



TSRA is established as an **Australian Government Statutory Authority** under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*.

TSRA is appointed as a **Native Title Representative Body**, providing over \$17 million for native title services and helping to achieve 28 Native Title determinations for almost 100 islands, islets, cays and approximately 40,000 square kilometres of sea country.

- TSRA moved into **Torres Haus**, and was formally opened by the Hon Senator John Herron on 14 December.

Bamaga Accord is established following discussions between TSRA, regional councils, the Island Coordinating Council and Torres Strait communities to strengthen governance and self-determination for the region.

Finfish fishery becomes 100% owned by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people of the Torres Strait, following negotiations and buybacks undertaken by TSRA. Bêche-de-mer fishery achieved the same status in 2015.

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TSRA's partnership with the Australian Rural Leadership Program initiated.

Gab Titui Cultural Centre is established as the Torres Strait's foremost keeping place for cultural and historical artefacts and the promotion of contemporary Indigenous art. The establishment of Erub Arts (2008), Badu Arts (2009) and Moa Arts (2009) further expanded TSRA's support for regional arts and heritage.

1994

1996

2001

2004

2008

1995

1998

2002

2005

2009

TSRA joined its first **Torres Strait Treaty Joint Advisory Council** meeting.

Major Infrastructure Programme (MIP) commences delivery of major environmental health infrastructure projects in the region, following a Memorandum of Understanding between TSRA and other government agencies for the Major Infrastructure and Other Projects Trust Fund. Since inception, TSRA has administered 6 MIP stages, totalling more than \$300 million.

TSRA becomes a foundation member of the **Protected Zone Joint Authority**.

- TSRA's first engagement with the **United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 is enacted, forming a new legislative basis for the TSRA.

TSRA Ranger Program is initiated, providing support for communities to care for their land and sea country. Since inception, the number of TSRA rangers undertaking environmental management projects has more than doubled.

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Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Regional Plan 2009–2029 is established through collaboration between TSRA, regional councils and the Queensland Government. The Regional Plan outlines an approach to long-term, whole-of-government program delivery for the region.

The TSRA Milestones identify what has been achieved since its establishment in 1994, and provides a baseline identifying what this Development Plan 2023-2028 will build upon for the future.

Tide gauges are established and/or upgraded after the Australian Government agrees to match TSRA funding. These tide gauges improve the region's ability to monitor rising sea levels.

TSRA enters into an agreement for **Marine, Roads and Airstrip Access projects** delivered through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Transport Infrastructure Development Program, co-funded by the Queensland Government.

Start of the Growing Our Own Tagai Transitions Maritime Project, supporting school leavers to transition into the maritime resources sector. This project was expanded to include the Northern Peninsula Area Stage College in 2019.

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TSRA **designs a leadership program for women in the Torres Strait** in partnership with the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation, which continues today.

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TSRA Board endorses the **Community Minor Investment Fund** investment of up to \$3.11 million toward 26 minor infrastructure projects across the region completed in 2020, including sealed footpaths, public toilets, storm water upgrades, public lighting, airport re-roofing.

TSRA launches **You Sabe Business workshops** supporting the development of business skills and business growth for local Indigenous start-ups. These superseded the Into Business Workshops.

Wapil Project is announced, focusing on increasing participation in regional fishery and supporting fishers to create more jobs, business growth and income. The pilot was initially trialled on Erub.

Torres Strait Traditional Languages Association (TSTLA) is established through TSRA funding, aiming to encourage people in the region to speak and use traditional languages on a daily basis.

2010 2013 2015 2019 2023

2012 2014 2016 2022 2024

Independent elections are undertaken to appoint the full TSRA Board for the first time since TSRA's establishment, following an amendment to the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*.

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14 outer islands communities have Turtle and Dugong Plans in place.

Torres Strait Coastal Protection Works (Seawalls) project ramps up, after TSRA negotiates significant additional funding. Seawalls completed in Saibai (2017), Boigu (2022), and Poruma (2024).

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TSRA establishes the **Land and Sea Management Strategy for Torres Strait 2016–2036**, which seeks to empower Indigenous communities to sustainably manage and benefit from land, sea and cultural resources into the future.

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Launch of the initial **Torres Strait Regional Economic Investment Strategy**, focusing on boosting economic support for the regional fishing industry. TSRA released strategies focused on the arts and creative industries (2017) and tourism (2018).

TSRA transfers native title responsibilities to **Gur A Baradharaw Kod Sea and Land Council (GBK)**, ensuring Traditional Owners maintain decision-making power in relation to land and sea use.

TSRA launches 30th Anniversary celebrations on 1 July 2024.

For more information please contact:
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Artwork by Deborah (Deb) Belyea | "The Perfect Pearl"



Australian Government



TSRA
www.tsra.gov.au



01 Monday
July 2024

Parish Hall
The Cathedral Church of
All Souls and St Bartholomew
Thursday Island

**All
community
welcome**

9am | Official Ceremony and Church Service
6:30pm | Community Feasting and Traditional Dancing

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