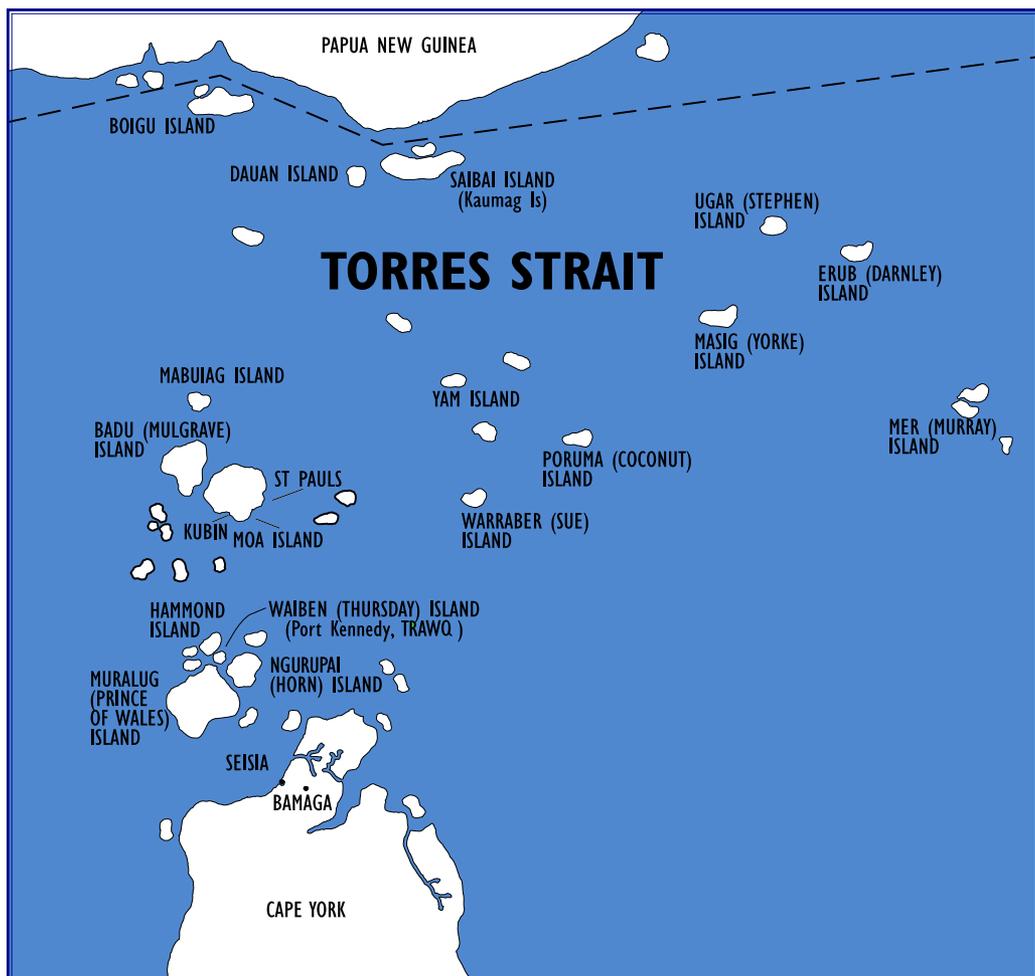




TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Annual Report
2002-2003





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ISSN 1324-163X

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TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

The Hon. Philip Ruddock MP
Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

It gives me great pleasure to present you with the ninth Annual Report of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA), in accordance with section 144ZB of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989* and also section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. This annual report covers the period from 1 July 2002–30 June 2003.

As we progress 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
Torres Strait Regional Authority
10 September 2003

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 2002–2003 ANNUAL REPORT

The Torres Strait Regional Authority's Annual Report 2002–2003 is the Chairperson's report on operations to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs on the performance and achievements of the TSRA during 2002–2003. 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 2002–2003. 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; the framework in which it distributes grants and loans and a corporate overview of the TSRA administration.

A section on Outcome and Outputs states the planned and actual costs of the organisation's outcome, and six outputs which include: Economic Development; Community Development, Employment and Training; Native Title; Housing, Environment, Health and Infrastructure; Social, Cultural and Development; Policy and Information. A table is provided giving details of the planned achievements and the actual achievements for the year in relation to each of these six outputs. This is followed by an overview of each of the outputs. The programs and subprograms are listed and the programs' objectives are stated. Details are provided on the strategies and activities the TSRA has undertaken during the year to meet its program objectives; the performance of the programs and 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 appendices contain information on a range of topics including grants which 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; while 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, 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

I am pleased to present to you the 2002–2003 Torres Strait Regional Authority Report of Operations under Section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

The TSRA was established in 1994 under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989* (Part 3A Division 1). Details of its objectives, functions, staffing structure along with the enabling legislation are contained within the body of this report. Also included are details of our financial statement and achievement of outcomes through the delivery of the TSRA's six

outputs. It is pleasing to note that the TSRA has achieved its set objectives for 2002–2003.

This year the TSRA Board has continued working progressively towards a continual improvement in the lifestyle and wellbeing of Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people living in Torres Strait. We are committed to working closely with other key Commonwealth, State and Local governments to ensure that all issues are addressed effectively.

TORRES STRAIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

I was pleased to present the 2002–2004 Torres Strait Development Plan towards the end of 2002. We have taken a different approach to reviewing the Development Plan this time, in that TSRA Portfolio Members were engaged to drive the process of addressing community issues and having direct input into the compilation of the Plan. The Development Plan is a valuable tool and will provide policy direction for the TSRA in implementing strategies and programs for the benefit of the Torres Strait region.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development in Torres Strait continues to be a major priority for the TSRA and we continue to endeavour to achieve a higher degree of economic independence for Torres Strait. Through the development of sustainable industries in the region, our economy will improve, as will employment opportunities for our people.

During this financial period 30 loans were advanced at a total value of \$1,349,778. Compared with last financial year, the number of BFS loans that have been advanced has reduced by twelve; however, there has been a net increase in the amount advanced by \$43,033. It was pleasing to note a total of 28 clients paid out their BFS loans with the TSRA.

The TSRA's portfolio of business loans, as at 30 June 2003, stands at 96 active commercial loans. Whilst the majority of loans remain in the fishing industry, loans were also financed in a diversified range of commercial activities in the areas of earthmoving, light industrial marine, motel development, seafood processing, transport, retail and tourism.

It is encouraging that the Business Funding Scheme remains a successful business mechanism for indigenous people as they take on the challenge of private enterprise in a varied range of commercial activities.

The TSRA currently has 39 housing loans within its portfolio with 10 new loans, valued at \$623,419, released in this financial year for the purchase or new homes, land, renovation and extension of existing dwellings.

CULTURAL CENTRE

The development of the Torres Strait Cultural Centre has progressed considerably over the past year. Last year the Four Winds site on Thursday Island was secured for the development of the centre. Stage one of the project is now complete and it moved into its second phase with a ceremony for the turning of the first soil in early May 2003. This is a major milestone for the project and initiates the commencement of construction that is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2003.

After much consultation with communities, the Cultural Centre Steering Committee announced the name of the centre at the soil turning ceremony, "Gab Titui Cultural Centre". It was important that an appropriate name was created that represented our unique Ailan Kastom.

I thank the Cultural Centre Steering Committee for their valued work in bringing the project thus far. It represents a long-time aspiration of the people of Torres Strait and we look forward to its growth.

FISHERIES

As reported last year, the TSRA was proposing some significant changes to the PZJA Consultative Structure. I am pleased to report that on 10 November 2002 the TSRA Chair became a formal member of the PZJA, working equally alongside the Commonwealth and Queensland Ministers for Fisheries in the management of Torres Strait fisheries. The appointment of the TSRA Chair to the PZJA recognises the importance of Torres Strait fisheries to Traditional Inhabitants and has provided a positive sign of co-managing the area's resources.

Also, the PZJA at its 14th Meeting on 28–29 November 2002 approved a new Fisheries Consultative Structure proposed by the TSRA Fisheries Committee that has revolutionised fish management in Torres Strait. Traditional Inhabitants are now represented at all levels of the Consultative Structure and representation has quadrupled from 7 to 24. Consequently, the TSRA's short-term goals have been fully achieved by allowing the full participation and involvement of the twenty-four inhabitant communities of Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area in decision-making and management of Torres Strait fisheries, both commercial and traditional.

These new arrangements, together with the permanent appointment of the TSRA Chair to the PZJA, have effectively strengthened the involvement of Traditional Inhabitants in the decisions that have an impact on the cultural, social and economic life of the Torres Strait region. Traditional Inhabitants are now in a position of strength that provides them with the ability to gather and share information between themselves and the communities they represent.

I am proud to say that Traditional Inhabitants can celebrate both milestones but we still have a long road ahead in terms of reaching the TSRA's long-term goal of owning and managing Torres Strait fisheries for the benefit of its constituents.

NATIVE TITLE

This year has been one of much uncertainty to say the least for native title in Torres Strait. Since the historic Mabo decision, handed down in 1992, there have been fourteen successful determinations by consent in our region. Last year, I reported that the TSRA was pleased that another seven had progressed substantially and it was expected that consent determinations for these islands, Boigu, Badu, Yam, Darnley, Stephen, Aureed and Gebar, would be made. However, just weeks prior to the determinations, they were cancelled due to a significant change of position by the State Government requiring that the determinations contain a statement of extinguishment over land where "public works" have been built on Deed of Grant in Trust land.

Questions of law relating to the extinguishment of native title by public works were heard on 15 May 2003 in Brisbane by the Full Federal Court. The Court's decision has been reserved and we currently await its outcome.

The State's changed position in relation to public works, which led to the cancellation of the determinations, has had significant ramifications for the region. Not only has it stalled the progress of native title outcomes for the region, but it has also raised significant challenges for the TSRA and Island Community Councils as to how best to pursue important infrastructure projects.

The Torres Strait Sea Claim has progressed with notification closing in December 2002. The party list has now been settled and the Court has referred the claim to the National Native Title Tribunal for mediation. The Sea Claim raises a number of interesting and unique challenges as a result of the provisions of the Torres Strait Treaty, including the joining of a number of Traditional Inhabitants from Papua New Guinea as respondent parties to the claim. It is anticipated that mediation of the sea claim will commence in earnest in the second half of this year. In the interim, extensive anthropological work continues to be done across Torres Strait.

TORRES STRAIT HEALTH FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

The TSRA continues to work in close partnership with both Commonwealth and State agencies to improve the health service delivery for the Torres Strait region by addressing a diverse range of issues. The Partnership's role of joint planning and coordination of health infrastructure in the region is improving service delivery to residents of Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area. A significant outcome for this financial year is the current development of a Commonwealth funded Primary Health Care model. This is an important strategic step in enhancing health care outcomes for Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people living in our region.

ARTS AND CULTURE

The area of arts and culture has expanded considerably this year. In partnership with Arts Queensland and the Torres Strait Islander Arts Board of the Australia Council for the Arts, the Torres Strait Regional Arts Development Fund has been established. To date, eleven projects have been successful in their application under the first round of funding representing a good cross-section throughout Torres Strait. The projects range from artists' workshops, cultural education programs, musical recording, oral history and employment of Indigenous artists. I am pleased that this project has been able to provide support and awareness of the unique talent and heritage we have in Torres Strait.

TORRES STRAIT TREATY

The TSRA continues to work closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Customs, Environment Australia (EA), Australian Federal Police, Queensland Health and other agencies on matters related to the Treaty. I would like to express my gratitude to all agencies for their continued support and contributions in protecting the rights and resources of the Torres Strait region.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I extend my thanks to the TSRA Members and administrative staff for their continued commitment in achieving the goals of the TSRA. The Board has met many challenges and obstacles with positive impacts for our region. The TSRA looks forward to building on our relationships and working in partnership with the Commonwealth, State and Local government agencies to achieve our stated goals for the benefit of the region.



Terry Waia
Chairperson

GENERAL MANAGER'S OVERVIEW



This past year the TSRA administration continued to expand its capacity to support our Board Members in key policy areas. Our new organisational structure has provided us with the flexibility and foundation to effectively manage a wide range of issues and meet the growing number of responsibilities that presented themselves to our agency. We have also entered into some important strategic partnerships with other government agencies that have enhanced our ability in delivering outcomes to Torres Strait communities. The TSRA team should again be congratulated for meeting all expectations and demonstrating their ongoing commitment to improving the quality of life for all people in the region.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Since the creation of the TSRA in 1994, this has been a priority area of both the Board and the administration. Our business, housing and community portfolios again consistently delivered assistance to organisations, councils and individuals in Torres Strait who are involved in developing or maintaining local economic initiatives. Considering the region's geographic challenges, these programs deliver significant support to local initiatives, which in turn nurture a variety of opportunities and promote progressive economic development. The TSRA's philosophy is that establishing financially viable and self-sufficient enterprises that generate employment and investment in Torres Strait can create a sustainable regional economy. Some initiatives assisted by this output include the Masig Lowatta Lodge, Poruma Island Resort, Saint Pauls community block making plant and the Badu Island aquaculture proposal, in addition to many small businesses including fisheries, car hire, water taxis, etc.

The TSRA's joint service delivery arrangement with the Department of State Development to deliver the Regional Business Advisory Service to small businesses in Torres Strait has also performed well this year. In addition to offering direct assistance and access to a wide variety of the Department's programs and activities, workshops were coordinated that explored additional commercial opportunities for the local community. Of special note were the seminars on aquaculture potential and women in business.

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

Tourism

The global economic, health and political climate made Australia an attractive tourist destination for many international and national travellers. To ensure that the Torres Strait can capitalise on this recent trend, the TSRA has continued its active support of the Tourism Torres Strait community initiative, which aims to coordinate and enhance tourism opportunities for the region. Where possible, we have encouraged a collaborative approach to developing this industry and expanding our links with key North Queensland tourism groups. We believe that an external network that can help promote Torres Strait and generate interest in our beautiful region should complement the assistance being provided to tourist ventures on our islands. Of course, individual communities themselves will continue to determine their involvement in and exposure to tourism.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING

Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee (JTSHIC)

The Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee represents a coordinated approach to address the housing and infrastructure needs of Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area. Adequate housing for the residents of the region remains a significant problem and concerted efforts by Partnership members aim to assist the assessment of programs against agreed performance indicators and published targets. The development of JTSHIC strategic priorities, activities and performance indicators over the past year will provide direction and promote greater confidence and stability in housing and infrastructure provision within the region's communities.

Major Infrastructure Program (MIP2)

The environmental health focus of the Major Infrastructure Program continues to deliver improved health and lifestyle related benefits to residents of the region, while generating employment in our communities. Major projects currently underway or commencing construction include: new sewerage schemes at Badu and Darnley Islands, subdivisional works at Bamaga, Mer and Badu Islands, as well as the development of an outer island solid waste strategy. The focus for the remainder of MIP2 will be to complete various sewerage works, land servicing, and waste management. The success of the MIP is due to the cooperative and collaborative efforts of a number of agencies including our partners: the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy (DATSIP), the Island Coordinating Council (ICC) and the various project managers and contractors. During the next financial year one of the challenges for the MIP will be to secure continued support from both the State and Commonwealth Government for the MIP Stage 3. The TSRA along with its partners will work closely with both governments to ensure that support for the MIP will continue. Full details of the MIP2 are included in this report.

Unfortunately, the current dispute with the State Government over public works and native title may impact on the MIP project, and has the potential to delay works that were proposed for the second half of 2003.

Operations and Maintenance of Infrastructure

Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area have received substantial benefits through the Major Infrastructure Program and proper management and maintenance is essential to continue a solid foundation for future generations. This coming year will see a number of options developed for the future management framework for this infrastructure and we look forward to working with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, ICC and DATSIP in this process. In water services for example, the ICC has taken on a new role in providing technical support to water service providers in the outer islands. This new approach is part of a strategic outlook supported by all stakeholders to streamline services in the region and increase local capacity for maintaining and managing infrastructure.

Other Infrastructure

The TSRA has also implemented a number of other significant infrastructure improvements along with the MIP projects, which are designed specifically to deliver direct improvements in the region's health and wellbeing. This past year has seen the upgrading of the Badu and Boigu Island airstrips, along with the installation of GPS approaches at Masig and Saibai Islands (completed with the support of Skytrans). These upgrades, undertaken in partnership with Queensland Transport, result in substantial improvements in safety along with greater confidence for the travelling public. The Torres Strait is a large and isolated region and improvements to aviation and marine infrastructure are vital to the health, economic development and lifestyle enhancements of its communities.

Other infrastructure improvements include the completion and near completion of the new Kubin community centre and the St Pauls sporting complex on Moa Island, the Yam Island community centre, Erub sporting complex and staff accommodation at Mabuiag and Stephen Islands.

Fixing Houses for Better Health (FHBH2)

FHBH2 is a 12-month program funded by the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS) that aims to improve the health hardware in houses and ultimately improve the health of the occupants. Total funding for FHBH2 for Torres Strait is \$746,000. The St Pauls, Kubin and Mabuiag communities benefited from the project this past year. FHBH2 made a productive contribution to the regional economy as local indigenous trade persons completed most of the technical repairs, while other community members conducted general repairs. After the completion of the project these communities were able to identify health hardware issues before they became major concerns, which helped reduce maintenance costs.

Heavy Equipment Management and Training Project (HEMTP)

The Torres Strait Regional Authority, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and the Department of Main Roads provide a partnership approach to road building in communities as well as training outcomes for residents of Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area. The Torres Strait Heavy Equipment Machinery and Training Program offers heavy equipment and machinery on a share basis to island communities to build roads, upgrade airstrips, excavate sewerage channels or other appropriate earth works and delivers training outcomes for communities by facilitating opportunities for skill development during these projects.



HEMTP is a cost-effective method to progress both training opportunities and road building in Torres Strait communities by enabling community councils to access a full range of road-building plant equipment for construction or maintenance projects without the need to purchase their own machinery and have it lay idle for a significant portion of the year. Every project includes on-site instruction for trainees from the local community, which is delivered by Department of Main Roads' Remote Communities Services Unit (RCSU) and Roadtek plant hire services.

A combination of formal training and on-the-job experience has increased the skill base of each community participating in HEMTP and has created opportunities for local employment on future earthwork projects. The purchase and maintenance of the equipment and machinery is funded by the TSRA and DATSIP.

In the first six months of 2003, Warraber, Masig and Poruma communities all benefited through HEMTP projects and a further three are planned for other Torres Strait communities this year. Heavy equipment and machinery are being used for the sewerage project at Erub Island which is nearing completion and projects at Iama and Mabuiag Islands are expected to come on line shortly. The Mabuiag Project – due for completion in November – will complete the plant pool schedule for 2003.

The TSRA continues to work closely with the Department of Main Roads in implementing the HEMTP and is particularly grateful to its dedicated employees for their long and ongoing commitment to the people of Torres Strait.

ASSISTANCE TO COUNCILS AND 'TOWN' ORGANISATIONS

In 2002–2003, the TSRA continued to provide funding and expert assistance to the Island Councils and Thursday Island based organisations. Support was concentrated in the areas of social justice and

legal assistance to Indigenous people of Torres Strait and to various social programs related to women, aged care and youth issues, art, culture and environment, municipal support and broadcasting.

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

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

NATIVE TITLE

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

Current Land Claims

Determinations over the remaining five community islands (Badu, Boigu, Erub, Ugar and Yam), and two uninhabited islands, were cancelled in September 2002, because the State Government argued that public works on DOGIT communities extinguishes native title. Since then a full Federal Court Hearing was convened on 15 May 2003 to hear arguments and all parties are now waiting for the Court to publish its decision. The TSRA is presently seeking to negotiate an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the State to allow infrastructure works to proceed in the future, while protecting existing native title areas.

Sea Claim

The Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim was filed in November 2001. Notification of the claim closed on 4 December 2002 and the party list has now been settled. The sea claim is unusual in that it has a number of parties from outside Australia. The Federal Court has referred the claim to the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) for mediation.

Support for Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs)

Sixteen Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate have been established in Torres Strait. As flagged in last year's Annual Report, the management of these PBCs remains a significant challenge to the TSRA and native titleholders given that TSRA receives no funding to support and assist these PBCs, which have significant statutory and other obligations. Notwithstanding this, the TSRA continues to provide considerable assistance to PBCs in Torres Strait, while lobbying strongly for funding for these corporations.

ARTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

TSRA has entered into a partnership with Arts Queensland to deliver the Torres Strait – Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF). In addition, over the past year the Authority funded a variety of activities including school dance tours, international cross-cultural exchanges, exhibitions and performances from Indigenous artists, celebrations of historical events, an Artist in Residence program, Indigenous workshops, and publication of local authors.

Support was also given toward the Darnley Island Art and Cultural Centre project – an exciting school-based initiative designed to reinvigorate the cultural heritage and contemporary art of the community.

A strategic partnership with the National Museum of Australia has enabled the appointment of an Arts Development Officer within the Authority for the first time. This initiative will allow us to draw on the skills of a National cultural institution to help develop the Torres Strait Cultural Centre (TSCC), which will assist the TSRA in promoting cultural revitalisation across the region.

"Gab Titui" Torres Strait Cultural Centre

This project progressed well in 2002–2003 and is now into the construction phase. A soil turning ceremony attended by key representatives of the Commonwealth and State Governments, as well as the local community, marked the commencement of construction on 9 May 2003. The Torres Strait name Gab Titui, meaning Star of our Journey, was adopted for the centre. When completed, the centre will showcase contemporary and traditional "Ailan" culture and provide a focal point for tourism in the region. In addition to spearheading Torres Strait's cultural revival movement, the Gab Titui Cultural Centre is also expected to contribute to economic, educational and social outcomes for our communities.

TORRES STRAIT TREATY

The TSRA again worked closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and agencies such as the Australian Customs Service, Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, the Australian Federal Police and others to ensure that the Treaty between Papua New Guinea and Australia continued to protect the rights and resources of Traditional Inhabitants in the Torres Strait area. I would like to thank the Treaty Liaison Officer and the staff of DFAT for their ongoing assistance to the TSRA in contributing to the Treaty consultation and management process.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

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

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Community Development Employment Program (CDEP)

The TSRA continues to work closely with Centrelink and Island Councils in the delivery of the CDEP in Torres Strait. Last year's upgrade of our 'CDEP Manager' software, which enhanced the efficiency of delivery and monitoring of this service to our clients, is being complemented this year with the development of an extranet that links the TSRA directly with organisations administering CDEP. This is a significant initiative that will contribute greatly to more cost effective management of the scheme and provide opportunities for capacity building within those CDEP organisations. The TSRA's long-term approach is to improve services to its client base, especially in assisting them overcome any challenges presented by Torres Strait's geographic isolation.

The Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation (HIAC) became the newest member of our region's CDEP network and since joining the scheme the HIAC has delivered a diverse number of services to the local community, ranging from cultural site maintenance to personal development for individuals.

Community Training Program

In terms of funding assistance for training, the TSRA provided in excess of \$1.4M during the year under our Community Training Program (CTP). Enhancements to this program are based on efforts to improve the coordination between the various State agencies, the regional employment committee (TSREC) and ourselves.

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

EDUCATION

Education Framework Agreement

The TSRA is a signatory to the Torres Strait District Framework Agreement on Education and Vocational Education, which aims to support the achievement of improved educational, training and employment outcomes in Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area and is based on a commitment to share responsibility for educational outcomes. The Agreement provides for the communities of Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area to have greater influence over the direction and delivery of education and vocational education and training. The TSRA Portfolio Member for Education and Training attends these meetings on behalf of the TSRA.

Assistance With Tertiary Education Scheme (ATES)

Since being established in 2002, this scheme has continued to assist indigenous students from the region to study full time at university. ATES promotion this year increased as the scheme served to highlight key professional areas that our region's workforce may need to develop. Funding is given for textbooks, living expenses, travel etc, for study in the fields of accounting / business, law, information technology, anthropology, engineering and marine biology.

HEALTH FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

The TSRA has a significant program delivery focus in environmental health through the MIP, enhancements to operations and maintenance of related infrastructure, and through improvements in housing. The Authority is also a signatory to the Torres Strait Health Framework Agreement, which is designed to accomplish a coordinated approach to improved health infrastructure and service delivery in the region. The Torres Strait Health Strategy includes a wide range of initiatives and activities from upgrades of airstrips through to improved access to primary health care for our people.

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

FISHERIES (PROTECTED ZONE JOINT AUTHORITY)

Fisheries Management

This past year has been an exciting one for fisheries management in the region, with some major reforms taking place within the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) consultative structure. The most notable changes were the increase in the number of traditional fishers involved in the structure and importantly, Indigenous representation at all levels. TSRA Chair, Terry Waia has joined the Commonwealth and State Fisheries Ministers on the PZJA. The TSRA continues to work closely with AFMA and Queensland Fisheries Service to proactively address a range of issues that will help protect traditional fishing rights and sustain Torres Strait's fishing industries. Training was also delivered to traditional fisher representatives throughout the region to enhance their capacity for involvement in the new PZJA structure.

Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) For Torres Strait

The TSRA was one of twelve government and non-government agencies that teamed up to submit a CRC proposal for Torres Strait. This proposal was successful in securing \$3.1M from the Commonwealth Government for the next three years. The participating agencies will contribute a further \$15M in-kind and \$3M cash to provide a total research value of \$21M. The Torres Strait Program will focus on research that will ensure the conservation and sustainable management of marine resources in our waters, including fisheries, sea grass, dugongs and turtles. A CRC Liaison Officer will be located within the TSRA to administer the program's operation in our region. I would like to extend special thanks to the team at CRC Reef in Townsville and the other eight agencies for their efforts in establishing this successful bid.

ENVIRONMENT

Natural Heritage Trust 2 (NHT 2)

The TSRA is keen to see NHT2 funding committed to Torres Strait although it is well understood that this is being delayed pending the signing of a bi-lateral funding agreement between State and Commonwealth Governments.

Environment protection related projects nominated for NHT2 funding include traditional turtle and dugong catch monitoring and erosion protection for low lying Torres Strait islands.

The TSRA is working in partnership to progress NHT2 with the Queensland Department of Premier and Cabinet, National Oceans Office, Environment Australia, DATSIP, Queensland Environment Protection Authority, State and Commonwealth Natural Resources and Mines and Queensland Fisheries Service.

The TSRA has offered to receive funding and provide financial services for the NHT2 program in Torres Strait and to accommodate an NHT2 coordinator position within the organisation.

Moratorium On Mining and Drilling

Following extensive consultation, Australia and PNG have agreed to a five-year extension to the moratorium on seabed drilling and mining in Torres Strait. The TSRA was among the parties who lobbied for the extension because it is consistent with the aims of the Torres Strait Treaty in relation to the protection of the environment and the way of life of the Traditional Inhabitants of this region.

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

The high level of cooperation and coordination between the TSRA and other Commonwealth and State agencies continued this past year. This integrated approach has been instrumental in promoting across the board focus on key areas of need in the region and delivering outcomes to people on the ground. The success of this approach is evident in the MIP projects, housing and transport infrastructure, health, education, social and cultural projects, fisheries and management of treaty related issues. I extend my appreciation once more to those agencies, councils and individuals who have supported the TSRA in delivering outcomes that aim to improve the quality of life in Torres Strait.

Relationship with the Island Coordinating Council (ICC)

The strong relationship between the TSRA and the ICC continued to be a major asset in delivering many of the outcomes that are illustrated in this report. Our common goal of improving the quality of life for the region and our shared administrative arrangements such as our IT, payroll and other systems, is a conduit for promoting efficient service delivery to Island

Councils, organisations and individuals. The link between our two Boards provides a vital bond that assists with articulating the needs of local communities for formulating and developing appropriate policy and programs by our organisations. Our joint achievements since 1994 reflect the success of our cooperative approach. I look forward to maintaining this productive working relationship in the future.

ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Staffing

This year the turnover among TSRA staff was minimal as we consolidated on our administration restructure, which I reported on in 2002. Our Policy Coordination and Development Section expanded to accommodate the TSRA's growing involvement in key regional initiatives, while our corporate structure continues to provide career development opportunities for all our staff. We will now be progressively implementing a Performance Management Program (PMP), which aims to develop a work culture within the TSRA that will maintain our current high standards and reward exceptional individual effort.

We continue to recruit trainees for the Office Administration Traineeship (Certificate II or III in Business) and support their professional development over a period of 12 months.

Certified Workplace Agreement

The TSRA staff and management were involved in developing a new Certified Workplace Agreement for the organisation. All staff had the opportunity to participate in the process and I would like to extend my personal thanks to the members of our Workplace Agreement Consultative Committee (WACC) who dedicated much of their personal time to consulting staff on the new agreement. When implemented, the renegotiated TSRA Certified Workplace Agreement will extend from 2003–2006.

Our support for the Board

The two arms of the TSRA – administration and Board – continue to work closely together to deliver appropriate outcomes to the Torres Strait region. The Board Portfolio Members were the key drivers behind the new TSRA Development Plan, which was endorsed by the Minister this year. Supporting the various Board activities is, of course, one of the key functions of the administration, undertaken in some way by each of the sections. Services and support roles were numerous, ranging from organising Board meetings, providing policy advice and information to the Chair and Portfolio Members, as well as arranging travel, and the many other functions that are necessary to ensure the smooth functioning of our 20-member Board. The relationship between the Board and administration is highly professional and effective, and I would like to thank all of the Members, in particularly the Chairperson, Terry Waia, for their support in 2002–2003.

Audit and Evaluation

Once again, the TSRA has a clean 'bill of health' from the Australian National Audit Office and Office of Evaluation and Audit (OEA—reporting directly to the Minister). Audits were undertaken in August 2003 by ANAO (2002–2003 External Financial Statement Audit) and May 2003 by OEA. The 2002–2003 External Financial Statement Audit, performed by ANAO, resulted in an unqualified opinion.

Relationship with the Minister

The Indigenous Affairs portfolio gained much media and government attention during the past year and once again the TSRA was fortunate to have a strong and productive relationship with the Minister and staff of his office in meeting these challenges. Minister Ruddock again visited Torres Strait this year and opened Poruma Island Resort, while the Chair and I also met with the Minister and his staff in Canberra.

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



Mike Fordham
General Manager

TSRA BOARD

The TSRA consists of 20 Members, eighteen of whom hold office by virtue of their election to Island Council Chairperson positions on 25 March 2000 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 John Abednego

Mr Jack Ahmat

Mr Ted Billy

Mr Phillip Bowie (to March 2003)

Mr Roney Wasaga (from 26 March 2003)

Mr Edward Dau

Mr Ron Day

Mr Elia Doolah

Mr Joseph Elu

Mr Henry Garnier

Mr John Toshie Kris

Mr Getano Lui Jnr AM

Mr Donald Mosby

Mr Francis Pearson

Mr Saila Savage

Mr Pedro Stephen

Mr Rocky Stephen

Mr Reg Williams

MR TERRY WAIA, CHAIRPERSON



Mr Waia is the Chairperson of the Torres Strait Regional Authority and was elected in April 2000. He is also the Chairperson of the Saibai Island Council and a member of the Island Coordinating Council (ICC). Mr Waia was the ATSIC Commissioner for the Torres Strait zone prior to becoming Chairperson and has been a Member of the TSRA since its formation in 1994.

Mr Waia is keen to retain traditional values in Torres Strait. He has led several delegations both in Australia and Papua New Guinea to negotiate arrangements under the Torres Strait Treaty to protect the life-style of the people living in the Torres Strait region.

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, establishing a form of air service 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 professional development of Torres Strait women to enable them to gain sustainable economic development and employment opportunities as well as equal representation in decision-making processes within the region.

MR TERRENCE WHAP, ALTERNATE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON



Mr Whap is the TSRA Alternative Deputy Chairperson, TSRA Portfolio Member for Arts, Language, Culture and Sport, Chairperson of Mabuiag Island Council and a member of the ICC. During his term, Mr Whap would like to see improved infrastructure for all island communities as well as better sporting facilities for all ages, greater promotion and better coordination for all sporting activities throughout the region. Mr Whap is looking forward to the completion of Torres Strait artifacts from other museums returned to the region. Mr Whap would also like to encourage people to be involved in language workshops or programs that promote cultural knowledge. Training initiatives continue to be encouraged by Mr Whap and he remains strongly supportive of economic development and community enterprise and encourages community members to apply for the TSRA's business development loans. Mr Whap would like to see employment and career opportunities given to Torres Strait Islander people. He strongly advocates Torres Strait Islanders pursuit of greater control and management of the sea and its resources.

MR JOHN ABEDNEGO, MEMBER FOR TRAWQ



Mr Abednego is the TSRA representative for the TRAWQ communities (Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben, and Quarantine), TSRA Portfolio Member for Legal and Media, 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 Torres Strait. Mr Abednego held the position of TSRA Chairperson from May 1997–April 2000.

MR JACK AHMAT, MEMBER FOR BADU ISLAND



Mr Ahmat is Chairperson of Badu Island Council and a member of the ICC. He acknowledges 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 Torres Strait.

MR TED BILLY, MEMBER FOR WARRABER ISLAND



Mr Billy is the Chairperson of Warraber Island Council, a member of the ICC and the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula (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 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 RONEY WASAGA, MEMBER FOR NGURUPAI (HORN) AND MURALUG (PRINCE OF WALES) ISLANDS



Mr Wasaga is the TSRA Member for Horn and Prince of Wales Islands. He was elected on 26 March 2003 following a casual vacancy left by the previous member. Mr Wasaga's aspirations are to improve the quality and sustenance of life for all people in the Torres Strait region

MR EDWARD DAU, MEMBER FOR BOIGU ISLAND



Mr Dau is the Chairperson of Boigu Island Council, a member of the ICC. 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 works 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 B. 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 Torres Strait achieve a sustainable economy. He encourages young Torres Islanders to recognise and realise their unique talents and pursue in areas of sport and education and to be acknowledged as champions in their own culture.

MR ELIA DOOLAH, ATSIK COMMISSIONER FOR THE TORRES STRAIT ZONE



Commissioner Doolah represents the TSRA on the ATSIK Board and is the 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 ICC Board. 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 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 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 Islander Board of Industry and Service (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 eco-tourism incorporating sportsfishing as a means of achieving a measure of economic independence.

MR HENRY GARNIER, MEMBER FOR HAMMOND ISLAND



Mr Garnier is the Chairperson of the ICC and Chairperson of Hammond Island Council. Mr Garnier believes that 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 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 of St Pauls' community are still among his top priorities. He strongly 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 and become self sufficient. He encourages ongoing full community participation in St Pauls' five-year Development Plan which details the community's plans and goals.

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



Mr Lui is the TSRA Member for Iama Island and Portfolio Member for Regional Governance and Legislative Reform. Mr Lui is also the Chairperson of Iama Island Council and a member of the ICC. He was the first Chairperson of the TSRA and was also a director on the ATSI Commercial Development Corporation (CDC). 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 holds the TSRA Portfolio for Small Business and Economic Development. Mr Mosby is also a member of the TSRA Fisheries Committee, PZJA management Consultative Structure, Torres Strait Aquaculture Steering Committee and the TSRA representative on the Torres Strait Tourism Committee. Mr Mosby aims to develop tourism and establish commercial ventures on Yorke Island and encourages his community members to gain qualifications through training and tertiary education and to establish their own enterprises. Mr Mosby believes that Torres Strait communities should move away from welfare dependence and progress 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 encourages parents and community members to actively participate in the local school's activities and planning sessions. Mr Pearson urges people to gain qualifications through traineeships, apprenticeships or tertiary study so that they can use these skills to assist with community development such as their current Tourism Enterprise venture. He also supports the development of tourism on the island as this will strengthen the community's economy and provide employment opportunities. Mr Pearson encourages his community to manage their own affairs.

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 their skills can directly assist the community and set up enterprises. He encourages the youth to also undertake training on the mainland so they can bring experience, ideas and expertise back to the community.

PASTOR PEDRO STEPHEN, MEMBER FOR PORT KENNEDY AREA



Pastor Stephen is the TSRA Portfolio Member for Education, Employment and Training, Environment and Health. He is the representative for the Port Kennedy Area on Thursday Island. Pastor Stephen has been the Mayor of Torres Shire Council since 1994 and 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 at the 'coal face'. Pastor Stephen aims to initiate productive partnerships between government and non-government organisations and the community. He is actively involved in the community through various organisations including the Torres Strait TAFE Advisory Council, Torres Strait NPA District Heath Council, Torres Strait Islander Regional Education Council, Torres Strait Rotary Club, and the Greater Autonomy Steering Committee. He is committed to the people's aspiration for the establishment of appropriate form of regional governance for our region.

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 Torres Strait. He encourages young people to become actively involved in community planning and to aspire towards community leadership. Mr Stephen is also an advocate for more housing in the Torres Strait region.

MR REG WILLIAMS, MEMBER FOR BAMAGA COMMUNITY



Mr Williams is the Chairperson of the Bamaga Island Council and a member of the ICC. He is also the Chairperson of Bamaga Enterprises Ltd, a community owned public company and a member of the Management Committee of the Regional Organisations of Council of Cape York (ROCCY).

Advisory Committees

At 30 June 2003 the TSRA had seven advisory committees. These were:

- Economic Development Advisory Committee—Mr Don Mosby, Mr Pedro Stephen and Mr Joseph Elu.
- Audit Advisory Committee—Mr Terrence Whap, Mr Francis Pearson and Mr John Abednego.
- Natural Heritage Trust 2—Mr Terry Waia, Mr Toshie Kris, Mr Phillip Bowie, Mr Ron Day, Mr Getano Lui and Mr Reg Williams.
- TSRA Fisheries Committee (TFC)—Mr Terry Waia, Mrs Margaret Mau, Mr Don Mosby, Mr Elia Doolah, Mr Joseph Elu, Mr Jack Ahmat and Mr John Abednego.
- Torres Strait Fisheries Management Committee—Mr Don Mosby, Mr Richard Bowie and Mr Lesley Pitt.
- Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee—Mr Don Mosby and Mr Richard Bowie.
- Aquaculture Steering Committee—Mr Don Mosby, Mr Joseph Elu and Mr Pedro Stephen; Community Fisher Representatives, Mr Thomas Savage, Mr Billy Daniels and Mr Jansen Warasam; TSRA Regional Business Adviser and representatives from DATSIP, DPI and AFMA.

Portfolio Positions

The TSRA Portfolio Members for 2002–2003 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
Housing and Infrastructure	Mr John T. Kris
Environment and Health	Mr Phillip Bowie (to 1 March 2003) Mr Pedro Stephen (from 8 May 2003)
Education, Training and Employment	Mr Pedro Stephen
Marine and Fisheries	Mr Henry Garnier
Regional Governance and Legislative Reform	Mr Getano Lui

TSRA MEETINGS

The TSRA held four meetings between 1 July 2002 and 30 June 2003.

Meetings	Date	Duration
No 41	2–4 September 2002	3 days
No 42	25–27 November 2002	3 days
No 43	17–19 February 2003	2 days
No 44	6–8 May 2003	3 days

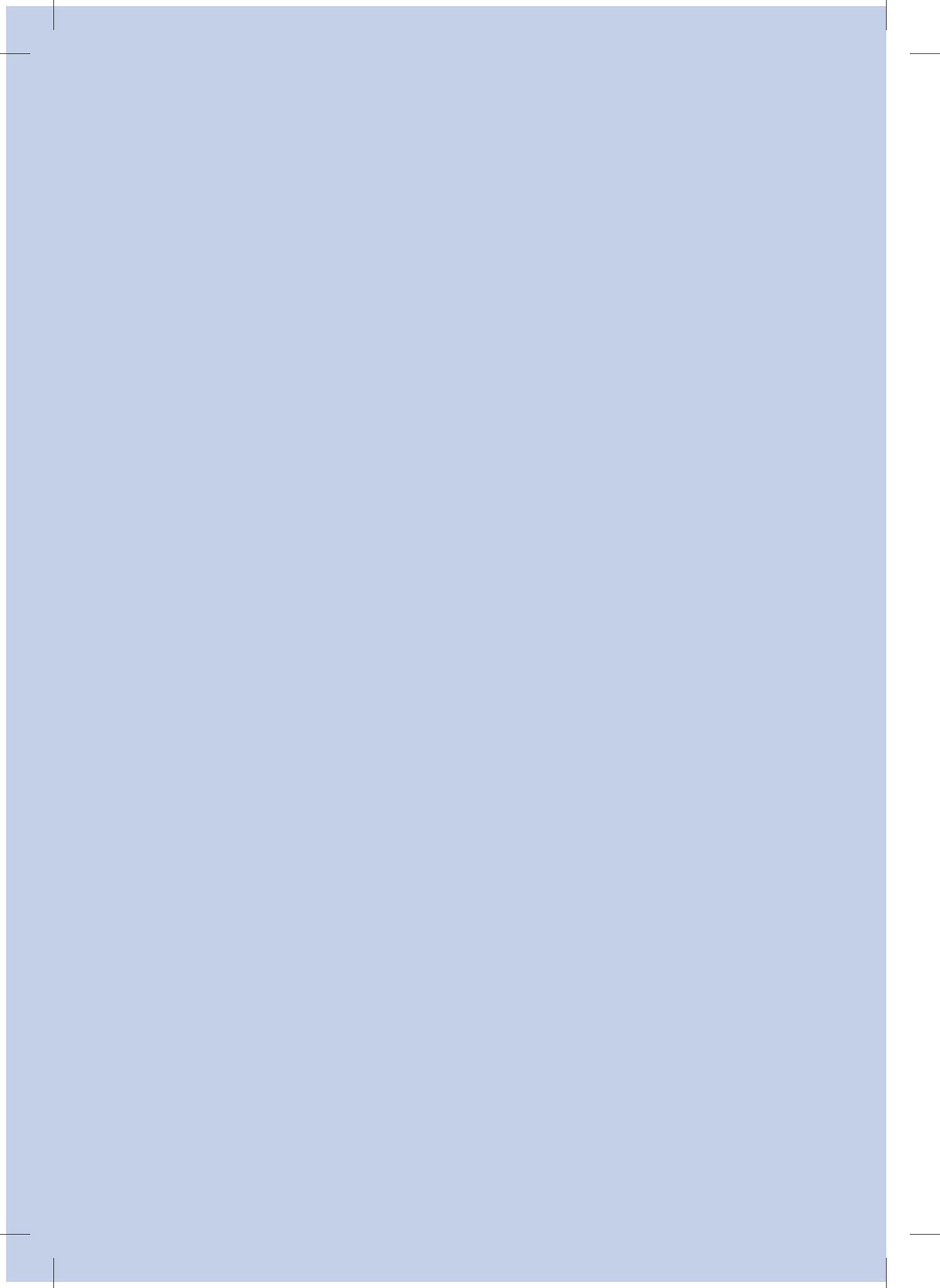
All members attended these meetings except for the following who forwarded their apologies prior to the meetings listed below:

Meeting No. 41 – Members for Badu, Bamaga, Mer and Warraber.

Meeting No. 42 – Member for Kubin and Member for Bamaga for duration of the meeting.

Meeting No. 43 – Members for Darnley and Warraber; Members for Saibai and Hammond for duration of the meeting.

Meeting No. 44 – Members for Badu, St Pauls and Kubin for duration of the meeting.



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

Torres Strait Islanders first achieved recognition of their traditional rights over their land in 1992, through the High Court's landmark decision to grant Islanders native title rights over Mer (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 under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth), hoping to achieve equally successful outcomes. Torres Strait Islanders have since achieved native title rights over Moa, Saibai, Warraber, Poruma, Masig, Mabuiag, Dauan, Waiar and Dauar Islands in Torres Strait. In addition, the Kaurareg people of the region have achieved recognition of their native title rights over seven inner islands—Ngurupai (Horn Island), Muralag (Prince of Wales Island), Zuna (Entrance Island), Yeta (Port Lihou Island), Mipa (Turtle Island), Tarilag (Packer Island) and Damaralag. Torres Strait Islanders are now pursuing their native title rights over the remaining land claims and over their traditional sea country.

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

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

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

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

EXTENT OF NEED

POPULATION

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

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

EMPLOYMENT

The 2001 Census information showed:

- the number of unemployed Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait region was 122 and altogether 2,116 people were employed. This represents an unemployment rate of 5.5 per cent for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people compared to 3.1 per cent for the non-Indigenous population of the region. In 1996 the unemployment rate in the Torres Strait Islander labour force was 5 per cent

Note: Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) participants are counted as employed.

EDUCATION

The 2001 Census showed that in the Torres Strait region:

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

INCOME

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

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

HOUSING

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

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

- the average household size of households with Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal occupants, was 4.3 persons per dwelling compared to 3.3 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 1976–1994, 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 1989–1994 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, Torres Strait was one of 35 ATSIC regions throughout Australia. The review proposed the creation of a separate Torres Strait authority with the same powers as ATSIC.

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

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

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

ENABLING LEGISLATION

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

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

FUNCTIONS

The functions of the TSRA, as outlined in Section 142A of the ATSIC Act, are:

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

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

POWERS

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

- (1) The TSRA has power to do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for, or in connection with, the performance of its functions.
- (2) The powers of the TSRA include, but are not limited to, the following powers:
 - (a) to accept gifts, grants, bequests and devises made to it;
 - (b) to act as trustee of money and other property vested in it on trust;
 - (c) to negotiate and cooperate with other Commonwealth bodies and with State, Territory and local government bodies;
 - (d) to enter into an agreement for making a grant or loan under section 142GA to the State of Queensland or an authority of that State (including a local government body);
 - (e) to enter into an agreement (other than an agreement referred to in paragraph (d)) with a State or a Territory.
- (3) Despite anything in this Act, any money or other property held by the TSRA on trust must be dealt with in accordance with the powers and duties of the TSRA as trustee.
- (4) The powers of the TSRA may be exercised in or out of Australia.

POWERS OF DIRECTION BY THE MINISTER

The TSRA is directed by the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, the Hon. Philip Ruddock, under section 142E of the ATSIC Act, which states:

- (1) The TSRA must perform its functions and exercise its powers in accordance with any general written directions given to it by the Minister.
- (2) The Minister must not give directions about the content of any advice, information or recommendation that may be given by the TSRA to a Minister, Department of State or authority of the Commonwealth.
- (3) The Minister must not give directions about the content of any advice, information or recommendation that may be given by the TSRA to:
 - (a) a Minister of a State or Territory; or
 - (b) a Department of State of a State or Territory; or
 - (c) an authority of a State or Territory;

except for the purpose of protecting the confidentiality of information given to the TSRA by the Commonwealth or an authority of the Commonwealth.

- (4) Subject to subsection (5), the Minister must cause a copy of a direction to be laid before each House of Parliament within 15 sitting days of that House after that direction was given.
- (5) The rule in subsection (4) does not apply if the laying of a copy of a direction before each House of the Parliament would result in the disclosure of a matter in a manner that would be inconsistent with the views or sensitivities of Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal persons.

CORPORATE OVERVIEW

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

Objectives:

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

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Audit

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

Internal: The Office of Evaluation and Audit (OEA) undertakes internal audits of the TSRA in accordance with S. 76 of the ATSI Act 1989. In June 2003, OEA undertook an internal audit of the TSRA.

External: Ernst and Young on behalf of the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) undertook a financial statement audit of the TSRA. The 2002–2003 financial statement audit commenced after the reporting period in August 2003 by Ernst and Young of behalf of ANAO, resulting in an unqualified audit opinion, as indicated by the Auditor General, at the beginning of the Financial Statements.

Audit Committee

The TSRA Audit Committee was established in August 2001. The TSRA Board endorsed the following Members to form the committee:

Mr Francis Pearson, Member for Coconut Island

Mr Terrence Whap, Member for Mabuiag Island

Mr John Abednego, Member for TRAWQ Community

The Audit Committee was formed primarily to assist the TSRA Board in fulfilling its responsibilities relating to the accounting and reporting practices of the TSRA. The committee also assists the TSRA and board in corporate governance areas, particularly in regard to complying with obligations under the Commonwealth and Securities Act 1997.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Indemnities and insurance premiums for officers:

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

Certified Workplace Agreement

The current TSRA Workplace Agreement 2002–2003, which was certified by the Industrial Relations Commission on 7 July 2000, expired on 30 June 2003 but continues to remain in place as the 2003–2006 Workplace Agreement has not been finalised. The TSRA anticipates the new Agreement will be in place by 1 November 2003. A Workplace Agreement Consultative Committee (WACC) was established in January 2003 and has actively pursued and negotiated a Workplace Agreement that is representative of the majority of staffing views and APS best practice, whilst taking into account the Government's Policy Parameters, in the areas of workplace employment issues, conditions of service and entitlements. The WACC comprises of management, staff and union representatives, of which some are women and Indigenous staff.

Personnel

Payroll: The TSRA continued to utilise the services of the Island Co-ordinating Council as their payroll provider for 2002–2003.

Staff Development and Training: Staff attended various internal and external training and development courses throughout the year including leadership, policy, ministerial, occupational health and safety, first aid, fire awareness, letter writing, report writing, United Nation fellowship and middle and senior management. The TSRA has a policy of offering three office administration traineeships each calendar year and has continued with three placements in 2002 and a further three in 2003.

Leave Records: The TSRA continues to manage all leave records through the establishment of a Human Resource position that operates within the Corporate Services Section.

Property

The TSRA has an office accommodation usage of 873 square metres for 39 staff and TSRA Members, providing an average of 22.38 square metres per person.

Equal Employment Opportunity

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

Freedom of Information (FOI)

A statement outlining the structure of the TSRA, as required under Section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, can be found in Appendix 2. During the reporting period no FOI request was received for access to native title documents. 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

As an integral part of the Certified Agreement the TSRA has established a Workplace Agreement Consultative Committee, which is the peak consultative body between management, employees and their representatives. The TSRA fosters and promotes regular management, section and staff meetings.

Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S)

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

Privacy

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

COMMONWEALTH DISABILITY STRATEGY (CDS)

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



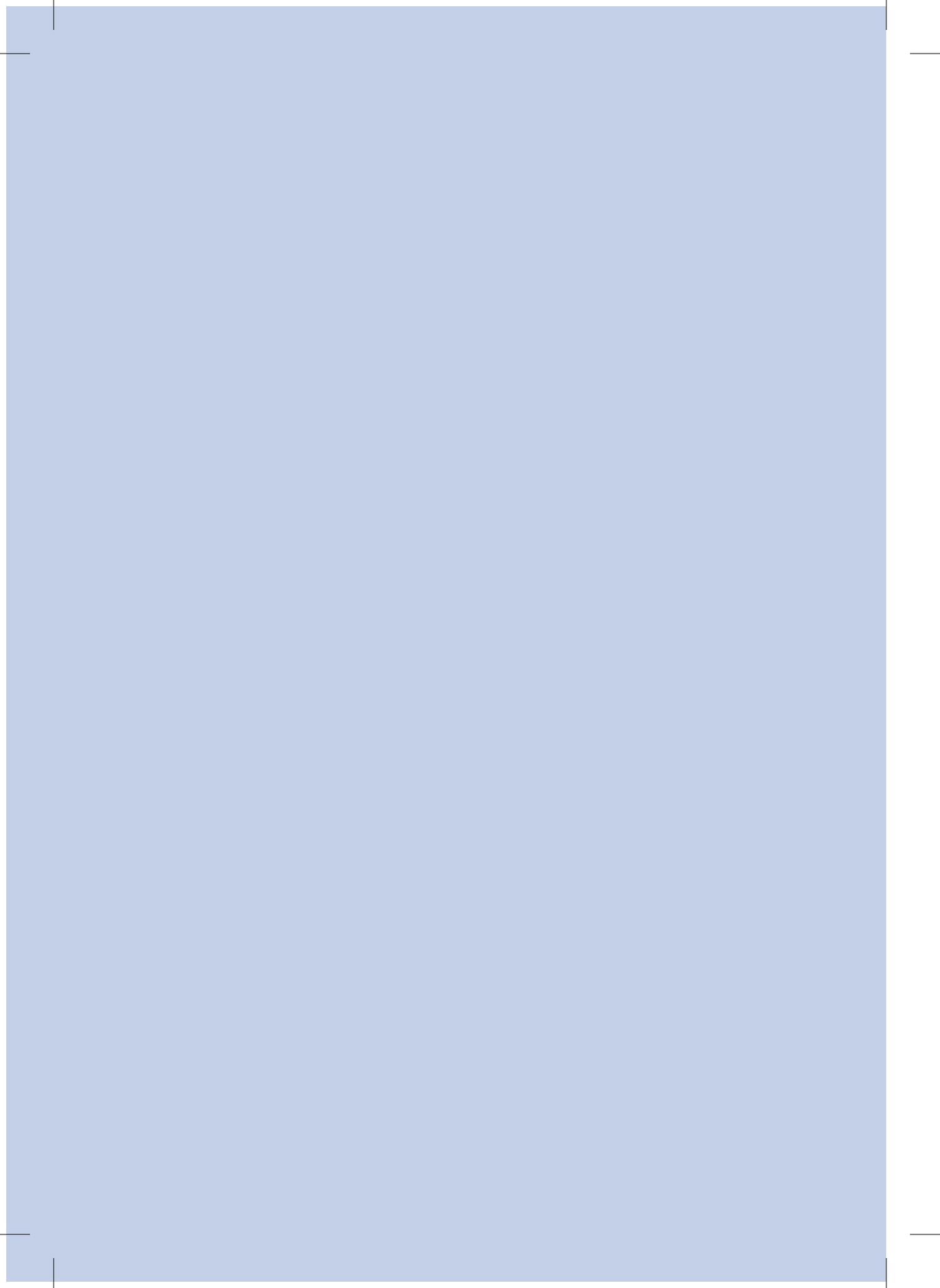
CORPORATE DOCUMENTS

Between 1 July 2002 and 30 June 2003, the TSRA produced the TSRA 2002–2003 Annual Report. 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 also continues to draw on the Torres Strait Development Plan. This plan is required under Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989. A revised plan will be completed in 2004.

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





Outcome and Outputs



PRICES OF OUTCOME AND OUTPUTS - PLANNED AND ACTUAL

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

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

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

The TSRA had just one planned Outcome for the financial period 2002-2003. 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 budgeted and actual prices of the TSRA’s six outputs are listed in the notes to the Financial Statements and in the following table.

Budget Total Price Outcome	\$50.710m
Actual Total Price of Outcome	\$48.734m

Output 1	
Economic Development	
Budgeted Total Price	\$2.884m
Actual Total Price	\$1.194m

Output 2	
Community Development, Employment and Training	
Budgeted Total Price	\$29.767m
Actual Total Price	\$29.707m

Output 3	
Native Title	
Budgeted Total Price	\$1.487m
Actual Total Price	\$1.097m

Output 4	
Housing, Environment, Health and Infrastructure	
Budgeted Total Price	\$7.977m
Actual Total Price	\$6.062m

Output 5	
Social, Cultural and Development	
Budgeted Total Price	\$7.178m
Actual Total Price	\$8.540m

Output 6	
Policy and Information	
Budgeted Total Price	\$1.426m
Actual Total Price	\$2.096m

Notes:

1. Revenue from Government through appropriations contributes 96.65% to the total Output price for this Outcome, for 2002-2003.
2. The TSRA has no administered expenses.

PERFORMANCE AGAINST OUTPUTS

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

Output	Planned Achievements	Actual Achievements
1. Economic Development	<p>Quality: 75% of contracts settled within one month and 20% within two months.</p> <p>Quantity: 30 to 40 new contracts.</p> <p>Price: An average of \$50,000 per loan contract.</p> <p>4 Community Development Grants & 5 housing loans.</p> <p>Provide 50 loans to establish business.</p> <p>Price: \$2.884m for the Output.</p>	<p>60% of contracts settled in one month, 20% of contracts settled within one to three months, 20% in three to six months.</p> <p>A total of 30 BFS loans were released to clients. In addition, a total of 10 housing loans were released.</p> <p>The average BFS loan was for \$44,993.</p> <p>The loan portfolio consisted of 134 loans, 95 BFS loans and 39 housing loans.</p> <p>During the financial year 28 BFS loans were discharged.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$1.194m</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: \$29.767m for the Output.</p> <p>Ensure that the program is working effectively by scheduling community visits twice a year and checking quarterly financial returns and that 1700 eligible participants are qualified to be on the program.</p>	<p>94.5% of CDEP organizations fully complied with the CDEP and general funding and operational guidelines.</p> <p>95.3% of targeted training was delivered within the 2002–03 financial year. The remainder will be conducted within the first 2 months of the new financial year.</p> <p>18 funded CDEP organisations enabled 20 communities to be on the CDEP program.</p> <p>80 Community Training programs were programmed and 78 implemented.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$29.707m</p> <p>Each CDEP community and organisation was visited an average of 4 times this year. The financial year ended with 1880 participants eligible to be on the program.</p>

<p>3. Native Title</p>	<p>Quality: Negotiate with respondent parties with a view to progressing consent determinations for all remaining areas of land under claim.</p> <p>Quality: Identify strategic test cases and pursue resolution by litigation or other means as appropriate.</p> <p>Quality: Develop standard procedures for processing and responding to future Act and other notifications within 7 days.</p> <p>Quality: Assist constituents to enter into Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) and other agreements.</p> <p>Quality: Assist in resolving disputes between and within constituent groups, including through the conduct of anthropological research.</p> <p>Quantity: Substantial progress to be made in the progressing of seven land claims towards consent determination.</p> <p>Future act notices to be processed and responded to within seven days</p> <p>Price: \$1.48m for administering the Output</p>	<p>Seven land claims listed for determination hearings by consent in the week 23 to 27 September 2002 were cancelled in early September following an unexpected and last minute change in position by the State Government.</p> <p>Identified, prepared and argued in the Full Federal Court a strategic test case on the operation of s47A of the Native Title Act and the effect under the Native Title Act on the construction of public works on Torres Strait Islander land. The Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim was also identified as a strategic test case and research and development of the legal issues continues and preliminary anthropology work was undertaken.</p> <p>Standard procedures developed and implemented for processing and responding to future Act notifications.</p> <p>263 actions were taken in response to 225 future Act notices, 85% within seven days.</p> <p>24 agreements were entered into in relation to proposed future Acts.</p> <p>Seven Indigenous Land Use Agreements were registered with the National Native Title Tribunal.</p> <p>Assisted in relation to 8 disputes relating to native title applications or land use agreements.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$1.097m.</p>
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<p>4. Social, Cultural and Development</p>	<p>Quality: approved grants for approved projects will be funded within 28 days of commencement of the financial year.</p> <p>Quantity: 22 grants will be approved in the financial year.</p> <p>Price: \$7.178m for the Output.</p> <p>Provide assistance to the communities to promote and improve the social and cultural wellbeing.</p> <p>Promote community involvement in environmental issues affecting them by providing financial assistance to suitable community organisations running appropriate programs and through publications produced by the TSRA.</p>	<p>All funded organisations received all or part of their first quarterly release within 28 days of the commencement of the financial year.</p> <p>29 grants were approved in the 2002–2003 financial year, representing 103 activities ((excluding CDEP (52) CDEP consultants (4), Training (20), Environmental Health (3) and Economic Development (4)).</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$8.540m.</p>
<p>5. Housing and Environment Health and Infrastructure</p>	<p>Quality: Infrastructure projects commenced in 2002–2003 year will be 75% complete by 30 June 2003.</p> <p>Quantity: Sewerage, housing, drainage and infrastructure projects for the seventeen island communities are continuing.</p> <p>Price: \$7.977m for the Output.</p>	<p>100% of MIP 2 projects commenced in 2002–2003 or are in the planning stages as at June 2003.</p> <p>Three projects that commenced in 2002–2003, have progressed to the design stage.</p> <p>Of the 6 major projects under construction during 2002–2003, 3 are completed, while the remaining 3 are 98%, 90% and 30% complete at as 30 June 2003.</p> <p>Three regional strategic reports were completed during 2002–2003.</p> <p>Boigu Island airstrip was sealed.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$6.062m.</p>

<p>6. Policy and Information</p>	<p>Quality: 94% of Ministerial correspondence dealt with within 21 days. 98 % of TSRA Board Members and Portfolio Member for Women’s Issues queries responded to within 14 days. 98% of queries from the public responded to within 14 days.</p> <p>Quantity: 1435 number of publications, queries and correspondence are anticipated.</p> <p>Price: \$1.426m for the Output.</p>	<p>17 Ministerials were received. All were dealt with by the set deadline with the exception of one.</p> <p>100% of queries were responded to within 14 days.</p> <p>100% of verbal queries were responded to in 14 days.</p> <p>80% of written queries were responded to in 14 days.</p> <p>1148 queries and correspondence were received including 861 items of correspondence.</p> <p>One written complaint was received.</p> <p>Price for this Output: \$2.096m.</p>
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OUTPUT ONE - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM - ECONOMIC

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

The Economic Program is comprised of 3 sub-programs:

1. Business Funding Scheme (BFS);
2. Home Ownership; and
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.



New boat charter business promotes fishing and sightseeing off Thursday Island

Description

The BFS has enabled the establishment of a number of businesses within 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 Indigenous people of Torres Strait and the 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.

Achievements

During the financial period 30 loans were advanced at a total value of \$1,349,778. Compared with last financial year, the number of BFS loans that have been advanced has reduced by twelve; however there has been a net increase in the amount advanced by \$43,033.

During the 2002–2003 financial year 28 clients paid out their BFS loans.

The TSRA's portfolio of business loans as at 30 June 2003, stands at 96 active commercial loans. A total of \$738,211 in repayments has been returned this financial year into the BFS account.

Whilst the majority of loans remain in the fishing industry the Business Funding Scheme is recognised as a very successful business mechanism with Indigenous people undertaking a more diversified range of commercial activities. For example, of the loans financed this financial period, the following areas of commercial activity were undertaken.

Industry Sector	Number of Loans Disbursed	\$ Value
Commercial Fishing	15	179,886
Earthmoving	1	99,800
Light Industrial Marine	1	45,000
Motel Development	1	140,000
Seafood Processing	1	85,000
Transport	5	295,108
Retail	4	255,318
Tourism	2	249,666
TOTAL	30	1,349,778

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

The TSRA provides an additional service to BFS clients by arranging and paying insurance. A total of \$89,976 in insurance costs was paid on behalf of BFS clients, and then charged back to their loan account.

During this financial year, one BFS loan was released to a community council to enable them to expand their seafood processing facility. This is a positive step towards this council achieving economic independence.

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 well being.

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. The scheme is self-funding.

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.

Achievements

In 2002–2003 the TSRA had 39 housing loans within its portfolio, with 3 new loans, valued at \$427,542, funded for the purchase for new homes and land. In addition to this, \$204,392 was released to 7 existing housing clients for renovations and extension of dwellings, which brings the total amount released for 2002–2003 to \$631,934.

A total of \$358,320 in repayments was returned into the housing account. In addition to this, a total of \$3,313 in insurance costs were paid on behalf of housing clients, and then charged back to their loan account.

SUB PROGRAM: 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 \$867,707 as detailed in the following table:

Project	Approved
Dauan Island Takeaway (carried fwd from 01/02)	81,000
Poruma Island Resort (carried fwd from 01/02)	21,043
St Paul's Island Council Student Hostel	200,000
Yorke Island Council Guesthouse (280,664 carried fwd from 01/02)	392,664
TOTAL	867,707

CEIS expenditure of \$607,597 during the 2002–2003 financial year included:

Project	Approved
Dauan Island Takeaway	81,000
Poruma Island Resort	21,043
St Paul's Island Council Student Hostel	200,000
Yorke Island Council Guesthouse	305,554
TOTAL	607,597

Dauan Island Takeaway is now complete and Council has leased the business to a private operator.

The Poruma Island Resort was completed in November 2002. With more involvement by the community, particularly the CDEP, an extra \$323,800 CEIS grant was approved for the project over the next five years. Funding of \$115,000 has been allocated for the 2002–2004 financial year to assist with salaries, capital purchases and workcover. Seven Indigenous participants will receive appropriate training in all aspects of the hospitality industry. Their positions will provide full-time employment.

The development of the St Pauls Island Council’s Student Hostel is in Council’s Three-Year Community Development Plan. The objective of the Hostel is to provide accommodation and training to Indigenous students enrolling in specific courses which have been tailored to account for students whose first language may not be English. Training in Business and Administration, Workplace Assessor, and Trade Based Literacy and Numeracy has been successfully delivered to over 100 students.

The Hostel will also be a hands-on training facility for Hospitality and Tourism students, thereby offering valuable work experience.

An additional \$80,000 was approved for the Yorke Island Council guesthouse due to changes in the original design and a further \$32,000 for additional work.

OUTPUT 2 – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

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

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

PROGRAM—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (CDEP)

Objective

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

Description

CDEP is available to Torres Strait Islander communities within the Torres Strait region. The 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 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 Business Funding and Community Economic Initiatives Schemes, the Community Training Program, apprenticeships and various accredited training programs provided by the State and Commonwealth. It also involves funding for environmental and landscaping programs.



Surveying land on Warraber Island

Funding

In 2002–2003, the TSRA committed \$27,320,548 of CDEP program funds to projects in the Torres Strait region, achieving 98.6% expenditure over commitment. It is the TSRA's single largest program. As at 30 June 2003, there was a total of 1,880 eligible participants in 18 CDEP schemes, covering 19 communities. Expenditure for 2002–2003 was \$26,924,373, comprising: wages (\$20,331,858) and recurrent/capital (\$6,592,515), which included \$30,846 as CDEP Support (conducting 8 Major Reviews); \$7,500 relating to the maintenance of the CDEP Manager software by external consultants since the re-location of the software in Torres Strait; \$1,000 for expenses related to CDEP for the Horn Island Aboriginal Corporation; and \$137,477 for expenses related to the upgrading of the CDEP Manager software into a fully comprehensive electronic data transfer system, including the modification of Centrelink Forms.

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 2002–2003, these projects continued to support activities such as: administration, storage yard and depot maintenance, fuel depots, public transport, landscaping, general land and environment management programs, waste and rubbish recycling and removal, contract cleaning, hydroponics, cemetery maintenance, road and drainage construction and their upgrade and maintenance, market gardens and nursery projects, livestock management and abattoirs, cargo handling, garages and service stations, stevedoring, vehicle maintenance and mechanical workshops, tourism and hospitality, supermarket and groceries, cattle-work, piggeries, animal care and husbandry, traditional and community justice systems and policing, women, youth, culture and church projects, assistance to education and primary health care, fishing, seafood processing, live crustaceans management and marketing, take-away enterprises, construction and maintenance of buildings and community roads, quarries, sea walls, levee banks, airstrip upgrades and other public utilities such as community seafood storage and freezing facilities, screen-printing and art and crafts, home and child care and broadcasting.

In addition to these ongoing activities, Housing & Major Infrastructure contracts continued to be won by CDEP organisations, reinforcing the trend started during 1996–1997. Once more, a strongly stated TSRA policy continues to result 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 2002–2003 financial year, as during last year, implemented planning processes initiated with the updating of the Community Development Plans effected in 2000–2001, in accordance with local needs and various strategies of which many involved other Commonwealth and State agencies. This was done, as previously, through intensive consultations with the Islander communities and coordination and cooperation with the Queensland Government agencies.

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

Funds were committed for annual reviews of eight TSRA funded organisations. These reviews took place in the first half of the 2002–2003 financial year and the recommendations issued from these reviews were implemented throughout that year. All recommendations were implemented, except one, and work is ongoing to resolve the problem.

The TRAWQ CDEP contract, negotiated with the Torres Shire Council last year, continued in 2002–2003 and covered various maintenance works on public grounds and buildings as well as maintained the same financial basis (the exact amount is unavailable until the Annual Audit, due in September 2002).

The TRAWQ CDEP also experienced a major development, which is to gradually assume responsibility for the activities previously undertaken by a Youth support organisation, the Youth Activities Services (YAS), now defunct. This aspect of TRAWQ's activities is animated by a very experienced Youth worker, and CDEP is the ideal vehicle to support the various activities, organise the relevant training and purchase the sporting and other equipment necessary to conduct the program.

The 2002–2003 CDEP work plans and programs closely followed the local priorities outlined in Year 2 of the Three-Year Community Development Plans (2001–2004) compiled in 2000–2001 and reflected in the TSRA triennial system of funding.

The Horn Island CDEP scheme, originally a branch of the TRAWQ CDEP, is progressing well, with some contracts arranged with the Torres Shire Council. This CDEP scheme, however, does not benefit from the support of a local Council as found in the other island communities. This means that this scheme will probably need special assistance for the medium term.

CDEP On-Line

Lastly, the 2002–2003 financial year saw major developments in the project to link electronically the 18 CDEP schemes, the TSRA, and Centrelink. A series of meetings were held at senior level with Centrelink both in Canberra and on Thursday Island and the issues were discussed in a very positive manner. The TSRA, in the mean time, commissioned a complete re-write of the CDEP Manager software for adaptation to the Internet. The connection to designated Island communities will be ensured by Telstra. All going well, and providing that the timetable set by Telstra and Centrelink is respected, the first trial of the new system should take place in the second half of the 2003–2004 financial year.

CDEP Award

The draft Award was finalised in 2002–2003 and is now with the Australian Workers Union for filing with the Queensland Arbitration Commission.

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

Funding

In 2002–2003, the TSRA committed \$1,404,250 to various Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations for the continuation of the CTP program, achieving 94.4% expenditure over commitment.

Achievements

As in previous years, the training funds were used to improve managerial, administrative, and trade-based skills. A range of courses were conducted on the following: computer operation, accounting software, office management, painting, carpentry, electrical skills, plumbing, welding and other building trades, mechanical skills and small motor repairs and maintenance, screen printing, fashion studies, basic literacy and numeracy, conflict resolution, small business management, fishery/seafood processing, Coxswain and other vocational marine training, fuel outlets, hazardous substances, retailing, take-away outlet operations, first aid, Work Place Health & Safety, community policing, airport reporting, child care, ranger operations, furniture making, cooking, sewing and other home management courses, fitness and sport coaching, horticulture, environmental health, coping with dementia and other challenging behaviours, nursing home documentation principles, risk management for aged care facilities and financial management. A total of 80 separate courses were planned and 78 achieved, involving more than 400 trainees and apprentices throughout the region.

A concerted effort to link these courses with CDEP and the training and employment opportunities offered to the communities by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST), the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR), the State Department of Employment and Training (DET) as well as the network of Job Centres, continued during 2002–2003. Torres Strait communities utilised tradesmen and skilled residents to conduct training where possible, while in other instances expressions of interest were sought from accredited trainers based elsewhere. In 2002–2003, up to 100 apprenticeships were supported and maintained. The TSRA Board has made it clear that it continues to consider community based training as one of the utmost priorities in Torres Strait.

The year 2002–2003's output ensured the involvement of mainstream employment and training agencies, both Commonwealth and State, whenever possible, and the finalisation of the 2002–2003 training program reflected this, with savings reaching 13% of the previous year's expenditure.

OUTPUT 3 – NATIVE TITLE

Objective

To consult with and effectively represent Torres Strait Islanders in the performance of our functions under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) and in particular to secure legal recognition of native title to lands and waters in Torres Strait.

Description

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

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

This Output refers to the TSRA's functions as a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth). Representative bodies are primarily responsible for servic-

ing the needs of their constituents effectively and equitably. Those constituents are the persons who hold or may hold native title in their area. On that basis, one of the guiding principles for the operations of representative bodies is their responsibility to act in the best interests of their constituents.

LEGISLATION GOVERNING TSRA'S NATIVE TITLE FUNCTIONS

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

LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE TSRA IN ITS NTRB CAPACITY

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

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

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

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

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

Organisational Structure and Corporate Governance Policies

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

PART B – REPORT ON PERFORMANCE

Output 3 of TSRA's Performance Against Outputs table reproduced on page 51 of this report relates to TSRA's native title functions. As shown in that table, performance targets have been met.

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



Mabo Day Procession

Native title claims over Iama, Badu, Boigu, Erub, Ugar, Aureed and Gebar were substantially progressed through mediation early in the financial year with in principle agreement given by all parties to the terms of consent orders. Hearing dates for each of the determinations were set by the Federal Court for the week of 23 to 27 September 2002.

In a significant blow to native title in the region these determinations were cancelled only three weeks before they were scheduled to take place following an unexpected change in position by the State Government in relation to public works.

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

On 15 May 2003 the TSRA acted for the native title claimants of Erub (Darnley Island) in a test case, heard before the Full Federal Court, as to the operation of s47A of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth), and the effect of constructing public infrastructure on Torres Strait Islander owned land. The outcome of this case, which is not yet known, is expected to be of national importance.

The cancellation of the seven consent determinations and the subsequent dispute with the State Government has had significant ramifications for the region. In particular, it has threatened the future construction of new infrastructure, including housing on the community islands, and has posed real challenges for the region as to how to continue with important infrastructure developments without extinguishing native title.

The TSRA is presently seeking to negotiate an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the State Government that would allow future public works to be built without extinguishing native title, however no agreement has yet been reached.

In March 2003 the Australian Government, through the Department of Defence and Customs Coastwatch, confirmed that they wished to enter into negotiations with two communities in Torres Strait for the construction of a new High Frequency Surface Wave Radar. The Commonwealth is seeking to negotiate Indigenous Land Use Agreements based on the non-extinguishment of native title, and the TSRA is providing legal advice and assistance to the native title holders in these negotiations.

With fourteen determinations of native title in Torres Strait and sixteen Prescribed Bodies Corporate established to deal with land matters, TSRA is starting to experience significant changes to its principal functions. Mediation, negotiation and assistance in dealing with future acts, as well as dispute resolution and agreement making, are emerging as primary functions for TSRA as communities and PBCs grapple to cope with their responsibilities under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) and associated regulations. This situation is exacerbated by the absence of any available funding for PBCs once they have been established.

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

The Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal, and the notification process was completed during the 2002–2003 financial year. The claim has now been formally referred for mediation to the National Native Title Tribunal.

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

FACILITATION AND ASSISTANCE	REPORT ON NUMBER ONLY
Claimant Applications	18
Filed this year	Nil
Number current	18
Number registered with NNTT	17
Non Claimant Applications	Nil
Agreements	
– Land use agreements finalised	9
– Land use agreements finalised but not yet executed	1
– Leases	5
– Determination Deeds finalised but not yet executed	10 ¹
– Other Agreements	9
Total	34
Compensation claims	Nil
Responses to Future Acts	263
Determinations of Native Title	Nil ²
ILUAs Registered	7
Disputes Relating to Native Title Applications	5
Disputes relating to ILUAs, rights of access and other matters	4
Number of ILUAs effected	10 ³
Number of reviews pending	Nil
Number of reviews completed	Nil
Number of PBCs established	Nil
Number of PBCs assisted	16
Number of claims certified	1
Number of ILUAs certified	Nil

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

² Seven claims were substantially progressed toward consent determinations and hearing dates were set for 23–27 September 2002. In a substantial blow for the region the consent determinations were cancelled only three weeks before they were due to be heard as a result of a change in position by the State Government. Progress of these determinations is now awaiting the outcome of a Full Federal Court decision.

³ ILUAs were negotiated as part of the settlement of five of the native title claims that were expected to be determined by consent in September 2002. Finalisation of these ILUAs is now awaiting the outcome of the Full Federal Court hearing.

Financial Performance of TSRA in NTRB Capacity

For the 2002–2003 financial year the TSRA was funded an amount of \$1.432m for the ongoing operation of the Native Title Office and the provision of housing for the Native Title Office staff.

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

Torres Strait Regional Authority Output 3 Native Title Total Cost of Output as at 30 June 2003

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Operating Revenues:		
Appropriation	1,432,000	1,675,000
Other Revenue	109,000	49,000
Total Operating Revenues	1,541,000	1,724,000
Operating Expenses:		
Advertising	16,329	
Consultants	139,027	214,304
Incidental	2,449	9,250
Legal	9,056	9,488
Library	18,236	8,701
Meeting Expenses	35,857	58,847
Office Requisites	14,460	18,363
Office Rent	52,338	32,887
Employees	275,000	490,000
Incidental Employee Costs	4,061	7,140
Depreciation	37,000	35,000
Travel	137,918	136,317
Grant	10,000	19,235
Allocated Overhead	167,000	144,000
Total Operating Expenses	918,731	1,183,532
Capital Usage Charge	178,200	170,000
Total Cost of Output	1,096,931	1,353,532

Note

1. These figures are sourced from the Audited Financial Statements of the TRSA for year ended 30 June 2003

PART C – EXTERNAL SCRUTINY

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

PART D – MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

As a section of TSRA, Native Title Office staff participate in training and development undertaken by all TSRA staff and are subject to the Certified Agreement outlined in this report.

OUTPUT 4 - HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE

PROGRAM: HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The output of Housing and Environmental Health Infrastructure aims to increase the number of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal persons in the Torres Strait area with access to adequate housing, infrastructure facilities and essential municipal services consistent with and appropriate to their needs. The output also aims to improve health standards 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, and is comprised of two sub-programs:

- a) Environmental Health
- b) Community Housing



Sewerage infrastructure being developed on Badu Island

SUB-PROGRAM: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Objective

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

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE

Description

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

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Description

The Major Infrastructure Program seeks to improve the infrastructure standards in the 15 outer island communities as well as Bamaga and Seisia. The TSRA and the Queensland Government contributed \$30 million to fund Stage 1 of the program. The State and Commonwealth have agreed to fund a second stage and jointly contributed \$30 million for the next three-year cycle. Total contributions for both stages have amounted to \$60 million.

The TSRA appointed consultants to manage Stage 2 of the program and a panel of project managers to manage individual projects was subsequently appointed. The planning for Stage 2 drew on the extensive consultation and planning reports completed for Stage 1. These detailed reports identified the numerous health-related infrastructure priorities for all Torres Strait communities.

Achievements

During 2002–2003 financial year various MIP Stage 2 works progressed through the design and planning stages and construction started on others. As well, works on the few remaining MIP Stage 1 projects continued with projects on Saibai and Mer completed.

Summary of Works

Community	Infrastructure	Status
Badu	Sewerage & Land Servicing Project	Construction of trunk sewers, pump stations and treatment lagoons was completed in 2002. Connections of housing to the system will continue through 2003. Budget for this project is \$6.6Million.
Erub	Reticulated Sewerage and Sewerage Treatment Plant	Construction of trunk sewers and pump stations has been completed and the package sewerage treatment plant is under construction. Connection of houses to the system will be undertaken by mid 2003. This project has an estimated budget of \$4.2Million.
Bamaga	Land Servicing Project	Construction of 15 lot subdivisions is nearing completion with construction being undertaken by the Bamaga Council. Approximate budget is \$945,000.
Mer	Land Servicing Project	Project Manager appointed, with community consultations in progress. Estimated to cost \$700,000.
Poruma	Elevated Water Tanks	The old water towers at Poruma have been replaced with constant pressure pumps using variable speed drives. Commissioning is expected to commence in mid 2003. Cost of project is approximately \$250,000.
Warraber	Elevated Water Tanks	The old water towers at Warraber have been replaced with constant pressure pumps using variable speed drives. Commissioning is expected to begin in mid 2003. Cost of project is approximately \$250,000.

Saibai, Iama and Erub	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)	To provide SCADA to water infrastructure at three communities. Project implemented under MIP. Estimated cost is \$160,000.
Saibai (MIP 1)	Upgrade of Reticulated Water System including Enlarging Lagoon and Replacing Liner and Cover	Completed. Project cost was \$136,533.
Mer (MIP 1)	Upgrade Works to Water Reticulation System	Completed. Project cost was \$365,981.
Torres Strait Region	Land Servicing Strategy	The strategy has been finalised and has identified communities requiring priority subdivisional work to underpin housing construction in the region. Subsequent capital works have begun on identified communities. Estimated cost is \$57,405.
Torres Strait Region	Regional Waste Management Strategy	The strategy has been finalised in conjunction with relevant agencies including: the Environmental Protection Agency, Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, Department of Primary Industries and Queensland Health. Project cost is \$165,000.
Torres Strait Region	Bulk Waste Removal, New Tip Sites Development and Quarantine and Hardstand Areas Constructed	Initiate bulk waste and scrap removal from all islands. New tip sites development and quarantine and hardstand areas are being constructed in 13 communities. Estimated budget is \$1.15Million.
Torres Strait Region	Mapping	Topographic maps for the region have been updated (digitally) to include 'as constructed' information for works undertaken in the last five years. Cost was \$83,258.

AIRSTRIPS

Description

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

Achievements

Boigu Island airstrip was sealed and now provides all-year access. The TSRA and Queensland Transport contributed funds to this project at a total cost of almost \$1 million.

SUB-PROGRAM—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 2002–2003 the Bilateral Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement continued to foster Commonwealth and State cooperation in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing and related infrastructure issues. The Agreement outlines the framework within which the delivery of housing and infrastructure programs is planned and coordinated.

As a result of the Bilateral Agreement, the Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee (JTSHIC) was formed, with TSRA Chairperson Mr Terry Waia as 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. As such, this committee has an overseeing role in guiding and implementing housing policy in Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area.

Achievements

In the 2002–2003 financial year, there were significant increases in the provision of appropriate and affordable housing within Torres Strait, in addition to substantial increases in available rental accommodation, specifically to assist families.

Funds provided under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Five-Year Capital Works Program are allocated to community councils for the upgrade and/or replacement of existing dwellings, as well as new construction to help reduce the backlog of housing needed. Since the Capital Works Program began in 1999–2000, an amount of \$62.898 million has been provided to Torres Strait communities to improve housing. The Capital Works Program is in its final year and total commitment is estimated to be \$83 million.

During 2002–2003 the TSRA successfully secured approximately \$750,000 from the Department of Family and Community Services for the Fixing Houses for Better Health 2 (FHBH2) Program. These funds were used to implement the FHBH2 in three communities, St. Pauls, Kubin and Mabuig.



Infrastructure development pursues equitable outcomes for Torres Strait Islanders

OUTPUT 5 – 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 6 programs as outlined below:

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

MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

Objective

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

Description

The TSRA may provide funding under this component for:

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

Funding

In 2002–2003, the TSRA committed \$1,803,733 as a contribution to the Island Councils' operations, \$1,070,016 towards the purchase or replacement of earth moving and other machinery, and \$1,458,233 towards the construction of council buildings, community halls, resource centres, roads and other amenities.

Achievements

The Island Councils used the TSRA's funds for: the employment of council clerks, 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. In the 2002–2003 financial year, the TSRA achieved 100% expenditure (council operations), 96.6% expenditure (machinery), and 67.3% expenditure (community buildings and amenities). The latter percentage represents a significant improvement on last year's figures.

The category of community buildings is still subject to difficulties relating to the establishment of a suitable site and the resolution of land tenure issues, when not due to problems of synchronisation of funding with our State counterparts.

- The Mer (Murray) Island Council again could not start the construction of their Community Hall, as supplementary finance is still under negotiation with State agencies. The Hall is also subject to land tenure issues.
- The Kubin Island Council completed their Community Centre and will finish their staff accommodation next year.
- The Stephen Island Council contracted A.T.S.I. Housing to erect a staff accommodation complex, which will enable the employment of an Executive Officer next year.
- Darnley Island Council finally completed their Community Hall, following the resolution of the land tenure issues. These issues resulted, however, in the Hall being located away from the community and the corresponding increase in the cost of establishing essential services.
- The TSRA contributed to training and employment opportunities in Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area by providing \$400,000 to the Island Coordinating Council. The funds will be used to support the training and employment of local people through the Heavy Equipment and Machinery Training Program (HEMTP). HEMTP is an initiative of the Department of Main Roads and provides a plant pool of heavy equipment and machinery for use in earthworks and road construction. Projects on each island are scheduled into the HEMTP program and equipment and machinery are delivered to each island as needed. At the end of the project the machinery is returned to the plant pool. The HEMTP has provided substantial skills development and employment for local people throughout Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area. A cooperative and mutual arrangement between the Department of Main Roads, the TSRA and the ICC has meant that HEMTP is also allowing an efficient and effective use of resources to provide infrastructure development in the region.
- Hammond Island Council was allocated \$65,000 for the upgrading of community roads. This money was rolled over into 2003–2004 to be incorporated into a State-funded road improvement program starting that year.



Islands economise by sharing heavy machinery

In 2002–2003, the Island Councils received grants totalling \$1,070,016, which enabled them to purchase the following items of machinery and equipment:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| • Boigu Island Council | 3 Quad Bikes |
| • Badu Island Council | 1 Backhoe |
| • Warraber Island Council | 1 Truck |
| • St. Pauls Island Council | 2 4x4 Vehicles |
| • Mer Island Council | Fit-out of Bus |
| • Seisia Island Council | 1 Tractor and implements |
| • Island Coordinating Council | Contribution to heavy equipment pool |
| • Yorke Island Council | 3 Dual-cab Utility Vehicles, 1 Quad Bike, 1 Ride-on Mower |
| • Darnley Island Council | 1 Troop Carrier and 1 Ride-on Mower |

A number of requests for smaller grants were given special consideration and approved by the TSRA, under the General Manager's Contingency Funds, to enable communities to improve their services or meet an urgent need.

Program	Community Purpose	Contribution (\$)
Yorke and Saibai Islands	Electronic GPS equipment for airstrips	7,000
Hammond	Relocate electric pole	3,000
Mer	Attend an Environmental Health Conference	2,200
St. Pauls	Purchase of road plant	14,000
TRAWQ	Contribution to bus replacement	30,000

BROADCASTING

Objective

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

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

Description

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

Funding

In 2002–2003, the TSRA committed funding totalling \$871,023 under this component. The Torres Strait Islander Media Association (TSIMA) received more than 66% of this funding (\$554,961) for operational and community broadcasting costs, as well as urgent repairs, upgrades and maintenance of their building. The remainder of the funds (\$316,062) was divided between 16 outer Island Councils for upgrading, operating and maintaining their own BRACS units through a rolling program of maintenance and capital replacement.

Achievements

The TSRA achieved 95.9% expenditure against the commitment. In 1998–1999, TSIMA obtained a licence for 24-hour operation from the Australian Broadcasting Authority and operated on that basis, providing a local service of news, music, current affairs and items of interest, which continued throughout 2002–2003. TSIMA also continued to play a significant role in the development of local policy issues of concern to the residents of Torres Strait, such as Greater Autonomy, the status of IBIS and Fisheries issues.

All 17 Island communities now have access to at least four television stations, as well as the normal radio stations. Many Island Councils such as St. Pauls and Bamaga take full advantage

of their BRACS units to broadcast programs with local content such as video coverage of local cultural and sporting events, language programs, etc. The duration of these programs vary and may be broadcast up to 20 hours weekly.

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 articulated in international and national forums.

Funding

The TSRA provided \$394,740 under this program during 2002–2003 for the provision of a legal service to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region.

100% expenditure was achieved.

Achievements

The principal achievement of this program has been the availability of adequate legal representation for people living in the Torres Strait region at the Magistrate Courts of Thursday Island, Badu Island and Bamaga.

In 2002–2003, the TSNP Legal Service gave preliminary legal advice, consultations, legal support and representation to 6,442 clients, including 311 civil cases, 259 family cases and 877 criminal cases. They also handled 71 Traditional Adoption cases and issued 274 Brief-outs and referrals. They gave representation to a total of 918 defendants facing a total of 1,977 charges.

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

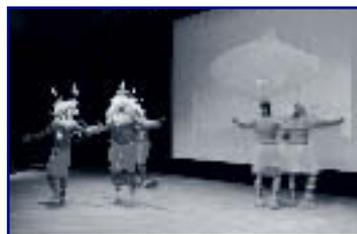
HERITAGE, CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

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.



Murray Island dancers perform at NAIDOC celebrations, at National Gallery

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

a) Heritage & Culture

Funding

In 2002–2003, the TSRA committed a total of \$259,000 for the support of artistic and cultural activities in the Torres Strait region, achieving 84.6% expenditure.

Additional funds were also sourced from the General Manager's Contingency Fund to support worthy projects, listed as follows.

Program	Community Purpose	Contribution (\$)
Thursday Island Primary School	Awards ceremony in Brisbane	2,000
Thursday Island Primary School	Organise a Torres Strait Art Exhibition in Brisbane	8,287
Badu	Dance team performance	5,000
Torres Shire Council	Biennial Cultural Festival	45,000
TRAWQ	Mabo Day celebrations	4,000

Achievements

In 2002–2003, the TSRA entered into a Partnership Agreement with Arts Queensland and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board of the Australia Council for the Arts to establish the Torres Strait Regional Arts Development Fund. Eleven projects were selected from seven communities, totalling \$67,526.

Project	Community	Time Frame	Budget
Mualgau Mineral Arts Collective – Print Workshop	Kubin Village	Indicative 1 week in 2003	\$2,350.00
Thursday Island State High School – Cultural Heritage Development Program	Thursday Island	28/1/03 – 30/6/03	\$5,000.00
Mura Buway Yoepkazil – Artwork Framing Workshop	Saibai Island	10/1/03 – 21/2/03	\$13,234.00
Rosie Barkus – Professional Development in Screen Printing	Thursday Island	28/1/03 – 30/6/03	\$10,120.00
Community Arts & Cultural Centre – Pottery Workshop	Darnley Island	21/4/03 – 29/4/03	\$5,500.00
St. Pauls Island Council – Music Recording Project	St. Pauls Village	30/5/03 – 30/6/03	\$7,500.00

Thursday Island High School – Artist in Residence Program	Thursday Island	28/1/03 – 27/6/03	\$6,000.00
Alick Tipoti – Mural Painting Project	Thursday Island	6/1/03 – 30/1/03	\$4,822.00
Davidson Elisala – Oral History Project	Dauan Island	Jan 03 – April 03	\$2,000.00
Abraham Mau – Mural Painting Project	Dauan Island	3/2/03 – 28/3/03	\$5,500.00
Mabuiag Island Council – Sculpture Workshop	Mabuiag Island	15/1/03 – 15/3/03	\$5,500.00
TOTAL			\$67,526.00

A portion of the Arts Fund was allocated as Quick Response to provide for emergent projects. Funding was granted toward the participation of Seaman Dan at the National Folk Festival in Canberra for \$1,590 and \$1,208 toward Mura Buway Yoepkazil attendance at the extraordinary market day for the cruise boats. \$10,000 was allocated toward the Dauan Island Council in support of their cultural dance tour at the opening of the Cairns Esplanade celebrations.

The TSRA also provided the Thursday Island State Primary School with \$12,000 in support of its annual program of traditional dancing in Queensland and interstate; \$4,421 as a contribution toward the school's band equipment and \$2,000 toward the attendance at the Australian Pensioners and Superannuants' League Awards for the annual schools essay, poster, video/film and multi-media competition held in Brisbane.

The Croc Festival in Weipa attracted participation by primary school students with \$3,000 provided to Horn Island and \$6,000 to Boigu Island. The Thursday Island State High School received \$1,200 for the travelling art exhibition and workshop at the Cairns Regional Gallery.

Sponsorship for cultural celebrations involved \$7,500 for the annual celebration of the Torres Strait Islanders Councillors meeting on Yorke Island; \$45,000 contribution toward the biennial Torres Strait Cultural Festival; \$4,000 for Mabo Day Celebrations; \$14,845 contribution toward the Mer Island delegation participating at the National Gallery of Australia's NAIDOC celebrations and presentation of historical cultural material; \$2,875 toward the Goigai Pudhai Badu Island Dance Team's attendance at the ANZAC Day memorial celebrating the re-vitalisation of the aeroplane dance and \$3,000 toward the engagement of local cultural advisor and linguist, Mr Ephraim Bani on the co-ordination of an appropriate community name for the Cultural Centre.

Other performances included \$10,000 contribution for the participation of the Torres Strait Indigenous Dance Group at the Laura Festival; \$5,000 contribution toward the Aibal Sagulau Buai Dance Tour in Brisbane; \$5,000 contribution toward the Shakaya performance as part of the Croc Festival; \$3,000 toward the launch of the music CD by Torres Strait Islander Andrew Namok and \$875 contribution for the participation of local artist, Stanley Laifoo in the KickArts Touring Exhibition and workshop.

The partnership between the TSRA and the National Museum of Australia enabled a \$9,000 contribution toward the international performance by the Saibai Island Dance Team to China.

The TSRA thus maintains itself as the peak body to assist local individuals and organisations in the maintenance and development of the region's cultural, historic and artistic heritage.

b) Environment

Funding

There was no commitment from the TSRA towards purely environmental projects in 2002–2003. However, the TSRA contributed to the development and implementation of a fisheries consultative structure and the establishment of a Cooperative Research Centre.

Achievements

In terms of protecting the environment and managing the region's natural resources, the TSRA has achieved some significant outcomes.

The TSRA takes a progressive approach to addressing issues impacting on Torres Strait. In particular, the sustainable management of fisheries has been the topic of positive debate, taking into account the traditional connection which the Torres Strait people have with the sea and its resources.

The TSRA strived and succeeded in 2002–2003 to establish a consultative structure that ensured a strong and balanced representation of traditional inhabitant fishers from across Torres Strait. The traditional representatives will provide valuable input into decision-making and the development of long-term sustainable fishing practices for the region.

Another milestone for the TSRA was the federal announcement to establish a \$3 million Torres Strait marine research program, based on Thursday Island, which will run for three years and commence in July 2003.

The TSRA, in its commitment to a cooperative approach, was one of nine government and non-government agencies that teamed up with CRC Reef to submit the bid for Torres Strait.

This project marks a significant step for improving marine research capabilities in the region and importantly, from a local perspective, it will work toward conserving fisheries, and traditionally hunted sea grass dugongs and turtles through sustainable management practices.

The Torres Strait Research Program will be based at CRC Reef Research Centre in Townsville with a full time presence in Torres Strait.

In working towards this achievement this financial year, four inter-departmental meetings were held to develop and implement a Cooperative Research Centre for Torres Strait. In addition, three Island Watch Committee meetings were coordinated and attended, which aimed to improve telecommunication services in the Torres Strait region through networking the national funding.

Further information on Fisheries and the CRC Torres Strait program can be sourced under Output 6–Policy Coordination & Information.

SPORT**Objective**

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

Description

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

Funding

In 2002–2003, the TSRA committed a total of \$1,208,887 under this program, achieving 48.7% expenditure.

Once again, the TSRA committed additional funding from the General Manager's Contingency Funds to support the sporting needs of the community.

Program	Community Purpose	Contribution
Mabuiag	Inter-Island Sport Carnival	2,000
Mer	Construct Mer State School's sport court	10,000
Badu	Organisation of the Rugby League Torres Strait Cup	10,000
ICC	Contribution to Badu State School's sports shelter	11,000
Darnley	Sports Hall opening celebrations	5,000

Achievements

- \$315,671 was provided in 2002–2003 to the Torres Strait Youth & Recreational Sporting Association (TSYRSA) as a contribution toward their operating costs and assistance, in terms of both funding and expertise, which they provide to the various Indigenous sporting associations in Torres Strait.



Funding supports sporting associations

- 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 "Island 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 TSY&RSA employed a full-time administrator and fulfilled its role as an umbrella organisation for sporting activities taking place in Torres Strait, notably the annual Rugby League tournaments organised at Badu and on Thursday Island itself.
- \$185,000 was committed in 2000–2001 to cater for the construction of a Sports Complex on Hammond Island, and the funds rolled over into 2001–2002. An amount of \$9,784 was spent in 2001–2002 and \$65,781 in 2002–2003, with the rest of the funds (\$109,435) rolled over into 2003–2004, as the project has been reliant on the Heavy Equipment Pool.
- The sports oval project on Yam Island started in 2000–2001 and was due for completion in 2001–2002. However, the project was delayed due to extraneous factors and only \$124,310 worth of materials was purchased in 2001–2002. The project is also reliant on the Heavy Machinery Pool and the 2002–2003 part of the project (\$228,441) was implemented (with the exception of \$35,729 which was rolled over into 2003–2004 within the CDEP component).
- \$10,000 was allocated to Badu Island Council for holding the annual rugby league 'Torres Strait Cup'.

- \$20,000 rolled over from last year has been utilised to complete the Grand Stand at Coconut.
- An amount of \$11,000 was allocated to the ICC toward the costs of establishing a sporting facility for the school on Badu Island.
- Mabuiag Island Council received \$80,000 for the construction of a sports field and \$2,000 for the BAMMOA Sports Festival.
- Mer Island Council received \$10,000 for the construction of a sports court at the school on Mer.
- The Torres Shire Council received \$30,000 for the purchase and installation of gymnasium equipment.
- The Stephen Island Council received \$44,829 for the construction of sports facilities.
- The Seisia Island Council, after having spent approximately \$50,000 in 2001–2002 for the erection of a Club House, only tinkered with the project in 2002–2003 under their CDEP scheme and has now been allocated \$100,000 in 2003–2004 to complete the project.
- A sport complex at Badu (\$300,000) and a sports oval at Dauan (\$100,000) have been earmarked for 2003–2004.

The various funding allocations to the outer islands listed above have met their objectives, with the exception of those funds which had to be rolled over into the 2003–2004 financial year.

During the 2002–2003 financial year there continues to be significant development and increased presence of sport in Torres Strait. The main sport is still Rugby League, but other codes, such as Australian Rules and Rugby Union, are making good inroads into the community and sporting events are very well attended. Upgrades of the sporting facilities available on Thursday Island, as well as on the outer islands, have greatly facilitated this process, however much more still needs to be done in terms of facilities and sports development.

SOCIAL SUPPORT

Objective

To ensure that the rights and well being of Indigenous Women, Youth, Disabled and Aged are respected and are commensurate with the norm applied in the wider Australian community; and to reduce the incidence of drug abuse, domestic violence, neglect and other symptoms of social dysfunction affecting the Indigenous population of Torres Strait.

Description

This Program provides funding for the operational costs of Women, Youth, Disabled and Aged People Centres. Its funds may also be utilised toward partially or fully meeting costs associated with information tours and/or participation to relevant forums and conferences.

Funding

In 2002–2003, the TSRA committed \$350,689 to this program, achieving 100% expenditure.

The TSRA, this financial year, continued its support of social organisations that provided valuable services to the people of Torres Strait. This additional funding was allocated from the General Manager's Contingency Funds.

Program	Community Purpose	Contribution \$
Kazi	Donation for Child Protection Week	500
Indigenous Festivals	Croc Eisteddfod	30,000
Mura Kosker	Replace office equipment	20,000
Mura Kosker	International Women's Day	2,500
Thursday Island Primary School	Young Leaders Conference	2,946
Thursday Island High School	Purchase Quad for youth projects	5,000
ICC	Young Leaders conference - Horn Island School	3,000
ICC	Volunteer Marine Rescue training	3,000
Torres Shire Council	Celestino Mayor Pilot training certificate Completion celebrations	1,250

Achievements

- \$140,109 was provided to the Port Kennedy Association (PKA) to assist in meeting the costs of their operations; the Port Kennedy Association operations include a number of programs funded by other State and Commonwealth agencies, with the operating costs met by the TSRA. The association operates a Child Care Centre, which opened during 1997–1998 (State funded). The communityhall, upgraded, extended and renovated last year, continues to be the venue for a range of social activities such as local functions, church group gatherings, art and culture activities, school reunions, bluelight discos, Government Departments dissemination of information, and general community organisations.



Lorna Kaddy with Kade, Yorke Island

The Social Worker program continues to respond to new referrals from Community Health, Hospital, Police, Family Services, Child Protection, Domestic Violence Agency and schools.

The Association has also this year initiated and developed a Local Justice Initiative Program through the Community Justice Group (State funded) and now boasts a staff of two. Visits were organised to Torres Strait Islander inmates at Lotus Glen and Karate classes for adults and children are held thrice weekly.

The Association also runs a Vacation Care Program, providing school children with a variety of holiday activities, and a Play Group, both funded by the Commonwealth Department of Families.

Yearly activities include Carols By Candlelight, Christmas presents for the residents of the local Star of the Sea Home for the Aged, and the holding of several mini-markets.

- A grant of \$156,634 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, along principles similar to those current at Port Kennedy (various functional programs funded by other State and Commonwealth agencies, with the operating costs fully funded by the TSRA). These programs include Home and

Community Care (HACC), Old Peoples Action Program (OPAP), Victims of Violence Program (Lena Passi Women Shelter) and Emergency Relief Funding (ERF).

- 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. Until this year, the organisation was working very closely with the TSRA Women's Issues Officer, the TSRA Portfolio Member for Women's Issues and project staff.

Mura Kosker, in 2002–2003, implemented a strategy specially designed to map their way out of the previous year's administrative and financial difficulties. They are now functioning and reporting normally.

- A grant of \$13,000 was provided to TRAWQ as seeding funding for a permanent Youth Program, essential now that the Youth Activities Service (YAS) does not function anymore. A rival submission was received from TSYRSA, but TRAWQ's program has many more chances to be properly implemented and long-lasting.
- A grant of \$2,946 was provided to the Thursday Island Primary School to send four representatives to a National Young Leaders Conference in Brisbane.
- A grant of \$3,000 was provided to the Island Coordinating Council to send eight representatives from the Horn Island Primary School to a HISS conference in Cairns.
- The Thursday Island State High School received \$5,000 as a contribution to purchase a Quad Bike to assist in some youth recreational programs.
- Finally, the organisation 'Indigenous Festivals Australia' received \$30,000 to organise the Croc Eisteddfod Festival on Thursday Island.

OUTPUT 6 – POLICY AND INFORMATION

Objectives – Policy Coordination And Development

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

Achievements for Objective 1

MARINE AND FISHERIES COORDINATION

The TSRA worked cooperatively with AFMA, AFFA and QFS to develop and implement a consultative structure that allows direct involvement of Torres Strait indigenous fishermen in the decision making processes affecting all Torres Strait fisheries. The structure involves one elected fisherman from each Torres Strait community participating at the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Forum. At this level, fishermen contribute to discussions that provide advice to the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) which has responsibility for making decisions relating to fisheries management in Torres Strait.

Another major achievement was to have the Chair of the TSRA officially appointed to the PZJA to share decision making responsibilities with the Commonwealth and Queensland Government ministers for fisheries. The new structure allows Torres Strait Islanders a very strong say in the management of fisheries and is seen as a step towards their long term vision of managing and owning Torres Strait fisheries.

The TSRA employs a Fisheries Coordinator to involve indigenous stakeholders in the consultative structure. In a cooperative arrangement, the TSRA paid \$100,000 for travel expenses for the indigenous fishermen and AFMA and QFS jointly contributed \$90,000 towards the costs incurred by the Fisheries Coordinator.

The TSRA also spent \$50,000 on training for community fishermen so that they could participate effectively in the new consultative structure and be equipped to consult on current and emerging fisheries issues.

During the year TSRA representatives participated in 18 PZJA consultative structure meetings including: two meetings of the PZJA, one Australian/Papua New Guinea Fisheries Bilateral meeting, one fisheries strategic planning workshop and a Dugong and Turtle Traditional Catch Monitoring workshop. TSRA also participated in two joint meetings with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and NPA indigenous representatives on Dugong and Turtle Management issues to jointly explore ways to balance contemporary hunting methods with traditional methods to ensure the sustainability of these important sea animals.

Other key achievements for the TSRA in relation to fisheries include:

- Acknowledgment by AFMA and QFS that the Torres Strait Treaty establishes the rights of traditional fishers and commercial Indigenous fishers before those of non-Indigenous commercial fishermen;
- Effort reduction in the Tropical Rock Lobster and Finfish fisheries with removal of latent effort and a 30% reduction in tenders for both fisheries;
- Contribution to the Strategic Assessment of the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) to ensure that this fishery is managed in a sustainable manner;
- Support for the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DoTRS) proposal to declare the Torres Strait region a "Particularly Sensitive Sea Area". Two associated measures are proposed to prevent damage from international shipping by implementing a two-way shipping route through Torres Strait and compulsory pilotage;
- Successful completion of the first stage of the Workplace Hygiene Procedures training on site at the islands of Murray, Darnley, Coconut and Yam;
- Approval of a docket book system to capture catch and effort data in order to better manage Torres Strait fisheries;
- Approval of Vessel Monitoring System for the Torres Strait Prawn Trawling fleet that will come into effect on 1 March 2004 as well as agreement in principle to introduce Torres Strait Islander observers on prawning vessels;
- Progress with community based management on dugong and turtle. Funding is being sought to implement traditional catch monitoring in the communities to monitor harvest rate, population and collect biological information; and
- Banning the take of dugongs and turtles from commercial fishing vessels with the exemption of Traditional Inhabitant Boat Licenses less than or equal to 6 metres in length.

NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST 2

The TSRA has worked together with relevant Commonwealth and Queensland Government departments to access Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) two funding for Torres Strait. NHT is a major Commonwealth initiative designed to foster partnerships between communities, industry and all levels of government in pursuit of better environmental and natural resource outcomes. It was set up as a result of the sale of part of the Telstra telecommunications network. Natural Heritage Trust–Phase 2 (NHT2) is an extension of the original NHT and will operate over a five-year period and deal with issues such as conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources.

The process for receiving funding requires that a NHT2 Natural Resources Committee be established to facilitate the development and implementation of a Natural Resource Management Plan for the region. An interim committee has now been formed comprised of six TSRA representatives, one Torres Shire Council Rep and representatives for women's issues, environment, fishing and education. The Natural Resource Management Plan is required to include a holistic range of natural resource management indicators and targets as well as indicate its direct and coordinated relationship with adjoining regions.

Once funding is received the TSRA will move to establish a Secretariat to provide support services to the NHT2 Natural Resources Committee within the TSRA. The TSRA believes that the location of the Secretariat unit within the TSRA is essential to maintain coordination with other environment related initiatives with which the TSRA is heavily involved.

THE COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE (CRC) TORRES STRAIT PROGRAM

The TSRA entered into a cooperative partnership with eight other Commonwealth and Queensland Government agencies to undertake marine research in Torres Strait to a value of \$20 million over the next three years.

The partners of the CRC Torres Strait Program include:

- Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)
- Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)
- Queensland Department of Primary Industries (QDPI)
- National Oceans Office (NOO)
- Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)
- CSIRO Marine Research (CMR)
- James Cook University (JCU)
- GeoScience Australia (GSA)
- CRC Reef Research Centre (CRC Reef)

The CRC Torres Strait Program will:

- Support the sustainable development of marine resources and minimise impacts of resource use in Torres Strait;
- Enhance conservation of the environment & the social, cultural & economic well being of Torres Strait peoples; and
- Contribute to effective policy formulation, implementation & decision making.

This research program is particularly crucial for the management of Torres Strait fisheries. The Torres Strait has 10 key fisheries including prawn, tropical rock lobster, mackerel, reef fish

trochus, pearl shell, crab, sea cucumber, turtle and dugong. These fisheries provide an important economic base for commercial operators (both Indigenous and non Indigenous) and Torres Strait Islanders who on a per capita basis are one of the largest consumers of seafood in the world.

However many of the fisheries are over fished and there is urgent need to develop and implement sustainable management practices that help to protect and conserve stocks, while still meeting the Torres Strait Treaty objectives to protect the traditional way of life and livelihood of Traditional Inhabitants in the Protected Zone.

To manage the impact of researchers operating in Torres Strait communities the TSRA will employ a CRC Torres Strait Community Liaison Officer. The role of the position will be to introduce researchers to the communities they need to work in, involve community people in the research projects, and provide feedback to the Torres Strait public through the TSRA newsletter, TSIMA radio station and BRACS broadcasting.

TORRES STRAIT TREATY

The TSRA is playing an important and increasing role in the consultative meetings held under the auspices of the Torres Strait Treaty which aims to protect the traditional way of life and livelihood of traditional inhabitants in the Torres Strait Protected Zone. In June 2003, the TSRA hosted a Traditional Inhabitants Meeting promoting communication and cooperation between Torres Strait Islanders and PNG traditional inhabitants covered by the Treaty.

Recommendations arising from these Treaty meetings will be developed further at a Joint Advisory Council meeting in September 2003 and thereafter as decided by Ministers at the Australia/PNG Annual Ministerial Forum.

JOINT TORRES STRAIT HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Through the Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee the TSRA continued to participate in a best practice example of whole-of-government approach to housing and infrastructure development in the Torres Strait region. Four committee meetings during 2002–2003 provided opportunities to progress the successful and robust activities of the committee.

Through the JTSHIC the TSRA provided a pivotal regional input into housing related activities reflecting its commitment to the bilateral agreement partnership responsibilities. During the year it continued to monitor the upgrade of the Ngurupai Housing leases. The TSRA had successfully negotiated the transfer of 11 housing leases from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to the Department of Housing in May 2002. Major upgrades and extensions have been completed for eight of the houses. The TSRA coordinated regional input into housing legislation in April 2003 by drawing together community housing organisations, housing representatives and other stakeholders in Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area for a consultation workshop on the New Housing Legislation. Feedback resulted in further fine-tuning of the draft Bill. Cabinet approved the Housing Bill in May 2003. The Authority is also providing input into home ownership options and has held preliminary meetings in preparation for a regional homeownership forum in early 2003–2004. The TSRA also provides policy input through the Indigenous Peaks Reference Group which is the consultative community body for home ownership in Indigenous Communities. The TSRA continues to provide input into national and State policies and strategies and is a member of the Standing Committee on Indigenous Housing. The Authority is currently preparing for regional consultation on the possible establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing and Infrastructure Authority.

The TSRA represents traditional landowners through its Native Title Office and addresses the issues that arise from Native Title which have an impact on housing and infrastructure development. The Authority negotiates and consults with traditional landowners and councils over housing and native title issues. Pending the outcome of the Federal Court decision on native title determinations in the region the Authority is presently seeking agreement on a regional Indigenous Land Use Agreement so that Infrastructure work can continue in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area without extinguishing Native Title.

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

The TSRA continues to play the leading role through JTSHIC and the Major Infrastructure Program Steering Committee in the planning and coordination of all infrastructure related activities in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. Infrastructure development is significantly changing the lives of Torres Strait islanders and Aboriginal people by improving health outcomes in the region. The Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) is focused on environmental health outcomes and the program is reaching into the core of health problems and providing substantial improvements in health for the people of the region. MIP projects include construction of sewerage systems, roads and drainage work, sub-divisional land servicing and expansion, flood mitigation and water tank upgrades. MIP has also completed regional reports such as the Land Strategy, Mapping Project and the Waste Management Strategy. Various MIP projects have used the Heavy Equipment and Machinery Training Program and the Transport Infrastructure Development Support scheme which has provided training and employment for local people on Iama, Yorke, Seisia, Erub, Mer, Badu and Bamaga.

The TSRA has worked progressively towards enhancing its partnership capacity and strategic alliances to ensure a comprehensive stakeholder approach to infrastructure development in the region. During 2002–2003 the Authority worked with the Department of Family and Community Services, the Department of Housing, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, the Tropical Public Health Unit, the Island Coordinating Council, all island councils and the Department of Main Roads to progress infrastructure development in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

FIXING HOUSES FOR BETTER HEALTH 2

The TSRA successfully secured \$750,000 for the Fixing Houses for Better Health 2 (FHBH2) initiative from the Department of Family and Community Services. The initiative has been used to improve the health hardware in houses in the communities of Mabuiag, St Pauls and Kubin. FHBH2 involves repairs and maintenance to community housing and provides training opportunities and employment for local people.

WATER SERVICES MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

The Water Services Management Working Group is an interdepartmental committee that is progressing the operations, maintenance and supply of water services in Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area. Agencies involved are the TSRA, DATSIP, Department of Main Roads, Qld Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Qld Health and MIP Project Managers. During 2002–2003 the working group focused on transferring water services to a newly formed infrastructure support unit within the Island Coordination Council. This is a significant development and supports the region's wish to localise this aspect of water services.

TORRES HEALTH PARTNERSHIP FORUM

The TSRA is an active member of the Torres Health Partnership Forum and through this Forum the Authority is able to provide input into the planning and coordination of health care services and delivery in Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area. The TSRA continues to work towards Framework Agreement Aims and Framework for Action priorities with member partners; the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, Queensland Health and The Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area District Health Council. Those aims include joint planning and priority setting, improving access to mainstream health programs, improving data collection and evaluation and partnership collaboration. The TSRA actively engages in its partnership role of coordination and planning of health services, delivery and strategy development. A significant outcome for 2002–2003 has been the development of a regional health care planning proposal and its implementation. The TSRA through its partnership role coordinated the development of the proposal. The Authority organised the consultative process in the region on the National Framework on Social and Emotional Wellbeing Consultative Workshop held in May 2003. The TSRA also delivered policy advice, information and reports on a range of other issues including PNG cross border matters and briefing papers to the Forum. The TSRA reported to the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Council (NATSIHC) and coordinated partnership responses to the NATSIHC in March 2003.

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

EDUCATION FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

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

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

The TSRA contributes to the partnership by participating at the Education Forums arranged by TSIREC. The Forums focus on discussion, consultation and negotiation amongst the signatories about the direction, planning, decision making, integrated service delivery, implementation and monitoring under the agreement.

OTHER POLICY ACTIVITIES

The TSRA Policy Section also:

- Assisted Queensland Transport to conduct Exercise 2002, a multi-agency training exercise responding to a simulated oil spill in Torres Strait and ensured that at least two people from every Torres Strait community received the training.

The Torres Strait is a main shipping channel and a gateway to Australia. As Torres Strait waters are shallow and reefs are numerous navigation for shipping is challenging. An accident could prove disastrous to the Torres Strait marine environment, which is so important to the Torres Strait Islanders way of life. The TSRA therefore strongly supports training measures which are aimed at

protecting the Torres Strait environment.

- Developed a policy statement to improve regional governance in Torres Strait which has been presented to the Minister for Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs. The proposal recommends that the TSRA be established under its own legislation, separate from ATSI Act and that membership on the TSRA Board be reduced from twenty to seven. The proposal can be viewed on the TSRA website.
- Assisted with the development of a register for Torres Strait women, which recorded the details of women suitable for nomination to government boards and committees. Women are central to family unity in Torres Strait communities and are often the main breadwinner and custodian of Torres Strait culture within the family unit. Despite the important role they play in their communities they are under represented at community and regional governance levels. The TSRA encourages women to take a more prominent role in governance.
- Provided submissions to the following Australian Government Reviews.
 - Parliamentary Inquiry into Indigenous Participation in the Queensland democratic process.
 - House of Representatives Standing Committee Review on Economic, Finance and Public Administration Inquiry into Local Government Cost Shifting.
 - ATSI Review.
 - Inquiry into Australia's relationship with PNG and Other Pacific Island Countries.
 - Review of Indigenous Education Direct Assistance (IEDA) Program.
 - Strategic Assessment of the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster to AFMA.

The TSRA uses every available opportunity to influence government decision making to bring about better outcomes for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region.

Achievements for Objective 2

TORRES STRAIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In accordance with its statutory responsibilities under Section 142D of the ATSI Act, the TSRA produced a Torres Strait Development Plan which provides the visions and strategies for promoting Torres Strait Islander interests under each of the TSRA portfolios of:

- Women's Issues;
- Small Business and Economic Development;
- Arts, Language, Culture and Sport;
- Legal Media;
- Housing and Infrastructure;
- Environment and Health;
- Education, Training and Employment; and
- Marine and Fisheries.

The document, which is available on the TSRA web site, gives clear and concise policy direction and provides a platform from which the TSRA can consult with Queensland Departments and other Commonwealth agencies on the provision of services and any new initiatives proposed for

Torres Strait. The Plan reinforces the TSRA's approach to working with the Commonwealth and State agencies through the development of partnership agreements and within State planning regimes.

TSRA SERVICE CHARTER 2002-2004

In accordance with Commonwealth Legislation, the TSRA reviewed its Service Charter which outlines the standard of service that it provides to its clients and also sets out the steps that can be taken if a client has a complaint. The document is available on the TSRA web site.

INFORMATION DELIVERY

Objective

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

Achievements

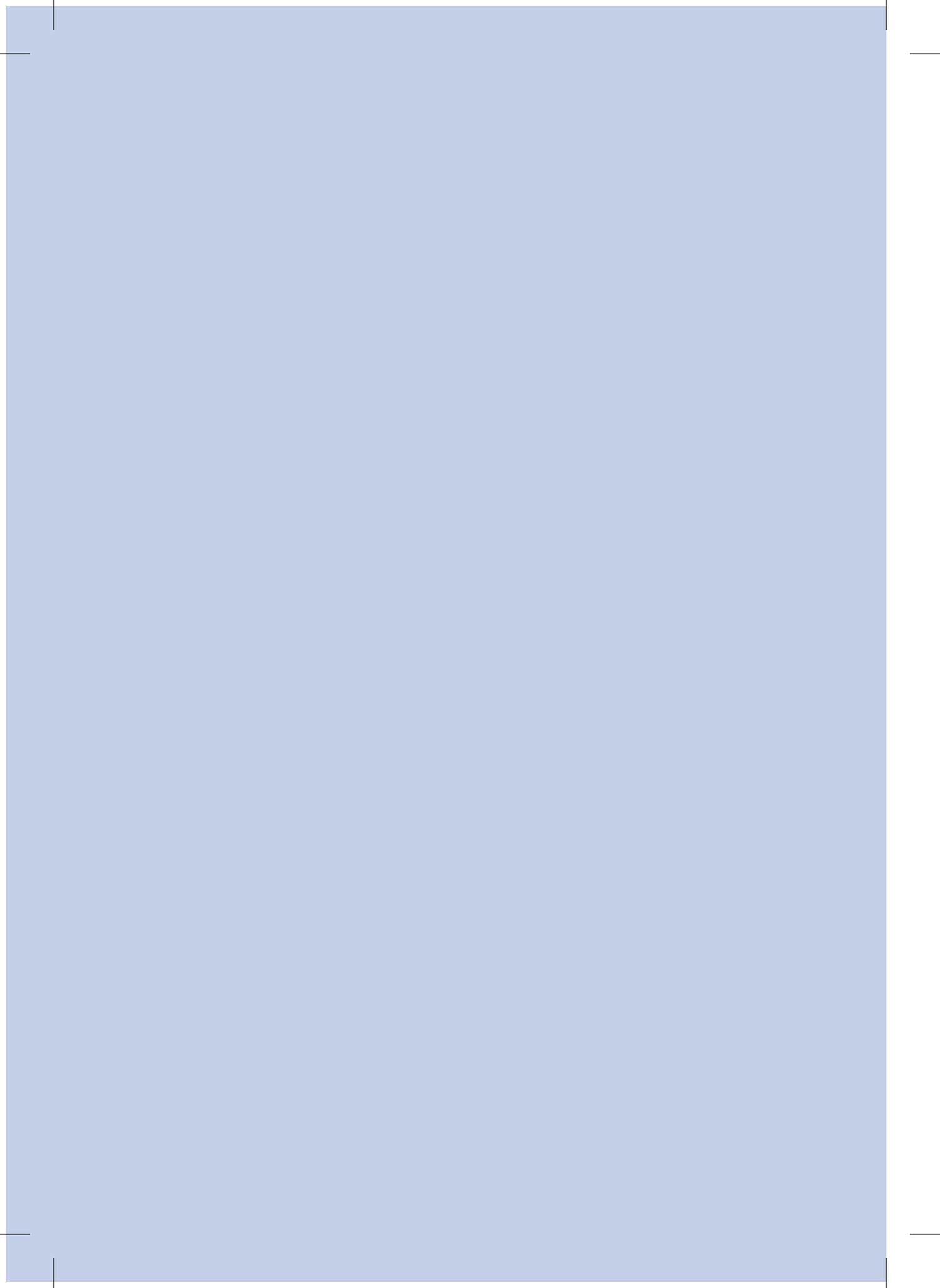
During the year, the administration provided 63 briefing papers for the Board's consideration. The Board made 53 formal decisions. A total of 39 items of correspondence, including 28 Ministerials, were prepared for the Minister.

A Public Relations Officer kept the Torres Strait community, as well as the Australian public and key government stakeholders, abreast of important issues and positive outcomes for TSRA.

The sensitive management of media on issues of national interest was strategically approached to deliver the best outcomes for the Torres Strait people. Media attention was pro-actively sought and TSRA was given excellent coverage by applying these tactics.

The Public Affairs Officer communicated the TSRA's position on issues and promoted their own programs and successes through the production of press releases, regular newsletters, an annual report and information brochures. A website and service charter were also maintained.





Financial Statements





INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

Scope

I have audited the financial statements of the Torres Strait Regional Authority for the year ended 30 June 2003. The financial statements comprise:

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

The Director and the Chief Executive 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 the 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 Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Authority's financial position, its financial performance and its cash flows.

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

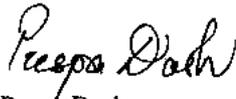
GPO Box 707 CANBERRA ACT 2601
Centenary House 19 National Circuit
BARTON ACT
Phone (02) 6203 7300 Fax (02) 6203 7777

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the financial statements:

- (i) have been prepared in accordance with Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*; and
- (ii) give a true and fair view, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia and the Finance Minister's Orders, of the financial position of Torres Strait Regional Authority as at 30 June 2003, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Puspá Dash
Senior Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
3 September 2003

TORRES STRAIT
REGIONAL AUTHORITY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
2002 – 2003

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**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2003, give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders, made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

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



Signed:.....

Mr T. Waia
Chairperson

2 September 2003



Signed:.....

Mr M. Fordham
General Manager

2 September 2003

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
For the year ended 30 June 2003

	Notes	2003 \$000	2002 \$000
Revenues from ordinary activities			
Revenues from government	4A	50,201	48,891
Interest	4B	856	655
Net gain from sales of assets	4D	5	6
Reversal of previous asset write-downs	4E	393	-
Other	4C	877	787
<i>Total revenues from ordinary activities</i>		<u>52,332</u>	<u>50,339</u>
Expenses from ordinary activities			
Employees	5A	2,746	2,612
Suppliers	5B	3,046	2,818
Grants	5E	41,148	40,773
Depreciation and amortisation	5C	367	348
Write-down of assets	5D	-	332
<i>Total expenses from ordinary activities</i>		<u>47,307</u>	<u>46,883</u>
Net surplus		<u>5,025</u>	<u>3,456</u>
<i>Net surplus attributable to the Commonwealth</i>		<u>5,025</u>	<u>3,456</u>
Total revenues, expenses and valuation adjustments attributable to the Commonwealth Government and recognised directly in equity			
		-	-
<i>Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners</i>		<u>5,025</u>	<u>3,456</u>

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 30 June 2003

	Notes	2003 \$000	2002 \$000
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash	6A	8,955	5,570
Receivables	6B	7,519	7,355
Total financial assets		<u>16,474</u>	<u>12,925</u>
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings	7A,C	9,187	8,859
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	7B,C	346	366
Total non-financial assets		<u>9,533</u>	<u>9,225</u>
Total assets		<u>26,007</u>	<u>22,150</u>
LIABILITIES			
Provisions			
Employees	9	844	816
Total provision		<u>844</u>	<u>816</u>
Payables			
Suppliers	10A	137	163
Grants	10B	4,432	2,960
Other	10C	148	1,008
Total payables		<u>4,717</u>	<u>4,131</u>
Total liabilities		<u>5,561</u>	<u>4,947</u>
NET ASSETS		20,446	17,203
EQUITY			
Reserves	11	1,089	1,089
Accumulated Surplus	11	19,357	16,114
Total Equity		<u>20,446</u>	<u>17,203</u>
Current liabilities		4,836	4,854
Non-current liabilities		725	93
Current assets		11,777	5,733
Non-current assets		14,230	16,417

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the year ended 30 June 2003

	Note	2003 \$000	2002 \$000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriations		50,169	48,877
Interest		556	305
GST received from ATO		575	12
Other		3,198	629
Total cash received		54,498	49,823
Cash used			
Grants		(42,143)	(40,680)
Employees		(2,645)	(2,531)
Suppliers		(3,072)	(3,282)
Total cash used		(47,860)	(46,493)
Net cash from operating activities	12	6,638	3,330
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of infrastructure, plant and equipment		8	8
Repayments of loans		1,201	1,022
Total cash received		1,209	1,030
Cash used			
Purchase of infrastructure, plant and equipment		(677)	(416)
Loans made		(2,003)	(1,400)
Total cash used		(2,680)	(1,816)
Net cash used by investing activities		(1,471)	(786)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash used			
Capital use charge paid		(1,782)	(1,700)
Total cash used		(1,782)	(1,700)
Net cash used by financing activities		(1,782)	(1,700)
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		3,385	844
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period		5,570	4,726
Cash at the end of the reporting period	6A	8,955	5,570

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS
as at 30 June 2003

		2003	2002
BY TYPE		\$000	\$000
Other Commitments			
Operating Leases	8	59	78
Total other commitments			
Commitments receivable		(14)	(13)
Net Commitments		45	65
Operating lease commitments			
One year or less		17	57
From one to five years		42	21
Net operating lease commitments	8	59	78

Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:

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

Motor Vehicles:

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

SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES
as at 30 June 2003

Contingency	2003	2002
	\$000	\$000
Bank Guarantee in favour of Torres Shire Council	116	116
Total Contingencies	116	116

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

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note	Description
1	Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
2	Economic Dependency
3	Events Occurring after Reporting Date
4	Operating Revenues
5	Operating Expenses
6	Financial Assets
7	Non-Financial Assets
8	Leases
9	Provisions
10	Payables
11	Equity
12	Cash Flow Reconciliation
13	Directors Remuneration
14	Related Party Disclosures
15	Remuneration of Officers
16	Remuneration of Auditors
17	Financial Instruments
18	Appropriations
19	Employees
20	Reporting of Outcomes
21	Major Departmental Revenues and Expenses by Output Groups
22	Total cost/contribution by Outcome
23	Major classes of Departmental Assets and Liabilities by Output Groups

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Accounting

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

The statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders being the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (Financial Statements for reporting periods ending on or after 30 June 2003) Orders;
- Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations issued by Australian Accounting Standards Boards; and
- Consensus Views of the Urgent Issues Group.

The statements have been prepared having regard to:

- Statements of Accounting Concepts; and
- Explanatory Notes to Schedule 1 issued by the Department of Finance and Administration; and
- Financial Briefs 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 financial performance or the financial position of the Authority.

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

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

1.2 Changes in Accounting Policy

The accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements are consistent with those used in 2001-2002.

1.3 Revenue

The revenues described in Note 4 are revenues relating to the core operating activities of the Torres Strait Regional Authority ("Authority").

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

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

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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 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.

1.4 Employee Benefits

(a) Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave, long service leave, personal leave and related accrued wages and superannuation (including related on costs).

The liability for annual leave and personal leave reflects the value of total leave entitlements of all employees at 30 June 2003 and is recognised at its nominal amount.

The long service leave liability is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flow made in respect of all employees at 30 June 2003. In determining the present value of the liability the Authority taken into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of the Authority is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

(b) Superannuation

Employees contribute to the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme and the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme. Employer contributions amounting to \$204,213 (2001-2002: \$232,475) for the Authority in relation to these schemes have been expensed in these financial statements.

Temporary and casual employees contribute to the AGEEST Scheme. Employer contributions amounting to \$25,300 (2001-2002: \$15,631) have also been expensed in these financial statements.

Employer Superannuation Productivity Benefit contributions totalled \$46,868 (2001-2002: \$43,278) for the Authority.

Contributions to the schemes are at rates calculated to cover existing and emerging obligations. Contribution rates at 30 June 2003 are 25.3% of salary (CSS) and 10.5% of salary (PSS). An additional 3% is contributed for employee productivity benefits.

1.5 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.

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

1.6 Cash

Cash means notes and coins held and any deposits held at call with a bank or financial institution.

1.7 Financial Instruments

Accounting policies for financial instruments are stated at Note 17.

1.8 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.

1.9 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 and buildings are revalued progressively in accordance with the "fair value" method of valuation in successive 3-year cycles, so that no asset has a value greater than three years old. During the financial year ended 30 June 2002 the "fair value" method of valuation was adopted. On the adoption of this method of valuation the existing written down value was determined to be the fair value.

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

In accordance with the fair value methodology, land is measured at its current market buying price. Where assets are held which would not be replaced or are surplus to requirements, measurement is at net realisable value. At 30 June 2003, Authority has no assets in this situation.

All valuations are independent.

Recoverable Amount Test

From 1 July 2002, Schedule 1 no longer requires the application of the recoverable amount test in AAS 10 Recoverable Amount of Non-Current Assets to the assets of authorities when the primary purpose of the asset is not the generation of net cash inflows.

No property plant and equipment assets have been written to recoverable amount per AAS 10. Accordingly the change in policy has had no financial effect.

Depreciation and amortisation

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

Depreciation/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.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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

	2002-2003	2001-2002
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 5C.

1.10 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.

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

1.11 Taxation

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

1.12 Capital Usage Charge

A capital usage charge of 11% (2001-2002: 11%) 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.

1.13 Insurance

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

1.14 Comparative Figures

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

1.15 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.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note 2. 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 3. Events Occurring After Reporting Date

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

Note 4. Operating Revenues

	2003 \$000	2002 \$000
4A – Revenues from Government		
Appropriations for outputs	50,169	48,877
Resources provided free of charge – internal audit	32	14
Total	<u>50,201</u>	<u>48,891</u>
4B – Interest		
Loans	300	350
Deposits	556	305
Total	<u>856</u>	<u>655</u>
4C – Other Revenues		
Rent	154	136
Other	723	651
Total	<u>877</u>	<u>787</u>
4D – Net Gain from Sales of Assets		
Infrastructure, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale	8	8
Net book value at sale	(3)	(2)
Net gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
4E – Reversal of previous asset write-downs		
Receivables – doubtful debts	393	-
Total	<u>393</u>	<u>-</u>

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note 5. Operating Expenses

<u>5A – Employee expenses</u>	2003	2003
	\$000	\$000
Wages and salaries	2,200	2,160
Leave and other entitlements	171	167
Superannuation	358	276
Other	17	9
Total	2,746	2,612
<u>5B – Suppliers expenses</u>		
Supply of goods and services	3,020	2,794
Operating lease rentals	26	24
Total	3,046	2,818
<u>5C – Depreciation and amortisation</u>		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	367	348

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

▪ Buildings on freehold land	163	153
▪ Infrastructure, plant and equipment	204	195
	367	348

5D – Write-down of assets

Financial assets:		
Receivables – doubtful debts	-	332

5E Grants Expense

The Authority makes grants to eligible persons and communities in the Torres Strait area. The accounting policy for grants is detailed in Note 1.5.

Private Sector - Non-Profit institutions	41,148	40,773
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TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note 6. Financial Assets

	2003 \$000	2002 \$000
<u>6A – Cash</u>		
Cash at bank and on hand	8,955	5,570
	<u>8,955</u>	<u>5,570</u>
Balance of cash as at 30 June shown in the Statement of Cash Flows	<u>8,955</u>	<u>5,570</u>
<u>6B – Receivables</u>		
Loans	7,433	7,241
Less: Provision of doubtful debts	(290)	(683)
	<u>7,143</u>	<u>6,558</u>
Other debtors		
GST receivable	334	623
Other debtors	42	174
Total receivables	<u>7,519</u>	<u>7,355</u>
Receivables (gross) which are overdue are aged as follows:		
Not Overdue	5,577	3,676
Overdue by:		
- less than 30 days	1,166	2,215
- 30 to 90 days	43	509
- 90 to 180 days	206	241
- more than 180 days	817	1,397
	<u>2,232</u>	<u>4,362</u>
Total receivables (gross)	<u>7,809</u>	<u>8,038</u>

Note 7. Non-Financial Assets

7A Land and Buildings

Freehold land – At fair value	1,695	1,695
Total freehold land	<u>1,695</u>	<u>1,695</u>
Buildings on freehold land – At fair value	8,254	7,762
Accumulated depreciation	(762)	(598)
Total buildings (net)	<u>7,492</u>	<u>7,164</u>
Total land and buildings	<u>9,187</u>	<u>8,859</u>

7B Plant and equipment

Infrastructure, plant and equipment – at cost	1,879	1,908
Accumulated depreciation	(1,533)	(1,542)
Total plant and equipment	<u>346</u>	<u>366</u>

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note 7. Non-Financial Assets (continued)

7C Analysis of Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment

TABLE A

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

Item	Land	Buildings on Freehold land	Total Land & Buildings	Plant & Equipment	TOTAL
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
As at 1 July 2002					
Gross Book value	1,695	7,762	9,457	1,908	11,365
Accumulated depreciation	-	(598)	(598)	(1,542)	(2,140)
Net book value	1,695	7,164	8,859	366	9,225
Additions – purchase of assets	-	492	492	185	677
Revaluations: write-ups (write-downs)	-	-	-	-	-
Write offs - Cost	-	-	-	(211)	(211)
Disposals - Cost	-	-	-	(23)	(23)
Sundry Correction – Cost	-	-	-	20	20
Depreciation/amortisation charge for the year	N/A	163	163	204	367
Disposals – Accumulated depreciation	N/A	-	-	(228)	(228)
Sundry Corrections – Accumulated depreciation	N/A	1	1	15	16
As at 30 June 2003					
Gross Book value	1,695	8,254	9,949	1,879	11,828
Accumulated depreciation	-	(762)	(762)	(1,533)	(2,295)
Net book value	1,695	7,492	9,187	346	9,533

TABLE B

Assets at valuation

Land and building assets are the only assets currently recorded based on an independent valuation. This depreciated valuation has been adopted as fair value during the current year.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note 8. Leases

	2003 \$000	2002 \$000
Operating lease commitments payable:		
Within one year	17	57
In one to five years	42	21
Lease liability	<u>59</u>	<u>78</u>
Lease liability is categorised as follows:		
Current	17	57
Non-current	42	21
	<u>59</u>	<u>78</u>

Note 9. Provisions

Employees Provisions

Salaries and wages	77	56
Superannuation	9	9
Long service leave	332	304
Annual leave	282	295
Personal leave	144	152
Aggregate employee entitlement liability	<u>844</u>	<u>816</u>

Employer provisions are categorised as follows:

Current	725	723
Non-current	119	93
	<u>844</u>	<u>816</u>

Note 10. Payables

10A – Supplier Payables

Trade Creditors	<u>137</u>	<u>163</u>
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All supplier payables are current

10B – Grants Payable

Non-profit entities	<u>4,432</u>	<u>2,960</u>
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10C – Other

Loan contracts	-	1,008
Other Payables	<u>148</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>148</u>	<u>1,008</u>

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note 11. Equity

Item	Accumulated surplus		Asset revaluation reserve		TOTAL EQUITY	
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Balance 1 July 2002	16,114	14,358	1,089	1,089	17,203	15,447
Operating result	5,025	3,456	-	-	5,025	3,456
Net revaluation increase/(Decrease)		-		-		
Capital Use Charge	(1,782)	(1,700)	-	-	(1,782)	(1,700)
Balance 30 June 2003	19,357	16,114	1,089	1,089	20,446	17,203
Less: Outside equity interests	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Equity attributable to the Commonwealth	19,357	16,114	1,089	1,089	20,446	17,203

2003
\$000

2002
\$000

Note 12. Cash Flow Reconciliation

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

Operating Surplus	5,025	3,456
Depreciation and amortisation of property, plant & equipment	367	348
Doubtful loans	(393)	401
Gain on disposal of assets	(5)	(6)
Changes in assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(23)	(1,951)
Increase/(decrease) in liability to suppliers	19	60
Increase/(decrease) in employee provisions	28	188
Increase/(decrease) in grants payable	1,472	138
Increase/(decrease) in other payables	148	696
Net cash from operating activities	6,638	3,330

Note 13. Director Remuneration

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

-

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

236

237

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

236

237

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note 13. Director Remuneration (continued)

	2003	2002
The number of directors of the TSRA included in these figures are shown below in the relevant remuneration bands.	<u>Number</u>	
\$ Nil - \$10,000	18	19
\$10,001 - \$20,000	2	-
\$90,001 - \$100,000	-	-
\$100,001 - \$110,000	-	1
	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Board consists of 20 director positions. Eighteen hold office by virtue of their election to Island Council Chairpersons last held in March 2000 under the *Queensland Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984*. The other two are elected in accordance with the *ATSIC Act 1989*. Two directors do not receive payment from the TSRA because they are employed and paid from Commonwealth funds. The other directors receive sitting fees when undertaking business of the TSRA.

Note 14. Related Party Disclosures

Directors of the Torres Strait Regional Authority

The Directors of the Authority during the year were:

Mr John ABEDNEGO	Mrs Margaret MAU
Mr Jack AHMAT	Mr Don MOSBY
Mr Ted BILLY	Mr Francis PEARSON
Mr Phillip BOWIE (resigned 01/03/2002)	Mr Saila SAVAGE
Mr Edward DAU	Mr Pedro STEPHEN
Mr Ron DAY	Mr Rocky STEPHEN
Mr Elia DOOLAH	Mr Terry WAIA (Chairperson)
Mr Joseph ELU	Mr Roney Wasaga (commenced 26/03/03)
Mr Henry GARNIER	Mr Terrence WHAP
Mr Toshie KRIS	Mr Reg WILLIAMS
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.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note 14. Related Party Disclosures (continued)

Loans

J. Ahmat

T. Billy

J. Elu

R. Williams

D. Mosby

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Loans to directors outstanding at year end	120,127	113,703
Loans to directors during period	40,000	-
Loan repayments during the reporting period	33,576	26,060
Loans to director related entities outstanding at year end	21,925	90,310
Loans to director related entities during period	-	50,000
Loan repayments during the reporting period	68,385	18,213
Interest revenue included in operating result from loans to directors/director related entities	3,785	3,776

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	554,961
	TSNP Legal Services	409,740
	TRAWQ Community Council	2,010,194
J. Ahmat	Badu Island Community Council	3,850,812
T. Billy	Warraber Island Community Council	1,404,193
R. Day	Murray Island Community Council	2,045,702
E. Dau	Boigu Island Community Council	1,367,549
E. Doolah	Darnley Island Community Council	2,315,615
J. Elu	Seisia Island Community Council	1,434,655
H. Garnier	Hammond Island Community Council	951,493
T. Kris	St Pauls Community Council	2,286,524
G. Lui	Yam Island Community Council	1,921,688
M. Mau	Dauan Island Community Council	920,642
D. Mosby	Yorke Island Community Council	2,546,639
F. Pearson	Coconut Island Community Council	1,171,793
S. Savage	Kubin Community Council	1,509,097
P. Stephen	Port Kennedy Association	140,109
R. Stephen	Stephen Island Council	399,070
T. Waia	Saibai Island Community Council	1,523,126
T. Whap	Mabuiag Island Community Council	1,023,022
R. Williams	Bamaga Island Community Council	2,700,195
*	Island Coordinating Council	8,035,375

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note 15. Remuneration of Officers

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Total remuneration of officers who received or were due to receive total remuneration of \$100,000 or more	164,875	118,867
The number of officers who received or were due to receive total remuneration of \$100,000 or more	Number	Number
• \$110,000 - \$120,000	1	1

Note 16. Remuneration of Auditors

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Remuneration to the Auditor-General for auditing the financial statements for the reporting period.	33,800	33,800

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

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.	
Receivables for goods & services	6	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 (2002-2003: 14 days)
Loans	6	Loans are recognised at the amounts loaned. Provision is made for bad and doubtful loans when collection of the loan or part thereof is judged to be less rather than more likely. In rare circumstances, loan repayments may be waived. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.	Loans are generally secured and are made for periods of up to 10 years for enterprise loans and 30 years for housing loans. Repayments of principal are made during the term of the loan. Early settlement is at option for the parties. Effective interest rates on fixed rate loans between 1.5% and 6.5%.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note 17. Financial Instruments (continued)

Financial Instrument	Notes	Accounting Policies and Methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms and conditions affecting the amount, timing and certainty of cash flows)
<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.

TOKRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

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 % ^a 01-02	
		02-03 \$000	01-02 \$000	1 year or less	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	> 5 years	02-03 \$000	01-02 \$000	02-03 \$000	01-02 \$000		
Financial Assets (Recognised)													
Cash at Bank and on Hand	6	8,955	5,570	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,955	5,570	4.6	3.0
Deposits at call	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GST receivable	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	334	623	334	623	-	-
Goods and Services Receivable	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	174	42	174	-	-
Loans	6	1,276	3,735	1,546	1,163	1,431	2,260	-	-	7,433	7,241	5.0	5.0
Total Financial Assets		10,231	9,305	1,546	1,163	1,431	2,260	376	797	16,764	13,608		

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note 17. Financial Instruments (continued)

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate	Fixed Interest Rate				Non-Interest Bearing		Total	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	
			1 year or less	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	> 5 years	02-03 \$000	01-02 \$000		02-03 %	01-02 %
Financial Liabilities											
Trade Creditors	10A	-	-	-	-	137	163	137	163	-	-
Grant Liabilities	10B	-	-	-	-	4,432	2,960	4,432	2,960	-	-
Loan Contracted	10C	-	-	-	-	-	1,008	-	1,008	-	-
Other	10C	-	-	-	-	148	-	148	-	-	-
Total Financial Liabilities		-	-	-	-	4,717	4,131	4,717	4,131	-	-
Total Liabilities		-	-	-	-	4,717	4,131	4,717	4,131	-	-

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note 17. Financial Instruments (continued)

c) Net Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities

	Note	2002-03		2001-02	
		Total carrying amount \$000	Aggregate net fair value \$000	Total carrying amount \$000	Aggregate net fair value \$000
Financial Assets					
Cash at bank	6	8,955	8,955	5,570	5,570
Cash on hand		-	-	-	-
Term deposit	6	-	-	-	-
Receivables for goods & services	6	376	376	797	797
Net loans receivables	6	7,143	7,143	6,558	6,558
Total Financial Assets		16,474	16,474	12,925	12,925
Financial Liabilities					
Trade creditors	10A	137	137	163	163
Grant Payables	10B	4,432	4,432	2,960	2,960
Loan contracted	10C	-	-	1,008	1,008
Other	10C	148	148	-	-
Total Financial Liabilities		4,717	4,717	4,131	4,131

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.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2003

Note 17. Financial Instruments (continued)

(d) Credit Risk Exposures

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

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>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
	\$000	\$000
The Authority received the following appropriations during the year out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.		
Annual Appropriations Acts Nos 1,3 – basic appropriation	<u>50,201</u>	<u>\$48,877</u>

Note 19. Employees

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Full time equivalent employees at year end	40	37

Note 20. Reporting of outcomes

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

Output group 1	Economic development
Output group 2	Community development employment and training
Output group 3	Native title
Output group 4	Social, cultural and development
Output group 5	Housing and environment, health and infrastructure
Output group 6	Policy and information

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2003

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

	Output Group 1		Output Group 2		Output Group 3		Output Group 4		Output Group 5		Output Group 6		Non Specific		Total		
	2003 \$000	2002 \$000	2003 \$000	2002 \$000	2003 \$000	2002 \$000	2003 \$000										
Departmental Expenses:																	
Employees	467	436	604	594	275	490	522	489	247	227	631	376	-	-	2,746	2,612	
Suppliers	616	560	395	326	597	640	317	274	150	130	971	888	-	-	3,046	2,818	
Grants	139	1,193	28,235	24,655	10	19	7,292	7,121	5,472	7,785	-	-	-	-	41,148	40,773	
Depreciation and Amortisation	62	59	81	77	37	35	70	66	33	31	84	80	-	-	367	348	
Write Down of Assets	-	332	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	332	
Total departmental expenses	1,284	2,580	29,315	25,652	919	1,184	8,201	7,950	5,902	8,173	1,686	1,344	-	-	47,307	46,883	
Funded by:																	
Revenue from Government	2,790	2,731	29,646	29,888	1,432	1,675	7,074	6,552	7,928	7,884	1,299	1,147	32	14	50,201	48,891	
Sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6	5	6	
Other Non Taxation Revenues	861	82	238	847	109	49	206	195	464	234	248	35	-	-	2,126	1,442	
Total departmental revenues	3,651	2,813	29,884	29,735	1,541	1,724	7,280	6,747	8,392	8,118	1,547	1,182	37	20	52,332	50,339	

The above table does not include the Capital Usage Charge expense paid annually to the Department of Finance and Administration see Note 1.12. There was no revenue from the sale of goods and services.

Note 22. Total Cost / Contribution by Outcome

	Outcome 1		Total	
	Actual \$ 000	Budget \$ 000	Actual \$ 000	Budget \$ 000
Net cost of departmental Output	48,696	48,060	48,696	48,060
Cost of outcome before extraordinary items	48,696	48,060	48,696	48,060
Net cost to budget outcome	48,696	48,060	48,696	48,060

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

	Output Group 1		Output Group 2		Output Group 3		Output Group 4		Output Group 5		Output Group 6		Non Specific		Total	
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002
	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000
Output specific departmental assets																
Loans receivable	7,433	7,241	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,433	7,241
Less provision for doubtful debts	(290)	(683)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(290)	(683)
Land	100	100	-	-	120	120	-	-	-	-	160	160	1,315	1,315	1,695	1,695
Buildings	283	204	-	-	701	743	325	-	-	-	353	332	5,830	5,885	7,492	7,164
Plant and Equipment	-	-	-	-	20	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	326	331	346	366

Total specific departmental assets	7,536	6,862	-	-	841	898	325	-	-	-	513	492	7,471	7,531	16,676	15,783
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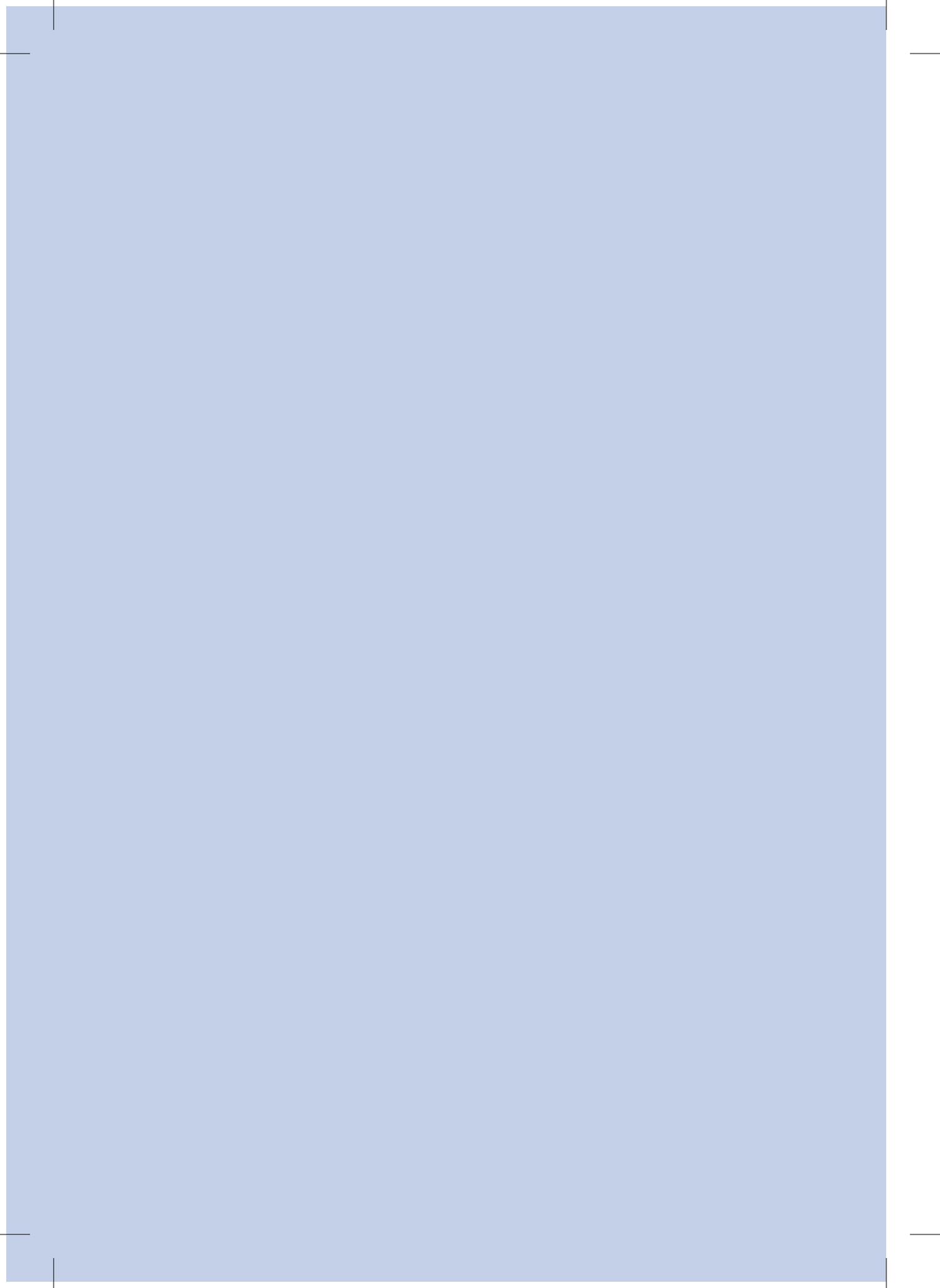
Other departmental assets																
Goods and services receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	174	42	174
Less provision for doubtful debts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net GST receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	334	623	334	623
Cash at bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,955	5,570	8,955	5,570
Other receivables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Term deposits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total other departmental assets	-	9331	6,367	9,331	6,367											
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Output specific departmental liabilities	4,432	2,960	-	-	-	-	-	-	340	1,008	-	-	-	-	4,432	3,968
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Other departmental liabilities																
Employees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	844	816	844	816
Suppliers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	137	163	137	163
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	148	148	-	-

Total other departmental liabilities	-	1,129	979	1,129	979											
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Appendices



APPENDIX 1: TSRA GRANTS

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNTS
Badu Island Council	CDEP Wages	2,646,193
Badu Island Council	CDEP Operational	582,465
Badu Island Council	CDEP Capital	235,000
Badu Island Council	Contribution to Council Operating Costs	86,112
Badu Island Council	Community Training	166,000
Badu Island Council	BRACS	17,167
Badu Island Council	Machinery	100,000
Badu Island Council	Badu Island Dance Team	5,000
Badu Island Council	Contribution to travel–ANZAC Day	2,875
Badu Island Council	Torres Strait Cup	10,000
Bamaga Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,795,567
Bamaga Island Council	CDEP Operational	537,286
Bamaga Island Council	Contribution to Council Operating Costs	100,175
Bamaga Island Council	Community Training	167,000
Bamaga Island Council	BRACS	17,167
Bamaga Island Council	Capital	83,000
Boigu Island Council	CDEP Wages	959,314
Boigu Island Council	CDEP Operational	216,883
Boigu Island Council	CDEP Capital	60,000
Boigu Island Council	Contribution to Council Operating Costs	68,185
Boigu Island Council	BRACS	17,167
Boigu Island Council	Machinery	40,000
Boigu Island Council	State School–Weipa Croc Fest	6,000
Coconut Island Council	CDEP Wages	761,294
Coconut Island Council	CDEP Operational	143,680
Coconut Island Council	CDEP Capital	98,616
Coconut Island Council	Contribution to Council Operating Costs	60,993
Coconut Island Council	Community Training	50,000
Coconut Island Council	BRACS	17,167
Coconut Island Council	Grandstand Rollover	20,000
Coconut Island Council	Tourist Complex Rollover	21,043

Darnley Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,290,966
Darnley Island Council	CDEP Operational	260,134
Darnley Island Council	CDEP Capital	130,895
Darnley Island Council	Contribution to Council Operating Costs	65,857
Darnley Island Council	Community Training	105,000
Darnley Island Council	BRACS	10,200
Darnley Island Council	Community Hall	377,063
Darnley Island Council	Machinery & Vehicles	70,000
Darnley Island Council	Arts - Diann Lui	5,500
Dauan Island Council	CDEP Wages	548,450
Dauan Island Council	CDEP Operational	165,774
Dauan Island Council	CDEP Capital	32,000
Dauan Island Council	Contribution to Council Operating Costs	58,751
Dauan Island Council	BRACS	17,167
Dauan Island Council	Dance Tour - Cairns	10,000
Dauan Island Council	Art - Council & Davidson Elisala	7,500
Dauan Island Council	Take-away Enterprise	81,000
Hammond Island Council	CDEP Wages	591,831
Hammond Island Council	CDEP Operational	186,974
Hammond Island Council	CDEP Capital	10,800
Hammond Island Council	Contribution to Council Operating Costs	63,107
Hammond Island Council	Community Training	33,000
Hammond Island Council	Sports Field Windbreak Basketball Court	65,781
Horn Island Women Ass.	CDEP Wages	434,707
Horn Island Women Ass.	CDEP Operational	171,174
Horn Island Women Ass.	CDEP Capital	26,600
Horn Island Women Ass.	CDEP Start-up Support	160,395
Horn Island Women Ass.	Office Opening Celebrations	1,000
Indigenous Festivals	Croc Fest	30,000
Island Coordinating Council	Contribution to Operating Costs	484,420
Island Coordinating Council	Community Training	3,000
Island Coordinating Council	Water Upgrades	1,215,000

Island Coordinating Council	Major Infrastructure Program	5,000,000
Island Coordinating Council	Boigu Island Airstrip	130,000
Island Coordinating Council	Accountability Workshop Airstrip	20,000
Island Coordinating Council	Heavy Machinery Pool	400,000
Island Coordinating Council	Seaman Dan–Easter Canberra	1,590
Island Coordinating Council	Horn Croc Fest & Rotary Exchange	3,000
Island Coordinating Council	Alick Tipoti & Rosie Barkus–Arts	14,942
Island Coordinating Council	Launch CD–A. Namok	3,000
Island Coordinating Council	Young Leaders Horn Island State School	3,000
Island Coordinating Council	School Sporting Facility Badu State School	11,000
Island Coordinating Council	FHBH–2	746,423
Kubin Island Council	CDEP Wages	881,891
Kubin Island Council	CDEP Operational	190,848
Kubin Island Council	Contribution to Council Operating Costs	60,107
Kubin Island Council	Community Training	62,000
Kubin Island Council	BRACS	17,167
Kubin Island Council	Community Hall	294,734
Kubin Island Council	Billy Missi–Arts	2,350
Mabuiag Island Council	CDEP Wages	629,208
Mabuiag Island Council	CDEP Operational	138,744
Mabuiag Island Council	CDEP Capital	68,919
Mabuiag Island Council	Contribution to Council Operating Costs	63,411
Mabuiag Island Council	Community Training	23,000
Mabuiag Island Council	BRACS	12,240
Mabuiag Island Council	Arts–Sculpture Works	5,500
Mabuiag Island Council	BAMMOA Sports	2,000
Mabuiag Island Council	Sports Facilities	80,000
Mer Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,500,021
Mer Island Council	CDEP Operational	300,464
Mer Island Council	CDEP Capital	91,788
Mer Island Council	Contribution to Council Operating Costs	74,202
Mer Island Council	Community Training	30,000
Mer Island Council	BRACS	17,167

Mer Island Council	Capital	5,015
Mer Island Council	Attendance NIEH Conference 2002	2,200
Mer Island Council	National Gallery Visit	14,845
Mer Island Council	State School MP Sports Court	10,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	Contribution to Operating Costs	156,634
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc.	Community Training	20,000
Port Kennedy Association Inc.	Contribution to Operating Costs	140,109
Saibai Island Council	CDEP Wages	992,599
Saibai Island Council	CDEP Operational	362,585
Saibai Island Council	Contribution to Operating Costs	68,333
Saibai Island Council	Community Training	59,000
Saibai Island Council	BRACS	17,167
Saibai Island Council	Dancers to China	9,000
Saibai Island Council	Mura Buway Yoepkazil–PKA	1,208
Saibai Island Council	Arts–Mura Buway Yoepkazil	13,234
Seisia Island Council	CDEP Wages	965,617
Seisia Island Council	CDEP Operational	196,772
Seisia Island Council	CDEP Capital	90,000
Seisia Island Council	Contribution to Council Operating Costs	57,099
Seisia Island Council	Community Training	48,000
Seisia Island Council	BRACS	17,167
Seisia Island Council	Capital	60,000
Stephen Island Council	Contribution to Council Operating Costs	52,620
Stephen Island Council	BRACS	41,915
Stephen Island Council	Accommodation	259,706
Stephen Island Council	Sporting Facility	44,829
St Pauls Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,299,328
St Pauls Island Council	CDEP Operational	304,200
St Pauls Island Council	CDEP Capital	68,274
St Pauls Island Council	Contribution to Council Operating Costs	65,120
St Pauls Island Council	Community Training	250,000
St Pauls Island Council	BRACS	17,167

St Pauls Island Council	Capital	60,000
St Pauls Island Council	Purchase Road Tek Plant	14,000
St Pauls Island Council	Community CD Project Royalties	935
St Pauls Island Council	Arts–Music CD Constance Saveka	7,500
St Pauls Island Council	Student Hostel	200,000
TI State High School	Arts–Sally Donaldson	6,000
TI State High School	Art Excursion	1,200
TI State High School	Contribution to purchase Quad ATV	5,000
TI State Primary School	2002 Canberra Dance Tour	12,000
TI State Primary School	Band Equipment	4,421
TI State Primary School	Arts–Stephanie Savage	5,000
TI State Primary School	Contribution–Award Brisbane	2,000
TI State Primary School	Young Leaders Conference	2,946
Torres Shire Council	Pilot Training	1,250
Torres Shire Council	Contribution to Operating Costs	50,000
Torres Shire Council	Cultural Festival	45,000
Torres Shire Council	Shakaya Performance	5,000
Torres Shire Council	Gym Equipment	30,000
Torres Strait Islander Media Assn. Inc	Contribution to Operating Costs	554,961
TRAWQ Community Council Inc	CDEP Wages	1,339,159
TRAWQ Community Council Inc	CDEP Operational	392,252
TRAWQ Community Council Inc	Contribution to Operating Costs	155,883
TRAWQ Community Council Inc	Community Training	63,000
TRAWQ Community Council Inc	Contribution to Bus Replacement	30,000
TRAWQ Community Council Inc	Laura Dance Festival	9,900
TRAWQ Community Council Inc	Mabo Day Celebrations	4,000
TRAWQ Community Council Inc	Wages–Culture Centre	3,000
TRAWQ Community Council Inc	Youth Support Program	13,000
TSNP Legal Service	Contribution to Operating Expenses	394,740
TSNP Legal Service	Training	15,000
T.S.Youth & Rec.Sporting Assn.Inc	Contribution to Operating Costs	315,671

Warraber Island Council	CDEP Wages	961,713
Warraber Island Council	CDEP Operational	173,689
Warraber Island Council	CDEP Capital	90,010
Warraber Island Council	Contribution to Council Operating Costs	61,581
Warraber Island Council	Community Training	65,000
Warraber Island Council	BRACS	10,200
Warraber Island Council	Machinery & Vehicles	42,000
Yam Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,179,700
Yam Island Council	CDEP Operational	329,955
Yam Island Council	CDEP Capital	251,712
Yam Island Council	Contribution to Council Operating Costs	67,154
Yam Island Council	Community Training	76,000
Yam Island Council	BRACS	17,167
Yorke Island Council	CDEP Wages	1,554,300
Yorke Island Council	CDEP Operational	358,695
Yorke Island Council	CDEP Capital	83,000
Yorke Island Council	Contribution to Council Operating Costs	68,423
Yorke Island Council	Community Training	72,000
Yorke Island Council	BRACS	17,167
Yorke Island Council	Capital	80,000
Yorke Island Council	August 23 Celebrations	7,500
Yorke Island Council	Guest House	305,554

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 2003.

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, who are elected to office by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in their respective communities (see the 'TSRA Board' section for more details). The administrative arm is the responsibility of the General Manager.

PROVISION OF FUNDING

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

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

- loans and grants for enterprises;
- housing loans;
- economic, social and cultural grants to organisations and individuals;
- the administrative and elected arm 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.

CATEGORIES OF DOCUMENTS

- The Corporate Section maintains files on TSRA budget expenditure; financial records; wages; client accounts; financial procedures; asset register; property management records; workplace agreement; recruitment, personnel files of TSRA officers; and Grants and Personnel Policy documents including instructions from the Australian Public Service Commissioner; Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and the Remuneration Tribunal and ComCare. The Corporate Section is also responsible for files containing Ministerial briefings; engagement of consultants; Occupational Health and Safety; Equal Employment Opportunities; Industrial Democracy; responses to Ombudsman's activities and responses to Freedom of Information activities.
- The Secretariat Section, being a sub-section of the Corporate Service Section, continues to maintain copies of the submissions that have been presented to TSRA meetings; minutes of TSRA Meetings; TSRA Decision Sheets; and financial records relating to payment of TSRA members and meetings as well as providing administrative support services to the office of the Chairperson.

- Field Operations Section maintains files relating to grants and community profiles and community development.
- A number of manuals and guidelines are used in the TSRA's decision-making policies and guidelines, including the TSRA Decision Making Principles, Finance Procedures manual, and the Program, Administration and Personnel Delegation manuals.

APPENDIX 3: ADVERTISING AND MARKET RESEARCH

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

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

APPENDIX 4: STAFFING OVERVIEW; MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

- a. Non-ongoing staff at 30 June 2003
- b. Nominal total staff at 30 June 2003 (including non-ongoing staff)
- c. Representation of EEO groups within salary levels at 30 June 2003
- d. Senior Executive Service gains and losses in 2002–2003
- e. Quantum and distribution of performance pay in 2002–2003
- f. Organisational chart at 30 June 2003
- g. Ministerial Appointments

a. Staff classification breakdown (non-ongoing staff)

Classification	Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal			Non Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Principal Executive Officer						
Executive Level 2						
Executive Level 1	1		1			
APS Level 6		1	1		2	2
APS Level 5				1		1
APS Level 4						
APS Level 3						
APS Level 2	1	2	3			
APS Level 1	1	1	2			
Sub total						
Total	3	4	7	1	2	3

b. Nominal total staff at 30 June 2003 (includes non-ongoing staff)

Classification	Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal			Non Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Principal Executive Officer						
Executive Level 2						
Executive Level 1	2		2	2	1	3
APS Level 6	2	4	6	3	2	5
APS Level 5		4	4	1		1
APS Level 4	3	4	7		1	1
APS Level 3	1	1	2			
APS Level 2	1	5	6			
APS Level 1	2	1	3			
Sub total						
Total	11	19	30	8	6	14

c. Representation of EEO groups within salary level at 30 June 2003

Salary	Women	TSI&A	NESB	PWD
Above \$95,600 (Principal Executive Officer)				
\$71,695 to \$84,002 (Executive Level 2)	2			
\$62,164 to \$67,125 (Executive Level 1)	1			
\$48,490 to \$55,701 (APS Level 6)	6	4	4	
\$44,897 to \$47,607 (APS Level 5)	4	4	4	
\$40,251 to \$43,705 (APS Level 4)	5	4	4	
\$36,115 to \$38,979 (APS Level 3)	1	1	1	
\$31,710 to \$35,162 (APS Level 2)	5	5	5	
Below \$30,966 (APS Level 1)	1	1	1	
Total	25	19	19	

d. Senior Executive Service gains and losses for 2002–2003

No gains or losses for 2002–2003.

e. Quantum and distribution of performance pay for 2002–2003

No specific performance pay was remunerated to the SES officer in the TSRA for 2002–2003.

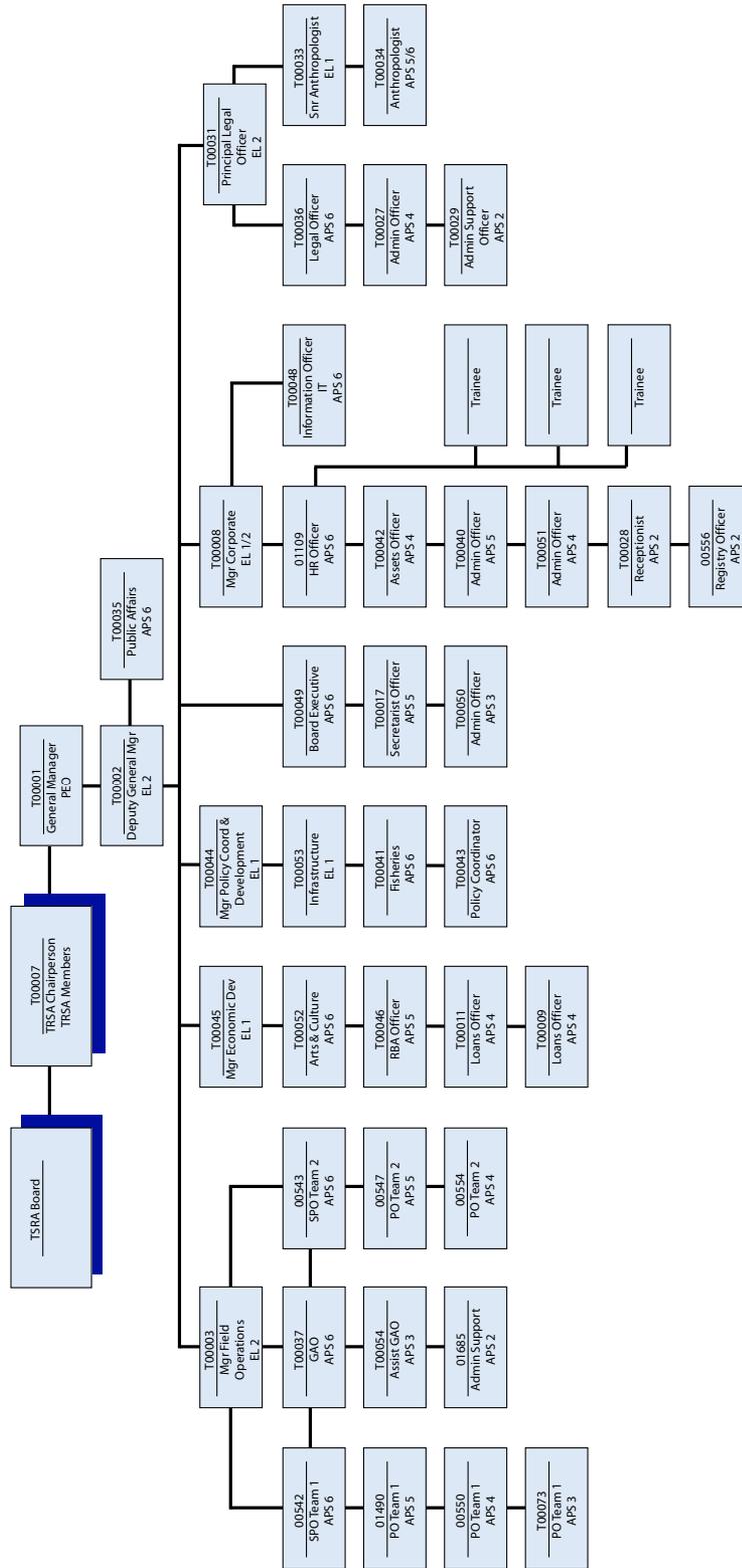
f. Organizational Chart as at 30 June, 2003

g. Ministerial Appointments

There were two Ministerial appointments during the reporting period. Under the ATSI Act 1989, Section 144L the Minister appointed Mr Wayne See Kee, Public Affairs Officer, to act as General Manager for the period 9 December 2002 to 13 January 2003. The Minister also appointed Mr Lamickey Pitt, Policy Officer – Health, Housing and Infrastructure for the period 23 June 2003 – 7 July 2003.

On 8 February 2003 the Minister exercised the option to extend the General Manager, Mr Mike Fordham's term for an additional year to May 2005.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
ORGANISATIONAL CHART AS AT 30 JUNE 2003



APPENDIX 5: CONSULTANCY SUMMARY

In 2002–2003 the TSRA engaged and used the services of 36 consultancy firms to undertake or assist with various assignments for which the TSRA did not have either the resources and/or expertise. The total cost of consultants in 2002–2003 was \$704,655.92.

Consultant	Details of Consultancy	Amount (\$)
Felan Consulting	Poruma Tourism	32,347.51
	BFS Cape York Rod & Rifle	1,466.36
Hassell Pty Ltd	Poruma Tourism	12,023.76
Williams Carman & Graham	Northern Blue Charters	1,549.00
	Torres Strait Cultural Centre	2,197.43
	Poruma Tourism	2,708.27
	Professional Services NTO	4,802.00
MLCS Corporate	BFS Cape Yorke Rod & Rifle	1,000.00
Kleihardt	Facilitation for Tourism Industry Group	9,000.00
	M & M Meats	9,865.00
Roots Pty Ltd	Torres Strait Cultural Centre	10,945.93
Campbell Smith	CEIS Roll On/Off Ferry Project	5,469.23
	CEIS Hammond Island Review	8,000.00
	Babagul Water Services	2035.86
	Professional Services	3,354.33
Hall Chadwick	Professional Services	1,038.00
	St Pauls Student Hostel	2,500.00
	Poruma Tourism	3,486.00
George Menham	ATSIC Review	5,140.00
	Policy Proposals	1,200.00
	Indigenous Input for Parliament Submissions	8,400.00
	TSRA Bill Submissions	3,600.00
Colin Scott & Monica Mulrennan	Masig & Eastern Islands	6,322.84
	Masig Sea Claim	10,000.00
	Mabuiag Sea Claim	19,200.00
Ray Woods	Moa Marine Tenure	6,193.00
	Moa Sea Claim	12,524.00
Kevin Murphy	Anthropological Research	2,813.86
	Boigu Is. Sea Claim	11,096.82
Australian National Uni.	Dr Petersen	11,200.00
Sariascape	Poruma Tourism Landscaping	21,482.27
Hunter Systems	CDEP Manager	38,000.00
Longley and Stapleton	ACCPAC/D-Bits Fixed Assets	4,800.00
Chung Lin Stock	Finance and Budgetary Advice	30,867.98

Black and More	Office Modifications	971.75
	Staff Housing Modifications	19,634.39
	Water Strategy	3,594.40
	Saibai Seafoods	507.00
	Kubin Arts	1,003.24
	St Pauls Block Works	6,595.99
	Torres Strait Cultural Centre	8,074.40
	JTSHIC Strategic Plan	4,159.00
Clariti Pty Ltd	Microsoft Exchange	3,840.00
	Support Services	6,487.50
Pawsey & Prowse	Poruma Landscaping Designs	2,083.75
WL Peach & Associates	Mabuiag Seafood Plant	1,388.50
Brett Tyrell	Debt Collection Services	1,590.91
David Wilson Group	Certified Agreement	15,661.39
Torres Strait Chamber Of Commerce	Regional Tourism Project	3,500.00
Devietti & Ritchie	Professional Services Legal	3,918.18
	Torres Strait Cultural Centre	2,900.00
JPS Consultancy	Review of various Island Councils	13,975.24
Douglas & Partners	Badu Island Aquaculture	5,987.00
C & B Group	Badu & Boigu Is.	1,779.86
Central Qld University	Service Advice	2,181.82
Cape York Land Council	Kaurareg Issues	1,805.00
Ebsworth & Ebsworth	Professional Services	658.60
John Basten QC	Badu Is. Native Title Determination	16,260.52
Dr Jeremy Beckett	Sea Rights & Other Issues	13,090.91
	Native Title Research	1,534.54
Michael Ferris & Lynda Hickman	Torres Strait Cultural Centre	95,295.46
Michael Walsh & Associates	Gratis	533.15
Alfresco	TSRA and GPRA Website	7,944.55

GLOSSARY

AAT	Administrative Appeals Tribunal	FOI	Freedom of Information
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	GBRMP	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
AHL	Aboriginal Hostels Limited	HACC	Home and Community Care
Ailan Kastom	Island Custom	Hon.	honourable
AM	Order of Australia	IBA	Indigenous Business Australia
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office	IBIS	Islanders Board of Industry and Service
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission	ICC	Island Coordinating Council
BFS	Business Funding Scheme	ILC	Indigenous Land Corporation
BRACS	Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme	JAC	Joint Advisory Council (in relation to the Torres Strait Treaty)
CDC	Commercial Development Corporation	MaSTERS	Marine Strategy for Torres Strait
CDEP	Community Development Employment Projects	MIP	Major Infrastructure Program
CEIS	Community Economic Initiatives Scheme	Mura Kosker	Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated
CTP	Community Training Program	NESB	Non-English-Speaking Background
DATSIPIID	Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development	NPA	Northern Peninsula Area
DETIR	(Queensland) Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations	NTO	Native Title Office
DETYA	Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	OEA	Office of Evaluation and Audit
DEWSRB	Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business	OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
DOFA	Department of Finance and Administration	OPAP	Old Peoples Action Program
DORATSIA	Department of Reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	PKA	Port Kennedy Association
EAP	ATSIC Employee Assistance Program	PNG	Papua New Guinea
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity	PSMPC	Public Service and Merit Protection Commission
EMC	Environmental Management Committee	PWD	People with a Disability
ERF	Emergency Relief Funding	PZJA	Protected Zone Joint Authority
FAIP	Financial Administration Improvement Program	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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