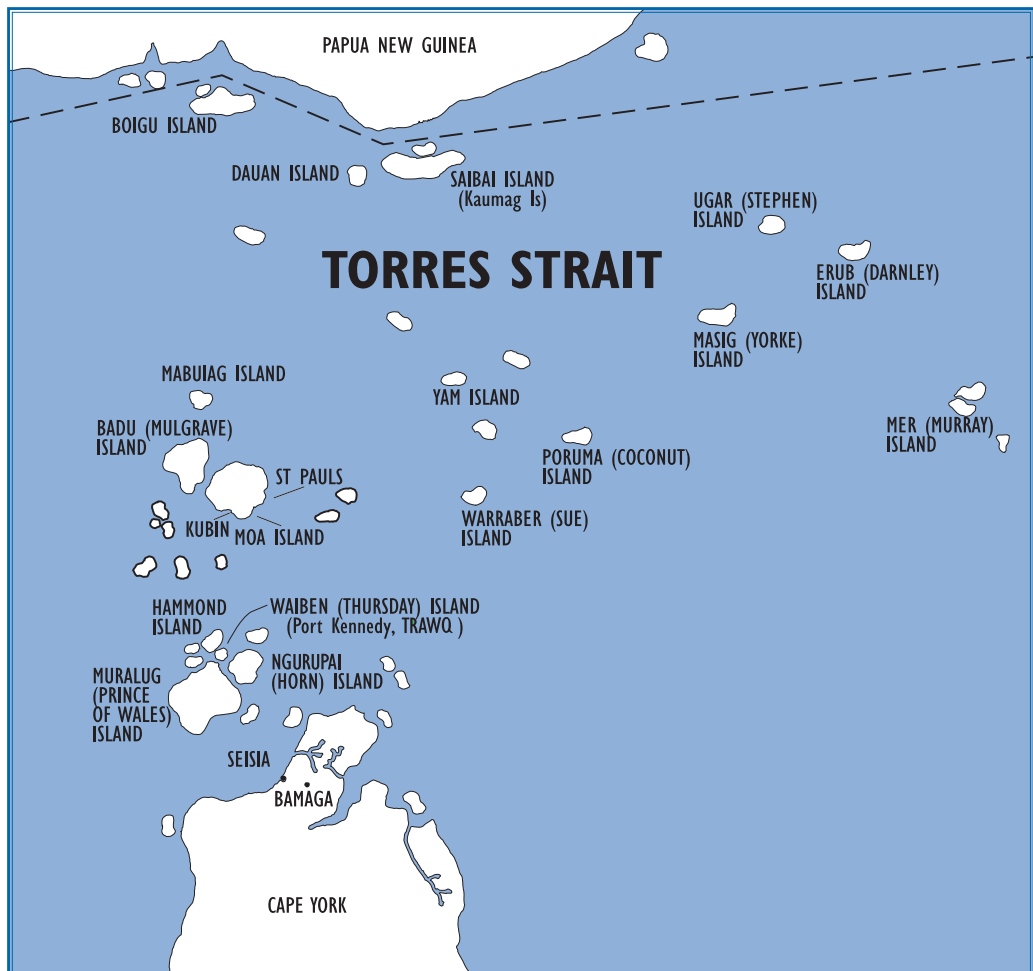


Australian Government



TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2003 – 2004



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TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

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

Dear Minister,

It gives me great pleasure to present you with the tenth Annual Report of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA), in accordance with section 144ZB of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989* and also section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. This annual report covers the period from 1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004.

As we look back over our tenth year the TSRA continued to work in partnership with the Australian Government to improve the quality of life for all Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Kris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

John T. Kris
Chairperson
Torres Strait Regional Authority
27 October 2004

OUR VISION

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

OUR GOALS

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

PREFACE

GUIDE TO THE 2003 – 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

The Torres Strait Regional Authority's Annual Report 2003 – 2004 is the Chairperson's report on operations to the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs on the performance and achievements of the TSRA during 2003 – 2004. It is a key accountability document to the Parliament of Australia.

REPORT STRUCTURE

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

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

The third chapter provides details of the TSRA Board, Advisory Committees, Portfolio Positions and the TSRA meetings held during 2003 – 2004. The following chapter 'About The TSRA' provides some detail about the Torres Strait region and the people who live there. It also describes the environment in which the TSRA operates; how and when the TSRA was created; what the TSRA does; the framework in which it distributes grants and loans and a corporate overview of the TSRA administration.

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

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

CHAIRPERSON'S 2003 – 2004 REPORT



INTRODUCTION

As the new Chairperson of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA), I am pleased to present to you the 2003 – 2004 Torres Strait Regional Authority Report of Operations under Section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. This has been an eventful and challenging year for the TSRA Board, especially when you consider that the face of Indigenous Affairs in Australia has changed a great deal compared to 12 months ago.

The challenge for the TSRA in the coming years is to ensure that any reforms that extend to our region must first be appropriate to our overall aspirations of self-empowerment whether financially, culturally, or politically appropriate, while at the same time guaranteeing that the foundations laid by successive TSRA leaders and boards is built upon.

I wish to thank the current Board and the TSRA administration for all their efforts during the past 12 months in making sure that the Authority functioned efficiently and delivered outcomes to all our communities.

TSRA ELECTIONS

From the Board's perspective, the Community Council and TSRA Elections in 2004 were key events in the second half of the financial year and have resulted in some changes to the TSRA's membership, not to mention at various island councils.

I wish to congratulate all new TSRA members on joining our peak body, but also extend my sincerest thanks to those members of the previous board, in particular those that have retired or have moved on to other interests.

A special note of appreciation is due for the previous Chairperson, Terry Waia (2000 – 2004) who demonstrated strong leadership in leading the TSRA to many achievements during a relatively turbulent period in our organisation's history. I hope that the new Board can maintain the momentum and progress achieved by Mr Waia and the previous board in addressing those important challenges that lay ahead for our region.

TSRA ANNIVERSARY

The TSRA is preparing to celebrate its 10th anniversary on 1 July 2004 and I believe that it is important to not only recognise what has been achieved during the past decade, but also acknowledge what still needs to happen to improve our quality of life. There is no doubt that the standard of living on our island communities has improved substantially due to the TSRA's efforts, especially in the areas of essential service delivery, including environmental health infrastructure. However, there is still a lot to be done in those areas and in a broader context to ensure that we can truly maintain our unique environment and cultural heritage.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development is one of the key areas on which we need to focus if we are to establish a regional economy and realise financial empowerment. The TSRA Board believes that a sustainable economy requires a strong regional framework of individuals, communities and enterprises that will generate income and provide employment opportunities for our people.

Through Output 1, the TSRA is doing its part to nurture such a regional framework, but the challenge is to integrate this with the efforts of other government departments and agencies operating within the Torres Strait. The partnerships that the TSRA has entered into with the Queensland Department of

State Development to deliver a business advisory service to our region is a good starting point and I hope that other agencies will see the benefit of working collaboratively with the TSRA in promoting business as well.

The Authority's programs such as Home Ownership, the Business Funding Scheme and the Economic Incentive grants are making a difference to many families, individuals and communities. However, home ownership is still an aspiration that many families on the outer islands cannot achieve, because of the current land tenure scheme. During the next four years, this is an area that I will be focusing on to identify a way forward in delivering home ownership to all of the Torres Strait. This will not be an easy or necessarily quick goal to achieve, but I believe that discussions need to take place with a broad range of stakeholders to identify an appropriate form of tenure that we can progressively move towards. Details of the TSRA's Economic Development output are available in this annual report.

TORRES STRAIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The TSRA Board is currently reviewing the Development Plan for the 2004 – 2008 term. This is an important process not only because it is a legislative requirement, but it also sets out a path for the TSRA in addressing key development areas for our communities. The Board has an active role in formulating this Plan and once completed it will provide an integrated policy and strategic framework for the TSRA's outputs. The Development Plan will be made available to all communities and TSRA funded organisations when completed. A copy of the existing Plan is available on the TSRA website.

GAB TITUI CULTURAL CENTRE

One of the highlights of the past 12 months was the official opening of the Gab Titui Cultural Centre on Thursday Island. The opening was well attended and unfolded as a truly emotional event. For a number of years, the people of the Torres Strait have wanted a 'safe keeping' place for artefacts and contemporary cultural works. Now such a facility has become a reality with Gab Titui.

There is broad consensus within the region that Torres Strait culture needs to be maintained and promoted to ensure that it survives well into the future. Gab Titui of course is one strategy for achieving this goal. Other strategies that complement Gab Titui are capacity building within our communities and developing opportunities for our performers and artists abroad. As with many key development areas in the Torres Strait, the pace at which artists, communities and organisations wish to move ahead can only be determined by them. However, the TSRA is willing to assist through its programs, such as the Regional Arts Development Fund, with promoting our unique culture and heritage.

FISHERIES

In 2003 – 2004, the new consultative structure for the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) was in full operation and has been nothing short of an outstanding success. It has been the TSRA's goal that our fishers are given adequate opportunity to shape policy in this important area and it gives me great pleasure to report that we have established a process that achieves this.

There were some significant achievements and gains during the year, notably the process to remove latent effort in the Tropical Rock Lobster, Reef Line and Spanish Mackerel fisheries is about to conclude. Dugong and Turtle management has emerged as a high priority for the region and the TSRA will work cooperatively with communities, governments and other interested parties to ensure the take of dugongs and marine turtles are sustainable.

There are many other challenges in fisheries, some of which are going to be difficult or expensive to resolve, for example the line fishery in the Eastern Torres Strait. I believe that by ensuring our

voice is heard throughout the PZJA process, we can shape the regional industry into a highly sustainable and beneficial one for our island communities. Indigenous control of fisheries in the Torres Strait remains our long-term goal and I believe that we can achieve this if we continue to act strategically with broad stakeholder support. As the newly elected Chair of the TSRA, I will continue to represent traditional inhabitants on the PZJA alongside both the Australian and Queensland Fisheries Ministers to ensure that their views are fully considered in decisions that impact on their traditional way of life and livelihood.

NATIVE TITLE

A cloud of uncertainty continues to hover above native title in the Torres Strait, but it is encouraging to note that during the past 12 months, the Queensland Government has met with our traditional owners and the TSRA Native Title Office (NTO) to explore possible solutions to the 'public works' deadlock. Despite a ruling by the Full Court of the Federal Court in October 2003 that, where valid 'public works' as defined in the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) were constructed before December 1996, native title would be extinguished, traditional owners from the five communities affected (Badu, Boigu, Erub, Ugar and Iama) continue to struggle for recognition of their full native title rights to land on which their houses and other community infrastructure has been built.

Those five communities should be applauded for their perseverance and determination during the past year. The TSRA will continue to support our traditional owners during this important struggle. We have recognised the significance of native title by creating a portfolio for this area on our Board and I am calling on the Queensland Government to resolve the 'public works' issue by Christmas 2004, to demonstrate their commitment to recognising our native title.

Another positive for Torres Strait native title was the signing of Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA's) between the Australian Government (represented by Customs and Defence) and the traditional owners of Dauan and Badu. The Ministers for Defence, Senator Robert Hill and Customs, Senator Chris Ellison attended a signing ceremony on Dauan and Badu Islands in February 2004, signifying the importance of these agreements to the Region and to Australia. The ILUA's enable the Australian Government to develop and trial a high frequency surface radar in our region that can detect illegal movement into Australian waters. The development of such a facility will benefit not only our region but also the nation in general. The ILUA's also bring significant benefits to Badu and Dauan traditional owners, including employment opportunities and the protection of cultural heritage. I wish to extend my thanks to the traditional owners of these two communities and the NTO for its efforts in facilitating this process.

HEALTH IN THE TORRES STRAIT

Health Framework Agreement

During the past 12 months, health in the Torres Strait gained much attention especially with the Dengue Fever epidemic that tragically claimed one fatality in our community. If anything, this outbreak once again reaffirmed the vulnerability of our islands to exotic diseases and the challenges that authorities face in containing them. The TSRA believes that any attempts to improve health conditions for our people will derive from an integrated whole-of-government approach to service delivery and improvement of basic living conditions.

Through the Torres Strait Health Framework Agreement, the TSRA is working with both Australian and Queensland Health Departments to improve health service delivery to our islands by planning and coordinating regional health infrastructure development and helping to develop a Strategic Health Plan for the region.

Environmental Health Infrastructure

Complementing these efforts is the delivery of the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP), which aims to develop environmental health infrastructure within our communities. I wish to extend my appreciation to both the Australian and Queensland Governments for committing a total of \$32.4 million towards MIP Stage 3.

During the past 10 years, communities in the Torres Strait have experienced some dramatic development in the area of environmental health infrastructure, largely thanks to the MIP. There is still a lot more work needed to develop regional infrastructure, but I believe the MIP has given us an appropriate framework to cost-effectively deliver these works.

To further improve our Environmental Health outcomes, our islands also need to have environmental health workers on the ground to ensure that we are eliminating and controlling local sites to counter the outbreak of any further mosquito-borne viruses. This is a health area that the previous Chairperson, Mr Waia, lobbied the Queensland Government on and I will continue to do so to increase our capacity to promote environmental health across the region.

TORRES STRAIT TREATY

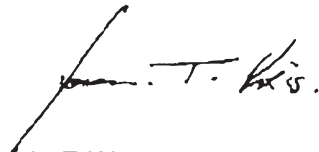
The TSRA continues to work closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and other Australian and Queensland agencies on matters relating to the Treaty. Again, I wish to thank those agencies for their cooperation in tending to these matters and inform the Torres Strait people that our involvement in this process is vital to ensure that our interests and rights are maintained under the Treaty.

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

The TSRA is keen to consult with key stakeholder groups in the Torres Strait to determine what is the best regional governance model, as well as develop a framework for reform, which our region can progress.

CONCLUSION

I again extend my thanks to the TSRA Members and Administration staff for their continued commitment in achieving the goals of the TSRA. There are many challenges ahead and I hope that all our communities will continue to work together to reach these goals and build a strong future for the Torres Strait.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John T. Kris', with a long, sweeping underline.

John T. Kris
Chairperson

GENERAL MANAGER'S OVERVIEW



This past year has been an eventful year for the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and once again the TSRA team should be congratulated for meeting all expectations and demonstrating their commitment to improving the quality of life for all people in the region. As reported on in 2003, our agency is continually increasing its capacity to support our Board Members in addressing key policy areas. To achieve this we strive to deliver maximum outcomes for the region by engaging other agencies and working collaboratively to develop a holistic approach to resolving issues. Equally as important, we have proactively engaged the community to ensure that our policies and strategies are appropriate and reflect the aspirations of the Torres Strait people.

On 1 July 2004, the TSRA will mark its 10th anniversary. I wish to congratulate and pay my respects to all those former and current Board members, staff and associates of the Authority who have made valuable contributions to its operations over the past decade. The creation of the TSRA in 1994 was a momentous achievement for the Torres Strait region. I am sure that all residents will agree that regardless of individual perceptions of the past 10 years, the Authority has made considerable progress to improving the quality of life for communities as well as helped to establish a local economy. The maintenance and further development of those operational frameworks in place is the key to achieving many of the long-term goals that the Torres Strait people and their leaders have set for themselves.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This remains a priority area of the TSRA Board and administration. Our business, housing and community portfolios again consistently delivered assistance to organisations, councils and individuals in the Torres Strait who are involved in developing or maintaining local economic initiatives. Our philosophy is that establishing financially viable and self-sufficient enterprises generate employment and investment in the Torres Strait and can create a sustainable regional economy.

Some initiatives assisted by this output include the Masig Lowatta Lodge, St Pauls community block making plant, Kubin Arts Centre, Poruma Island Resort, TRAWQ Mechanical Workshop and the Saibai Island restaurant/bistro, in addition to many small businesses including fishing ventures, car hire, and tour operations.

The TSRA's joint service delivery arrangement with the Queensland Department of State Development (DSD) to deliver the Regional Business Advisory Service to small businesses in the Torres Strait has again performed well this year. In addition to offering direct assistance and access to a wide variety of the Department's programs and activities, workshops were coordinated that explored additional commercial opportunities for the local community. Of special note were the workshops and seminars on E-Commerce, record keeping, taxation, business exchange and website development.

Our partnership with DSD also expanded in 2003 – 2004 with the TSRA receiving funds to establish a business hub in the Torres Strait and an extension officer to coordinate this initiative. I wish to thank the DSD for their support of business and enterprise in the Torres Strait and look forward to maintaining our productive relationship during 2004 – 2005.

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

Tourism

This past year, the TSRA has continued its active support of the Tourism Torres Strait community initiative, which aims to coordinate and enhance tourism opportunities for the region. Where possible, we have encouraged a collaborative approach to developing this industry and

expanding our links with key North Queensland tourism groups. This included participating in tourism exhibitions and promoting the region in various media publications. Poruma Island Resort should also be commended for winning the Tropical North Queensland Award and Queensland Tourism Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander New Tourism Venture.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING

Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee (JTSHIC)

The Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee has continued to represent a coordinated approach to addressing the housing and infrastructure needs of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. During 2003 – 2004, the JTSHIC was actively involved in improving the planning and coordination of housing and infrastructure development by strengthening the relationship between partners and other stakeholders and successfully merging various partnership project schedules for a more effective delivery of infrastructure development in the region. The effort also brought additional funding to the region and allowed for a greater scope of work under limited dollars.

The JTSHIC also continued to improve its efforts in maximising the planning and coordinating of housing and infrastructure activities in the region by monitoring the activities of 18 sub-committee meetings held during the year. During the year JTSHIC developed the Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Strategic Plan and began an immediate implementation of the Plan by establishing the Torres Strait Housing Sub-Committee in January 2004. This committee will assist in maximising the coordination and planning of housing activity in the region and in overseeing the development of a Torres Strait housing strategy.

Major Infrastructure Program (MIP2)

The Major Infrastructure Program seeks to improve the infrastructure standards in the Torres Strait region, which also includes Bamaga and Seisia on the Northern Peninsula Area. The State and Australian Governments have provided joint contributions amounting to \$60 million for Stages 1 and 2 of the Program. Stage 2 of the Program (2001 – 2002 to 2003 – 2004) has just been finalised and both the Australian and Queensland Governments have committed a further \$32.4 million to MIP Stage 3. Preparations to identify projects for Stage 3 are underway and will involve close consultation with all island communities and stakeholders, including the TSRA Board.

A review of Stage 2 of MIP was also completed in December 2003 and found that the collaborative approach being used to deliver environmental health outcomes to the region was highly effective.

The 2003 – 2004 financial year saw various MIP 2 works progressing through their design, planning and construction stages. Major projects involved the completion of sewerage projects and land development including land servicing and subdivisional work. Sewerage projects on the communities of Badu and Erub were completed and a sewerage construction project is progressing at Seisia. Preparations are underway to appoint project managers for the Horn Island sewerage project. A land servicing project at Bamaga was completed while other land development and subdivisional work is underway at Mer, Iama and Hammond islands. Significant roads and drainage work during the year occurred on Boigu, Saibai, Dauan and Mabuiag islands. The implementation of the Waste Management Strategy for the region began during 2003 – 2004 with the removal/burial of bulk waste and scrap material from all outer islands.

Operations and Maintenance of Infrastructure

The Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area received substantial benefits through the Major Infrastructure Program and adequate maintenance and operational management is essential to provide a solid foundation for future generations. I am glad to report that the newly established Island Coordinating Council Infrastructure Support Unit has maintained a quality service to our island communities. Over the past year, the Island Coordinating Council has adapted to its new role in providing technical support to water service providers in the outer islands. The Infrastructure Support Unit provided an effective support and response role during what was a prolonged drought period for a number of our islands in 2003.

Other Infrastructure

Major work has occurred over the past year with airstrip upgrades at Iama and Poruma islands. These upgrades were undertaken in partnership with Queensland Transport and resulted in substantial improvements in aviation safety, health, economic and social outcomes, as well as improved access to these remote communities.

Other infrastructure that have either been completed or are near completion include the new Kubin community centre, the St Pauls sporting complex on Moa Island, the Iama Island community centre, Erub sporting complex and staff accommodation at Mabuiag and Ugar islands.

Heavy Equipment Management and Training Project (HEMTP)

The Torres Strait Regional Authority, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and the Department of Main Roads provide a partnership approach to road building in communities. The Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program offers heavy equipment and machinery on a share basis to island communities to build roads, upgrade airstrips, excavate sewerage channels or other appropriate earth works. Training outcomes are also delivered to communities through HEMTP by providing local people with opportunities for skill development.

During the past 12 months, HEMTP projects were undertaken at Erub, Iama, Mabuiag, Poruma and Kubin communities. Heavy equipment and machinery were used to construct and provide various earthmoving works ranging from access roads, sewerage earthworks, subdivision work, drainage improvements and airstrip sealing.

The TSRA's ongoing partnership with the Department of Main Roads in implementing the HEMTP is providing positive outcomes and the TSRA is particularly thankful to the dedicated effort of those involved with the Program for their long and ongoing commitment to the people of the Torres Strait.

ASSISTANCE TO COUNCILS AND 'TOWN' ORGANISATIONS

In 2003 – 2004, the TSRA continued to provide funding and expert assistance to the Island Councils and Thursday Island based organisations. Support was concentrated in the areas of social justice and legal assistance to Indigenous people of the Torres Strait and to various social programs related to women, aged care and youth issues, art, culture and environment, municipal support and broadcasting.

Organisations directly resourced under these programs include the Torres Strait Islander Media Association (TSIMA), Mura Kosker Sorority, the Port Kennedy Association, and Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Legal Service (TSNP), along with each of the Island Councils. More details on the funds provided to these organisations are included in this report under Output 5.

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

NATIVE TITLE

The past year was another mixed one for native title in the Torres Strait and has continued to highlight some crucial challenges facing the region. Torres Strait Islanders' first achieved recognition of their traditional rights over land in 1992 through the High Court's landmark Mabo decision over Mer (Mer Island). This case set a precedent for Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people throughout Australia. Following the introduction of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth), there have been a total of fourteen consent determinations recognising native title rights and interests over land in the Torres Strait.

Land Claims

This year saw native title holders of Badu, Boigu, Iama, Ugar and Erub continue the struggle for recognition of their native title rights over their islands. In October 2003 a decision was handed down by the Full Federal Court in the matter of *Erubam Le (Erub Islanders) #1 v State of Queensland* [2003] FCAFC 227. This case dealt with the argument that public works validly built on community islands could extinguish native title. While this decision, which found that some valid public works

would extinguish native title whilst others would not, did not resolve the issues between the State of Queensland and Torres Strait Islander traditional land owners that have prevented finalisation of these five claims, negotiations with the State of Queensland are continuing.

In April 2003, the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, The Honourable Stephen Robertson, visited the Torres Strait to speak with traditional owners about the resolution of their claims, at which time landowners from all five islands made clear the strength of their connection to their traditional lands.

Indigenous Land Use Agreements

This year saw the negotiation of significant Indigenous Land Use Agreements between communities at Badu and Dauan and the Commonwealth Government (Customs and Defence) for the co-location of a new high frequency surface wave radar at Koey Ngurtai and Dauan Islands. The negotiation of these agreements has resulted in significant benefits flowing to these communities, including employment opportunities and the protection of important cultural heritage.

Support for Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs)

With nine Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate, and a further seven anticipated to be registered during the life of the current TSRA Native Title Strategic Plan, mediation, negotiation and assistance in dealing with Future Acts, as well as dispute resolution and agreement making, are emerging as primary functions for the NTO as communities and PBCs grapple to cope with their responsibilities under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) and associated regulations. With a lack of funding for PBCs, providing resources and assistance to these bodies will be a significant challenge for the NTO, and the TSRA continues to lobby strongly for funding for these bodies.

ARTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The TSRA has been very active in promoting the arts within the Torres Strait during the past 12 months. In addition to the existing partnership with Arts Queensland to administer the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF), we have funded a variety of activities including school dance tours, international cross-cultural exchanges, exhibitions and performances from Indigenous artists, celebrations of historical events, an Artist in Residence program and Indigenous workshops.

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

"Gab Titui" Torres Strait Cultural Centre

One of the highlights of the past year was the official opening of the Gab Titui Cultural Centre in April 2004. The opening was well attended by the regional and wider community. Various Ministers, politicians and officials from both the Australian and Queensland Governments were also present at this historic occasion.

The Centre showcases contemporary and traditional "Ailan" culture and provides a focal point for tourism in the region. Public programs and exhibitions are taking place at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre and have received strong support from the community. In addition to spearheading the Torres Strait's cultural revival movement, the Gab Titui Cultural Centre is also expected to contribute to economic, educational and social outcomes for our region.

TORRES STRAIT TREATY

The TSRA again worked closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and agencies such as the Australian Customs Service, Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, the Australian Federal Police and others to ensure that the Treaty between Papua New Guinea and Australia continued to protect the rights and resources of traditional inhabitants in the Torres Strait area.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

The TSRA provides substantial support for sports and recreation in the region, primarily through the funding support programs administered by Torres Strait Youth Sport and Recreation Association (TSYSRA). TSYSRA delivers funding for community sports initiatives via its quarterly funding rounds. The TSRA also provides funding for the development of related infrastructure such as basketball courts and halls, through the island councils.

EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Community Development Employment Program (CDEP)

TSRA continues to work closely with Centrelink, Island Councils and organisations in the delivery of the CDEP in the Torres Strait. One of the milestones in 2003 – 2004 was that CDEP went live via an extranet linking the TSRA directly with organisations administering CDEP as well as Centrelink, thus enabling a “real time” processing of employment variations affecting the participants to the scheme. This is a significant initiative that will contribute greatly to more cost effective management of the scheme and provide opportunities for capacity building within those CDEP organisations. The TSRA’s long-term approach is to improve services to its client base, especially in assisting them overcome any challenges presented by the Torres Strait’s geographic isolation.

Community Training Program (CTP)

In terms of funding assistance for training, the TSRA provided slightly under \$1.4 million during the year under our Community Training Program. Enhancements to this program are based on efforts to improve the coordination between the various State agencies, the Torres Strait Regional Employment Committee and us.

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

Assistance with Tertiary Education Scheme (ATES)

Since being established in 2002, this scheme has continued to assist Indigenous students from the region to study full time at University. Funding is given for textbooks, living expenses and travel for study in the fields of accounting/business, law, information technology, anthropology, engineering and marine biology.

HEALTH FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

The TSRA is an active member of the Torres Health Partnership Forum where we are able to provide input into the planning and coordination of health care services and delivery in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. The TSRA continues to work towards Framework Agreement Aims as well as priorities with agencies such as the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, Queensland Health and The Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area District Health Council. The Agreement aims include joint planning and priority setting, improving access to mainstream health programs, improving data collection and evaluation and partnership collaboration.

A significant outcome for 2003 – 2004 has been the development of a regional health strategy for the Torres Strait. A first draft of the strategy has been released and a final draft is expected in September 2004.

Our partners in the framework agreement are Queensland Health and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, and we are again appreciative of their support of our vision and goals.

FISHERIES (PROTECTED ZONE JOINT AUTHORITY) AND ENVIRONMENT

Fisheries Management

This past year has been a truly important period for fisheries management in the region, with some major reforms being implemented within the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) consultative

structure. The most notable was the operation of the new consultative structure, which was developed last year. The increase in the number of traditional fishers involved in the structure and Indigenous representation at all levels has proven itself highly effective in articulating the aspirations of Torres Strait fishers when developing strategic policy for the region.

The TSRA Chair, previously Terry Waia and now Toshie Kris, continue to represent the Torres Strait on the PZJA along side the Australian and State Fisheries Ministers. Training was also delivered to traditional fisher representatives throughout the region to enhance their capacity for involvement in the new PZJA structure.

Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Torres Strait

The Torres Strait program began its operations in January 2004 and is already showing good results. Its focus is on research that will ensure the conservation and sustainable management of marine resources in our waters, including fisheries, sea grass, dugongs and turtles. Some of the major tasks undertaken in 2003 – 2004 include collection and analysis of commercial catch and effort data, surveys as well as effective coordination of research through the local CRC extension officer, who is based at the TSRA.

Natural Heritage Trust 2 (NHT 2)

The TSRA is working in partnership with a range of agencies to progress NHT 2 in the Torres Strait. The NHT 2 framework in the region is comprised of the Island Coordinating Council, the Natural Resource Management Board (made up of community representatives), the Queensland Department of Premier and Cabinet, National Oceans Office, Environment Australia, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, Queensland Environment Protection Authority, State and Australian Natural Resources and Mines and Queensland Fisheries Service.

Environment protection related projects nominated for NHT 2 funding to include traditional turtle and dugong catch monitoring and erosion protection for low lying Torres Strait islands.

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

The high level of cooperation and coordination between the TSRA and other Commonwealth and State agencies continued in 2003 – 2004. This integrated approach has been instrumental in promoting across the board focus on key areas of need in the region and delivering outcomes to people on the ground. The success of this approach is evident in the MIP projects, housing and transport infrastructure, health, education, social and cultural projects, fisheries and management of treaty related issues.

Relationship with the Island Coordinating Council (ICC)

The strong relationship between the TSRA and the ICC continued to be a major asset in delivering many of the outcomes that are illustrated in this report. Our common goal of improving the quality of life for the region and our shared administrative arrangements such as our IT, payroll and other systems, is a conduit for promoting efficient service delivery to island councils, organisations and individuals. I look forward to maintaining this productive working relationship in the future, especially in addressing Queensland Government reforms for the Torres Strait.

ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Staffing

The TSRA's staff numbers remained stable this year as part of our strategy to further consolidate the organisation's operational structure. However there was further growth in our Policy Coordination and Development and Economic Development Sections due to TSRA's increased involvement in key regional initiatives with both Australian and Queensland Governments.

As reported on in 2003, the Performance Management Program (PMP) was implemented throughout the TSRA and is proving to be an effective reward-based scheme for all of our employees. A six-month mid-cycle review has taken place and will be followed by a 12-month

review of all performance agreements. The PMP aims to develop a work culture within the TSRA that will maintain our current high standards and reward exceptional individual effort.

Certified Workplace Agreement

The new TSRA Certified Workplace Agreement 2003 – 2006 was completed during 2003 – 2004 and is now in place. All staff had the opportunity to participate in the process and I would like to again extend my personal thanks to the members of our Workplace Agreement Consultative Committee (WACC) who dedicated much of their personal time to consulting staff on the new agreement.

Our support for the Board

As many residents will be aware local government and TSRA elections took place in 2004 resulting in some changes to the membership of both the TSRA and ICC Boards. I wish to thank the previous TSRA Board, in particular former Chairperson, Terry Waia, for their dedication and leadership during the past four years and take this opportunity to welcome the new TSRA membership.

I wish to maintain the close working relationship between the two arms of the TSRA – administration and Board, to deliver appropriate outcomes to the Torres Strait.

Audit and Evaluation

Once again, the TSRA has a clean 'bill of health' from the Office of Evaluation and Audit (OEA – reporting directly to the Minister). Audits were undertaken in May 2004 by OEA and the Australian National Audit Office is scheduled to conduct audits in August 2004 (2003 – 2004 External Financial Statement Audit).

Relationship with the Minister

This past year has seen much reform take place in the Indigenous Affairs portfolio. Much attention has been given to the abolishment of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and the subsequent mainstreaming of its former services. Within this context, the TSRA has been retained and will continue to service the Torres Strait region directly under the Indigenous Affairs Portfolio.

The TSRA maintains a strong and productive relationship with the Minister and the staff of her office. This link has proved invaluable to meeting regional as well as national challenges in addressing Indigenous disadvantage. In April 2004, Minister Amanda Vanstone made her inaugural visit to the Torres Strait as Indigenous Affairs Minister to officially open the Gab Titui Cultural Centre.

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



Mike Fordham
General Manager

TSRA BOARD

The TSRA consists of 20 Members, eighteen of whom hold office by virtue of their election to Island Council Chairperson positions on 27 March, 2004 under the *Queensland Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984*. The other two Members, representing Port Kennedy and Horn/Prince of Wales Islands, were elected on 3 April, 2004 in accordance with Division 5 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*.

The TSRA Members are:

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

MR TOSHIE KRIS, CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBER FOR ST PAULS COMMUNITY, MOA ISLAND



Mr Kris is the newly appointed Chairperson of the Torres Strait Regional Authority who was elected in May 2004. Mr Kris shares responsibility for the TSRA Portfolio areas of Marine Fisheries, and Regional Governance and Legislative Reform and is also the Chairperson of St Pauls Community Council, a registered training organisation and a member of the Island Coordinating Council (ICC). In his previous term on the TSRA Board Mr Kris held the portfolio for Housing and Infrastructure prior to becoming Chairperson and is the first Torres Strait Islander to undertake studies with the Australian Rural Leadership Program, where he is sponsored by Ports Corporation Queensland. In his role as TSRA Chairperson Mr Kris aims to further progress the areas of Fisheries and Native Title and pursue the Torres Strait peoples' desire for greater autonomy. He is also committed to the provision of housing, and increased training opportunities for Torres Strait Islanders in the region.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON POSITION – VACANT

MR JESSE SAGAUKAZ, ALTERNATE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBER FOR BAMAGA COMMUNITY



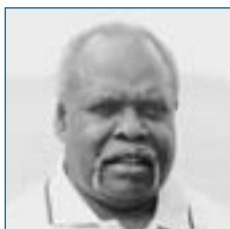
Mr Sagaukaz is the TSRA Alternate Deputy Chairperson, TSRA Portfolio member for Employment, Education, Training and Arts and Chairman of Bamaga Community Council. Mr Sagaukaz believes that with personal empowerment Torres Strait people will continue to accomplish significant achievements that will benefit their community and the region. His desire is to encourage additional resources and support for new business ventures and existing small business operators. Mr Sagaukaz attributes education as the fundamental cornerstone for Torres Strait people to realise their ambitions and as an essential vehicle to obtaining autonomy. In his view, culture is the foundation that identifies Torres Strait as a nation of peoples and he encourages all generations to embrace revitalisation strategies.

MR JACK AHMAT, MEMBER FOR BADU ISLAND



Mr Ahmat will continue his representation on the TSRA Board for a third term. He is Chairperson of Badu Island Community Council and a member of the ICC. Mr Ahmat acknowledges the main concerns in the region as health, housing, promotion of culture, economic development, and protection of the environment and fisheries. He believes it is important for the TSRA to support the youth of the Torres Strait.

MR DONALD BANU, MEMBER FOR BOIGU ISLAND



Mr Banu is the Boigu Council Chairperson, a member of the ICC and the TSRA Portfolio member for Native Title. He is a traditional owner from Boigu and has been an active participant in the Public Works dispute involving the Queensland Government and the traditional owners of the five remaining community islands in the Torres Strait. Mr Banu considers native title, economic development, regional governance, fisheries and home ownership as the key areas that need to be addressed during the next four years.

MR TED BILLY, MEMBER FOR WARRABER ISLAND



Mr Billy is the Chairperson of Warraber Island Council and a member of the ICC. Issues that are important to Mr Billy are health, housing, training, employment and education. Mr Billy highlights the importance of raising health standards across the Torres Strait and developing better health education programs that will enable communities to build a defence against reoccurring health problems. Mr Billy also considers an increase in traineeships and apprenticeships as a vital component of building community capacity and fulfilling youth ambitions. Accessible home ownership and full entitlement to land were two further issues that he endeavours to pursue during his term. He also supports the pursuit of greater autonomy but would like to encourage leaders to focus on an agreeable model that has the full support of the wider community. Mr Billy firmly believes that to address regional priorities Torres Strait elected leaders, elders and clans must approach government as a unified people with one heart, mind and voice.

MR RON B. DAY, MEMBER FOR MER (MURRAY) ISLAND



Mr Day is the Mer Island Council Chairperson and a member of the ICC. He has been a member of the TSRA since 2000 and considers youth development a priority for the Torres Strait. Mr Day believes that economic, social, spiritual and cultural development are important outcomes that each Torres Strait community should strive to achieve. Mr Day is confident that preparing youth to take a responsible stand on Torres Strait issues will help the region achieve these outcomes.

MR ELIA DOOLAH, MEMBER FOR ERUB (DARNLEY) ISLAND



Mr Doolah is the Chairperson of the Torres Strait Regional Employment and Training Council (TSREC) and Chairperson of Erub Island Council. He also holds responsibilities as member of the ICC Board. Mr Doolah is particularly focused on training and education and is keen to see qualified Torres Strait Islander people serving their communities. Improving the health of Torres Strait people is also of primary importance to Mr Doolah.

MR JOSEPH ELU, MEMBER FOR SEISIA COMMUNITY



Mr Elu is the Chairperson of Seisia Island Council, Chairperson of Indigenous Business Australia, a member of the ICC, and Chairperson of the Islander Board of Industry and Service Board. Mr Elu is encouraging an increase in funding for business development, the establishment of a small business development agency, and an agreement on a regional economic development strategy that incorporates eco-tourism. Under Mr Elu's direction, Seisia Island Council has successfully established a number of business enterprises and has achieved a greater degree of financial independence. Mr Elu has been appointed Co-Chair of the Voluntary Service to Indigenous Communities Foundation, member of the Reconciliation Australia Board and member of the Special Broadcasting Service Board. Mr Elu places emphasis on the development of eco-tourism incorporating sports fishing as a means of achieving a measure of economic independence.

MR FRED GELA, MEMBER FOR HAMMOND ISLAND



Mr Gela is the TSRA Member for Hammond Island, Chairperson of Hammond Island Council and is represented on the ICC. This is Mr Gela's first term on the TSRA Board where he has also been appointed as the TSRA Portfolio member for Housing and Infrastructure. Mr Gela believes the most important issues affecting Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in this region are access to housing and improvements to related infrastructure, access to education and training opportunities and progressing regional autonomy. His vision is for Torres Strait Islander people to achieve self-governance and embrace a regional approach to issues to improve overall living standards throughout all Torres Strait communities.

MRS LOUISA GUISE, MEMBER FOR MABUIAG ISLAND



Mrs Guise is the TSRA Member for Mabuiag, newly elected Chairperson of Mabuiag Island Council and a member of the ICC. This is Mrs Guise's first term on the TSRA Board. Mrs Guise would like to see the standard of housing improved across the region and has highlighted the need to upgrade existing housing to accommodate extended families. She supports the introduction of small accommodation ventures such as guesthouses throughout the outer islands believing that they encourage business to communities, provide options to visitors and revenue for councils to feed back into community initiatives. Of particular interest to Mrs Guise are possible opportunities for economic development throughout the Torres Strait and she looks forward to the further investigation of fisheries and aquaculture ventures.

MR WALTER MACKIE, MEMBER FOR IAMA (YAM) ISLAND



Mr Mackie is the TSRA Member for Iama Island. Mr Mackie is also the Chairperson of Iama Island Council and a member of the ICC. One of Mr Mackie's priorities is to see a significant improvement in addressing the shortfall of housing allocation to communities. He encourages more training and further educational opportunities for community members to become better skilled, which he believes will result in a greater capacity for communities to establish their own economic base. Lobbying for more accessible and sustainable employment prospects to meet the needs and expectations of community members will be one of his key objectives. Mr Mackie is committed to Torres Strait achieving self-determination and full entitlements to land and sea as a right of the people. He advocates the maintenance and preservation of cultural history and traditional sites and desires to see residents enjoy the same right to development and infrastructure as those that live in other regional centres.

MRS MARGARET MAU, MEMBER FOR DAUAN ISLAND



Mrs Mau is the TSRA Portfolio member for Women's Issues and Families and Environment and Health, Chairperson of Dauan Island Council and an ICC Board member. Issues of concern to Mrs Mau are providing people of the outer island communities with access to basic services, regular maintenance to current housing to ensure liveable standards, and most importantly, establishing a form of air service on Dauan and Ugar Islands to assist in emergency situations and daily travel. In her role as Portfolio member for Women's Issues, Mrs Mau pursues and encourages ongoing training and professional development of Torres Strait women to enable them to gain sustainable economic development and employment opportunities as well as equal representation in decision-making processes within the region. Mrs Mau is committed to improving health and protecting the environment of communities throughout the Torres Strait. She also encourages broader support for families. As an advocate for native title Mrs Mau encourages traditional owners to pursue their determinations and hopes she can also make a difference in the lives of Torres Strait women by progressing issues of importance to them.

MR DONALD MOSBY, MEMBER FOR MASIG (YORKE) ISLAND



Mr Mosby is the Chairperson of Masig Island Council and a member of the ICC. He holds the TSRA Portfolio for Small Business and Economic Development and shares the portfolio for Marine and Fisheries. Mr Mosby is also a member of the TSRA Fisheries Committee, Protected Zone Joint Authority Management Consultative Structure, Torres Strait Aquaculture Steering Committee, North Queensland Indigenous Fisheries Committee and the TSRA representative on the Torres Strait Tourism Committee. Mr Mosby aims to develop tourism and establish commercial ventures on Masig Island and encourages his community members to gain qualifications through training and tertiary education and to establish their own enterprises. Mr Mosby believes that Torres Strait communities should move away from welfare dependence and progress the issue of greater autonomy.

MR PHILLEMON MOSBY, MEMBER FOR PORUMA (COCONUT) ISLAND



Mr Mosby is the Chairperson of Poruma Island and a member of the ICC. He aims to improve education and training opportunities, communities' infrastructure and economic development, and obtain better access to health and housing. Mr Mosby believes in people empowering people and delegating a sense of ownership to communities by encouraging self-management. He also supports the development of sustainable tourism as a means of strengthening a community's economy as well as providing employment opportunities and career development paths.

MR MALUWAP NONA, MEMBER FOR NGURUPAI (HORN) AND MURALUG (PRINCE OF WALES) ISLANDS



Mr Nona is the TSRA Member for Ngurupai (Horn) and Muralug (Prince of Wales) Islands and shares responsibility for the TSRA Portfolio of Regional Governance and Legislative Reform. Mr Nona was also elected Torres Strait Zone Commissioner in April 2004.

MR ROBERT SAGIGI, MEMBER FOR TRAWQ, THURSDAY ISLAND



This is Mr Sagigi's first term on TSRA's Board. He represents TRAWQ Community Council as their Chairman and is also a member of the ICC. Mr Sagigi is a traditional owner on Badu Island and a strong advocate for native title rights.

MR SAILA SAVAGE, MEMBER FOR KUBIN COMMUNITY, MOA ISLAND



Mr Savage was elected Chairperson of Kubin Island Council for a second term in March 2004 and is a member of the ICC. His priorities include expansion of the community through the construction of more housing and the development of community enterprises. Mr Savage aims to increase the training opportunities and apprenticeships available for the community's youth so their skills can directly assist the community and set up enterprises. He encourages the youth to also undertake training on the mainland so that they can bring experience, ideas and expertise back to their islands.

MR ISAO (BILL) SHIBASAKI, MEMBER FOR PORT KENNEDY, THURSDAY ISLAND



This is Mr Shibasaki's first term as the TSRA Board member for Port Kennedy. He was elected to the Board on 3 April 2004. Mr Shibasaki was previously a member of the Torres Shire Council and he considers regional cooperation by stakeholders at all levels as the key to achieving community aspirations. He highlights industry development (in particular aquaculture), home ownership, improved corporate governance and improved communication between regional agencies as the important issues for the next four years.

MR ROCKY G. STEPHEN, MEMBER FOR UGAR (STEPHEN) ISLAND



This is Mr Stephen's second term as the TSRA Board member for Ugar (Stephen Island). He is the Ugar Island Council Chairperson and a member of the ICC. Mr Stephen is a traditional owner and considers native title rights and ownership among the top priorities for the Torres Strait. Other priority areas that he believes need to be addressed are airstrips on Ugar and Dauan, improving outer island sports facilities, housing, improving health services and youth development in island communities.

MR TERRY WAIA, MEMBER FOR SAIBAI ISLAND



Mr Waia is a Saibai Island Councillor and the permanent representative for Saibai on the TSRA Board. Mr Waia was previously the Chairperson of TSRA from 2000 to 2004. Mr Waia is a member of the Ait Koedal Clan and has been elected Saibai's regional representative by the Saibai Island Council. He is keen to retain traditional values in the Torres Strait and has led several delegations both in Australia and Papua New Guinea to negotiate arrangements under the Torres Strait Treaty to protect the lifestyle of people living in the Torres Strait.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

At 30 June 2004, the TSRA had three advisory committees according to section 142M of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Commission Act 1989*. These were:

- Economic Development Advisory Committee – Membership: Mr Don Mosby, Mr Pedro Stephen (to 3 April 2004) and Mr Joseph Elu.
- Audit Advisory Committee – Membership: Mr Terrence Whap (to 29 May 2004), Mr Francis Pearson (to 27 March 2004), Mr John Abednego (to 27 March 2004); Membership from 10 May 2004: Mrs Margaret Mau, Mr Fred Gela, Mr Jessie Sagaukaz, Mr Donald Mosby, Mr Donald Banu and Mr Maluwap Nona.
- TSRA Fisheries Committee – Membership: Mr Terry Waia, Mrs Margaret Mau, Mr Don Mosby, Mr Elia Doolah, Mr Joseph Elu, Mr Jack Ahmat and Mr Robert Sagigi.

PORTFOLIO POSITIONS

The TSRA Portfolio Members for 2003 – 2004 are:

Women's Issues, Families, Environment and Health	Mrs Margaret Mau
Small Business and Economic Development	Mr Donald Mosby
Arts, Language, Culture and Sport	Mr Terrence Whap (to 29 May 2004)
Legal and Media	Mr John Abednego (to 27 March 2004)
Housing and Infrastructure	Mr Toshie Kris (to 10 May 2004)
	Mr Fred Gela (from 10 May 2004)
Environment and Health	Mr Pedro Stephen (to 3 April 2004)
Education, Training and Employment	Mr Pedro Stephen (to 3 April 2004)
Employment, Education, Training and Arts	Mr Jesse Sagaukaz (from 10 May 2004)
Marine and Fisheries	Mr Toshie Kris and Mr Donald Mosby (from 10 May 2004)
Regional Governance and Legislative Reform	Mr Getano Lui Junior (to 27 March 2004)
	Mr Toshie Kris and Mr Maluwap Nona (from 10 May 2004)
Native Title	Mr Donald Banu

TSRA MEETINGS

The TSRA held four meetings between 1 July 2003 and 30 June 2004.

Meetings	Date	Duration
No. 45	18 – 20 August 2003	3 days
No. 46	17 – 19 November 2003	3 days
No. 47	10 – 12 May 2004	3 days
No. 48	10 – 11 June 2004	2 days

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

Meeting No. 45 – Members for Erub, Boigu, Seisia, St Pauls and Bamaga

Meeting No. 46 – Members for Bamaga, Hammond and Iama

Meeting No. 47 – Members for Dauan, Badu, Warraber, Mer, Erub, Seisia and Hammond

Meeting No. 48 – Member for Hammond



Arpaka Dance Team from St Pauls community, Moa Island, perform at the Gab Titui Festival



ABOUT THE TSRA

TORRES STRAIT REGION

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

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

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

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

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

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

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

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

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

EXTENT OF NEED

POPULATION

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

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

EMPLOYMENT

The 2001 Census information showed:

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

EDUCATION

The 2001 Census showed that in the Torres Strait region:

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

INCOME

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

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

HOUSING

According to the 1996 Census, in the Torres Strait region:

- 9.5 per cent of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people owned, or were purchasing, their homes compared to 10.1 per cent of non-Indigenous people.

The following information is derived from the 2003 Housing Asset Management System audit of public housing in the fifteen outer island communities and Bamaga and Seisia on the Northern Peninsula Area, by the Department of Housing. Of the dwellings surveyed, the audit indicated that:

- 258 dwellings (24.32 per cent of dwellings surveyed) needed major upgrades while 203 dwellings (19.13 per cent of dwellings surveyed) need to be demolished. This represents a total of 43.45 per cent of surveyed dwellings with significant upgrades and replacement work to be carried out.

In addition, the Standing Committee on Indigenous Housing Report on Multi Measure Modelling of Indigenous Housing Need (August 2003) to the Housing Ministers Advisory Conference, indicated that overcrowding in Indigenous households in the Torres Strait occurred in 20.7 per cent of surveyed households. (Report based on ATSIC and Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey data and ABS Census 2001 from customised tables).

HEALTH

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

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

FORMATION

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

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

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

Members of the TSRA elect a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and an Alternate Deputy Chairperson. A Commissioner, also elected by the TSRA Members, represents the TSRA on the ATSIC Board. The Commissioner is also the Chairperson of the Torres Strait Islander Advisory Board (TSIAB). A General Manager is responsible for the TSRA's administration and staffing.

ENABLING LEGISLATION

The enabling legislation as stated in Part 3A Division 1 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989* is as follows:

142. (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 ATSIC Act, are:

- a. to recognise and maintain the special and unique Ailan Kastom of Torres Strait Islanders living in the Torres Strait area;
- b. to formulate and implement programs for Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- c. to monitor the effectiveness of programs for Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area, including programs conducted by other bodies;
- d. to develop policy proposals to meet national, State and regional needs and priorities of Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- e. to assist, advise and cooperate 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 coordination of the activities of other Commonwealth bodies that affect Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal persons living in the Torres Strait area;
- g. when requested by the Minister, to provide information or advice to the Minister on any matter specified by the Minister;
- h. to take such reasonable action as it considers necessary to protect Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal cultural material and information relating to the Torres Strait area if the material or information is considered sacred or otherwise significant by Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal persons;
- i. at the request of, or with the agreement of, the Australian Bureau of Statistics but not otherwise, to collect and publish statistical information relating to Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal persons living in the Torres Strait area;
- j. such other functions as are conferred on the TSRA by this Act or any other Act;
- k. such other functions as are expressly conferred on the TSRA by a law of a State or of an internal Territory and in respect of which there is in force written approval by the Minister under section 142B;
- l. to undertake such research as is necessary to enable the TSRA to perform any of its other functions; and
- m. to do anything else that is incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the preceding functions.

POWERS

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

- (1) The TSRA has power to do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for, or in connection with, the performance of its functions.
- (2) The powers of the TSRA include, but are not limited to, the following powers:
 - (a) to accept gifts, grants, bequests and devises made to it;
 - (b) to act as trustee of money and other property vested in it on trust;
 - (c) to negotiate and cooperate 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.

POWERS OF DIRECTION BY THE MINISTER

The TSRA is directed by the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, Senator Amanda Vanstone, under section 142E of the ATSIC Act, which states:

- (1) The TSRA must perform its functions and exercise its powers in accordance with any general written directions given to it by the Minister.
- (2) The Minister must not give directions about the content of any advice, information or recommendation that may be given by the TSRA to a Minister, Department of State or authority of the Commonwealth.
- (3) The Minister must not give directions about the content of any advice, information or recommendation that may be given by the TSRA to:
 - (a) a Minister of a State or Territory; or
 - (b) a Department of State of a State or Territory; or
 - (c) an authority of a State or Territory;except for the purpose of protecting the confidentiality of information given to the TSRA by the Commonwealth or an authority of the Commonwealth.
- (4) Subject to subsection (5), the Minister must cause a copy of a direction to be laid before each House of Parliament within 15 sitting days of that House after that direction was given.
- (5) The rule in subsection (4) does not apply if the laying of a copy of a direction before each House of the Parliament would result in the disclosure of a matter in a manner that would be inconsistent with the views or sensitivities of Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal persons.

CORPORATE OVERVIEW

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

Objectives:

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

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE*Audit*

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

Internal: The Office of Evaluation and Audit (OEA) undertakes internal audits of the TSRA in accordance with S. 76 of the ATSIC Act 1989. In June 2004, OEA undertook an internal audit of the TSRA.

External: The 2003 – 2004 financial statement audit commenced after the reporting period in August 2004 by Ernst and Young on behalf of the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), resulting in an unqualified audit opinion, as indicated by the Auditor General, at the beginning of the Financial Statements.

Audit Committee

The TSRA Audit Committee was established in August 2001 and replaced this year after the appointment of a new TSRA Board. The Committee comprised the following TSRA Board members:

Previous Membership:

Mr Francis Pearson, Member for Poruma Island (until 27 March 2004)

Mr Terrence Whap, Member for Mabuiag Island (until 29 May 2004)

Mr John Abednego, Member for TRAWQ Community (27 March 2004)

Membership from 10 May 2004:

Mrs Margaret Mau

Mr Fred Gela

Mr Jessie Sagaukaz

Mr Donald Mosby

Mr Donald Banu

Mr Maluwap Nona

The Audit Committee was formed primarily to assist the TSRA Board in fulfilling its responsibilities relating to the accounting and reporting practices of the TSRA. The committee also assists the TSRA and board in corporate governance areas, particularly in regard to complying with obligations under the *Commonwealth and Securities Act 1997*. With the inception of a new TSRA Board in May 2004, a new Audit Committee will be elected in 2004 – 2005.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Indemnities and insurance premiums for officers:

- The TSRA has not given any indemnity to current or former officers against a liability.
- The TSRA pays an annual premium for insurance to Comcover, which in some cases, namely professional indemnity, does protect against a current or former officer's liability for legal costs.
- The TSRA administration, is currently developing a Risk Management Strategy in order to properly identify risks to the organisation so that they can be dealt with in a proper and efficient manner.

Certified Workplace Agreement

A new TSRA Certified Agreement 2003 – 2006 was certified by the Industrial Relations Commission on 31 October 2003. A Workplace Agreement Consultative Committee (WACC) was established in January 2003 and has actively pursued and negotiated a Workplace Agreement that is representative of the majority of staffing views and APS best practice, whilst taking into account the Government's Policy Parameters, in the areas of workplace employment issues, conditions of service and entitlements. The WACC comprises of management, staff and union representatives, of which some are women and Indigenous staff.

Personnel

Payroll: The TSRA continued to utilise the services of the Island Co-ordinating Council as their payroll service provider for 2003 – 2004.

Staff Development and Training: Staff attended various internal and external training and development courses throughout the year including, management, policy and ACCPAC training, advance writing course, CDEP and E-Commerce workshop. The TSRA has a policy of offering three office administration traineeships each calendar year and has continued with a further three in 2003 – 2004.

Leave Records: The TSRA continues to manage all leave records through Human Resources, operating within the Corporate Services Section.

Property

The TSRA has an office accommodation usage of 873 square metres for 46 staff and TSRA Members, providing an average of 18.98 square metres per person.

Equal Employment Opportunity

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

Freedom of Information (FOI)

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

Industrial Democracy

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

Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S)

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

Privacy

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

COMMONWEALTH DISABILITY STRATEGY (CDS)

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

CORPORATE DOCUMENTS

Between 1 July 2003 and 30 June 2004, the TSRA produced the TSRA 2002 – 2003 Annual Report. Additionally, the TSRA produced five community newsletters (known as the TSRA News). The TSRA News is a publication distributed throughout the Torres Strait region and Australian mainland via insertion in a local newspaper. The aim of TSRA News is to inform people living in the Torres Strait and on the mainland of the TSRA's goals, progress and achievements. It consists of articles and photographs specifically relating to the activities and achievements of the TSRA's elected and administrative arms.

The TSRA continues to draw on the Torres Strait Development Plan 2000 – 2004. This plan is required under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*. A revised Torres Strait Development Plan for the next four years 2004 – 2008 is currently being developed and will be completed in 2004.

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



Kigu Dance Team from Mabuiag Island perform at the Gab Titui Festival



OUTCOME AND OUTPUTS

PRICES OF OUTCOME AND OUTPUTS – PLANNED AND ACTUAL

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

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

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

The TSRA had just one planned Outcome for the financial period 2003 – 2004. The Outcome was “to achieve a better quality of life and to develop an economic base for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal persons living in the Torres Strait”. There were six Outputs that contributed to the achievement of the planned Outcome. The budgeted and actual prices of the TSRA’s six outputs are listed in the notes to the Financial Statements and in the following table.

Budgeted Total Price Outcome	\$53.464m
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Actual Total Price of Outcome	\$50.805m
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Output 1

Economic Development

Budgeted Total Price \$3.885m

Actual Total Price \$2.438m

Output 2

Community Development, Employment and Training

Budgeted Total Price \$30.840m

Actual Total Price \$30.960m

Output 3

Native Title

Budgeted Total Price \$1.959m

Actual Total Price \$1.051m

Output 4

Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure

Budgeted Total Price \$7.722m

Actual Total Price \$8.115m

Output 5

Social, Cultural and Development

Budgeted Total Price \$6.895m

Actual Total Price \$6.401m

Output 6

Policy and Information

Budgeted Total Price \$2.160m

Actual Total Price \$1.840m

Notes:

1. Revenue from Government through appropriations contributes 95.11% to the total Output price for this Outcome, for 2003 – 2004.
2. The TSRA has no administered expenses.
3. Budgeted Total Price and Actual Price Outcomes, listed in the table above, include the addition of allocated administrative costs.

PERFORMANCE AGAINST OUTPUTS

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

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
1. Economic Development	<p>Quality: 75% of contracts settled within one month and 20% within two months.</p> <p>Quantity: 30 to 40 new contracts.</p> <p>Price: An average of \$50,000 per loan contract.</p> <p>4 Community Development Grants & 5 housing loans. Provide 50 loans to establish business.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$3.885m</p>	<p>50% of contracts settled in one month, 30% of contracts are settled within one to three months, 20% three to six months. A total of 22 BFS loans were released to clients. In addition, a total of 9 housing loans were released. The average BFS loan was for \$28,732. The loan portfolio consists of 130 loans, 90 BFS loans and 40 housing loans. During the financial year 30 BFS loans were discharged. Eleven CEIS grants were approved for the Dauan Ferry, Badu Takeaway, Hammond Ferry, Thursday Island High School Aquaculture, St Pauls Blok Works, TRAWQ Workshop, Poruma Resort Operations, Masig Lowatta Lodge, Kubin Arts Centre, Erub Ice-maker and Saibai Restaurant Bistro.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$2.438m</p>
2. Community Development, Employment and Training	<p>Quality: 75% of CDEP communities comply with guidelines. 85% of targeted training delivered within the financial year.</p> <p>Quantity: 17 communities are on CDEP. 37 training programs to be funded.</p> <p>Ensure that the program is working effectively by scheduling community visits twice a year and checking quarterly financial returns and that 1700 eligible participants are qualified to be on the program.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$30.840m</p>	<p>95% of CDEP organisations fully complied with the CDEP and general funding and operational guidelines</p> <p>96.5% of targeted training was delivered within the 2003 – 2004 financial year. The remainder will be conducted within the first 2 months of the new financial year.</p> <p>18 funded CDEP organisations enabled 19 communities to be on the CDEP program.</p> <p>91 Community training programs were programmed and nearly 88 implemented, including 95 apprenticeships</p> <p>In 2003 – 2004, each CDEP community and organisation was visited an average of 4.8 times. The financial year ended with 1910 participants on the program.</p> <p>The CDEP Manager System was finally put online and on TSRA website. Costs of the development and consultancies relevant to CDEP and accountability are included in the overall cost of this output.</p> <p>Price for this Output: aggregate of \$30.960m</p>

<p>3. Native Title</p>	<p>Quality: Negotiate with respondent parties with a view to progressing consent determinations for all remaining areas of land under claim.</p> <p>Quality: Identify strategic test cases and pursue resolution by litigation or other means as appropriate.</p> <p>Quality: Develop standard procedures for processing and responding to Future Act and other notifications within 7 days.</p> <p>Quality: Assist constituents to enter into Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) and other agreements.</p> <p>Quality: Assist in resolving disputes between and within constituent groups, including through the conduct of anthropological research.</p> <p>Quantity: Substantial progress made in the progressing of seven land claims towards consent determination.</p> <p>Future Act notices processed and responded to within seven days.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$1.959m</p>	<p>Negotiations on seven outstanding land claims continued and substantially progressed following Full Federal Court decision in <i>Erubam Le (Erub Islanders) #1 v State of Queensland</i> [2003] FCAFC 227.</p> <p>Pursued resolution of outstanding dispute with State of Queensland following decision in <i>Erubam Le (Erub Islanders) #1 v State of Queensland</i> [2003] FCAFC 227, a strategic test case on the operation of s47A of the <i>Native Title Act</i> and the effect under the <i>Native Title Act</i> of the construction of valid public works on Torres Strait Islander land. An Application Seeking Leave to Appeal this decision to the High Court was not pursued.</p> <p>The Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim was also identified as a strategic test case and development of the legal issues continues and research and anthropology work was undertaken.</p> <p>Standard procedures developed and implemented for processing and responding to Future Act notifications.</p> <p>144 actions were taken in response to 126 Future Act notices, 90% within seven days.</p> <p>17 agreements were entered into in relation to proposed Future Acts, including 2 significant Indigenous Land Use Agreements. One ILUA was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal during the financial year.</p> <p>Assisted in relation to 13 disputes relating to native title applications or land use agreements.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$1.051m</p>
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<p>4. Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure</p>	<p>Quality: Infrastructure projects commenced in 2003 – 2004 year to be 75% completed by 30 June 2004.</p> <p>Quantity: Sewerage, housing, subdivisional, drainage and infrastructure projects for the seventeen island communities are continuing.</p> <p>Price for this Output: an aggregate of \$7.722m</p>	<p>100% of MIP 2 projects commenced in 2003 – 2004 or are in the planning stages as at June 2004.</p> <p>Of the 4 major projects (sewerage and subdivision) under construction during 2003 – 2004, 3 are completed, while the remaining project is 80% completed.</p> <p>Iama Island and Poruma airstrips were upgraded.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$8.115m</p>
<p>5. Social, Cultural and Development</p>	<p>Quality: Approved grants for approved projects will be funded within 28 days of commencement of the financial year.</p> <p>Quantity: 22 grants will be approved in the financial year.</p> <p>Provide assistance to communities to promote and improve their social and cultural wellbeing.</p> <p>Promote community involvement in environmental issues affecting them by providing financial assistance to suitable community organisations running appropriate programs and through publications produced by the TSRA.</p> <p>Price for this Output: an aggregate of \$6.895m</p>	<p>All funded organisations received all or part of their first quarterly release within 28 days of the commencement of the financial year.</p> <p>28 grants were approved in the 2003 – 2004 financial year, representing 110 activities.</p> <p>Price for this Output: an aggregate of \$6.401m</p>

<p>6. Policy and Information</p>	<p>Quantity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee meetings • 4 Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum meetings • 2 CRC Torres Strait Board meetings • 2 PZJA meetings • 9 PZJA consultative structure meetings – working groups, SAC and MAC • 2 Australia and PNG Bilateral Fisheries Meetings • 2 Community Fisher Group meetings • 1 International Indigenous Fishing Conference • 30 non-consultative structure meetings and workshops – TRL catch sharing, Dugong and Turtle management including promotion at high school, fisheries planning, research, licensing, compliance and enforcement, management arrangements for Line/Finfish and TRL fisheries, latent effort, Dugong survey workshop and prawn proposals and management. <p>Quality: 94% of Ministerial correspondence dealt with within 21 days. 98% of TSRA Board Members and Portfolio Member for Women's Issues' queries responded to within 14 days. 98% of queries from the public responded to within 14 days.</p> <p>Quantity: 1435 number of publications, queries and correspondence are anticipated.</p> <p>Quantity: Newsletters are published regularly to inform the public of the TSRA's programs.</p> <p>Quantity: Press releases are circulated to promote TSRA initiatives.</p> <p>Quality: All press releases are placed on the TSRA website within 48 hours of publication.</p> <p>Quality: Information requests are responded to within 48 hours of receipt.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$2.16m</p>	<p>100% of Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee meetings held.</p> <p>75% of Torres Strait Health Partnership Forum meetings held.</p> <p>100% achieved.</p> <p>50% achieved as one meeting was cancelled due to Queensland and TSRA elections.</p> <p>100% achieved.</p> <p>100% achieved.</p> <p>100% achieved.</p> <p>100% achieved.</p> <p>96% achieved as a prawn workshop was cancelled on request of industry.</p> <p>18 Ministerials were received. All were dealt with by the set deadline with the exception of one.</p> <p>100% of queries were responded to within 14 days.</p> <p>100% of verbal queries were responded to in 14 days.</p> <p>80% of written queries were responded to in 14 days.</p> <p>1169 queries and correspondence were received including 593 items of correspondence.</p> <p>One written complaint was received.</p> <p>5 Newsletters were produced.</p> <p>42 press releases were circulated.</p> <p>100% of press releases were placed on the website within 48 hours.</p> <p>81 information requests were received. 95% of these were responded to within 48 hours.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$1.840m</p>
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OUTPUT ONE – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM – ECONOMIC

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

The Economic Program is comprised of three sub-programs:

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

SUB-PROGRAM: BUSINESS FUNDING SCHEME (BFS)

Objective

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

Description

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

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

If required, the BFS provides an additional service to clients, organising and paying for insurance over the assets. The insurance cost is then charged back to the client's loan account. A total of \$107,333 in insurance costs were paid on behalf of BFS clients.

Achievements

The Business Funding Scheme is proving to be a significant source of commercial finance for Torres Strait Islanders wanting to establish or expand their businesses. During the financial period, a total of 22 loans were advanced at a total value of \$464,881.

During the financial year 30 clients paid out their BFS loans.

As at 30 June 2004 a total of 90 BFS loans remain active. A total of \$925,711 in repayments has been returned this financial year into the BFS account.

While the majority of the loans concentrate on the fishing industry, it is pleasing to see that Torres Strait Islanders are undertaking a diversified range of commercial activities. For example, of the loans financed this financial period, the following areas of commercial activity were undertaken.



St Pauls Blok Works providing local products and training

Industry Sector	Number of Loans Disbursed	\$ Value
Commercial Fishing	18	389,240
Tourism	2	45,499
Transport	1	25,000
Trade	1	5,142
TOTAL	22	464,881

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

SUB-PROGRAM: HOME OWNERSHIP

Objective

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

Description

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



Masig Island's Lowatta Lodge delivers economic benefits

If required, an additional service that the Home Ownership scheme provides to clients is to organise and pay insurance. The insurance cost is then charged back to the client's loan account. A total of \$2,839 in insurance costs was paid on behalf of housing clients.

Achievements

This year a total of \$405,112 has been released to 9 housing loan clients for either the purchase of new homes, conversion of leasehold title to freehold title or the renovation and expansion of existing dwellings.

A total of \$751,608 in repayments has been returned during the financial year into the Housing Account. In addition, 2 housing loans have been paid out leaving the total Home Ownership portfolio at 40.

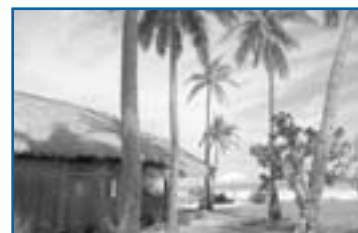
SUB-PROGRAM: COMMUNITY ECONOMIC INITIATIVES SCHEME (CEIS)

Objective

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

Description

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



Award winning Poruma Island Resort – a community and tourism success

Achievements

During the financial year, the TSRA approved \$1.46 million, which was committed for Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS) projects. This includes an amount of \$87,110 carried forward from 2002 – 2003, which is detailed in the table below:

Island Council	Project	\$Amount
Masig Island Council	Guesthouse Lowatta Lodge	87,110 (carried fwd)
TI High School	Aquaculture Pilot Project	30,000
Dauan Island Council	Ferry	66,096
Erub Island Council	Ice-Maker	12,178
St Pauls Council	Blok Works & pavers expansion	237,500
Badu Island Council	Takeaway Restaurant	48,395
Hammond Island Council	Upgrade Ferry	83,355
TRAWQ Council	Upgrade Mechanical Workshop	78,600
Kubin Council	Upgrade Arts Centre	250,000
Saibai Council	Restaurant Bistro	300,000
Poruma Island	Resort Operations	115,000
Masig Island Council	2nd Stage Lowatta Lodge	300,000 ¹
TOTAL		1,608,234

¹ \$150,000 contribution from the Queensland Department of State Development

Funds were committed for a number of projects with work due to commence early 2004 – 2005. This includes the planned expansion of the successful Lowatta Lodge on Masig, the expansion of the Badu Island takeaway restaurant, the upgrade of the Kubin Arts facility and the construction of the Saibai Island restaurant bistro. These enterprises are anticipated to continue the economic success of the island councils upon their completion.

The expansion of St Pauls Blok Works has enabled a second block-making plant to be purchased and installed. This will create opportunity for further sales of quality blocks and pavers for use in local construction activities.

A contribution was made towards the establishment of the Thursday Island State High School aquaculture program. TSRA funds were used for the purchase and fitout of a purpose built aquaculture shed and associated equipment. The project will be finalised during 2004 – 2005.

The purchase of the Erub Ice Making machine has provided much needed support for the commercial fishing trade. The machine has allowed production of ice for use by fisherman in order to maintain the highest level of product freshness for market supply.

Hammond Island Council received a grant to upgrade their ferry, which resulted in an increase in passenger carrying capacity. This has enabled the Council to provide safe and reliable transport to the island's local school children on a daily basis. Dauan Council also received a grant for the purchase of a new ferry. A larger ferry was purchased and provides a safe means of transport for community members between Saibai Island and Dauan, allowing access to air travel.

The TRAWQ mechanical workshop has been expanded through the provision of a CEIS grant. The workshop can now offer an increased range of mechanical repair services, including air-conditioner re-gassing, welding, tyre fitting and brake repairs to residents of Thursday and surrounding islands.

OUTPUT TWO – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

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

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

PROGRAM – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (CDEP)

Objective

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

Description

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

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

Funding

In 2003 – 2004, the TSRA committed \$29,024,287 of CDEP program funds to projects in the Torres Strait region, achieving 98.1% expenditure over commitment. It is the TSRA's single largest program. As at 30 June 2004, there was a total of 1,910 eligible participants in 18 CDEP schemes, covering 19 communities. Expenditure for 2003 – 2004 was \$28,478,513, comprising: wages (\$21,713,325) and recurrent/capital (\$6,765,188), which included \$25,028 (with a forward commitment of \$9,537) as CDEP Support (conducting 10 Major Reviews); \$119,551 (with a forward commitment of \$29,065) relating to the development of the TSRA Website with the correspondingly altered version of the CDEP Manager software into a fully comprehensive electronic data transfer system, including the modification of Centrelink Forms. In addition, \$27,887 was spent on a pilot project to conduct an independent audit report on 7 communities, \$169,596 (with a forward commitment of \$4,575) of capital equipment complementing Telstra funding to establish Internet facilities to the Island communities, and \$7,195 for a CDEP Seminar.

Achievements

CDEP communities within the Torres Strait region are involved in a number of work projects that CDEP members consider to be beneficial to their particular community. During 2003 – 2004, these projects continued to support activities such as: administration, storage yard and depot maintenance, fuel depots, public transport, landscaping, general land and environment management programs, waste and rubbish recycling and removal, contract cleaning, hydroponics, cemetery maintenance, road and drainage construction and their upgrade and maintenance, market gardens and nursery projects, livestock management and abattoirs, cargo handling, garages and service stations, stevedoring, vehicle maintenance and mechanical workshops, tourism and hospitality, supermarket and groceries, cattle-work, piggeries, animal care and husbandry, traditional and community justice systems and policing, women, youth, culture and church projects, assistance to education and primary health care, fishing, seafood processing, live crustaceans management and marketing, take-away enterprises, construction and maintenance

of buildings and community roads, quarries, sea walls, levee banks, airstrip upgrades and other public utilities such as community seafood storage and freezing facilities, screen-printing and art and crafts, home and child care and broadcasting.

In addition to these ongoing activities, housing and major infrastructure contracts continued to be won by CDEP organisations, reinforcing the trend started some seven years ago. Once more, a strongly stated TSRA policy continues to result in major building contractors employing increasing numbers of CDEP participants, thus providing the workers with extended working hours and increased income, as well as valuable training.

The Community Plans were updated during the 2003 – 2004 financial year, extending their validity until 30 June 2008. As in 2001 – 2002, they were compiled within a framework adapted to local needs and through various strategies of which many involved other Commonwealth and State agencies. This was done, as previously, through intensive consultations with the Islander communities and coordination and cooperation with the Queensland Government agencies.

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

Funds were committed for annual reviews of 10 TSRA funded organisations. These recommendations for the review were implemented throughout the 2003 – 2004 financial year and beyond.

The TRAWQ CDEP won the cemetery gardening and cleaning contract from the Torres Shire Council for another year.

Their CDEP scheme developed the activities previously undertaken by a youth support organisation, the Youth Activities Services, now defunct. This aspect of TRAWQ's activities is animated by a very experienced youth worker, and CDEP is the ideal vehicle to support the various activities, organise the relevant training and purchase the sporting and other equipment necessary to conduct the program. Several sources of funding and other forms of assistance have been identified during 2003 – 2004.

The 2003 – 2004 CDEP work plans and programs closely followed the local priorities outlined in the Three-Year Community Development Plans (2001 – 2004) compiled in 2000 – 2001 and reflected in the TSRA triennial system of funding.

The Horn Island CDEP scheme, which separated from TRAWQ, is however not progressing very well, with major problems identified in terms of structure, lines of communication, accountability and integrity. A very close watch is maintained upon this project. There is at least one viable alternative, ready to take over the CDEP from the existing HIAC.

CDEP On-Line

Lastly, the 2003 – 2004 financial year saw the finalisation of the project to link electronically the 18 CDEP schemes, the TSRA, and Centrelink. A series of meetings were held at senior level with Centrelink both in Canberra and on Thursday Island and the issues were discussed in a very positive manner and a final Memorandum Of Understanding was signed by both TSRA and Centrelink. The re-write of the CDEP Manager software for adaptation to the Internet has been completed and Internet facilities have been established by Telstra on the Outer Islands and TSRA on Thursday and Horn Islands as well as both Bamaga and Seisia communities on Cape York. The new system is now functional, eliminating the need for schedules. The system also enables any movement of CDEP participants anywhere within the 18 CDEPs operating in the Torres Strait to be registered and acted upon accordingly by the community, Centrelink and TSRA in real time. There will be no mailing back and forth of corrupt data diskettes and no more faxing of Centrelink forms.

CDEP Award

The draft Award was finalised in 2002 – 2003 and is now with the Australian Workers Union for filing with the Queensland Arbitration Commission. The first Hearing will take place in early July 2004.

PROGRAM—COMMUNITY TRAINING PROGRAM (CTP)

Objective

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

Description

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

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

Funding

In 2003 – 2004, the TSRA committed \$1,419,973 to various Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations for the continuation of the CTP, achieving 96.5% expenditure over commitment.

Achievements

As in previous years, the training funds were used to improve managerial, administrative, and trade-based skills. A range of courses were conducted on the following: computer operation, accounting software, office management, painting, carpentry, electrical skills, plumbing, welding and other building trades, mechanical skills and small motor repairs and maintenance, screen printing, fashion studies, basic literacy and numeracy, conflict resolution, small business management, fishery/seafood processing, coxswain and other vocational marine training, fuel outlets, hazardous substances, retailing, take-away outlet operations, first aid, Work Place Health & Safety, community policing, airport reporting, child care, ranger operations, furniture making, cooking, sewing and other home management courses, fitness and sport coaching, horticulture, environmental health, coping with dementia and other challenging behaviours, nursing home documentation principles, risk management for aged care facilities and financial management. A total of 91 separate projects were planned and 88 achieved, involving more than 430 trainees and 95 apprentices throughout the region.

A concerted effort to link these courses with CDEP and the training and employment opportunities offered to the communities by the Department of Education, Science and Training, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, the State Department of Employment and Training as well as the network of Job Centres, continued during 2003 – 2004. Torres Strait communities utilised tradesmen and skilled residents to conduct training where possible, while in other instances expressions of interest were sought from accredited trainers based elsewhere. In 2003 – 2004, 95 apprenticeships were supported and maintained. The TSRA Board has made it clear that it continues to consider community based training as one of the utmost priorities in the Torres Strait.

In 2003 – 2004 this output ensured the involvement of mainstream employment and training agencies, both Commonwealth and State, whenever possible, and the finalisation of the 2003 – 2004 training program reflected this, maintaining the relatively low rate of expenditure in comparison to 2001 – 2002, when proof of involvement and consultation with mainstream training and employment agencies became a condition of funding.

OUTPUT THREE – NATIVE TITLE

Objective

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

Description

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

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

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

LEGISLATION GOVERNING TSRA'S NATIVE TITLE FUNCTIONS

The Torres Strait Regional Authority is recognised as the NTRB for the Torres Strait region. The TSRA was first appointed a Native Title Representative Body under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) in 1995. Under the 1998 amendments to the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) each representative body was required to re-apply for recognition. Following an independent examination, TSRA was recognised by the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs as the NTRB for the Torres Strait region.

LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE TSRA IN ITS NTRB CAPACITY

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

- facilitating the researching, preparation and making of claims by groups of Aboriginal peoples or Torres Strait Islanders, for determinations of native title and for compensation for acts affecting their native title;
- assisting in the resolution of disputes within groups about the making of such claims; and
- assisting groups by representing them, if requested to do so, in negotiations and proceedings relating to the doing of acts affecting native title, the provision of compensation in relation to such acts and any other matter relevant to the operation of the Act.

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

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

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

Organisational Structure and Corporate Governance Policies

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

The NTO has experienced significant difficulties over the 2003 – 2004 financial year in attracting and retaining suitably qualified and experienced professional staff. As a result the NTO has operated with inadequate staffing levels throughout the year. This has impacted on the ability of the NTO to perform its functions.

PART B – REPORT ON PERFORMANCE

Output 3 of TSRA's Performance Against Outputs table reproduced on page 35 of this report relates to the TSRA's native title functions. As shown in that table, performance targets have been met.

To date there have been a total of fourteen consent determinations recognising native title rights and interests over land in the Torres Strait. A further 18 claims remain undetermined.

Native title claims over Iama, Badu, Boigu, Erub, Ugar, Aureed and Gebar were substantially progressed through mediation in 2002, however in a significant blow to native title in the region these determinations were cancelled only three weeks before the scheduled hearing dates following a late assertion by the State of Queensland that valid public works had been constructed within the determination areas which extinguished native title.

Concerted attempts by the TSRA to continue to mediate the claims with the State Government were unsuccessful, and as a result the need for a strategic test case to resolve questions of law in dispute between the native title claimants and the State of Queensland was identified.

On 15 May 2003 the TSRA acted for the native title claimants of Erub (Erub Island) in a test case, heard before the Full Federal Court, as to the operation of s47A of the Native Title Act, and the effect of constructing public infrastructure on Torres Strait Islander owned land.

A decision in this matter was handed down by the Full Federal Court in October 2003 (*Erubam Le (Erub Islanders) #1 v State of Queensland* [2003] FCAFC 227). Notwithstanding the best intentions of both the Applicants and the State of Queensland in bringing the proceeding for the determination of the separate questions of law, the decision was of limited utility in assisting to finally resolve the outstanding issues between the Applicants and the State of Queensland.

Following the decision, negotiations have continued with the State of Queensland with a view to trying to resolve the issues between the parties in relation to 'public works' so that these claims can be finally determined without the need for further litigation. Significant progress was made in these negotiations in the second half of this financial year, with the Minister responsible for native title, the Honourable Stephen Robertson MP, taking a personal interest.

One further implication of this dispute has been that it has focused greater attention on the process used by third parties wishing to carry out Future Acts, and in particular the construction of infrastructure, on native title land in the Torres Strait. Parties are now increasingly relying on Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA's) to ensure that any Future Acts carried out are valid, and do not have an extinguishing effect on native title.

Negotiations with the Commonwealth Government, through the Department of Defence and Customs Coastwatch, to co-locate a new High Frequency Surface Wave Radar at Koey Ngurtai off Badu Island, and Dauan Island, were finalised in February 2004 with the execution of two ILUA's. These agreements provide native title consent to the Radar Project, whilst ensuring that the important cultural heritage and environment of the areas is preserved and protected. They also provide for significant benefits to the native title holding community. These agreements have

both been registered on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements. The NTO continues to provide legal advice and assistance to the native title holders in the implementation of these agreements.

With nine Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate, and a further seven bodies anticipated to be registered as Native Title Bodies Corporate in the next financial year, the TSRA is starting to experience significant changes to its principal functions. Mediation, negotiation and assistance in dealing with Future Acts, as well as dispute resolution and agreement making, are emerging as primary functions for TSRA as communities and Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) grapple to cope with their responsibilities under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) and associated regulations. This situation is exacerbated by the absence of any available funding for PBCs once they have been established. The resourcing and capacity building of these bodies to properly carry out their functions will be an increasingly significant issue for the TSRA over the next financial year.

The filing of the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim in November 2001 has also marked a move into new legal territory for TSRA as all claims determined to date extend only to the landward side of the high water mark. The Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim is brought on behalf of the native title holders of Badu, Dauan, Erub, Ugar, Masig, Warraber, Poruma, Naghi, Iama, Mabuiag, Mer, Boigu, Moa and Saibai and covers approximately 42,000 square kilometres of sea in the Torres Strait region.

The Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT), and the notification process was completed during the 2002 – 2003 financial year. The claim has now been formally referred for mediation to the NNTT, and significant research work is being carried out in preparation for mediation of the claim.

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

FACILITATION AND ASSISTANCE	REPORT ON NUMBER ONLY
Claimant Applications	18
Filed this year	1
Number current	18
Number registered with NNTT	17
Non Claimant Applications	Nil
Agreements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Land use agreements finalised – Land use agreements finalised but not yet executed – Leases – Determination Deeds finalised but not yet executed – Other Agreements 	8 5 2 Nil ¹ Nil
TOTAL	15
Compensation claims	Nil
Responses to Future Acts	126 ²
Determinations of Native Title	Nil ³
ILUAs Registered	1
Disputes Relating to Native Title Applications	6

Disputes relating to ILUAs, rights of access and other matters	7
Number of ILUAs effected	2 ⁴
Number of reviews pending	Nil
Number of reviews completed	Nil
Number of PBCs established	Nil
Number of PBCs assisted	16
Number of claims certified	1
Number of ILUAs certified	2

¹ Determination Deeds with Ergon Energy Pty Ltd and Telstra Corporation Ltd were finalised and executed by the native title parties, in relation to the applications covering five community islands, in anticipation of the determination hearings in September 2002. Finalisation of these Deeds is now awaiting finalisation of the outstanding issues with the State of Queensland.

² This number includes a class Future Act notification issued by Queensland Department of Primary Industry under which 500 commercial fishing permits can be granted.

³ Seven claims were substantially progressed toward consent determinations and hearing dates were set for 23 – 27 September 2002. These claims, however, did not proceed to determination as a dispute arose with the State of Queensland in relation to the extinguishing effect of community infrastructure on the islands. Progress of these determinations is dependent on the outcome of ongoing negotiations between the TSRA and the State of Queensland.

⁴ ILUAs were negotiated as part of the settlement of five of the native title claims that were expected to be determined by consent in September 2002. Finalisation of these ILUAs is dependent on the outcome of ongoing negotiations with the State of Queensland.

Financial Performance of TSRA in NTRB Capacity

For the 2003 – 2004 financial year the TSRA was funded an amount of \$2.090m for the ongoing operation of the Native Title Office and the provision of housing for the Native Title Office staff.

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

Torres Strait Regional Authority**Output 3 Native Title Total Cost of Output as at 30 June 2004**

	2004 \$	2003 \$
Operating Revenues:		
Appropriation	1,890,000	1,432,000
Other Revenue	200,000	109,000
Total Operating Revenues	2,090,000	1,541,000
Operating Expenses:		
Advertising	319	16,329
Consultants	158,113	139,027
Incidental	15,873	2,449
Legal	22,265	9,056
Library	7,255	18,236
Meeting Expenses	28,560	35,857
Office Requisites	13,654	14,460
Office Rent	46,604	52,338
Employees	350,000	275,000
Incidental Employee Costs	3,026	4,061
Depreciation	35,000	37,000
Travel	167,262	137,918
Grant		10,000
Allocated Overhead	206,000	167,000
Total Operating Expenses	1,053,930	918,731
Capital Usage Charge		178,200
Total Cost of Output	1,053,930	1,096,931

Note

1. These figures are sourced from the Audited Financial Statements of the TSRA for year ended 30 June 2004

PART C – EXTERNAL SCRUTINY

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

PART D – MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

As a section of TSRA, Native Title Office staff members participated in training and development undertaken by all TSRA staff and are subject to the TSRA Certified Workplace Agreement 2003 – 2006 outlined in this report.

OUTPUT FOUR – HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

PROGRAM – HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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

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

- a) Environmental Health
- b) Community Housing

SUB-PROGRAM: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Objective

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

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Description

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

The planning for Stage 2 drew on the extensive consultation and planning reports completed for Stage 1. These detailed reports identified numerous health-related infrastructure priorities for all Torres Strait communities. Projects were subsequently prioritised and endorsed by the TSRA Board.

Achievements

A second review of the Major Infrastructure Program was completed in early 2004. The review report provided positive outcomes and highlighted the significant achievements of the Program in delivering improved environmental health outcomes for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people through infrastructure development in the region. The 2003 – 2004 financial year saw various MIP Stage 2 works progressing through the design, planning and construction stages of various projects. Major projects involved the completion of sewerage projects and land development including land servicing and subdivision.

Project Summary for 2003 – 2004.

Community	Infrastructure	Status
Badu	Sewerage & land servicing project	Completed. Construction of trunk sewers, pump stations and treatment lagoons was completed in 2002. Connections of housing to the system was completed in 2003. Total budget for this project was \$6.6 million.
Erub	Reticulated sewerage and sewerage treatment plant project	Completed. Construction of trunk sewers and pump stations and the package sewerage treatment plant has been completed. Connection of houses to the system was completed in 2003. The project cost \$4.2 million.
Bamaga	Land servicing project	Completed. Construction of a 15-lot subdivision was completed in 2003. Cost of the project was \$945,000.
Mer	Land servicing project	Project manager appointed. Community consultations continue to progress over land tenure issues. Estimated to cost \$700,000.
Seisia	Reticulated sewerage project	Construction of trunk sewers and pump stations has commenced. Rising main to connect to the Bamaga sewerage treatment plant. Estimated cost \$2.2 million.
Iama	Subdivision project	Design process complete to provide 14 fully serviced subdivision allotments. Project managers appointed and construction commenced. Coordination and planning of work involves the Department of Main Roads and the Heavy Equipment Management Training Program (HEMTP). Estimated cost of the project is \$1.2million.

Hammond	Land development, roads and drainage projects	Project manager appointed and preliminary work started. Coordination and planning of work with the Department of Main Roads with HEMTP involvement. Estimated cost to the Program is \$1 million.
Boigu and Saibai	Lot filling, subdivision, elevated water tank, drainage work and new bund wall construction projects	Project managers appointed and draft design completed. Estimated cost \$1.8 million.
Dauan	Road and drainage upgrades and water reticulation projects	Construction commenced. Estimated cost \$700,000.
Mabuiag	Road and drainage project	Project manager appointed. Budget \$1.1 million.
Erub	Power installation project	Completed. Cost of the project was \$171,000.
Torres Strait Region	Bulk waste removal and new tip sites development projects	Initial bulk waste and scrap removal from all outer islands. New tip sites development underway. Estimated budget \$1.15 million.

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Description

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

Achievements

The TSRA contributed \$1.2 million to the Island Coordinating Council, for the continued support and maintenance of water supply and sewerage infrastructure in the region.

AIRSTRIPS

Description

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



*Airstrip upgrade at Poruma Island
boosts safety and employment*

Achievements

The lama and Poruma airstrips were upgraded. The lama airstrip was upgraded in October 2003 while the Poruma airstrip upgrade was undertaken in April 2004. TSRA and Queensland Transport contributed funds to these projects at a total cost of almost \$1.2 million.

SUB-PROGRAM: COMMUNITY HOUSING

Objective

To maximise the provision of adequate and appropriate housing for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region.

Description

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

Achievements

During 2003 – 2004 the Torres Strait Housing Sub-Committee was established. Terms of Reference were also developed including a requirement for the Sub-Committee to perform the role of steering committee for the development of the Torres Strait Housing Strategy.

Continued input into national and State policies through participation and representation by TSRA on housing committees and advisory bodies such as the:

- Standing Committee for Indigenous Housing;
- The Home Ownership for Discrete Indigenous Communities Working Group;
- Feasibility Study Steering Committee on the proposed Establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Authority; and
- National Skills Development Strategy for Indigenous Community Housing Management (improving capacity for Indigenous housing organisations).

OUTPUT FIVE – SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENT

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

This Output comprises six programs as outlined below:

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

PROGRAM – MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

Objective

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

Description

The TSRA may provide funding under this Program for:

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



*Newly constructed
Kubin Community Hall*

Funding

In 2003 – 2004, the TSRA committed \$1,878,857 as a contribution to the operations of the island councils, \$1,180,779 towards the purchase or replacement of earth moving and other machinery, and \$631,730 towards the construction of council buildings, community halls, resource centres, roads and other amenities.

Achievements

- The island councils used TSRA funds for: the employment of executive officers/council clerks, resident or visiting financial consultants, all responsible for the management and coordination of the councils' operations. TSRA funds were also used to supplement the funds provided by the Queensland Government for council operations and the capital equipment replacement program. In the 2003 – 2004 financial year, the TSRA achieved 100% expenditure (council operations), 84% expenditure (machinery), and 32% expenditure (community buildings and amenities). The category of community buildings and amenities is still, when not due to problems of synchronisation of funding with our State counterparts, subject to difficulties relating to the establishment of a suitable site and the resolution of land tenure issues.
- The Mer (Mer) Island Council again could not start the construction of their community hall, as supplementary finance is still under negotiation with State agencies. The hall is also subject to land tenure issues.
- The Kubin Island Council nearly completed their staff accommodation and are still working on their community centre.

- The Ugar Island Council completed their staff accommodation complex and have engaged a Chief Executive Officer.
- The TSRA contributed to training and employment opportunities in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area by providing \$400,000 to the Island Coordinating Council for the second year in a row. The funds are used to support the training and employment of local people through the Heavy Equipment and Management Training Program (HEMTP). HEMTP is an initiative of the Department of Main Roads and provides a plant pool of heavy equipment and machinery for use in earthworks and road construction. Projects on each island are scheduled into the HEMTP program and equipment and machinery are delivered to each island as needed. At the end of the project the machinery is returned to the plant pool. The HEMTP has provided substantial skills development and employment for local people throughout Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area. A cooperative and mutual arrangement between the Department of Main Roads, the TSRA and the ICC has meant that HEMTP is also allowing an efficient and effective use of resources to provide infrastructure development in the region through the Major Infrastructure Program in particular.
- Hammond Island Council was allocated \$65,000 for the upgrading of community roads. This money, rolled over from 2002 – 2003, was to be incorporated into a State-funded road improvement program starting that year. Delays have been experienced and the purchase of materials has occurred only late in the financial year. It is expected that the roads program will be finalised in 2004 – 2005.
- The Dauan Island Council purchased the dongas built and occupied by contract builders. Any type of accommodation is welcome on many Islands.
- The Iama Island Council were given \$40,000 to repair severe tidal damage occurred during the last wet season.
- The Poruma Island Council finalised their Council chambers.
- The St Pauls Island Council purchased 1 Mobile Workers' Camp from the Department of Main Roads.

In 2003 – 2004, the island councils received grants totalling \$1,180,779 which enabled them to purchase the following items of machinery and equipment:

• Boigu Island Council	1 Telehandler
• Badu Island Council	1 Troop carrier
• Warraber Island Council	1 Truck
• Mer Island Council	1 Emergency vehicle
• Seisia Island Council	1 Backhoe
• Island Coordinating Council	Contribution to heavy equipment pool
• Masig Island Council	1 Administration vehicle
• Erub Island Council	1 Bus
• Poruma Island Council	1 Administration vehicle
• Iama Island Council	1 Truck
• Ugar Island Council	1 Backhoe, contributed to 1 Ferry
• TRAWQ	1 Skidsteer
• Bamaga Island Council	1 Utility vehicle
• Dauan Island Council	1 Bus
• Kubin Island Council	1 Quad bike and office equipment

PROGRAM – BROADCASTING

Objective

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

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

Description

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



Thursday Island based radio broadcasts keep islands in touch

Funding

In 2003 – 2004, the TSRA committed funding totalling \$828,933 under this component. TSIMA received more than 66% of this funding (\$546,198) for operational and community broadcasting costs, as well as urgent repairs, upgrades and maintenance of their building. The remainder of the funds (\$282,735) was divided between 16 outer island councils for upgrading, operating and maintaining their own BRACS units through a rolling program of maintenance and capital replacement.

Achievements

The TSRA achieved more than 95% expenditure against the commitment. TSIMA is providing a local service of news, music, current affairs and items of interest, which continued throughout 2003 – 2004. TSIMA also continues to play a significant role in the development of local policy issues of concern to the residents of the Torres Strait, such as Greater Autonomy, the status of the Islander Board of Industry Service and Fisheries issues. They have produced specific plans for expansion with the assistance of the State Government at the feasibility study stage.

The BRACS operating on the outer islands has experienced an evolution different from island to island, with some communities wishing to retain as much of their original culture as possible. That fact is reflected in their utilisation of BRACS for local productions, while others seem content to receive the four television channels and utilise BRACS as another CDEP activity.

PROGRAM – SOCIAL JUSTICE

Objective

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

Description

The TSRA is providing financial assistance towards the provision of culturally appropriate, Indigenous legal aid services. It also supports advocacy services representing the interests of Indigenous people in contact with the juvenile and criminal justice system, and is committed to the development of Torres Strait Indigenous perspectives to be brought to bear in international and national forums.

Funding

The TSRA provided \$403,030 under this Program during 2003 – 2004 for the provision of a legal service to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region. 100% expenditure was achieved.

Achievements

The principal achievement of this Program has been the continuing availability of legal representation for people living in the Torres Strait region at the Magistrate Courts of Thursday

Island, Badu Island and Bamaga through the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula (TSNP) Legal Service.

In 2003 – 2004, the TSNP Legal Service gave preliminary legal advice, consultations, legal support and representation to 5,088 clients, including 208 civil cases, 82 family cases and 790 criminal cases. They also handled 25 Traditional Adoption cases, issued 19 Brief-outs and 320 referrals. They gave representation to a total of 1103 defendants facing a total of 2911 charges.

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

PROGRAM – HERITAGE, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Objective

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

Description

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

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

- a) Heritage and Culture

Funding

In 2003 – 2004, the TSRA committed a total of \$221,915 for the support of artistic and cultural activities in the Torres Strait region, achieving 100% expenditure.

This commitment included projects funded from the General Manager's Contingency Fund as follows:

Program	Community Purpose	Contribution (\$)
Masig Island Council	August 23 Celebrations	\$10,000.00
Thursday Island Primary School	Celebration of the Arts Tour	\$12,500.00
Erub Island	Arts and Culture Centre	\$15,000.00
Masig Island	YDMS Sport	\$ 5,000.00
Island Coordinating Council	Teen Challenge Student of Year Awards	\$ 3,000.00
TRAWQ	Mabo Day Celebration	\$ 6,000.00
Bamaga Council	Mabo Day Celebration	\$ 2,332.00
TI Primary School	Choir and Band Uniforms	\$ 4,530.00
TOTAL		\$58,362.00

Achievements

A major achievement for the TSRA and the Torres Strait community was the official opening of the Gab Titui Cultural Centre on Thursday Island on 16 April, 2004. The Centre has been a concept that Torres Strait Islander elders and leaders have pursued for the past 10 years and this long-held dream finally became a reality with the assistance of the Commonwealth's Federation Fund through the Queensland Heritage Trails Network.

The Centre's primary function is to provide a place for cultural revitalisation and community use. An Operations Manager and a team of trainees manage the Centre. Since opening its doors the Centre has been successful in negotiating with the Australian Museum to exhibit, for the first time in the Torres Strait, historical artefacts that were removed from the region in the late 1800's as well as impressive artworks by local Indigenous artists.

Once again in 2003 – 2004, the TSRA entered into a Partnership Agreement with Arts Queensland and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board of the Australia Council for the Arts to secure funding for the continuation of the Torres Strait Regional Arts Development Fund. This was the second consecutive successful funding provided through a Partnership Agreement to promote the artistic and cultural activities in the Torres Strait region. Seven projects were selected from three communities, totalling \$42,484 as follows:

Project	Community	Time Frame	Budget
Sacred Heart School – Artist in Residence	Thursday Island	1/2/04 – 1/6/04	\$4,150.00
Erub Island Arts and Cultural Group – Ceramic Sculpture Workshop	Erub Island	1/3/04 – 25/6/04	\$7,420.00
TRAWQ – TRAWQ Arts Program	Thursday Island	24/11/03 – 30/6/04	\$5,500.00
St Pauls Community Council – St Pauls Centenary Celebration – Weaving Workshop	St Pauls Community	5/1/04 – 16/1/04	\$2,300.00
St Pauls Community Council – Language Program	St Pauls Community	2/2/04 – 12/4/04	\$8,250.00
Thursday Island State High School – Arts Catalogue	Thursday Island	1/2/04 – 30/6/04	\$11,000.00
Rosie Barkus – Attend 2nd Sydney Aboriginal and Oceanic Art Fair	Thursday Island	27/5/04 – 30/5/04	\$3,864.00
TOTAL			\$42,484.00

In addition to the tabled projects, a portion of the Arts Fund was allocated as Quick Response to provide for emergent projects.

The TSRA also provided the Thursday Island Primary School with \$2,500 towards the Celebrations of the Arts Tour; \$15,000 as a contribution to the Arts and Cultural Centre on Erub Island; and \$5,000 contribution to Masig Island for the holding of the Masig, Erub, Mer, Ugar sports carnival.

Sponsorship for cultural celebrations involved \$10,000 to Masig Island for the annual celebration of the Torres Strait Islanders Councillors meeting; \$8,332 for Mabo Day Celebrations; and \$10,000 to Goigai Pudhai ANZAC Day memorial, celebrating the revitalisation of the aeroplane dance.

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

b) Environment

Funding/Achievements

There was no commitment from the TSRA for the delivery of purely environmental projects through Grants procedures in 2003 – 2004. More details will be found in the Policy achievements section of this report, particularly relating to the establishment of a Fisheries Management framework. Negotiations are ongoing with the Cooperative Research Centre (Torres Strait) and the National Heritage Trust.

PROGRAM – SPORT

Objective

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

Description

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

Funding

In 2003 – 2004, the TSRA committed a total of \$1,622,583 under this program, achieving 62.4% expenditure, a marked improvement over the last financial year.

Achievements

A total of \$346,250 was provided in 2003 – 2004 to the Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting of Association (TSYRSA) as a continuing contribution towards their operating costs and towards the assistance, in terms of both funding and expertise, which they provide to the various Indigenous sporting associations in the Torres Strait. The funding enabled various sporting codes (including indoor volleyball, darts, basketball and rugby league) to be conducted through their specific sporting associations, coaching clinics and competitions (including the annual "State of Origin" rugby league tournament).

A total of thirteen capital sports infrastructure projects have been started or continued in 2003 – 2004 and committed for 2004 – 2005 in the outer islands, totalling almost \$1.27 million.

During the 2003 – 2004 financial year there continues to be significant development of sport in the Torres Strait region. The main sport is still rugby league, but other codes, such as Australian rules and rugby union, are making good inroads into the community and sporting events are very well attended. Major upgrades, as well as new constructions of sporting facilities available on Thursday Island and on the outer islands have greatly facilitated this process.

- An amount of \$109,435 (left from an initial \$185,000 approved in 2001 – 2002 and rolled over into 2003 – 2004) was finally released for the completion of the Hammond Sports Complex.
- \$50,000 was allocated to Poruma Island Council to resurface their existing courts.
- The sports oval project on Iama Island (started in 2000 – 2001) is progressing very slowly, but the community is in full charge of it and the project therefore presents a strong community development element. Part of the reason for the delay is also that the project is reliant on the Heavy Equipment and Management Training Program (HEMTP).
- \$350,000 was allocated and released to Badu Island Council for construction of a community hall, which also serves as a stadium.

- \$15,000 was allocated to TSYRSA for the installation of lights at the Wongai Basketball Courts.
- \$10,000 was allocated to Dauan Island Council for the upgrade of their basketball court.
- \$45,000 was allocated to Mabuiag, \$275,000 to Warraber, \$85,171 to Ugar and \$100,000 each to Dauan, Seisia and Saibai Island Councils for the establishment of football ovals and general sports facilities.
- An amount of \$25,000 was allocated to Erub Island Council to install lights in the indoor sports hall and the opening ceremony.
- Altogether \$26,927 was allocated to various entities to support sporting carnivals, tournaments and other events having occurred in the Torres Strait region.

The various funding allocations to the outer islands listed above have met their objectives, with the exception of Poruma (\$50,000), Dauan (\$100,000), Warraber (\$275,000) Ugar (\$85,171) and Saibai, which had to be rolled over into the 2004 – 2005 financial year. The reason for these rollovers is that all these projects are awaiting State funding, which should occur sometime during 2004 – 2005.

PROGRAM – SOCIAL SUPPORT

Objective

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

Description

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

Funding

In 2003 – 2004, the TSRA committed \$337,332 to this program, achieving 100% expenditure.

Achievements

In 2003 – 2004, the Social Support allocation was broadly divided between the Port Kennedy Association (mostly Child Care and Youth issues) and the Mura Kosker Sorority (Women Issues) to assist in meeting the costs of their operations. These two organisations have overlapping programs as well.

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

The Mura Kosker Sorority is an organisation formed to address the issues affecting Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal women living in the Torres Strait region, along principles similar to those currently held by Port Kennedy (various functional programs in theory funded by other State and

Commonwealth agencies, with the operating costs fully funded by the TSRA). These programs previously included Home and Community Care (HACC), Old Peoples Action Program (OPAP), Victims of Violence Program (Lena Passi Women Shelter), Emergency Relief Funding (ERF) and many others. However, there have been several changes in personnel and office bearers, and the organisation's propensity to ignore grant conditions has become more marked. The politics involving the resolution of women's problems and the study of issues concerning them are rapidly evolving towards using the problems as pretexts, with the real issues drowned in power and status struggles between the factions involved. The situation is being closely monitored.

TRAWQ Council Inc. have replaced the defunct Youth Activities Services (YAS) and significantly improved upon the activities addressing the youths at risk in the region. Their full-time Youth Officer has proven extremely energetic and imaginative in both the organisation and the nature of the youth activities themselves and securing financial resources from government and private concerns.

Aged care is quite ably delivered by the Star of the Sea Home for the Aged, which TSRA assists in whichever way it can, including \$27,000 of training funds in 2003 – 2004.

- \$148,051 was provided to the Port Kennedy Association (PKA) to assist in meeting the costs of their operations.
- A grant of \$136,951 was provided to the Mura Kosker Sorority for their administration costs. However, although the principal community-based service provider to women and their families within the Torres Strait region, the organisation has not been an overwhelming success in securing funding from other government departments responsible for the many programs that they previously ran.
- A grant of \$47,830 was provided to TRAWQ, reflecting its status as the functioning agency for the delivery of youth programs, essential now that the YAS does not function anymore.
- A grant of \$4,500 was provided to the Island Coordinating Council to facilitate the organisation of 4 workshops on domestic violence prevention on the outer islands sponsored by the Lena Passi group.

OUTPUT SIX – POLICY AND INFORMATION

POLICY COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Objectives

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

Achievements for Objective 1

MARINE AND FISHERIES COORDINATION

The new Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) consultative structure that was developed in 2002 completed its first 12 months of operations in December 2003. It has proven to be effective and has significantly strengthened Australian traditional inhabitants involvement in traditional and commercial fish management at operational, policy and legislative levels. To ensure that traditional inhabitants were represented at all levels of the consultative structure, the TSRA spent \$100,000 on travel to allow their participation in the various fisheries-related forums in 2003 – 2004.

Working towards the TSRA's long-term vision of having Torres Strait fisheries owned and managed by Australian traditional inhabitants for their benefit, the TSRA allocated an additional \$200,000 for 2004 – 2005. A contribution of \$100,000 is earmarked for participation in the PZJA consultative structure processes and the other \$100,000 is for training of Community Fisher representatives in marine resource operations, marine policy and legislation and capacity-building at community level.

The TSRA continues to enjoy a cooperative working arrangement with communities, the traditional inhabitant representatives, commercial fishing industry, the Australian Fish Management Authority (AFMA), the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (QDPIF), the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and PNG National Fisheries Authority (NFA).

The TSRA also continues to employ a Fisheries Coordinator to coordinate participation and involvement of Indigenous stakeholders in PZJA and other fisheries processes. Under a cooperative framework agreement, AFMA and QDPIF jointly contributed \$90,000 towards the running costs of the Fisheries Coordinator.

Some of the other major key achievements include:

- Reduction and containment of effort in the Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL) fishery – 25% reduction in freezer boat tenders and a ceiling on traditional inhabitant TRL licenses for 2004 only while new long-term management arrangements are being developed in line and within the spirit of the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* and *Torres Strait Treaty 1985* to ensure long-term sustainability of that fishery. An amnesty was put on the TRL license ceiling to allow genuine traditional inhabitant fishers to obtain a license. 213 applications have been received under this process and are currently being processed.
- Contributed to the Strategic Assessment of Torres Strait Prawn Fishery under the *Australian Government Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) to ensure that the fishery is managed in an ecological sustainable manner in the long-term. Also contributed to the preliminary findings of the TRL strategic assessment under the EPBC Act.
- Sought funding under Natural Heritage Trust 2 (NHT2) Cross Jurisdictional Funding to begin community-based management of dugongs and marine turtles in the Torres Strait. Funding is required to monitor harvest rates, population dynamics and the collection of relevant biological information. This proposal has received overwhelming support from the TSRA Board, the Community Fisher Group and the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee.
- Contributed to the proposed effort reduction for the Torres Strait prawn fishery.

- Introduced no-take species for commercial fishing for red bass, potatoe cod, Queensland grouper, chinaman fish and paddletail. Also introduced a commercial take and possession limit of one Maori Wrasse per license with a minimum and maximum size limit of 750mm and 1200mm, respectively, and minimum commercial size limit of 450mm for barramundi cod. This does not affect traditional fishing.
- Reduced Finfish bi-catch allowance from 50kg to 20kg for all operators in the prawn, TRL, Finfish/Line fisheries. This is to ensure long-term sustainability of these fisheries and this decision does not affect traditional fishing.
- Agreed to retain the current commercial reef line fishery area closure in the western part of the Torres Strait Protected Zone.
- Prohibited the retention of pearl shells on trawlers.
- Implementation of the latent effort removal process for Tropical Rock Lobster, Line/Finfish and Mackerel fisheries. Preliminary results indicate that this process will remove substantial latent effort in these fisheries.
- Made significant progress in developing management objectives for the Finfish/Line and TRL fisheries.
- Successfully developed a new catch-sharing model with PNG for the TRL fishery.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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

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

A Regional Body for each of the 56 regions around Australia must be established to facilitate the development and implementation of regional natural resource management plans. The plans are required to include a holistic range of environmental assets and targets, demonstrate the engagement of the broader community in the planning process, as well as indicate their direct and coordinated relationship with adjoining regions plans, and existing policies, strategies and plans.

The Regional Body for the Torres Strait is comprised of six representatives of the various island clusters, and five interest group representatives, covering local government, womens' issues, environment, fishing and education.

The Island Coordinating Council (ICC) is the auspicing body, and will provide secretarial support to the Regional Body. The ICC also houses the Regional Body staff, including the Regional Coordinator and Indigenous Liaison Officer.

The TSRA hosts the Regional Natural Resource Management Facilitator, who is responsible for ensuring appropriate linkages exist between the Regional Body and its staff and all levels of government, and for providing information on Australian Government natural resource management programs and policies to the broader community. The Regional NRM Facilitator is also secretariat to the Torres Strait Local Agencies Coordination Committee (TSLACC), which provides coordinated agency support to the Regional Body in developing the natural resource management plan and investment strategy.

THE COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE (CRC) TORRES STRAIT PROGRAM

The Torres Strait Regional Authority entered into a partnership arrangement with key Australian and Queensland Government management agencies to bring together a unique opportunity to

bring efficiencies and synergies to the current marine research effort, to improve the delivery of information needed for sustainable development of Torres Strait and peoples and to add considerably to the value of current research and extension efforts. The result is an integrated, multi-disciplinary applied program of marine research far beyond that which could be done previously or by any of the participants acting independently.

The expertise derives from considerable experience in Torres Strait and the adjacent GBRWHA. The core participants are AFMA, AIMS, CSIRO Marine, CRC Reef, CRC Torres Strait Ltd, GeoScience Australia, JCU, National Oceans Office (NOO), QDPI and the TSRA. Supporting participants include GBRMPA, GBRRF and QSIA. Environment Australia, the Papua New Guinea National Fisheries Authority and AFFA have supported in principle the establishment of the Program.

Overall the participants bring substantial resources (over \$23 million over three years) to the Program as well as scientific and management expertise and have agreed to combine their current efforts into a single, integrated, multi-disciplinary research, education and communication program, directed towards the identified needs of stakeholders and end-users.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority will contribute \$50,000.00 per year for the next three years being the agreement of the existing CRC Torres Strait program.

Some major achievements of the CRC Torres Strait include:

- Major survey of critical habitats adjacent to the Prince of Wales Shipping Lane and Port of Thursday Island completed to assist environmental planning, management of the Port of Thursday Island and regional oil spills.
- High resolution swath surveys three weeks apart reveal major sand wave crests move up to 6 – 13m with change in wind and wave direction and may significantly impact on seagrass distribution.
- Collection and analysis of historical catch and effort data of commercial Islander fishers in the eastern Torres Strait reef line fishery completed and available for assessment of alternate management strategies.
- Links between researchers and Torres Strait communities greatly enhanced by all researchers working through the CRC Torres Strait's Marine Research Liaison Officer who is based at TSRA.

TORRES STRAIT TREATY

The TSRA is playing an important and increasing role in the consultative meetings held under the auspices of the Torres Strait Treaty, which aims to protect the traditional way of life and livelihood of traditional inhabitants in the Torres Strait Protected Zone. In June 2004, the TSRA co-funded with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, a delegation to the Traditional Inhabitants Meeting in Daru. This provided an effective mechanism for communication and cooperation between Torres Strait Islanders and PNG traditional inhabitants across the range of important issues covered by the Treaty.

Recommendations arising from the cycle of Treaty meetings will be developed further at a Joint Advisory Council meeting in late 2004 and thereafter as decided by Ministers at the Australia/PNG Annual Ministerial Forum.

JOINT TORRES STRAIT HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Through the Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee (JTSHIC) the TSRA continued to participate in a successful year of activities that reflected a determined collaborative approach to improving housing and infrastructure development in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. The Committee met four times during 2003 – 2004 and continued to progress the aims and objectives of the bilateral agreement through an improved reporting structure. The Committee successfully merged high-level strategic planning and coordination with its partners to deliver approximately \$30 million worth of housing and infrastructure to Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area communities.

During the year the Committee developed and endorsed the Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Strategic Plan and throughout the year the TSRA continued to assist in monitoring and implementing the strategic roll-out of the Plan. Through the JTSHIC, the TSRA provided significant momentum to strategic development in the region including vital work in securing combined Australian and State government funds of \$32.4 million to progress Stage 3 of the Major Infrastructure Program. The contribution reflected the government's recognition of the high priority need in the Torres Strait and an endorsement of the efforts of TSRA and JTSHIC.

During 2003 – 2004, the TSRA through JTSHIC, continued to improve stakeholder collaboration by assisting in overseeing 18 sub-committee meetings. Those committees were the Major Infrastructure Program Steering Committee, the Island Coordinating Council Infrastructure Support Unit Steering Committee, the Heavy Equipment and Management Training Program Steering Committee and the recently formed Torres Strait Housing Sub-Committee. TSRA plays a primary role in coordinating, planning and participation in these sub-committees and continues to identify housing and infrastructure needs of the region by providing housing and infrastructure policy input at the sub-committee and higher strategic level.

During 2003 – 2004 the TSRA worked with the Department of Family and Community Services, the Department of Housing, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, the Tropical Public Health Unit, the Department of Main Roads, Queensland Transport, the Island Coordinating Council and all island councils to progress infrastructure development in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

HOUSING

Through the JTSHIC, the TSRA provides a primary input into housing planning and coordination in the Torres Strait. The TSRA's partnership responsibility and representation on the JTSHIC allows the opportunity to address strategic housing issues in the region. The TSRA is a member of the Standing Committee on Indigenous Housing and has a capacity on this committee to provide input into housing policy at the national level. The TSRA is also a steering committee member on the Feasibility Study – Proposed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing and Infrastructure Authority. The study is currently about to conduct consultations here in the Torres Strait and TSRA will help coordinate input from the community and relevant stakeholders.

The TSRA continues to seek out opportunities to provide input into housing policy across a breadth of committees. The TSRA is also a member of the National Skills Development Strategy for Indigenous Community Housing Management (improving capacity for Indigenous housing organisations). TSRA provides input into and participation on, the Home Ownership for Discrete Indigenous Communities Working Group and provides input through the Indigenous Peaks Reference Group, which is the consultative community body for home ownership in Indigenous Communities.

TORRES STRAIT HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE

This particular committee was formed in January 2004 as a result of the implementation of the JTSHIC Strategic Plan. The formation of the Housing Sub-Committee supports a greater need to focus on housing planning and coordination in the Torres Strait and to maximise the efforts of stakeholders and the community. Currently the committee performs the role of a steering committee for the development of a Torres Strait housing strategy. The strategy will be the guiding document for all housing development and related activities for the region. TSRA provides the secretariat function for this new committee that has met twice since its formation.

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Infrastructure development is significantly changing the lives of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people by improving environmental health outcomes in the region. The Major Infrastructure Program (MIP), which met six times during 2003 – 2004, is focused on environmental health outcomes and the program is providing substantial improvements in health for the people of the region. The TSRA continues to play a leading role in this development and through the MIP

Committee is responsible for the planning and coordination of all Program projects in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. MIP projects include construction of sewerage systems, roads and drainage work, land development including subdivisional work, flood mitigation and water tank upgrades and the implementation of the Waste Management Strategy.

Various projects have used the Heavy Equipment and Management Training Program and the Transport Infrastructure Development Support Scheme. Both have provided training and employment opportunities for local people on Iama, Poruma, Seisia, Erub, Mer, Badu and Bamaga communities.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE

The Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area received substantial benefits through the Major Infrastructure Program and adequate maintenance and operational management is essential to ensure infrastructure and related services remain as valuable assets in each community. Over the past year, the Island Coordinating Council has adapted to its new role of providing technical support to water service providers in the outer islands. The newly established Island Coordinating Council Infrastructure Support Unit has maintained a quality service to island communities providing an effective support and response role during what was a prolonged drought period for a number of islands in 2003.

The committee met six times during 2003 – 2004 and worked collaboratively with agencies including the TSRA, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, Department of Main Roads, Queensland Health, the Island Coordinating Council and MIP project managers.

TORRES HEALTH PARTNERSHIP FORUM

The TSRA is an active member of the Torres Health Partnership Forum and through this Forum the TSRA is able to provide input into the planning and coordination of health care services and delivery in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. The TSRA continues to work towards Framework Agreement Aims and Framework for Action priorities with member partners; the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, Queensland Health and the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area District Health Council. The Agreement aims include joint planning and priority setting, improving access to mainstream health programs, improving data collection and evaluation and partnership collaboration.

The TSRA actively engages in its partnership role of coordination and planning of health services, delivery and strategy development. A significant outcome for 2003 – 2004 has been the development of a regional health strategy for the Torres Strait. A first draft of the strategy has been released and a final draft is expected in September 2004.

The TSRA also delivered policy advice, information and reports on a range of other health issues including PNG cross border matters and briefing papers to the Torres Health Partnership Forum. The TSRA participates in the Torres Strait Ad Hoc Health Issues Committees that primarily focuses on PNG issues within the Australian health care system.

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

EDUCATION FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

The TSRA is a partner to the Torres Strait District Framework Agreement on Education together with the Torres Strait Islander Regional Education Council (TSIREC), the Island Coordinating Council, the Torres Shire Council, the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations and the Queensland Minister for Education.

The partnership aims to support the achievement of improved educational, training and employment outcomes in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

The TSRA is working cooperatively with the Queensland Department of Sports and Recreation to seek coordinated funding to improve delivery of sports and recreational infrastructure in the Torres Strait region. A more efficient approach to the upgrading and development of sporting and community facilities in the region will augment both the social and physical wellbeing of the people in the region.

Since its inception, the new TSRA Board has established an Advisory Committee for Sports and Recreation to work with key stakeholders such as the Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association and our State counterpart, Sports and Recreation, Queensland, in enhancing both sports and recreation activities in the Torres Strait.

Terms of Reference are being developed so that the Torres Strait Sports and Recreation Plans, developed in 1999, can be updated and reviewed in 2004 – 2005.

CHARTER OF REPRESENTATION, PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The TSRA implemented a Charter of Representation, Performance and Accountability. The Charter gives formal effect to the arrangements that are in place within the organisation reaffirming an appropriate separation between corporate policy making by the Board and financial management by the Administrative arm, thereby removing any potential for perceived or actual conflict of interest by members.

Achievements for Objective 2

TORRES STRAIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In accordance with its statutory responsibilities under Section 142D of the ATSIC Act, the TSRA is currently in the process of reviewing the Torres Strait Development Plan 2002 – 2004. The Plan will provide the visions and strategies for the next four years for promoting Indigenous interests under each of the TSRA portfolio areas listed below:

- Infrastructure and Housing;
- Education, Training and Employment;
- Business Enterprise and Economic Development;
- Fisheries;
- Culture;
- Sports and Recreation;
- Law and Justice;
- Media;
- Families;
- Health;
- Native Title; and
- Environment.

The current document, which is available on the TSRA website, gives clear and concise policy direction and provides a platform from which the TSRA can consult with Queensland Departments and other Commonwealth agencies on the provision of services and any new initiatives proposed for the Torres Strait. The Plan reinforces the TSRA's approach to working with the Commonwealth and State agencies through the development of partnership agreements and within State planning regimes.

TSRA SERVICE CHARTER

In accordance with Commonwealth Legislation, the 2002 – 2004 Service Charter is currently in the process of being reviewed. The TSRA Service Charter outlines the standard of service that

it provides to its clients and also sets out the steps that can be taken if a client has a complaint. The document is available on the TSRA website.

INFORMATION DELIVERY

Objectives

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

Achievements for Objective 1

SECRETARIAT

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

In 2003 – 2004 the Secretariat Section liaised with relevant TSRA Sections to provide 47 briefing papers for the Board's consideration. The Board made 64 formal decisions. A total of 39 items of correspondence, including 24 Ministerials, were prepared for the Minister.

Achievements for Objective 2

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The TSRA provided information to the public in 2003 – 2004 using a number of media, including press releases, newsletters, website placements, advertising, and production of promotional material.

A Public Affairs Officer is responsible for delivering this TSRA objective. During the past year, 42 press releases, 5 newsletters, 9 speeches and the 2002 – 2003 TSRA Annual Report were produced. Pamphlets and promotional material were also produced focusing on:

- The Major Infrastructure Program;
- Assistance With Tertiary Education Scholarships;
- TSRA Traineeships;
- Charter of Accountability; and
- The Gab Titui Cultural Centre.

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

Public Affairs assisted in marketing the Gab Titui Cultural Centre and managing media involvement in the lead up to the opening of the venue in April 2004. National and international media attended the historic event.

General enquiries from both the regional and mainstream media were attended to, as well as 81 information requests from the public via telephone, email, post, in person or mail. 95% of these information requests were responded to within 48 hours. Public Affairs also coordinated the TSRA's participation in the 2003 Croc Festival Careers Market.

All TSRA non-campaign advertising is conducted through the Australian Government provider HMA Blaze. No campaign advertising was conducted in 2003 – 2004.

The new TSRA website was launched in August 2003, expanding the information available to the public on the Internet. The website (www.tsra.gov.au) offers the community an opportunity to forward queries or feedback to the TSRA regarding its programs, policies, goals, progress etc. In addition, the TSRA has a toll free telephone number (1800-079-093), which the community is encouraged to use.



Port Kennedy Association Dancers perform at the Gab Titui Festival



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

Scope

The financial statements and directors' responsibility

The financial statements comprise:

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

of the Torres Strait Regional Authority for the year ended 30 June 2004.

The directors of the Authority are responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial statements.

Audit approach

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

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

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

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

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

Independence

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

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- (i) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* and applicable Accounting Standards; and
- (ii) give a true and fair view, of the matters required by applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, and the Finance Minister's Orders, of the financial position of the Torres Strait Regional Authority as at 30 June 2004, and of its performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Puspa Dash
Senior Director
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
25 October 2004

TORRES STRAIT
REGIONAL AUTHORITY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
2003 – 2004

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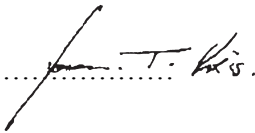
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TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2004 are based on properly maintained financial records and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders, made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.


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

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

Signed: 

Mr J. T. Kris
Chairperson

21 October 2004

Signed: 

Mr M. Fordham
General Manager

21 October 2004

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
For the year ended 30 June 2004

	Notes	2004 \$000	2003 \$000
REVENUE			
Revenues from ordinary activities			
Revenues from government	5A	51,056	50,201
Interest	5B	800	856
Revenue from sales of assets	5D	3	8
Reversal of previous asset write-downs	5E	-	393
Other revenue	5C	1,605	877
<i>Total revenues from ordinary activities</i>		<u>53,464</u>	<u>52,335</u>
EXPENSES			
Expenses from ordinary activities			
Employees	6A	3,486	2,746
Suppliers	6B	3,379	3,046
Grants	6D	43,586	41,148
Depreciation and amortisation	6C	354	367
Value of assets sold	5D	-	3
<i>Total expenses from ordinary activities</i>		<u>50,805</u>	<u>47,310</u>
Net profit	11	2,659	5,025
Net credit to asset revaluation reserve	8,11	1,973	-
Total revenues, expenses and valuation adjustments attributable to the Commonwealth Government and recognised directly in equity		<u>1,973</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners</i>		<u>4,632</u>	<u>5,025</u>

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 30 June 2004

	Notes	2004 \$000	2003 \$000
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash	7A	10,277	8,955
Receivables	7B	7,538	7,519
Total financial assets		17,815	16,474
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings	8A,C	13,510	9,187
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	8B,C	442	346
Total non-financial assets		13,952	9,533
Total assets		31,767	26,007
LIABILITIES			
Provisions			
Employees	9	909	844
Total provision		909	844
Payables			
Suppliers	10A	613	137
Grants	10B	5,109	4,432
Other payables	10C	49	148
Total payables		5,771	4,717
Total liabilities		6,680	5,561
NET ASSETS		25,087	20,446
EQUITY			
Contributed Equity	11	9	-
Reserves	11	3,062	1,089
Accumulated Surplus	11	22,016	19,357
Total Equity		25,087	20,446
Current liabilities		6,548	4,836
Non-current liabilities		132	725
Current assets		12,213	11,777
Non-current assets		19,554	14,230

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the year ended 30 June 2004

	Note	2004 \$000	2003 \$000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriation		51,034	50,169
Interest		500	556
GST received from ATO		4,580	575
Other		1,310	3,198
Total cash received		57,424	54,498
Cash used			
Employees		(3,443)	(2,645)
Suppliers		(2,428)	(3,072)
Grants		(47,443)	(42,143)
Total cash used		(53,314)	(47,860)
Net cash from operating activities	12	4,110	6,638
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Repayments of loans		-	1,201
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		3	8
Total cash received		3	1,209
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(2,800)	(677)
Loans made		-	(2,003)
Total cash used		(2,800)	(2,680)
Net cash from (used) by investing activities		(2,797)	(1,471)

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the year ended 30 June 2004

Cont.

FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Cash received

Equity injection	9	-
------------------	----------	---

Total cash received

	9	-
--	----------	---

Cash used

Capital use charge paid	-	(1,782)
-------------------------	---	---------

Total cash used

	-	(1,782)
--	---	---------

Net cash received/used by financing activities

	9	(1,782)
--	----------	---------

Net increase (decrease) in cash held

	1,322	3,385
--	--------------	-------

Cash at the beginning of the reporting period

	8,955	5,570
--	--------------	-------

Cash at the end of the reporting period

	7A 10,277	8,955
--	------------------	-------

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS
as at 30 June 2004

	2004	2003
	\$000	\$000
BY TYPE		
Other Commitments		
Operating Leases	33	59
Total other commitments		
Commitments receivable	(3)	(14)
Net Commitments	30	45
BY MATURITY		
Operating lease commitments		
One year or less	19	17
From one to five years	14	42
Net operating lease commitments	33	59

Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:

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

Motor Vehicles:

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

SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES
as at 30 June 2004

Contingency	2004	2003
	\$000	\$000
Bank Guarantee in favour of Torres Shire Council	116	116
Total Contingencies	116	116

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note	Description
1	Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
2	Adoption of AASB Equivalents to IFRS from 2005-2006 Impact Statement
3	Economic Dependency
4	Events Occurring after Reporting Date
5	Operating Revenues
6	Operating Expenses
7	Financial Assets
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9	Provisions
10	Payables
11	Equity
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13	Directors Remuneration
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17	Financial Instruments
18	Appropriations
19	Employees
20	Reporting of Outcomes
21	Major Departmental Revenues and Expenses by Output Groups
22	Total cost/contribution by Outcome
23	Major classes of Departmental Assets and Liabilities by Output Groups

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are required by clause 1(b) of Schedule 1 to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* and are a general purpose financial report.

The statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders (being the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (Financial Statements for reporting periods ending on or after 30 June 2004)) Orders;
- Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations issued by Australian Accounting Standards Boards; and
- Consensus Views of the Urgent Issues Group.

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

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

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

1.2 Changes in Accounting Policy

The accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements are consistent with those used in 2002-2003.

1.3 Revenue

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

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

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

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

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

Revenue from Government – Output Appropriations

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

Resources Received Free of Charge

Services received free of charge are recognised as revenue when and only when a fair value can be reliably

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as revenue at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition.

1.4 Transactions by the Government as Owner

Equity Injections

Amounts appropriated by the Parliament as equity injections are recognised as ‘contributed equity’ in accordance with the Finance Minister’s Orders. In 2003-04 year, \$9,000 capital injection was appropriated by the Parliament.

1.5 Employee Benefits

Benefits

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

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits), annual leave and sick leave are measured at their nominal amounts. Other employee benefits, expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date, are also measured at their nominal amounts.

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

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

Leave

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

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

The liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at 30 June 2004. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Superannuation

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

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

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2004

1.6 Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases and operating leases. Finance leases effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of leased non-current assets. In operating leases, the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets. In 2003/04 year, the Authority leased three vehicles for the operation of the organisation.

1.7 Grants

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

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

1.8 Cash

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

1.9 Loans Receivable

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

1.10 Other Debtors

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

1.11 Other Financial Assets

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

1.12 Other Financial Liabilities

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

1.13 Unrecognised Financial Liabilities

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

1.14 Acquisition of Assets

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal considerations, are initially recognised as assets and revenues at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor entity's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

1.15 Land and Buildings, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment

Asset recognition threshold

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

*Revaluation
Basis*

Plant and equipment is carried at cost.

Land and buildings are carried at valuation. A three-year cycle revaluation in accordance with the "fair value" method of valuation was undertaken on 30 June 2004.

Freehold land and buildings on freehold land are revalued every three years. The current cycles commenced in 2000-01.

Where assets are held which would not be replaced or are surplus to requirements, measurement is at net realisable value. At 30 June 2004, Authority has no assets in this situation.

The Finance Minister's Orders require that all property, plant and equipment assets be measured at up to date fair values from 30 June 2005 onwards.

Conduct

All valuations are independent. The current year valuations were undertaken by N. V. Teves, Registered Valuers, of North Queensland Valuers.

Depreciation

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

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

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

	2003-2004	2002-2003
Buildings on freehold land	50 years	50 years
Plant and equipment	3 to 5 years	3 to 5 years

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2004

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

1.16 Impairment of Non-Current Assets

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

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

The Authority does not have any internally developed software.

1.17 Taxation

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

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST:

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

1.18 Insurance

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

1.19 Comparative Figures

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

1.20 Rounding

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

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

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

The Australian Accounting Standards Board has issued replacement Australian Accountings Standards to apply from 2005-2006. The new standards are the AASB Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) which are issued by the international Accounting Standards Board. The new standards cannot be adopted early. The standards being replaced are to be withdrawn with effect from 2005-2006, but continue to apply in the meantime.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

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

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

It is expected that the Finance Minister will continue to require compliance with the Accounting Standards issued by the AASB, including the AASB equivalents to IFRSs, in his Orders for the preparation of Torres Strait Regional Authority's financial statements from 2005-2006 and beyond.

Accounting Standard AASB 1047 *Disclosing the impact of adopting Australian equivalents to IFRSs* requires that the financial statements for 2003-2004 disclose:

- An explanation of how the transition is being managed; and
- A narrative explanation of the key differences in accounting policies arising from the transition.

The purpose of this note is to make these disclosures.

(a) *Management of the transition to AASB Equivalents to IFRSs*

Torres Strait Regional Authority has taken the following steps in preparation for the implementation of AASB Equivalents:

- The Authority's Audit Committee is tasked with the oversight of the transition to and the implementation of the AASB Equivalents to IFRSs. The General Manager is formally responsible for the project and for reporting regularly to the Audit Committee for approval by the Committee.
- The plan will include the following key steps to be undertaken and recommends deadlines for their achievement.
- Identification of all major accounting policy differences, if any, between current AASB Standards and the AASB Equivalents to IFRS.
- Identification of systems changes necessary to be able to report under the AASB Equivalents, including those necessary to enable capture of data under both sets of rules for 2004-05, and the testing and implementation of those changes.
- Preparation of a transitional balance sheet as at 1 July 2004, under AASB Equivalents.

Preparation of an AASB Equivalent balance sheet at the same times as the 30 June 2005 statements are prepared.

- Meeting reporting deadlines set by Finance for 2005-06 balance sheet under AASB Equivalent Standards.
- The plan also addresses the risks to successful achievement of the above objectives and includes strategies to keep implementation on track to meet deadlines.
- External consultants will be engaged where necessary to provide the Authority with guidance and to assist in relation to each of the above steps.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

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

(b) Major changes in accounting policy

Changes in accounting policies under AASB Equivalents are applied retrospectively i.e. as if the new policy had always applied. This rule means that a balance sheet prepared under the Australian Equivalents must be made as at 1 July 2004, except as permitted in particular circumstances by AASB I

First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards. This will enable the 2005/06 financial statements to report comparatives under the Australian Equivalents also.

Property, Plant and Equipment

It is expected that the Finance Minister's Orders will require property plant and equipment assets carried at valuation in 2003-04 to be measured at up-to date fair values from 2005-06. This differs from the accounting policies currently in place for these assets which, up to and including 2003-04, have been re-valued every 3-years and which currently include assets at cost and fair value.

Torres Strait Regional Authority notes that the Finance Minister requires these assets to be measured at up-to-date fair values as at 30 June 2005.

Impairment of Non-Current Assets

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

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

Employee Benefits

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

Under the new AASB Equivalent standard, the same discount rate will be used unless there is a deep market in high quality corporate bonds, in which case the market yield on such bonds must be used.

Note 3. Economic Dependency

The TSRA was established under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*.

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

Note 4. Events Occurring After Reporting Date

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 5. Operating Revenues

	2004	2003
	\$000	\$000
<hr/>		
<u>5A – Revenues from Government</u>		
Appropriations for outputs	51,034	50,169
Resources provided free of charge – internal audit	22	32
Total	51,056	50,201
<hr/>		
<u>5B – Interest</u>		
Loans	300	300
Deposits	500	556
Total	800	856
<hr/>		
<u>5C – Other Revenues</u>		
Rent	147	154
Other	1,458	723
Total	1,605	877
<hr/>		
<u>5D – Net Gain from Sales of Assets</u>		
Infrastructure, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale	3	8
Net book value at sale	-	(3)
Net gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	3	5
<hr/>		
<u>5E – Reversal of previous asset write-downs</u>		
Receivables – doubtful debts	-	393
Total	-	393
<hr/>		

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 6. Operating Expenses

	2004	2003
	\$000	\$000
<u>6A – Employee expenses</u>		
Wages and salaries	3,130	2,371
	-	-
Superannuation	356	358
Other	-	17
Total	3,486	2,746
<u>6B – Suppliers expenses</u>		
Supply of goods and services	3,362	3,017
Operating lease rentals	19	26
Total	3,379	3,043
<u>6C – Depreciation and amortisation</u>		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	354	367

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

▪ Buildings on freehold land	151	163
▪ Infrastructure, plant and equipment	203	204
	354	367

6E Grants expense

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

Private Sector - Non-Profit institutions	43,586	41,148
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TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 7. Financial Assets

	2004	2003
	\$000	\$000
<u>7A – Cash</u>		
Cash at bank and on hand	10,277	8,955
	10,277	8,955
Balance of cash as at 30 June shown in the Statement of Cash Flows	10,277	8,955
<u>7B – Receivables</u>		
Loans	7,034	7,433
Less: Provision of doubtful debts	(290)	(290)
	6,744	7,143
Other debtors		
GST receivable	428	334
Other debtors	366	42
Total receivables	7,538	7,519
Receivables (gross) which are overdue are aged as follows:		
Not Overdue	7,569	5,577
Overdue by:		
- less than 30 days	4	1,166
- 30 to 60 days	1	9
- 60 to 90 days	10	14
- 90 to 180 days	14	206
- more than 180 days	226	817
	259	2,232
Total receivables (gross)	7,828	7,809

Note 8. Non-Financial Assets

<u>8A Land and buildings</u>		
Freehold land – At fair value	3,279	1,695
Total freehold land	3,279	1,695
Buildings on freehold land – At fair value	10,231	8,254
Accumulated depreciation	-	(762)
Total buildings (net)	10,231	7,492
Total land and buildings	13,510	9,187
<u>8B Plant and equipment</u>		
Infrastructure, plant and equipment – at cost	2,178	1,879
Accumulated depreciation	(1,736)	(1,533)
Total plant and equipment	442	346

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 8. Non-Financial Assets (continued)

8C Analysis of Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment

TABLE A

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

Item	Land	Buildings on Freehold land	Total Land & Buildings	Plant & Equipment	TOTAL
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
As at 1 July 2003					
Gross Book value	1,695	8,254	9,949	1,879	11,828
Accumulated depreciation	-	(762)	(762)	(1,533)	(2,295)
Net book value	1,695	7,492	9,187	346	9,533
Additions – purchase of assets	274	2,227	2,501	299	2,800
Revaluations: write-ups (write-downs)	1,310	663	1,973		1,973
Depreciation/amortisation charge for the year		151	151	203	354
Disposals – Accumulated depreciation		-	-	-	-
As at 30 June 2004					
Gross Book value	3,279	10,231	13,510	2,178	15,688
Accumulated depreciation	-			(1,736)	(1,736)
Net book value	3,279	10,231	13,510	442	13,952

TABLE B

Assets at valuation

Land and building assets are the only assets currently recorded based on an independent valuation.
Refer Note 1.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 9. Provisions

Employees Provisions

Salaries and wages	21	77
Superannuation	1	9
Long service leave	426	332
Annual leave	325	282
Personal leave	136	144
Aggregate employee entitlement liability	<u>909</u>	<u>844</u>

Employer provisions are categorised as follows:

Current	777	725
Non-current	132	119
	<u>909</u>	<u>844</u>

Note 10. Payables

10A – Supplier Payables

Trade Creditors	<u>613</u>	<u>137</u>
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10B – Grants Payable

Non-profit entities	<u>5,109</u>	<u>4,432</u>
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10C – Other

Other Payables	<u>49</u>	<u>148</u>
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TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 11. Equity

Item	Accumulated surplus		Asset revaluation reserve		Contributed Equity		TOTAL EQUITY	
	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003
Balance 1 July	19,357	16,114	1,089	1,089			20,446	17,203
Operating result	2,659	5,025	-	-			2,659	5,025
Net revaluation increase/(Decrease)	-	-	1,973	-			1,973	-
Appropriations (equity injections)	-	-	-	-	9	-	9	-
Capital Use Charge	-	(1,782)	-	-			-	(1,782)
Balance 30 June	22,016	19,357	3,062	1,089	9	-	25,087	20,446
Total Equity attributable to the Commonwealth	22,016	19,357	3,062	1,089	9	-	25,087	20,446

2004 2003
\$000 \$000

Note 12. Cash Flow Reconciliation

Reconciliation of operating surplus to net cash provided by operating activities:

Operating Surplus	2,659	5,025
Depreciation and amortisation of property, plant & equipment	354	367
Doubtful loans	-	(393)
Gain on disposal of assets	(3)	(5)
Changes in assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(19)	(23)
Increase/(decrease) in liability to suppliers	476	19
Increase/(decrease) in employee provisions	65	28
Increase/(decrease) in grants payable	677	1,472
Increase/(decrease) in other payables	(99)	148
Net cash from operating activities	4,110	6,638

Note 13. Director Remuneration

Aggregate amount of superannuation payments in connection with the retirement of directors

- -

Other remuneration received or due and receivable by directors of the Authority

307 236

Total remuneration received or due and receivable by directors of the Authority

307 236

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 13. Director Remuneration (continued)

	2004	2003
The number of directors of the TSRA included in these figures are shown below in the relevant remuneration bands.	<u>Number</u>	
\$ Nil – \$10,000	27	18
\$10,001 – \$20,000	2	2
\$180,001 – \$190,000	1	-
	<u>30</u>	<u>20</u>

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Board consists of 20 director positions. Eighteen hold office by virtue of their election to Island Council Chairpersons last held in March 2004 under the *Queensland Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984*. The other two are elected in accordance with the *ATSIC Act 1989*. Two directors do not receive payment from the TSRA because they are employed and paid from Commonwealth funds. The other directors receive sitting fees when undertaking business of the TSRA.

Note 14. Related Party Disclosures

Directors of the Torres Strait Regional Authority

The Directors of the Authority during the year were:

Mr John ABEDNEGO (until May 2004)	Mr Rocky STEPHEN
Mr Jack AHMAT	Mr Terry WAIA (former Chairperson)
Mr Ted BILLY	Mr Roney WASAGA (until May 2004)
Mr Edward DAU (until May 2004)	Mr Terrence WHAP (until May 2004)
Mr Ron DAY	Mr Reg WILLIAMS (until May 2004)
Mr Elia DOOLAH	Mr Donald BANU (from May 2004)
Mr Joseph ELU	Mr Fred GELA (from May 2004)
Mr Henry GARNIER (until May 2004)	Mrs Louisa GUISE (from May 2004)
Mr John Toshie KRIS (Chairman, May 2004)	Mr Walter MACKIE (from May 2004)
Mrs Margaret MAU	Mr Phillemon MOSBY (from May 2004)
Mr Don MOSBY	Mr Maluwap NONA (from May 2004)
Mr Francis PEARSON (until May 2004)	Mr Jesse SAGAUKAZ (from May 2004)
Mr Saila SAVAGE	Mr Robert SAGIGI (from May 2004)
Mr Pedro STEPHEN (until May 2004)	Mr Isao (Bill) SHIBASAKI (from May 2004)
Mr Getano LUI (until May 2004)	Mr Jensen WARUSAM (from May 2004)

The aggregate remuneration of Directors is disclosed in Note 13.

Loans to Directors and Director related entities

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 14. Related Party Disclosures (continued)

Loans

J. Ahmat	D. Mosby		
T. Billy	R. Sagigi		
M. Mau	R. Williams		
		2004	2003
		\$	\$
Loans to directors outstanding at year end		221,735	120,127
Loans to directors during period		-	40,000
Loan repayments during the reporting period		28,165	33,576
Loans to director related entities outstanding at year end		75,945	21,925
Loans to director related entities during period		-	-
Loan repayments during the reporting period		23,034	68,385
Interest revenue included in operating result from loans to directors/director related entities		10,362	3,785

Other Transactions with Directors or Director Related Entities

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

Directors' Name	Council	Grants Received
		\$
J. Abednego/R.Sagigi	TSIMA	546,198
	TSNP Legal Services	403,030
	TRAWQ Community Council	2,372,804
J. Ahmat	Badu Island Community Council	4,356,286
T. Billy	Warraber Island Community Council	1,383,733
R. Day	Murray Island Community Council	2,146,685
E. Dau/D.Banu	Boigu Island Community Council	1,355,777
E. Doolah	Darnley Island Community Council	2,040,185
J. Elu	Seisia Island Community Council	1,483,872
H. Garnier/F. Gela	Hammond Island Community Council	1,167,898
T. Kris	St Pauls Community Council	2,247,441
G. Lui/W. Mackie	Yam Island Community Council	1,879,929
M. Mau	Dauan Island Community Council	1,041,099
D. Mosby	Yorke Island Community Council	2,332,143
F. Pearson/P. Mosby	Coconut Island Community Council	1,679,695
S. Savage	Kubin Community Council	1,298,074
P. Stephen/I. Shibasaki	Port Kennedy Association	162,051
R. Stephen	Stephen Island Council	219,880
T. Waia/J. Warusam	Saibai Island Community Council	1,637,860
T. Whap/L. Guise	Mabuiag Island Community Council	1,179,367
R. Williams/J.Saguakaz	Bamaga Island Community Council	2,785,563
*	Island Coordinating Council	7,848,696

* All current directors, except Mr P. Stephen and Mr I. Shibasaki are also directors of the Island Coordinating Council.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 15. Remuneration of Officers

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Total remuneration of officers who received or were due to receive total remuneration of \$100,000 or more	193,758	164,875
The number of officers who received or were due to receive total remuneration of \$100,000 or more	Number	Number
• \$110,000 - \$120,000	1	1

Note 16. Remuneration of Auditors

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Remuneration to the Auditor-General for auditing the financial statements for the reporting period.	34,800	33,800

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 17. Financial Instruments

a) Terms, conditions and accounting policies

Financial Instrument	Notes	Accounting Policies and Methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms and conditions affecting the amount, timing and certainty of cash flows)
<i>Financial Assets</i>		Financial assets are recognised when control over future economic benefits is established and the amount of the benefit can be reliably measured.	
Cash at bank and on hand	7	Cash at bank and on hand is recognised at nominal amounts. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.	Interest is earned on cash at bank at the prevailing interest rate.
GST receivable	7	GST receivable is recognised at its nominal amount.	Credit terms are net 30 days (2003: 30 days)
Other receivables	7	These receivables are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any provision for bad and doubtful debts. Provisions are made when collection of the debt is judged to be less rather than more likely.	Credit terms are net 14 days (2003: 14 days)
Loans	7	Loans are recognised at the amounts loaned. Provision is made for bad and doubtful loans when collection of the loan or part thereof is judged to be less rather than more likely. In rare circumstances, loan repayments may be waived. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.	Loans are generally secured and are made for periods of up to 10 years for enterprise loans and 30 years for housing loans. Repayments of principal are made during the term of the loan. Early settlement is at option for the parties. Effective interest rates on fixed rate loans between 3% and 6.5%.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 17. Financial Instruments (continued)

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 17. Financial Instruments (continued)

b) Interest Rate Risk

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate	Fixed Interest Rate			Non-Interest Bearing	Total		Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %
			1 year or less	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	> 5 years			
		03-04 \$000	02-03 \$000	03-04 \$000	02-03 \$000	03-04 \$000	02-03 \$000	03-04 \$000	02-03 %
Financial Assets (Recognised)									
Cash at bank and on hand	7	10,277	8,955	-	-	-	-	10,277	4.9
GST receivable	7	-	-	-	-	-	334	428	-
Other receivables	7	-	-	-	-	-	42	366	-
Loans	7	2,758	1,276	8	1,546	12	1,188	7,034	4.5
						4,256	2,260		4.4
Total Financial Assets		13,035	10,231	8	1,546	12	1,188	18,105	
						4,256	2,260	16,764	

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 17. Financial Instruments (continued)

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate	Fixed Interest Rate				Non-Interest Bearing	Total		Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	
			1 year or less	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	> 5 years					
		03-04 \$000	02-03 \$000	03-04 \$000	02-03 \$000	03-04 \$000	02-03 \$000	03-04 \$000	02-03 \$000	03-04 %	02-03 %
Financial Liabilities											
Trade creditors	10A	-	-	-	-	-	613	613	137	-	-
Grant liabilities	10B	-	-	-	-	-	5,109	5,109	4,432	-	-
Other liabilities	10C	-	-	-	-	-	49	49	148	-	-
Total Financial Liabilities		-	-	-	-	-	5,771	5,771	4,717	-	-

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 17. Financial Instruments (continued)

c) Net Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities

		2003-04		2002-03	
	Note	Total carrying amount \$000	Aggregate net fair value \$000	Total carrying amount \$000	Aggregate net fair value \$000
Financial Assets					
Cash at bank & cash on hand	7	10,277	10,277	8,955	8,955
GST receivable	7	428	428	334	334
Other receivables	7	366	366	42	42
Net loans receivables	7	6,744	6,744	7,143	7,143
Total Financial Assets		17,815	17,815	12,925	16,474
Financial Liabilities					
Trade creditors	10A	613	613	137	137
Grant payables	10B	5,109	5,109	4,432	4,432
Other	10C	49	49	148	148
Total Financial Liabilities		5,771	5,771	4,717	4,717

Financial assets

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

Financial liabilities

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2004

Note 17. Financial Instruments (continued)

(d) Credit Risk Exposures

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

Note 18. Appropriations

	Equity		Departmental Outputs	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
The Authority received the following appropriations during the year out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.				
Annual Appropriations Act No 4 – equity injection	9	-	-	-
Annual Appropriations Act No 1, 3 – basic appropriation	-	-	51,034	50,169
TOTAL	9	-	51,034	50,169

Note 19. Employees

	2004	2003
Full time equivalent employees at year end	49	40

Note 20. Reporting of outcomes

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

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2004

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

	Output Group 1		Output Group 2		Output Group 3		Output Group 4		Output Group 5		Output Group 6		Non Specific		Total	
	2004 \$000	2003 \$000	2004 \$000	2003 \$000	2004 \$000	2003 \$000	2004 \$000	2003 \$000	2004 \$000	2003 \$000	2004 \$000	2003 \$000	2004 \$000	2003 \$000	2004 \$000	2003 \$000
Departmental Expenses:																
Employees	592	467	767	604	350	275	662	522	313	247	802	631	-	-	3,486	2,746
Suppliers	782	616	462	395	666	597	386	317	183	150	900	971	-	-	3,379	3,046
Grants	1,004	139	29,662	28,235	-	10	7,000	7,292	5,873	5,472	47	-	-	-	43,586	41,148
Depreciation and Amortisation	60	62	78	81	35	37	67	70	32	33	82	84	-	-	354	367
Write Down of Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Total departmental expenses	2,438	1,284	30,960	29,315	1,051	919	8,115	8,201	6,401	5,902	1,840	1,686	-	-	50,805	47,310

Funded by:

Revenue from Government	2,694	2,790	30,840	29,646	1,761	1,432	7,710	7,074	6,890	7,928	1,161	1,299	-	-	32	51,056
Sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	3	8
Other Non Taxation Revenues	1,191	861	-	238	198	109	12	206	5	464	999	248	-	-	2,405	2,126
Total departmental revenues	3,885	3,651	30,840	29,884	1,959	1,541	7,722	7,280	6,895	8,392	2,160	1,547	3	40	53,464	52,335

Note 22. Total Cost / Contribution by Outcome

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2004 \$ 000	2003 \$ 000	2004 \$ 000	2003 \$ 000
Net cost of Outcome	48,397	48,696	48,397	48,696

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

Note 23. Major Classes of Departmental Assets and Liabilities by Output Groups

	Output Group 1		Output Group 2		Output Group 3		Output Group 4		Output Group 5		Output Group 6		Non Specific		Total	
	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003
	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000
Output specific departmental assets																
Loans receivable	7,034	7,433	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,034	7,433
Less provision for doubtful debts	(290)	(290)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(290)	(290)
Land	100	100	-	-	120	120	-	-	-	-	160	160	2,899	1,315	3,279	1,695
Buildings	300	283	-	-	701	701	325	325	-	-	353	353	8,552	5,830	10,231	7,492
Plant and Equipment	-	-	-	-	30	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	412	326	442	346
Total specific departmental assets	7,144	7,526	-	-	851	841	325	325	-	-	513	513	11,863	7,471	20,696	16,676
Other departmental assets																
Other debtors	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	366	42	366	42
Net GST receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	428	334	428	334
Cash at bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,277	8,955	10,277	8,955
Total other departmental assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,071	9,331	11,071	9,331
Output specific departmental liabilities																
	-	-	5,109	4,432	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,109	4,432	5,109	4,432
Other departmental liabilities																
Employees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	909	844	909	844
Suppliers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	613	137	613	137
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49	148	49	148
Total other departmental liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,571	1,129	1,571	1,129



Tharna Fire Dance Group perform at the Gab Titui Festival



APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: TSRA GRANTS

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Badu Island Council	Takeaway/Restaurant	31,800
Badu Island Council	Community Training Program	168,000
Badu Island Council	CDEP Wages	2,792,316
Badu Island Council	CDEP Operational	600,141
Badu Island Council	CDEP Capital	240,000
Badu Island Council	Purchase Vehicle	49,000
Badu Island Council	Contribution to Operating	87,501
Badu Island Council	Goigai Pudhai ANZAC Tour	10,000
Badu Island Council	WA Dance Tour	10,000
Badu Island Council	BRACS	17,528
Badu Island Council	Community Hall and Stadium	350,000
Bamaga Island Council	Community Training Program	167,000
Bamaga Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,917,655
Bamaga Island Council	CDEP Operational	552,190
Bamaga Island Council	Contribution to Operating	101,859
Bamaga Island Council	Machinery	27,000
Bamaga Island Council	Mabo Day	2,332
Bamaga Island Council	BRACS	17,527
Boigu Island Council	Community Training Program	26,000
Boigu Island Council	CDEP Wages	901,016
Boigu Island Council	CDEP Operational	225,564
Boigu Island Council	CDEP Capital	59,000
Boigu Island Council	Contribution to Operating	69,197
Boigu Island Council	Machinery – Vehicles	75,000
Dauan Island Council	Dauan Island Ferry	66,096
Dauan Island Council	Community Training Program	50,000
Dauan Island Council	CDEP Wages	594,651
Dauan Island Council	CDEP Operational	181,260
Dauan Island Council	CDEP Capital	22,000
Dauan Island Council	Contribution to Operating	59,565
Dauan Island Council	Purchase Dongas	40,000

Dauan Island Council	BRACS	17,527
Dauan Island Council	Upgrade Basketball Court	10,000
Erub Island Council	Purchase Ice Maker	12,178
Erub Island Council	Community Training Program	53,376
Erub Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,398,695
Erub Island Council	CDEP Operational	263,069
Erub Island Council	CDEP Capital	173,213
Erub Island Council	Contribution to Operating	66,820
Erub Island Council	Machinery and Vehicles	30,000
Erub Island Council	Diann Lui – Ceramic W'shop	7,420
Erub Island Council	BRACS	10,414
Erub Island Council	Hall Lighting/Hall Opening	25,000
Hammond Island Council	Upgrade of Ferry	83,355
Hammond Island Council	Community Training Program	12,000
Hammond Island Council	CDEP Wages	649,980
Hammond Island Council	CDEP Operational	177,260
Hammond Island Council	CDEP Capital	26,000
Hammond Island Council	Contribution to Operating	60,949
Hammond Island Council	Upgrade Community Roads	48,919
Hammond Island Council	Sports Field Windbreak B'ball Crt	109,435
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	CDEP Wages	640,108
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	CDEP Operational	153,910
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	CDEP Capital	49,350
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	Purchase/Develop Land	1,680
Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation	Contribution to Admin Salary	50,000
Iama Island Council	Community Training Program	76,000
Iama Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,254,634
Iama Island Council	CDEP Operational	215,419
Iama Island Council	CDEP Capital	147,224
Iama Island Council	Contribution to Operating	68,145
Iama Island Council	Machinery	60,980
Iama Island Council	Repair Tidal Damage	40,000
Iama Island Council	BRACS	17,527

Island Coordinating Council	Water Upgrades	1,300,000
Island Coordinating Council	Poruma Airstrip	550,000
Island Coordinating Council	Major Infrastructure Program	5,000,000
Island Coordinating Council	Contribution to Operating	491,758
Island Coordinating Council	Heavy Machinery Pool	400,000
Island Coordinating Council	Alick Tipoti	6,852
Island Coordinating Council	David Bosun Travel	1,045
Island Coordinating Council	Teen Challenge Student of Year	3,000
Island Coordinating Council	Sacred Heart – Arts in Residency	4,150
Island Coordinating Council	Rosie Barkus – Sydney Oceanic Fair	3,864
Island Coordinating Council	Erub School Arts Centre	70,000
Island Coordinating Council	Lena Passi DFVP	4,500
Island Coordinating Council	Horn Is Swim Pool Hire/Transport	2,000
Island Coordinating Council	Travel Wongai Basketball Assoc	3,000
Island Coordinating Council	Kids to Kangaroos Program	3,527
Island Coordinating Council	QRL Insurance	5,000
Kubin Island Council	Community Training Program	62,000
Kubin Island Council	CDEP Wages	867,048
Kubin Island Council	CDEP Operational	180,300
Kubin Island Council	CDEP Capital	74,023
Kubin Island Council	Contribution to Operating	60,949
Kubin Island Council	Capital	13,001
Kubin Island Council	Community Hall	15,590
Kubin Island Council	Staff Accommodation	7,636
Kubin Island Council	BRACS	17,527
Mabuiag Island Council	Community Training Program	37,000
Mabuiag Island Council	CDEP Wages	870,547
Mabuiag Island Council	CDEP Operational	150,000
Mabuiag Island Council	Contribution to Operating	64,323
Mabuiag Island Council	BRACS	12,497
Mabuiag Island Council	Sports Facilities	45,000
Mer Island Council	Community Training Program	72,400
Mer Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,495,565

Mer Island Council	CDEP Operational	337,052
Mer Island Council	CDEP Capital	93,182
Mer Island Council	Contribution to Operating	75,340
Mer Island Council	Machinery	60,000
Mer Island Council	BRACS	13,146
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	Contribution to Operating	136,951
Poruma Island Council	Poruma Resort	115,000
Poruma Island Council	Community Training Program	49,500
Poruma Island Council	CDEP Wages	832,128
Poruma Island Council	CDEP Operational	120,500
Poruma Island Council	CDEP Capital	233,187
Poruma Island Council	Poruma Airstrip Upgrade	200,000
Poruma Island Council	Contribution to Operating	61,853
Poruma Island Council	Machinery Replacement	50,000
Poruma Island Council	BRACS	17,527
Port Kennedy Association	Community Training Program	14,000
Port Kennedy Association	Contribution to Operating	148,051
Saibai Island Council	Community Training Program	59,000
Saibai Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,136,869
Saibai Island Council	CDEP Operational	352,643
Saibai Island Council	CDEP Capital	20,000
Saibai Island Council	Contribution to Operating	69,348
Seisia Island Council	Community Training Program	48,000
Seisia Island Council	CDEP Wages	920,740
Seisia Island Council	CDEP Operational	190,597
Seisia Island Council	CDEP Capital	104,130
Seisia Island Council	Contribution to Operating	57,878
Seisia Island Council	Machinery	45,000
Seisia Island Council	BRACS	17,527
Seisia Island Council	Sports Oval and Facility	100,000
St Pauls Island Council	Block/Pavers Expansion	157,500
St Pauls Island Council	Community Training Program	240,000

St Pauls Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,337,078
St Pauls Island Council	CDEP Operational	295,194
St Pauls Island Council	CDEP Capital	40,275
St Pauls Island Council	Contribution to Operating	66,067
St Pauls Island Council	Purchase Road Tek Plant	75,000
St Pauls Island Council	Centenary Celeb/Language Maintenance	18,800
St Pauls Island Council	BRACS	17,527
TI State High School	Aquaculture Project Pilot Program	30,000
TI State High School	Sally Donald – Arts Catalogue	11,000
TI State High School	Netball Carnival	8,000
TI State High School	Rugby League	5,200
TI Primary School	Choir and Band Uniforms	4,530
TI Primary School	Celebration of the Arts Tour	15,000
Torres Strait Home for the Aged	Community Training Program	27,000
Torres Strait Media Assoc	Operating Expenses	539,615
Torres Strait Media Assoc	Buildings Program	6,583
Torres Strait Youth & Rec Sporting	Community Training Program	1,500
Torres Strait Youth & Rec Sporting	Wongai Courts Lighting	15,000
Torres Strait Youth & Rec Sporting	Operating Costs	331,250
TRAWQ Community Council	Upgrade Mechanical Workshop	63,484
TRAWQ Community Council	Security Training	7,573
TRAWQ Community Council	Community Training Program	63,000
TRAWQ Community Council	CDEP Wages	1,512,984
TRAWQ Community Council	CDEP Operational	453,948
TRAWQ Community Council	Contribution Purchase Skidsteer	40,000
TRAWQ Community Council	Contribution to Operating	158,106
TRAWQ Community Council	Cultural Centre Trainees	14,379
TRAWQ Community Council	Arts Program Workshop	5,500
TRAWQ Community Council	Mabo Day	6,000
TRAWQ Community Council	Youth Support Program	47,830
TSNP Legal Service	Operating Expenses	403,030

Ugar Island Council	Contribution to Operating	53,305
Ugar Island Council	Accommodation	27,033
Ugar Island Council	Machinery and Vehicles	93,000
Ugar Island Council	Contribution to Ferry	7,457
Ugar Island Council	BRACS	39,085
Warraber Island Council	Community Training Program	65,000
Warraber Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,026,355
Warraber Island Council	CDEP Operational	194,176
Warraber Island Council	CDEP Capital	25,334
Warraber Island Council	Contribution to Operating	62,454
Warraber Island Council	BRACS	10,414
Yorke Island Council	Guesthouse Lowatta Lodge	87,110
Yorke Island Council	Community Training Program	72,000
Yorke Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,564,956
Yorke Island Council	CDEP Operational	428,710
Yorke Island Council	CDEP Capital	35,400
Yorke Island Council	Contribution to Operating	69,440
Yorke Island Council	Machinery Replacement	30,000
Yorke Island Council	August 23 Celebrations	10,000
Yorke Island Council	Screen Printing Workshop	2,000
Yorke Island Council	August 23 Celebrations	5,000
Yorke Island Council	YDMS Sports	10,000
Yorke Island Council	BRACS	17,527

APPENDIX 2: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SECTION 8 STATEMENT

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

This statement is correct to 30 June 2004.

ESTABLISHMENT

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

FUNCTIONS

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

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

STRUCTURE OF THE TSRA

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

PROVISION OF FUNDING

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

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

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

The actual allocation of money is undertaken by the TSRA elected arm. The Board sets priority areas for the Budget and general policies for administering funds. The Administration allocates funds using these policies as a guide to ensure that priority areas are addressed. The administration also ensures that grants and loans are used in accordance with the purposes for which they are provided, and that grants and loans are appropriately acquitted.

CATEGORIES OF DOCUMENTS

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

APPENDIX 3: ADVERTISING AND MARKET RESEARCH

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

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

APPENDIX 4: STAFFING OVERVIEW; MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

- a. Non-ongoing staff at 30 June 2004
- b. Nominal total staff at 30 June 2004 (including non-ongoing staff)
- c. Representation of EEO groups within salary levels at 30 June 2004
- d. Quantum and distribution of performance pay in 2003 – 2004
- e. Organisational chart at 30 June 2004
- f. Ministerial Appointments

a. Staff classification breakdown at 30 June 2004 (non-ongoing staff)

Classification	Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal			Non-Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Principal Executive Officer						
Executive Level 2						
Executive Level 1	1		1			
APS Level 6	1		1	1	1	2
APS Level 5	1		1		1	1
APS Level 4		1	1			
APS Level 3						
APS Level 2						
APS Level 1						
Trainees	2	4	6			
Sub total						
Total	5	5	10	1	2	3

b. Nominal total staff at 30 June 2004 (includes non-ongoing staff)

Classification	Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal			Non-Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Principal Executive Officer				1		1
Executive Level 2	1	1	2	1	1	2
Executive Level 1	3		3	1	1	2
APS Level 6	1	4	5	4	2	6
APS Level 5		4	4	1		1
APS Level 4	3	6	9			
APS Level 3	2	1	3			
APS Level 2		5	5			
APS Level 1						
Trainees	2	4	6			
Total	12	25	37	8	4	12

c. Representation of EEO groups within salary level at 30 June 2004

Salary	Women	TSI&A	NESB	PWD
Above \$95,600 (Principal Executive Officer)				
\$74,563 to \$89,594 (Executive Level 2)	2	2		
\$64,651 to \$78,662 (Executive Level 1)	1	3		
\$50,430 to \$59,693 (APS Level 6)	6	5		
\$46,693 to \$49,511 (APS Level 5)	5	5		
\$41,861 to \$45,453 (APS Level 4)	5	8		
\$37,560 to \$40,538 (APS Level 3)	1	3		
\$32,978 to \$36,568 (APS Level 2)	5	5		
Below \$30,966 (APS Level 1 and Trainees)	4	6		
Total	29	37		

e. Ministerial Appointments

There was one Ministerial appointment during the reporting period. Under the ATsIC Act 1989, Section 144L the Minister appointed Mr Wayne See Kee, Public Affairs Officer, to act as General Manager for the period 13 October 2003 to 7 November 2003.

APPENDIX 5: CONSULTANCY SUMMARY

In 2003 – 2004 the TSRA engaged and used the services of 37 consultancy firms to undertake or assist with various assignments for which the TSRA did not have either the resources and/or expertise. The total cost of consultants in 2003 – 2004 was \$1,200,227.14.

Consultant	Details of Consultancy	Amount (\$)
Alexander J Dodd & Assoc	Professional Services NTO	5,770.00
	NT Operational Plan	4,400.00
GJ McNaught Pty Ltd	Torres Strait Sea Claims	3,501.54
Monash University	Professional Services NTO	170,814.88
Ray Wood	Professional Services NTO	4,463.50
Cape York Land Council	Kaurareg Issues	4,220.15
Ephraim Bani	Consultancy – Dauan Island	500.00
	Economic Development – BFS	675.00
RJ Howells Pty Ltd	Professional Services NTO	3,000.00
Alfresco Design	Information Technology	7,932.56
Aust Pty Ltd	TSRA Web site	
Cardno MBK	MIP Stage II	17,688.00
Mathesons Chartered Accountant	Human Resources	4,950.00
NetSecure Systems Consultants	Internet Connective	20,307.61
Longley Stapleton	Financial Management Accounting System	45,783.43
Davidson Wilson Group	Human Resources	21,150.51
Chung Lin Stock	Financial and Budgetary Advice	25,375.87
Hunter System	CDEP Manager	165,469.40
Profish Consulting	Prawn Fishing License	3,850.00
Robert Blowes Barrister	Erubam Le NT Claim	12,752.12
Peter Blackwood	Professional Services NTO	6,032.14
C & B Group	Professional Services NTO	616.00
James Cook University	Professional Services NTO	4,627.70
Simeon Beckett	Public Works and Land Summit	3,910.00
Ebsworth & Ebsworth Lawyers	Professional Services NTO	10,837.36
Pacific Social Mapping Pty Ltd	Mer Island – NTO	36,960.00
Devietti & Ritchie Pty Ltd	BFS – Economic Development	6,296.31
Kleinhardt FGI Pty Ltd	BFS – Economic Development	38,349.49
Mclvor Pty Ltd	Masig and Poruma Island	38,734.60
MLCS Corporate	CEIS – Economic Development	2,200.00

Monica E. Mulrennan	Mabuiag Sea Claim	29,200.00
Peddle & Thorp	Warreber Guest House	4,378.12
Clariti Pty Ltd	Information Technology Support Service	130,884.60
Kevin Murphy	Anthropological Research	37,161.40
Dr Colin Scott	Anthropological Research	22,000.00
Central Queensland University	Professional Services – NTO	2640.00
Williams Graham & Graham	CEIS & BFS Economic Development	25,125.42
J G Menham	Regional Governance	8,450.00
	Torres Strait Prawn Fishing	7,425.00
	Preamble for QLD Constitution	3,300.00
Commercial Dispute Resolution	Corporate Governance	7,700.00
	Professional Services – Policy	1,540.00
	Code of Conduct	3,080.00
	Fisheries Management	6,784.00
Black & More	Project Management – Office Modifications Staff Housing Modifications Gab Titui Cultural Centre Economic Development	241,766.40

GLOSSARY

AAT	Administrative Appeals Tribunal	GBRRF	Great Barrier Reef Research Foundation
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics	GBRWHA	Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	HACC	Home and Community Care
Ailan Kastom	Island Custom	HEMTP	Heavy Equipment and Management Training Program
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science	Hon.	honourable
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office	Iama	Also known as Iama Island
ATES	Assistance with Tertiary Education Scheme	IBA	Indigenous Business Australia
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission	ICC	Island Coordinating Council
BFS	Business Funding Scheme	ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
BRACS	Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme	JTSHIC	Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee
CDEP	Community Development Employment Projects	Latent Effort	This refers to “unused” effort in a fishery
CEIS	Community Economic Initiatives Scheme	MAC	Torres Strait Management Advisory Committee
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	Masig	Also known as Yorke Island
CTP	Community Training Program	Mer	Also known as Mer Island
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	MIP	Major Infrastructure Program
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Mura Kosker	Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated
DOFA	Department of Finance and Administration	NESB	Non-English-Speaking Background
DSD	Queensland Department of State Development	NFA	PNG National Fisheries Authority
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity	NHT	Natural Heritage Trust
EMC	Environmental Management Committee	NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
EPBC	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	NPA	Northern Peninsula Area
ERF	Emergency Relief Funding	NTO	Native Title Office
Erub	Also known as Erub Island	NTRB	Native Title Representative Body
FOI	Freedom of Information	OEA	Office of Evaluation and Audit
GBRMP	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
		OPAP	Old Peoples Action Program
		PBC	Prescribed Bodies Corporate
		PKA	Port Kennedy Association
		PMP	Performance Management Program

PNG	Papua New Guinea	TSIAB	Torres Strait Islander Advisory Board
Poruma	Also known as Poruma Island		
PWD	People with a Disability	TSIMA	Torres Strait Islander Media Association
PZJA	Protected Zone Joint Authority		
QDPI	Queensland Department of Primary Industries	TSIREC	Torres Strait Islander Regional Education Council
QDPIF	Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries	TSLACC	Torres Strait Local Agencies Coordination Committee
QSIA	Queensland Seafood Industry Association	TSNP	Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula
RADF	Regional Arts Development Fund	TSRA	Torres Strait Regional Authority
SAC	Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee	TSYRSA	Torres Strait Youth and Recreation Sporting Association
SES	Senior Executive Service	Ugar	Also known as Stephen Island
Sue	Also known as Warraber Island	WACC	Workplace Agreement Consultative Committee
TRAWQ	Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine	YAS	Youth Activities Services
TRL	Tropical Rock Lobster	YDMS	Masig, Erub, Masig and Ugar Islands

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