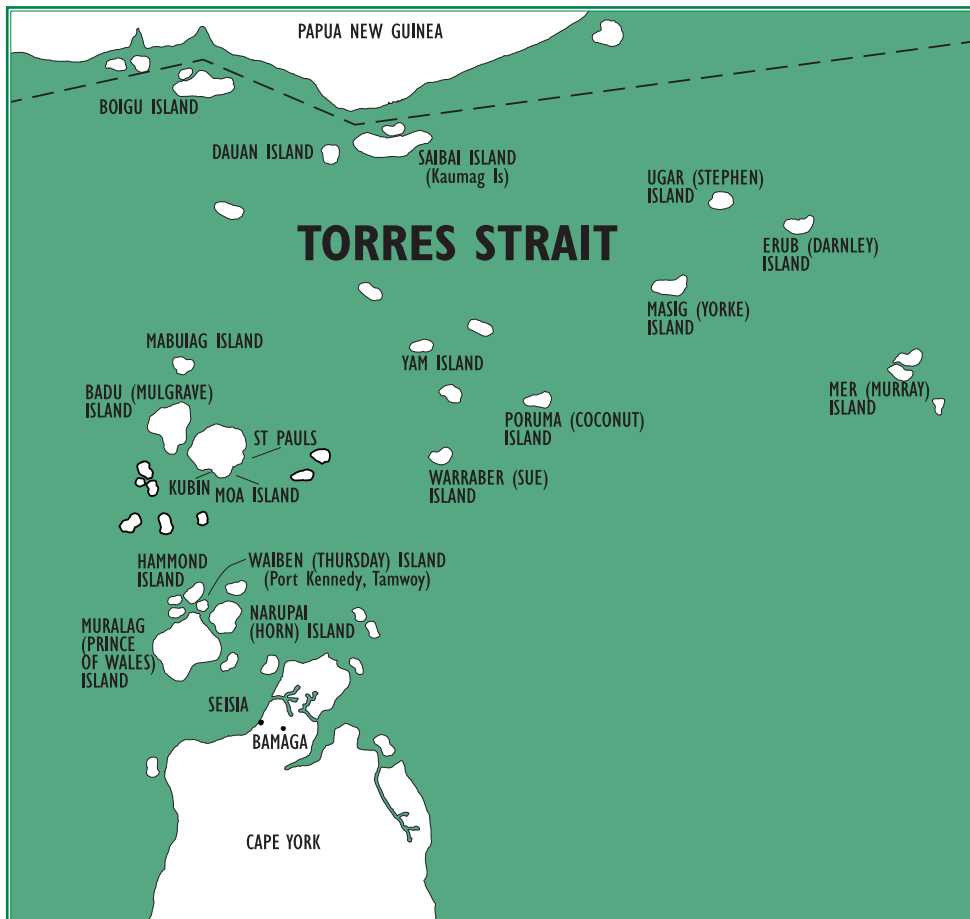




TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

2000–2001





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ISSN 1324-163X

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TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

The Hon. Philip Ruddock MP
Minister for Reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

It gives me great pleasure to present you with the seventh 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 with section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. This Annual Report covers the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001.

As we move further into the new millennium the TSRA will continue to work in partnership with the Commonwealth Government to improve the quality of life for all Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region.

Yours sincerely

Terry Waia
Chairperson
31 August 2001

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 2000–2001 ANNUAL REPORT

The Torres Strait Regional Authority's Annual Report 2000–2001 is the Chairperson's report to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs on the performance and achievements of the TSRA during 2000–2001. It is a key accountability document to the Parliament of Australia.

REPORT STRUCTURE

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

The General Manager's report provides a more detailed administrative and organisational overview of the TSRA's performance against its expected outcomes.

The third chapter provides details of the TSRA Board, Advisory Committees, Portfolio Positions and the TSRA meetings held during 2000–2001. The following chapter 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; and the framework in which it distributes grants and loans.

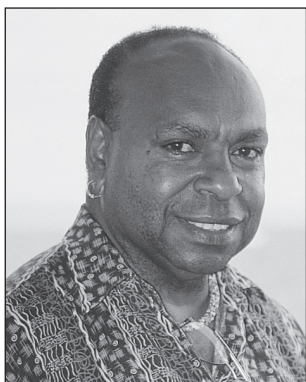
A section on Outcome and Outputs states the planned and actual costs of the organisation's outcome, and six outputs which include: Economic Development; Community Development and Training; Native Title; Social, Cultural and Development; Housing, Environment, Health and Infrastructure; and Policy and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

Audited financial statements and the Independent Audit Report are also provided. The appendixes 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.

To help guide the reader, the report also includes a table of contents, an alphabetical index, a compliance index and a glossary of terms and acronyms used.

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 REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The past year has been one of much change and progress in the Torres Strait. I have held the position of TSRA Chairperson for over a year now and during this time I have worked closely with the Board towards our goal of improving the lifestyle and wellbeing of the Torres Strait people. Every year since the TSRA's establishment in 1994, the TSRA has made significant progress towards this challenging goal and 2000–2001 has been no exception. It has been a year of positive developments and achievements, particularly in the areas of native title, infrastructure development, fisheries and greater autonomy. This progress is a source of encouragement to the Board as we continue to confront the many and varied challenges that stand between us and our vision for the future. I am proud of what we have achieved to date and feel confident that with perseverance and cooperation we will achieve our stated goals, for the good of the Torres Strait people.

AUTONOMY

For many years now the people of the Torres Strait have been seeking greater decision-making power in regard to issues affecting our region. We are seeking greater political autonomy. With the establishment of the TSRA in 1994, our people achieved a certain level of autonomy. The TSRA Board, which consists of the island chairpersons, now negotiates directly with the Commonwealth and Queensland Government Ministers and has its own budget, which we receive directly from the Commonwealth Government. The TSRA is an accountable organisation and is certainly a solid foundation upon which we can build our political autonomy.

The TSRA, guided by The Greater Autonomy Task Force, has taken a key role in the Torres Strait's push for greater autonomy. At the beginning of 2001, the Task Force, which includes myself, Cr Pedro Stephen – the Torres Shire Council Mayor and Mr Henry Garnier – Chairperson of the Island Coordinating Council (ICC), developed a discussion paper on greater autonomy, which we presented to the TSRA Board for modification and endorsement. The TSRA Members then took this paper back to their communities for discussion and comment. At the Board's meeting in March we discussed the feedback, modified the discussion paper accordingly and developed a governance structure and a 10-point plan through which we believe we will be able to achieve our goal. Our next step is to take this 10-point plan and governance structure to all the communities to gather the people's views and input. Once the Board has revised the plan and the structure to incorporate the communities' views and feedback, we will present the Torres Strait's position to both governments and commence negotiations.

FISHERIES

The TSRA recognises that the Torres Strait people will not be able to effectively achieve greater autonomy until we gain control over our sea's resources. Presently our resources are controlled by government, non-indigenous organisations. Our vision is for the Torres Strait fisheries to be managed by Torres Strait Islanders for the benefit of Torres Strait Islanders. The Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) makes decisions regarding Torres Strait fisheries' policies and legislation. PZJA membership has always consisted of the Commonwealth and Queensland Ministers responsible for fisheries. However, I am pleased to state that a Torres Strait representative is now included in the PZJA. I currently hold that position; therefore it is my responsibility to ensure

that the views of the grassroots islander fishermen are taken into account during the decision-making processes.

To increase the extent of islanders' participation in these decision making processes, local islander fishermen have established a Torres Strait Fisheries Task Force to develop a new structure through which islander fishermen will have greater influence and will be able to advise the ministers on appropriate legislation and policy changes. The TSRA is assisting the Task Force in setting up this structure and plans to employ a Fisheries Coordinator in the next financial year to provide the Task Force with administrative support. The TSRA is also providing the Task Force with financial support and is negotiating with both governments to seek additional funds. Consultations with the communities' islander fishermen are an essential part of the process, to ensure that the fishermen are satisfied with the new structure.

NATIVE TITLE

In its role as the native title representative body for the Torres Strait region, the TSRA continues to assist the region's native title claimants to achieve legal recognition of their native title rights over the land and seas of the Torres Strait. Since the famous Mabo decision was handed down in 1992, seven Torres Strait native title claims have been progressed to determination through the TSRA's representation. The TSRA has its own Native Title Office (NTO), which offers legal and anthropological services to all claimants who seek the TSRA's representation. These claimants also receive financial assistance from the TSRA.

During the 1999–2000 financial year, the staff of the NTO progressed six native title claims to determination stage. As a result, in early July this year, the Federal Court of Australia made five consent determinations, recognising the native title rights of the Warraber, Poruma, Masig, Mabuig and Dauan Island communities over their respective islands. Following on from this fine achievement, the NTO continued to progress other land claims in the region. In June this year the Meriam people of Mer Island, through TSRA representation, gained legal recognition of their native title rights over Waiar and Dauar Islands. Their claim was particularly significant as both Waiar and Dauar had been included in the Mabo application. However, when the High Court had handed down the Mabo decision in 1992, it had only recognised the Meriam people's rights over Mer Island and left undecided their native title rights over Waiar and Dauar. Through this recent determination the Mabo Case reached its proper conclusion and the wishes of the Meriam people were at last fulfilled.

The NTO is considering its approach to sea claims in the region and is continuing to consult widely with Torres Strait communities to determine how Torres Strait claimants prefer to lodge their claims over the sea. The NTO is advising claimants on how they can most effectively achieve recognition of their native title rights over the sea, in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993* (amended 1998). The TSRA believes that Torres Strait Islanders would present the strongest case, under the *Native Title Act 1993*, by lodging a regional sea claim, which recognises and respects traditional and economic boundaries. To date the NTO's consultations indicate wide support for a regional claim and these consultations are continuing. By achieving legal recognition of our native title rights over the region's seas, the Torres Strait people will be taking another step towards our goal of greater autonomy.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS

Over the past year the TSRA, in cooperation with the Commonwealth and State Governments, the Island Coordinating Council (ICC) and the local councils, has delivered positive outcomes to the communities in regard to infrastructure development. In September 2000, the Torres Strait Water Upgrade Project Stage Two successfully reached completion. Through this \$21 million

project, jointly funded by the Queensland Government and the TSRA, the water supply facilities were upgraded on eight Torres Strait islands, thereby ensuring the communities have ready access to clean and plentiful water supplies all year around. These communities – Boigu, Dauan, Hammond, Kubin, Murray, Stephen, St Pauls and Yorke – had for many years suffered from incessant water shortages during the annual dry seasons. In addition, the quality of the water in many of these communities was very poor, thereby exacerbating health problems. The implementation of this project has resolved the matter and brought the communities much relief. Stage Two followed on from Stage One, through which water supply facilities were upgraded on seven other Torres Strait Islands. The improved water supplies are expected to have a positive effect on the health of the islands' residents.

The TSRA is continuing to implement the Torres Strait Major Infrastructure Program (MIP), which is having a very beneficial impact on the Torres Strait communities. I am pleased to announce that the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments have agreed to jointly fund the second three-year stage of the program, at a total cost of \$30.6 million. Through the MIP, the TSRA is addressing the urgent infrastructure requirements of the Torres Strait communities over a 10-year period. The TSRA began implementing the program's first three-year stage in 1998 and communities across the region have since experienced benefits from the construction of sewerage systems and septic tanks, water supplies and upgraded water reticulation systems. The first stage, which was also jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments (\$30 million), is approaching completion. The governments' agreement to fund the next stage is very good news for the people of the Torres Strait.

At the Premier's request, an independent review of the first stage of the MIP and the second stage of the Water Upgrade Project was conducted this year. The resulting report was very favourable, stating that the programs demonstrated a high level of cost efficiency, achieved through using innovative solutions and appropriate technology. The review findings also indicate that the programs' outputs have achieved a high impact on improving the environmental health infrastructure servicing the Torres Strait communities, particularly in the areas associated with harvesting, treating and storing drinking water and the improvement of sanitary facilities. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Hon. Philip Ruddock – Minister for Reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, the Hon. Peter Beattie – the Premier and the Hon. Judy Spence – Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, for supporting the continuation of this program.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

One of the TSRA's aims is to establish a sustainable economic base in the region so that we can move away from welfare dependence and develop a degree of economic independence. Through the establishment of economically sustainable industries our economy will improve and our people will benefit from valuable employment and training opportunities. The TSRA is helping and encouraging Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people in our region to start their own business enterprises through the provision of business loans and advice. Our portfolio of business loans currently contains 108 TSRA business-funding loans, valued at \$2 million. There are also 34 housing loans valued at \$3.2 million. The scheme is proving a very successful business catalyst. It is not only a good start to a business but it provides our people with a good opportunity to learn about business development.

Some of our island communities are currently developing tourism, an industry with a lot of potential in our region. The Coconut Island community, for example, is developing a tourism venture with the TSRA's assistance. They are aiming at the upper end of the tourism market, planning to attract tourists who are prepared to pay well for a unique experience. Through this venture they are hoping to move towards becoming an economically sustainable community.

EDUCATION FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

The TSRA has joined forces with key bodies in the region and also the State Government to jointly address education issues in the Torres Strait and improve educational outcomes. Last October, the Queensland Minister for Education, the Hon. Dean Wells and representatives from the TSRA, ICC, the Torres Shire Council and the Torres Strait Islanders Regional Education Council signed the Torres Strait Education Framework Agreement. Each party to this agreement is committed to sharing responsibility for educational outcomes in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) communities. The TSRA is proud to participate in this agreement through which we aim to address issues such as the high drop out rate of Torres Strait Islander students. We also aim to upgrade the standard of education in the region so that it is equivalent to that offered in good schools on the mainland. It is essential that our children receive a high standard of education, as our children are our future. Education is the key to progress in this region and to greater autonomy for our people. Through education and training, our people will be qualified to take on more key positions in our community and lead the way to a positive future.

TSRA ACT

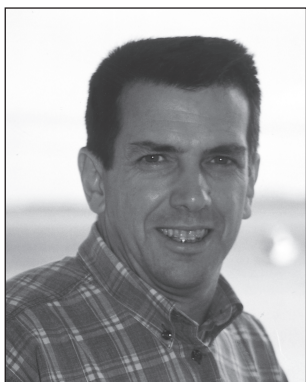
To ensure that the unique culture and identity of Torres Strait Islanders is recognised nation-wide, the TSRA has developed its own Act of Parliament. The TSRA Bill is currently in the parliamentary process and we hope to have it through Parliament by December 2001. Presently Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people are grouped under the one Act of Parliament; however, the establishment of our own Act will ensure that we are recognised as a separate race of indigenous people.

CONCLUSION

Looking back at my first year as TSRA Chairperson, I believe that the TSRA Board has effectively dealt with controversial issues and has made decisions that will have a positive impact on the people of the Torres Strait. This year we have again succeeded in delivering positive outcomes and in progressing towards our goals for the region and our people. We have confronted many diverse challenges and succeeded in overcoming obstacles, emerging united, determined to create a future that our people will look forward to sharing. Our positive working relationships with the Commonwealth and State Governments have been further strengthened this year and I look forward to working in cooperation with both governments throughout the approaching financial year. This year has been one of much development and change and I thank the Board and the staff for their ongoing cooperation and support.



Terry Waia
Chairperson



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

This past year has been one of considerable change for the TSRA administration, with new staff, a new Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, and of course, a new General Manager. Once again, the TSRA staff have risen to the various challenges that these changes have brought and look confidently towards the future. Since taking on the position of General Manager, my early impressions of the TSRA are that it is a well-run organisation that has achieved some very solid outcomes and is respected both within the Torres Strait and outside the region. This is, no doubt, due to the unfaltering commitment of the Chairperson and the Board, but also reflects the good work of my predecessors – Iain Loganathan and David Galvin. Iain acted as General Manager for six months before I took on the position and he faced a number of significant challenges during this time. He is to be commended for the manner in which he faced up to these matters. David Galvin provided sound and strategic leadership of the TSRA administration, laying the foundations for a number of important initiatives. I wish both of them well in the future.

Looking ahead, there is much to be done at the TSRA and I look forward to the workload and the challenges with great expectation. Some of our upcoming tasks include implementing the second stage of the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP 2), the development of the Torres Strait Arts and Cultural Centre, progressing the 'roadmap' of autonomy or better governance, and continuing to achieve successful native title outcomes through our Native Title Office, amongst many other priorities. The TSRA is a busy organisation with an important role to play in meeting the objective of achieving a better quality of life for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER AGENCIES

One of the TSRA's distinguishing features is that of the strength and diversity of relationships developed with other agencies, both government and non-government. Clearly, with limited resources and such high levels of need in this region it is necessary to work in cooperation with a wide range of State and Commonwealth agencies in developing, funding, and implementing the many projects with which we are involved. The benefits of such an approach are evident through the MIP's successful outcomes, ongoing operations and maintenance of infrastructure, health, education and housing as well as through the resolution of issues associated with the Torres Strait Treaty.

As the TSRA administration moves forward to meet the challenges set down by the Board in terms of autonomy and better governance, this 'whole-of-government' approach will become more important and more necessary. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the organisations and individuals currently working with the TSRA for their cooperation and assistance.

OUR WORK WITH THE MINISTER

Following the retirement of Senator the Hon. John Herron late last year, the Hon. Philip Ruddock took on the responsibility for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs portfolio. It is clear that the TSRA enjoyed an excellent relationship with Senator Herron over the past few years. Minister Ruddock has visited the Torres Strait on a number of occasions in his role as Minister for Immigration, and we were fortunate that he was able to include another trip to the Torres Strait in late May to meet the Board during the TSRA's meeting on Thursday Island. Following

the meeting, a TSRA delegation accompanied the Minister on a visit to Murray and Darnley Islands and the Northern Peninsula Area (NPA).

We look forward to building a sound relationship with the Minister and his office, which will be assisted by the recent meeting of Chief Executive Officers within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs portfolio. This meeting, arranged by Russell Taylor, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), brought together the CEOs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC), Indigenous Business Australia (IBA), Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL), the Department of Reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (DORATSIA) and AIATSIS as well as senior members of the Minister's staff, helping to improve communications and provide better outcomes for each agency.

ADMINISTRATION

The TSRA administration continues to work in close cooperation with the Board to ensure that the aims of the TSRA are met with the available resources. This relationship between the two arms is extremely professional and I would like to thank the Board, especially the Chair, Terry Waia, for providing such helpful assistance and guidance, particularly when I took on the role of General Manager.

There have been a number of staff movements during the year at various levels. Nevertheless, the organisation and staff have continued to provide the very highest level of service to the Board and the people of the region. It is particularly pleasing to see that the variety of audits undertaken by the Australian National Audit Office and the Office of Evaluation and Audit on the TSRA, are continuing to result in positive and clean reports.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The administration and Board have again demonstrated their commitment to the economic development of the region by setting aside an additional \$1.5 million for relevant projects, loans and grants over the next financial year. This program has been a great success in the region, with some 142 loans under management by the authority, consisting of 108 BFS (Business Funding Scheme) loans and 34 housing loans. It is pleasing to see that Torres Strait Islanders are undertaking a diversified range of commercial activities including, fishing, earthmoving, seafood processing, transport and retail businesses. In addition, the Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS) scheme is assisting community councils develop commercial enterprises in the areas of tourism, hydroponics, mini marts and community freezers.

The administration will be working closely with Board members over the next few months to put together a regional economic development strategy in order to provide a blueprint for this important area into the future.

ARTS AND CULTURE

The TSRA has been fortunate to receive Centenary of Federation funding totalling \$1 million from the Commonwealth Government, through the Queensland Heritage Trails Network, for the establishment of an arts and cultural centre. The administration has been working closely with the local steering committee, the Premier's Department, and Arts Queensland on this project.

It is hoped that the cultural centre, once established, will provide a focus for the rejuvenation of the region's arts and cultural life and offer suitable employment opportunities.

CONCLUSION

The Commonwealth and Queensland Governments' continuing strong commitment to the MIP will enable the TSRA to progress towards its goal of improving the lifestyle and wellbeing of the Torres Strait people. These projects along with our work in the areas of fisheries, native title, arts and culture, economic development and better governance will ensure a busy and productive future for the TSRA administration. Together with our colleagues from a wide variety of agencies we will continue to strive for excellence as we work towards our stated goals.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those staff, Board and community members who have made my family and I so welcome in this beautiful part of the world. I look forward to working towards the TSRA's goals with the Board and the staff to deliver positive outcomes for the Torres Strait people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MF', written in a cursive style.

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 25 March 2000, except Mr Rocky Stephen who was elected on 10 February 2001, 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 18 March 2000 in accordance with Division 5 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*.

The TSRA Members are:

Mr Terry Waia

Mrs Margaret Mau

Mr Terrence Whap

Mr Henry Garnier

Mr Elia Doolah

Mr Jack Ahmat

Mr Ted Billy

Mr Rocky Stephen

Mr Edward Dau

Mr Ron Day

Mr Pedro Stephen

Mr Joseph Elu

Mr Saila Savage

Mr John T. Kris

Mr John Abednego

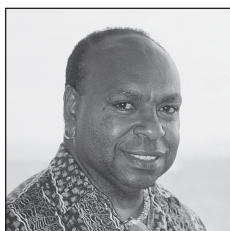
Mr Getano Lui Jnr AM

Mr Donald Mosby

Mr Francis Pearson

Mr Phillip Bowie

Mr Reg Williams



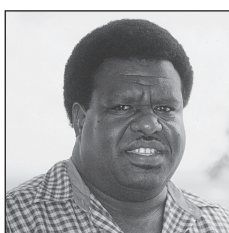
MR TERRY WAIA, CHAIRPERSON

Mr Waia was elected the TSRA Chairperson on 19 April 2000. He is also Chairperson of Saibai Island Council and a member of the Island Coordinating Council (ICC). Mr Waia has very strong traditional ties to Saibai and is eager to ensure that the traditional values of the Torres Strait are not eroded. He is highly respected for his efforts in this area, especially for his role in negotiating arrangements under the Torres Strait Treaty through participation in several delegations to Papua New Guinea.



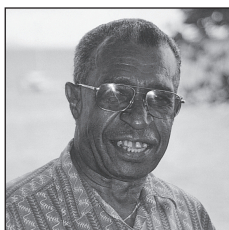
MRS MARGARET MAU, DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Mrs Mau is the TSRA Deputy Chairperson, TSRA Portfolio Member for Women's Issues, Chairperson of Dauan Island Council and an ICC Board member. Issues of concern to Mrs Mau are: providing the people of the outer island communities with access to basic services; regular maintenance to current housing to ensure liveable standards; and, most importantly, establishment of airstrips on Dauan and Stephen Islands to assist in emergency situations and daily travel. In her role as Portfolio Member for Women's Issues, Mrs Mau pursues and encourages ongoing training and development of Torres Strait women to enable them to gain equal representation in decision-making processes within the region.



MR TERENCE WHAP, ALTERNATE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Mr Whap is the TSRA Alternate Deputy Chairperson, TSRA Portfolio Member for Arts, Language, Culture and Sport, Chairperson of Mabuiag Island Council and a member of the ICC and IBIS Boards. During his term, Mr Whap would like to achieve better infrastructure for island communities; more sporting facilities for youth; and greater employment opportunities for Torres Strait Islander people. He also encourages training initiatives in the Mabuiag Island community. Mr Whap is supportive of economic development and community enterprise and encourages community members to apply for the TSRA Business Development Loans.



MR HENRY GARNIER, MEMBER FOR HAMMOND ISLAND

Mr Garnier is the Chairperson of the ICC, TSRA Portfolio Member for Marine and Fisheries and Chairperson of Hammond Island Council. Mr Garnier believes the most important issues affecting Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in this region are housing, health, economic development, education, water supply and development of a sustainable fishing industry. His vision is for Torres Strait Islander people to own and manage their own fishing industry and to establish their own banking or credit union facility in the region.

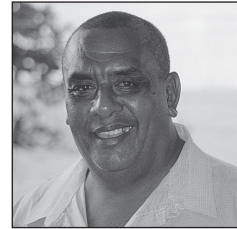


MR ELIA DOOLAH, ATSIK COMMISSIONER FOR THE TORRES STRAIT ZONE

Commissioner Doolah represents the TSRA on the ATSIK Board and is Chairperson of the Torres Strait Islander Advisory Board (TSIAB). He is the Chairperson of Darnley Island Council, Chairperson of the Area Consultative Committee and a member of the IBIS and ICC Boards. Mr Doolah is particularly focused on training and education and is keen to see qualified Torres Strait Islander people serving their communities. As Commissioner, Mr Doolah is working towards a better relationship between Torres Strait Islander people living on the mainland and Torres Strait Islander people living in the Torres Strait. He will be keeping mainland Torres Strait Islander people informed of the operations of the TSRA and at the same time, he will convey their concerns to ATSIK and the TSRA.

MR JACK AHMAT, MEMBER FOR BADU ISLAND

Mr Ahmat is Chairperson of Badu Island Council and a member of the ICC. He believes the main concerns in the region are 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 TED BILLY, MEMBER FOR WARRABER ISLAND

Mr Billy is the Chairperson of Warraber Island Council, a member of the ICC and a member of the IBIS Board. He is also on the Board of Directors for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsular (TSNP) Legal Service. Mr Billy believes the TSRA is providing a good opportunity for his people to take another step forward to a better future. Issues that are important to Mr Billy are health, housing, small business, training, employment and education. Mr Billy is keen to see qualified Torres Strait Islanders working as service providers in Torres Strait communities. He aims to raise awareness of health problems prevalent in the Torres Strait and the ways in which these problems can be prevented and treated. Mr Billy would also like to see his people take the opportunity to become involved in community enterprises. Another of his priorities is to keep cultural traditions alive and ensure they are passed on to future generations.



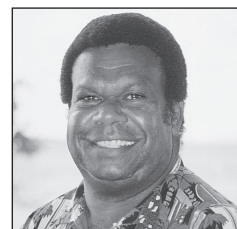
MR ROCKY STEPHEN, MEMBER FOR STEPHEN ISLAND

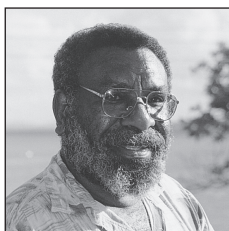
Mr Stephen is the Chairperson of Stephen Island Council and a member of the ICC. He was elected to the position of chairperson of his community through a bi-election held in February 2001. Mr Stephen feels strongly about the need to establish airstrips on Stephen and Dauan Islands to help alleviate the difficulties currently experienced with daily and emergency travel. Currently the youngest TSRA Member, Mr Stephen is working towards establishing more sporting and recreational facilities throughout the region for the youth of the Torres Strait. He encourages young people to become actively involved in community planning and to aspire towards community leadership.



MR EDWARD DAU, MEMBER FOR BOIGU ISLAND

Mr Dau is the Chairperson of Boigu Island Council, a member of the ICC and a member of the IBIS Board. He considers housing, health, education and economic development to be the most pressing issues in the Torres Strait region. During his term as TSRA Member, Mr Dau will work towards ensuring that negotiations between Australia and Papua New Guinea regarding the Torres Strait Treaty take into account the views of his people. He believes the waters (sea) of the Protected Zone must be safeguarded for future generations of Torres Strait Islander people.





MR RON DAY, MEMBER FOR MER (MURRAY ISLAND)

Mr Day is the Chairperson of Mer Island Council and a member of the ICC. He would like to see the development of a sustainable economy in the Torres Strait and improved standards of education. During his term, Mr Day will ensure the TSRA promotes Torres Strait culture and encourages young adults to participate in mainstream sports.



PASTOR PEDRO STEPHEN, MEMBER FOR PORT KENNEDY

Pastor Stephen is the TSRA Portfolio Member for Education, Training and Employment, the representative for Port Kennedy on Thursday Island and has been the Mayor of the Torres Shire Council since 1994. He is also Pastor of the Full Gospel Church on Thursday Island. Pastor Stephen is committed to transparent accountability and has a strong desire to strengthen and support community organisations and businesses with adequate resources to enable effective service delivery within the region. Pastor Stephen aims to initiate productive partnerships between government, non-government organisations and the community. He is actively involved in the community through various organisations including the Torres Strait and NPA District Health Council, Torres Strait Islander Regional Education Council, Thursday Island Rotary, the Greater Autonomy Task Force and the Economic Development Task Force. In his role as an Economic Development Task Force member, Pastor Stephen's aim is to promote new economic initiatives for future entrepreneurs in the Torres Strait region. This will provide a firm economic foundation to sustain our future regional governance.

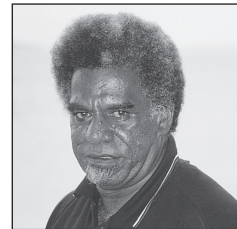


MR JOSEPH ELU, MEMBER FOR SEISIA COMMUNITY

Mr Elu is the Chairperson of Seisia Island Council, Chairperson of Indigenous Business Australia (IBA), a member of the ICC and Chairperson of the IBIS 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 SBS Board. Mr Elu places emphasis on the development of tourism and economic independence.

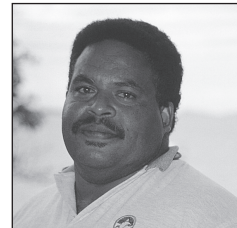
MR SAILA SAVAGE, MEMBER FOR KUBIN COMMUNITY, MOA ISLAND

Mr Savage was elected Chairperson of Kubin Island Council in March 2000 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 for the community's youth so that they can develop skills with which they can 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 the community.



MR JOHN T. KRIS, MEMBER FOR ST PAULS COMMUNITY, MOA ISLAND

Mr Kris is the TSRA Portfolio Member for Housing and Infrastructure, Chairperson of St Pauls Island Council and member of the ICC. Improvements to the quality and quantity of houses and increased training opportunities for the youth at St Pauls are among his top priorities. He believes that through the completion of training programs and apprenticeships, community members will have greater opportunities to gain employment and set up enterprises through which the community's economy will improve. He encourages full community participation in St Pauls' five-year Development Plan which details the community's plans and goals.



MR JOHN ABEDNEGO, MEMBER FOR TRAWQ

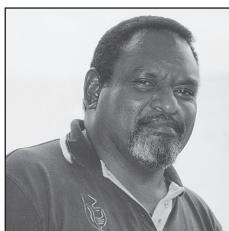
Mr Abednego is the TSRA representative for the TRAWQ communities (Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben, and Quarantine), President of the Tamwoy Development Association (TDA), President of the Torres Strait Islander Media Association (TSIMA) and a member of the ICC. He is committed to the goal of achieving greater autonomy for the people of the Torres Strait. Mr Abednego held the position of TSRA Chairperson from May 1997–April 2000.



MR GETANO LUI (JNR) AM, MEMBER FOR YAM ISLAND

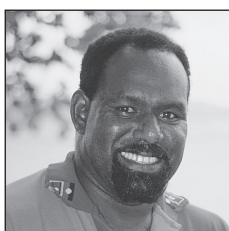
Mr Lui is the Chairperson of Yam Island Council and he was the first Chairperson of the TSRA. He has also served as a director on the CDC. Mr Lui has actively promoted the needs and aspirations of people living in the Torres Strait region. Through political lobbying, he has focused government attention on issues affecting people living in the Torres Strait region. Mr Lui has been awarded the Order of Australia (AM) in recognition of his lifelong service to the people of the Torres Strait region.





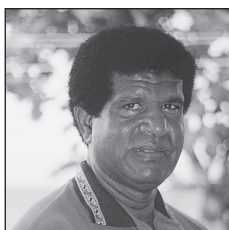
MR DONALD MOSBY, MEMBER FOR MASIG (YORKE) ISLAND

Mr Mosby is the Chairperson of Yorke Island Council and a member of the ICC. He is the TSRA Portfolio Member for Small Business and Economic Development. He aims to develop tourism and establish commercial ventures on the island. He encourages his community members to gain qualifications through training and tertiary education and to establish their own enterprises. Mr Mosby believes that the Torres Strait communities should move away from welfare dependence and progress towards greater autonomy.



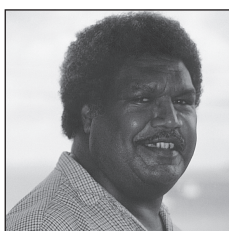
MR FRANCIS PEARSON, MEMBER FOR PORUMA (COCONUT) ISLAND

Mr Pearson is the Chairperson of Coconut Island and a member of the ICC. He aims to raise the standard of education in his community and invites parents and community members to actively participate in the local school's activities and planning sessions. Mr Pearson encourages people to gain qualifications through traineeships, apprenticeships or tertiary study, so that they can use these skills to assist with community development. He also supports the development of tourism on the island as this will strengthen the community's economy and provide employment opportunities.



MR PHILLIP BOWIE, MEMBER FOR NGURUPAI (HORN) AND MURALUG (PRINCE OF WALES) ISLANDS

Mr Bowie is the TSRA Member for Horn Island and Prince of Wales Island and the TSRA Portfolio Member for Environment and Health. He is working towards improving the current health status of the people in the Torres Strait, by addressing environmental and traditional health issues through partnership arrangements with the Commonwealth and State Governments. His vision for Prince of Wales Island includes the provision of a boat ramp and pontoon, and improved roads. For Horn Island he would like to see better drainage of the town area, installation of sewerage, increased community police presence and accredited training and employment opportunities through CDEP. He has been successful in obtaining TSRA funding to conduct a feasibility study into the provision of office space for proactive organisations and a sporting complex to address youth and social issues on Horn Island.



MR REG WILLIAMS, MEMBER FOR BAMAGA COMMUNITY

Mr Williams is the Chairperson of Bamaga Island Council and a member of the ICC. He is presently focusing his energies on addressing the issues of land, health, housing, education, and employment in his community.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

At 30 June 2001 the TSRA had 2 advisory committees. These are:

- (a) Greater Autonomy Taskforce – Membership; Mr Terry Waia, Mr Pedro Stephen and Mr Henry Garnier.
- (b) Economic Development Advisory Committee – Membership; Mr Don Mosby, Mr Pedro Stephen and Mr Joseph Elu.

PORTFOLIO POSITIONS

The TSRA Portfolio Members as at the 30 June 2001 are:

Women's Issues	Mrs Margaret Mau
Small Business and Economic Development	Mr Donald Mosby
Arts, Language, Culture and Sport	Mr Terrence Whap
Legal and Media	Mr John Abednego
Marine and Fisheries	Mr Henry Garnier
Housing and Infrastructure	Mr John T. Kris
Environment and Health	Mr Phillip Bowie
Education, Training and Employment	Mr Pedro Stephen

TSRA MEETINGS

The TSRA held six meetings between 1 July 2000 and 30 June 2001.

<i>Meetings</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Duration</i>
No. 28	5-6 September 2000	2 days
No. 29	11-13 December 2000	3 days
No. 30	29-31 January 2001	3 days
No. 31	15 February 2001	2 hours
No. 32	19-20 March 2001	2 days
No. 33	28-31 May 2001	4 days

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

Meeting No. 28 – Members for Badu and Mer

Meeting No. 29 – Members for Bamaga and Mer

Meeting No. 30 – Members for Badu, Port Kennedy and Yorke

Meeting No. 31 – Members for Badu, Bamaga, Horn/Prince of Wales, Seisia, Yorke, St Pauls, Darnley and Kubin

Meeting No. 33 – Members for Badu and Bamaga

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, bêche-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 83 to 589, and also two mainland communities. The region's total population is 8,572, of whom 6,064 are Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people. Approximately 22,680 Torres Strait Islander people live outside the Torres Strait region.

Torres Strait Islanders first achieved recognition of their traditional rights over their land in 1992, through the High Court's landmark decision to grant Islanders native title rights over Mer (Murray Island). This was the first time native title had been recognised under Australia's common law. It set a precedent for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people throughout Australia who have since put forward their own claims, 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 (Packe Island) and Damaralag. Torres Strait Islanders are now pursuing their native title rights over the sea.

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 socioeconomic 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 two sources:

- Statistics, taken from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) 1996 Census information (the most recent statistical information, as the next ABS census is to be conducted in August 2001), 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; and
- Commonwealth Government strategies, policies and responses which have shaped many of the TSRA's program activities.

EXTENT OF NEED

Population

The 1996 Census showed that the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal population in the region:

- at 6,064, represented 80 per cent of the total population of the region, approximately 2 per cent of the indigenous population of Australia and approximately 6.5 per cent of the indigenous population of Queensland;
- had increased by 8 per cent since 1991 – 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 32 years for the non-indigenous population of the region (i.e. half the indigenous population in the region was 20-years-old or less).

Employment

The 1996 Census information showed:

- the number of unemployed Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait region was 184 and altogether 1,785 people were employed. This represents an unemployment rate of 5 per cent for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people compared to 7 per cent for the non-indigenous population of the region. In 1991 the unemployment rate in the Torres Strait Islander labour force was 12 per cent. *Note: Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants are counted as employed.*

Education

The 1996 Census showed that in the Torres Strait region:

- 10 per cent (365) of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people aged 15 years or over indicated they had tertiary qualifications compared to 47 per cent of non-Indigenous people; and
- a further 2 per cent (85) of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people aged 15 years or over were studying for a tertiary qualification.

Income

Household incomes of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people were, according to the 1996 Census, on average lower than those of other households. Of those households where all income data were available:

- 36 per cent of households earned less than \$500 per week compared to 22 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 22 per cent of other households.

Housing

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

- 13 per cent of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people owned, or were purchasing, their homes compared to 15 per cent of non-indigenous people; and
- the average household size, of households with Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal occupants, was 4.7 persons per dwelling compared to 2.7 with non indigenous occupants.

Health

The following information is derived from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 1999 report on the Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Torres Strait Health Strategy (1993).

- Over the period 1976–94, estimated mortality rates for Torres Strait Islanders living in the Torres Strait area were about two and a half to three times higher than those for all Queenslanders after adjusting for age.
- The main causes of excess deaths in the Torres Strait area for the period 1989–94 were diabetes (33% of the excess) and heart disease (19%), followed by perinatal conditions (13%), pneumonia (12%), bronchitis, emphysema and asthma (12%) and cancer (11%).
- In 1993, the life expectancy of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region was approximately 23 years less than that for non-indigenous Australians. Women were expected to live 30 years less than non-indigenous Australian females.
- The region’s hospital admissions in 1993 were twice that experienced on the Queensland mainland. Health problems in the region were exacerbated by the poor quantity and quality of water and the sewerage and waste disposal systems.
- 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 ATSI Act, are:

- a. to recognise and maintain the special and unique Ailan Kastom of Torres Strait Islanders living in the Torres Strait area;
- b. to formulate and implement programs for Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- c. to monitor the effectiveness of programs for Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area, including programs conducted by other bodies;
- d. to develop policy proposals to meet national, State and regional needs and priorities of Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- e. to assist, advise and 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 ATSI 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, the Hon. Philip Ruddock, under section 142E of the ATSI 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.

REVIEW OF ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Following the ATSI elections in 1999, the Minister convened a panel in accordance with Section 141 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989* to review:

- (1) the electoral boundaries (ward, region and zone) under which the various ATSI and TSRA elections are conducted; and
- (2) the rules that set out how those elections are conducted.

The Review Panel has since developed a report, which is now before the Minister.

CORPORATE OVERVIEW

The Corporate Services section provides a range of administrative and program services and is responsible for managing the corporate and financial needs of the TSRA including executive support, finance, housing and enterprise loans, property, personnel, human resources, Workplace Agreement 2000–2003, staff development and training, reception and registry.

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 and the Minister in order to facilitate decision-making;
- manage and maintain assets of the TSRA; and
- administer housing loans, enterprise loans, and major infrastructure projects to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait region.

Internal Audit

The Office of Evaluation and Audit undertook an internal audit of the TSRA during April 2001.

External Audit

The 1999–2000 financial statement audit was undertaken by Arthur Anderson on behalf of the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO). It was completed in July 2000 and gave an unqualified audit opinion.

The 2000–2001 financial statement audit conducted by Arthur Anderson on behalf of ANAO commenced in August 2001 and was completed by the end of August 2001. The results of this audit will be commented on in next year's annual report.

Workplace Agreement

A new TSRA Workplace Agreement ('the Agreement') which will continue for a three-year period, 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2003, was certified by the Industrial Relations Commission on 7 July 2000. This agreement was developed at workplace level in consultation with staff members over a period of 5 months. The objectives of the agreement are to:

- a. introduce a strong performance based and merit based organisational culture which encourages rewards and recognises high performance and improves overall organisational performance;
- b. support and improve services to the TSRA's client communities and organisations in the Torres Strait;
- c. provide equitable remuneration and a flexible set of conditions and working arrangements, which attract, retain and develop all employees;
- d. provide flexible and streamlined policies and practices that support management and staff in implementing structural reform; and
- e. promote open communication and learning within the organisation.

Personnel

The Service Agreement with ATSIC Corporate Division, which included the provision of information technology and human resources services, finished on 30 June 2000. The TSRA has set up its own information technology infrastructure and has outsourced its payroll function to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies for the financial year 2000–2001.

Staff attended various external and internal training courses throughout the year including GST implementation for ACCPAC (accounting software), information technology, computer skills

and executive development. Two staff members successfully completed TAFE office traineeships, one staff member completed a public sector management course whilst two others completed occupational health and safety courses.

Property

As noted in the TSRA's 1999–2000 Annual Report, the TSRA has an office accommodation usage of 873 square metres for 35 staff and TSRA Members, providing an average of 29.10 square metres per person.

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)

The TSRA acknowledges its responsibilities to recognise and value the diversity of the TSRA workplace by preventing and eliminating all forms of discrimination. The TSRA also has an anti-discrimination policy. The Public Service and Merit Protection Commission (PSMPC) and ATSIIC provides EEO, Harassment and Workplace Diversity information, booklets and pamphlets as they are revised and developed. EEO and workplace diversity statistics are collected on recruitment of all staff and are provided on request to the PSMPC at the end of the financial year. 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 or other documents. Also, no applications for Internal Review or applications to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT), for review of a decision in relation to a request, were received during this time.

Industrial Democracy

Staff members participate in regular management, section and staff meetings. As an integral part of the TSRA Certified Agreement the TSRA has established a Workplace Agreement Consultative Committee (WACC) to provide a forum for consultation and negotiation on workplace agreements. The WACC provides for equal membership of management, employees and their representatives including unions.

Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S)

The TSRA recognises its responsibilities under the *Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1990* and continues to maintain a safe and healthy working environment. Under the TSRA Certified Agreement 2000–2003, the TSRA acknowledges that physical wellbeing is a key factor in staff being able to fully perform their duties, and has implemented initiatives to improve employee health. The Agreement also makes available to all employees an appropriate service to provide confidential, professional counselling to employees to help them resolve work related and personal problems. 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.

CORPORATE DOCUMENTS

Between 1 July 2000 and 30 June 2001, the TSRA produced the TSRA 1999–2000 Annual Report and a 12-page A4 booklet on the first three-year stage of the Torres Strait Major Infrastructure Program (MIP). The TSRA also produced a 20-page A4 booklet for the ICC on the Torres Strait Water Upgrade Project Stage 2. Both booklets describe the successful implementation of these infrastructure projects, emphasising the benefits gained through the development of cooperative working relationships between the TSRA, ICC, the Commonwealth and State Governments and local councils. This cooperative approach enabled the sharing of expertise, ideas and resources, thereby ensuring the best possible outcomes were achieved. The TSRA also produced two publications on native title – a booklet *Some Questions and Answers for Native Title in the Torres Strait*, and a brochure *Island Community Land Management Matters after the Native Title Determination*. Additionally, the TSRA produced six community newsletters (known as the *TSRA News*).

The *TSRA News* is a publication distributed throughout the Torres Strait region and Australian mainland via insertion in the local newspaper, *Torres News*. 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 community newsletter compilation and distribution commenced in June 1996.

The TSRA has also produced a guide for the progress of the Torres Strait and its people towards the year 2001, called the Torres Strait Development Plan. This plan is required under *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*. The TSRA will review the plan during the next financial year.

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

TORRES STRAIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Section 142D of the ATSIC Act states:

- '(1) The TSRA must formulate, and revise from time to time, a plan to be known as the Torres Strait Development Plan (the 'Plan').
- (2) The aim of the Plan is to improve the economic, social and cultural status of Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area.
- (3) The Plan must outline the strategies and policies that the TSRA intends to adopt in order to implement the Plan, including, but not limited to, a marine strategy for the Torres Strait area.
- (4) Each Plan must relate to a period of at least three years, but not more than five years.
- (5) The TSRA must review the Plan regularly.
- (6) The TSRA must perform its functions under this section in consultation with the Minister.
- (7) Without limiting the operation of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, the TSRA General Manager must ensure that copies of the Plan as in force from time to time are available for inspection and purchase at each office of the TSRA.
- (8) The TSRA General Manager must cause notice of the publication of the Plan to be published in the *Gazette*.'

The TSRA approved and published the Plan in March 1998. It was gazetted during 1998–99. The Development Plan is reflected in the various sections and sub-sections which comprise this report.

RELATIONSHIP WITH ATSIC

The relationship between the TSRA and ATSIC is largely governed by the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*. This Act provides for the inclusion of a TSRA representative as a Commissioner of ATSIC who also chairs the ATSIC's Torres Strait Islander Advisory Board. The Service Agreement with ATSIC for the provision of financial, human resources and information technology services finished on 30 June 2000. As stated in the previous report, the TSRA has its own financial management system and has implemented its own information technology system. The TSRA has outsourced its payroll function to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). The TSRA would like to thank ATSIC for its assistance for the previous six years. The TSRA would also like to thank AIATSIS for providing a good service in relation to the TSRA payroll function.

OUTCOME AND OUTPUTS

PRICES OF OUTCOME AND OUTPUTS – PLANNED AND ACTUAL

We have now completed our second year of the financial management framework that the Commonwealth Government introduced in 1999–2000. The framework changed the way Commonwealth departments and agencies prepared their budgets and estimates. It made Outcomes and Outputs the focus of the way in which departments and agencies planned their activities, budgeted and managed resources at their disposal, and reported 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.

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.

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.

The TSRA had just one planned Outcome for the financial period 2000–2001. 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 6 Outputs that contributed to the achievement of the planned Outcome. The Outcome and Outputs together with the budgeted and actual prices are listed in the following financial statements.

Budgeted Total Price of Outputs \$46.963m

Actual Total Price of Outputs \$47.237m

Output 1
Economic Development
Budgeted Total Price \$2.831m
Actual Total Price \$1.791m

Output 2
Community Development Employment & Training
Budgeted Total Price \$26.465m
Actual Total Price \$25.845m

Output 3
Native Title
Budgeted Total Price \$1.521m
Actual Total Price \$1.351m

Output 4
Social Cultural and Development
Budgeted Total Price \$6.668m
Actual Total Price \$6.160m

Output 5
Housing, Environment, Health and Infrastructure
Budgeted Total Price \$8.156m
Actual Total Price \$10.058m

Output 6
Policy and Information
Budgeted Total Price \$1.302m
Actual Total Price \$2.031m

Notes:

1. Revenue from Government through appropriations contributes 98.04% to the total Output cost of this Outcome for 2000–2001.
2. The TSRA has no administered expenses.
3. A net amount of \$1.221m was lent to eligible indigenous residents in the Torres Strait to buy houses or establish business enterprises during 2000–2001. The net lending is not shown in the statement of Financial Performance.

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.</p> <p>Quantity: 55 new contracts.</p> <p>Price: an average of \$20,000 per loan contract. 3 Community Development Grants & 1 housing loan. Provide 50 loans to establish business, increasing the total portfolio to 140.</p> <p>Provide 3 grants to communities in order to establish viable enterprises.</p> <p>Provide 1 loan under Housing Loan Program.</p> <p>Price: \$2.831m for the output.</p>	<p>50% of contracts settled in one month, 30% of contracts are settled within one to three months, 20% in three to six months. A total of 42 BFS loans were released to clients. In addition, a total of 11 housing loans were released. The average BFS loan was for \$28,732. The loan portfolio consists of 142 loans, 108 BFS loans and 34 housing loans. During the financial year 23 BFS loans and 1 Housing loan were discharged. Three grants were approved for the Dauan Island Takeaway, Badu Island and TRAWQ Council Hydroponics facilities.</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>Price: \$26.465m for the Output</p> <p>Ensure that the program is working effectively by scheduling community visits twice a year, checking quarterly financial returns and checking that 1700 eligible participants are qualified to be on the program.</p>	<p>90% of CDEP organisations fully complied with the CDEP and general funding and operational guidelines.</p> <p>85% of targeted training was delivered within the financial year. The remaining 15% will be conducted within the first 2 months of the new financial year.</p> <p>17 funded CDEP organisations enabled 20 communities to be on the CDEP program.</p> <p>63 Community Training programs were funded.</p> <p>Price: aggregate of \$25.845m for the Output.</p> <p>Each community and organisation was visited an average of 4.8 times a year. The financial year ended with 1742 participants eligible to be on the program.</p>

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
3. Native Title	<p>Quality: Recruitment of one new legal officer completed by June 2000. Inquiries relating to claims to be responded to within 7 days.</p> <p>Quantity: 4 claims to be successfully negotiated.</p> <p>Price: \$1.521m for administering the Output</p> <p>A legal officer will be recruited by June 2001 to replace an officer going on maternity leave.</p>	<p>One new legal officer successfully recruited.</p> <p>Straightforward inquiries relating to claims responded to under 7 days.</p> <p>7 claims successfully negotiated to consent determinations of native title.</p> <p>Price: \$1.351m for the output.</p>
4. Social, Cultural and Development	<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>Price: an aggregate of \$6.668m for the Output.</p> <p>Provide assistance to the communities to promote and improve the social and cultural wellbeing. 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>All funded organisations received all or part of their first quarterly release within 28 days of the commencement of the financial year.</p> <p>27 grants were approved in the 2000–2001 financial year, representing 92 activities.</p> <p>Price: aggregate of \$6.160m for the Output.</p>
5. Housing and Environment Health and Infrastructure	<p>Quality: infrastructure projects commenced in 1998-99 year to be 90% completed by 30 June 2001.</p> <p>Quantity: sewerage, housing, water supply and reticulation infrastructure projects for the seventeen island communities are continuing; 12 projects to be completed.</p> <p>Price: an aggregate of \$8.15m has been targeted for the Output.</p>	<p>Approximately 91% of projects commenced in 1998-99 were completed by June 2001. In 2000–2001, 12 communities had their sewer systems converted from pan toilets to septic systems. Other communities had upgrades to their water reticulation systems, as well as various other infrastructure works including improvements to drainage.</p> <p>Price: \$10.058m for the output.</p>

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
6. Policy and Information	<p>Quality: 98% 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: 700 publicity, queries and correspondence are anticipated. Less than 5% complaint from TSRA clients.</p> <p>Price: \$1.302m targeted for this output.</p>	<p>37 ministerials were received; All were dealt with by the set deadline of 21 days.</p> <p>100% of verbal queries were responded to in 14 days.</p> <p>85% of written queries were responded to in 14 days.</p> <p>927 publicity queries and correspondence received including 750 items of correspondence.</p> <p>1 complaint was received, less than 0.2%.</p> <p>Price: aggregate of \$2.031m for this output.</p>

OVERVIEW OF OUTPUTS

OUTPUT ONE – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM: — ECONOMIC

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

The Economic Program is comprised of 3 subprograms:

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

SUBPROGRAM — BUSINESS FUNDING SCHEME (BFS)

Objective

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

Description

The BFS has enabled the establishment of a number of businesses within the Torres Strait region, all of which provide an important service to the wider community. The BFS promotes the economic independence of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people by helping them acquire,

own and develop commercially successful enterprises. Over the years, the BFS has assisted many individuals and partnerships to establish successful business ventures in a range of industries. This in turn creates employment for the indigenous people of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

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

If required, the BFS provides an additional service to clients – organising and paying for insurance over the assets. The insurance cost is then charged back to the client's loan account. A total of \$47,647 in insurance costs were paid on behalf of BFS clients.

Achievements

The Business Funding Scheme is proving a significant source of commercial finance for Torres Strait Islanders wanting to establish or expand their businesses. During the financial period, 42 loans were advanced at a total value of \$1,206,745. The number of BFS loans that have been advanced this financial year has increased by nine, with a net increase in the amount advanced of \$702,194.

During the financial year 23 clients paid out their BFS loans. Another 8 BFS loans were written-off after unsuccessful recovery action.

As at 30 June 2001 a total of 108 BFS loans remain active. A total of \$562,544 in repayments has been returned this financial year into the BFS account.

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

Industry Sector	No. Loans Disbursed	\$ Value
Commercial Fishing	33	290,599
Earthmoving	2	105,000
Light Industrial (Marine)	1	35,000
Meat processing facility	1	252,000
Motel development	1	200,000
Seafood processing	1	280,000
Transport	2	42,940
Retail	1	1,206
TOTAL	42	1,206,745

In this financial year three BFS loans to community councils were released. The loans to community councils include Seisia meat processing facilities, Bamaga Motel, and Badu Earth Works. This represents a positive, evolutionary step towards the community councils obtaining commercial independence. The projects were able to demonstrate that the councils could achieve a commercially viable operation with the cost of capital taken into consideration.

SUBPROGRAM — HOME OWNERSHIP

Objective

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

Description

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

If required, an additional service that the Home Ownership provides to clients is the organising and paying of insurance. The insurance cost is then charged back to the client's loan account. A total of \$2,859 in insurance costs were paid on behalf of Housing Loan clients.

Achievements

This year a total of \$928,109 has been released to 11 Housing Loan clients for either the purchase of new homes or the renovation and expansion of existing dwellings.

A total of \$354,155 in repayments have been returned during the financial year into the Housing Account. In addition, 1 housing loan has been paid out leaving the total housing loan portfolio at 34.

SUBPROGRAM — COMMUNITY ECONOMIC INITIATIVES SCHEME (CEIS)

Objective

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

Description

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

Achievements

During the financial year, the TSRA approved the following three grants under the CEIS to Island Councils.

Project	\$ Approval
Dauan Island Takeaway	144,000
Badu Island Hydroponics	170,600
TRAWQ Council Hydroponics	173,000
Total	487,600

The Dauan Island Takeaway was developed due to the community's increasing demand for access to prepared meals. The objective is to create a 'contemporary island style' takeaway that the Dauan Community Council will feel comfortable being associated with, thereby ensuring immediate acceptance and a high level of ownership, resulting in a financial return direct to the council.

The Badu Island and TRAWQ Community Councils' hydroponic projects aim to enable the councils to produce fresh vegetables for sale to retail outlets within their respective quarantine zones. Through the provision of readily available supplies of fresh vegetables, it is anticipated that the consumption of fresh vegetables will increase and that this will impact positively upon people with diet related diseases, especially diabetes. The project will provide direct employment for up to three members of each island community and provide a modest financial return for each council.

CEIS expenditure during this financial year includes:

Project	\$ Released
Kubin Motel	255,000
Mabuiag Freezer	11,312
Dauan Guest House	75,000
Total	341,312

The following CEIS projects have been rolled over from this financial year into the 2001–2002 financial year.

Project	\$ Rollover
Coconut Island Tourism Development	350,000
Dauan Guest House	35,000
Mabuiag Freezer	183,205
Total	568,205

OUTPUT 2 – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

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

- a. Community Development Employment Program (CDEP)
- b. 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 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 scheme enables unemployed Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal persons to undertake work on activities chosen by the community or organisation, as an alternative to unemployment benefits.

The scheme facilitates community development through the implementation of projects decided upon by the communities themselves, at their own pace and in accordance with their own priorities. Community development is further enhanced through the scheme's flexibility and capacity to link with other programs such as the Business Funding and Community Economic

Initiatives Schemes, the Community Training Program, apprenticeships and various accredited training programs provided by the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs.

Funding

The TSRA committed \$24,304,187 of CDEP program funds to projects in the Torres Strait region, achieving 98.3% expenditure of commitment. It is the TSRA's single largest program. As at 30 June 2001, there were a total of 1,742 participants in 17 CDEP schemes, covering 20 communities. Expenditure for 2000–2001 was \$23,895,946, comprising wages (\$17,992,581) and recurrent/capital (\$5,903,365), which included \$134,230 as CDEP Support (compilation of 32 Development Plans and conducting 9 Major Reviews).

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 2000–2001, these projects supported activities such as: road and drainage construction; upgrade and maintenance; nursery projects, livestock management and abattoirs; cargo handling; fishing; seafood processing, live crustaceans management and marketing; take-away enterprises; construction and maintenance of buildings and community roads; sea walls; levee banks; and other public utilities such as community seafood storage and freezing facilities; art and crafts; and broadcasting. To these ongoing activities were added housing and major infrastructure contracts, which continued to be won by CDEP organisations, continuing and expanding the trend started during 1996–97. In addition, a strongly stated TSRA policy resulted in major construction companies employing increasing numbers of CDEP participants, thus providing the workers with extended working hours and increased income, as well as valuable training.

The 2000–2001 financial year, as during previous year, illustrated the systematisation of the planning processes initiated with the compilation of the Community Development Plans effected in 1997–98, in accordance with the local needs and the various strategies, many of which involved other Commonwealth and State agencies. These Community Plans were updated during the past financial year (2000–2001), to form the basis of the next Three-Year Planning and Funding Cycle. In addition, 7 new Community Plans were compiled, representing new communities and organisations. This was done, as previously, through intensive consultations with the Islander communities and coordination and cooperation with the Queensland Government agencies. The CDEP scheme remains the focal point to which a host of other inter-agency programs, notably related to training and business development, are connected.

Funds were committed for the annual reviews of 9 TSRA funded organisations. The planned reviews were implemented during the first half of the 2000–2001 financial year.

During 2000–2001 the TRAWQ CDEP successfully negotiated with the Torres Shire Council to develop a contract agreement covering various maintenance works on public grounds and buildings, worth in excess of \$271,000.

The 2000–2001 CDEP work plans and programs closely followed the local priorities outlined in Year 3 of the Three-year Community Development Plans developed in 1997–1998 and reflected in the TSRA triennial system of funding.

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, or a mixture of both.

Through the CTP program 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 2000–2001, the TSRA committed \$1,671,859 to various Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations for the continuation of the CTP program, achieving 93.41% expenditure of 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, fuel outlets, hazardous substances, retailing, take-away outlets operations, first aid, workplace health and safety, community policing, airport reporting, child care, ranger, furniture making, cooking, sewing and other home management courses, fitness and sport coaching, horticulture, environmental health, and financial management.

A concerted effort to link these courses with CDEP and the training and employment opportunities offered to the communities by the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA), the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business (DEWRSB), the State Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (DETIR) as well as the network of Job Centres, continued during 1999–2000. Torres Strait communities utilised skilled residents to conduct training where possible, while in other instances expressions of interest were sought from trainers based elsewhere. In 2000–2001, more than 40 apprenticeships were supported and maintained. The TSRA Board have made it clear that they continue to consider community based training as one of the utmost priorities in the Torres Strait.

As part of the total CTP allocation, the TSRA contributed \$200,000 to the Financial Administration Improvement Program (FAIP), a Queensland Government initiative aimed at improving the standards of financial administration and reporting of the Island Councils. The program is coordinated by the Island Coordinating Council (ICC) and involves intensive training in financial administration of the councils' staff, both through on-the-job training by professional Financial Services Officers and through formal sessions delivered by contracted training consultants. Regular and frequent meetings are being held, involving representatives of the TSRA, the ICC and the State Government, enabling close monitoring of the performance of the councils and organisations. However, the program was less successful than last year in terms of the number of Island Councils' audit qualifications, due to funding decreases and overall uncertainty surrounding the State's contribution to the program.

OUTPUT 3 – NATIVE TITLE

Objective

To achieve maximum recognition of the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal peoples of the Torres Strait's special relationship to land and sea under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

Description

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

Funding

For the 2000–2001 financial year the TSRA was funded an amount of \$1.521 million for the ongoing operation of the Native Title Office and the provision of housing for the Native Title Office staff. A total of \$195,000 was committed and expended from the Native Title allocation towards reimbursement of costs incurred by TSRA funded organisations: \$145,000 went to the Island Coordinating Council for finalisation of contracts involving Native Title staff and \$70,000 to Island Councils for reimbursement of costs incurred while dealing with local Land Tenure issues and preparing for determination hearings.

Achievements

Six determinations recognising native title in the Torres Strait were obtained, settling seven native title land claims. The TSRA was instrumental in securing these determinations, which were achieved for the communities of Warraber, Poruma, Masig (Yorke), Mabuiag, Dauan, Waiar and Dauar Islands. In addition, the TSRA Native Title Office provided financial and professional assistance to the Kaurareg people and the Cape York Land Council in relation to five native title claims in the Torres Strait. The Cape York Land Council represented the Kaurareg people in relation to these claims, which were the subject of consent determinations in May 2001.

The TSRA is acting on behalf of the claimants in a majority of the Torres Strait communities and is progressing their native title claims. A new Principal Legal Officer was appointed in December 2001 following the departure of the previous Principal Legal Officer.

The Native Title Office has also addressed several significant land management issues including native title clearances for the construction of major infrastructure on numerous islands as well as native title authorisation agreements for the construction of new IBIS stores in some island communities.

OUTPUT 4 – 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 5 programs as outlined below:

1. Municipal Support & Broadcasting
2. Social Justice
3. Heritage, Culture & Environment
4. Youth Support & Sports
5. Women's Issues.

PROGRAM — MUNICIPAL SUPPORT & BROADCASTING

This program is comprised of two subprograms:

1. Municipal Support; and
2. Broadcasting.

SUBPROGRAM — MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

Objective

To ensure that an increasing number of indigenous people living in the Torres Strait region have access to facilities consistent with and appropriate to their needs, as well as essential municipal services.

Description

The TSRA may provide funding under this component in the following manner:

- contributions towards the operating costs of local and remote communities' councils and organisations;
- supplements for the State's vehicle and machinery replacement program; and
- funding for community amenities, buildings, essential services and temporary accommodation.

Funding

In 2000–2001, the TSRA committed \$1,304,181 as a contribution to the Island Councils' operations, \$1,051,326 towards the purchase or replacement of earthmoving and other machinery, and \$767,393 towards the construction of council buildings, community halls, resource centres and other amenities.

Achievements

The Island Councils used the TSRA's funds for: the employment of council clerks, who are responsible for the management and coordination of the councils' operations; and to supplement the funds provided by the Queensland Government for council operations and the capital equipment replacement program. The TSRA achieved 98.2% expenditure (council operations), 88.2% expenditure (machinery) and 31.3% expenditure (community buildings and amenities) in the 2000–2001 financial year, and the rest was rolled over into 2001–2002. The low rate of expenditure in the category of community buildings is mostly due to difficulties relating to the establishment of a suitable site and the resolution of land tenure issues.

The Mer (Murray) Island Council has completed its new seafood processing facility. It has also undertaken the building of internal toilets as extensions to its State funded housing program, and the connection of these toilets to the main sewerage line (part of the MIP sewerage project), using the local building team.

The upgrading of the community hall at Badu was successfully completed after two years of funding under the three-year funding cycle.

The Kubin Island Council is still waiting for a contribution from the State Government towards their community hall. It has been waiting for this contribution since 1999–2000. The funds (\$150,000) were again rolled over into the 2001–2002 financial year.

The planned community hall at Darnley Island has been plagued by problems associated with Land Tenure, therefore the funds (\$377,063) had to be rolled over for the third time.

The Island Councils received grants totalling \$632,080, which enabled them to purchase the following items of machinery and equipment:

a)	Badu Island Council	Front-end loader & 5 4x4 utility vehicles
b)	Darnley Island Council	1 2x4 utility vehicle, 1 4x4 vehicle, contribution to 1 bulldozer
c)	Mabuiag Island Council	1 4x4 utility vehicle
d)	Stephen Island Council	1 bobcat
e)	Hammond Island Council	Contributions to 1 grader and 1 excavator
f)	Warraber Island Council	1 truck
g)	TRAWQ	1 tip truck and 1 utility vehicle
h)	Bamaga Island Council	1 bobcat
i)	Boigu Island Council	1 truck
j)	Coconut Island Council	1 dual-cab vehicle and 1 tractor
k)	Dauan Island Council	2 utility vehicles
l)	Mer Island Council	1 second hand grader
m)	St Pauls Island Council	1 cement block machine
n)	Yam Island Council	2 second hand trucks
o)	Kubin Island Council	1 backhoe
p)	Saibai Island Council	1 tractor and trailer
q)	Seisia Island Council	1 heavy forklift
r)	Yorke Island Council	1 utility vehicle and 1 tractor

SUBPROGRAM — 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 the indigenous residents of the Torres Strait in order to reinforce and promote their cultural identity and to foster general community awareness of their culture and priorities.

Description

This program gives the indigenous residents of the Torres Strait control of their own broadcasting and television services. Through the Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme (BRACS), it provides remote communities with the 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 Indigenous Media Association (TSIMA).

Funding

The TSRA committed funding totalling \$975,140 under this component. The Torres Strait Islander Media Association (TSIMA) received more than half of this funding (\$538,150) for operational and community broadcasting costs. The ICC received \$59,765 for the provision of Uninterruptable Power Supplies (UPS) units in each BRACS community, to alleviate the problems caused by power surges and the damage that they cause to broadcasting and recording equipment. The remainder of the funds (\$377,225) was divided between 16 outer Island Councils for upgrading, operating and maintaining their own BRACS units through a three-year rolling program of maintenance and capital replacement.

Achievements

The TSRA achieved 95.1% expenditure against the commitment. In 1998-99, TSIMA obtained a licence for 24-hour operation from the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal and operated on that basis, providing a local service of news, music, current affairs and items of interest, throughout 2000-2001.

All 17 Island communities now have access to at least three television stations.

The 1997-98 review commissioned by TSIMA had recommended a systematic program involving upgrades of the buildings and equipment used by the outer islands' BRACS units. This program was incorporated into the TSRA three-year funding plan on an urgency of needs basis and through it the BRACS units operating at Stephen, Darnley, Yam, St. Paul, Coconut and Bamaga Island Councils received capital funding of \$15,000 in 2000-2001, in addition to their normal operating costs. In addition, Yam, Badu, Darnley and Warraber Island Councils upgraded or constructed new BRACS buildings to house their BRACS equipment.

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 \$389,521 under this program during 2000-2001 for the provision of a legal service to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region.

Achievements

The principal achievement of this program has been the availability of adequate legal representation for people living in the Torres Strait region at the Magistrate Courts of both Thursday Island and Bamaga. 100% expenditure was achieved.

In 2000-2001, the Torres Strait Northern Peninsula (TSNP) Legal Service gave preliminary legal advice and consultations to 1,345 clients, gave assistance in 498 civil cases and represented 847 criminal cases. They also gave 122 brief outs in Cairns and continued a program of intensive legal and office training for their staff, including several sessions on dealing with clients.

PROGRAM — HERITAGE, CULTURE & 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 element 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 & Culture

Funding

In 2000–2001, the TSRA committed a total of \$202,035 for the support of artistic and cultural activities in the Torres Strait region.

Achievements

In 2000–2001, the TSRA provided the Thursday Island State Primary School with \$12,000 in support of its annual program of traditional dancing in Queensland and interstate, as well as \$20,000 to the Thursday Island High School as a contribution towards the Rock Eisteddfod Festival.

The TSRA also provided: \$8,700 to the TRAWQ Council; \$7,000 to the Boigu Island Council to send school children to Cairns Pacific Cultural Festival; \$2,020 to the Kubin Island Council for participation in an Indigenous Art Award in Canberra; \$3,415 for the Mualgal Artists' participation in the Sydney Exhibition; \$5,000 to the local indigenous artist Rosie Barkus to participate in an Indigenous Art Award in Canberra where she collected warm accolades; \$2,500 to Dauan Island Council to partially subsidise an art student tour of Italy; \$8,065 for the reconstruction of a traditional war canoe; \$12,000 for the Frank Cook Dance Troupe; \$6,500 for the Laifoo Art Exhibition; \$10,000 for Torres Strait Islanders' participation in the South Pacific Festival of Arts; \$10,000 for the Thursday Island Ambassadors for the Lord; and a \$10,000 contribution to the Torres Strait Veterans Remembrance ceremonies.

The TSRA thus maintains itself as the logical source of assistance to local individuals and organisations for whom the maintenance and development of the region's cultural, historic and artistic heritage is a high priority.

b) Environment

Fisheries

Funding

An amount of \$80,900 was allocated for the funding of a Cultural Maritime Summit.

From a grant of \$200,000 received from Environment Australia and rolled over from previous years, the TSRA disbursed funds in 2000–2001 to:

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	\$ 9,761 (final)
James Cook University	8,075 (final)
Consumables & Freight	<u>1,348.55</u>
	19,184.55

Achievements

The Cultural Maritime Summit took place at the TRAWQ Community Hall and over 100 persons attended. The meeting was extremely successful in bringing to the participants an awareness of the issues at hand, namely the economic and cultural significance of marine resources for the people of the Torres Strait, and setting up the stage for a second, follow-up meeting on Badu Island, attended by the Commonwealth Minister responsible for fisheries, the Hon. Wilson Tuckey. Following on from these meetings the TSRA is negotiating to establish a Torres Strait fisheries consultative structure jointly funded by the TSRA and the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments (see the Chairperson's report).

Torres Strait Heavy Metals (Research) Project

The purpose of the grants to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, James Cook University and Consumables & Freight was to fund the continuation of the Torres Strait Heavy Metals (Research) Project. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, James Cook University, Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), Australian Institute of Marine Science and the TSRA are jointly undertaking this project. The TSRA received a report on the first stage of the project (bivalve analysis for heavy metals) before 30 June 2000, which is to be published. Environment Australia has received interim reports on the project. The project research has been completed and a final report is due in August 2001.

Verbal advice from the researchers indicates that heavy metals found in marine animals are not in concentrations that cause harm to human health. Further monitoring in a cyclical fashion will be recommended.

Gas Pipeline

The TSRA Environmental Officer and the Gas Pipeline Reference Group negotiated, on behalf of the TSRA and the ICC, with the former project principal, Chevron Asiatic, to ensure that the appropriate environment and cultural studies were conducted to determine whether the implementation of the pipeline would have an adverse effect on the Torres Strait region and its people. The studies have been satisfactorily conducted and from the results the TSRA has determined what community benefits are appropriate for Torres Strait Islanders.

As at 30 June 2001, the project is on hold, with ownership now passed to Exxon of the United States with the retention of AGL-Petronas as constructors.

Indigenous Protected Area and Marine Protected Area

An Indigenous Protected Area has been declared at Warul Kawa (Deliverance Island). It is the first such site in the Torres Strait and also the first in a maritime environment in Australia. The TSRA has been working cooperatively with Environment Australia and the ICC to complete interim reporting on the feasibility of introducing a Marine Protected Area in the Torres Strait.

Community Based Management Model

The introduction of a Torres Strait Community Based Management model – ‘Straitcare’, to ensure the sustainability of the ocean’s resources through a management program that involves the island communities, has been progressed.

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) intends to progress community based management of traditional fisheries species late in 2001. In conjunction with AFMA the TSRA, through its Torres Strait Fisheries Coordinator, will play a leading role in furthering the TSRA policy of enhancing all fisheries’ sustainability using community based resources.

Oil Spills and Shipping Accident

Interacting with the Queensland Department of Transport and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, the TSRA is striving to ensure that community residents are educated about oil spill management on the outer islands.

The TSRA is pleased to report that it was successful in extending a shipping risk enquiry to include the Torres Strait in February 2001. Representatives from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and the Queensland Department of Transport (Marine Operations) visited Coconut and Yorke Islands in central Torres Strait. The group met with island councils and residents and discussed oil spill risk and navigational aspects of the shipping routes in Torres Strait.

The visitors also met with TSRA, ICC and Coastwatch representatives on Thursday Island to discuss the matter. It was agreed that an oil spill response exercise would be conducted in central Torres Strait in 2002. The TSRA expressed concerns regarding the preparedness of Papua New Guinea to respond under its contingency plan for spills in northern Torres Strait.

Research Projects

The TSRA has been prioritising research projects for all fisheries (commercial and traditional) in the Torres Strait, working cooperatively with AFMA in regard to local implementation of fisheries management in Torres Strait.

Input to Environmental Committees

Working cooperatively with Environment Australia, the TSRA is arranging the inclusion of Torres Strait Islanders on the Indigenous Advisory Committee.

On a quarterly basis the TSRA provides input to the Reef Advisory Committee on matters of mutual concern regarding the conservation and protection of biodiversity in reef areas.

MaSTERS (A Marine Strategy for the Torres Strait)

The documentation for the Marine Strategy for Torres Strait (MaSTERS) has been completed. The strategy is available for perusal on CDs distributed by the TSRA. It can also be viewed on the TSRA website (www.tsra.gov.au).

Research Protocols

Protocols for research in the Torres Strait were developed in consultation with the TSRA Native Title Office in 1999–2000 and a brochure containing this information was distributed to research institutions and professional organisations throughout Australia. The brochures are available at the TSRA office and the information can be viewed on the TSRA website.

Water Quality and Coastal Development (WQ&CD)

The TSRA provided a representative to attend Reef Advisory Committee (RAC) meetings concerning WQ&CD, which were sponsored by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA).

The meetings set out to provide advice to the GBRMPA relating to the amelioration of land-sourced impacts on water quality in the Great Barrier Reef (GBR).

Torres Strait immediately adjoins the GBR and people are concerned about the impacts of shipping and mining sourcing from Papua New Guinea. The TSRA is mindful of impacts of island community developments and is working cooperatively with State agencies to ensure any risks to the marine environment, caused by infrastructure upgrades, are minimised.

Islands' Erosion

Island leaders are expressing concern about the extent of erosion in the central islands of the Torres Strait, particularly Coconut and Yorke Islands. They plan to reduce the risks of sea erosion to their communities and have sought assistance.

Representatives from five islands, Saibai, Boigu, Yorke, Coconut and Warraber, have formed a Working Group to progress action regarding these problems. The TSRA is concerned that the future rising of the sea level over the years will seriously impact on the islands and their infrastructure. The Working Group has requested assistance from southern government agencies to address these concerns.

PROGRAMS — SOCIAL

The TSRA has two social programs:

- a. Youth Support & Sports
- b. Women's Issues.

Objective

To ensure that the rights and wellbeing of indigenous women, youth, the disabled and aged are respected and are commensurate with the norm applied in the wider Australian community.

To reduce the incidence of drug abuse, domestic violence, neglect and other symptoms of social dysfunction affecting the indigenous population of the Torres Strait region.

To promote the social and physical wellbeing 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 centres and sporting associations for women, youth, disabled and aged people. It also provides funding for the hosting of sporting events and associated travel requirements, as well as the construction and upgrading of sporting and community facilities and equipment.

In 2000–2001, the TSRA committed a total of \$1,420,454 under this program, achieving 74% expenditure, and comprising the following grants:

a) Youth Support and Sports

Funding

- \$136,984 to the Port Kennedy Association (PKA) to assist in meeting the costs of their operations;
- \$64,056 to the Youth Activities Services (YAS) as a contribution towards the costs of their operations, including a contribution of \$20,000 towards the replacement of their bus and participation in a youth festival in Brisbane.

- \$257,793 to the Torres Strait Youth & Recreational Sporting Association (TSYRSA) as a 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. In addition, this organisation received separate grants of: \$30,000 for the organisation of the 2000 Torres Strait Games; \$58,300 to ensure the participation of a selection of Rugby League players representing the Torres Strait in the 2000 Pacific Cup Tournament on the Gold Coast; and \$29,462 towards the participation of various Torres Strait sporting associations at the Arafura Games in Darwin.
- \$185,000 was committed to cater for the construction of a Sports Complex on Hammond Island; however, the funds had to be rolled over into 2001–2002.
- \$16,650 was allocated to Badu Island Council for the re-surfacing of their football oval.
- \$30,000 was allocated to Boigu Island Council and \$80,000 to Saibai Island Council for erecting a cover on their basketball courts.
- \$50,000 was allocated to St Pauls Community Council to finalise the construction of the St Pauls Sports Stadium.
- A second round of \$60,000 to the Coconut Island Council to improve and expand its sporting facility was rolled over into 2001–2002 as the sought State contribution was late.
- A further \$145,000 was committed to the Yam Island Council to upgrade the community's sports oval, in addition to the \$70,000 rolled over from the previous year. The project started in 2000–2001 and is due for completion in 2001–2002.
- \$60,000 was allocated to the Seisia Island Council for commencing the construction of a sports complex, using CDEP labour.
- \$3,000 was allocated to the ICC towards the costs of participation in a youth conference in Sydney.

Achievements

The Port Kennedy Association operations include a playgroup and a youth social worker, and the organisation continues to operate a social enrichment program. The association also operates a Child Care Centre, which opened during 1997–98.

The activities of the Youth Activity Services are more modest, as reflected by their budget. However, the services rendered (mostly games, excursions, counselling) are very valuable as they address the young, unemployed, school age adolescents and other 'groups at risk'.

The Torres Strait Youth Recreation Sporting Association (TSYRSA) received a total of \$392,555, and the funding enabled various sporting codes (including indoor volleyball, darts, basketball and Rugby League football) to be conducted through their specific sporting associations, coaching clinics and competitions (including the annual 'State of Origin' Rugby League tournament). From this funding contributions were made to outer islands' sports infrastructure, school sports meetings and sporting exchanges. As in previous years, the TSYRSA employed a full-time administrator and fulfilled its role as an umbrella organisation for the sporting activities taking place in the Torres Strait, notably the annual Rugby League tournaments organised at Badu and on Thursday Island itself. Torres Strait Rugby League and other sporting teams successfully participated in the Pacific Cup 2000 Tournament, the 2000 Torres Strait Games and the Arafura Games.

The various capital funding allocations to the outer islands listed above have met their objectives, with the exception of those funds, which, for some reason or other, had to be rolled over into the 2001–2002 financial year.

During the financial year 2000–2001 there was again a significant development and increased

presence of sport in the Torres Strait. The main sport is still Rugby League, but other codes, such as Australian Rules and Rugby Union, are making good inroads in the community and sporting events are very well attended. Major upgrades of the sporting facilities available on Thursday Island as well as on the outer islands have greatly facilitated this process.

b) Women's Issues

Funding

In 2000–2001, a grant of \$144,209 was provided to the Mura Kosker Sorority, an organisation formed to address the issues affecting Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal women living in the Torres Strait region.

Achievements

Mura Kosker Sorority is the principal community based service provider to women and their families within the Torres Strait region. The main services provided are protection of and support to victims of domestic violence, care for the aged and disabled, counselling, refuge facilities, and child care assistance. The organisation is working closely with the TSRA Portfolio Member for Women Issues and the project staff.

Mura Kosker's corporate performance, however, has deteriorated further as the organisation is still beset by administrative difficulties stemming mainly from insufficient administrative funds to cater for the various programs (mostly State Government funded) that it conducts. These programs include Home and Community Care (HACC), Old Peoples Action Program (OPAP), Victims of Violence Program (Lena Passi Womens Shelter) and Emergency Relief Funding (ERF). The main problem is that the State funded projects do not include any significant administrative component, resulting in a series of ad hoc measures designed to keep the organisation and the programs running. In the year 2000–2001 the organisation struggled to maintain operations and the State agencies are currently reconsidering their program funding. A series of meetings involving the TSRA and the main program funding agencies are planned throughout 2001–2002.

OUTPUT FIVE – HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE

PROGRAM — HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The aim of the Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure output is 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 the health standard by providing appropriate and sustainable infrastructure as well as ensuring that adequate environmental health programs are implemented.

This output has one program, Housing and Environmental Health, which is comprised of 2 subprograms:

- a. Environmental Health
- b. Community Housing

SUBPROGRAM — ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Objective

Through the implementation of two projects – the Water Upgrade Stage 2 and the Major

Infrastructure Program (MIP), both of which address the various infrastructure needs of the Torres Strait communities, the TSRA aims to improve the health status and general wellbeing of Torres Strait Islanders living in the region. The TSRA also aims to improve the standard of safety for passengers travelling to and from island communities by aircraft through the upgrade of airstrips.

Water Upgrade Stage 2

Description

The completion of Stage 2 of the Water Upgrade Project has ensured that all 15 outer island communities have access to a minimum of 250 litres of healthy water per person per day. Previously a number of these communities had experienced severe water shortages during long dry seasons – particularly in 1997. The project was jointly funded by the TSRA (\$14.2m) and the Queensland Government (\$7m) through the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development (DATSIPD). In 2000–2001 the TSRA contributed a further \$2.2m as part of its overall commitment of \$14.2m.

Achievements

Stage 2 of the Water Upgrade Project was implemented between January 1998 and September 2000. It comprised works in eight communities (Boigu, Dauan, Hammond, Kubin, Murray, Stephen, St Pauls and Yorke Islands) and follows on from the Stage 1 works that were completed on seven Torres Strait islands. By 2000–2001 all water supply facilities under Stage 2 were completed and in the defect rectification period.

A summary of works Completed

Community	Works
Boigu	New 20ML covered storage and 180kL/day desalination plant
Dauan	New harvesting wells, 6ML covered storage and 250kL concrete reservoir
Hammond	Undersea pipeline from Thursday Island, new harvesting wells and 490kL reservoir
Mer	New 20ML covered storage, delivery mains and 180kL/day desalination plant
Stephen	New 4ML covered storage and upgrades to bores
Kubin	New harvesting weir, 30ML uncovered storage, and 490kL reservoir. Upgrades to harvesting well.
St Pauls	New 32ML uncovered storage, harvesting wells and 750kKL reservoir.
Yorke	New 24ML covered storage. Provision for desalination augmentation. Upgrades to harvesting wells

Major Infrastructure Program (MIP)

Description

The Major Infrastructure Program seeks to improve the infrastructure standards in the 15 outer island communities as well as Bamaga and Seisia. The TSRA and the Queensland Government jointly funded infrastructure projects amounting to \$30m in the region from 1999 to 2001.

The TSRA appointed consulting firm Ove Arup and Partners to manage the program; Ove Arup appointed a panel of consultants to manage the individual projects. The consultants completed

extensive consultations with the Torres Strait Islander communities and produced detailed planning reports. These reports identified the numerous health-related infrastructure requirements of the 17 Torres Strait communities. The 2000–2001 financial year marked the official end of the first stage of the MIP, although there are some works due to be finished in 2001–2002. The Queensland Government has confirmed additional matching funding for the second stage of the MIP, to provide a combined total of \$30.6m over 2001–2002 through 2003–2004.

Achievements

In the 2000–2001 financial year many works were completed in the island communities. This was the final year of the MIP's first three-year stage.

Summary of Works

Community	Infrastructure	Status
Seisia	Upgrade septic systems in the community, and provide improved facilities within the local campground.	Complete
Hammond	Conversion of all pan toilets to septic systems, including the provision of new w/cs where required.	Complete
Boigu	Provision of a reticulated sewerage system, including a package treatment plant and ocean outfall, and provision of facilities at all houses.	Complete
Saibai	Provision of a reticulated sewerage system, including a package treatment plant and ocean outfall, and provision of necessary facilities at all houses.	Complete
	Upgrade of the reticulated water system including enlarging the lagoon and replacing the lagoon liner and cover. Includes connecting pipework to the existing main and level monitoring and control equipment at the lagoon and reservoir sites.	50% Complete
Dauan	Water reticulation works.	Complete
Coconut	Extension of water reticulation system and provision of water bores for use with the mobile desalination plant.	
	Conversion of all pan toilets to septic systems, including the provision of new w/cs where required.	Complete
Warraber	Conversion of all pan toilets to septic systems, including the provision of new w/cs where required.	Complete
Yam	Provision of a reticulated sewerage system, including a package treatment plant and ocean outfall, and provision of necessary facilities at all houses.	Complete
	Reticulated water supply, the provision of a new reservoir (2ML concrete tank) and two new bores for use with the desalination plant.	
	Also includes the upgrade of the desalination plant to 180kL/day.	80% Complete

Yorke	Conversion of all pan toilets to septic systems, including the provision of new w/cs or ablutions where required. Disposal of grey water into separate trenches.	Complete
	Some minor upgrade works on Yorke water reticulation.	Complete
Kubin	Conversion of all pan toilets to septic systems, including the provision of new w/cs where required.	Complete
St Pauls	Conversion of all pan toilets to septic systems, including the provision of new w/cs where required.	Complete
	Extension of water reticulation system (works by Council)	Complete
Badu	Water – provision of 3 new wells (and access road), associated pipelines, a new water treatment plant, and new reservoir (1.8ML concrete tank)	Complete
	Drainage – stage 1 of surface drainage works, designed to dispose of ponding water in low lying areas.	Complete
	Conversion of all pan toilets to septic systems, including the provision of new w/cs where required.	Complete
Mabuiag	Conversion of all pan toilets to septic systems, including the provision of new w/c's where required.	Complete
Darnley	Conversion of all pan toilets to septic systems, including the provision of new w/cs or ablutions where required.	Complete
	Upgrade of water treatment plant and reservoir.	At tender
Stephen	Conversion of all pan toilets to septic systems, including the provision of new w/cs where required.	Complete
Murray	Provision of a reticulated sewerage system, including a package treatment plant and ocean outfall and provision of necessary facilities at all houses.	Complete
	Upgrade works to water reticulation system.	Design stage
Regional	Each community continuing with septic systems will have ready access to a septic pump-out truck.	Badu & Darnley units supplied

Airstrips

Description

In 2000–2001 the TSRA contributed \$300,000 to the Queensland Department of Transport towards the cost of an airstrip upgrade on Mabuiag Island.

Achievements

The Mabuiag upgrade was completed in 2000–2001.

SUBPROGRAM — COMMUNITY HOUSING

Objective

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

Description

In 2000–2001 the Bilateral Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement continued to foster Commonwealth/State cooperation in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing and related infrastructure issues, as it outlines a framework within which the delivery of housing and infrastructure programs will be planned and coordinated, thereby rendering it more efficient.

As a result of the bilateral agreement the Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee (JTSHIC) was formed, with TSRA Chairperson, Mr Terry Waia, taking on the role of Chairperson. The chief purpose of JTSHIC is to plan and coordinate housing and related infrastructure to achieve equitable outcomes for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region. The committee has the role of providing direction for and overseeing the implementation of the Major Infrastructure Program.

Achievements

The TSRA has been negotiating with the Torres Shire Council for approval of sub-division development at a site on Green Hill, Thursday Island, which will be purchased from the Department of Finance and Administration. The sale should proceed to settlement by December 2001. It is envisaged that this site will be utilised to provide appropriate private and/or rental housing for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region.

OUTPUT SIX – POLICY AND INFORMATION

Objective

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

Achievements

The TSRA advised the Minister on matters relating to Torres Strait Islander affairs and Aboriginal affairs in the Torres Strait area, including the administration of legislation and co-ordination of the activities of other Commonwealth bodies.

During the year the administration provided 33 briefing papers for the Board's consideration. The Board made 57 formal decisions. A total of 46 items of correspondence, including ministerials, were prepared for the Minister.

A Public Relations Officer produced press releases, regular newsletters, an annual report and information brochures. A website and Service Charter were also maintained.



TORRES STRAIT
REGIONAL AUTHORITY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
2000-2001



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Minister for Reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Scope

I have audited the financial statements of the Torres Strait Regional Authority for the year ended 30 June 2001. The financial statements comprise:

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

The members of the Authority are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to you.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards, to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Audit procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements in Australia so as to present a view of the entity which is consistent with my understanding of its financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

GPO Box 707 CANBERRA ACT 2601
Centenary House 19 National Circuit
BARTON ACT
Phone (02) 6203 7300 Fax (02) 6203 7777

Audit Opinion

In my opinion,

- 1) the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (Financial Statements 2000-2001) Orders; and
- 2) the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and Schedule 1 of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (Financial Statements 2000-2001) Orders, of the financial position of the Torres Strait Regional Authority as at 30 June 2001 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Edward M. Hay
Group Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
31 August 2001

TORRES STRAIT
REGIONAL AUTHORITY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
2000 – 2001

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**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT BY DIRECTORS**

In our opinion, the attached financial statements give a true and fair view of the matters required by Schedule 1 to the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* for the year ended 30 June 2001.

Signed: 

Mr T. Waia
Chairperson

31 August 2001

Signed: 

Ms M. Mau
Deputy Chairperson

31 August 2001

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

For the year ended 30 June 2001

	Notes	2001 \$000	2000 \$000
Revenues from ordinary activities			
Revenues from government	4A	46,043	44,352
Interest	4B	378	459
Other	4C	171	159
Total revenues from ordinary activities		46,592	44,970
Expenses from ordinary activities			
Employees	5A	1,837	2,073
Suppliers	5B	2,748	1,939
Grants	6	39,923	36,433
Depreciation and amortisation	5C	472	466
Write-down of assets	5D	313	144
Total expenses from ordinary activities		45,293	41,055
Net surplus (deficit)		1,299	3,915
Net surplus attributable to the Commonwealth		1,299	3,915
Net credit (debit) to asset revaluation reserve	8C	(109)	–
Total revenues, expenses and valuation adjustments recognised directly in equity		(109)	(3,915)
Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners		1,190	3,915

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 30 June 2001

	Notes	2001 \$000	2000 \$000
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash	7A	4,726	6,876
Receivables	7B	5,404	5,364
Total financial assets		10,130	12,240
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings	8A,C	8,733	8,972
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	8B,C	426	668
Total non-financial assets		9,159	9,640
Total assets		19,289	21,880
LIABILITIES			
Provisions			
Employees	9	628	699
Total provision		628	699
Payables			
Suppliers	10A	103	463
Grants	10B	2,822	3,206
Other	10C	289	1,311
Total payables		3,214	4,980
Total liabilities		3,842	5,679
EQUITY			
Reserves	11	1,089	1,198
Accumulated Surplus	11	14,358	15,003
Total entity		15,447	16,201
Current liabilities		3,755	5,493
Non-current liabilities		87	186
Current assets		6,277	10,695
Non-current assets		13,012	11,185

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

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 30 June 2001

	Notes	2001 \$000	2000 \$000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriations		46,043	44,352
Sales of goods and services		–	117
Interest		378	154
GST received from taxation authority		4,509	–
Other		166	343
Total cash received		51,096	44,966
Cash used			
Grants		(44,338)	(35,762)
Employees		(1,908)	(1,898)
Suppliers		(3,739)	(1,556)
Total cash used		(49,985)	(39,216)
Net cash from operating activities	12	1,111	5,750
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		5	4
Repayments of loans		913	745
Total cash received		918	749
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(100)	(1,162)
Loans made		(2,135)	(1,301)
Total cash used		(2,235)	(2,463)
Net cash from investing activities		(1,317)	(1,714)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash used			
Capital use charge paid		(1,944)	(1,619)
Total cash used		(1,944)	(1,619)
Net cash from financing activities		(1,944)	(1,619)
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(2,150)	2,417
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period		6,876	4,459
Cash at the end of the reporting period	7A	4,726	6,876

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

SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS

as at 30 June 2001

	Notes	2001 \$000	2000 \$000
BY TYPE			
Other Commitments			
Operating Leases ¹		106	96
Total other commitments			
Commitments receivable		(10)	–
Net Commitments		96	96
Operating lease commitments			
One year or less		36	33
From one to two years		26	22
From two to five years		34	41
Net operating lease commitments		96	96

NB: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

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

SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES

as at 30 June 2001

There are no contingencies as at 30 June 2001.

¹ Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:
Nature of Lease: General description of leasing arrangement.
Motor Vehicles – Senior Executives:
– no contingent rentals exist;
– there are no renewal or purchase options available to the Agency.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

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1	Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
2	Reporting by segments and outcomes
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4	Operating Revenues
5	Operating Expenses – Goods and Services
6	Operating Expenses – Grants
7	Financial Assets
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9	Provisions
10	Payables
11	Equity
12	Cash Flow Reconciliation
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14	Related Party Disclosures
15	Remuneration of Officers
16	Remuneration of Auditors
17	Financial Instruments
18	Appropriations
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NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2001

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:

- Schedule 1 to Order made by the Finance Minister for the preparation of Financial Statements in to financial years ending on or after 30 June 2001;
- Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations issued by Australian Accounting Standards Boards;
- other authoritative pronouncements of the Boards; and
- Consensus Views of the Urgent Issues Group.

The statements have been prepared having regard to:

- Statements of Accounting Concepts; and
- the Explanatory Notes to Schedule 1 issued by the Department of Finance and Administration; and
- Guidance Notes issued by that Department.

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

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. Assets and liabilities arising under agreements equally proportionately unperformed are however not

recognised unless required by an Accounting Standard. Liabilities and assets which are unrecognised are reported in the Schedule of Commitments and the Schedule of Contingencies.

Revenues and expenses are recognised in the TSRA 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 1999–2000.

1.3 Reporting by Outcomes

A comparison of Budget and Actual figures by outcome specified in the Appropriation Acts relevant to the Authority is presented in Note 2. Any intra-government costs included in the figure ‘net cost to Budget outcomes’ are eliminated in calculating the actual budget outcome for the Government overall.

1.4 Revenue

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

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

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

Revenues from Government – Output Appropriation

Appropriation for outputs are recognised as revenue to the extent they have been received into the TSRA’s Bank account or are entitled to be received by the TSRA at year end.

Resources Received Free of Charge

Services received free of charge are recognised as revenue when and only when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

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

Employee Entitlements

(a) Leave

The liability for employee entitlements includes provision for annual leave, vesting sick leave and long service leave.

The liabilities for annual leave and vesting sick leave reflect the value of total leave entitlements of all employees at 30 June 2001 and are recognised at their nominal amounts.

The non-current portion of 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 2001. In determining the present value of the liability, attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

(b) Separation and redundancy

Provision is made for separation and redundancy payments in circumstances where TSRA has formally identified positions as excess to requirements and a reliable estimate of the amount of the payments can be determined.

(c) Superannuation

Employees contribute to the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme and the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme. Employer contributions amounting to \$172,350 (1999–2000: \$158,543) for the TSRA in relation to these schemes have been expensed in these financial statements.

No liability for superannuation benefit is recognised as at 30 June as the employer contributions fully extinguish the accruing liability which is assumed by the Commonwealth.

Employer Superannuation Productivity Benefit contributions totalled \$54,274 (1999–2000: \$46,013) for the TSRA.

1.6 Leases

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

Where a non-current asset is acquired by means of a finance lease, the asset is capitalised at the present value of minimum lease payments at the inception of the lease and a liability recognised for the same amount. Leased assets are amortised over the period of the lease. Lease payments are allocated between the principal component and the interest expense.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

1.7 Grant Liabilities

Most grant agreements require the grantee to perform services or provide facilities, or to meet eligibility criteria. In these cases, liabilities are recognised only to the extent that the services required have been performed or the eligibility criteria have been satisfied by the grantee. (Where grants money are paid in advance of performance or eligibility, a prepayment is recognised).

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.

1.9 Financial Instruments

Accounting policies for financial instruments are stated at Note 18.

1.10 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 consideration, are initially recognised as assets and revenues at their fair value at the date of acquisition.

1.11 Property (Land, Buildings and 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).

Revaluations

Land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment are revalued progressively in accordance with the “deprival” method of valuation in successive 3-year cycles, so that no asset has a value greater than three years old.

Freehold land, buildings on freehold land and leasehold improvements are each revalued progressively. The current cycles commenced in 2000-01.

In accordance with the deprival methodology, land is measured at its current market buying price. Property other than land, plant and equipment are measured at their depreciated replacement costs. Where assets are held which would not be replaced or are surplus to requirements, measurement is at net realisable value. At 30 June 2001, TSRA has no assets in this situation.

All valuations are independent.

Depreciation and amortisation

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

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

	2000–2001	1999–2000
Buildings on freehold land	50 years	50 years
Plant and equipment	3 to 5 years	3 to 5 years

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

1.12 Taxation

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

1.13 Capital Usage Charge

A capital usage charge of 12% is imposed by the Commonwealth on the net assets of the Authority. The charge is adjusted to take account of asset gifts and revaluation increments during the financial year.

1.14 Insurance

The TSRA has insured for risks through the Government’s insurable risk managed fund, called “Comcover”. Workers compensation is insured through Comcare Australia.

1.15 Comparative Figures

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

1.16 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. Reporting by Segments and Outcomes

Reporting by segments

The TSRA operates primarily in a single industry and geographic segment, being the administration of government programs in the Torres Strait Region.

The Authority is structured to meet one outcome:

Outcome 1: To achieve a better quality of life and to develop an economic base for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait.

Reporting by Outcomes for 2000–2001

	Outcome 1	
	Budget 2000–2001 \$000	Actual 2000–2001 \$000
Net cost of entity outputs	46,963	47,237
Net cost to budget outcome	46,043	46,822
Outcome specific assets	18,307	19,289
Assets that are not outcome specific	–	–

(1) A net amount of \$1.221m was lent to eligible indigenous residents in the Torres Strait to buy houses or for investment in business enterprises during the year. The net lending is not shown as expenses in the Operating Statement of Financial Performance or as an expense in the above tables.

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. Operating Revenues

	2001 \$000	2000 \$000
<u>Note 4A – Revenues from Government</u>		
Appropriations for outputs	46,043	44,352
Total	46,043	44,352
<u>Note 4B – Interest</u>		
Loans	96	154
Deposits	282	305
Total	378	459
<u>4C – Other Revenues</u>		
Rent	131	117
Other	40	42
Total	171	159

Note 5. Operating Expenses – Goods and Services

	2001	2000
	\$000	\$000
<u>5A – Employee expenses</u>		
Remuneration (for services provided)	1,830	2,017
Other employee expenses	7	56
Total	1,837	2,073

The Authority contributes to the Commonwealth Superannuation (CSS) and the Public Sector Superannuation (PSS) schemes which provide retirement, death and disability benefits to employees. Contributions to the schemes are at rates calculated to cover existing and emerging obligations. Current contribution rates are 21.1% of salary (CSS) and 11.1% of salary (PSS). An additional 3% is contributed for employer productivity benefits.

<u>5B – Suppliers expenses</u>		
Supply of goods and services	2,715	1,901
Operating lease rentals	33	38
Total	2,748	1,939

<u>5C – Depreciation and amortisation</u>		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	472	466

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

	2001	2000
	\$000	\$000
• Buildings on freehold land	142	152
• Plant and equipment	330	314
Total allocated	472	466
<u>5D – Write-down of assets</u>		
Financial assets:		
Receivables – doubtful debts	313	144

Note 6. Operating Expenses – Grants

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	39,923	36,433
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Note 7. Financial Assets

	2001 \$000	2000 \$000
<u>7A – Cash</u>		
Cash at bank and on hand	4,726	1,851
Term deposits	–	5,025
	<u>4,726</u>	<u>6,876</u>
Balance of cash as at 30 June shown in the Statement of Cash Flows	<u>4,726</u>	<u>6,876</u>
<u>7B – Receivables</u>		
Loans	5,659	5,496
Less: Provision of doubtful debts	(282)	(152)
	<u>5,377</u>	<u>5,344</u>
Other Debtors		
GST Receivable	11	–
Other Debtors	16	20
Total receivables	<u>5,404</u>	<u>5,364</u>
Receivables (gross) which are overdue are aged as follows:		
Not Overdue	3,402	3,819
Overdue by:		
– less than 30 days	699	99
– 30 to 60 days	352	272
– 60 to 90 days	157	108
– more than 90 days	1,076	1,218
	<u>2,284</u>	<u>1,697</u>
Total receivables (gross)	<u>5,686</u>	<u>5,516</u>

Note 8. Non-Financial Assets

<u>8A Land and Buildings</u>		
Freehold Land – at 1998–99 valuation	–	1,600
Freehold Land – at cost	–	58
Freehold Land – at 2000–01 valuation	1,695	–
Total Freehold Land	<u>1,695</u>	<u>1,658</u>
Buildings on freehold land – at cost	–	1,278
Accumulated depreciation	–	(25)
		<u>1,253</u>
Buildings on freehold land – at 1998–99 valuation	–	6,341
Accumulated depreciation	–	(280)
		<u>6,061</u>
Buildings on freehold land – at 2000–01 valuation	7,038	–
Total Buildings (net)	<u>7,038</u>	<u>7,314</u>
Total Land and Buildings	<u>8,733</u>	<u>8,972</u>

	2001	2000
	\$000	\$000
<u>8B Plant and equipment</u>		
Plant and equipment – at cost	1,509	1,419
Accumulated depreciation	(1,159)	(868)
	350	551
Infrastructure, plant and equipment – at 1998–99 valuation	275	275
Accumulated depreciation	(199)	(158)
	76	117
Total Plant and Equipment	426	668

The revaluations were completed by an independent valuer Neil V Teves (AAPI).

8C Analysis of Property, Plant and Equipment

TABLE A

Movement summary 2000-01 for all assets irrespective of valuation basis

Item	Land	Buildings on Freehold land	Total Land & Buildings	Plant & Equipment	TOTAL
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Gross value as at 1 July 2000	1,658	7,619	9,277	1,694	10,971
Additions – Purchase of Assets	–	12	12	88	100
Revaluations: write-ups (write-downs)	37	(146)	(109)	–	(109)
Disposals	–	–	–	(35)	(35)
Gross value as at 30 June 2001	1,695	7,485	9,180	1,747	10,927
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisations as at 1 July 2000	N/A	305	305	1,026	1,331
Depreciation/amortisation charge for the year	N/A	142	142	330	472
Revaluations: write-ups/(write-downs)	N/A	–	–	–	–
Assets transferred in/(outs)	N/A	–	–	–	–
Disposals	N/A	–	–	(35)	(35)
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation at 30 June 2001	N/A	447	447	1,321	1,768
Net Book value as at 30 June 2001	1,695	7,038	8,733	426	9,159
Net book value as at 1 July 2000	1,658	7,314	8,972	668	9,640

TABLE B – Summary of balances of assets at valuations at 30 June 2001

Item	Land	Buildings on Freehold land	Total Land & Buildings	Plant & Equipment	TOTAL
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
As at 30 June 2000					
Gross Value	1,695	7,485	9,180	1,747	10,927
Accumulated Depreciation	N/A	(447)	(447)	(1,321)	(1,768)
Net Book Value	1,695	7,038	8,733	426	9,159
As at 30 June 2000					
Gross Value	1,658	7,619	9,277	1,694	10,971
Accumulated Depreciation	N/A	(305)	(305)	(1,026)	(1,331)
Net Book Value	1,658	7,314	8,972	668	9,640

Note 9. Provisions

	2001	2000
	\$000	\$000
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries and wages	66	49
Superannuation	50	56
Long service leave	201	235
Annual leave	165	218
Personal leave	146	141
Aggregate employee entitlement liability	628	699

Note 10. Payables

<u>10A – Suppliers</u>		
Trade Creditors	103	463
<u>10B – Grants liabilities</u>		
Non-profit institutions	2,822	3,206
<u>10C – Other</u>		
Loan contracts	289	1,311

Note 11. Equity

Item	Accumulated surplus		Asset revaluation reserve		TOTAL EQUITY	
	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Balance 1 July 2000	15,003	12,707	1,198	1,198	16,201	13,905
Operating result	1,299	3,915	–	–	1,299	3,915
Net revaluation increase/ (Decrease)	–	–	(109)	–	(109)	–
Capital Use Charge	(1,944)	(1,619)	–	–	(1,944)	(1,619)
Balance 30 June 2001	14,358	15,003	1,089	1,198	15,447	16,201

Note 12. Cash Flow Reconciliation

	2001	2000
	\$000	\$000
Reconciliation of operating surplus to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Operating Surplus	1,299	3,915
Depreciation and amortisation of property, plant & equipment	472	466
Doubtful loans	313	144
Changes in assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(40)	(6)
Increase/(decrease) in liability to suppliers	(360)	396
Increase/(decrease) in employee provisions	(71)	176
Increase/(decrease) in grants payable	(384)	671
Other	(118)	(12)
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,111	5,750

Note 13. Director Remuneration

Aggregate amount of superannuation payments in connection with the retirement of directors	–	13
Other remuneration received or due and receivable by directors of the Authority	206	185
Total remuneration received or due and receivable by directors of the Authority	206	198

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

	2001	2000
	Number	
\$ Nil – \$10,000	18	22
\$10,001 – \$20,000	1	3
\$90,001 – \$100,000	–	–
\$100,001 – \$110,000	1	1
	20	26

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 2000 under the *Queensland Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984*. The other two are elected in accordance with the ATSIC Act 1989. The Chairperson receives a salary of \$107,349 per annum. 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	Mrs Margaret MAU
Mr Jack AHMAT	Mr Don MOSBY
Mr Ted BILLY	Mr Francis PEARSON
Mr Phillip BOWIE	Mr Saila SAVAGE
Mr Edward DAU	Mr Pedro STEPHEN
Mr Ron DAY	Mr Rocky STEPHEN (commenced 10/02/2001)
Mr Elia DOOLAH	Mr Terry WAIA (Chairperson)
Mr Joseph ELU	Mr Terrence WHAP
Mr Henry GARNIER	Mr Reg WILLIAMS
Mr Toshie KRIS	
Mr Getano LUI Jnr.	

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.

Loans

T. Billy	M. Mau
T. Kris	D. Mosby
R. Williams	

	2001	2000
	\$	\$
Loans to directors outstanding at year end	134,000	199,841
Loans to directors during period	29,156	17,041
Loan repayments during the reporting period	30,598	35,322
Loans to director related entities outstanding	54,747	48,185
Loans to director related entities during period	24,650	38,273
Loan repayments during the reporting period	15,128	18,173
Interest revenue included in operating result from loans to directors/director related entities	2,039	6,258

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	TSIMA	538,150
	TSNP Legal Services	401,521
	TRAWQ Community Council	1,826,820
J. Ahmat	Badu Island Community Council	3574,781
T. Billy	Warraber Island Community Council	1,188,469
R. Day	Murray Island Community Council	2,615,130
E. Dau	Boigu Island Community Council	1,314,574
E. Doolah	Darnley Island Community Council	1,781,946
J. Elu	Seisia Island Community Council	1,379,819
H. Garnier	Hammond Island Community Council	846,106
T. Kris	St Pauls Community Council	1,909,434
G. Lui	Yam Island Community Council	1,634,532
M. Mau	Dauan Island Community Council	942,382
D. Mosby	Yorke Island Community Council	2,052,509
F. Pearson	Coconut Island Community Council	1,239,679
S. Savage	Kubin Community Council	1,014,277
P. Stephen	Port Kennedy Association	160,263
R. Stephen	Stephen Island Council	60,829
T. Waia	Saibai Island Community Council	1,594,734
T. Whap	Mabuiag Island Community Council	1,274,080
R. Williams	Bamaga Island Community Council	2,569,349
*	Island Coordinating Council	9,711,993

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

Note 15. Remuneration of Officers

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
	\$	\$
Income received or due and receivable by officers	<u>113,687</u>	<u>93,321</u>

The number of officers who received or were due to receive total remuneration of \$90,001 or more

- \$90,001 – \$100,000

Number	Number
0	1

- (i) During the 2001 financial year the former general manager resigned from office mid-term.

The officer remuneration includes all officers concerned with or taking part in the management of the TSRA during 2000–2001.

Note 16. Remuneration of Auditors

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Remuneration to the Auditor-General for auditing the financial statements for the reporting period.	<u>\$32,800</u>	<u>\$29,477</u>

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

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.	
Deposits at call	8A	Deposits are recognised at their nominal amounts. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.	Temporarily surplus funds, mainly from monthly drawdowns of appropriation, are placed on deposit at call with the Authority's banker. Interest is earned on the daily balance at the prevailing daily rate for money on call and is paid at month end.
Receivables for goods & services	8B	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 (2000–2001: 14 days)
Loans	8B	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 repayments may be waived. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.	Loans are made secured for periods up to 10 years. Repayments of principal are made in full at maturity. Early settlement is an option for the parties. Effective interest rates on fixed rate loans average 1.75%.
<i>Financial Liabilities</i>		Financial liabilities are recognised when a present obligation to another party is entered into and the amount of the liability can be reliably measured.	
Trade Creditors	10A	Creditors and accruals are recognised at their nominal amounts, being the amounts at which the liabilities will be settled. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).	Settlement is usually made net 30 days.
Grant Liabilities	10B	Grant liabilities are recognised on the acceptance of grant agreements by the grantee. 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.

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			
		00-01 99-00 \$000 \$000	00-01 99-00 \$000 \$000	00-01 99-00 \$000 \$000	00-01 99-00 \$000 \$000	00-01 99-00 \$000 \$000	00-01 99-00 \$000 \$000	00-01 99-00	
Financial Assets (Recognised)									
Cash at Bank	7A	4,226 1,351	- -	- -	- -	- -	4,226 1,351	3.5 3	
Cash on Hand	7A	- -	- -	- -	- -	500 500	500 500	- -	
Deposits at call	7A	- -	- 5,025	- -	- -	- -	- 5,025	4.75	
Receivables for goods & services	7B	- -	- -	- -	- -	27 20	27 20	- -	
Loans	7B	- -	1,524 1,436	345 334	848 835	2,942 2,891	5,659 5,496	1.75 1.75	
Total Financial Assets (Recognised)		4,226 1,351	1,524 6,461	345 334	848 835	2,942 2,891	10,412 12,392		

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			
		00-01 \$000	99-00 \$000	99-00 \$000	99-00 \$000	99-00 \$000	99-00 \$000	99-00 %
Financial Liabilities (Recognised)								
Trade Creditors	10A	-	-	-	-	103 463	103 463	-
Grant Liabilities	10B	-	-	-	-	2,822 3,206	2,822 3,206	-
Loan Contracted	10C	-	-	-	-	289 1,311	289 1,311	-
Total Financial Liabilities (Recognised)		-	-	-	-	3,214 4,980	3,214 4,980	-
Total Liabilities		-	-	-	-	3,214 4,980	3,214 4,980	-

Note 17 Financial Instruments (continued)

Net Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities

	Note	2000-01		1999-00	
		Total carrying amount \$000	Aggregate net fair value \$000	Total carrying amount \$000	Aggregate net fair value \$000
Financial Assets					
Cash at bank	7A	4,226	4,226	1,851	1,851
Cash on hand	7A	500	500	1,851	1,851
Term deposit	7A	–	–	5,025	5,065
Receivables for goods & services	7B	27	27	20	20
Loans receivables	7B	5,659	5,659	5,496	5,344
Total Financial Assets		10,412	10,412	12,392	12,280
Financial Liabilities (Recognised)					
Trade creditors	10A	103	103	463	463
Grant Payables	10B	2,822	2,822	3,206	3,206
Loan contracted	10C	289	289	1,311	1,311
Total Financial Liabilities (Recognised)		3,214	3,214	4,980	4,980

Financial assets

The net fair values of cash, deposits on call and non-interest-bearing monetary financial assets approximate their carrying amounts.

The net fair values of the term deposit are based on discounted cash flows using current interest rates for asset with similar risk profiles.

Financial liabilities

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

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 Assets and Liabilities.

The economic entity has no significant exposures to any concentrations of credit risk.

All figures for credit risk referred to do not take into account the value of any collateral or other security.

Note 18. Appropriations

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
	<u>\$000</u>	<u>\$000</u>
The Authority received the following appropriations during the year out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.		
Annual Appropriations Acts Nos 1,3 – basic appropriation	<u>\$46,043</u>	<u>\$44,352</u>

Note 19. Employees

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Full time equivalent employees at year end	<u>36</u>	<u>32</u>

APPENDIX 1: TSRA GRANTS

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Badu Island Council	CDEP Wages	2,403,271
Badu Island Council	CDEP Operational	797,032
Badu Island Council	Contribution to Council operating costs	77,828
Badu Island Council	Community Training	161,000
Badu Island Council	BRACS	16,500
Badu Island Council	3 Vehicles	62,500
Badu Island Council	Turf resurfacing	16,650
Badu Island Council	Community Hall Upgrade	40,000
Bamaga Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,735,558
Bamaga Island Council	CDEP Operational	514,214
Bamaga Island Council	Contribution to Council operating costs	78,387
Bamaga Island Council	Community Training	148,500
Bamaga Island Council	BRACS	31,500
Bamaga Island Council	Bobcat & attachments	61,190
Boigu Island Council	CDEP Wages	851,428
Boigu Island Council	CDEP Operational	263,535
Boigu Island Council	Contribution to Council operating costs	47,111
Boigu Island Council	Community Training	52,000
Boigu Island Council	BRACS	16,500
Boigu Island Council	Bobcat	47,000
Boigu Island Council	Basketball Court Cover	30,000
Boigu Island Council	Dance Team Tour	7,000
Coconut Island Council	CDEP Wages	789,421
Coconut Island Council	CDEP Operational	250,680
Coconut Island Council	Contribution to Council operating costs	40,078
Coconut Island Council	Community Training	52,000
Coconut Island Council	BRACS	31,500
Coconut Island Council	4x4 dual cab-Tractor	76,000
Darnley Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,121,789
Darnley Island Council	CDEP Operational	500,101
Darnley Island Council	Contribution to Council operating costs	44,835

Darnley Island Council	Community Training	34,335
Darnley Island Council	BRACS	31,500
Darnley Island Council	Contribution to Vehicles	49,386
Dauan Island Council	CDEP Wages	509,085
Dauan Island Council	CDEP Operational	188,164
Dauan Island Council	Contribution to Council operating costs	37,887
Dauan Island Council	Community Training	57,000
Dauan Island Council	BRACS	16,500
Dauan Island Council	14 seater Bus	50,000
Dauan Island Council	Contribution to Ferry	6,250
Dauan Island Council	Art Student to Rome	2,500
Dauan Island Council	Guest House	75,000
Hammond Island Council	CDEP Wages	522,201
Hammond Island Council	CDEP Operational	160,692
Hammond Island Council	Contribution to Council operating costs	39,213
Hammond Island Council	Community Training	46,000
Hammond Island Council	Grader, Excavator	78,000
Island Coordinating Council	Contribution to Operating Costs	363,728
Island Coordinating Council	Community Training (FAIP)	200,000
Island Coordinating Council	UPS for BRACS comm.	59,765
Island Coordinating Council	8 Cultural programs	68,500
Island Coordinating Council	Mura Kosker Grant Controller	5,000
Island Coordinating Council	NAHS (Water Upgrade)	2,200,000
Island Coordinating Council	Contribution Bamaga Airstrip	70,000
Island Coordinating Council	TSRA/Qld. Govt. MIP	6,550,000
Island Coordinating Council	Native Title contracts	195,000
Kubin Island Council	CDEP Wages	665,947
Kubin Island Council	CDEP Operational	157,182
Kubin Island Council	Contribution to Council operating costs	39,213
Kubin Island Council	Community Training	50,000
Kubin Island Council	BRACS	16,500
Kubin Island Council	Backhoe	80,000
Kubin Island Council	Art Award & Travel	5,435
Mabuiag Island Council	CDEP Wages	652,331

Mabuiag Island Council	CDEP Operational	220,824
Mabuiag Island Council	Contribution to Council operating costs	52,897
Mabuiag Island Council	Community Training	16,091
Mabuiag Island Council	BRACS	20,625
Mabuiag Island Council	Seafood enterprise	11,312
Mabuiag Island Council	Airstrip Upgrade	300,000
Mer Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,350,410
Mer Island Council	CDEP Operational	382,447
Mer Island Council	Contribution to Council operating costs	52,993
Mer Island Council	Community Training	67,000
Mer Island Council	BRACS	16,500
Mer Island Council	Roller/Grader	45,000
Mer Island Council	Rollover Freezer	200,330
Mer Island Council	Sewerage project (ex-MIP)	500,000
Mura Kosker Sorority	Contribution to Operating Costs	139,209
Port Kennedy Association	Contribution to Operating Costs	136,984
Port Kennedy Association	Community Training	23,279
Saibai Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,041,306
Saibai Island Council	CDEP Operational	295,673
Saibai Island Council	Contribution to Operating Costs	47,255
Saibai Island Council	Community Training	57,000
Saibai Island Council	BRACS	16,500
Saibai Island Council	Tractor & Rubbish Trailer	57,000
Saibai Island Council	Basketball Court Cover	80,000
Seisia Island Council	CDEP Wages	886,871
Seisia Island Council	CDEP Operational	273,176
Seisia Island Council	Contribution to Council operating costs	36,272
Seisia Island Council	Community Training	57,000
Seisia Island Council	BRACS	16,500
Seisia Island Council	All Terrain Forklift	50,000
Seisia Island Council	Sports Complex	60,000
Stephen Island Council	Contribution to Council operating costs	15,829
Stephen Island Council	Bobcat	45,000
St Pauls Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,096,725

St Pauls Island Council	CDEP Operational	359,095
St Pauls Island Council	Contribution to Council operating costs	44,114
St Pauls Island Council	Community Training	258,000
St Pauls Island Council	BRACS	31,500
St Pauls Island Council	Block Plant (final)	70,000
St Pauls Island Council	Sports Stadium & Hall	50,000
TI State High School	Rock Eisteddfod	20,000
TI State Primary School	Dance Tour	12,000
Torres Strait Islanders Media Ass.	Contribution to Operating Costs	538,150
TRAWQ Community Council Inc	CDEP Wages	1,137,576
TRAWQ Community Council Inc	CDEP Operational	386,122
TRAWQ Community Council Inc	Council Operating Costs	123,522
TRAWQ Community Council Inc	Community Training	90,000
TRAWQ Community Council Inc	Mabo Day & DAR Festival	8,700
TRAWQ Community Council Inc	Cultural Fisheries Summit	80,900
TSNP Legal Service	Operating Expenses	389,521
TSNP Legal Service	Training	12,000
TS Youth & Rec. Sporting Ass.	Operating Costs	257,793
TS Youth & Rec. Sporting Ass.	Community Training	17,000
TS Youth & Rec. Sporting Ass.	2000 Torres Strait Games	30,000
TS Youth & Rec. Sporting Ass.	Pacific Cup 2000 Tournament	58,300
TS Youth & Rec. Sporting Ass.	Arafura Games	29,462
Warraber Island Council	CDEP Wages	794,303
Warraber Island Council	CDEP Operational	244,252
Warraber Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	40,654
Warraber Island Council	Community Training	62,760
Warraber Island Council	BRACS	16,500
Warraber Island Council	Small Vehicles	30,000
Yam Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,124,168
Yam Island Council	CDEP Operational	244,471

Yam Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	46,103
Yam Island Council	Community Training	40,000
Yam Island Council	BRACS	34,100
Yam Island Council	Bobcat	55,000
Yam Island Council	Sport Oval	90,690
Yorke Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,310,191
Yorke Island Council	CDEP Operational	531,475
Yorke Island Council	Contribution to Council operations	52,343
Yorke Island Council	Community Training	77,000
Yorke Island Council	BRACS	16,500
Yorke Island Council	Truck, Excavator, Grader hire	65,000
Youth Activities Services	Operating costs	44,056
Youth Activities Services	Contribution to Bus	20,000

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 2001.

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 co-operate with Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal communities, organisations and individuals at national, State, Territory and regional levels;
- (f) advise the Minister on:
 - (i) matters relating to Torres Strait Islander affairs, and Aboriginal affairs, in the Torres Strait area, including the administration of legislation;
 - (ii) the co-ordination of the activities of other Commonwealth bodies that affect Torres Strait Islanders, or Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (g) when requested by the Minister, to provide information or advice to the Minister on any matter specified by the Minister;
- (h) take such reasonable action as it considers necessary to protect Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal cultural material and information relating to the Torres Strait area if the material or information is considered sacred or otherwise significant by Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal persons;
- (i) at the request of, or with the agreement of, the Australian Bureau of Statistics but not otherwise, to collect and publish statistical information relating to Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (j) such other functions as are conferred on the TSRA by this Act or any other Act;
- (k) such other functions as are expressly conferred on the TSRA by a law of a State or of an internal Territory and in respect of which there is in force written approval by the Minister under section 142B;

- (l) undertake such research as is necessary to enable the TSRA to perform any of its other functions;
- (m) do anything else that is incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the preceding functions.

STRUCTURE OF THE TSRA

The TSRA is a Commonwealth Statutory Authority established under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*. 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, (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 government financial management framework, accrual accounting.

The TSRA operates a number of programs and subprograms 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 running costs;
- funding for programs to be conducted by the State; and
- funding for programs to be conducted by community councils.

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

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; files relating to housing and enterprise loans; and Grants and Personnel Policy documents including instructions from the Public Service Commissioner; Department of Industrial Relations and Small Business 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 maintains: 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.
- Field Operations Section maintains files relating to grants and community profiles and community development.
- A number of manuals and guidelines are used in the TSRA's decision-making policies and guidelines, including the TSRA Decision Making Principles, Finance Procedures manual, and the Program and Administration Delegation manuals.

APPENDIX 3: ADVERTISING AND MARKET RESEARCH

The TSRA does its own national advertising of job vacancies in the Commonwealth Gazette and under the Central Advertising System managed by the Government Communications Unit. 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. Part-time and temporary staff at 30 June 2001
- b. Nominal total staff at 30 June 2001 (including part-time and temporary staff)
- c. Representation of EEO groups within salary levels at 30 June 2001
- d. Senior Executive Service gains and losses in 2000–2001
- e. Quantum and distribution of performance pay in 2000–2001
- f. Organisational chart at 30 June 2001
- g. Ministerial Appointments

a. Staff classification breakdown (part-time and temporary staff)

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

b. Nominal total staff at 30 June 2001 (includes part-time and temporary staff)

Classification	Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal			Non Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Senior Executive Service				1		1
Executive Level 2					1	1
Executive Level 1	1		1	4	1	5
APS Level 6	1		1	4	1	5
APS Level 5		2	2	1		1
APS Level 4	3	6	9	1		1
APS Level 3		1	1			
APS Level 2		4	4			
APS Level 1	1	2	3			
Sub total						
Total	6	15	21	11	3	14

c. Representation of EEO groups within salary level at 30 June 2001

Salary	Women	TSI&A	NESB	PWD
\$92,950 (Senior Executive Service)				
\$67,580 to \$79,180 (Executive Level 2)	1			
\$58,595 to \$63,272 (Executive Level 1)	1	1	2	
\$45,707 to \$52,504 (APS Level 6)	1	1	1	
\$42,319 to \$44,874 (APS Level 5)	2	2	2	
\$37,941 to \$41,196 (APS Level 4)	6	9	9	
\$34,042 to \$36,742 (APS Level 3)	1	1	1	
\$29,889 to \$33,144 (APS Level 2)	2	3	3	
Below \$29,188 (APS Level 1)	2	3	3	
Total	16	20	21	

d. Senior Executive Service gains and losses for 2000–2001

No gains or losses for 2000–2001.

e. Quantum and distribution of performance pay for 2000–2001

No specific performance pay was remunerated to the SES officer in the TSRA for 2000–2001.

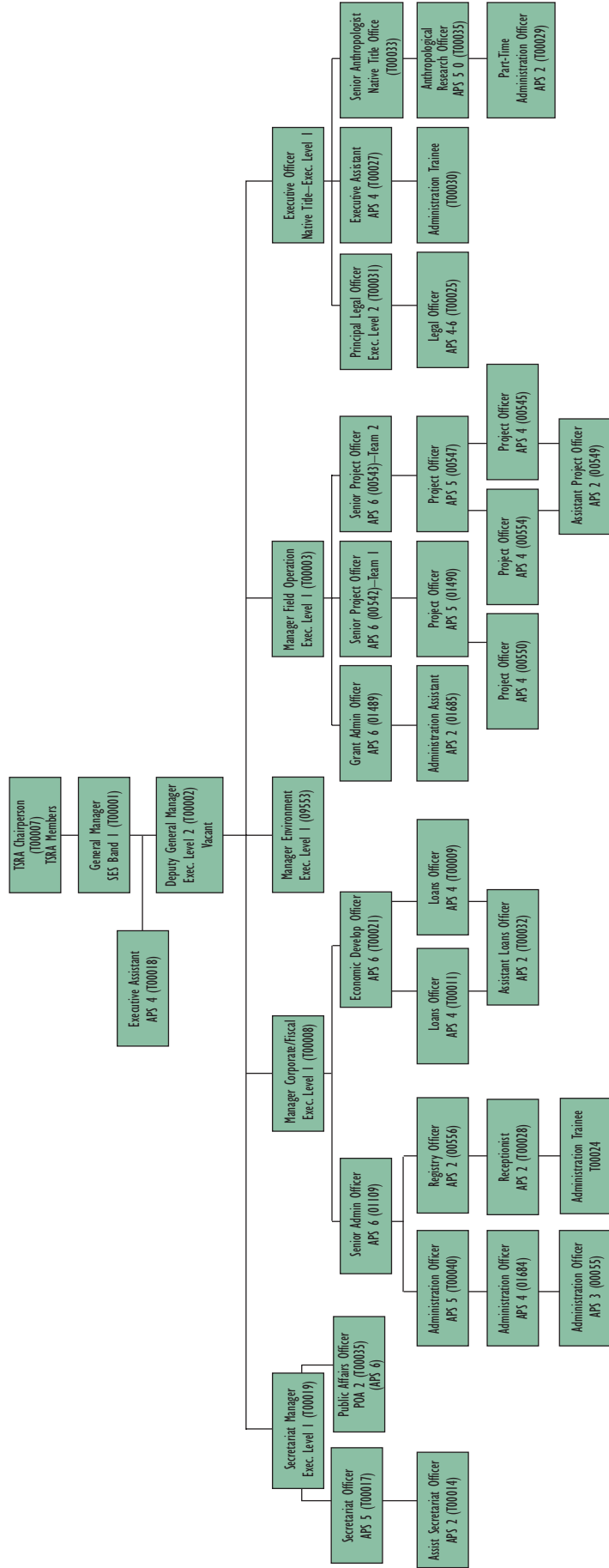
f. Organisational Chart as at 30 June 2001

See the Organisational Chart on page 86.

g. Ministerial Appointments

There were six Ministerial appointments during the reporting period. The new General Manager, Mr Mike Fordham, was appointed on 8 May 2001 for a period of three years under Section 144G of the ATSI Act 1989. The Minister also appointed Mr Iain Loganathan, Finance Manager, to act as General Manager under Section 144L of the ATSI Act 1989 for the periods, 20 July to 22 August 2000, 12 November 2000 to 12 January 2001, 13 January 2001 to 13 March 2001, 14 March to 27 April 2001 and 28 April 2001 to 7 May 2001.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY ORGANISATIONAL CHART AS AT 30 JUNE 2001



APPENDIX 5: CONSULTANCY SUMMARY

The TSRA used the services of the following consultants during 2000–2001, as detailed below:

Consultant	Details of Consultancy	Amount (\$)
Felan Consulting	CEIS – Coconut Island Tourism	\$9,893
JPS Consultancy	BFS Monitoring – Murray Island BFS Monitoring – Badu Island	\$2,346 \$222
Peter Devietti Accountant	CEIS Monitoring – Various Islands BFS Monitoring – Mosby Enterprise	\$19,600 \$2,720
Heron Todd and White	Valuation Report – 90 Douglas St & Entrance Island	\$2,750
Geoffrey Doyle	CEIS – Dauan Island Take-away BFS Monitoring – John Mills	\$4,482 \$1,131
William Graham & Carmen	Prawn License Joint Venture	\$1,430
John Kilpatrick	Badu Island Hydroponics	\$7,150
Tony Watson	Stephen Island Freezer	\$1,362
Cambell Smith	Cargo Passenger Service Feasibility	\$21,954
Anthony Wright	TSRA Business Activity Statement	\$2,576
J G Menham	Greater Autonomy Economic Development Strategy Torres Strait Development Plan	\$36,951
Victor McGrath	Torres Strait Cultural Centre	\$3,685
Hunter Systems	Porting of CDEP Manager CDEP Manager Support	\$15,000 \$13,200
Black and More	Green Hill Subdivision Works Cultural Centre Sites	\$3,970 \$2,324
AMC Search Ltd	Torres Strait Maritime Training Needs Analysis	\$21,394
Chung Lin Stock	Finance and Budgetary Advice	\$69,382

GLOSSARY

AAT	Administrative Appeals Tribunal
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
AHL	Aboriginal Hostels Limited
Ailan Kastom	Island Custom
AM	Order of Australia
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
BFS	Business Funding Scheme
BRACS	Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme
CDC	Commercial Development Corporation
CDEP	Community Development Employment Projects
CEIS	Community Economic Initiatives Scheme
CTP	Community Training Program
DATSIPIID	Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development
DETIR	(Queensland) Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations
DETYA	Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs
DEWSRB	Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business
DORATSIA	Department of Reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
EAP	ATSIC Employee Assistance Program
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
EMC	Environmental Management Committee
ERF	Emergency Relief Funding
FAIP	Financial Administration Improvement Program
FOI	Freedom of Information
GBRMP	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
HACC	Home and Community Care
Hon.	honourable
IBA	Indigenous Business Australia
IBIS	Islanders Board of Industry and Service
ICC	Island Coordinating Council
ILC	Indigenous Land Corporation

JAC	Joint Advisory Council (in relation to the Torres Strait Treaty)
MaSTERS	Marine Strategy for Torres Strait
MIP	Major Infrastructure Program
Mura Kosker	Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated
NESB	Non-English-Speaking Background
NPA	Northern Peninsula Area
NTO	Native Title Office
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
OPAP	Old Peoples Action Program
PKA	Port Kennedy Association
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PSMPC	Public Service and Merit Protection Commission
PWD	People with a Disability
PZJA	Protected Zone Joint Authority
SES	Senior Executive Service
TDA	Tamwoy Development Association
TRAWQ	Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine
TSIAB	Torres Strait Islander Advisory Board
TSIMA	Torres Strait Islander Media Association
TSNP	Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula
TSRA	Torres Strait Regional Authority
TSYRSA	Torres Strait Youth and Recreation Sporting Association
YAS	Youth Activities Services

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