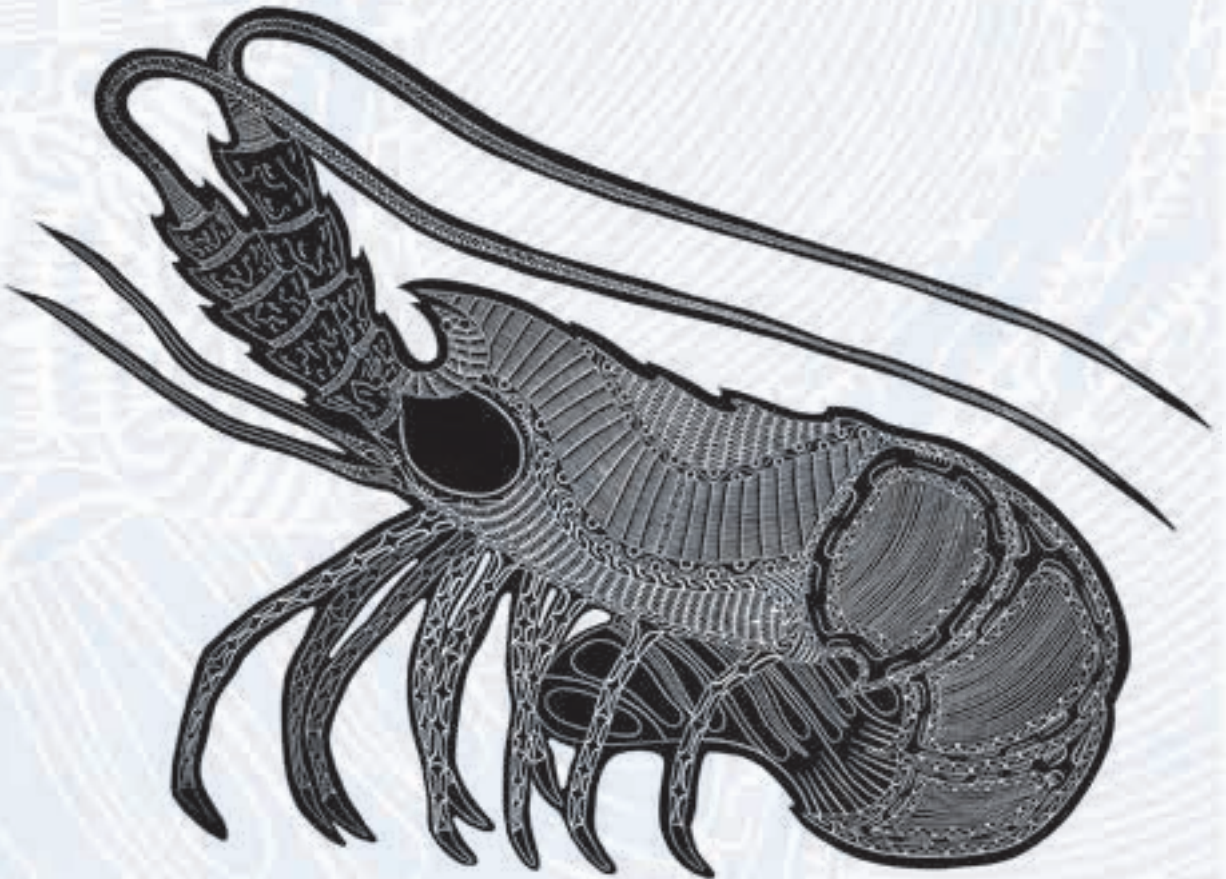


**Torres Strait
Regional Authority**

Annual Report 2011 - 2012



The Torres Strait Regional Authority recognises the Traditional Owners of the land on which we operate. We acknowledge the past and present elders of all Indigenous people in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area and respect the culture and lore of all Indigenous people in the region.

The TSRA will always make every effort to respect Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people's cultural sensitivities when featuring the images or names of people who have recently died.

However please be advised that this document may contain images of persons who have died after this Annual Report was tabled in Parliament in October 2012 and we offer our apologies for any distress caused if this occurs.

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The TSRA's Contact Officer for the 2011 - 2012 Annual Report is Mr John Ramsay, Program Manager Governance and Leadership. Telephone (07) 4069 0700 or email info@tsra.gov.au.

The Annual Report is published on the TSRA website at www.tsra.gov.au.

Empowering our people, in our decision, in our culture, for our future

Ngalpun yangu kaaba woeydhay,
a ngalpun muruygaw danalagan mabaygal
kunakan palayk, bathayngaka

Kala Lagau Ya

Buaigiz kelar obaiswerare, merbi mir apuge mena
obakedi, muige merbi areribi tonarge, ko merbi
keub kerkerem

Meriam Mir

Ngalpan moebaygal thoepoeriwoeyamoeyn,
ngalpan ya kuduthoeraynu, ngalpan igililmaypa,
sepa setha wara goeygil sey boey wigel

Kala Kawau Ya

The Indigenous people of the Torres Strait are of Aboriginal and Melanesian origin and speak two distinct traditional languages. In the Eastern Islands the traditional language is Meriam Mir, while the Western and Central Island groups speak either Kala Lagau Ya or Kala Kawau Ya, which are dialects of the same language. Torres Strait Creole and English are also spoken.

Our vision is expressed in the languages of our region, recognising the importance and diversity of our culture and traditional languages.

Our vision signifies that the heart of our region is our people with culture an important part of our lives now and into the future. Empowering our people to contribute to and make decisions regarding their future, ensures that our culture will remain strong and that the future will be guided by the people who live in the region and understand and promote its unique characteristics.

Highlights and Achievements 2011 - 2012

Engaging with our communities to build the future

- The TSRA is leading Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) in the region working with all levels of government to improve integrated government services across the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area (NPA). Solid progress has been made developing this methodology as core business for all government entities and non-government organisations providing services in the region.
- The TSRA maintains close relationships with communities through its elected Board Members. Almost all of our Board Members live and work in the communities they represent and representatives from the TSRA's Program Areas make frequent visits to all communities.
- *The Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Region Plan* Community Booklets have been released showing the 2012 baseline of services being provided to communities in the region. Nineteen booklets have been published covering the 18 communities in the Torres Strait and two communities (combined) in the Northern Peninsula Area.
- By 30 June 2012, fourteen new ranger positions have been created bringing the total full-time rangers employed by the TSRA to 33 across 14 outer island communities. All rangers have undertaken professional development and are working towards formal qualifications, including; a Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management and a Certificate II in Transport and Distribution Maritime.

Closing the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage

- Two key TSRA plans align with the Council of Australian Government (COAG) targets for Closing the Gap in disadvantage between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. All of the TSRA's Programs are aligned with the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013* and the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029*. The seven Building Blocks that underpin the achievement of the COAG targets are the focus of the TSRA's Integrated Services Delivery project. All TSRA funding requests are tested against the objectives of the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029* and the Closing the Gap targets to ensure a strategic focus for all grant funding approvals.
- The Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) continues to deliver essential environmental health infrastructure throughout the region. Seventeen MIP 4 projects have been completed with a further eight projects scheduled. Five of these projects are underway and three are in the detailed design and planning phase.
- New economic development strategies were implemented throughout the year leading to a substantial increase in the number of Torres Strait Islanders undertaking training and reducing the region's dependency on the Community Development and Employment Projects Program.

- The Business Funding Scheme and Housing Loans projects were restructured and a new community engagement strategy centred on place based Business Development and Sustainment Officers was implemented. This led to an increase in the number of business and home loans enabling the TSRA to reach its benefit targets for this project for the first time in 2012.
- The TSRA has established an expertise based Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee (IFAC) to provide independent advice on fisheries related economic development initiatives to the TSRA Board. This year the TSRA disbursed \$530,000 of Finfish Quota Trust funds to Eastern Island community fishers for capacity building projects.

Promoting and advocating critical issues for the Region

- The TSRA successfully negotiated a continuation of the Heavy Equipment Management Training Program (HEMPT) and provided on-going funding for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service.
- In partnership with communities, all levels of government and the research sector, the TSRA has implemented the Torres Strait Climate Change Strategy and commissioned the *Torres Strait Extreme Sea Water Level Study* and the *Torres Strait - Options to Reduce Regional Carbon Footprint*.
- The TSRA has sponsored touring exhibitions of Torres Strait artwork and cultural objects at the Cairns and Darwin Indigenous Art Fairs, Queensland State Library, the Gallery of Modern Art, the Queensland Art Gallery, the National Museum of Australia and the Queensland Museum. These initiatives are promoting the Torres Strait's unique culture and its artists while supporting economic development in the region.
- Traditional Owners have been assisted to obtain legal recognition of native title over the land and sea in the Torres Strait. Support has also been provided to help Prescribed Bodies Corporate to manage existing native title. Progress has also been made towards the adoption of a template Infrastructure and Housing Indigenous Land Use agreement which will speed up housing and infrastructure projects on outer islands.

The TSRA has implemented the Torres Strait Climate Change Strategy and commissioned the *Torres Strait Extreme Sea Water Level Study* and the *Torres Strait - Options to Reduce Regional Carbon Footprint*.



Jetty works at Badu Island.

The TSRA maintains close relationships with communities through its elected Board Members. Almost all of our Board Members live and work in the communities they represent and representatives from the TSRA's Program Areas make frequent visits to all communities.

Opportunities and Challenges for 2012 - 2013

Opportunities

- To continue programs to Close the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage for the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region.
- To ensure appropriate and effective representation for all communities on the TSRA Board and implement the best possible governance model for the region.
- To continue to improve the delivery of integrated whole of government services to all people in the region.
- To develop the capacity of the Regional Indigenous Media Organisation and the Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Service to improve communication throughout the region.

Challenges

- To secure the resources required to deliver the benefits and program outcomes identified in the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013* and the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029*.
- To manage program delivery and deliver effective governance in a remote and geographically isolated area.
- To ensure all agencies and non-government organisations operating in the region adopt Integrated Service Delivery as a foundation for delivering their core business.
- To work proactively in partnership with the Australian Government, the Queensland Government and the international community to address international cross border issues.
- To continue to deliver major health and community infrastructure through the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP).
- To align all programs and activities to build a sustainable economic development base for future generations.



Poruma Island.



Launch of Children's book promoting dugong conservation. L to R: Damian Miley, Mariana Fuentes, Kenny Bedford.

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Boigu Ranger , Nemiah Marama, collects marine debris at Warul Kawa.

Letter of Transmittal



TSRA
www.tsra.gov.au

7 September 2012

The Hon. Jenny Macklin
Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Minister for Disability Reform
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

It is with pleasure that I present you with the eighteenth Annual Report of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) for 2011 - 2012.

This Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 144ZB of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), Section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth) and the *Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011*.

This Annual Report contains the Report of Operations, Financial Statements and Auditors-General Report on those Financial Statements, in accordance with Section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth), and the *Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting Orders) 2011* and the Finance Minister's Orders. The TSRA has fully complied with the *Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines* under Regulation 16A of the *Financial Management and Accountability Regulations 1997*.

The Directors of the TSRA take responsibility for the preparation and contents of the Report of Operations in accordance with the resolution passed at Board Meeting Number 82 on 8 June 2012.

During the reporting period the TSRA Board has completed a review of its governance structure, and implemented the amendments to the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands Act 2005* (Cth) which enables the independent election of the next TSRA Board in 2012. The Board has worked with the Administration to deliver the benefits of the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013* and meet the objectives of the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029* which together shape the TSRA's programs to close the gap in disadvantage between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians living in the region.

The coming year will bring challenges, but we look forward to building on our many successes over the past 18 years.

Yours sincerely,

John T. Kris
Chairperson
Torres Strait Regional Authority

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Figure 0-1
Letter of transmittal





Section One: Strategic Overview

Chairperson's Message



At the close of the Torres Strait Regional Authority's (TSRA) eighteenth year, I am proud to report on the change and progress that marks our past twelve months of operations.

Our efforts continue to make a difference to the lives of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. In partnership with the Australian Government, the Queensland Government and the Local Councils in the region, we have delivered important infrastructure which has improved living standards in some of Australia's most remote communities. This year, five major projects were completed, improving water supply, sewerage reticulation, road surfacing and drainage. Work is progressing on an additional five projects which will deliver similar results in the coming year.

In my report this year I have focused on our achievements against the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029* and some significant changes in governance arrangements which will enable the TSRA to move even closer to the achievement of our vision, to *empower our people, in our decision, in our culture for the future*.

Sea Walls and Infrastructure Protection

The TSRA has secured the initial funding required to start the refurbishment and construction of sea walls to protect communities which suffer significant damage from seawater inundation. The TSRA hopes to secure the full amount of funding required to complete the full works to safeguard Saibai, Boigu and then Iama, and continue negotiating for future support for the six low-lying Torres Strait islands. The region

is experiencing an increase in sea levels in the order of six millimetres per year. Sea level rise has damaged critical infrastructure and culturally significant sites in vulnerable communities. The TSRA acknowledges the contribution made by the Australian Government towards seawall construction and will continue to lobby the Queensland Government to match this funding so that work can be completed without further delay.

Improving Governance

In 2011 the TSRA commissioned a report from independent consultants to review our governance arrangements. One of the significant findings from the review was a clear message from communities that people preferred that TSRA Board Members should be appointed by independent election. Over the past 18 years, 17 of our 20 Members have been appointed as a result of the Queensland Local Government Elections and only three have been directly appointed. The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (ATSI Act) has been amended so that in 2012 those independent elections can take place. The title of the General Manager of the TSRA was changed to Chief Executive Officer in 2011 - 2012 by way of an amendment to the ATSI Act.

The TSRA Board's governance model was further strengthened this year with the formation of a new expertise based advisory committee. The Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee (IFAC) comprises eight members from commercial fisheries industries in the region. The IFAC provides advice and recommendations to the TSRA Board on economic development and the sustainable management of Torres Strait fisheries.

Integrated Service Delivery

Since the adoption of the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029*, the TSRA, representing the

Australian Government, has been working closely with the Queensland Government and the three Local Government Councils in the region to implement an Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) project to improve the coordination of services in the region. In 2012, 19 community booklets were produced showing the progress that has been made since the initial Regional Plan community consultations in 2008. The Regional Plan community booklets document both a base line and a directory of services provided in, or available to, communities in the region. The booklets can be used by community members to measure progress and to hold governments accountable for delivering on service agreements.

Natural Resource Management

The TSRA has made important progress to ensure that natural resource management in the Torres Strait is based on the principle of sustainability. The region has 14 community based turtle and dugong management plans which have been implemented. Traditional hunting of turtle and dugong remains a sensitive issue for the region and the TSRA is actively working with Torres Strait Island communities, government, industry and research institutions to manage this important resource.

I am pleased to say that the Land and Sea Rangers were successfully transitioned from Torres Strait Island Regional Council to the TSRA at the start of the year. By 30 June 2012, the TSRA has expanded the ranger program to 14 communities, providing employment for 33 rangers. The program will expand to 45 Rangers and five Natural Resource Management Officers over the next year. The employment opportunities, training and skills transfer as well as the land and sea projects being undertaken by the rangers is making a difference in communities.



The Hon Simon Crean at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre.



On the water during a fisheries conference in Papua New Guinea.

Major Capital Works

The TSRA was able to secure a commitment of \$21.0 million from the Australian Government in May 2012 for environmental health infrastructure in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. In accordance with the arrangements pertaining to previous rounds of the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) these funds are to be matched by contributions from the Queensland Government.

Memorandum of Agreements with Local Government

A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been completed between the TSRA and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) which will strengthen the working relationship between both organisations to maximise opportunities for cooperation when delivering against the priorities in the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029*.

Fin Fish Trust Fund Disbursement

\$530,000 was disbursed to the communities of Erub, Masig, Mer and Ugar from the Fin Fish Trust

Account through a competitive grants process. These funds will assist with capacity building and industry development in these four finfish communities.

Engagement with Ministers

In December 2011 the TSRA hosted a visit by the former Queensland Minister for Fisheries, Craig Wallace, in his role as a member of the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA). I am pleased to advise that during this visit we were able to announce that the PZJA had secured the funding required for a further buy-out of Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL) fishing licences held by non-Indigenous fishers. This buy-out created the mechanism for Indigenous Fishers in the region to gain increased ownership the TRL fishery. This is a significant economic resource for the region.

In March 2012, I attended a Senate Estimates Hearing in Canberra supported by the TSRA's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

Senator Jan McLucas, Senator for Queensland, visited the region in April 2012 and was a guest at the fifth annual TSRA Gab Titui Art Awards. Australian Government Senator Ian Macdonald also visited the Torres Strait region in June 2012.

Native Title

The TSRA, as the Native Title Representative Body for the Torres Strait region, has developed an Infrastructure and Housing Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) for use by each of the Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) in the region. The ILUA contains many innovations and its underlying objective is to ensure that native title is managed in a comparable way to 'mainstream' freehold land titles. The ILUA is intended to be a 'one stop shop' style of agreement which satisfies both native title and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage lore. The use of an ILUA should allow infrastructure



Marine Centre TSRA briefing at Tagai High School.

projects to proceed more quickly than if native title requirements had to be negotiated on a project by project basis.

Conclusion

The TSRA operates in partnership with many organisations to ensure that progress is being made in the Torres Strait. The TSRA Portfolio Members, Board Members and Administration all play key roles in maintaining the close links to community which help to overcome many of the challenges we face. We are now seeing real progress towards achieving the objectives of the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029*, through our Integrated Service Delivery initiatives. The new TSRA election model will produce further changes and I look forward to working with all elected community representatives to advance the interests of all Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region.

John T. Kris
Chairperson

Chief Executive Officer's Message



While the 2011 - 2012 Financial Year was a busy period for the TSRA, it was also a very productive 12 months that has continued to lay the foundation for a number of important milestones in the 20 year journey which

is mapped out in the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029*.

A number of short-term goals were achieved as per my report last year in addressing the TSRA Governance review, expanding the Torres Strait ranger program and preparing for the TSRA elections. You can find many of the achievements from the past year throughout this report.

In the mid to long-term, capacity building has continued to occur in many communities with support from the TSRA to organisations, individuals, families and local governments to help grow sustainability and resilience within key industries that can help to create long-term employment.

In this report, there is a selection of case studies to highlight some of the stories of everyday people in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area who are working towards their dreams with assistance from the TSRA.

Without repeating achievements highlighted in the Chairperson's message, some of the important milestones from the past 12 months that I would like to share with you are:

- **Expanding the ranger program to all outer island communities** The number of rangers on country is now 33 compared to 21 when I last presented this report. The TSRA has been funded for 45 Ranger and five Natural Resource Management Officers and the ranger program will expand to meet this target

in 2012- 2013. I wish to thank all the rangers, their communities and the administration teams that have worked to establish the rangers on country.

- **Common Funding Rounds** Funding Rounds continued in 2011 - 2012 and were effective in delivering over \$2.6 million directly to groups, individuals and enterprises in remote communities. This is now an annual cycle with one funding round opening in March each year (funds are released in July), while the second round opens in September (funds released in January).
- **Outer Island Offices** With the expansion of the ranger program, the TSRA now has offices on each of the islands with rangers. Establishing these offices challenged the organisation in 2011 - 2012 to adjust its business model and we hope that in the years to come this model will not only help to improve delivery of TSRA programs on communities, but provide an opportunity to work in partnership with Prescribed Bodies Corporate, the local governments and community groups on the ground.
- **Leadership Development** The TSRA continued to invest in the region's current and future leadership with three individuals participating in the innovative Australian Rural Leadership Program and a further seven on the Training Rural Australians in Leadership and Torres Strait Youth Leadership programs.



A community meeting on Poruma Island.



Integrated Service Delivery discussions.

- **Environment** The Torres Strait region has a unique natural environment and through the rangers as well as the Dugong and Turtle management initiative which form part of the TSRA's Environmental Management Program, this pristine and important part of Australia is being protected in partnership with our communities and traditional owners.
- **Regional Communications** The recommendations from the Regional Communications Review were implemented in the past 12 months and support continues for broadcasting in the region through both the Torres Strait Islanders' Media Association (4 MW Radio Service) and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council Regional Indigenous Broadcasting Service (RIBS) operators.
- **Workplace Health and Safety** The TSRA continued to provide a safe working environment for its employees. With the change from the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1983* (Cth) to the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (Cth), the TSRA has reviewed its safety procedures and provided training to employees on both the new Act and its operational activities.

The TSRA continued to invest in the region's current and future leadership with three individuals participating in the innovative Australian Rural Leadership Program and a further seven on the Training Rural Australians in Leadership and Torres Strait Youth Leadership programs.

There are many other milestones and stories in this report that I hope you will take the time to read and to share with your community and / or stakeholder groups.

As we enter a new financial year, 2012 - 2013 is promising to be another important year for the TSRA. While there are many global and national challenges that will impact on the TSRA's operating environment, both in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area region and abroad, I look forward to working with the TSRA Board to meet these and continue to deliver on the Regional Plan's blueprint for development.

I would like to thank the TSRA Board for their leadership over the past 12 months and the TSRA staff who worked tirelessly to ensure that the leadership's vision could be delivered. My appreciation is also extended to the many agencies, councils, community organisations, individuals and stakeholder groups that have worked in partnership with the TSRA to make many of these milestones possible.

Wayne See Kee
Chief Executive Officer



TSRA Ranger Keri Akiba inspects grassy swamps on Saibai Island during a biodiversity study.





Section Two: Program Reporting and Performance Summaries

How We Deliver Our Programs

Overview of TSRA's Program Structure

This section provides details of the TSRA's program areas:

- Culture, Art and Heritage
- Economic Development
- Environmental Management
- Governance and Leadership
- Healthy Communities
- Safe Communities
- Native Title

Each program report provides the following information:

- A statement of the regional goal
- A statement of the program goal
- Program objectives from the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013*
- Deliverables against the Portfolio Budget Statement 2011 - 2012
- Program Expenditure (*the information provided in Section 2 is unaudited*)
- A program map, showing the linkages between program projects, outputs, benefits, outcomes, regional goals and COAG Closing the Gap Building Blocks
- A statement of the outcomes from the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013*
- Program projects and achievements
- A report against the Key Performance Indicators listed in the Portfolio Budget Statements and the Objectives listed in the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013*, where the objectives expand upon the Key Performance Indicators.

The *Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013* was established by the TSRA under Section 412D of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). The Plan outlines seven TSRA programs, listing the desired outcomes and benefits to be delivered.

The *Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013* is derived directly from the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029*. The Regional Plan was developed by the TSRA, the Torres Shire Council, The Torres Strait Island Regional Council and the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council in consultation with Torres Strait communities. The Regional Plan captures community challenges, priorities and aspirations. A key element of the Regional Plan is its focus on integrated development planning and Integrated Service Delivery. This process coordinates the delivery of a range of government services to local communities while ensuring that duplication and service gaps are minimised.



Chainsaw training.

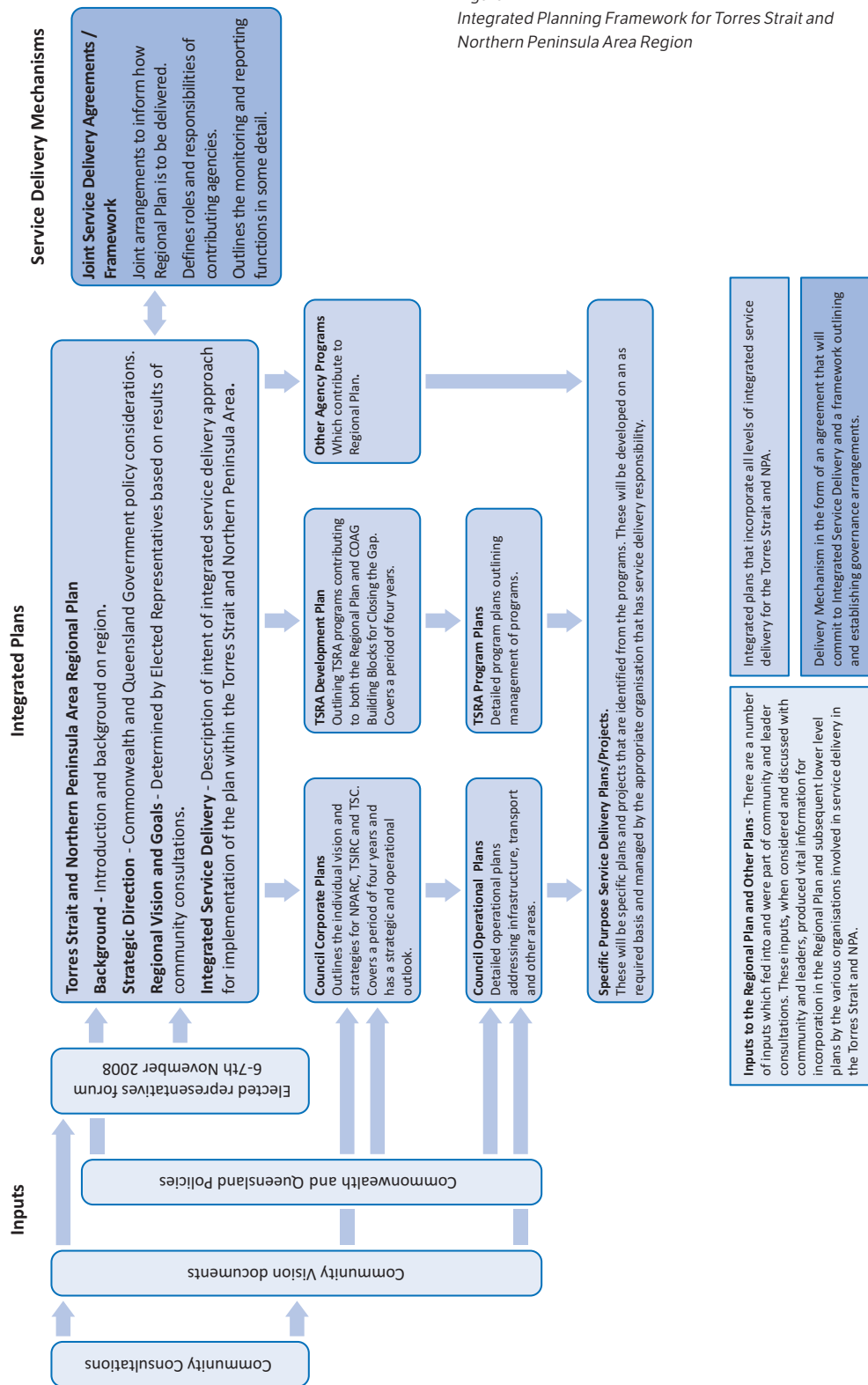


Figure 2-1
Integrated Planning Framework for Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Region



Drawing life for kids at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre 2012.

Appropriation Program Expenditure 2011 - 2012 Budget as Compared to Actual

A summary of the TSRA's financial performance for each program area for 2011 - 2012 is provided in Table 2-1.

Section 5, Financial Statements provides further information about expenditure for each program area.

Program	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Culture, Art and Heritage	3,311	3,164	(147)
Economic Development	21,082	21,187	105
Environmental Management	5,039	5,018	(21)
Governance and Leadership	4,561	4,321	(240)
Native Title	2,013	1,967	(46)
Healthy Communities	3,962	3,959	(3)
Safe Communities	3,199	2,820	(379)
Total	43,167	42,436	(731)

Table 2-1

Appropriation Program Expenditure 2011 - 2012 Budget as Compared to Actual

Notes:

- Please refer to Appendix 7 for the explanation of variances between the allocated program budget and actual spend for each TSRA program area.
- In addition to appropriation expenditure above, the TSRA expended (\$13.01 million) in third party funding. In the main these funds were allocated as follows:
 - Torres Strait Ranger Program (\$5.2million) Funded by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC)
 - Environmental Management – including land, seagrass, and aquatic habitats (\$1.3million) Funded by the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM)
 - Major Infrastructure Program (\$4.7 million) Refund from- the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (QLD DAFF)
 - Major Infrastructure Program - Coastal works - (\$1.0 million) Funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)
- The 2011-2012 financial year surplus generated by the TSRA totalled \$10.5 million and comprises unspent third party funds together with funds allocated against planned capital expenditure in the out years.

Details About Our Programs

Culture, Art and Heritage

Regional Goal

Protect, promote, revitalise and maintain Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal traditions and cultural heritage.

Program Goal

The Culture, Art and Heritage program component objectives are:

- Strong, supported and respected Ailan Kastom
- Active and sustainable arts and craft industry

Program Objectives

The Culture, Art and Heritage program component will:

- Protect culturally significant sites and artefacts to ensure their longevity
- Revitalise and maintain traditional cultural practices (art, dance, language, story telling) throughout the Torres Strait and Aboriginal communities in the region

Program Deliverables

- Increased number of professionally active Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal artists and active art centres in the region
- Increased capacity and capability to facilitate cultural initiatives and projects
- Increased profile of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal arts and culture
- Increased community involvement in the preservation of cultural heritage

Program Expenditure

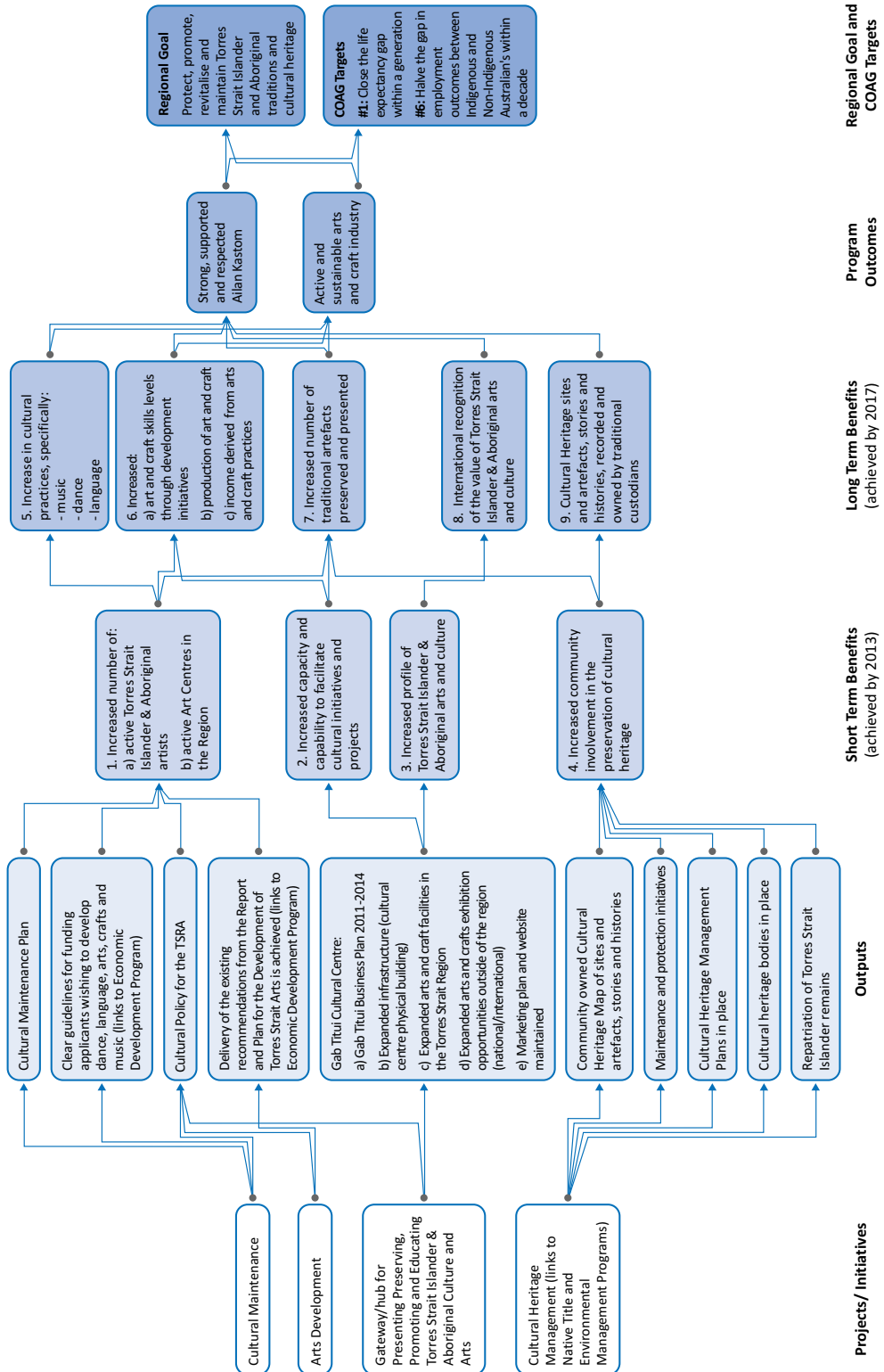
Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
3,311	3,164	(147)

Table 2-2
Culture, Art and Heritage Program Expenditure
2011 - 2012



Boat carvings Warraber Art Centre 2011.

Figure 2-2
Culture, Art and Heritage Program Map



Culture, Art and Heritage Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Cultural Maintenance

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
<p>To support the cultural development and maintenance of Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people residing within the Torres Strait.</p> <p>To embed the TSRA Cultural Policy within all TSRA administrative and service delivery processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twenty-two applications for Culture, Art and Heritage grants were supported in 2011 - 2012. Grant funds totalling \$266,575 were distributed to 11 communities throughout the region in support of arts development and cultural maintenance projects focussing on music, dance and language. The Music and Dance Audit continued its important cultural maintenance work and a CD and DVD package of traditional and contemporary music and dance from Poruma Island was completed. Ten Torres Strait communities have participated in this project to date. The Torres Strait Dance Strategy promoted Torres Strait culture and dance at two international events in 2011 - 2012. Arpaka Dance Team from St Pauls Community on Moa Island was selected to go to the Festival of Pacific Arts in the Solomon Islands and the Ugar Purple Spider Dance Team was selected to perform at the Henley Festival in the United Kingdom. The Community Cultural Planning project commenced in 2012 on Erub Island. Community members participated in workshops to develop a plan which aims to assist the community to achieve their cultural and artistic aspirations. The TSRA Cultural Policy and the TSRA Cultural Protocols Guide for TSRA Staff has been integrated into the administrative and project planning processes for all TSRA programs.

Project Name: Arts Development

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
<p>To implement the Torres Strait Islander Arts Development Plan to achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A skilled and professional Torres Strait Islander Arts Industry. A regular supply of diverse Torres Strait Islander art to all identified markets, with a focus on high quality work. An increase in Torres Strait Islander art sold across all markets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fifth Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award was held on 30 May 2012 with the theme "Native Title - Our Land and Sea Rights". A broad range of works from 44 artists based in 14 communities within the region was showcased at the event. The event also featured a special performance by the Kaurareg Dance Team. The award received media exposure throughout regional, state and national newspapers. Prizes were awarded in five categories. The three art centres based in Badu, Moa and Erub communities completed their third year of operations as incorporated bodies. All three art centres are now well established and highly productive, enabling local artists to create a regular supply to an increasing market demand. Art centres continue to sell works through the Gab Titui Cultural Centre and have also sold works directly to the market through travelling exhibitions, art fairs and online trading. The TSRA through the Gab Titui Cultural Centre continued to promote Torres Strait art and culture at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair in August 2011. The art fair is an important event that enables the Centre to promote and sell artists' works directly to a wider market base and to promote increased income generation for local artists. The TSRA partnered with Ghost Nets Australia to conduct workshops on Hammond and Horn Islands to recycle reclaimed ghost nets into contemporary art works.

Project Name: Arts Development (Cont'd)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The TSRA and Arts Queensland continued their partnership arrangement with the provision of the Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund (IRADF) in the region. Over \$100,000 in IRADF grants was distributed in 2011 - 2012 supporting ten arts activities.
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Project Name: Gateway / Hub for the presentation, preservation, promotion and education of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal culture and arts

Project Purpose <p>To present, preserve, and promote Torres Strait and Aboriginal culture and provide education about the history of the region, its people and its culture, and a point of sale for art and craft.</p>	Achievements for 2011 - 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Gab Titui Cultural Centre, in partnership with the Bani family, launched the Ephraim Bani Commemorative Program, a week-long celebration that commenced on 27 September 2011. The Program consisted of a dedicated exhibition and moving traditional and contemporary dance performances. — 23 April 2012 marked the Gab Titui Cultural Centre's eighth year of operation and culminated in a night of celebrations. Over 100 people attended and joined in celebrating the following events; presentation by Senator Jan McLucas, launch of <i>Kara Ged a Kara Mir</i> - Meriam Mir Phrase Book, preview of <i>Ailan Kastom</i> documentary, launch of <i>Sea Connections</i> exhibition and traditional cultural dance performances by <i>Berlibal Dance Group</i> from Bamaga. — The Gab Titui Cultural Centre <i>Sea Connections</i> exhibition launched on 23 April 2012 celebrating Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people's important relationship and connection to the sea. Consisting of 30 artworks, the exhibition was coordinated in conjunction with tailored information tours and education packages. The integration of Torres Strait language words which complemented the artworks and reinforced on going relationships to the sea was a key feature of this exhibition.
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Project Name: Cultural Heritage Management (links to Native Title and Environmental Management programs)

Project Purpose <p>To develop strategies to support community owned Cultural Heritage Mapping to record cultural and sacred sites, artefacts, stories and histories. To establish Cultural Heritage Bodies (CHBs).</p>	Achievements for 2011 - 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The TSRA Cultural Policy has been developed as a guide to complement Cultural Heritage Management activities. — The TSRA has continued building relationships with the State Library's Indigenous Knowledge Centre program to assist communities to document tangible and intangible cultural heritage. — The Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) pilot project has been completed on Boigu Island. The TEK system will assist Boigu Rangers in natural resource management, cultural heritage mapping and maintenance. The TSRA Culture, Art and Heritage Program is working closely with the Environmental Management Program in order to roll out TEK systems in other Torres Strait communities. — The TSRA has continued its support of Prescribed Bodies Corporate in the region in their preparation to become registered as Cultural Heritage Bodies under the <i>Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> (Qld).
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Key Performance Indicators - Portfolio Budget Statement

Indigenous Artists

- Number of Indigenous artists and cultural practitioners supported

Over 200 artists and cultural practitioners received support from the TSRA Culture, Art and Heritage Program in 2011 - 2012. This is a significant increase over the 120 artists supported in 2010 - 2011. Support is provided through the Arts Development program which focuses on distributing community arts development grant funding, coordinating arts skills development workshops, conducting a range of promotional activities through the Gab Titui Cultural Centre incorporating the gallery, gift shop and exhibitions areas.

Key Performance Indicators - Torres Strait Development Plan

Professional artists

- Increased number of professionally active Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal artists and active art centres in the region

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Increased number of: a) Active Torres Strait Islander artists, and b) Active art centres in the region.	15 applications for funding supported through the Culture, Art and Heritage Program this year. Three art centres were established as at June 2011.	In 2011 - 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The TSRA supported 22 grant applications jointly funded by the Culture, Art and Heritage Grant Program and the Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund. — 44 artists exhibited in the Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award. — Over 200 artists and cultural practitioners supported through the arts development program. — The TSRA provided career and artistic development support to 33 arts workers who gained employment in the region through ART-Sense. This was, at the time, a Prime Minister and Cabinet funded jobs conversion initiative. — The TSRA continues to provide funding support to the three art centres established in the region; Erub Erwer Meta (on Erub Island), Ngalmun Lagau Minaral (on Moa Island) and Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh (on Badu Island). Three years of operation have resulted in increased art work production, higher level of quality, a more consistent supply and increased sales revenue for local artists. 	Strong culture and respect of Ailan Kastom underpins the achievement of all the Closing the Gap targets.

Cultural Maintenance

- Increased capacity and capability to facilitate cultural initiatives and projects

The TSRA has commenced external renovations to the Gab Titui Cultural Centre to improve access, increase storage capacity and create multifunctional spaces to enhance the Centre's capability for programming. Internal design concepts have been developed to increase display areas within the Ephraim Bani Gallery (the keeping place) and the Wabunaw Geth Gallery (main gallery). The renovated gallery areas will be temperature controlled, enabling larger exhibition programs promoting contemporary artworks as well as the increased potential to display historically significant traditional artefacts from other institutions. The improved space with increased programming will produce an enhanced visitor experience.

The benefit achievements against the Torres Strait Development Plan related to this Key Performance Indicator (KPI) are:

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Increased capacity and capability to facilitate cultural initiatives and projects.	Increase display area;	External renovations at Gab Titui Cultural Centre have begun and will be completed in 2012.	Strong culture and respect of Ailan Kastom underpins the achievement of all the Closing the Gap targets.
	Two external partnerships to be developed for display by 1 July 2010;	Benefit exceeded; TSRA participation in the Cairns and Darwin Indigenous Art Fairs in 2011, support for two international partnerships: the Arpaka Dance team to participate in the Festival of Pacific Arts and the Ugar Purple Spider Dance Company to perform at the Henley Festival in the United Kingdom.	

Arts Development

- Increased profile of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal arts and culture

The TSRA through the Gab Titui Cultural Centre promotes Torres Strait culture and arts through the on going display of works, coordination of events and exhibitions, facilitation of tours and support for a wide range of artists to attend a number of art fairs. The Cultural Centre also actively promotes Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal arts and culture through industry publications and through its website which has received an increase in visitors seeking information about Torres Strait culture and arts, artists and art centres in the region.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Increased profile of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal arts and culture:	14,000 visitors to GTCC in 2011 - 2012.	15,418 visitors recorded as at 30 June 2012.	Strong culture and respect of Ailan Kastom underpins the achievement of all the Closing the Gap targets.
	\$240,000 generated through retail and activities in 2011 - 2012.	\$ 250,448 generated through retail and sales activities as at 30 June 2012.	
	20,000 hits on Gab Titui Cultural Centre website.	Over 49,520 hits recorded at 30 June 2012.	

Cultural Heritage

- Increased community involvement in the preservation of cultural heritage

This target is shared across the Culture, Art and Heritage, Environmental Management and Native Title Programs. Each program area works together to support the TSRA's overall commitment to respect cultural sites, artefacts, stories and Torres Strait cultural identity. Through the Culture, Art and Heritage Program this target has been met by supporting communities to apply for grants, the inclusion of community in the Gab Titui Cultural Centre's programming and through engagement with communities regarding a broad range of opportunities for partnerships and promotion of Torres Strait cultural heritage. Within the organisation the Culture, Art and Heritage Program supported the implementation of the TSRA's Cultural Policy and its integration into project planning across all program areas. The Traditional Ecological Knowledge project is an important cultural heritage management initiative that has successfully worked in partnership with programs and community stakeholders. The cultural policy complements this approach to ensure improved participation and involvement in community projects such as the preservation of cultural heritage.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Increased community involvement in the preservation of cultural heritage.	One cultural heritage activity undertaken 2011 - 2012.	In conjunction with the annual Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award extensive consultation took place to engage and work in partnership with Kaurareg Dance Group to bring composers, choreographers, musicians, dancers and artists together to perform at the Award's opening night.	Strong culture and respect of Ailan Kastom underpins the achievement of all the Closing the Gap targets.

The Traditional Ecological Knowledge project is an important cultural heritage management initiative that has successfully worked in partnership with programs and community stakeholders.

Case Study

5th Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award

Each year the TSRA, through its Gab Titui Cultural Centre, holds the Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award. This award provides an opportunity for artwork from across the Torres Strait to be exhibited at the centre in one significant show. Prizes are awarded in seven categories: Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award Winner, Best Craft Work, Best Cultural Artefact (replica), Best Work on Paper/Canvas, Best Secondary Student Work and People's Choice. The prizes supported by TSRA total \$10,000.

For the second year, the annual Art Award has included a separate award, the *National Museum of Australia History Through Art Award*, awarded by the National Museum of Australia (NMA). This award attracts a non-acquisitive prize of \$500.

The guest curator invited to judge the works in 2012 was Mr Tom Mosby, Executive Manager of Indigenous Research and Projects at the State Library of Queensland (SLQ). Mr Mosby presented the awards with the TSRA's Alternate Deputy Chair, Mr Kenny Bedford. Michael Pickering, Head of Curatorial and Research at the National Museum of Australia, presented the *NMA History Through Art Award*.

Each year the Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award hosts a number of notable guests from major institutions. In 2012 our guests were: Ms Alisa Duff, Head of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program at the NMA and Mr John Carty, Research Fellow with the Australian National University (ANU).

Aim

The TSRA's Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award provides an opportunity for artists to produce a variety of high quality artworks representative of the culture in the Torres Strait for exhibition and sale. There was again a strong showing from the three art centres on Erub, Moa, and Badu Islands.



Winner of the Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award 2012, Mr Segar Passi, speaking with the Judge Mr Tom Mosby about his painting, Native Title: our land and sea rights.

Achievements

- More than 2,000 visitors viewed the works over the life of the exhibition; approximately 300 people attended the opening night.
- This year 44 artists from 14 communities were represented.
- The opening night and exhibition are advertised throughout national arts magazines and through the Gab Titui website, which is linked to major national institutions.
- The 2012 event hosted representatives from the SLQ, the NMA and the ANU.
- In 2012 the Australian National Museum purchased several pieces for their collection.
- The production of the Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award catalogue, a high quality publication highlighting the importance of art in the Torres Strait, promotes the talent and workmanship of Torres Strait artists and provides a tangible record of the exhibition and project.

Economic Development

Regional Goal

Enhance our region's wealth by creating sustainable industries and increasing employment opportunities for our people equivalent to the wider Australian community.

Program Goal

The TSRA will take the lead as a 'Whole of Region Economic Development Solution Broker'. In this role, the TSRA will work in partnership with other government and non-government organisations and individual communities to advance the regional goal and ensure the efficient use of resources.

Program Objectives

- Stimulate economic development across the region
- Advance business skills and align training initiatives with regional employment opportunities
- Advance Indigenous ownership and management of industries and enterprises

Program Deliverables

- Increased number of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal individuals in non Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) employment
- Increase in the participation of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in industry training
- Increased number of approved TSRA loans
- Increase in the annual total catch of finfish, kaia (tropical rock lobster) and other marine resources by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people

Program Expenditure

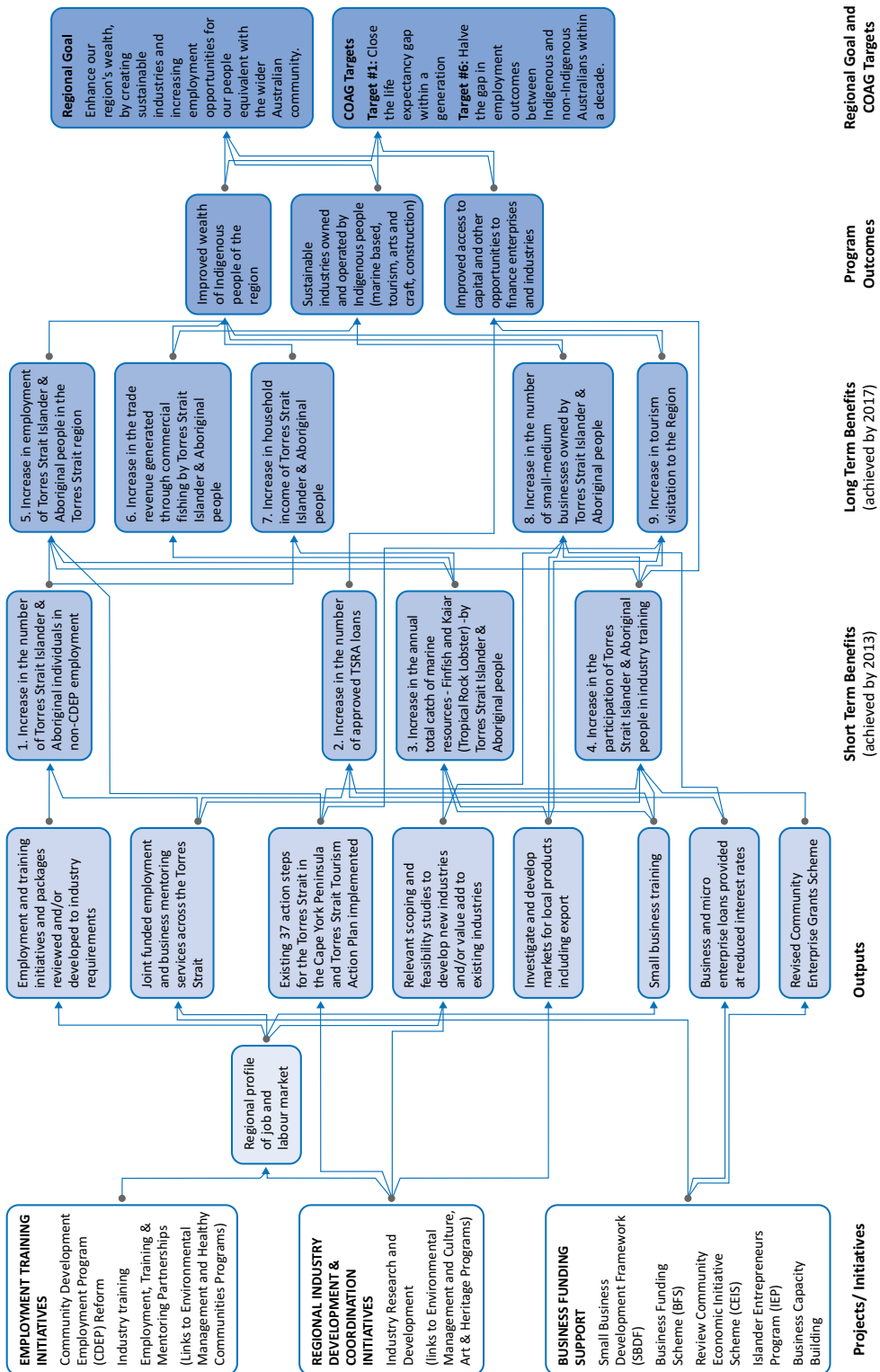
Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
21,082	21,187	105

Table 2-3
Economic Development Program Expenditure
2011 - 2012

Torres Strait Development Plan Outcomes

- Improved wealth of Indigenous people of the region
- Sustainable industries owned and operated by Indigenous people (e.g. marine based, tourism, arts and craft, construction)
- Improved access to capital and other opportunities to finance enterprises and industries

Figure 2-3
Economic Development Program Map



Economic Development Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Employment and Training Initiatives

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To implement CDEP Program reforms and to advance business skills and align training initiatives with regional employment opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 277 CDEP participants were transitioned into permanent full-time employment positions. These jobs were in local government, education, aged care, child care, arts, security and environment. 15 CDEP participants were transitioned into permanent part-time employment positions. These jobs were in construction, retail, hospitality, childcare, animal management and health. Training was delivered to 728 CDEP participants across a diverse range of areas such as construction, business administration, security operations, horticulture, retail, workplace readiness, marine, first aid, chainsaw operations, basic machinery and heavy machinery plant operations.

Project Name: Regional Industry Development and Coordination Initiatives

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To stimulate economic development across the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The TSRA supported eight delegates to attend the three-day Pacific Asia Indigenous Tourism conference held in Darwin. The delegates comprised a mixture of existing Indigenous tourism operators and those aspiring to establish a tourism business. The delegates achieved an increased knowledge and understanding of the range of Indigenous tourism ventures operating successfully in the Northern Territory. They also gained insight into the success factors and pitfalls encountered by those tourism operators. One delegate is using the knowledge he gained at the conference to develop a business plan for an eco-tourism accommodation facility in the Torres Strait. The TSRA supported 24 Community Economic Initiatives through its grant funding programs in 2011 - 2012. Details of the Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS) Grants are provided in Appendix 4.

Project Name: Business Funding Support

Note: This project is the featured case study see page 28

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To advance Indigenous ownership and management of industries and enterprises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five business loans were completed under the Business Funding Scheme. Two Loan applications were received under the Islander Entrepreneur Program, a partnership between the TSRA and the National Australia Bank (NAB). One application was not approved and the second is still under consideration by the NAB. Advisory, technical, and financial support was provided to 52 individuals and nine incorporated community organisations. This resulted in successful grant applications from each of the incorporated organisations. The Economic Development team visited 13 communities to provide information and advice to community organisations and to conduct one-on-one consultations.

Economic Development Program progress against targets

Key Performance Indicators - Portfolio Budget Statement

- Number of CDEP participants who have moved into non-CDEP employment

CDEP is continuing to deliver services to strengthen communities and community based organisations, targets were exceeded in 2011 - 2012.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Increase in the number of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal individuals in non-CDEP employment.	50 people moved from CDEP into non-CDEP jobs per annum from July 2009 to June 2013.	<p>277 people moved from CDEP into full-time non-CDEP jobs.</p> <p>These people were transitioned into permanent employment positions in the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> arts: 34 construction: 109 administration: 50 retail: 33 security: 24 maritime: 10 child/aged care: 17 <p>15 people moved from CDEP into part-time non-CDEP jobs.</p> <p>These people were transitioned into permanent employment positions in the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> construction: 10 retail: 1 hospitality: 1 childcare: 1 animal management: 1 health: 1 	<p>COAG Target 1 - Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.</p> <p>COAG Target 6 - Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.</p>

The benefit achievements above are fully aligned to the Torres Strait Development Plan benefit targets.

**The TSRA supported
24 Community Economic
Initiatives through its grant
funding programs in
2011 - 2012.**

Additional Key Performance Indicators - Torres Strait Development Plan

Business Funding Scheme and Housing Loans

The Business Funding Scheme and Housing Loans project met targets in 2011 - 2012.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Increase in the number of approved TSRA loans.	Five new business loans and three new home loans granted per annum from July 2009 to June 2013.	Five business loans. One business expansion loan. Three home loans. One home improvement loan.	COAG Target 1 - Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 6 - Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

Marine Resource Utilisation

Progress against this target cannot be quantified at present. The requirement to report catch is not mandatory for Indigenous fishers in the region so data to measure tangible outcomes does not exist. Discussions are continuing within the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) to identify and implement a more robust system of data collection, however, this is likely to be a medium to long term outcome and remains a challenge for the TSRA and the PZJA.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Increase in the annual total catch of marine resources (finfish and Tropical Rock Lobster) by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people.	Kaiar (Tropical Rock Lobster): A five per cent increase in catch against the nominal 'total allowable catch' for the Traditional Inhabitant Boat (TIB) sector per year until 2013. (The percentage increases are for the catch amounts for TIB fishers) Spanish Mackerel: 3.5 tons per annum. Coral Trout: 20 tons per annum.	An expertise based Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee was established to provide advice on capacity building initiatives in the finfish and Tropical Rock Lobster fisheries. Two grant funding rounds were conducted for disbursement of finfish trust funds to eastern island community fishers to stimulate Indigenous fishing activity.	COAG Target 1 - Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 6 - Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

Industry Training Initiatives

Significant progress with training Indigenous people in the region has continued. This has been progressed by the reforms to the CDEP Program and the location of a full time training organisation in the region. The targets specified in the Torres Strait Development Plan continue to be exceeded.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Increase participation of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in industry training.	50 people trained per annum to 2013 in the four core industries of tourism, construction, marine and arts.	<p>562 people undertook accredited training:</p> <p>Cert I and II Construction and Cert II Indigenous Housing Maintenance: 262</p> <p>Cert I Work Readiness and Cert II Workplace Practices: 159</p> <p>Cert II and III Retail: 24</p> <p>Cert I and II Horticulture and Cert I Agrifood Operations: 94</p> <p>Cert II Security: 16</p> <p>Cert I Business: 5</p> <p>Cert IV Trainer and Assessor: 2</p> <p>166 people undertook non-accredited training:</p> <p>Marine:103</p> <p>Construction White Cards: 19</p> <p>Apply First Aid: 7</p> <p>Chainsaw Operation and Operate Basic Machinery: 24</p> <p>Plant Operators:13</p>	<p>COAG Target 1 - Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.</p> <p>COAG Target 6 - Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.</p>



Tourism delegation to the Tiwi Islands during the UNESCO Indigenous Tourism Conference.

Case Study

Community Economic Initiative Scheme (CEIS)

Power of the Spirit – Torres Blue Seafoods

Project Description

Business Funding Support to advance Indigenous ownership and management of industries and enterprises.

Torres Blue Seafood (TBS) was established in 2009. It is one of two Indigenous owned, operated, community based seafood buyers and processors in the Torres Strait. The processing station on Poruma (Coconut) Island specialises in Tropical Rock Lobster, finfish and Bêche-de-Mer. Local Indigenous fishers are the sole suppliers of product.

Prior to the establishment of the processing station, fishers had difficulty buying supplies at cost effective prices and did not have access to a local processor to purchase their catch. These factors were disincentives for Indigenous fishers to fish commercially. This has all changed with the arrival of TBS. Tangible benefits are accruing to Poruma and neighbouring communities as TBS provides sustainable employment, allowing fishers to remain in their home communities.

With assistance provided through the TSRA's grant funding program, TBS has upgraded its six tonne capacity freezer. The snap freezing capacity has also been increased from 300 to 600 kilograms per day. TBS now processes the catch on Poruma and ships directly to the market reducing cost overheads. TSRA's grant funds have also been used to purchase five hookah diving units and train 16 local divers. The training has directly led to an increase in employment, which in turn will contribute to maintaining continuity of supply to the market. Continuity of supply is essential for market confidence and the long term economic viability of the fisheries.



Torres Blue diver catching a Tropical Rock Lobster.

TBS has engaged six Community Development and Employment Project (CDEP) participants under Work Experience Agreements. Through mentoring and job-specific training the work experience will help participants to increase their confidence and self-esteem and develop work skills and regular attendance patterns and take up future work opportunities.

The six work experience participants hope to transition off CDEP into full time work in the fishing industry. The General Manager of TBS, Mr Brian Lampton, said: "We are hopeful that access to training and the hookah units will encourage more individuals to seek their livelihood for their family's future from fishing our surrounding waters."

TBS recognises that by providing additional services such as business mentoring, industry training and equipment loans there are benefits for individual employees and the long term goals of the communities. It is hoped this holistic approach to building capacity in the Indigenous fishing sector will encourage participants to develop their fishing and related businesses to create further employment opportunities.



Preparing Tropical Rock Lobster at Torres Blue Fisheries on Poruma Island.

Environmental Management

Regional Goal

Our natural and cultural environment is an asset that is protected, preserved and enjoyed through sustainable management.

Program Goal

The Program Goal is identical to the Regional Goal.

Program Objectives

This program component will contribute to sustainable environmental management by:

- Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources
- Managing the effects of climate change, tidal inundation and erosion
- Increasing the utilisation of renewable energies
- Reducing the environmental impacts of waste management
- Improving land management for future generations

Program Deliverables

The program deliverables are to achieve the outcomes from the:

- Fisheries Project
 - Land Project
 - Garden and Horticulture Project
 - Biodiversity Project
 - Invasive Species Project
 - Land and Sea Rangers Project
 - Climate Change / Coastal Erosion Project
- and to:
- Strengthen cultural heritage
 - Share information and promote research

Program Expenditure

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
5,039	5,018	(21)

Table 2-4
Environmental Management Program Expenditure
2011 - 2012

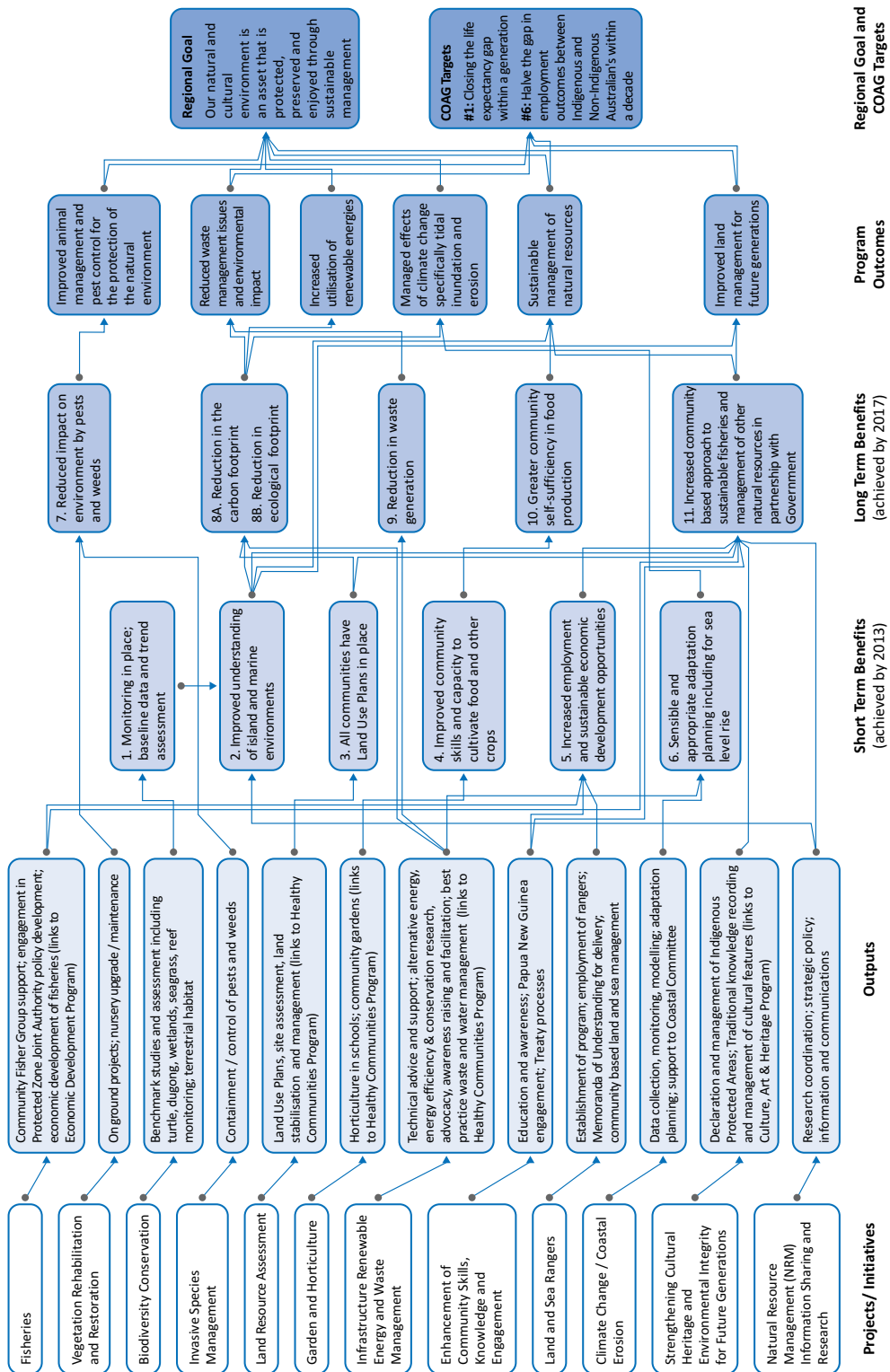
Torres Strait Development Plan outcomes

- Improved animal management and pest control for the protection of the natural environment
- Reduced waste management issues and environmental impact
- Increased utilisation of renewable energies
- Managed effects of climate change, tidal inundation and erosion
- Sustainable management of natural resources
- Improved land management for future generations



Masig Rangers Loice Naawi and Edna Nai preparing for weed control at Quetta Gully.

Figure 2-4
Environmental Program Map



Environmental Management Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Fisheries

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To increase participation in the fishing industry, create sustainable businesses and ensure ecologically sustainable management and conservation of species biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established an expertise based Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee (IFAC) as a sub-committee of the TSRA Board. Streamlined the finfish (Spanish mackerel and coral trout) quota leasing process resulting in a 25 per cent increase in revenue for the Finfish Quota Trust as compared to the previous financial year. The disbursement of \$530,000 of Finfish Quota Trust funds to Eastern Island community fishers for capacity building. The Fisheries team visited each community to provide information and advice to community organisations and to conduct one-on-one consultations resulting in an increased level of awareness and understanding of the IFAC and other fisheries related matters. The IFAC participated in six Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) forums with the key outcome being direct Indigenous input into the discussion and recommendations of the forums.

Project Name: Terrestrial Biodiversity Conservation

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To develop a baseline for terrestrial biodiversity inventories, assessments of ecological condition, identification of threatening processes and the development and implementation of key management actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terrestrial biodiversity management profiles about the plants, animals and habitats of Mabuiag, Badu, Iama, Boigu, Moa, Erub and Mer completed which provide the basis for ranger priorities and activities. Draft terrestrial biodiversity management profiles about the plants, animals and habitats of Masig, Poruma, Warraber, Saibai, Dauan and Ugar underway. Fire surveys conducted on Badu and Moa and management reports prepared. Research commenced under the National Environmental Research Program Tropical Ecosystems (NERP TE) on the status of regional mangrove and freshwater ecosystems. <i>Mangrovetwatch</i> Program commenced in Torres Strait with Rangers trained and equipped for field monitoring.

Project Name: Invasive Species Management

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To support monitoring and management of invasive species in the Torres Strait.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thirty three Rangers trained in weed identification and control including the provision of technical support and direction and specialised equipment. The <i>Leucaena</i> tree, a significant regional weed pest was targeted for control on eight islands. Rangers monitoring pest animal impacts and supporting Biosecurity Australia in island plant health surveys. Pest rodent monitoring on Mer and Poruma with support from the University of Queensland.

Project Name: Sustainable Horticulture

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To provide Torres Strait communities with access to a wider range of fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs at affordable prices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — A Regional Landcare Facilitator funded by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is promoting and supporting Landcare and food gardening. — A Project advisory group has been established to share information, facilitate partnership opportunities and guide activities. — A <i>Horticulture in Schools</i> program is engaging all schools in the Torres Strait by embedding horticulture in curriculum and encouraging food growing activities at campuses. — Community fruit tree planting projects were undertaken on Mer, Badu and Thursday Island.

Project Name: Dugong and Turtle Management

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To implement community based management plans for the sustainable management of dugong and turtle in the Torres Strait.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Fourteen community-based dugong and turtle management plans have been implemented. — A dugong and turtle catch monitoring database has been produced for the Torres Strait region. — Turtle foraging surveys at Badu Island were completed. — The TSRA hosted a Dugong and Turtle Research Workshop on Thursday Island attended by local staff and world renowned experts from Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Project Name: Seagrass Monitoring

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To support community-based seagrass monitoring activities to assess the health, condition and extent of seagrass beds throughout the Torres Strait.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Community volunteers and rangers undertook seagrass monitoring in eight Torres Strait communities. — Badu and Mabuiag Rangers received accreditation in sub-tidal seagrass video-monitoring techniques, as part of an on-going monitoring program, in collaboration with the Department of Employment Economic Development and Innovation (Fisheries Queensland).

Project Name: Land and Sea Ranger Program

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To employ Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers to look after their land, sea and culture by carrying out on-ground works that address priorities identified by local communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 30 June 2012, 33 Rangers were employed across 14 outer island communities. Funding support is provided by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities Caring for our Country Program for 50 Rangers and Natural Resource Management positions. All rangers have undertaken professional development towards formal qualifications Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management and Certificate II in Transport and Distribution Maritime. Nine rangers received their Certificate II in Transport and Distribution Maritime. The Land and Sea Ranger Vessel Fleet of seven vessels received formal approval to operate from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

Project Name: Indigenous Protected Areas

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To deliver the Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) program in the Torres Strait.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported Traditional Owners and Rangers to manage the existing Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) of Warul Kawa and Pulu Islet. Coordinated consultation with Traditional Owners of Warul Kawa and commissioned the development of a Plan of Management for the Warul Kawa IPA. Coordinated consultation with Traditional Owners of the Warraberalgal native title area on the identification of the island, Maza Guiya, as a potential area to be declared as an IPA. Commissioned the development of a draft Plan of Management for Maza Guiya.

Project Name: Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To establish a traditional ecological knowledge recording system for Torres Strait, to enable land and sea planning and management activities to be informed by Ailan Kastom using appropriate intellectual property and communication protocols.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported the development of a community owned traditional ecological knowledge system database on Boigu Island. Boigu Rangers and community members actively gathering and recording traditional knowledge and information in the TEK database.

Project Name: Cultural Heritage

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To identify ways to strengthen awareness and protection of cultural heritage sites in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Cultural heritage recording training was provided to the Mabuygiw Rangers at Mabuiag Island. The training included identification of new sites of cultural significance and ground-truthing existing site records. — Cultural heritage site protection works were completed at the Pulu Indigenous Protected Area.

Project Name: Climate Change and Coastal Management

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To manage coastal hazards and climate change issues in the Torres Strait.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Commissioned reports, “Torres Strait Extreme Sea Water Level Study” and “Torres Strait - Options to Reduce Regional Carbon Footprint”. — Scoping reports for coastal works on Boigu, Saibai, Iama and Poruma have been completed by consultants, AECOM Technology Corporation and detailed pre-construction surveys completed for proposed works on Boigu and Saibai. — The Torres Strait Tide Gauge Network is in construction phase. — A sea surface temperature monitoring station was installed by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), a part of a collaborative project monitoring coral reef, funded through the National Environmental Research program (NERP) . — Climate change driven coastal erosion and inundation studies have been completed on all island communities by Dr Kevin Parnell, James Cook University.

Key Performance Indicators - Portfolio Budget Statement

- Number of communities participating in natural resource management activities.
- Number of ranger groups in place to assist communities to carry out land, sea and cultural resource management activities.
- Number of sustainable land use plans developed.

The TSRA supported 14 Torres Strait communities to participate in natural resource management activities across land and sea country. The TSRA provided information, technical support and access to resources and equipment to enable Torres Strait communities to carry out local projects and engage in regional and national projects important to the local region. Communities and Traditional Owners are engaged in all stages of project design and delivery to ensure that local and cultural priorities are adequately addressed. Ranger groups have been established on 14 outer island communities and are carrying out cultural and natural resource management activities in accordance with community environmental and cultural priorities. Funds have been secured under the *Working on Country* program for ranger operations to continue in 2012 - 2013.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Increased employment and sustainable economic development opportunities.	Rangers employed in all fifteen island communities by 2012 - 2013.	As at 30 June 2012, 33 full-time Rangers are employed in 14 outer island communities. This will increase to 45 Rangers and five National Resource Management Officers in 2012 - 2013.	COAG Target 6 - Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.
Improved community skills and capacity to cultivate food and other crops.	Eight communities supported to establish sustainable horticulture activities by 2011 - 2012.	A regional Landcare Facilitator is promoting and supporting Landcare and food gardening. Four pilot communities are actively involved in sustainable horticultural activities. A preliminary analysis for implementing sustainable horticultural activities was completed for four communities. Delivering environmental education programs that embed sustainable horticulture within the school curriculum.	COAG Target 1 - Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation.
Number of sustainable land use plans developed.	All communities have sustainable land use plans in place.	This benefit has been achieved. All communities have the plans in place which are used in local planning decisions. The Queensland government is currently developing a draft Local Government Plan for the region. Land use plans have been incorporated.	COAG Target 1 - Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation.

The benefit achievements above are fully aligned to the Torres Strait Development Plan benefit targets.



Turtle and Dugong management sign Badu Island.



Ranger Moses Wailu measuring green turtle on Dowar Island.

Additional Key Performance Indicators - Torres Strait Development Plan

- Monitoring in place, baseline regional environmental data available.

Baseline terrestrial and marine biodiversity datasets are being acquired to guide sustainable planning, priority setting, investment, project design, implementation and evaluation. Research through the National Environmental Research Program Tropical Ecosystems Hub is contributing to the development of more comprehensive regional baseline datasets.

The TSRA has facilitated the development of partnerships between scientists and communities to identify and assess trends and impacts of environmental change on key species and ecosystems in the region.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Monitoring in place; baseline data established and trend assessment in progress.	Trend analysis contributing to environmental management initiatives realised progressively from July 2010.	<p>Completed environmental baseline data to support sustainable land use planning for all inhabited islands.</p> <p>Created vegetation datasets and Regional Ecosystem maps for all communities.</p> <p>Monitoring the impacts of climate change is continuing through the establishment of sea surface temperature monitoring network, installation of tide and sea level gauge network and baseline data on coastal erosion.</p> <p>Coastal erosion and inundation research was completed by Dr Kevin Parnell from James Cook University (JCU) for all inhabited islands. This provides a basis for technical analysis and modelling of erosion and inundation, preventative measures and consequences and community input into preferred options.</p> <p>Coastal engineering reports have been completed for preferred mitigation options and associated construction costs for communities most exposed to inundation, including Boigu, Saibai, Poruma, and Iama.</p> <p>Establishment of regional tide gauge network (four gauges) and sea level rise monitoring program (one National Tidal centre sea level gauge) is in progress.</p>	COAG Target 1 - Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation.

— Improved understanding of island and marine environments

Ranger Working on Country Plans are being rolled out in communities as new ranger groups are recruited. These plans document the cultural and natural resource issues for each island and surrounding marine environment as well as the aspirations of the communities providing guidance to ranger work plans and future environmental activities.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Improved understanding of island and marine environments.	Ranger groups in place on all fourteen islands to assist communities carry out land, sea and cultural resource activities.	As at 30 June 2012, 33 Rangers were in place in 14 communities. Ranger Working on Country Plans are in place in seven communities, another eight are underway. Terrestrial biodiversity profiles have been completed for seven islands and a further six island profiles in preparation.	COAG Target 6 - Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

— Improved community skills and capacity to cultivate food and other crops.

The TSRA is facilitating a healthier lifestyle program for people in the Torres Strait through a whole of government and community based approach, targeting the regional school curriculum and delivering on ground projects at community level.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Improved community skills and capacity to cultivate food and other crops.	Eight communities supported to establish sustainable horticulture activities.	All 15 communities are engaged. Horticulture in Schools programs are engaging all schools in Torres Strait by embedding horticulture in curriculum and encouraging food growing activities at campuses. Small-scale pilot horticulture projects are being maintained in Horn, Hammond, Masig and St Pauls communities. Community fruit tree planting projects were completed on Mer, Badu and Thursday Island.	COAG Target 6 - Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

— Number of communities engaged in and becoming aware of climate change impacts

The TSRA is working with all Torres Strait communities, government agencies and researchers to support whole-of-government policy coordination, research, planning and adaptive management for the threats posed by climate change, coastal erosion and inundation. The TSRA is also partnering with Community Enterprises Australia (CEA) and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) to deliver minor coastal works programs on eight communities.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Sensible and appropriate adaptation planning including for sea level rise.	Regional climate change modelling and adaptive planning strategies are in place for communities by 2011 - 2012.	Sea level modelling and coastal erosion and inundation studies have been completed. Light detection and ranging (LiDAR) technology was employed to compile geographic data for inhabited islands.	COAG Target 1 - Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation.
	A Climate Change Strategy Action Plan has been developed and implemented progressively since 2011.	An action plan was developed. Major research and modelling components were completed. Environmental and climate change monitoring framework is under development.	



TSRA Rangers and staff at a Thursday Island workshop.

Case Study Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment in Torres Strait

Project description

Biodiversity assessment of islands in the Torres Strait commenced in earnest in 2007, beginning with the meticulous mapping of all vegetation types. On-going funding from the Queensland Government's Q2 Coasts and Country program enabled more detailed research surveys to be taken on all islands where Rangers were established. The surveys greatly expanded baseline plant and animal inventories of culturally and scientifically important species. The ecological health of the land has also been assessed and current impacts and potential threats determined.

Aims

The project has blended cultural and traditional knowledge shared by community elders and Rangers with western science and techniques. This merging of knowledge has identified ways to manage problem weeds and pest animals, restore burning practices and determine which species and habitats need close monitoring, further research and areas where community awareness could be improved.

Achievements

For a region with a comparatively small total land area, the assessments have shown that the terrestrial ecosystems in Torres Strait are collectively some of the most biologically diverse in Australia, both in habitat and the number of plant species recorded. The assessments have identified a number of highly significant vegetation types. This includes some species with very restricted distribution or which are endemic to the bioregion.

For a region with a comparatively small total land area, the assessments have shown that the terrestrial ecosystems in Torres Strait are collectively some of the most biologically diverse in Australia, both in habitat and the number of plant species recorded.

Torres Strait Islanders have always had excellent biological knowledge. They have assisted the field surveys to identify knowledge previously unknown by western science. The project has been building the interest and capacity of local communities to monitor and manage what they consider to be the most important aspects of their country. The outcomes are being incorporated in each island's Ranger Working on Country work plans.

The Ranger's participation in field assessment work has enabled them to gain appreciation, skills and confidence with survey and monitoring techniques, scientific equipment, data recording, interpretation and presentation of results. They have learned how to analyse and respond to issues and determine appropriate management responses. The project has been invaluable in enhancing the Rangers' knowledge and skill set and guiding them in their role as front line guardians of the unique and globally significant natural and cultural assets of Torres Strait.



Ranger Francis Nai conducting a botany assessment on Yorke Is.

Governance and Leadership

Regional Goal

Effective, transparent self-government with strong leadership

Program Goal

To help maintain and improve the leadership and governance skills of current and future leaders of the Torres Strait.

To support development planning and coordination of integrated government service delivery in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

Program Objectives

The Governance and Leadership program component will:

- Involve Indigenous leaders in legislative processes, policies and priorities in terms of setting direction for integrated planning and service delivery
- Optimise and enhance TSRA Board member decision-making and communication capabilities
- Involve Indigenous leaders in integrated service delivery
- Involve Indigenous leaders in monitoring progress towards reaching regional goals and outcomes
- Encourage more women to seek leadership roles
- Ensure mainstream services are contributing to and meeting regional goals and outcomes
- Develop the capacity of current and future leaders across the region and support effective communication between the community and organisations involved in the region

- Improve communication and information networks across communities
- Grow future leaders for the community
- Strengthen leadership within communities

Program Deliverables

- An Integrated Service Delivery Project
- A Governance and Leadership Capacity Building Project
- A Regional Communication Project

Program Expenditure 2011 - 2012

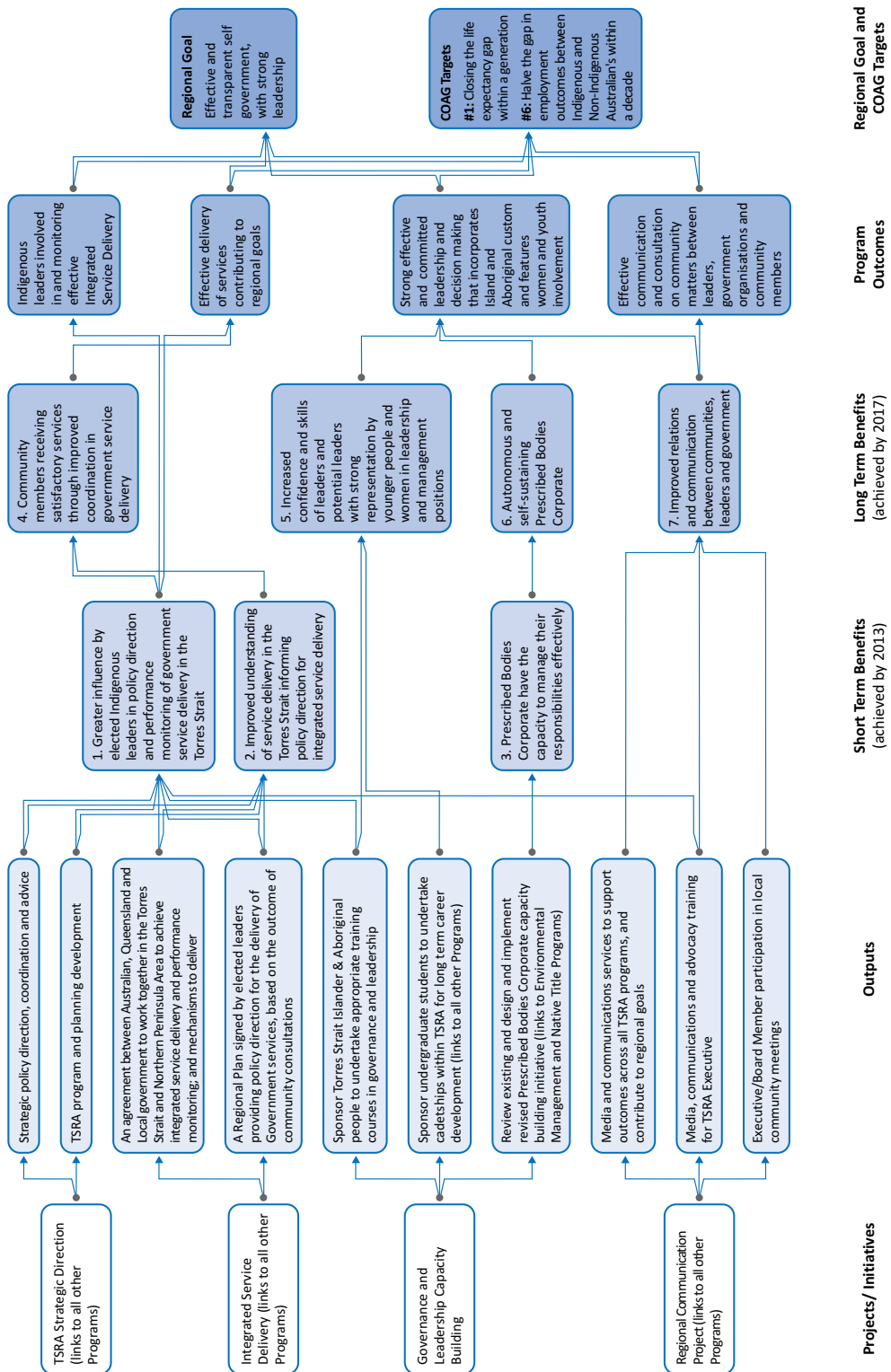
Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
4,561	4,321	(240)

Table 2-5
Governance and Leadership Expenditure 2011 - 2012

Torres Strait Development Plan Program Outcomes

- Indigenous leaders involved and monitoring effective integrated service delivery
- Effective delivery of services contributing to regional goals
- Strong, effective, committed leadership and decision-making that incorporates Aboriginal and Ailan Kastom and features women and youth involvement
- Effective communications and consultation on community matters between leaders, government organisations and community members

Figure 2-5
Governance and Leadership Program Map



Governance and Leadership Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) Implementation

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To contribute to the design and implementation of an Integrated Service Delivery Framework for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the 1,623 service gaps identified through the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Region Planning process in 2008, 369 (23 per cent) have been completed, 658 (40 per cent) are in progress and 596 (37 per cent) have not yet commenced, are not currently feasible or are identified as being a community or other non-government responsibility. The Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Region Plan Community Booklets have been released showing the 2012 baseline of services being provided to communities in the region. Sixteen booklets cover the 15 communities in the Torres Strait and two communities in the Northern Peninsula Area. Three additional booklets for communities in the Torres Shire Council area of responsibility have been drafted and will be released in the second half of 2012. Workshops are being held with communities to explain how their needs and aspirations identified during the Regional Planning process are being communicated to government through an ISD Plan. The Integrated Service Delivery governance framework for the region has been redrafted following the Machinery of Government changes resulting from the Queensland Government election in 2012. A new governance framework is being circulated to ISD stakeholders.

Project Name: Capacity Building for Regional Governance and Leadership

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
<p>To deliver Leadership, Governance and Capacity building initiatives for Indigenous persons and / or organisations within the Torres Strait region.</p> <p>To increase the governance and leadership capacity of Indigenous women in the region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The TSRA has sponsored two participants on a biennial basis to attend the Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP). The participants from Course 18 are expected to graduate in 2012. From 2013 the TSRA will be sponsoring one student on an annual basis. The TSRA sponsored five participants in the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation's (ARLF) 'Training Rural Australians in Leadership' (TRAIL) Program. The TSRA has sponsored two participants in the ARLF School Leavers Leadership Program. From 2012 this Program will be known as the Torres Strait Youth Leadership Program. The TSRA is sponsoring five undergraduates to undertake university studies through the Assistance with Tertiary Education Scheme (ATES). The TSRA has administered the Morey Scholarship provided by Senator Susan Boyce, Senator for Queensland, to sponsor one Indigenous woman undergraduate to complete her tertiary studies. This scholarship is administered under the ATES program. The TSRA has sponsored three women to participate in the OXFAM 'Strait Talk' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Summit. From 2013 the TSRA is increasing its support to Women leaders in the region through extended support to the OXFAM Indigenous women's programs.

Project Name: Support to Indigenous Broadcasting

Project Purpose

To review the TSRA's contribution to communication services in the region to ensure effective communications and consultations on community matters between leaders, government organisations and community members takes place.

Achievements for 2011 - 2012

- The TSRA has sponsored the operations of the Torres Strait Islanders Media Association (TSIMA) for the provision of Indigenous Broadcasting services to the region.
- The TSRA has sponsored the Torres Strait Island Regional Council to employ and train four Regional Indigenous Broadcasting Service (RIBS) operators.
- The TSRA has appointed a Grant Controller and worked with the TSIMA Board of Management to appoint an experienced Operations Manager to improve the governance and financial performance of the organisation in line with the recommendations from the Regional Communications Review completed during the last reporting period.

Project Name: Support to Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC)

Project Purpose

To build the capacity of Prescribed Bodies Corporates (PBCs) in order that they require less assistance from TSRA, with a view to becoming more accountable for their own affairs.

Achievements for 2011 - 2012

- All twenty Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) in the Region were rated as compliant by the Office of Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) or have been granted exemptions by ORIC for specific compliance issues.
- The TSRA's PBC capacity building grant facility has provided assistance with administrative support funding to four PBCs in the region. These were:
 - Mura Badulgal (TSI) Corporation RNTBC
 - Mer Gedkem Le (TSI) Corporation
 - Kulkalgal (TSI) Corporation
 - Erubam Le Traditional Land and Sea Owners (TSI) Corporation RNTBC

Project Name: Review the role of the Native Title Representative Body in the region

Project Purpose

To determine the role that the TSRA would play in delivering the functions of a Native Title Representative Body after the expiry of current arrangements on 1 July 2013.

Achievements for 2011 - 2012

- Terms of Reference Developed
- Project to be completed as part of the National Review of Native Title Representative Bodies and Native Title Support Providers in 2013.

Project Name: Support to the 2012 TSRA Board Election

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To facilitate the conduct of an election for the TSRA Board in 2012.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">— The election date of 15 September 2012 has been declared through the Gazettal process.— The Australian Electoral Commission has been engaged to conduct the TSRA Board Election.— An updated version of the TSRA Election Rules has been produced.— TSRA Election Guidelines have been distributed.— A voluntary caretaker period commenced on 17 June 2012 and will extend until the results of the election are declared.

Project Name: TSRA Executive Committee Support

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To support the effective governance of the TSRA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">— An independent review of the TSRA's governance structures was completed and the recommendations of the review have been implemented.— Four Board Meetings were conducted.— Four Board Executive meetings were conducted.— Four Audit Committee meetings were conducted.— Three Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee meetings were conducted.— A Charter for the TSRA Board has been developed.— The Charter of Representation, Accountability and Performance has been updated and separation of powers, administration and financial responsibility has been reaffirmed by the Board.



The TSRA Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer visit Mabuiaḡ to discuss integrated service delivery.

Key Performance Indicators (KPI) - Portfolio Budget Statement

Level of legislative compliance and measured change in capacity of Prescribed Bodies Corporate in the region

The improvement in the levels of compliance of PBCs in the region which was achieved in 2010 - 2011 has been sustained. All 20 PBC have met the minimum levels of compliance required by the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC). All PBCs have submitted General Reports. Thirteen PBCs held Annual General Meetings (AGM) within the reporting period. A further three PBCs obtained an exemption from ORIC to extend their AGM compliance period past the 30 November 2011 deadline. Two PBCs have been authorised by ORIC to conduct their AGMs in a biannual basis. The TSRA PBC Support Officer continues to work with all PBCs in the region towards attainment of unqualified compliance.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
PBCs have the capacity to manage their responsibilities effectively.	20 registered Prescribed Bodies Corporate adhering to / complying with legislation by 30 June 2011.	The levels achieved in 2010 - 2011 (100 per cent Compliance or negotiated exemptions) have been maintained.	COAG Target 1 - Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 6 - Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

Measured change in regional communications capacity

A review into the on-going support requirements for regional communications was completed in 2009 and the recommendations from that review have been implemented. The TSRA is providing funding to both the Torres Strait Islander's Media Association and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council to support Radio 4MW operations and Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Services to the region.

Long Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Improved relations and communication between communities, leaders and government.	Achieve an improvement in community satisfaction with the coordination of government services.	The radio broadcasting service for the region (Radio 4MW) operated by the Torres Strait Islander's Media Association has increased the transmission of local programming from 46 hours per week to 168 hours per week.	Effective communication underpins all six COAG Targets for Closing the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage.

Integrated Service Delivery

- Number of integrated service delivery meetings conducted.

The Integrated Service Delivery Steering Group met 16 times during the reporting period. The Regional Plan Working Groups met twice and were disbanded in December 2011 having completed their assigned tasks. The Integrated Service Delivery Coordination Office conducted 18 community workshops or consultations during the reporting period.

The benefit achievements against the Torres Strait Development Plan are:

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Improved understanding of service delivery in the Torres Strait informing policy direction for integrated service delivery.	Analysis of results of service mapping and survey completed by December 2010 and delivered to Integrated / Regional Service Delivery Steering Committee.	Completed.	COAG Target 1 - Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 6 - Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.
	Integrated / Regional Service Delivery meetings held quarterly from 2010 - 2011.	Target exceeded.	
	Integrated / Regional Service Delivery Plan signed by elected leaders and State and Commonwealth Ministers by July 2010.	The <i>Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029</i> has been signed by the elected leaders in the region. The whole of government Integrated Service Delivery Plan has been rescheduled to allow for additional community consultation to explain those services which are the responsibility of community and those which are the responsibility of government. This will now be completed in 2012 - 2013.	

Additional Key Performance Indicators - Torres Strait Development Plan

Capacity Building

- Number of senior government and ministerial level meetings attended by TSRA Board members.

The benefit achievements against the Torres Strait Development Plan are:

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Greater influence by elected Indigenous leaders in policy direction and performance monitoring of government service delivery in the Torres Strait.	TSRA Chair and Executive Members participate in 16 senior government and ministerial level meetings per annum. Consultation to provide feedback on the development and progress against the Torres Strait Regional Plan was conducted in all communities.	Achieved (20 Meetings). Achieved.	COAG Target 1 - Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 6 - Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

Regional Communications

- TSRA Governance Review completed and recommendations Implemented

The benefit achievements against the Torres Strait Development Plan are:

Long Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Improved relations and communication between communities, leaders and government.	Achieve an improvement in community satisfaction with the coordination of government services.	A review of the governance structures for the TSRA Board was completed. The principal recommendation from the review has been enacted in the Indigenous Amendment Bill No 1 of 2012, which was to separate the election of the TSRA Board Members from the election of Local Government Councillors under the Queensland Local Government Act. The TSRA election scheduled for 15 September 2012 will be the first independent election for the TSRA Board since formation in 2004.	Effective communication underpins all six COAG Targets for Closing the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage.

The benefit achievements above are fully aligned to the Torres Strait Development Plan benefit targets.

Case Study The Torres Strait Youth Leadership Program

The Torres Strait Regional Authority provides opportunities for 18 to 25 year youths to experience a challenging leadership and self-development experience through the Torres Strait Youth Leadership Program, formerly known as the School Leavers Leadership Program. The Torres Strait Youth Leadership Program is one component of regional capacity building initiatives undertaken through the Governance and Leadership Program.

The TSRA provides five Torres Strait Youth Leadership Program scholarships for Indigenous youth each year. The Scholarship involves a seventeen day residential course delivered by the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (ARLF). The program covers Leadership Development, Personal Skills, Confidence building and Networking. The objectives are to increase participant involvement in leadership roles and activities, develop personal leadership and interpersonal skills and encourage cross-sectoral engagement within the participant group.

Participants are challenged both personally and professionally, in a safe physically demanding learning environment.

Ms Rellis Petrou from Thursday Island was a scholarship recipient in 2011 - 2012. Ms Petrou was motivated to undertake the program by her desire to seek clarity about her future and the need to set herself some realistic and achievable goals. She was exposed to a number of outdoor challenges designed to increase her self-confidence, planning abilities, team work, networking, trust and resilience. The Canberra phase of the course included a visit to Parliament House and the Australian War Memorial.

Ms Petrou completed all activities and rose to the challenges put before her. She said, *'the course pushed me out of my comfort zone and was very beneficial for me to help define my future goals. I discovered that nothing is ever too hard to do and that I should never give up on trying'*.

The Australian Rural Leadership Foundation and the TSRA have a long partnership in developing the capacity future leaders for the Torres Strait.



Rellis Petrou - Torres Strait Youth Leadership Program scholarship recipient, 2011.



TSRA consultation with members of the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council.

Native Title

Regional Goal

Effective and transparent self-government with strong leadership.

Program Goal

To provide high-quality and culturally appropriate professional services to native title holders and claimants in the Torres Strait region.

To facilitate the securing of legal recognition of native title to land and waters in the Torres Strait and thereby improve opportunities for improved economic, cultural and social participation for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region.

Program Objectives

This program component will:

- Assist Traditional Owners to obtain legal recognition of native title over land and sea in the Torres Strait Region
- Protect and manage native title rights
 - Ensure that mainstream services are contributing to and meeting regional goals and outcomes
 - Improve communication and information networks across communities
 - Build the capacity of Registered Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs)
 - Involve Indigenous leaders in Integrated Service Delivery
 - Strengthen leadership within communities
 - Grow future leaders for the community
 - Encourage more women to seek leadership roles
 - Optimise and enhance the TSRA Board Member decision-making and communication capabilities

Program Deliverables

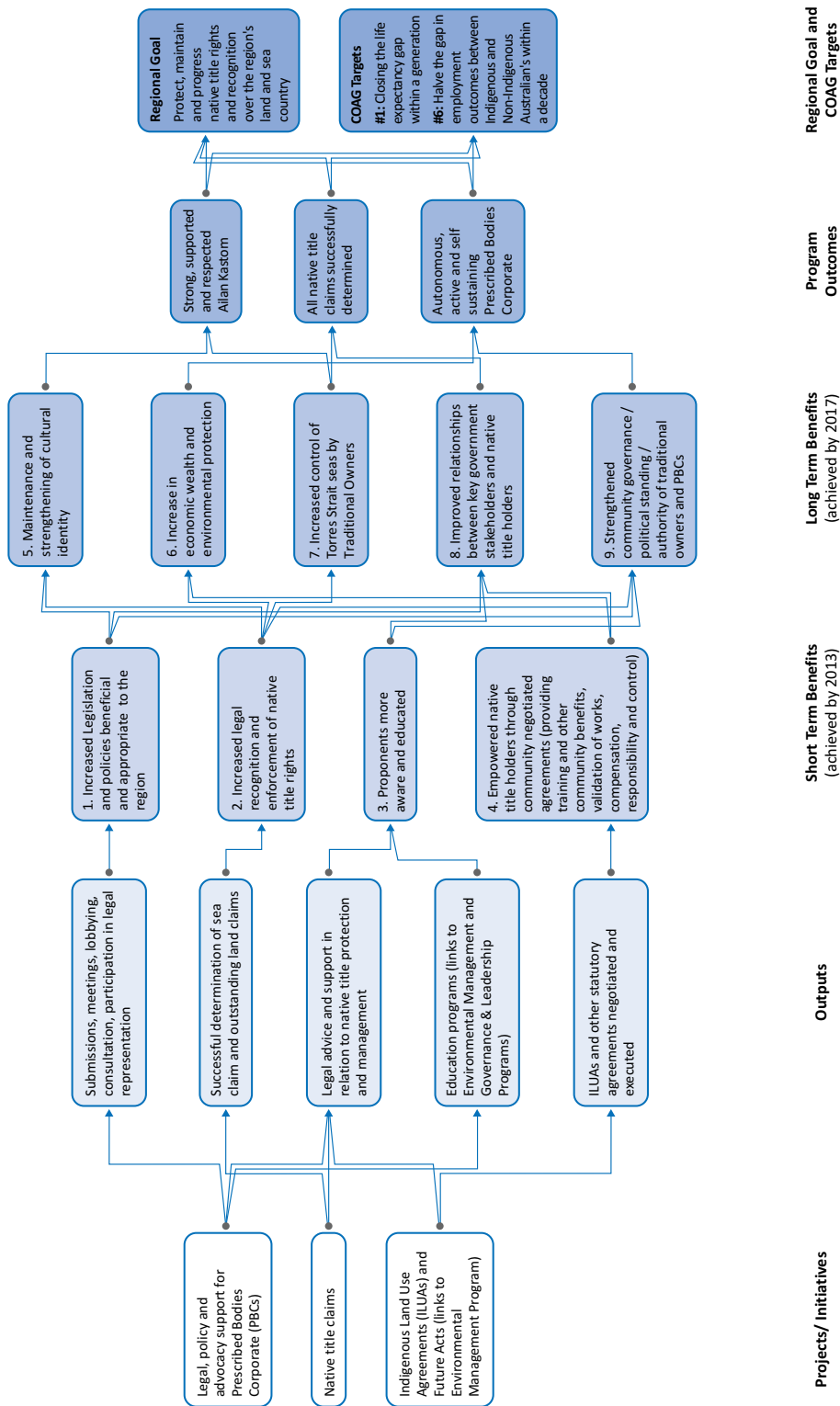
- Provide legal, policy and advocacy support for PBCs
- Support native title activities, including determination of claims and provision of legal advice and support
- Negotiate and execute Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA) and other statutory agreements
- Provide legal advice and support in relation to Future Acts

Program Expenditure

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
2,013	1,967	(46)

Table 2-6
Native Title Program Expenditure 2011 - 2012

Figure 2-6
Native Title Program Map



Native Title Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUAs) and Future Acts

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
Native Title Compliance and Infrastructure Delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Native Title Office (NTO) executed five ILUAs. Four of these have been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal. — ILUA matters progressed in this reporting year include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of an Infrastructure and Housing ILUA template • On-going negotiations for six IBIS leases • On-going negotiations for the social housing ILUAs • On-going negotiations for three Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service ILUA's

Project Name: Native Title Claims

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
Native Title Determination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Regional Sea Claim Full Federal Court Appeal was handed down on 14 March 2012. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An application for special leave to appeal to the High Court was filed on 8 June 2012 — There are two current on-going native title Determination claimant applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zuizin Island Claim • Warral and Ului — On-going anthropological research for Naghir Island with a view to lodge a future native title claimant application.

Project Name: Legal, Policy and advocacy support for Registered Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
Infrastructure delivery, law reform and interpretation of Native Title Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — One submission was made in response to requests for submissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attorney General's Department consultation on section 24JAA of the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth) — Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) transfer matters were progressed with the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between relevant PBCs and community enterprise development organisation. — The NTO in partnership with Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies funded 24 representatives from the region's PBCs to attend the 2012 National Native Title Conference.

Key Performance Indicators - Portfolio Budget Statement

- Number of native title determinations, negotiated and registered ILUAs and number of future act notifications facilitated in the Torres Strait

The Regional Sea Claim appeal was heard in the Full Federal Court before Chief Justice Keane, Justice Mansfield and Justice Dowsett. The decision is based on the majority decision of Chief Justice Keane and Justice Dowsett.

This is a summary of the effect of the decision.

1. That the native title rights to access or take resources (including marine resources) are restricted to traditional use only and not for commercial use.
2. That reciprocity rights are rights under Islander customary law are NOT native title rights.
3. That a small area on the extremities of the claim area are excluded from the Native Title determination area on the basis of evidence.

4. That otherwise the decision of Justice Finn stands in that Native Title exists in the determination area and that the native title rights and interests are subject to the traditional laws and customs of the native title holders and the laws of Queensland and the Commonwealth.
5. That the native title rights and interests are non-exclusive which means that Traditional Owners cannot prevent anyone from lawfully accessing the determination area nor does this prevent any person who has a fishing or other licence from engaging in that activity in the area.

In 2011 - 2012 the NTO provided assistance with the finalisation and execution of five ILUAs. The NTO received 105 future act notifications which were forwarded to the relevant PBCs. The NTO provided the PBCs with advice regarding future act notifications and native title matters.



Blessing the school at the opening ceremony on Mer Island.

Statistical Data

Facilitation and assistance:	Number
1. The Claims Experience	
Claimant Applications	
Active claims represented at 30 June 2011	4
Plus Claims Filed this year by NTRB	0
Less Claims Determined 2011 - 2012	0
Less Claims Dismissed 2011 - 2012	0
Less Claims Withdrawn 2011 - 2012	1
+ or - Other disposition (describe)	
Active Claims represented at 30 June 2012	3
- Number of these registered by NNTT	3
Claims in Development	1
Non-Claimant Applications	0
Compensation Claims	0
2. The Agreements Experience	
Future Act Notices received	105
Responses to Future Acts	
Agreements Concluded	1
Agreements in Development	0
ILUAs concluded and registered	5
ILUAs in Development	12
Complaints and Disputes	
Complaints	
- Received	4
- Resolved	1
- Pending	3
Disputes relating to Native Title Applications	0
Disputes relating to ILUAs, rights of access and other matters	0
Requests for Review of decisions not to assist	
- Requests Received	0
- Reviews Completed	0

Table 2-7

Performance Statistics

Legal, policy and advocacy support for PBCs

- Number of pieces of legislation and policies that are beneficial and appropriate to the Torres Strait
- Reduced length of negotiation processes
- Compliance with legislative requirements for Future Acts

The TSRA's Native Title Office (NTO) provides advocacy and support to PBCs and in-house advice, negotiation and advocacy for the Traditional Owners of land throughout the Torres Strait region. This includes the preparation of submissions to government agencies on changes in native title law.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Increased legislation and policies beneficial and appropriate to the region.	One or more policies developed by end of 2011 - 2012.	<p>The NTO provided a submission on section 24JAA of the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth).</p> <p>The NTO progressed DOGIT transfer matters by developing a template draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between relevant PBCs and community enterprise development organisations.</p> <p>A framework agreement was developed to recognise rights to compensation, cultural heritage and other native title rights under the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth).</p> <p>The NTO is successfully meeting legislative requirements for processing future act notices.</p> <p>The NTO developed a framework agreement requiring proponents to consider native title implications of proposed projects at an early stage in the process.</p>	<p>COAG Target 6 - Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian's within a decade.</p> <p>COAG Target 1 - Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation.</p>
Proponents more aware and educated.	Legislative requirements met for Future Acts (including timing and process) from 1 July 2011 onwards.	All legislative requirements were met.	COAG Target 6 - Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian's within a decade.

Support native title activities, including determination of claims and provision of legal advice and support

— Number of native title Determinations in the Torres Strait

The Native Title Office advocates and assists Traditional Owners and PBCs with land and sea claims. A native title determination was made on 23 August 2010, following the judgement by Justice Finn on 2 July 2010, for the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim. The determination was appealed by the Australian Government and the Queensland Government. The NTO funded and provided legal representation for the claimant’s appeal with arguments heard between 16 and 18 May 2011. The full bench of the Federal Court handed down judgement on 14 March 2012 upholding the Australian Governments’ appeal and rejecting the claimant’s appeal. The Native Title Office has now filed a special leave application in the High Court of Australia challenging this decision.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Increased legal recognition and enforcement of native title rights.	One regional Sea Claim resolved.	The Regional Sea Claim judgement and determination has been made and subject to appeal in the High Court of Australia.	COAG Target 1 - Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation.
	Two remaining land claims progressed by June 2012.	The NTO has progressed the Kulkalgal number two (Zuizin) claim and is waiting for a response from the Queensland Government. The Warral and Ului matter has been adjourned pending the resolution of the Regional Sea Claim Appeal. The NTO is progressing the Naghir land claim with agreement between the parties regarding further anthropological research. By agreement with the parties, the Naghir Native Title Determination Claim was withdrawn from the Federal Court on 20 July 2011.	

Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) and Future Acts

Number of Indigenous Land Use Agreements

The NTO assists Prescribed Bodies Corporate and Traditional Owners with support, legal advice, and advocacy for ILUAs and Future Act notifications. The NTO has been involved in negotiations with all levels of government and stakeholders to formulate standard freehold land valuations for the Torres Strait region. It is the NTO’s objective to adopt a template Infrastructure and Housing ILUA, with the agreement of all parties, in the near future.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Empowered native title holders through community negotiated agreements (providing training and other community benefits, validation of works, compensation responsibility and control).	Reduction in outstanding Indigenous Land Use Agreement matters by June 2012.	Five ILUAs were negotiated, finalised and / or executed. 105 Future Act notifications were processed. Community consultations have been ongoing to progress the Infrastructure and Housing ILUAs. A MOU has been executed to facilitate this process. The NTO assisted native title holders to negotiate compensation for a number of ILUAs.	COAG Target 1 - Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 6 - Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian’s within a decade.

The benefit achievements above are fully aligned to the Torres Strait Development Plan benefit targets.



CDEP participants learning construction skills.

Case Study

Regional Infrastructure and Housing ILUA

Project Description

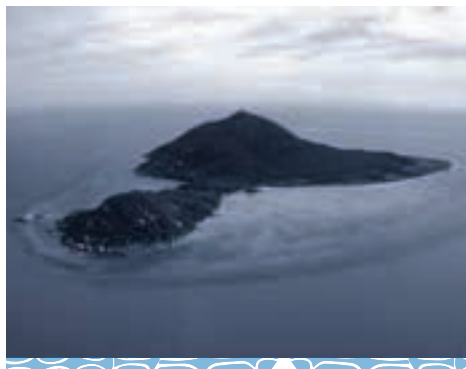
The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) in its role as the Native Title Representative Body for the region has, through the Native Title Office (NTO), developed a template for a Regional Infrastructure and Housing ILUA which can be used throughout all communities in the Torres Strait Region. The ILUA covers the construction and maintenance of public infrastructure and housing and also ensures respect for the native title rights and interests of traditional owners. The ILUA has been developed with the assistance of Native Title Holders and Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) in all Torres Strait communities.

The Infrastructure and Housing ILUA provides a mechanism for government and Native Title holders to reach a negotiated solution for the use of Native Title Lands with the minimum of bureaucratic overheads. The ILUA is a viable alternative to the use of s24JAA of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), which is viewed in the region as a heavy handed approach for the compulsory acquisition of Native Title Lands.

Regional Position

At a meeting on Thursday Island on 12 November 2011, representatives of the TSRA, the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC), and PBCs for the outer islands of the Torres Strait, resolved that:

- The TSRA, TSIRC and PBCs work together and speak with one voice in making further representations to the Australian Government and the Queensland Government about how native title should be addressed in respect of public infrastructure and housing projects for all outer islands excepting Hammond Island.



Naghir Island.

- The TSRA, TSIRC and PBCs strongly oppose the application of s24JAA of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) in addressing native title for public infrastructure and housing projects for the outer Islands.

Following that meeting, the TSRA, TSIRC and PBCs wrote the Prime Minister of Australia and the Premier of Queensland about these resolutions. The letter also included agreed drafts of the template Infrastructure and Housing ILUA and the template social housing ILUA.

Outcomes

Social housing infrastructure ILUA have been prepared for execution on Mabuag and Kubin to begin the process of construction of social housing on those islands. Negotiations with government regarding the use of the Infrastructure and Housing ILUA as an alternative to s24JAA of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) are continuing.

Native Title Representative Body Reporting

The information reported in this section is specific to Torres Strait Regional Authority's (TSRA) Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) function under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

Overview of TSRA as a Native Title Representative Body

NTRBs are primarily responsible for providing effective and equitable native title and related assistance to constituents in their prescribed regions. Constituents are those persons who hold or may hold native title in the region where the NTRB performs its functions. One of the guiding principles for the operation of NTRBs is to act in the best interests of their constituents.

The TSRA through its Native Title Office (NTO) performs the NTRB functions for the Torres Strait region. In 1996 The TSRA was initially appointed as a recognised NTRB under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). The 1998 amendments to the Act required that NTRBs reapply for recognition. The TSRA was invited to re-apply and was subsequently recognised as the Torres Strait NTRB for the period 2007 to 2013.

The NTO has an Operational Plan for 2011 - 2012 which is aligned to the *TSRA Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013*.

Prescribed Bodies Corporate

When a favourable determination of native title is made by the Federal Court, the Traditional Owners are required to establish a Registered Native Title Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC). PBCs must be incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders) Act 2006* (Cth). The PBC model was adopted to enable native title communal property rights to interact meaningfully with Australian property law. The PBC model ensures that the body is represented by a legal entity vested with authority to make binding decisions on its behalf, thus ensuring legal certainty for any

parties wishing to negotiate, conduct business or make agreements with the native title holding body. The TSRA recognises that PBCs have specific functions and obligations under both the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders) Act 2006* (Cth).

The TSRA has established a PBC capacity building grants facility. All PBCs in the region are invited to apply for financial assistance to offset the administrative costs associated with their native title role. The PBC grants are managed as part of the TSRA's biannual common funding rounds. Capacity building for PBCs is managed by the TSRA's Governance and Leadership Program.

Legislative Functions of the TSRA in its NTRB Capacity

In its NTRB role, the TSRA through the NTO performs specific functions under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). These include:

- Facilitating research, preparation and making claims by Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal people, 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
- 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
- Facilitating support and assistance to PBCs

The legislative functions of NTRBs are set out in Section 203B of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) which states:

- (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, and
 - (g) The functions referred to in Section 203BJ and such other functions as are conferred on representative bodies by this Act.

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

Organisational Structure and Corporate Governance Policies

As a program within the TSRA, NTO staff are included within the TSRA's organisational structure, represented at Appendix 1. Similarly, NTO staff are bound by the same corporate governance policies that apply to the TSRA generally.

The TSRA has established a PBC capacity building grants facility. All PBCs in the region are invited to apply for financial assistance to offset the administrative costs associated with their native title role.

Report on Performance

See also the Native Title Program Report on pages 52 to 60 which includes statistical data on claims, agreements and complaints.

The TSRA is operating in a predominantly post-determination environment. There are no statistically significant trends in operating statistics.

Negotiations are on-going with the Queensland Government to resolve specific points of the Infrastructure and Housing ILUA. One of the unresolved issues is the methodology for valuing Native Title land. The ILUA is in its seventh draft and the TSRA expects this will be resolved in 2012 - 2013.

There have been no significant changes in nature of principal functions / services provided through the TSRA Native Title Office.

The general nature of complaints received have been that the PBCs have not consulted widely in communities (with all Traditional Owners) when communicating decisions relating to the ILUAs and Future Acts. The NTRB response is generally that this is a matter for the PBCs themselves to resolve under their rules. The PBC Support Officer and visiting legal staff from the Native Title Office reinforce this requirement with PBC members during community visits.

Summary Resources Table

For the 2011 - 2012 financial year, the NTO received \$2.013 million for operations.

The financial performance of the TSRA in its NTRB capacity is outlined in the table 2-8.

NTRB Functions	Actual 2010 - 2011 \$'000	Budget 2011 - 2012 \$'000	Actual 2011 - 2012 \$'000	Variation 2011 - 2012 \$'000
Expenditure				
Capital	–	–	–	–
Activities	1,806	1,685	1,601	(84)
Corporate	334	328	366	38
Total	2,140	2,013	1,967	(46)
Income				
FaHCSIA Funding	2,151	2,013	2,013	–
Activity Generated Income	–	–	–	–
Interest	–	–	–	–
Reversal of previous Asset write downs	–	–	–	–
Other	–	–	–	–
Total	(11)	–	(46)	(46)

Table 2-8
NTRB Financial Performance

Performance Against Budget

In performing its NTRB role, the TSRA has operated within the planned budget for 2011 - 2012.

There have been no significant changes in funding from 2010 - 2011 or changes to the 2011 - 2012 budget during the year.

There have been no developments since the end of the financial year that have affected or may have significantly affected the NTRB's operations in future.

Management of Human Resources

The NTO staff structure consists of six employees all of whom live in the region:

- a Principal Legal Officer
- a Senior Legal Officer
- a Legal Officer
- a Paralegal
- and two Administration Support Officers

Since 2005, the NTO has assisted twelve law students to undertake legal internships through the Aurora Project. One student has also undertaken Practical Legal Training.

Workforce planning, workplace health and safety, indemnities and insurance premiums for NTO staff are included within the TSRA’s procedures and policies.

All NTO staff are subject to the *TSRA Enterprise Agreement 2011 - 2014*. No NTO staff are on Australian Workplace Agreements.

NTO staff members participated in training and development alongside all TSRA staff as well as the training and development requirements that legal practitioners in Queensland are required to meet under the relevant legislation.

Native Title Office Representation of Equal Employment Opportunity Groups and classification levels as at 30 June 2012 is shown in Table 2-9.

APS Classification	Female	Male	Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal	People With a Disability
Executive Level 2	0	1	0	0
Executive Level 1	0	1	0	0
APS Level 6	1	0	1	0
APS Level 5	0	1	1	1
APS Level 2	2	0	2	0
Total	3	3	4	1

Table 2-9
Equal Employment Opportunity Groups, Native Title Office

NTO Consultancies for the 2011 - 2012 Reporting Period

The NTO also uses external legal counsel and external consultants to meet its strategic objectives. The NTO engaged the following consultants during the reporting period:

Legal

- Robert Blowes SC
 - Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim Appeal
 - Senior Counsel for the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim
 - Establishment of a Regional Sea Claim PBC
 - Naghir Native Title Claim
- Tom Keely
 - Junior Counsel for the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim and Junior Counsel for the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim Appeal
- Tina Jowett
 - Counsel assisting with the negotiation of ILUAs
- Michael Neal
 - Independent legal representation for Naghir matter
- Jim Brooks
 - Independent legal representation for Naghir matter
- Oliver Gilkerson
 - Advice and assistance with the Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) transfer
 - Development of an Infrastructure and Housing ILUA
- Helen Bowskill
 - Advice and assistance with the Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) transfer
- Annabelle Nillson
 - Assistance with the Badu Police Station and Pre-Pre ILUAs
 - Assistance with the Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) transfer

- Chalk and Fitzgerald
 - Kaurareg Aboriginal Sea Claim
- Greg McIntyre
 - Independent Legal Representative for Naghir matter
- Paul Sheiner
 - Independent Legal Representative for Naghir matter

Anthropological

- Dr Garrick Hitchcock
 - Sea Claim anthropological advice and Zuizin anthropological research
 - Research and advice for the Naghir matter
 - Co-ordination of the NTO Anthropological workshop
- Dr Brendan Corrigan
 - Anthropological advice regarding the Warral and Ului Native title claim

Statements for the Purpose of the Native Title Act

The TSRA is a recognised NTRB and has legislative functions pursuant to Section 203B of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). Native Title Program reporting, as contained within the *TSRA Annual Report 2011 - 2012*, is also a report for the purposes of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

External Scrutiny

The NTO has been audited in accordance with the audit reports set out in Section 5, Financial Statements.

Environmental Protection in Indigenous Land Use Agreements

Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA) provide environmental and cultural heritage protection. While the clauses in each ILUA may differ, the ILUAs impart responsibility on external stakeholders to take all reasonable steps to reduce and minimise the impact the proposed

activity may have on the local environment. If there is an environmental incident, the external stakeholder will usually attempt to rehabilitate and minimise the damage in accordance with their contractual requirements. Under the *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld) each ILUA details a cultural heritage process and stipulates the procedures that must be followed if a cultural artefact or human remains are found.

Judicial Decisions

In 2010, the Federal Court of Australia handed down the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim judgement. Pursuant to the judgement, the determination was made on 23 August 2010 and was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal. This sea claim decision was appealed by the Australian Government and the Queensland Government. The Full Bench of

the Federal Court heard the appeal in May 2011 and handed down their judgment in March 2012 upholding the appeal. As a consequence of this, the NTO has lodged a special leave to appeal this decision in the High Court of Australia. A date for the hearing of this appeal is still to be fixed.

On 20 July 2011, the Federal Court of Australia with the consent of all parties, dismissed the Naghir Native Title Claim. This was the result of the parties attending a Federal Court mediation and a heads of agreement reached which will see the NTO facilitating further anthropological research regarding Naghir with a view to lodging a Native Title Claim in the future.

Compliance Index

The NTRB compliance statements are included in the TSRA statements in Section 7.



Botanical survey in rare rainforest on Mt Cornwallis, Duaun Island.

Healthy Communities

Regional Goal

To enhance both healthy communities and our living environment.

To achieve the provision of adequate, appropriate and affordable housing.

Program Goal

To contribute to the Regional Goal. The TSRA seeks to influence policy for all health programs across all tiers of government, monitor health services and initiatives across the Torres Strait region and provide strategic policy advice. The Program also provides direct support for initiatives that promote healthy lifestyles, supports home ownership and other specific housing initiatives that are linked to healthy lifestyles and economic development in the region.

Program Objectives

- Monitor and provide strategic policy advice regarding health service delivery in the region to ensure health service levels are equal to the national standard
 - Seek to influence policy for all health programs across all tiers of government
 - Monitor health services and initiatives across the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area and provide strategic policy advice. This will be undertaken under the broad platform of Integrated Service Delivery and the Torres Strait Health Partnership, with reports being delivered at appropriate forums under the service level agreement intended for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area

- Improve the health of Indigenous people living in the region through proactive healthy living initiatives
 - Direct support targeting healthy lifestyles including such areas as improving the availability of fresh produce and healthy food options and encouraging people to undertake healthy activities
- Increase Indigenous home ownership
 - Provide direct support for home ownership and specific housing initiatives which are linked to economic development. This support could be for enterprises that assist people to develop trade skills or community initiatives to deliver environmental management services relating to water or renewable energies. The TSRA will also assist traditional owners to negotiate land releases for housing developments where appropriate

Program Deliverables

Healthy homes initiatives:

- Funding contributions towards community market garden and horticulture initiatives in conjunction with the Environmental Management Program
- Engaging with food suppliers and retailers to explore improved healthy food options
- Healthy lifestyles initiatives
- Monitoring and provision of strategic policy direction for health
- Funding contributions towards health education initiatives in areas such as physical education, nutrition, obesity, diabetes programs, motivation, substance abuse and sport and recreation
- Funding contributions towards sport and recreation minor infrastructure



Queensland Minister Cameron Dick presents Keith Fell and Andrew Denzin, Tagai State College, with a Healthy Schools Highly Commended award.

- Improved housing and home ownership initiatives
- Funding contributions towards essential services and infrastructure to support healthy living environments
- Land tenure resolution through Indigenous Land Use Agreements and other formal agreements in conjunction with the Native Title and Environmental Management Programs

Program Expenditure

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
3,962	3,959	(3)

Table 2-10
Healthy Communities Program Expenditure 2011 - 2012

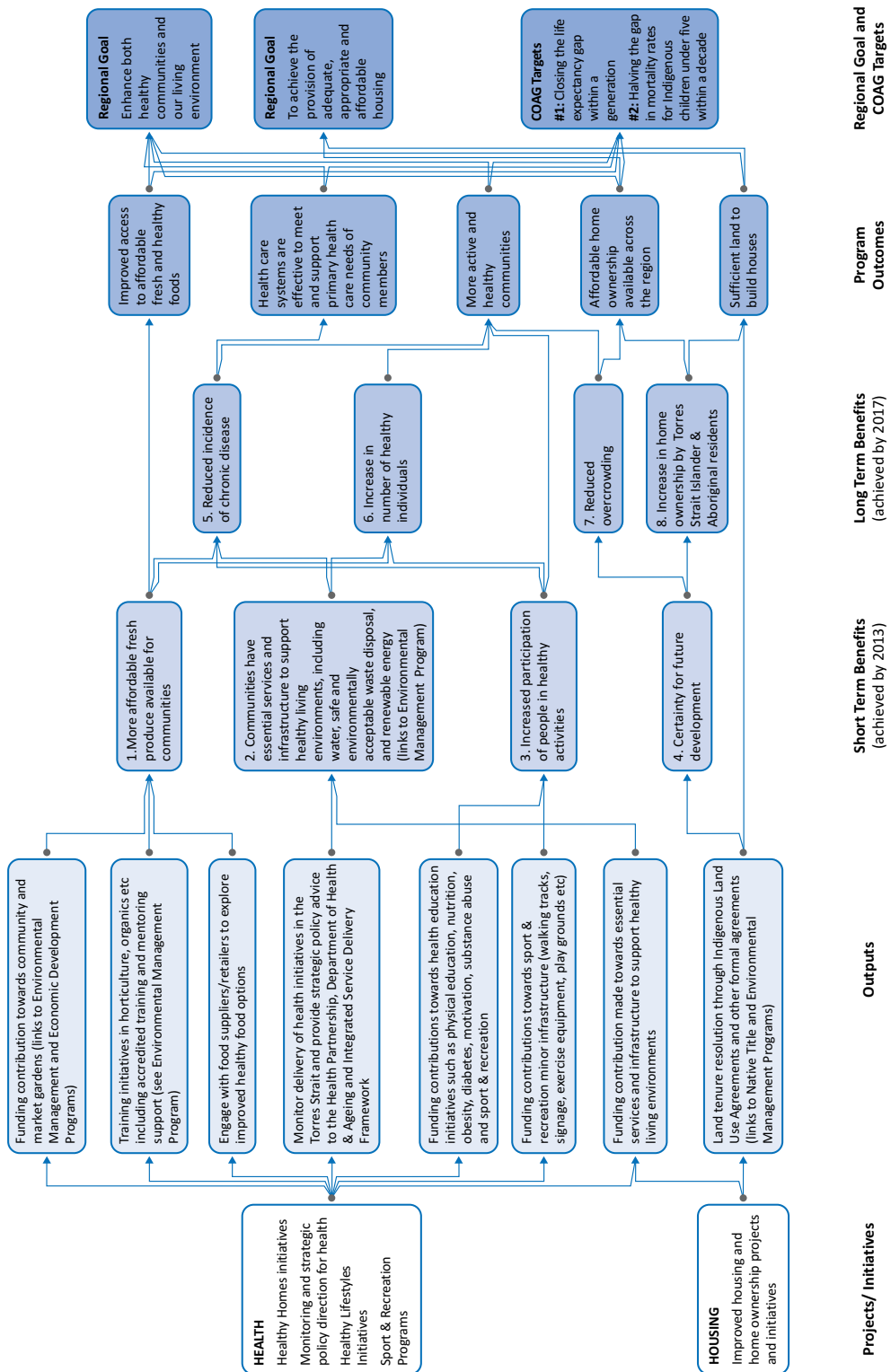


Healthy kaikai program for kids 2012.

Torres Strait Development Plan Outcomes

- Improved access to affordable fresh and healthy foods
- Health care systems are effective to meet and support primary health care needs of community members
- More active and healthy communities
- Affordable home ownership available across the region
- Sufficient land to build houses

Figure 2-7
Healthy Communities Program Map



Healthy Communities Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Health / Healthy Homes initiatives / Community Market Gardens

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To provide funding contributions towards the establishment of community and market gardens and support training initiatives in horticulture for community members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The TSRA is on target to establish eight community sustainable horticulture systems by 2013 as outlined in the TSRA <i>Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013</i>. Currently there are six sites in operation. TSRA supported the Tagai TAFE fruit tree planting project. To date 44 garden beds have been established on Thursday Island. The variety of plants ranges from mangoes, citrus fruits, avocados, chilli, pawpaw and cassava.

Project Name: Health / Healthy Homes initiatives / Improved Access to Healthy Foods

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To engage with relevant retailers / and food suppliers to explore options for improved access to affordable healthy food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following meetings initiated by the TSRA, the Islander Board of Industry and Service (IBIS) now has a policy to promote healthy shopping choices. IBIS has engaged a nutritionist to conduct in-store promotions and place material in all IBIS stores across the region, highlighting healthy foods and diets and promoting the Healthy Food tick, which appears on shelf product labels.

Project Name: Health / Healthy Homes Initiatives / Monitoring and strategic policy direction for health

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To monitor the delivery of health initiatives in the Torres Strait and provide strategic policy advice to the Torres Strait Health Partnership to ensure that advances are being made in primary and preventative health care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The TSRA has provided continued support for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area (TS&NPA) Health Partnership, which provides a forum for community representation on matters affecting the health and wellbeing of the people of the region. As the peak consultative body responsible for monitoring health service delivery, the Partnership is playing an important role in liaising directly with both Queensland Government and Australian Government Ministers in the roll-out of the National Health Reform agenda in the region. The key issues that the Partnership has been focussed on over the past year include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring appropriate and consistent representation on the proposed Hospital and Health Services Board which will oversee the hospital and acute care services in the TS&NPA District Negotiating founding member status on the Far North Queensland Medicare Local Ltd, the key organisation responsible for determining health needs and primary health care funding for new service offerings in the TS&NPA area

Project Name: Health / Healthy Homes Initiatives / Monitoring and strategic policy direction for health (Cont'd)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the draft TS&NPA Health Action Plan 2012-2017. The Partnership will monitor progress against the recommended actions in the new health action plan to ensure that relevant agencies are accountable for delivering better health outcomes — Since being re-established in June 2011 the Health Partnership has convened four meetings and meets on a quarterly basis.
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Project Name: Health / Healthy Lifestyles Initiatives

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
<p>To provide funding contributions towards health education initiatives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical education Nutrition Obesity Diabetes Substance abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The TSRA supported programs such as Healthy Ilan Homes by Kaziw Asesered Le Association, and Healthy Lifestyles program by Mura Kosker Sorority, providing healthy initiatives education in the community. — Funding was granted to Kaziw Asesered Le Association to create a cookbook for children outlining a menu of healthy food options. The book explains the health benefits of the different varieties of food and targets children who will take the healthy food message home.

Project Name: Health / Healthy Lifestyles Initiatives / Sport and Recreation Programs

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
<p>To provide funding contributions towards the operation of the Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association (TSYRSA) and other funded organisations to contribute to the Healthy Communities Program objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The TSRA continued to provide funding to the Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association (TSYRSA). This year, TSYRSA supported 50 sporting events, two that were major sporting carnivals. Seven individuals were supported for various sporting events as representatives at state and national championships.

Project Name: Major Infrastructure Program (MIP)**Note: This project is the featured case study see page 76**

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 12
To improve the health and general wellbeing of Indigenous people living in the region, through the delivery of essential environmental health infrastructure including clean water supplies, reticulated sewerage systems, and serviced subdivisions. This project is achieved through a partnership between the TSRA and the Queensland Department of Local Government and Planning (DLGP), and through the TSRA's administration of the Major Infrastructure Program.	<p>Stage 4 of the Major Infrastructure Program has delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Badu Reticulated Sewerage Extensions. — Bamaga and Injinoo Subdivision (Design Only). — Poruma Reticulated Sewerage and Treatment (Design Only). — Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council - Enhanced Total Management Plan and Sustainable Land Use Plans. — Torres Shire Council Asset Planning Project. — Dauan Island Water Upgrade. — Ugar Island Water Upgrade. — Hammond Island Water Upgrade. — Saibai Island Water Upgrade. — Mabuag Island Water Upgrade. — Saibai Island Sewerage Upgrade. — Water Upgrade Designs for Boigu, Iama, Mer, Warraber and Masig Islands (construction in progress). — NPA Asset Sustainability Project (design completed). — Wasaga Roads and Drainage Design (construction in progress).

Project Name: Heavy Equipment Management Training Program (HEMTP)

Project Purpose	Achievements for 2011 - 2012
To provide routine maintenance works on environmental health infrastructure and a plant pool of heavy equipment and machinery for the delivery of minor capital works along with associated Indigenous training to island communities in the region. The HEMTP Project is jointly funded by the TSRA, Queensland Department Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) and DLGP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The TSRA successfully negotiated for a continuation of HEMPT in 2011 - 2012 through funding contributions from the Queensland Department Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) and Queensland Department of Local Government and Planning (DLGP) for the Erub Roads and Drainage project (Stage 1). — HEMPT will continue throughout the 2012 calendar year during which time TSRA will work with DTMR and DLGP to establish an appropriate construction skills training and development program in 2013.

Project Name: Torres Strait Island Regional Council Engineering Services (TSIRC ES): Water Services Operations and Maintenance Program

Project Purpose

To achieve improved health, economic and social outcomes for communities through the provision of funding assistance to Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) for the operation and maintenance of water supply and sewerage services and to strengthen community and local government capacity to operate and maintain water supply and sewerage services.

Achievements for 2011 - 2012

- The TSRA provided funding through its grants program for the maintenance of essential water services to outer island communities throughout 2011 - 2012. The water standards achieved meet legislated requirements and an approved Drinking Water Quality Management Plan is in place. Reports on drinking water quality are provided to the regulator. The service was delivered in 2011 - 2012 by the TSIRC.
- In May 2012, TSIRC was awarded the Far North Queensland Regional 'Best of the Best' Queensland water taste test for potable water supply on Saibai.

Project Name: Horn Island Affordable Housing Project (HIAHP)

Project Purpose

This joint TSRA and Torres Shire Council (TSC) project seeks to:

- Provide safe, healthy, adequate, appropriate and affordable housing at Horn Island to local Indigenous families residing on the inner islands of the Torres Strait.
- Provide an appropriate level of Indigenous employment and training in the development of land and housing construction.

Achievements for 2011 - 2012

- A Funding Deed was agreed between TSRA and the Torres Shire Council (TSC) on 30 June 2011 for the planning, design and construction of a serviced 30-lot subdivision for the Horn Island Affordable Housing Project. A formal Agreement was then made between TSRA and TSC for the governance and operation of the Project.
- \$0.4 million was granted to TSC to commence the project and a further grant of \$3.0 million is being drawn down in accordance with agreed activity milestones.
- In 2011 - 2012 this project progressed to the stage where the title for the land has transferred to the Torres Shire Council and the sub-division design layout has been approved.
- Construction work is due to commence in 2012 - 2013.
- The TSRA is exploring options with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) to ensure finance is available for eligible local Indigenous home loan applicants.
- A Terms of Reference agreed to by the TSRA and TSC will see a Housing Eligibility and Governance / Policy Framework developed in 2012 - 2013.

Key Performance Indicators - Portfolio Budget Statement

Infrastructure projects

- Number of environmental health infrastructure projects completed

Two projects were completed under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS). Nineteen projects were completed through the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP). Two projects were completed under the Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program (HEMPT). These projects were possible through whole-of-government partnerships and joint funding arrangements.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Communities have essential health related infrastructure, including adequate water supply and safe and environmentally acceptable waste disposal.	90 per cent of environmental health infrastructure projects completed per annum as per the Major Infrastructure Project Implementation Plan.	This year MIP 4A was completed. 85 per cent of MIP 4B projects have been completed. The program is on track to meet 2013 targets for the delivery of Major Infrastructure Program, Heavy Equipment Management Training Program and TSIRC ES Water Services targets.	COAG Target 1 - Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 2 - Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.



Approach to Poruma Island.

The TSRA seeks to influence policy for all health programs across all tiers of government, monitor health services and initiatives across the Torres Strait region and provide strategic policy advice.

— Number of people of all ages participating in organised healthy activities

Approximately 1,600 people participated in healthy initiatives that were funded by the TSRA. Over 1,400 people participated in organised sporting activities delivered through the Torres Strait Youth and Recreation Sporting Association. Six communities participated in food garden projects. Numerous programs have been tailored for all ages including the Old People Action Program, Live Long Live Strong Program, and Healthy Ilan Homes Program. These programs are funded by the TSRA and delivered by the Mura Kosker Sorority and the Kaziw Asesered Le Association.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Increased participation of people in healthy activities.	A five per cent increase per annum in number of people participating, realised progressively from July 2010 to 2013.	Individual participation increased by 15 per cent this year. This target has been achieved through grant funded activities including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Tagai Fruit Tree planting; — Live Long Live Strong; and — Sports activities through Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association. 	COAG Target 1 - Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 2 - Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.

The benefit achievements above are fully aligned to the Torres Strait Development Plan benefit targets.

Additional Key Performance Indicator - TSRA Development Plan

Future Development

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Certainty for future development.	Land made available for housing development through Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA) from July 2010.	All ILUAs are managed by the Native Title Office which is being supported in its efforts to negotiate a regional Infrastructure and Housing ILUA which will underpin the roll out of Social Housing and Infrastructure initiatives. The Torres Shire Council has secured title to the land for the Horn Island Affordable Housing Project which will make 30 lots available to eligible local Indigenous home loan applicants.	COAG Target 1 - Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 2 - Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.

Case Study

Major Infrastructure Program Stage Four (MIP 4) Torres Strait Island Regional Council - Regional Infrastructure Asset Sustainability Projects

Project Description

The Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) Regional Infrastructure Asset Sustainability Project involves upgrades of existing water and sewerage infrastructure to 11 islands in the Torres Strait. Infrastructure includes:

- Replacement of existing high level water storage tanks with ground level storage tanks (Boigu and Ugar);
- Installation of Variable Speed Drive (VSD) water pumps (Boigu and Ugar);
- Replacement of existing rising mains (Dauan);
- Replacement of existing water office buildings and treatment facilities (Mabuiag, Saibai and Hammond) including,
 - Pump stations and pumps
 - Water filters and chlorination infrastructure, and
 - Storage, office and accommodation facilities.
- Construction or replacement of desalination infrastructure (Iama, Masig, Poruma, Mer, Boigu, Warraber) including:
 - Masonry block buildings,
 - Desalination units,
 - Pump stations and pumps,
 - Water filters, and
 - Chlorination infrastructure.



Mabuiag pump equipment.

- Construction of new sewerage treatment plant operators building (Saibai),
- Upgrading of Sewerage Treatment Plant Facilities (Saibai), and
- Replacement of existing water harvesting galleries (Hammond).

Aim

The aim of the project is to improve the health and wellbeing of all 11 island communities by providing superior facilities for water supply and sewerage reticulation.

Achievements

To date works have been completed at five of the 11 islands. The five island projects were completed on time and within budget at a cost of \$7.9M resulting in the communities receiving improved drinking water and a healthier living environment. The upgrades will also enable improved management and maintenance of the system by Torres Strait Island Regional Council Engineering Officers, resulting in improved customer service levels. Works on the remaining six islands are 35 per cent complete and are scheduled for completion in late 2012.

Construction of these projects requires that contractors employ local and Indigenous people under the Indigenous Employment and Training Policy. Thirty-one trainees have been employed on the five completed projects, providing 4,114 hours of employment. There are currently 13 trainees involved in the works on the remaining six islands with a total of 1,804 hours of employment to date.



George Saveka, Dave Fell, Herbert Warusam and Elder Mebai Warusam survey planning on Saibai Island.

Safe Communities

Regional Goal

Communities

Safe, healthy, respectful and progressive communities, based on Ailan Kastom and Aboriginal traditions.

Social Services

Strong families and safe and healthy communities that are guided by cultural and traditional lore.

Program Goal

The Program Goal is identical to the Regional Goal.

Program Objectives

This program component will contribute to the safety of communities by:

- Contributing to the development of standards for the provision of all mainstream social services and facilities, including emergency response services and through engagement with responsible agencies
- Undertaking a policy advocacy, monitoring and supporting role with respect to mainstream services, advocating and acting as a solution broker on behalf of communities and the region, using integrated service delivery forums
- Providing direct funding and resource support for some social support services, and infrastructure, facilities and equipment that contribute to improved safety and accessibility for communities and families (the TSRA does not provide mainstream social or community services)

Program Deliverables

Social services initiatives:

- Developing a service map of social support services in the Torres Strait
- Funding contributions made to proactive and reactive social service providers supporting Torres Strait Islander people

- Contributing to the development of standards for provision of services and facilities for safe communities through engagement with responsible agencies

Safe and accessible community initiatives:

- Contributing towards capacity building and training initiatives for social service providers, including emergency services
- Funding contributions to services and facilities that contribute to community accessibility and safety standards
- Monitoring and advocating for effective land and sea communications systems

Program Expenditure

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
3,199	2,820	(379)

Table 2-11
Program Expenditure Safe Communities 2011 - 2012

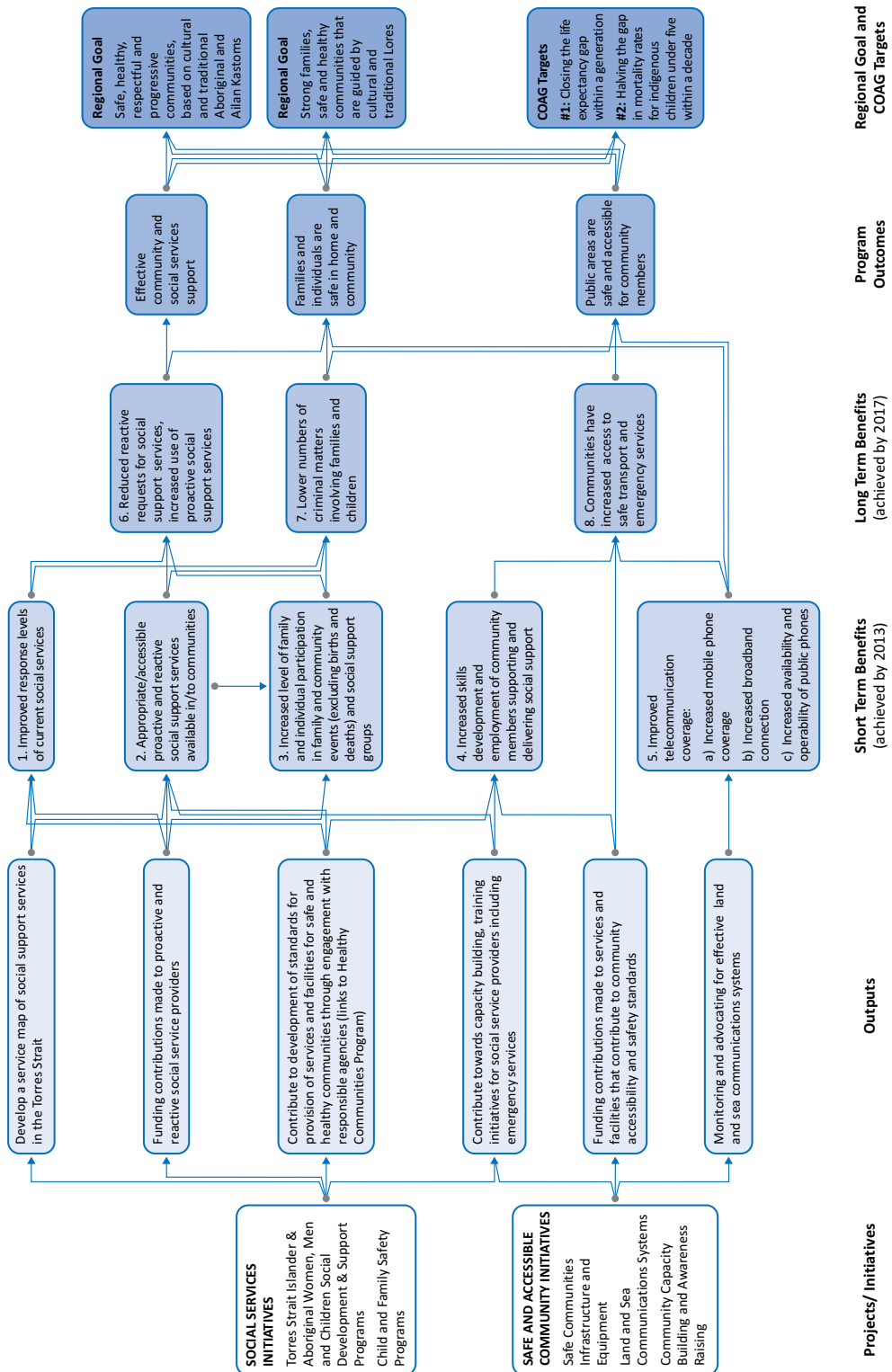
Torres Strait Development Plan Program Outcomes

- Effective community and social service support
- Families and individuals are safe in home and community
- Public areas are safe and accessible for community members



Ugar Island showing new jetty and dolphins Feb 2012.

Figure 2-8
Safe Communities Program Map



Safe Community Program Projects and Achievements

Project Name: Support for the provision of mainstream social services and facilities

<p>Project Purpose</p> <p>Developing a service map of social support services in the Torres Strait.</p>	<p>Achievements for 2011 - 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the work of the Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) initiative, the TSRA produced Community Booklets that detail service issues and needs that were identified through region-wide community consultations. The purpose of the community booklets are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide feedback to individual communities on progress towards addressing service needs that each community raised during the period 2008 - 2012 To support the development and implementation of the ISD Plan (led by the TSRA Governance and Leadership Program) To provide a baseline, or 'snap shot', of each community in 2012, against which progress and change can be measured in relation to all the COAG Building Blocks
<p>Project Purpose</p> <p>To fund organisations and monitor their performance against outcomes that contribute to ensuring safe, healthy, respectful and progressive communities based on Ailan Kastom and Aboriginal traditions.</p>	<p>Achievements for 2011 - 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The TSRA supported a number of local non-government organisations such as the Port Kennedy Association Incorporated, Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated and Thursday Island Community Justice Group to successfully deliver social support services to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region. The Port Kennedy Association Incorporated provides a number of activities for the community. These activities include: vacation care services, the Mura Kaimel playgroup, an after-school child care program, a social worker program, disability support service and the development and staging of community events. The Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated delivered a range of social service programs including: the Old People's Action Program (OPAP), the Emergency Relief Program (ERF), the Child and Family Support Services (CAFS), the Indigenous Domestic and Family Violence Counselling, the Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network (ICAN) and the Legal Aid Queensland services. Through the Mura Kosker Sorority, ICAN provided financial counselling and the No Interest Loans Scheme for the Torres Strait. The TSRA provides funding support and works closely with the Attorney General's Department in order to provide legal aid for Indigenous residents in the Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area region via the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Aid Services (ATSILS). The Thursday Island Community Justice Group launched the night patrol service 'Ged Ira Gelar Kuki Patrol' in 2011. This service provided after hours security as well as assisted the Queensland Police Service as required.

Project Name: Safe and Accessible Community Initiatives / Safe Communities Infrastructure and Equipment / Airstrips and Marine Transport Infrastructure

<p>Project Purpose</p> <p>To contribute towards improved safety of the Indigenous people of the region through a contribution to the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS). TIDS is a Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads program which provides for the upgrade of community airstrips, roads and marine infrastructure in the region.</p>	<p>Achievements for 2011 - 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The following marine infrastructure projects have been completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The construction of the jetty and dolphin replacement at Stephen Island (Ugar) • Airport lighting on Saibai Island • The construction of a new dolphin at Badu Island • Dolphin replacement at St Pauls on Moa Island — The TSRA will be working closely with the Queensland Government to determine transport infrastructure priorities and programs in 2012 - 2013.
<p>Project Purpose</p> <p>Contributing towards capacity building and training initiatives for social service providers, including emergency services.</p>	<p>Achievements for 2011 - 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The TSRA supported 31 people to complete training in social services. Training courses included Senior First Aid, Certificate II in Security Operations and Certificate II and III in Disability Services, and Child protection training.
<p>Project Purpose</p> <p>Monitoring and advocating for effective land and sea communications systems.</p>	<p>Achievements for 2011 - 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The TSRA continues to advocate for effective land and sea communications systems. Through funding support to the Torres Strait Marine Safety Program (TSMSP), the TSRA has supported a number of Initiatives including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Boatsafe courses on Thursday Island, Boigu, Mabuiag and the Northern Peninsula Area • Provision of Safety Grab Bags for distribution to communities • Continued to promote the EPIRB exchange scheme — The TSRA will be working closely with telecommunications providers to ensure that internet and other communications infrastructure is comparable to mainland communities.

The TSRA will be working closely with the Queensland Government to determine transport infrastructure priorities and programs in 2012/13.

Key Performance Indicators - Portfolio Budget Statement

— Number of social support services active in the Torres Strait

The TSRA provides funding to a range of social support services in the Torres Strait including Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated, Port Kennedy Association Incorporated, Kaziw Asesered Le Association and the Thursday Island Community Justice Group. These organisations deliver programs including after-school care, child care, aged and disability care, night patrol security, domestic violence projects, child and family support and legal aid services.

The benefit achievements related to this KPI are:

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Appropriate and accessible proactive and reactive social services available for communities.	Service map showing all social support services and identifying service delivery gaps in the Torres Strait presented to Integrated Service Delivery Steering Committee.	Community Booklets, detailing the services provided by government and the baseline progress against each of the COAG Building Blocks for each community in the region were published and distributed to all the communities. This work is part of the Integrated Service Delivery Initiative delivered through a partnership between the TSRA, the Queensland Government and the three councils. Torres Shire Council, the Torres Strait Islands Regional Council and the Northern Peninsular Area Council.	COAG Target 1 - Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 2 - Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.
Increased level of family and individual participation in family and community events and social support groups.	Five per cent improvement in participation and two additional events supported commencing July 2010, to a maximum of six additional events by 2013.	Numerous community events were supported through TSRA grant funding including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Mura Kosker Sorority's quarterly twilight markets, International Women's Day events and Family Fun Day and Movie Night in support of the 2012 National Families Week; — Port Kennedy Association's fortnightly mini markets, After School Program 'Stories Under TAGAI' in association with Torres Shire Council, State Library and elders of the community; — Lena Passi Women's Shelter Anti-bullying campaign 'Stap Pas, Act Sense, Nor Bully' launched on 1 May 2012 promoting awareness around bullying. 	COAG Target 1 - Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 2 - Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.

Short Term Benefit Description	Benefit Target	Progress	COAG Target
Increased skills development and employment of community members supporting and delivering social support.	<p>Two community members provided with skills development training.</p> <p>Two community members provided with employment in the social services area realised annually from 2010 to 2013.</p>	<p>TSRA has exceeded targets for 2011 - 2012, as outlined in the TSRA <i>Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013</i>. The TSRA supported 31 individuals undertaking skills development training. Twenty seven individuals completed their training with four being successful in obtaining employment in the social services sector.</p> <p>Of the 27 individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — five completed Certificate II In Security Operations; — 16 completed Senior First Aid training; — two completed Alcohol and Drugs training; — one completed front line management child protection training; — six completed Food Safety course; — two completed Certificate II in Disability Services. <p>Of the five individuals that completed their Certificate II in Security Operations, four succeeded in gaining employment with the Ged Ira Gelar Kuki Patrol.</p> <p>Other training initiatives undertaken that are yet to be completed included Certificate II in Disability Services and Certificate IV in Child Protection.</p>	<p>COAG Target 1 - Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation.</p> <p>COAG Target 2 - Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.</p>
<p>Improved Telecommunications Coverage</p> <p>a) Increased mobile phone coverage.</p> <p>b) Increased broadband connection.</p> <p>c) Increased availability and operability of public phones.</p>	<p>Five per cent increase / improvement in coverage realised by 2013.</p>	<p>The TSRA will continue to advocate with telecommunications providers for improved broadband and mobile phone coverage across the region.</p> <p>Thursday Island residents have access to broadband internet services over fixed line (ADSL), wireless (Next G) and satellite services.</p> <p>Broadband and mobile telephone services for the outer islands are limited by the capacity of the Next G and satellite links. The National Broadband Network (NBN) will not include the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.</p>	<p>COAG Target 1 - Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation.</p> <p>COAG Target 2 - Halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.</p>

The benefit achievements above are fully aligned to the Torres Strait Development Plan benefit targets.

Case Study

Lena Passi Women's Shelter Anti-Bully Campaign 'Stap Pas, Act Sense, Nor Bully'

The TSRA provided funding to the Lena Passi Women's Shelter to support the anti-bullying campaign. This project is part of the *Getting On Program* which is an active program devised to reduce and eliminate violence among young people in the Torres Strait. By assisting youth with developing skills and knowledge to build relationships that are healthy and free of violence, the program aims to educate young people about the effects that their behaviour can have on others and the consequences of the choices that they make. The program also highlights the importance and value of real life skills.

The Anti-Bully Campaign 'Stap Pas, Act Sense, Nor Bully' provided a specialised violence prevention program to youth and perpetrators of domestic violence. After completing the education process of the program, students at Tagai State TAFE were supported to develop a video campaign for Bush Television sending the message that 'violence is uncool' to a targeted audience promoting awareness around domestic violence.

Aim

The goal of the project was to encourage young people to take more responsibility for the prevention or spread of bullying and to support those who are the victims of the behaviour.

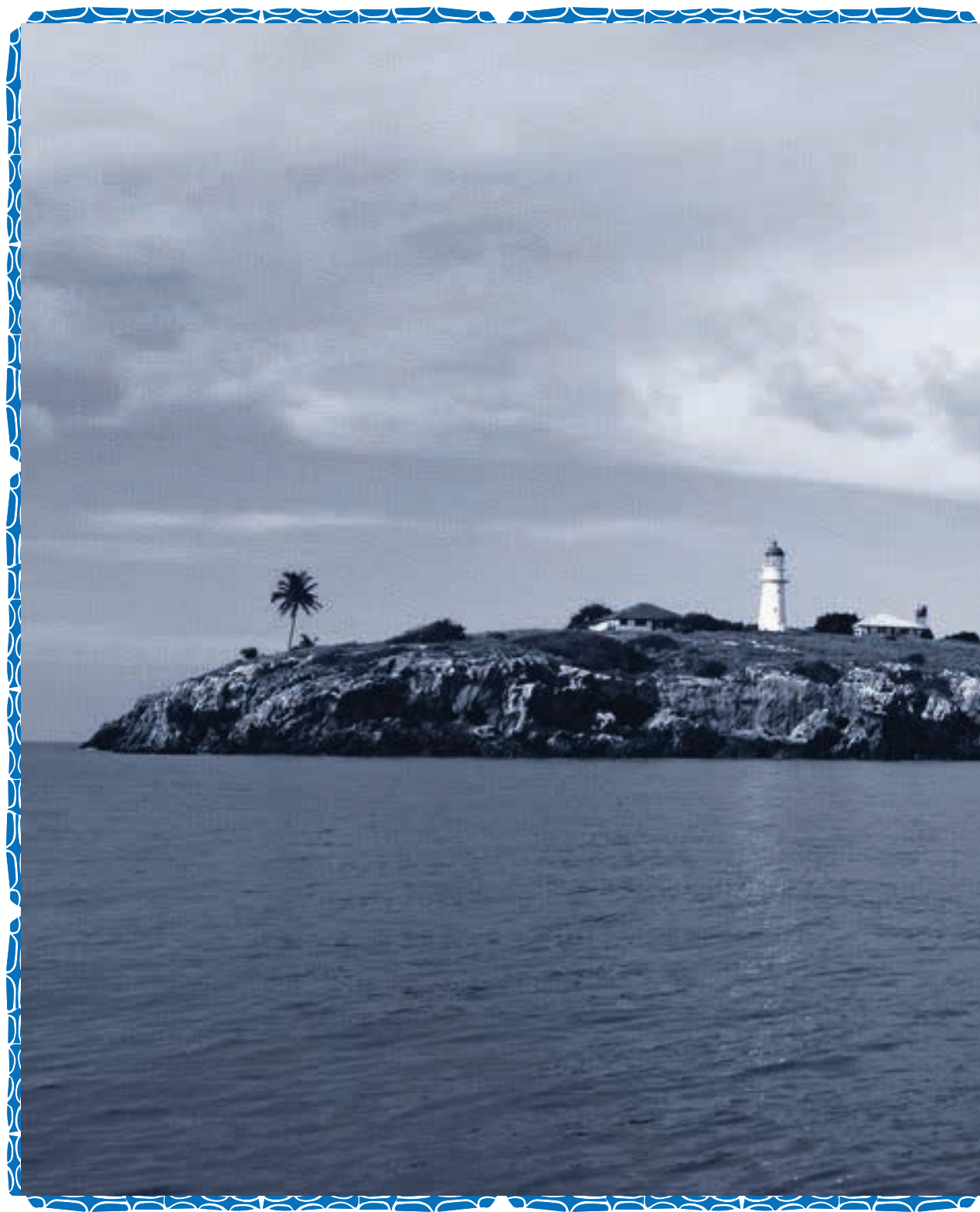
Achievements

- **Successful launch of the campaign on 1 May 2012.** The launch attracted a large number of community members. The event was attended by the TSRA Portfolio member for Safe Communities and Member for Hammond, Ms Nancy Pearson.
- **Three-minute video that was broadcast through social media portal, Bush TV, during the month of May, Domestic Violence month.** Delivered by young people, the video reinforced the message about bullying and its destructive effects.
- **Published in *Islander Magazine*, an initiative of the Torres Strait Islanders' Regional Education Council.** An article on the video campaign and its purpose was promoted in this Torres Strait publication.
- **Facebook page www.facebook.com/nobullyinggettingonprogram.** The 'Stap Pas, Act Sense, Nor Bully' Facebook page is a live and active space for young people to keep in touch and sustain the message of the campaign.



The TSRA sponsored anti-bullying campaign poster.

By assisting youth with developing skills and knowledge to build relationships that are healthy and free of violence, the program aims to educate young people about the effects that their behaviour can have on others and the consequences of the choices that they make.





Section Three: Report of Operations

Regional overview

Geography and logistics

The Torres Strait is located in Australia and is part of the north eastern state of Queensland. The area is approximately 150 kilometres wide at its narrowest point and is situated between the tip of Queensland's Cape York Peninsula and Papua New Guinea. The region consists of over 270 islands and reefs.

The Torres Strait links the Coral Sea in the east to the Arafura Sea in the west; the two main navigation passages are the Prince of Wales Channel, north of Hammond Island and the Endeavour Strait, between Cape York and Prince of Wales Island.

The Torres Strait islands have a variety of topographies, ecosystems and formations. Several islands, closest to the New Guinea coastline are low-lying and are regularly impacted by sea inundation. Many of the western islands are hilly and steep. The central islands are predominantly coral cays and those to the east are volcanic.

The TSRA delivers services across the entire Torres Strait region which includes seventeen inhabited Islands and two communities in the Northern Peninsula Area of mainland Australia. Due to the area's remote location, the TSRA's service delivery is reliant on many logistical factors including limited phone, facsimile and Internet communications between communities. Most travel within the region is restricted to small watercraft and light aircraft. The main gateway to the Torres Strait is the Ngurupai airport located on Horn Island, a 20 minute ferry ride from the Australian Government, Queensland Government and two local government administration hubs which are located on Thursday Island.

Culture

The picturesque Torres Strait region is predominantly inhabited by native Torres Strait Islanders and Kaurareg Aboriginal people. The 2011 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census estimated that the total population of the region is 8,752, of whom 6,899 are Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal people.

The Torres Strait's unique Ailan Kastom (island custom) is a central part of life in the region. Ailan Kastom is kept alive through the arts, rituals, performances, preserving languages and passing traditional knowledge on from one generation to the next. Cultural values are strongly intertwined around traditional, ancestral ties and respect for waterways, land, sea and the resources these provide.

History

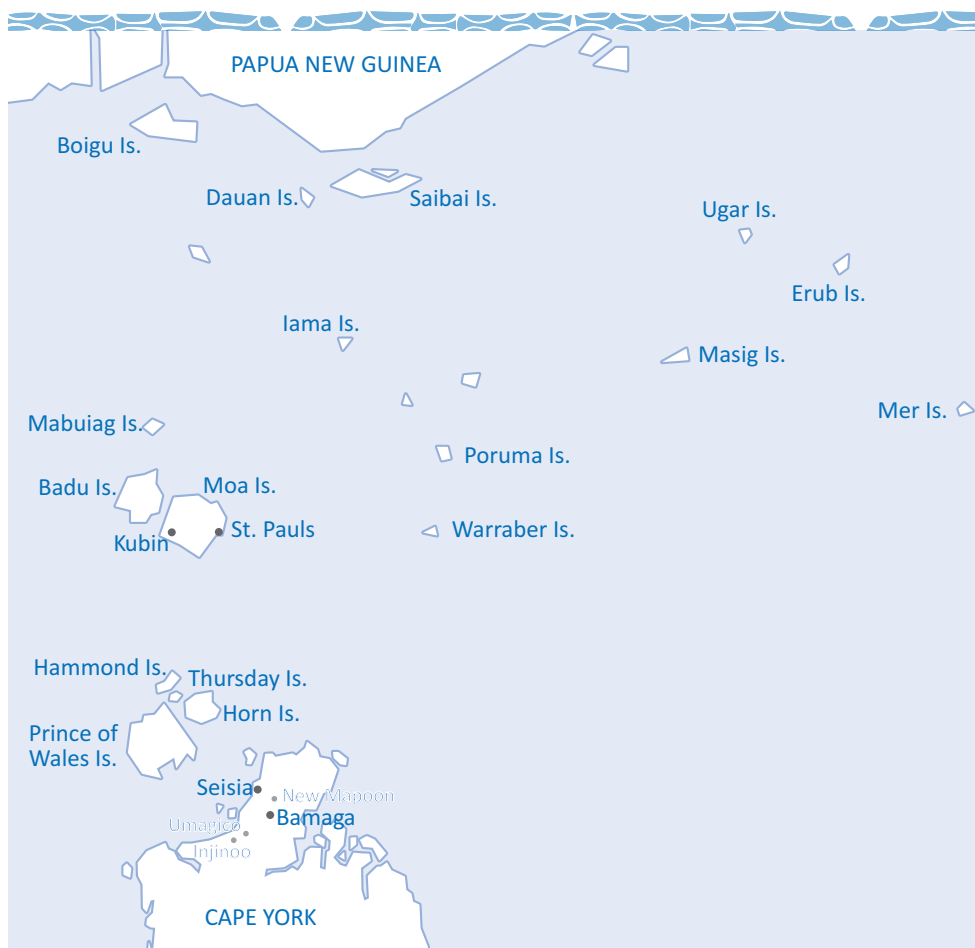
The Torres Strait is named after Spanish explorer, Luis Vaez de Torres, who sailed through the area in 1606. Queensland Government administration of the Torres Strait was established on Thursday Island in 1877, following the arrival of missionaries on Cape York Peninsula. Early settlers were involved in pearling, Bêche-de-mer collection and mining activities.

Native Title

Torres Strait Islander people first achieved recognition of their land rights in 1992 following the High Court's landmark Mabo decision which granted the Miriam people native title rights over Mer (Murray) Island. This was the first time that native title was recognised under the common law of Australia. It set a precedent for Indigenous people throughout Australia to assert their native title rights through the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

Native title has been granted for 13 inhabited islands in the Torres Strait region and most of the uninhabited islands. In addition, the Kaurareg Aboriginal people have achieved recognition of

Map of Torres Strait Region



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. Native title claims are being pursued over the remaining three land claims. The Regional Sea Claim determination was made on 23 August 2010 and is subject to appeal.

The Australian Government and Queensland Government appealed the judgement of

Justice Finn, and the full bench of the Federal Court of Australia heard the appeal matter in May 2011. A Special Leave Application was made on 8 June 2012 in the High Court of Australia to appeal from the decision of the Full Federal Court. If Special Leave is given then an appeal proper will be made to be heard by the High Court. It is anticipated that a decision by the High Court on the Special Leave Application will be made after October 2012.

Data Used to Benchmark Progress Towards Closing the Gap

The Indigenous Reform Agenda

Closing the Gap is a commitment by all the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians, and in particular provide a better future for Indigenous children.

A national integrated Closing the Gap strategy has been agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), the peak intergovernmental forum in Australia. COAG brings together the Prime Minister, State Premiers, Territory Chief Ministers and the President of the Australian Local Government Association.

Closing the Gap is linked to a wider reform of Commonwealth-State financial relations. COAG's national agreements and partnerships, in areas such as education, housing and health, are clearly focused on overcoming Indigenous disadvantage.

In 2008, COAG set specific and ambitious targets for Closing the Gap; these targets continue to remain a priority for the Australian Government:

- To close the life-expectancy gap within a generation
- To halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade
- To ensure access to early childhood education for all Indigenous four years olds in remote communities within five years
- To halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for children within a decade
- To halve the gap for Indigenous students in Year 12 (or equivalent) attainment rates by 2020
- To halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade

Closing the Gap is a commitment by all the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians, and in particular provide a better future for Indigenous children.

This year, the TSRA continued to work towards the six COAG targets through the organisation's planned outcome statement:

Progress towards Closing the Gap for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait region through development planning, coordination, sustainable resource management, and preservation and promotion of Indigenous culture.

Each of the TSRA programs is required to report against the COAG targets. Detailed reporting is contained in Section 2 of this Annual Report.

The TSRA's Program structure is based on the six COAG Building Blocks for Closing the Gap in disadvantage between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The Building Blocks are also used as the framework for the TSRA's Integrated Service Delivery project.

Progress Measured Using the COAG Building Blocks

In 2008 - 2009 The TSRA completed community consultations as part of the development of the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029*. The first phase of the Regional Plan has been delivered through the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013*. 1,619 gaps in service delivery were initially identified across

20 Communities. Progress as of 30 June 2012 measured using each of the Building Blocks is shown in Table 3-1 and Figure 3-1 below. Detail of the services by community is contained in the *Torres Strait Regional Plan Community Booklets 2012* which have been prepared for each community and are published through the TSRA's Information Publishing Scheme which can be accessed from the TSRA Web Site at <http://www.tsra.gov.au>.

Community Service Issues	2008			2012		
	Dark blue	Medium blue	Light blue	Dark blue	Medium blue	Light blue
Early Childhood	59	0	0	34	20	5
Schooling	133	0	0	32	63	38
Health	313	0	0	117	126	70
Economic Participation	323	0	0	152	108	63
Healthy Homes	248	0	0	74	147	27
Safe Communities	441	0	0	185	167	89
Governance and Leadership	102	0	0	22	40	40
Community Total	1619	0	0	616	671	332

Key:

Dark blue	Not yet programmed / Not feasible / Not a government provided service
Medium blue	Funding has been secured / Planning is in Progress / Construction is Underway
Light blue	Service or infrastructure has been completed / is available / has been established.

Table 3-1
Summary of Community Service Issues by Building Block

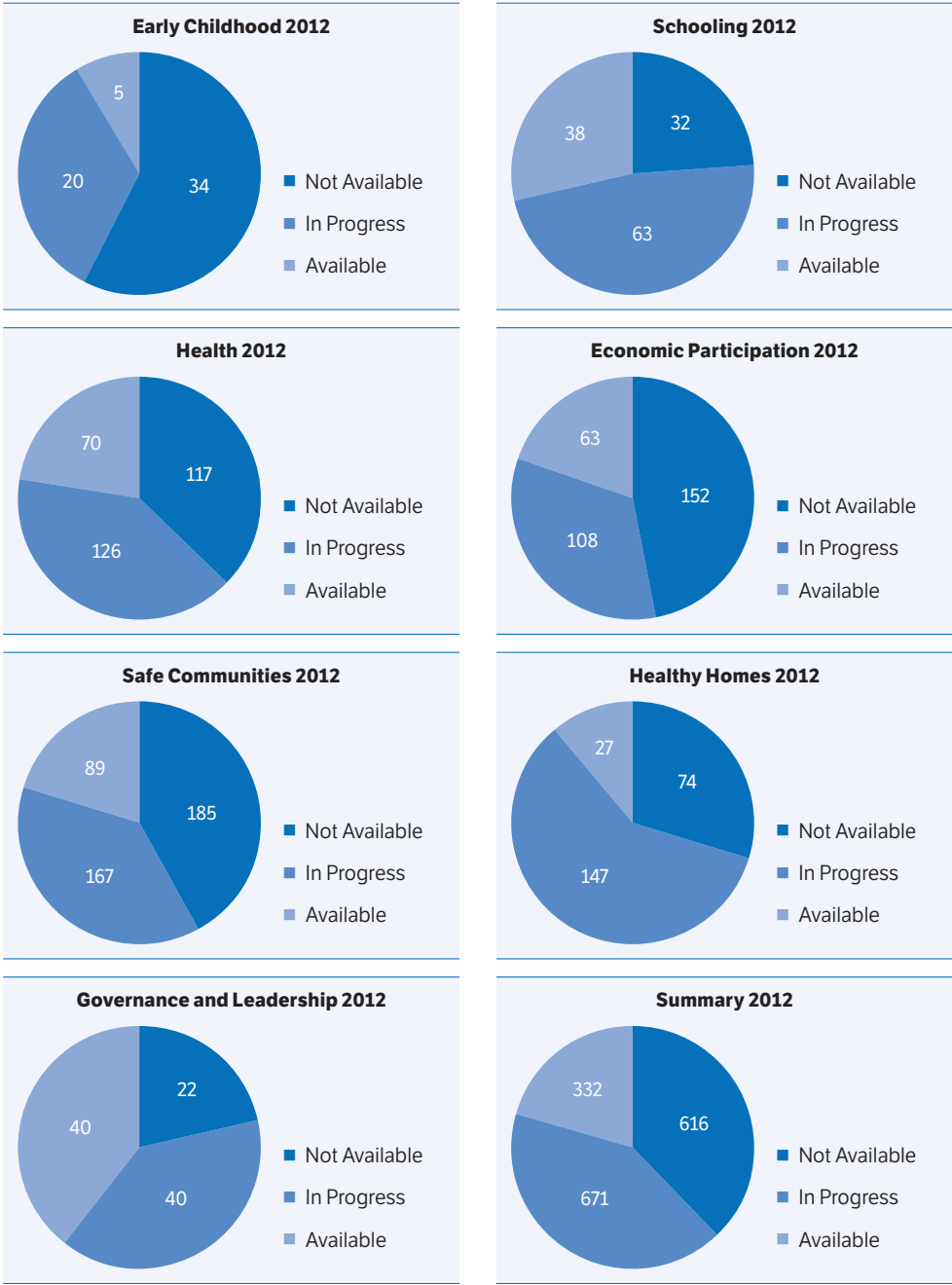


Figure 3-1
Progress towards Closing the Gap by Building Block

Regional Statistics

The latest data available at the time of writing this report was from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This data, collected in 2011, has been used to benchmark the progress of the TSRA's Programs against Closing the Gap targets.

Population

The 2011 Census showed that the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal population in the region:

- Decreased from 7,105 in 2006 to 6,899 in 2011.
- Represents 78.8 per cent of the total population of the region (8,752)
- Represents 1.3 per cent of the Indigenous population of Australia (548,369)
- Represents 4.4 per cent of the Indigenous population of Queensland (155,825)
- 49.7 per cent of the Torres Strait population is male
- 50.3 per cent is female.
- The median age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the region is 22 years.

Employment

The 2011 Census figures were not available at time of printing.

- The 2006 census unemployment rate for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region was 5.03 per cent.
- The June 2012 unemployment rate for the Australian Labour Force was 5.1 per cent.

Education

The 2011 Census showed that 2,583 persons were undertaking some form of education. Of these:

- 151 persons were in pre-school
- 1,213 persons were in primary school
- 500 persons were in secondary school
- 139 persons were at technical colleges or TAFE
- 52 persons were at university
- 528 persons were undertaking other or non-stated courses

Income

In 2011, household incomes of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people were significantly lower than the reported Australian average.

- The reported median weekly household income for the region is \$987 compared with the Queensland average of \$1,453 and the Australian average of \$1,481.
- The median weekly individual income for an individual living in the Torres Strait region is \$387 compared to the Queensland average of \$587 and the Australian average of \$577.

Housing

The 2011 Census reported that there were 1,737 private dwellings in the region with Indigenous residents. Of these:

- 5.5 per cent of these are fully owned
- 2.1 per cent are owned with a mortgage
- 86.2 per cent are rented
- 6.2 per cent have other or non-stated tenancy arrangements

Health

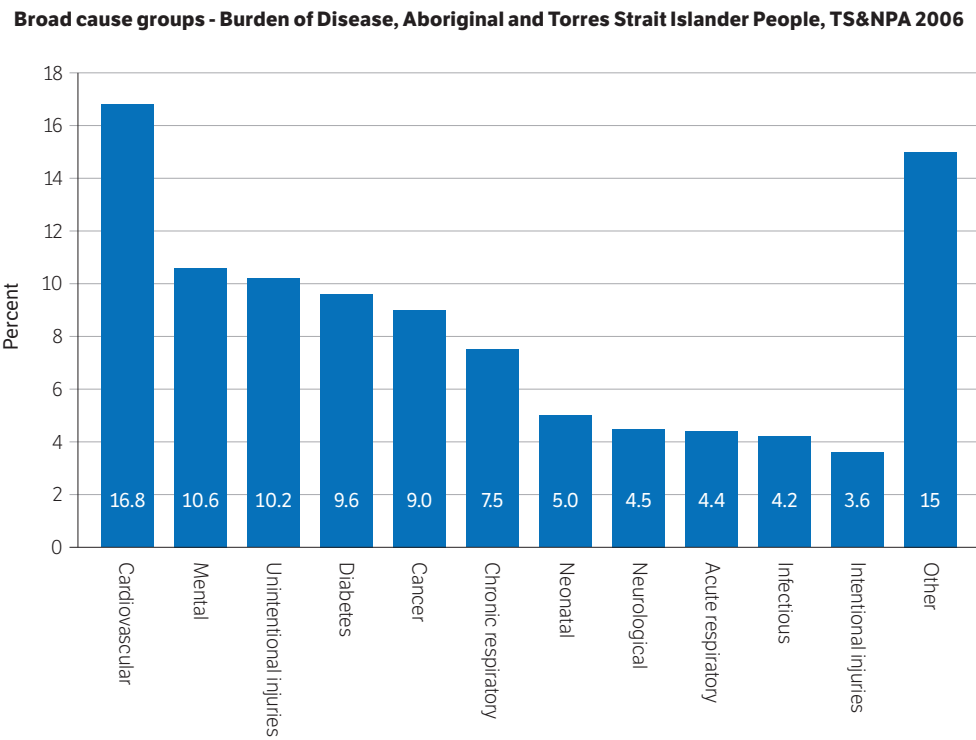


Figure3-2
Source: S. Begg, M. Bright, C. Harper: Burden of disease and health adjusted life expectancy in Health Services Districts of Queensland Health, 2006, Queensland Health, Brisbane, 2009.

A synthesis of ABS data from the 2011 Census and Queensland Health information shows that death rates continue to be higher in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area than in mainland Australia with cardiovascular disease,

type 2 diabetes, mental illness and substance use, accident and injury, neoplasms (cancer) - particularly lung cancer and chronic respiratory disease being responsible for over 64 per cent of the burden of disease in the region.

Legislative Framework

Formation

The TSRA is a Commonwealth Statutory Authority which was established 1 July 1994 under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989* (Cth), and now the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). The TSRA is the leading Commonwealth representative body for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait, including two communities (Bamaga and Seisia) in the Northern Area Peninsula.

The TSRA is composed of twenty elected representatives and the administrative staff. The twenty elected representatives are Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people who live and work in the region. The TSRA Board elects a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and an Alternate Deputy Chairperson. A Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the TSRA's administration and staffing.

The TSRA performs separate functions under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) as the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) for the Torres Strait Region. The TSRA holds this NTRB responsibility until 30 June 2013.

Under Section 142D of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth) the TSRA is required to formulate and implement a plan to guide the progress of the Torres Strait region. This document, known as the *Torres Strait Development Plan*, is updated every four years, a period consistent with the term of the TSRA Board.

The *Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013* is the fourth development plan since the establishment of the TSRA. The plan outlines seven new or revised TSRA program components: Culture, Art and Heritage; Economic Development; Environmental Management; Governance and Leadership;

Healthy Communities; Native Title and Safe Communities. In recognition of the importance of fisheries to economic development in the region the TSRA separated responsibility for fisheries management from the Environmental Management Program and established a stand-alone Fisheries Program. This change will be reflected in the next edition of the *Torres Strait Development Plan*. For consistency of reporting against the Portfolio Budget Statements and the current *Torres Strait Development Plan*, the outcomes from the Fisheries Program have been reported under the Environmental Management Program.

Enabling Legislation

The enabling legislation for the TSRA is contained in Section 142, Part 3A Division 1 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), which states:

- (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.

Subsection 142 (3) of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act* also applies to the TSRA. The Act deals with matters relating to Commonwealth Authorities, including reporting and accountability, banking and investment and conduct of officers. The Act states:

- (1) The common seal of the TSRA is to be kept in such custody as the TSRA directs and must not be used except as authorised by the TSRA.

- (2) All courts, judges and persons acting judicially must:
 - (a) take judicial notice of the imprint of the common seal of the TSRA appearing on a document; and
 - (b) presume that the imprint was duly affixed.

Functions

The functions of the TSRA, as outlined in Section 142A of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), are:

- (1) to recognise and maintain the special and unique Ailan Kastom of Torres Strait Islanders living in the Torres Strait area;
- (2) to formulate and implement programs for Torres Strait Islanders, and Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (3) 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;
- (4) 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;
- (5) to assist, advise and co-operate with Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal communities, organisations and individuals at national, State, Territory and regional levels;
- (6) to advise the Minister on:
 - (a) matters relating to Torres Strait Islander affairs and Aboriginal affairs in the Torres Strait area, including the administration of legislation;
 - (b) the co-ordination of the activities of other Commonwealth bodies that affect Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal persons, living in the Torres Strait area;
- (7) when requested by the Minister, to provide information or advice to the Minister on any matter specified by the Minister;
- (8) 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;
- (9) 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;
- (10) such other functions as are conferred on the TSRA by this Act or any other Act;
- (11) 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;

The TSRA is composed of twenty elected representatives and the administrative staff. The twenty elected representatives are Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people who live and work in the region.

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

Powers

The powers of the TSRA, are outlined in Section 142C of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), which states:

- (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 co-operate 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); and
 - (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.

Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Responsible Minister

The TSRA is an Agency within the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs portfolio. During the reporting year the responsible Minister for the TSRA was The Hon. Jenny Macklin MP.

Powers of Direction by the Minister

Under section 142E of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), the Minister has powers of direction in relation to the TSRA. Section 142E of the Act 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 the 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.

The TSRA did not receive any formal Directions by the Minister during the reporting period.

TSRA Statement of Intent to the Minister

In 2011, the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, provided a Statement of Expectations to the TSRA concerning the operation and performance of the TSRA for the period to June 2012. In response, the TSRA provided a Statement of Intent to the Minister.

The Statement identifies the TSRA's focus, outcomes and priorities:

- The TSRA's primary focus is to improve the lifestyle and wellbeing of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region by implementing programs that address their socio-economic and health status.
- As an Australian Government agency, the TSRA will respond to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) reform agenda by making a contribution to achieving Closing the Gap targets, and in particular through the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy and the National Partnership Agreements.

The TSRA will formulate and implement programs in regards to the principles detailed in the COAG National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery and will continue to: maximise employment, education and training benefits to Indigenous communities, assist and maintain close liaison with national, state, territory and regional agencies, brief the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs on important issues and implement the *Torres*

Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013 and other planning instruments as necessary.

The TSRA will consider and act on opportunities that will increase the level of female representation on its Board.

Ministerial Appointments

In 2011 - 2012, four appointments were made for the position of Torres Strait Regional Authority Acting Chief Executive Officer.

The appointments were delegated by the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in accordance to Section 144L(1)(a) of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth) and made by the Secretary, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to:

- Suzanne Stratton for the period 25 July 2011 to 5 August 2011
- John Ramsay for the period 24 October 2011 to 28 October 2011
- Damian Miley for the period 19 December 2011 to 20 January 2012
- Damian Miley for the period 2 April to 13 April 2012

Briefings and information provided to Minister

Throughout the reporting period the TSRA provided ministerial minutes and briefings to the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Judicial Decisions and Reviews

One judicial decision relating to the Torres Strait Sea Claim was made in the Full Federal Court and one judicial decision was made regarding the Naghir Native Title Claim during the 2011 - 2012 reporting year. No decisions of administrative tribunals, Parliamentary Committees or the Commonwealth Ombudsman impacted the TSRA's operations.

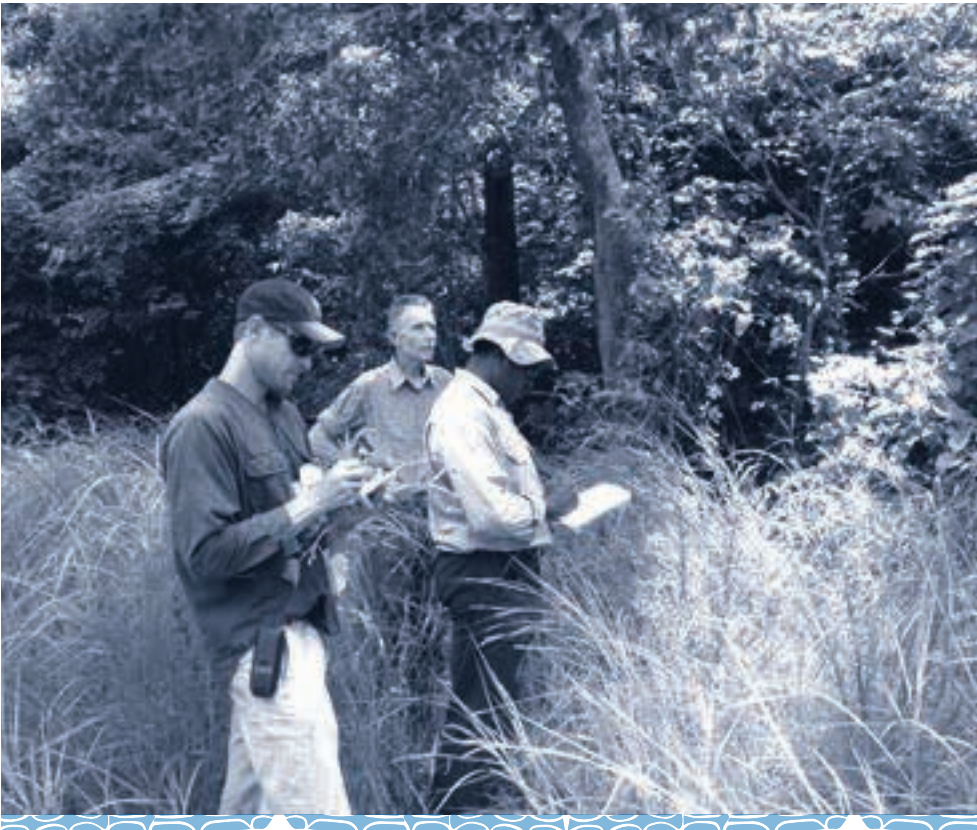
The TSRA appeared before the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee on 22 March 2012. The TSRA was represented by the Chairperson, Mr John Kris, the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Wayne See Kee and the Chief Financial Officer Mr Chris de Mamiel.

There were three amendments to the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth) in 2011 - 2012:

- The *Indigenous Affairs Legislation Amendment Bill 2011, No 1*, 2011 amended the sections of the Act relating to the TSRA elections. The Bill separated the TSRA election process from that of the local government elections by deleting reference to the *Community Services (Torres*

Strait Act) 1984 (Qld). As a result, the first independent TSRA election will be held on 15 September 2012.

- The *Indigenous Affairs Legislation Amendment Bill 2011, No 2*, 2011 amended the section of the Act relating to the General Manager, retitling this appointment to Chief Executive Officer.
- The *Torres Strait Regional Authority Election Amendment Rules 2012 (No 1)*, amended the *Torres Strait Election Rules 1996* under Section 143 G of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), allowing for the creation of 20 TSRA electoral Wards.



Ranger John Wigness with fire ecologists on Mua Island.





Section Four: Corporate Governance and Accountability

TSRA Governance and Accountability

Overview of Governance Structure

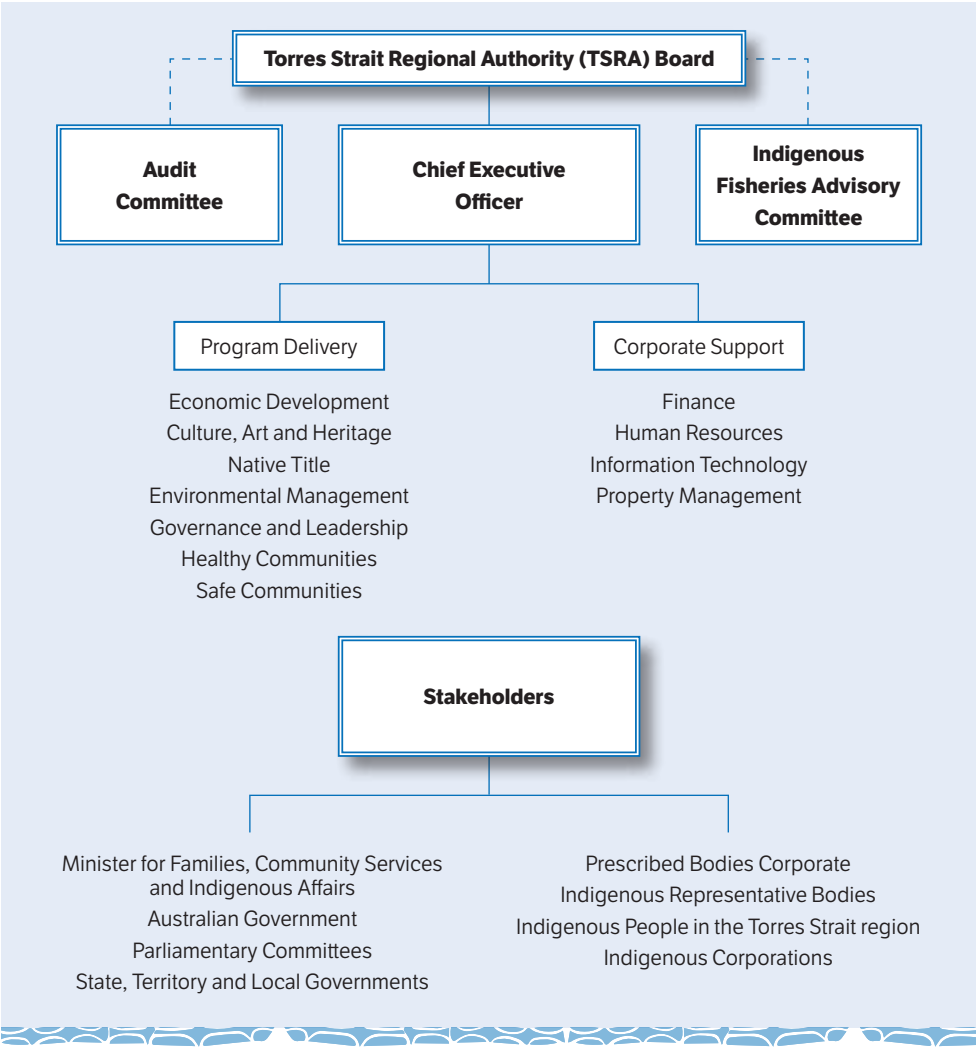


Figure 4-1
TSRA Governance Framework

The TSRA's governance framework provides a system of direction and controls, enabling regional outcomes to be achieved through organisational goals and objectives.

The TSRA's governance framework provides a system of direction and controls, enabling regional outcomes to be achieved through organisational goals and objectives. The framework allows for the escalation of risks and issues to the appropriate level. Resolution of risks and issues occurs through formal project management structures, program structures, Program Steering Committee, the TSRA Audit Committee and the TSRA Board.

TSRA Board Members

The TSRA Board is an elected, representative body, which participates in scheduled quarterly meetings and issue-specific out-of-session meetings.

The primary functions of the Board are:

- To set out the TSRA's vision for the Torres Strait
- To oversight the TSRA's strategic objectives and direction
- To approve program mandates
- To review the TSRA's performance, its objectives and outcomes
- To manage strategic risk and regional stakeholder relations

Current Appointments

The TSRA Board consists of 20 community representatives who are appointed for a four year term. Fifteen Members of the current board were appointed to the TSRA by virtue of being elected under the *Local Government Act 1993* (Qld) as Councillors on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council. Two Members, representing the Bamaga and Seisia communities in the Northern Peninsula Area, hold office by virtue of their election to the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council. The remaining three Members

were elected in accordance with Division 5 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), for the Wards of Port Kennedy, Horn Island and Prince of Wales Island (combined) and the combined Ward of Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine (TRAWQ) on Thursday Island. The Chairperson and executive members of the TSRA are elected by the Members at the first Board meeting following the local government and Division 5 elections. By the nature of their appointments, all TSRA Board Members are also Directors under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth) and are classified as Non-Executive Directors.

Future Appointments

Following a review of the governance arrangements for the TSRA, the method of appointing the TSRA Board was changed. The *Indigenous Affairs Legislation Amendment Bill 2011, No 1, 2011* and *Torres Strait Regional Authority Election Amendment Rule 2012 (No 1)* amends the sections of the Act relating to the TSRA elections. As a result, 20 new TSRA electoral wards have been created and the first independent TSRA election is to be held on 15 September 2012. From 2012 all TSRA Board Members will be appointed under Division 5 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). There has been no change to the method of electing the TSRA Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson or Alternate Deputy Chairperson.

TSRA Executive Committee

An Executive Committee of eight TSRA Board Members has been formed to assist the TSRA Chairperson to carry out the functions of the TSRA. The Executive Committee is based on a portfolio structure which is aligned to the TSRA Programs. Membership of the Executive Committee is decided by the TSRA Board by open ballot. The TSRA Executive Committee meets quarterly, prior to TSRA Board meetings. The Chairperson may call additional meetings as required.

The objectives of TSRA’s Executive Committee are to:

- Ensure that policies and future directives are made in accordance with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth), and other relevant legislation
- Advocate for improved outcomes in the Torres Strait region
- Represent the views of the TSRA on internal and external committees
- Assist the TSRA Chairperson to communicate government policy, TSRA decisions and achievements as they relate to their portfolio responsibilities with Torres Strait communities

The TSRA Executive Members and their portfolio responsibilities are shown in table 4-1.

Mr John T Kris	TSRA Chairperson TSRA Portfolio Member for Governance and Leadership
Ms Napcia Bin Tahal	TSRA Deputy Chairperson TSRA Portfolio Member for Economic Development
Mr Kenny Bedford	TSRA Alternate Deputy Chairperson TSRA Portfolio Member for Fisheries
Mr Donald Banu	TSRA Portfolio Member for Native Title
Mr Keith Fell	TSRA Portfolio Member for Healthy Communities
Mr Walter Makie	TSRA Portfolio Member for Environmental Management
Mr Phillemon Mosby	TSRA Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage
Ms Nancy Pearson	TSRA Portfolio Member for Safe Communities

Table 4-1
TSRA Executive and Portfolio Responsibilities

Profiles of TSRA Board Members



Mr John T Kris
 TSRA Chairperson and
 TSRA Member for St Pauls

Mr Kris is in his second term as the Chairperson of the TSRA and his third term as a Member of the TSRA Board. Mr Kris is

the Portfolio Member for the TSRA's Governance and Leadership Program and is also a Councillor with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council. As the Chairperson of the TSRA, Mr Kris is a member of the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) together with the Australian Government and Queensland Government Ministers for Fisheries.

Over the last year, Mr Kris has continued to work with all levels of government and local stakeholders in taking an integrated service delivery approach to government business and building strong partnerships with people in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area region.

Mr Kris considers that increasing economic wealth through viable and sustainable businesses is a key factor in strengthening and growing our communities. A strong business base for communities will provide new employment and training opportunities across the region.

Experience and Qualifications

Mr Kris was first elected to the TSRA Board in 2000. His election was based on his specialist knowledge of his community, St Pauls, and his strong communication, negotiation and relationship management skills. He has the ability to develop relationships across all Torres Strait communities and the three levels of government operating in the region. Mr Kris possesses unique communications skills that relate to Ailan Kastom.

Mr Kris is a Fellow of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation. He holds Associate and Advanced Diplomas in Environmental Health.

In his first TSRA term, Mr Kris was the Portfolio Member for Housing and Infrastructure and he continues to maintain a strong interest in environmental health.



Ms Napcia Bin Tahal
 TSRA Deputy Chairperson
 and TSRA Member for
 Horn and Prince of Wales

Ms Napcia Bin Tahal commenced her first term on the Board in 2008.

Ms Bin Tahal is also the TSRA Deputy Chairperson, the Portfolio Member for Economic Development, a member of the Audit Committee. Ms Bin Tahal was formerly the Deputy Mayor of the Torres Shire Council.

Experience and Qualifications

Ms Bin Tahal was employed by the Queensland Public Service and the Australian Public Service for approximately 15 years, most of that time was within Indigenous Affairs. Ms Bin Tahal is actively involved with a number of local community organisations to ensure that she remains in touch with issues at the grass roots level.

Ms Bin Tahal is a fellow of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation. She holds a Diploma in Business (Front-Line Management), a Certificate II in Indigenous Leadership and a Certificate in Tourism.

Ms Bin Tahal is an advocate for long-term economic sustainability through the development of local businesses that can operate independently of government assistance. Ms Bin Tahal believes that education is the key to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people achieving their goals. She believes that through the development of professional skills and self-determination, people in the region will take control of their own future.



Mr Kenny Bedford
TSRA Alternative
Deputy Chairperson and
TSRA Member for Erub

Mr Kenny Bedford has been an active member on the TSRA Board since 2008. He has represented

the TSRA in his capacity as Alternate Deputy Chairperson and is the Portfolio Member for Fisheries. Mr Bedford was formerly a Councillor with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

As the Portfolio Member for Fisheries, Mr Bedford has been a strong advocate across the various commercial and traditional fisheries on behalf of Torres Strait Islanders. Assisting Torres Strait Islanders to access a greater share of the Torres Strait fisheries, as professional full time fishers, remains one of the biggest challenges for Mr Bedford.

Experience and Qualifications

Mr Bedford draws on his strong knowledge of the Erub community. He possesses excellent communication, negotiation and relationship management skills. Mr Bedford has the ability to develop relationships across all Torres Strait communities and government agencies.

Mr Bedford is a Vincent Fairfax Fellow and holds a Bachelor of Applied Health Science. He also holds a Diploma of Youth Welfare and has experience in Local Government as a former Councillor and Deputy Mayor of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.



Mr Wayne Guivarra
TSRA Member for Badu

Mr Wayne Guivarra is serving his first term on the TSRA Board. Mr Guivarra was formerly a Councillor on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Experience and Qualifications

Mr Guivarra develops relationships across all Torres Strait communities and government agencies operating in the region. He possesses strong communication, negotiation and relationship management skills that relate to Ailan Kastom.

Since his appointment, Mr Guivarra has increased his skills, knowledge and understanding of the processes involved and recognises that to make the best of the limited opportunities provided by government and community, there needs to be an integrated approach to achieving the solutions.

He is encouraged by the professional application applied by the administrative support under the revamped TSRA Program structure and looks forward to the future with great optimism.

Mr Guivarra is also passionate about supporting regional sports development within Torres Strait communities including athletic promotion.



Mr Reginald Williams
TSRA Member for Bamaga

This is Mr Williams' fourth term as a TSRA Board Member. Mr Williams was formerly the Deputy Mayor of the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council.

Experience and Qualifications

Mr Williams held office with the TSRA from 1994 to 1997, 1997 to 2000, and 2000 to 2004. He has specialist knowledge of his community, Bamaga, and strong communication, negotiation and relationship management skills. Mr Williams also has unique communications skills that relate to Ailan Kastom.

Mr Williams aims to achieve a better lifestyle and standard of living for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region. Areas of concern for Mr Williams are housing, health and education. Through his representation on

the TSRA Board, Mr Williams seeks funding solutions for regional housing issues. He is also keen to raise awareness of health problems such as diabetes and heart disease and increase the range of subjects available to secondary school students.



Mr Donald Banu
TSRA Member for Boigu

Mr Donald Banu is undertaking his second term as a TSRA Board Member. Mr Banu also is the Portfolio Member for Native Title. Mr Banu was

formerly a Councillor with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Experience and Qualifications

Mr Banu holds a Diploma in Environmental Health, a Certificate IV in Local Government and Administration and a Certificate IV in Environmental Health. Mr Banu has specialist communication skills that relate to Ailan Kastom and is able to develop relationships across all communities in the region. Mr Banu is able to work with other government agencies to achieve outcomes and has been involved in many consultations across the region. He possesses strong communication, negotiation and relationship management skills.

A key focus area for Mr Banu is increased capacity building for Prescribed Bodies Corporate so that the people in the Torres Strait can benefit from opportunities such as land lease agreements.

To maximise benefits for the Torres Strait community, Mr Banu aims to maintain positive working relationships across the whole-of-government sector and in particular with community stakeholders. Mr Banu will strive to ensure that there are developments in home ownership as well as appropriate initiatives under the Torres Strait Treaty to address health and

associated cross border issues between Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Mr Banu is concerned about the effects of climate change and coastal inundation in the Torres Strait region and will continue to work with all stakeholders to find solutions to this critical issue.

Mr Banu has been involved in the project to repatriate Indigenous human remains and sacred objects to Torres Strait Communities. He was instrumental in negotiating an agreement with the United Kingdom's Natural History Museum for the return of ancestral remains to the Torres Strait. In his own time, Mr Banu undertakes an active role in his community and the wider Torres Strait communities to help young people by promoting career paths in the Navy and other Australian Defence Services.



Mr Torenzo Elisala
TSRA Member for Dauan

Mr Torenzo Elisala is in his first term as a Board Member. Mr Elisala was formerly a Councillor with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Experience and Qualifications

Mr Elisala has been actively involved in the Dauan community and considers health, education, economic growth and leadership development as some of the crucial areas to progress. Mr Elisala is encouraging greater use of TSRA Programs to encourage community organisations to participate in development opportunities such as the divestment of assets. Mr Elisala is also an advocate for emphasising cultural and traditional practices. Mr Elisala believes if our people truly inherit these two aspects of life with our own traditional lore system in place, the tension and stress put on communities from the western cultures will be minimised. Mr Elisala considers

that unification of both cultures will give Torres Strait Islanders an advantage. He believes Closing the Gap can work strategically and effectively with traditional lores which contain protocols for men, women and children within cultural jurisdictions.

Mr Elisala has strong communication and relationship management skills within his community and the wider Torres Strait community including skills relating to Ailan Kastom. As a former Community Police Officer, Mr Elisala maintains that effective law and order is critical for community harmony. He is also able to draw on his experience as a Healthy Lifestyle Officer through his work with the Queensland Health and Tagai College partnership to improve health related education in his community.



Ms Nancy Pearson
TSRA Member for
Hammond Island

Ms Nancy Pearson is in her first term as a Board Member. She is also the Portfolio Member for Safe Communities. Ms Pearson

was formerly a Councillor with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Experience and Qualifications

Ms Pearson is an avid champion of women and families in the region and continues to form links with key stakeholders to enhance and support safe communities. Her experience working with all levels of government has been valuable to the Safe Communities Program. Ms Pearson has been involved with the preparations for Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Census within the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area, ensuring that quality data from the region was captured.

Ms Pearson also draws on her professional development experience in the areas of social justice, administration and town planning. She continues to see economic development, environmental stability and strategies to increase employment opportunities for the people of the Torres Strait region as on-going concerns. She is also an advocate of the preservation and revitalisation of Ailan Kastom.



Mr Walter Makie
TSRA Member for Iama

Mr Makie is in his second term as a TSRA Board Member. He is also the Portfolio Member for Environmental Management. Mr Makie

was formerly a Councillor with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Experience and Qualifications

Mr Makie has continued to address major concerns relating to tidal inundation as well as the protection and preservation of Torres Strait land and sea resources. Mr Makie has had close involvement with environmental management issues since the 1980s and remains committed to his portfolio mandate; to protect, preserve and enjoy the natural and cultural environment of the region through sustainable management.



Mr David Bosun
TSRA Member for Kubin

Mr David Bosun is serving his first term as a TSRA Board Member. In September 2010, Mr Bosun was appointed as the rotational member on the

TSRA Audit Committee. Mr Bosun is a Councillor with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Experience and Qualifications

Mr Bosun holds an Associate Diploma in Journalism and Communication, a Certificate IV in Visual Arts and a Certificate IV in Business Management. Mr Bosun draws on his knowledge of tourism, arts and culture and economic development and would like to see a marked improvement in the Torres Strait economy through sustainable tourism ventures and the promotion of arts and culture.

Mr Bosun emphasises a grass roots approach to training, employment and economic development, so that communities become empowered, self-sufficient and independent.



Mr Keith Fell
TSRA Member for
Mabuiag

Mr Keith Fell is undertaking his first term on the TSRA Board. Mr Fell is the Portfolio Member for Healthy Communities and

is the Deputy Mayor of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Experience and Qualifications

Mr Fell has a Diploma in Local Government Administration and a Certificate III in Sports and Recreation.

Mr Fell believes that education, training and communication are vital to achieve success and increase the standard of living in the region. Other areas of importance for Mr Fell are economic development and cultural and social issues.

During his term on the Board, Mr Fell has pursued affordable housing for Torres Strait Islander people and worked towards empowering his people through accessible employment and training opportunities.



Mr Ted Fraser Nai
TSRA Member for Masig

Mr Ted Fraser Nai was elected to the TSRA Board in October 2011 following the resignation of Mr John Mosby. Mr Nai is a Councillor with the Torres

Strait Island Regional Council.

Experience and Qualifications

Mr Nai's aspiration is to empower his own people to become self-autonomous. Mr Nai believes effective leadership is the key for this to happen and that leadership should be instilled into our people from a young age. Mr Nai believes that investing in education is fundamental to our people becoming autonomous. In creating and supporting sustainable economic development we must breathe belief, hope and dream into our people who are the real source of capital for our region. Mr Nai emphasises the importance for all levels of government to work together for the betterment of the people in the Torres Strait.



Mr Ron Day
TSRA Member for Mer

Mr Ron Day is undertaking his fourth term on the TSRA Board. Mr Day was formerly a Councillor with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Experience and Qualifications

Mr Day has been the TSRA Member for Mer since 2000. Through his past experience on the TSRA Board, Mr Day has gained a sound knowledge of government processes and engagement with the local community through his knowledge and understanding of Ailan Kastom.

Mr Day is keen to encourage progress towards shared regional goals. Mr Day's vision for the region is the empowerment of his people through independence and a robust economy. He believes that the strengths of the region will be realised through the unity of individual Torres Strait Islander people.



(Vacant)

TSRA Member for Port Kennedy

A casual vacancy for Port Kennedy currently exists. This position will be filled though the TSRA election to be held on 15 September 2012.



Mr Phillemon Mosby
TSRA Member for Poruma

Mr Phillemon Mosby is in his first term as Member of the TSRA Board. He is also the TSRA Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage and

a member of the TSRA Audit Committee. Mr Mosby is a Councillor with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Experience and Qualifications

As the Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage, Mr Mosby promotes traditional culture and practice and encourages more engagement between elders and youth when practicing traditional culture. He aims to fulfil the dreams of his elders, to revive the traditional languages of the region.

During his term on the Board he would like to improve access to housing, particularly for youth. Mr Mosby supports innovation and creativity to deliver more training and employment opportunities in his community. He continues to work with stakeholders to combat tidal inundation problems that the Poruma Island community must address.



Mr Ron Enosa
TSRA Member for Saibai

This is Mr Ron Enosa's first term on the TSRA Board. Mr Enosa is a Councillor with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Experience and Qualifications

Mr Enosa has a Diploma in Legal Advocacy and a Diploma in Local Government Administration. Mr Enosa continues to advocate for activities to support Torres Strait culture across the region. He would also like to see closer working arrangements with the Papua New Guinea Western Province Treaty villages to address significant issues.

Assistance and support to youth development and related infrastructure is a priority for Mr Enosa. He continues to support the development of career pathways for students in the Torres Strait which will enhance economic development in the region.

Mr Enosa has also acted as an advocate on land and sea matters in the Torres Strait. His major concern is coastal erosion and tidal inundation and issues that are affecting Saibai Island. Mr Enosa continues to work with key stakeholders to address these issues.



Mr John Abednego
TSRA Member for
Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin,
Waiben and Quarantine
(TRAWQ)

Mr John Abednego has completed three terms on the TSRA Board. He is also

a Councillor with the Torres Shire Council.

Experience and Qualifications

Mr Abednego was the TSRA Chairperson from 1997 to 2000. Mr Abednego has a strong knowledge of government processes and first-hand knowledge of Torres Strait Islander culture.

During his time on the Board, Mr Abednego's priority is to raise the public profile of TRAWQ. He sees the establishment of a TRAWQ Development Plan and an increased focus on social services as important preliminary initiatives to achieve this goal.



Mr Jeffrey Aniba
TSRA Member for Seisia

Mr Jeffrey Aniba is in his first term as a TSRA Board Member. Mr Aniba was formerly a Councillor with the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council.

Experience and Qualifications

Mr Aniba's main focus is on education reforms and increasing loans for home ownership and small business development in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.



Mrs Florianna Bero
TSRA Member for Ugar

This is Mrs Florianna Bero's first term as a member of the TSRA Board. Mrs Bero was formerly a Councillor with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Experience and Qualifications

As the Member for the Ugar community, Mrs Bero is using her position on the Board to promote good health, education and housing for people in the Torres Strait region.

Mrs Bero has advocated for increased funding in the education and health care sectors together with greater promotion of small businesses to benefit all communities in the Torres Strait region.



Mr Willie Lui
TSRA Member for
Warraber

Mr Willie Lui resigned from the TSRA Board in 22 August 2011. He was in his first term as a TSRA Board Member. Mr Lui was

formerly a Councillor with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council. The Member for Warraber position will be filled in the 2012 TSRA Election.

TSRA Executive Committee Meetings

The TSRA Executive Committee meetings for 2011 - 2012 are shown in table 4-2.

2011 - 2012 TSRA Executive Committee Meeting Dates	Apologies
16 August 2011	Nil
22 November 2011	Mr Phillemon Mosby, Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage Mr Donald Banu, Portfolio Member for Native Title
21 February 2012	Ms Napcia Bin Tahal, Portfolio Member for Economic Development Mr Phillemon Mosby, Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage
5 and 6 June 2012	Nil

Table 4-2

TSRA Executive Committee Meeting Dates and Apologies

The TSRA's Executive Committee meetings attendance is shown in table 4-3

Attendance at TSRA Executive Committee Meetings	
Mr John T Kris	4 of 4 Committee Meetings Attended
Ms Napcia Bin Tahal	3 of 4 Committee Meetings Attended
Mr Kenny Bedford	4 of 4 Committee Meetings Attended
Mr Donald Banu	3 of 4 Committee Meetings Attended
Mr Keith Fell	4 of 4 Committee Meetings Attended
Mr Walter Makie	4 of 4 Committee Meetings Attended
Mr Phillemon Mosby	2 of 4 Committee Meetings Attended
Ms Nancy Pearson	4 of 4 Committee Meetings Attended

Table 4-3

TSRA Executive Committee Attendance

TSRA Board Meeting Schedule

The Chairperson of the TSRA must convene at least four Board Meetings each year in accordance with Section 144E of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). The Chairperson can convene other meetings of the TSRA Board if it is considered necessary for the efficient performance of the TSRA's functions.

Throughout 2011 - 2012, the TSRA Board met as shown in the following table:

Board Meetings	Dates	Apologies	Absent
Meeting No. 79	18 and 19 August 2011	Mr John Mosby, Member of Masig	Nil
Meeting No. 80	24 and 25 November 2011	Ms Napcia Bin Tahal, Member for Horn and Prince of Wales Islands Mr Donald Banu, Member for Boigu Mr Reginald Williams, Member for Bamaga	Nil
Meeting No. 81	23 and 24 February 2012	Nil	Nil
Meeting No. 82	7 and 8 June 2012	Mr Reginald Williams, Member for Bamaga Mr Ron Enosa, Member for Saibai Mr Ron Day, Member for Mer Mr Jeffrey Aniba, Member for Seisia	Nil

Table 4-4
TSRA Board meetings

Attendance at TSRA Board Meetings

Member	Number of Meetings Attended
Mr John T. Kris	4 of 4 Meetings Attended
Ms Napcia Bin Tahal	3 of 4 Meetings Attended
Mr Kenny Bedford	4 of 4 Meetings Attended
Mr John Abednego	4 of 4 Meetings Attended
Mr Jeffery Aniba	3 of 4 Meetings Attended
Mr Donald Banu	3 of 4 Meetings Attended
Mrs Florianna Bero	4 of 4 Meetings Attended
Mr David Bosun	4 of 4 Meetings Attended
Mr Ron Day	3 of 4 Meetings Attended
Mr Torenzo Elisala	4 of 4 Meetings Attended
Mr Ron Enosa	3 of 4 Meetings Attended
Mr Keith Fell	4 of 4 Meetings Attended
Mr Wayne Guivarra	4 of 4 Meetings Attended
Mr Willie Lui	1 of 4 Meetings Attended (Resigned 23 August 2011)
Mr Walter Makie	4 of 4 Meetings Attended
Mr John Mosby	0 of 4 Meetings Attended (Resigned 22 August 2011)
Mr Ted Fraser Nai	2 of 2 Meetings Attended (Appointed 19 October 2011)
Mr Phillemon Mosby	4 of 4 Meetings Attended
Ms Nancy Pearson	4 of 4 Meetings Attended
Mr Reginald Williams	2 of 4 Meetings Attended

Table 4-5

TSRA Board Attendance

TSRA Board Member induction process

The TSRA has a comprehensive and formal induction process for Board members based on the recently developed TSRA Board Charter. The induction is delivered over a one week period and covers the legislative framework, code of conduct, separation of powers, administrative decision making, the TSRA's committees, programs and projects, member and executive member responsibilities, training and Board administration. The induction program is delivered by the TSRA administration with assistance from an external facilitator and subject matter experts.

Induction of new TSRA Member

Mr Fraser Nai was appointed to the TSRA Board in October 2011. The TSRA's Governance and Leadership Program conducted an induction session for Mr Nai.

TSRA Board Member's Code of Conduct

The TSRA Board has adopted a new Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct has been published in the TSRA Board Charter 2012 and will be included in the training provided in the Board induction program.

Executive Coaching

An Executive coaching program is available for all Board Members.

Other Boards and Committees

Program Steering Committee

The Program Steering Committee (PSC) monitors the performance of the TSRA's programs and operations. Each program consists of projects and managed activities, contributing to the outcomes identified in the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029*. Programs are further defined in the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013*.

The PSC includes the TSRA Chief Executive Officer, Program Managers, Project Managers and the Chief Financial Officer. The PSC has scheduled quarterly meetings and also meets out of session to deal with specific risks and issues. The PSC prioritises resources across program boundaries, ensuring that there is an outcome focussed alignment between programs, strategies and operational activities. Further detail on program reporting is contained in Section 2 of this report.

TSRA Advisory Committees

The TSRA has two Advisory Committees, the TSRA Audit Committee and the Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee (IFAC).

TSRA Audit Committee

The TSRA Audit Committee, consists of four members. The committee was established in accordance with Section 32 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth). The TSRA Board is responsible for the appointment of the Audit Committee. The Committee provides independent assurance and assistance to the TSRA Board on the risk, control and compliance frameworks and the TSRA's external accountability responsibilities.

The Chairperson of the Audit Committee is an independent member from Moore Stephens Accountants and Advisors. The Chairperson of the Audit Committee provides technical expertise and experience, supplying advice on best practice accounting and auditing standards in the public sector environment. Special meetings of the Audit Committee can be held if deemed necessary by the TSRA Chairperson or the Chairperson of the Audit Committee.

Membership, meetings and attendance for the TSRA Audit Committee is shown in tables 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8.

Membership of the TSRA Audit Committee

Mr Adrian Kelly	Chairperson and Independent Member of the TSRA Audit Committee
Ms Napcia Bin Tahal	TSRA Member for Horn and Prince of Wales Islands
Mr Phillemon Mosby	TSRA Member for Poruma
Mr David Bosun	TSRA Member for Kubin

Table 4-6
TSRA Audit Committee Membership

2011 - 2012 Audit Committee Dates	Apologies
17 August 2011	Mr David Bosun, TSRA Member for Kubin
8 September 2011	Mr Phillemon Mosby, TSRA Member for Poruma Mr David Bosun, TSRA Member for Kubin
23 November 2011	Ms Napcia Bin Tahal, TSRA Member for Horn and Prince of Wales Islands
22 February 2012	Nil
6 June 2012	Nil

Table 4-7
TSRA Audit Committee meetings

Attendance at TSRA Audit Committee Meetings

Mr Adrian Kelly	5 of 5 Meetings Attended
Ms Napcia Bin Tahal,	4 of 5 Meetings Attended
Mr Phillemon Mosby	4 of 5 Meetings Attended
Mr David Bosun	3 of 5 Meetings Attended

Table 4-8
TSRA Attendance at Audit Committee meetings

Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee

The IFAC was established under Section 142M of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). The objectives of the IFAC are to:

- Provide a forum for the discussion of strategic management and policy matters relevant to Torres Strait Fisheries and act as an additional medium for the flow of information between the TSRA and Torres Strait communities.
- Provide advice and make recommendations to the TSRA Board with respect to:
 - investment of resources into capacity building and support programs for traditional fishers,
 - policy proposals and management advice for Torres Strait fisheries,
 - policy direction and approach to resource sharing and leasing,
 - engagement and establishment of effective relationships with all fisheries stakeholders, and
 - research strategic priorities and provide advice on research proposals.
- Establish sub-committees as required to ensure the range of issues requiring consideration are given proper attention.
- Undertake additional functions on behalf of the TSRA as determined by the TSRA Board.

TSRA Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee Membership

Membership of the TSRA Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee

Name	Appointment / Current Position in Industry
Daniel Takai	25 May 2011 / Small business owner/operator (fish receiver/processor)
Gavin Mosby	25 May 2011 / Director of Yorke Is fishermen's Association
Cyril Gabey	25 May 2011 / Small business owner/operator- Commercial fishing
Dimas Toby	25 May 2011 / Boigu TSIRC Councillor and fisher representative
Kiwat Lui	25 May 2011 / Fisheries representative, St Pauls
Ned Larry	5 December 2011 / Commercial fisher
Ralph Pearson	5 December 2011 / Commercial fisher
Michael Passi	7 June 2012 / Commercial fisher

Table 4-9

TSRA Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee Members

TSRA Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee Meetings

2011 - 2012 IFAC Committee Dates	Apologies
2 July (No. 1 - Induction, Thursday Island)	Nil
8 November (No. 2 - Thursday Island)	Ralph Pearson
6 February (No. 3 - Thursday Island)	Nil
23 May (No. 4 - Boigu Island)	Kiwat Lui Ralph Pearson

*Table 4-10**TSRA Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee meetings**TSRA Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee Attendance*

Member	Meetings Attended
Daniel Takai	All
Gavin Mosby	All
Cyril Gabey	All
Dimas Toby	Meetings 1, 2 and 4
Kiwat Lui	Meetings 1, 2 and 3
Ned Larry	Meetings 3 and 4
Ralph Pearson	Meeting 3
Michael Passi	Nil (New member)

*Table 4-11**TSRA Attendance at Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee meetings*

Enabling Functions

Information Management and Technology

The TSRA Information Communications and Technology (ICT) team successfully completed the upgrade of all workstations to Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2010 along with a refresh of all out of warranty desktop hardware across its environment.

IT equipment and communications links were installed into seven new Ranger offices in outer island communities. The offices are connected through secure remote access to the TSRA IT systems on Thursday Island. Additionally, seven existing offices were upgraded the same standard as the new offices.

A review of existing communications arrangements with Telstra was undertaken and a new contract was negotiated. This included significantly improved rates for phone calls and mobile data access and improved communication links for remote offices.

Additional systems have been installed to improve the disaster recovery readiness of the TSRA's ICT environment to ensure critical data and services can be quickly restored. The main outcome was the implementation of a backup and recovery system which enables rapid recovery of entire servers from either our primary or secondary data centres in the event of a failure.

To continue improving our record management practices and ability to meet reporting obligations, the TSRA has appointed a full time record manager. The record manager is currently working with the Australian National Archives and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner to review our existing record management processes and develop a strategy to ensure that we are meeting best practice.

Environmental Impact Management

Environmental Sustainability

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) requires Australian Government organisations to detail their environmental performance and contribution to Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD). Table 4-12 (below) provides an overview of the TSRA's environmental activities and operations in relation to Section 516A of the EPBC Act.

Additional systems have been installed to improve the disaster recovery readiness of the TSRA's ICT environment to ensure critical data and services can be quickly restored.

ESD Reporting Requirement	TSRA Response
How the TSRA's activities accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The TSRA has issued an environmental policy outlining measures to improve its ecological sustainability. During 2011 - 2012 the TSRA commenced work to establish an Environmental Management System which is focussed on ensuring that the TSRA is taking all reasonable steps to reduce its ecological footprint. — The TSRA's environmental risks are managed at the project, program and portfolio level and are captured in the organisation's Risks and Issues Registers. — The TSRA maintains an Environmental Legal and Other Requirements Register. — The TSRA has established a biennial audit process of its Environmental Management System. The next audit is scheduled for 2014.
Outcomes contributing to ecologically sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The TSRA's Environmental Management Program contributes to ecologically sustainable development across all Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Communities. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving animal management and pest control • Reducing waste management issues and environmental impact • Increasing the use of renewable energies • Managing the effects of climate change, specifically tidal inundation and erosion
Environmental impacts of operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The TSRA is committed to managing its operations and those of its contractors to minimise adverse environmental impacts and protect the environment. There were no recorded adverse environmental impacts from TSRA activities in 2011 - 2012.
Measures taken to minimise environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The TSRA requires its employees, contractors and suppliers to comply with the TSRA's Environment Policy and environmental management systems by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing conservation measures in the TSRA's offices • Minimising the environmental impacts through better design and material selection for new staff housing • Requiring contractors to comply with relevant environmental regulatory requirements and minimum environmental performance requirements • Managing and reporting environmental incidents — The TSRA monitors a range of environmental performance indicators, including energy use within TSRA offices, energy ratings of white goods purchased for TSRA staff housing, fuel consumption and vehicle performance. — The TSRA has adopted appropriate technologies to reduce travel and its dependency on paper-based filing systems. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone and video conferencing facilities • Use of iPads at all formal meetings, reducing paper consumption • Introducing an electronic document and records management system — The TSRA continues to modernise its computing operations through the adoption of new virtual technologies and desktop solutions. The new technology provides TSRA the opportunity to further reduce energy consumption and the impact of computers on the environment.

Table 4-12

Compliance with the EPBC Act, Section 516A (Environmental Reporting)

Risk Management

The TSRA faces risks that can significantly affect the achievement of its objectives. Risk is inherent in the achievement of its corporate strategies and in attaining the objectives of its programs and projects at every level of activity.

While the TSRA aims to minimise risks in critical areas such as health, safety and the environment it adopts a risk managed approach to decision-making and devolves the management of risk to the most appropriate level within the organisation. The TSRA has formal risks and issues management processes for all projects, managed activities and programs.

The TSRA emphasises management of risk that is:

- 1) dynamic - responsive to change and assists corporate learning and continuous improvement.
- 2) systematic - rigorous, transparent and explicit and taking into account stakeholder perspectives.
- 3) integrated and embedded - in so far as practicable into established management planning, decision-making and reporting processes.

Risk management at TSRA is based on the better practice principles and processes, outlined in the International Standard AS/NZ31000:2009 Risk Management - principles and guidelines on implementation.

Accountability

External Scrutiny

The TSRA is a statutory authority of the Australian Government and is accountable to the Federal Parliament and the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

The Auditor-General is the TSRA's external auditor. The audit of the TSRA's financial statements is conducted in accordance with an audit strategy as agreed to by the Auditor-General and the TSRA. The 2011 - 2012 Audit was conducted in August 2012. A copy of the Independent Auditor's report including the Auditor's Opinion is provided as part of the Financial Statements in Section 5 of this Annual Report.

Fraud Control

The TSRA has implemented a fraud control framework in accordance with the *Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines*. In June 2012, the TSRA's Audit Committee and Board approved the TSRA's 2012 - 2014 Fraud Control Plan for distribution to Staff. No incidences of fraud were detected during the year.

Internal Audit

The TSRA Board has established the TSRA Audit Committee as a key component of its governance framework. The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing internal and external audit reports and for monitoring the implementation of audit recommendations. The Audit Committee's charter provides the framework for the conduct of the internal audit function in the TSRA and has been approved by the Board on the advice of the Audit Committee.

The external contractor, PDM Consultancy, is responsible for implementing the TSRA's internal audit program, which aims to provide assurance that key risks are being managed effectively and efficiently, including compliance with regulatory requirements and policies.

Compliance Report

In accordance with Section 16(1)(c) of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth) the TSRA provided the Finance Minister and the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs with a letter from the TSRA Directors. The letter advised that the TSRA had:

- complied with the provisions and requirements of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth).
- complied with the provisions and requirements of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Regulations 1997* and *Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Order 2011*.

A Compliance Index is incorporated as Section 7 of this Annual Report and a table, Compliance with Australian Government Statutes and Policies, is shown in Appendix 6.

Indemnities and Insurance Premiums for Officers

The TSRA indemnifies current and former directors and staff members against liability or costs incurred in connection with any claim brought against them as a result of – or in connection with – their appointment to any office or position in TSRA. The TSRA holds directors' and officers' liability insurance cover through Comcover, the Australian Government's self managed fund. As part of its annual insurance renewal process, TSRA reviewed its insurance coverage in 2011 - 2012 to ensure it remained appropriate for operations.

During the year, no indemnity related claims were made, and the TSRA knows of no circumstances likely to lead to such claims being made.

The cost of directors' and officers' indemnity insurance for 2011 - 2012 was \$4,998.

Directors' Interests Policy

In accordance with the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth), the TSRA Board has a policy and process to manage all direct and indirect conflicts of interest, including a register of all Directors' pecuniary interests and a requirement for each Director to make a formal declaration of their interests at each Board meeting. The declarations are recorded in the minutes of the meeting which are distributed to all communities through their elected Board members. The pecuniary interest processes apply to all governance committees of the TSRA.



Terrence Whap and Rangers.

Human Resources

Overview

The majority of TSRA's employees are located at TSRA facilities on Thursday Island, Queensland. A small TSRA office in Cairns continues to be used to increase TSRA's capacity to attract people with the skills and experience not available in the Torres Strait. During 2011 - 2012 the TSRA increased the size of its presence in outer communities in line with the planned expansion of the TSRA's Environmental Management Program.

Highlights in 2011 - 2012 included the second stage recruitment of 13 Rangers into the TSRA's Environment Management Program, the introduction of an online recruitment system and the finalisation of the TSRA Enterprise Agreement for the period 2011 - 2014.

Workplace Agreement

All TSRA staff operate under the TSRA Enterprise Agreement 2011 - 2014. The terms and conditions of employment are set out in this agreement which, while designed to end on 30 June 2014, will remain in effect until replaced by a future agreement. The salary ranges for staff covered under the Enterprise Agreement range from \$39,887 for an APS level 1 staff member to \$122,644 for an EL2 staff member.

Between July 2011 and October 2011, the TSRA Human Resources team worked with various stakeholders to negotiate a new Enterprise Agreement for the period 2011 - 2014. The new agreement commenced in October 2011, with 79 per cent of TSRA staff participating in the vote, of these 94 per cent returned a yes vote.

Payroll and Leave Records

The human resources and payroll company, Frontier Software Pty Ltd, provides software and support services to the TSRA to facilitate TSRA providing payroll and leave services in-house.

Staff Development and Training

TSRA's employees attended internal and external training courses throughout the year. This included program and project management training, career development training, cultural awareness training, Indigenous career trek workshops, leadership training, effective writing skills, accredited university studies and various other learning and development.

As part of their induction, all new TSRA employees complete the Australian Public Service Commission's (APS) Introduction to the APS, which is delivered as an on-line learning program.

All TSRA employees attended Fraud Awareness workshops to raise awareness and knowledge regarding fraud and its effects on the TSRA. The TSRA also uses a wide range of computer based training products to assist staff with topics including computer programs including all Microsoft applications, customer service skills, and telephone techniques and management supervision skills.

Health and Safety Management Arrangements

The TSRA continued to fulfil its responsibilities under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991* (Cth) until 31 December 2011. On 1 January 2012, new legislation, *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (Cth) was introduced.

There were four accidents or dangerous occurrences during the year that arose out of the conduct of undertakings by TSRA that required the giving of notice under the legislation.

There were no investigations conducted during the year that related to undertakings carried out by TSRA and there were no notices given to the TSRA during the year under the legislation.

The TSRA has a Health and Safety Committee consisting of TSRA staff and managers, who are responsible for developing and implementing

strategies to protect employees from risks to their health and safety. The Health and Safety Committee works cooperatively to manage all of the TSRA's occupational health and safety policy and operational matters. Employees are informed of current issues and receive occupational health and safety publications from Comcare and other sources when available. The TSRA has trained employees who undertake duties as first aid officers, fire wardens and occupational health and safety representatives.

Workplace Health

The TSRA has an active early intervention and injury management strategy in place and continues to use occupational therapy services to provide ergonomic support, advice and case management services. On site flu vaccinations and a healthy lifestyle reimbursement of up to \$200 per year are also available to all employees.

The TSRA has a Preventing Bullying and Harassment Policy in place and two trained Harassment Contact Officers are available to provide employee support. The TSRA engages Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services (CRS) to provide short-term, confidential counselling services to all employees where required.

Equal Employment Opportunity

The TSRA is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer and upholds the Australian Public Service Values. The TSRA provides a workplace that is free from discrimination and recognises the diversity of the Indigenous community that it serves. All TSRA staff receive up to date information on key developments in the human resources sector such as EEO, harassment free workplaces and workplace diversity. Employees can also access publications from the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC), the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and other related agencies.

EEO statistical information is collected during the recruitment of TSRA staff and is provided to the Australian Public Service Commission. The TSRA's statistical data on EEO is set out on page 127.

Industrial Democracy

The TSRA fosters and promotes industrial democracy through regular management, program area and staff meetings. As appropriate, it consults with employees on:

- Major workplace changes
- The development of guidelines and policies applying to employment conditions
- Development and implementation of an Enterprise Agreement.

Property Management

The TSRA has a significant property portfolio which includes office accommodation at two sites on Thursday Island; residential accommodation, consisting of 38 houses and apartments; and the Gab Titui Cultural Centre. The TSRA also owns and maintains Green Hill Fort. Green Hill Fort is a Listed Place on the Commonwealth Heritage List.

Privacy

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

Changes to disability reporting in annual reports

Since 1994, Commonwealth departments and agencies have reported on their performance as policy adviser, purchaser, employer, regulator and provider under the Commonwealth Disability Strategy. In 2007 - 2008, reporting on the employer role was transferred to the Australian Public Service Commission's State of the Service Report and the APS Statistical Bulletin. These

reports are available at www.apsc.gov.au. From 2010 - 2011, departments and agencies are no longer required to report on these functions.

The Commonwealth Disability Strategy has been overtaken by a new National Disability Strategy which sets out a ten year national policy framework for improving life for Australians with disability, their families and carers. A high level report to track progress for people with disability at a national level will be produced by the Standing Council on Community, Housing and Disability Services to the Council of Australian Governments and will be available on the FaHCSIA web site (www.fahcsia.gov.au). The Social Inclusion Measurement and Reporting Strategy agreed by the Australian Government in December 2009 also includes reporting on disability matters. This can be found in the *How Australia is Faring* report, published periodically by the Australian Social Inclusion Board on their web site (www.socialinclusion.gov.au).

Employee Numbers and Classification

Tables 4-13 and 4-14 below provide information on TSRA's employee numbers and classifications as at 30 June 2012.

Classification	Total Number of Staff
PEO	1
Executive Level 2	6
Executive Level 1	19
APS 6	24
APS 5	19
APS 4	8
APS 3	18
APS 2	10
APS 1	22
Trainee	0
Total	127

Table 4-13
TSRA's Staff Classification at 30 June 2012

Classification	Male	Female	TSI or Aboriginal	Persons With Disability
PEO	1		1	
Executive Level 2	5	1		
Executive Level 1	12	7	5	
APS 6	14	10	12	1
APS 5	1	18	12	
APS 4		8	8	
APS 3	11	7	17	
APS 2	1	9	10	
APS 1	2	20	22	
Trainee				
Total	47	80	87	1

Table 4-14
TSRA's EEO Groups Within Classification Levels at 30 June 2012





Section Five: Financial Statements



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Torres Strait Regional Authority for the year ended 30 June 2012, which comprise: a Statement by the Directors, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer; the Statement of Comprehensive Income; Balance Sheet; Statement of Changes in Equity; Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Commitments; and Notes to and forming part of the financial statements comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The directors of the Torres Strait Regional Authority are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Torres Strait Regional Authority's preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Torres Strait Regional Authority's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

GPO Box 957 CANBERRA ACT 2601
19 National Circuit SMARTON ACT
Phone 052 6200 1300 Fax 052 6200 7777

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Torres Strait Regional Authority:

- (a) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders including the Torres Strait Regional Authority's financial position as at 30 June 2012 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Colin Bienke
Senior Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
6 September 2012

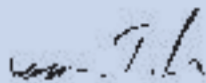
STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF COUNCIL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the period ended 30 June 2012 are based on properly maintained financial records and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Ministers' Orders made under the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997, as amended.

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

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

Signed/



Mr J J Kiri
Chairperson

6 September 2012

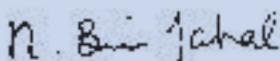
Signed



Mr W See Kwe
Chief Executive Officer

6 September 2012

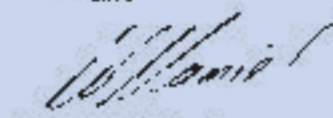
Signed



Ms A Bin Jahal
Deputy Chairperson

6 September 2012

Signed



Mr C de Munniz
Chief Financial Officer

6 September 2012

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TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the period ended 30 June 2012

	Notes	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
EXPENSES			
Employee benefits	3A	12,046	8,066
Suppliers	3B	13,929	12,682
Grants	3C	29,038	53,988
Depreciation	3D	1,121	840
Write-down and impairment of assets	3E	47	121
Finance costs	3F	157	29
Total Expenses		56,338	75,726
LESS:			
OWN-SOURCE INCOME			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	4A	506	499
Interest	4B	1,777	2,090
Other revenue	4C	13,739	6,688
Total own-source revenue		16,022	9,277
Gains			
Sale of assets	4D	14	-
Reversals of previous asset write-downs	4E	320	358
Total gains		334	358
Total own-source income		16,356	9,635
Net cost of services		39,982	66,091
Revenue from Government	4F	50,454	69,758
Surplus attributable to the Australian Government		10,472	3,667
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Changes in asset revaluation reserves		733	3,644
Total other comprehensive income		733	3,644
Total comprehensive income		11,205	7,311
Total comprehensive income attributable to the Australian Government		11,205	7,311

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
BALANCE SHEET
as at 30 June 2012

	Notes	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5A	21,412	21,057
Trade and other receivables	5B	6,734	11,117
Other investments	5C	22,298	-
Total financial assets		50,444	32,174
Non-Financial Assets			
Land and buildings	6A,C	27,938	27,425
Plant and equipment	6B,C	1,743	1,565
Total non-financial assets		29,681	28,990
Total Assets		80,125	61,164
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	7A	(9,205)	(2,079)
Grants	7B	(4,438)	(236)
Other	7C	(467)	(4,759)
Total payables		(14,110)	(7,074)
Provisions			
Employee provisions	8A	(2,850)	(2,130)
Total provisions		(2,850)	(2,130)
Total Liabilities		(16,960)	(9,204)
Net Assets		63,165	51,960
EQUITY			
Contributed equity		32	32
Reserves		13,267	12,534
Retained surplus		49,866	39,394
Total Equity		63,165	51,960

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT of CHANGES in EQUITY
for the period ended 30 June 2012

	Retained earnings		Asset revaluation reserves		Contributed equity/capital		Total equity	
	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance								
Balance carried forward from previous period	39,394	35,727	12,534	8,890	32	32	51,960	44,649
Adjusted opening balance	39,394	35,727	12,534	8,890	32	32	51,960	44,649
Comprehensive income								
Other comprehensive income	-	-	733	3,644	-	-	733	3,644
Surplus for the period	10,472	3,667	-	-	-	-	10,472	3,667
Total comprehensive income	10,472	3,667	733	3,644	-	-	11,205	7,311
of which:								
Attributable to the Australian Government	10,472	3,667	733	3,644	-	-	11,205	7,311
Closing Balance attributable to the Australian Government as at 30 June 2012	49,866	39,394	13,267	12,534	32	32	63,165	51,960

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the period ended 30 June 2012

	Notes	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Goods and services		19,031	5,609
Receipts from Government		50,454	69,758
Interest		1,694	1,985
Net GST received		-	5,771
Total cash received		<u>71,179</u>	<u>83,123</u>
Cash used			
Employees		(11,326)	(7,657)
Suppliers		(7,712)	(14,478)
Loan payments		(90)	(9)
Grants		(25,627)	(69,513)
Net GST paid		(2,582)	-
Total cash used		<u>(47,337)</u>	<u>(91,657)</u>
Net cash flows from (used by) operating activities	9	<u>23,842</u>	<u>(8,534)</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Loan receipts		541	764
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		14	-
Total cash received		<u>555</u>	<u>764</u>
Cash used			
Loan payments		(665)	(100)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(1,079)	(3,624)
Investments		(22,298)	-
Total cash used		<u>(24,042)</u>	<u>(3,724)</u>
Net cash flows from investing activities		<u>(23,487)</u>	<u>(2,960)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		<u>355</u>	<u>(11,494)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		21,057	32,551
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	5A	<u>21,412</u>	<u>21,057</u>

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS
as at 30 June 2012

BY TYPE	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
Commitments receivable		
Sublease rental income	1,341	1,278
Net GST recoverable on commitments	<u>30</u>	<u>46</u>
Total commitments receivable	<u>1,371</u>	<u>1,324</u>
Commitments payable		
Other commitments payable		
Operating leases	<u>741</u>	<u>1,144</u>
Total other commitments	<u>741</u>	<u>1,144</u>
Net commitments by type	<u>630</u>	<u>180</u>
BY MATURITY		
Commitments receivable		
Operating lease income		
One year or less	258	247
From one to five years	<u>1,083</u>	<u>1,031</u>
Total operating lease income	<u>1,341</u>	<u>1,278</u>
Net GST commitments receivable		
One year or less	17	21
From one to five years	<u>13</u>	<u>25</u>
Total Net GST commitments receivable	<u>30</u>	<u>46</u>
Operating lease commitments payable		
One year or less	493	615
From one to five years	<u>248</u>	<u>529</u>
Total operating lease commitments payable	<u>741</u>	<u>1,144</u>
Net Commitments by Maturity	<u>630</u>	<u>180</u>

Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:

Commitments Receivable

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) receives rental income from the provision of staff housing. This is a necessary activity given the geographic location and housing availability in the Torres Strait.

Lease for office and residential accommodation

Lease payments exist for 3 office accommodations. The leases increase at CPI each year. One lease is for a period of 22 months with no renewal option to extend for 1 additional year, the second lease is for a period of 2 years with an option to extend for an additional 2 years and the third lease is for a period of 3 years with an option to extend for an additional 3 years.

The TSRA currently leases 11 houses for staff and contractor accommodation. Lease terms range from 1 month to 2 years with varying expiry dates. Two of these leases have the option to extend for 1 further year.

Agreement for the provision of motor vehicles

One vehicle is leased for senior executive officer use. Two vehicles are leased for operating activities of the TSRA. There are no contingent rentals and no renewal or purchase options are available to the TSRA.

Leases for information and communication technology equipment

Leases are in place for standard office equipment for operating activities of the TSRA. Rates are fixed for the term of all leases with no purchase options available. There are no options for extension on these lease arrangements.

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**1.1 Objective of the Torres Strait Regional Authority**

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) is an Australian Government controlled entity. It is a not-for-profit entity. The objective of the Torres Strait Regional Authority is to achieve a better quality of life and develop an economic base for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal persons living in the Torres Strait.

The TSRA is structured to meet one outcome:

Progress towards closing the gap for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait Region through development planning, coordination, sustainable resource management, and preservation and promotion of Indigenous culture.

The continued existence of the TSRA in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing funding by Parliament for the TSRA's administration and programs.

1.2 Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- a) Finance Minister's Orders (FMO's) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2011; and
- b) Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified.

Unless an alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard or the FMOs, assets and liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to TSRA or a future sacrifice of economic benefits will be required and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under executory contracts are not recognised unless required by an accounting standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the schedule of commitments or the schedule of contingencies.

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard, income and expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when and only when the flow, consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

1.3 Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, the TSRA has made the following judgements that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements:

- The fair value of land and buildings has been taken to be the market value of similar properties as determined by an independent valuer as detailed in Note 1.16.
- The initial fair value of concessional loans is taken to be the present value of all future cash receipts, discounted using the prevailing market rate of interest for instruments of a similar structure (currency, term, type of interest rate, credit risk). Subsequently the value of the loan is derived by applying the amortised cost using the effective interest method, with the initial market rate as the effective rate, and anticipated cash flows based on contracted repayment terms, resulting in the amortisation of the discount over the anticipated life of the loan.

No accounting assumptions or estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

1.4 New Accounting Standards

Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the application date as stated in the standard. There have been no new standards, revised standards, amended standards or interpretations that were issued by the AASB prior to the sign off date that are applicable to the current reporting period and have a material financial impact on TSRA.

Future Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

There are no new standards, revised standards, amended standards or interpretations that have been issued by the AASB prior to the sign off date that are applicable to the future reporting period and are expected to have a future material financial impact on TSRA.

1.5 Revenue

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:

- a) The risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
- b) The TSRA retains no managerial involvement or effective control over the goods;
- c) The revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- d) It is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the TSRA.

Revenue from rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date. The revenue is recognised when:

- a) the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- b) the probable economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.

The stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date is determined by reference to the proportion that costs incurred to date bear to the estimated total costs of the transaction.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed as at end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in AASB

139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*.

Resources Received Free of Charge

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

Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as gains at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition, unless received from another Government agency or authority as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements (this did not occur in 2011-12 or 2010-11).

Revenue from Government

Funding received or receivable from agencies (appropriated to the agency as a CAC Act body payment item for payment to TSRA) is recognised as Revenue from Government by the CAC Act body unless they are in the nature of an equity injection or a loan.

1.6 Gains

Resources Received Free of Charge

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

Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as gains at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition, unless received from another Government agency or authority as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements (this did not occur in 2011-12 or 2010-11).

Sale of Assets

Gains from disposal of assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

1.7 Transactions with the Government as Owner**Equity Injections**

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions) and Departmental Capital Budgets (DCBs) are recognised directly in contributed equity in that year.

Other Distributions to Owners

The FMOs require that distributions to owners be debited to contributed equity unless in the nature of a dividend.

1.8 Employee Benefits

Liabilities for short-term employee benefits (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits due within twelve months of the end of the reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability. Other long-term employee benefits are measured as net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) out of which the obligations are to be settled directly.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. A provision for personal leave payable also exists for a select number of staff as personal leave is vesting for these staff due to a clause in their employment agreement.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that applied at the time the leave is taken, including the TSRA's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The liability for long service leave has been determined by reference to the work of an actuary as at 30 June 2012. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Separation and Redundancy

Provision is made for separation and redundancy benefit payments. The TSRA recognises a provision for termination when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

Superannuation

Staff of the TSRA are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS) or the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap).

The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Australian Government. The PSSap is a defined contribution scheme.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course. This liability is reported in the Department of Finance and Deregulation's administered schedules and notes.

The TSRA makes employer contributions to the employee's superannuation scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Government. The TSRA accounts for the contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

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

1.9 Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases and operating leases. Finance leases effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of leased assets. An operating lease is a lease that is not a finance lease. In operating leases, the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

The TSRA does not have any finance leases.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a straight line basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets. In 2011-12, the TSRA leased four vehicles, office accommodation and equipment, commercial and residential property for the operation of the organisation.

1.10 Grants

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

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

1.11 Cash

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand and demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value. Cash is recognised at its nominal amount.

1.12 Financial Assets

The TSRA classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- a) loans and receivables; and
- b) held-to-maturity investments.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition.

Financial assets are recognised and derecognised upon trade date.

Effective Interest Method

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis except for financial assets at fair value through profit or loss.

Financial Assets at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss

Financial assets are classified as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss where the financial assets:

- a) have been acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the near future;
- b) are parts of an identified portfolio of financial instruments that the TSRA manages together and has a recent actual pattern of short-term profit-taking;
- c) are derivatives that are not designated and effective as a hedging instrument.

Assets in this category are classified as current assets.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are stated at fair value, with any resultant gain or loss recognised in profit or loss. The net gain or loss recognised in profit or loss incorporates any interest earned on the financial asset.

Available-for-sale Financial Assets

Available-for-sale financial assets are non-derivatives that are either designated in this category or not classified in any of the other categories.

Available-for-sale financial assets are recorded at fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are recognised directly in the reserves (equity) with the exception of impairment losses. Interest is calculated using the effective interest method and foreign exchange gains and losses on monetary assets are recognised directly in profit or loss. Where the asset is disposed of or is determined to be impaired, part (or all) of the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in the reserve is included in profit and loss for the period.

Where a reliable fair value can not be established for unlisted investments in equity instruments, these instruments are valued at cost. The TSRA has no such instruments.

Held-to-Maturity Investments

Non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturity dates that the group has the positive intent and ability to hold to maturity are classified as held-to-maturity investments. Held-to-maturity investments are recorded at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment, with revenue recognised on an effective yield basis.

Loans and Receivables

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period.

Financial assets held at amortised cost - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred for loans and receivables or held to maturity investments held at amortised cost, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount is reduced by way of an allowance account. The loss is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Available for sale financial assets - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss on an available-for-sale financial asset has been incurred, the amount of the difference between its cost, less principal repayments and amortisation, and its current fair value, less any impairment loss previously recognised in expenses, is transferred from equity to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Financial assets held at cost - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred the amount of the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount of the asset and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the current market rate for similar assets.

1.13 Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit and loss' or other financial liabilities. Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon trade date.

Financial Liabilities at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are initially measured at fair value. Subsequent fair value adjustments are recognised in profit or loss. The net gain or loss recognised in profit or loss incorporates any interest paid on the financial liability.

Other Financial Liabilities

Other financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs.

These liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

1.14 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the balance sheet but are reported in the relevant schedules and notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

1.15 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. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

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

1.16 Property, Plant and Equipment

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the balance sheet, 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

Fair values for each class of asset are determined as shown below:

<i>Asset class</i>	<i>Fair value measured at :</i>
Land	Market selling price
Buildings	Market selling price
Other Plant and equipment	Depreciated replacement cost
Heritage and cultural assets	Depreciated replacement cost

Following initial recognition at cost, property plant and equipment were carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations were conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets did not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depended upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment was credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reversed a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets were recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reversed a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset restated to the revalued amount.

Depreciation

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

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

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

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Buildings on freehold land	40 years	40 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Other Plant and Equipment	3 to 5 years	3 to 5 years

The TSRA has items of property that are heritage and cultural assets, that have indefinite useful lives and are not depreciated.

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2012. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the TSRA were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

Derecognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

Heritage and Cultural Assets

The TSRA has a limited collection of 21 (2011 : 16) distinct Cultural and Heritage assets with an aggregated fair value of \$60,000 (2011: \$41,000). Cultural assets are comprised of artworks, carvings, and traditional headdresses. Heritage assets consist of models of two (2011 : 2) sailing vessels and a brass Pearl Diver's helmet (2011 : 1) each of which has historical significance to the region. The assets are on display at the TSRA's main office and the Gab Titui Cultural Centre. The conservation and preservation of TSRA's cultural heritage assets is achieved by a variety and combination of means including: the provision of education and awareness programs; asset management planning; professional training and development; research; and the provision of appropriate storage and display environments.

1.17 Taxation / Competitive Neutrality

The TSRA is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST except:

- a) where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- b) for receivables and payables.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 2: Events After the Reporting Period

There was no subsequent event that had the potential to significantly affect the ongoing structure and financial activities of the TSRA.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 3: Expenses

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<u>Note 3A: Employee Benefits</u>		
Wages and salaries	(9,322)	(6,701)
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	(944)	(554)
Defined benefit plans	(335)	(401)
Leave and other entitlements	(1,445)	(410)
Total employee benefits	(12,046)	(8,066)
<u>Note 3B: Suppliers</u>		
Goods and services		
Consultants and Professional Fees	(3,635)	(4,852)
Travel	(2,318)	(1,898)
Repairs and maintenance	(439)	(1,208)
Other staff costs	(953)	(1,018)
Office Running Costs	(1,232)	(935)
Media, Advertising, Public Relations	(412)	(368)
Other	(4,262)	(1,927)
Total goods and services	(13,251)	(12,206)
Goods and services are made up of:		
Provision of goods – external parties	(536)	(505)
Rendering of services – external parties	(12,715)	(11,701)
Total goods and services	(13,251)	(12,206)
Other supplier expenses		
Operating lease rentals - external parties:		
Minimum lease payments	(648)	(463)
Workers compensation expenses	(30)	(13)
Total other supplier expenses	(678)	(476)
Total supplier expenses	(13,929)	(12,682)
<u>Note 3C: Grants</u>		
Public sector:		
State and Territory Governments	(6)	(154)
Local Governments	(9,977)	(27,727)
Private sector:		
Non-profit organisations	(18,994)	(26,102)
For-profit organisations	(61)	(5)
Total grants	(29,038)	(53,988)

In financial year 2010-11, grants were incorrectly categorised as private sector - non-profit organisations under Note 3C: Grants. In financial year 2011-12, grants have been categorised to include categories for public sector (State and Territory Governments and Local Governments) and private sector (non-profit organisations and for-profit organisations). This change in presentation requires the comparative figures for financial year 2010-11 to be restated. The change in presentation has not resulted in any changes to the balance sheet, the statement of comprehensive income or the cash flow statement.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 3D: Depreciation

Depreciation:

Buildings	(662)	(529)
Plant and equipment	(459)	(311)
Total depreciation	(1,121)	(840)

Note 3E: Write-Down and Impairment of Assets

Asset writedowns from and impairments from:

Loans provided for as impaired	-	(121)
Receivables Goods and services - external parties provided for as impaired	(47)	-
Total write-down and impairment of assets	(47)	(121)

Note 3F: Finance Costs

Asset writedowns from and impairments from:

Write down of loans to net present value	(157)	(29)
Total write-down and impairment of assets	(157)	(29)

Finance costs are comprised of amortisation charges for new loan advances and amortisation charges as a result of revaluations to the total concessional loan portfolio using current market interest rates.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 4: Income

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000

OWN-SOURCE REVENUE

Note 4A: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services

Provision of goods - external parties	250	255
Rendering of services - external parties	256	244
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	506	499

Note 4B: Interest

Loans	388	408
Deposits	1,389	1,682
Total interest	1,777	2,090

Note 4C: Other Revenue

Rent	67	27
Other Government contributions	13,672	6,661
Total other revenue	13,739	6,688

GAINS

Note 4D: Sale of Assets

Proceeds from sale	14	-
Carrying value of assets sold	-	-
Net gains from sale of assets	14	-

Note 4E: Reversals of Previous Asset Write-Downs and Impairments

Reversal of losses from remeasuring loans and receivables	301	358
Reversal of impairment losses	19	-
Total reversals of previous asset write-downs and impairments	320	358

REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT

Note 4F: Revenue from Government

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

CAC Act body payment item	50,454	69,758
Total revenue from Government	50,454	69,758

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 5: Financial Assets

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 5A: Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash on hand or on deposit	21,412	21,057
Total cash and cash equivalents	21,412	21,057

Note 5B: Trade and Other Receivables

Goods and services - external parties	1,729	6,515
Loans - external parties	5,185	4,848
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	6,914	11,363

Less impairment allowance account:

Goods and services - external parties	(57)	-
Loans - external parties	(123)	(246)
Total impairment allowance account	(180)	(246)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	6,734	11,117

Receivables are expected to be recovered in:

No more than 12 months	2,377	6,515
More than 12 months	4,357	4,602
Total trade and other receivables (net)	6,734	11,117

Receivables are aged as follows:

Not overdue	6,511	10,763
Overdue by:		
0 to 30 days	16	144
31 to 60 days	7	4
61 to 90 days	5	-
More than 90 days	375	452
Total receivables (gross)	6,914	11,363

The impairment allowance account is aged as follows:

Overdue by:		
More than 90 days	(180)	(246)
Total impairment allowance account	(180)	(246)

Credit terms for goods and services were within 30 days (2011: 30 days).

TSRA holds a portfolio of concessional loans that are provided for business development and home ownership programs.

The values of these loans as at 30 June 2012 are as follows:

Concessional loans - nominal value	5,638	5,545
Less: unexpired discount	(453)	(697)
Concessional loans - carrying value	5,185	4,848

Loans to individuals and businesses were made under the Business Funding Scheme for periods up to 10 years and Home Loans for periods up to 32 years. In relation to the housing loans, TSRA holds mortgages as sole mortgagor over the houses for which the loans are provided. TSRA receives market advice from a qualified valuer or market expert on the value of a property prior to the loan being approved. In relation to Business Funding Scheme loans, from 2007-08 TSRA has required that inexperienced business owner(s) successfully complete an approved business course and submit a business plan prior to the loan being approved. Security is not required for Business Funding Scheme loans. Principal is repaid in full at maturity. Interest rates for Business Funding Scheme loans were fixed in accordance with the loan contracts. Housing Loan interest rates were varied on 1 January 2012 in accordance with the loan contracts. Effective interest rates average 3.57% (2011: 3.56%) for Business Funding Scheme loans and 5.76% (2011: 5.06%) for Housing loans.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Reconciliation of the impairment allowance account:

Movements in relation to 2012

	Goods and services \$'000	Loans \$'000	Total \$'000
Opening balance	-	(246)	(246)
Amounts written off	-	104	104
Amounts recovered and reversed	-	19	19
Increase recognised in net surplus	(57)	-	(57)
Closing balance	(57)	(123)	(180)

Movements in relation to 2011

	Goods and services \$'000	Loans \$'000	Total \$'000
Opening balance	-	(125)	(125)
Increase/(decrease) recognised in net surplus	-	(121)	(121)
Closing balance	-	(246)	(246)

2012	2011
\$'000	\$'000

Note 5C: Other Investments

Term deposits	22,298	-
Total other investments	22,298	-

Other investments are expected to be recovered in:

No more than 12 months	22,298	-
Total trade and other receivables (net)	22,298	-

Term deposits were invested at 30 June 2012 for \$8,000,000 (5.10% interest rate maturing on 21 December 2012) and \$14,298,632 (3.35% interest rate maturing on 2 November 2012).

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 6: Non-Financial Assets

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<u>Note 6A: Land and Buildings</u>		
Land:		
Land at fair value	9,185	9,185
Total land and buildings	9,185	9,185
Buildings on freehold land:		
Work in progress	482	68
Fair value	18,237	18,081
Total buildings on freehold land	18,719	18,149
Leasehold Improvements:		
Fair value	34	115
Accumulated depreciation	-	(24)
Total leasehold improvements	34	91
Total land and buildings	27,938	27,425

No indicators of impairment were found for land and buildings.

No land or buildings are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Note 6B: Plant and Equipment

Heritage and cultural:

Artifacts and artworks		
Fair value	60	41
Total heritage and cultural	60	41

Other plant and equipment:

Fair value	3,008	2,394
Accumulated depreciation	(1,325)	(870)
Total other plant and equipment	1,683	1,524
Total plant and equipment	1,743	1,565

No indicators of impairment were found for plant and equipment.

No plant or equipment is expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

All revaluations are conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1. In 2011-12, an independent valuer, Neil Teves- AAPI Registered Valuer No. 382, conducted the revaluations as at 30 June 2012.

There were no revaluation increments or decrements recorded for land (2011: \$1,820,000). There were no revaluation increments or decrements recorded for plant and equipment (2011: Nil). Revaluation increments were recorded for buildings on freehold land of \$732,796 (2011: \$1,824,342) and have been credited to the asset revaluation reserve by asset class and included in the equity section of the balance sheet and the other comprehensive income section of the statement of comprehensive income.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 6: Non-Financial Assets

Note 6C: Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment 2012

Item	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Total Land & Buildings \$'000	Other Plant & Equipment \$'000	Heritage ¹ & Cultural \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2011						
Gross book value	9,185	18,264	27,449	2,394	41	29,884
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(24)	(24)	(870)	-	(894)
Net book value 1 July 2011	9,185	18,240	27,425	1,524	41	28,990
Additions:						
by purchase	-	442	442	618	19	1,079
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	-	733	733	-	-	733
Depreciation expense	-	(662)	(662)	(459)	-	(1,121)
Net book value 30 June 2012	9,185	18,753	27,938	1,683	60	29,681
Net book value as of 30 June 2012 represented by:						
Gross book value	9,185	18,753	27,938	3,008	60	31,006
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	-	-	(1,325)	-	(1,325)
	9,185	18,753	27,938	1,683	60	29,681

Note 6C (Cont'd): Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment 2011

Item	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Total Land & Buildings \$'000	Other Plant & Equipment \$'000	Heritage ¹ & Cultural \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2010						
Gross book value	7,365	13,921	21,286	1,203	41	22,530
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	-	-	(559)	-	(559)
Net book value 1 July 2010	7,365	13,921	21,286	644	41	21,971
Additions:						
by purchase	-	3,024	3,024	600	-	3,624
contribution from state government entity	-	-	-	591	-	591
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	1,820	1,824	3,644	-	-	3,644
Depreciation expense	-	(529)	(529)	(311)	-	(840)
Net book value 30 June 2011	9,185	18,240	27,425	1,524	41	28,990
Net book value as of 30 June 2011 represented by:						
Gross book value	9,185	18,264	27,449	2,394	41	29,884
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(24)	(24)	(870)	-	(894)
	9,185	18,240	27,425	1,524	41	28,990

¹ Other plant and equipment that met the definition of a heritage and cultural item was disclosed in the heritage and cultural asset class.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 7: Payables

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
Note7A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors and accruals	(9,205)	(2,079)
Total supplier payables	(9,205)	(2,079)

Supplier payables expected to be settled within 12 months:

External parties	(9,205)	(2,079)
Total	(9,205)	(2,079)

Settlement is usually made within 30 days.

Note7B: Grants

Public sector:

Local Governments	(297)	-
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Private sector:

Non-profit organisations	(4,141)	(236)
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Total grants	(4,438)	(236)
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Total grant payables are expected to be settled in:

No more than 12 months	(4,438)	(236)
Total grant payables	(4,438)	(236)

Note 7C: Other Payables

Salaries and wages	(290)	(498)
GST payable	(177)	(4,261)
Total other payables	(467)	(4,759)

Total other payables are expected to be settled in:

No more than 12 months	(467)	(4,759)
Total other payables	(467)	(4,759)

Settlement was usually made within 30 days. (2011: 30 days)

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 8: Provisions

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<u>Note 8A: Employee provisions</u>		
Long Service Leave	(1,293)	(833)
Annual Leave	(1,443)	(1,217)
Personal Leave	(114)	(80)
Total employee provisions	(2,850)	(2,130)
Employee provisions are expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	(449)	(1,975)
More than 12 months	(2,401)	(155)
Total employee provisions	(2,850)	(2,130)

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 9: Cash Flow Reconciliation

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per Balance Sheet to Cash Flow statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per:		
Cash flow statement	21,412	21,057
Balance Sheet	21,412	21,057
Difference	-	-
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from operating activities:		
Net cost of services	(39,982)	(66,091)
Add revenue from Government	50,454	69,758
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Depreciation	1,121	840
Net writedown of financial assets	114	141
Interest on concessional loans	(83)	(105)
Reversal of previous loan writedowns and impairments	(320)	(358)
Contribution of non-financial assets	-	(591)
Changes in assets / liabilities		
Decrease / (increase) in receivables from Goods and Services	4,786	(6,400)
(Increase) / decrease in GST receivable	(4,084)	6,035
Increase in employee provisions	720	410
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	7,124	(522)
Increase / (decrease) in grants payable	4,202	(11,719)
(Decrease) / increase in other payables	(210)	68
Net cash from operating activities	23,842	(8,534)

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 10: Contingent Liabilities and Assets

Quantifiable Contingencies

There are no contingent assets or contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2012 (2010-11: Nil)

Unquantifiable and Significant Remote Contingencies

There are no unquantifiable and significant remote contingencies as at 30 June 2012 (2010-11 : Nil).

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 11: Directors Remuneration

	2012 No.	2011 No.
The number of non-executive directors of the TSRA included in these figures are shown below in the relevant remuneration bands:		
\$0 to \$29,999	19	18
\$30,000 to \$59,999	-	1
\$210,000 to \$239,999	-	1
\$270,000 to \$299,999	1	-
Total	20	20
Total remuneration received or due and receivable by directors of the TSRA:	\$ <u>424,508</u>	\$ <u>412,409</u>

This table, including prior year comparative values, has been prepared based on the Finance Ministers Orders for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2011. This table reports the number of directors in remuneration bands commencing with the band of the lowest paid Directors. In the 2010-11 financial statements all directors with remuneration less than \$150,000 were reported in a single band, consequently the comparative figures have been restated.

The TSRA's Board consists of twenty director positions. Seventeen hold office by virtue of their election to regional councils last held in March 2008 under the *Local Government Act 1993* (Qld). The other three are elected in accordance with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth) (formerly the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*). The directors other than the chairperson receive sitting fees when undertaking business of the TSRA.

Mr Ted (Frazer) Nai was elected Member for Masig in October 2011 after Mr John Mosby resigned in August 2011. Willie Lui TSRA Member for Warraber and Phillip Mills TSRA Member for Port Kennedy resigned in August 2011 and March 2011, respectively, and these positions remain vacant at 30 June 2012.

Remuneration of senior executives is included in Note 13: Senior Executive Remuneration.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 12A: Related Party Disclosures

Loans to Directors and Director-related Entities

Loans were made or held by the following directors and director-related entities. They were approved under normal terms and conditions applying to the TSRA's loan schemes. The directors involved took no part in the relevant decisions of the TSRA.

TSRA Director Name	Council Relationships
Mr Wayne Guivarra	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Donald Banu	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Phillemon Mosby	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Kenny Bedford	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Torenzo Elisala	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mrs Nancy Pearson	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr David Bosun	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Keith Fell	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Ron Day	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Ron Enosa	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mrs Florianna Bero	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr John Toshie Kris	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Ted Fraser Nai	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Walter Makie	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Reginald Williams	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
Mr Jeffrey Aniba	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
Ms Napcia Bin Tahal	Torres Shire Council
Mr John Abednego	Torres Shire Council

The table below outlines the loan holder/s and the TSRA director with whom a related party connection exists.

Loans

Anthony Titasey
 - Mr Keith Fell - TSRA Board Member
 Ruth Doolah
 - Mr Keith Fell - TSRA Board Member
 Triple A Family Values
 - Mr Keith Fell - TSRA Board Member
 Robert Sagigi
 - Mr John Abednego - TSRA Board Member
 Reginald Williams
 - TSRA Board Member
 Bamaga Enterprises
 - Mr Reginald Williams - TSRA Board Member
 Bamaga Island Council
 - Mr Reginald Williams - TSRA Board Member
 Poruma Island Pty Ltd
 - Mr Phillemon Mosby - TSRA Board Member
 Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
 - Northern Peninsula Area Regional Councillors
 Elthies Alion Bowie
 - Mr John Kris - TSRA Board Member
 Mica Newie
 - Mr John Kris and Mrs Nancy Pearson - TSRA Board Members
 Derek Brank
 - Mrs Nancy Pearson - TSRA Board Member
 James Mills
 - Mr Keith Fell - TSRA Board Member
 Quintin Mills
 - Mr Keith Fell - TSRA Board Member
 Seisia Island Council
 - Mr Jeffrey Aniba - TSRA Board Member

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Loans to current Directors outstanding at year-end:	5,324	5,233
Loan repayments during the year:	-	-
Loans to current Director-related Entities outstanding at year-end:	1,239,833	1,164,464
Loans to current Director-related Entities during the year:	361,524	108,460
Loan repayments during the year:	261,980	257,774
Interest revenue included in operating result from loans to current Directors/Director-related Entities:	90,461	96,483
Related party loans for current Directors provided for as doubtful debts:	5,324	126,193
Related party loans written off:	104,066	-

The TSRA has adopted *AASB 139 Financial Instruments - Recognition and Measurement*, and treated loans outstanding at year end as Loans and Receivables valued at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 12B: Related Party Disclosures

Other Transactions with Directors or Director-related Entities

Grants were made to the following Director-related entities. They were approved under normal terms and conditions applying to the TSRA's grant programs. The directors involved took no part in the relevant decisions of the TSRA.

Directors' Name	Council	Grants Received	Grants Received
		2012	2011
		\$	\$
*	Torres Shire Council	1,035,000	18,251,000
*	Torres Strait Island Regional Council	8,721,266	13,586,150
*	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	287,755	5,015,000
K Bedford	Erub Erwer Meta TSI Corporation	85,000	166,600
R Williams	Bamaga Enterprise Ltd	-	5,000
R Day	Opnor Bakir Atabur TSI Corporation	-	93,600
K Bedford	Erubam Le Traditional Land and Sea Owners Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate	18,000	-
K Bedford	Ged Erub Trading Homeland Enterprise (Torres Strait Islander) Corporation	35,000	-
R Day	Mer, Dowar & Waier Torres Strait Islanders Corporation For Fisheries	100,000	-
R Day	Mer Gedkem Le (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation Registered Native	70,100	-
R Enosa	Saibai Community Development (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	123,500	93,600
T F Nai	Kailag Enterprise Ltd	96,000	90,000
J Mosby	Torres Strait Islanders Regional Education Council Inc	-	97,000
J Mosby, W Makie, P Mosby & W Lui	Kulkalgal (central Islands) Development Association Inc	-	6,000
N Pearson	Mura Kosker Sorority Inc	372,000	87,708
K Fell & W Guivarra	Torres Strait Youth and Recreation Sporting Association Inc	450,000	450,000
W Guivarra	Badu Island Foundation Ltd	408,417	102,120
W Guivarra	Mura Badulgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate	11,500	-
W Guivarra	Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	65,000	-
J Abednego	Torres Strait Islanders Media Assn.	-	644,696
P Mosby	Buthu Lagau Saral (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	21,730	-
P Mosby	Power of the Spirit Ltd	113,773	-
D Bosun	Ngalmun Lagu Minaral (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	50,000	71,000
W Makie	Iama Mura Mabaigal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	20,000	-
J T Kris	Wug Danalaig Incorporated	20,000	-
F Bero	Kos and Abob Fisheries (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	125,000	-

*Please refer to Note 12A for information regarding Director relationships with these entities.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2012

Note 13: Senior Executive Remuneration

Note 13A: Senior Executive Remuneration Expense for the Reporting Period

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits:		
Salary	911,947	804,565
Annual Leave Accrued	96,763	82,779
Performance Bonuses	19,694	30,555
Other allowances	130,409	101,431
Total short-term employee benefits	1,158,813	1,019,330
Post-employment benefits:		
Superannuation	109,891	118,272
Total post-employment benefits	109,891	118,272
Other long-term benefits:		
Long-service leave	60,634	96,934
Total other long-term benefits	60,634	96,934
Total	1,329,338	1,234,536

Notes

1. Note 13A was prepared on an accrual basis (so the performance bonus expenses disclosed above differ from the cash 'Bonus paid' in Note 13B).

2. Note 13A excludes acting arrangements and part-year service where remuneration expensed was less than \$150,000.

Note 13B: Average Annual Reportable Remuneration Paid to Substantive Senior Executives During the Reporting Period

This table, including prior year comparative values, has been prepared based on the Finance Ministers Orders for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2011. There have been several changes to the presentation requirements of this note from prior years, specifically the requirement to report average annual salary, average annual contributed superannuation, average annual low awards and average performance bonuses. The composition of the note has changed from prior years and consequently the comparative figures will not agree to the corresponding table in 2011 Financial Statements.

1. This table reports on substantive senior executives who received remuneration during the reporting period. Each row is an averaged figure based on headcount for individuals in the band.

- Note 13C: Other Highly Paid Staff**

Financial Statements

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 14: Remuneration of Auditors

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
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Financial statement audit services were provided by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO).

Fair value of the services provided

Financial statement audit services	<u>44</u>	<u>43</u>
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No other services were provided by the auditors of the financial statements.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 15: Financial Instruments

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<u>Note 15A: Categories of Financial Instruments</u>		
Financial Assets		
Held-to-maturity		
Term deposits	22,298	-
Total	22,298	-
Loans and receivables		
Cash and cash equivalents	21,412	21,057
Receivables for goods and services	1,672	6,515
Loans receivable	5,062	4,848
Total	28,146	32,420
Carrying amount of financial assets	50,444	32,420
Financial Liabilities		
At amortised cost:		
Trade creditors and accruals	9,205	2,079
Grant liabilities	4,438	236
Total	13,643	2,315
Carrying amount of financial liabilities	13,643	2,315

TSRA holds a portfolio of concessional loans that are provided for business development and home ownership programs.

The values of these loans as at 30 June 2012 are as follows:

Concessional loans - nominal value	5,638	5,545
Less: unexpired discount	(453)	(697)
Less: impairment allowance	(123)	(246)
Concessional loans - carrying value	5,062	4,602

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
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Note 15B: Net Income and Expense from Financial Assets

Loans and receivables		
Interest revenue (see note 4B)	1,777	2,090
Reversal of impairment losses (see note 4E)	19	-
Reversal of losses from remeasuring loans and receivables (see note 4E)	301	-
Write down of loans to Net Present Value (see note 3F)	(157)	(29)
Receivables Goods and services - external parties provided for as impaired (see note 3E)	(47)	-
Loans provided for as impaired (see note 3E)	-	(121)
Net gain/(loss) loans and receivables	1,893	1,940
Net gain/(loss) from financial assets	1,893	1,940

Note 15C: Net Income and Expense from Financial Liabilities

There is no income or expense from financial liabilities for the year ending 30 June 2012
(2011: \$Nil)

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012**

Note 15D: Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The carrying amount of financial instruments matches their fair value as in 2011-12 and 2010-11.

Note 15E: Credit risk

TSRA is exposed to minimal credit risk as the majority of loans and receivables and all held-to-maturity financial instruments are cash or high quality trade receivables. TSRA also holds a portfolio of concessional loans that are provided for business development and home ownership programs. The maximum exposure to credit risk is the risk that arises from potential default of a trade debtor or a concessional loan holder. This amount is equal to the total amount of trade and loan receivables (2012: \$6,734,000 and 2011: \$11,117,000)

In relation to the housing loans, TSRA holds mortgages as sole mortgagor over the houses for which the loans are provided. TSRA receives market advice from a qualified valuer or market expert on the value of a property prior to the loan being approved. In relation to Business Funding Scheme loans, from 2007-08 TSRA has required that inexperienced business owner(s) successfully complete an approved business course and submit a business plan prior to the loan being approved. These policies mitigate against credit risk for the TSRA's loans portfolio.

TSRA has assessed the risk of the default on payment and has allocated \$180,031 in 2012 (2011: \$246,000) to an allowance for impairment. Security underpinning this impairment includes a 5 bedroom house, which was independently valued in June 2009, a 2001 Toyota Camry taxi, 2 boats and motors, which have been valued based on the security value at the inception of the loan. These securities have an estimated total value of \$546,000.

	Not Past Due Nor Impaired 2012 \$'000	Not Past Due Nor Impaired 2011 \$'000	Past due or impaired 2012 \$'000	Past due or impaired 2011 \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	21,412	21,057	-	-
Receivables for goods and services	1,383	5,915	346	600
Loans receivable	5,005	4,594	180	254
Term Deposits	22,298	-	-	-
Total	50,098	31,566	526	854

Ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired for 2012

	0 to 30 days \$'000	31 to 60 days \$'000	61 to 90 days \$'000	90+ days \$'000	Total \$'000
Receivables for goods and services	2	-	-	287	289
Loans receivable	14	7	5	31	57
Total	16	7	5	318	346

Ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired for 2011

	0 to 30 days \$'000	31 to 60 days \$'000	61 to 90 days \$'000	90+ days \$'000	Total \$'000
Receivables for goods and services	143	1	-	448	592
Loans receivable	1	3	-	4	8
Total	144	4	-	452	600

Note 15F: Liquidity Risk

TSRA's financial liabilities are trade creditors and accruals and grant liabilities. The exposure to liquidity risk is based on the notion that TSRA will encounter difficulty in meeting its obligations associated with financial liabilities. This is highly unlikely due to Government funding available to TSRA and internal policies and procedures put in place to ensure there are appropriate resources to meet its financial obligations.

Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities 2012:

	On demand \$'000	within 1 year \$'000	1 to 2 years \$'000	2 to 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
Trade creditors and accruals	-	9,205	-	-	9,205
Grant liabilities	-	4,438	-	-	4,438
Total	-	13,643	-	-	13,643

Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities 2011:

	On demand \$'000	within 1 year \$'000	1 to 2 years \$'000	2 to 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
Trade creditors and accruals	-	2,079	-	-	2,079
Grant liabilities	-	236	-	-	236
Total	-	2,315	-	-	2,315

TSRA receives funding from its Portfolio Department. TSRA manages its budgeted funds to ensure it has adequate funds to meet payments as they fall due. In addition, the TSRA has policies in place to ensure timely payments are made when due and has no past experience of default.

Note 15G: Market Risk

TSRA holds basic financial instruments that do not expose TSRA to certain market risks such as 'currency risk' and 'other price risk'.

The interest-bearing items on the balance sheet are cash at bank, loans and term deposits. Interest earned on cash at bank and term deposits after they mature may be effected by changes in market interest rates. The following table represents the effect to the statement of comprehensive income (and corresponding effect to the cash value in the balance sheet) when the current market interest rate is varied by 1.40%. 1.40% is anticipated to be a reasonable estimate of the maximum movement in market interest rates in financial year 2012-13.

	Value \$'000	Effect on Statement of Comprehensive Income Income (Expense) \$'000
Anticipated interest earned for 2012-13 financial year at current market interest rate	1,666	0
Increase of 1.40% in market interest rate	2,002	336
Decrease of 1.40% in market interest rate	1,358	(308)

The value of concessional loans is derived by applying the amortised cost using the effective interest method. Because the loan portfolio is valued at net present value using market interest rates, movements in market interest rates will impact on the value of the loan portfolio and the income statement. The following table represents the effect to the income statement (and corresponding effect to the loan portfolio value in the balance sheet) when the current market interest rate is varied by 1.40%. 1.40% is anticipated to be a reasonable estimate of the maximum movement in market interest rates in financial year 2012-13.

	Value \$'000	Effect on Statement of Comprehensive Income Income (Expense) \$'000
Net Present Value of Loans 30 June 2012	5,185	-
Increase of 1.40% in market interest rate	4,730	(455)
Decrease of 1.40% in market interest rate	5,726	541

Assets past due and impaired are represented by loans individually assessed to be at high risk of default.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 16: Compensation and Debt Relief

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
No payments were made during the reporting period. (2011: No payments made).	<hr/> -	<hr/> -

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 17: Assets Held in Trust

Non-Monetary Assets

There are no non-monetary assets held in trust by the TSRA.

Monetary Assets

MIP trust account

On 17 October 1998, the Queensland State and the TSRA entered into a Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) Funding Agreement under which \$15 million for major infrastructure projects was provided by the State over three years with matching funds from the Commonwealth. The co-funding arrangement between State and TSRA has continued over the years and the current arrangement for the period ending June 2012 is set out in a Memorandum of Understanding between TSRA and the State.

The recipients/ beneficiaries of infrastructure projects developed under the MIP are the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, (TSIRC), Torres Shire Council, (TSC) and the Northern Peninsular Area Regional Council, (NPARC).

TSRA's role in MIP is set out in the Memorandum of Understanding between the State and TSRA. TSRA has a fiduciary duty in respect of the MIP funds and in the development of MIP projects but not as the owner of any assets under construction. This is evidenced by the fact that no future economic benefit will flow to TSRA during or on completion of the assets. In addition, and for accounting purposes, TSRA does not consolidate the MIP funds into its financial statements as TSRA is of the opinion that it does not have control of the funds. TSRA adopts AASB 127 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements - paragraph 17.9 (b) as a policy position for this opinion. This is further evidenced by the fact that the TSRA cannot redirect MIP funds for its own use.

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
MIP trust account - Monetary Assets		
Total amount held at the beginning of the reporting period	85,459	61,036
Receipts	16,086	39,895
Payments	(43,660)	(15,472)
Total amount held at the end of the reporting period	57,885	85,459

Finfish trust account

Torres Strait Islanders own 100 per cent of the Finfish fishery. Finfish quota that is not used by Traditional Inhabitant fishers is leased to Non-Traditional fishers. Leasing revenue is held in trust by the TSRA and disbursed to the beneficiaries for the benefit of the fishery. For example, capacity building activities to increase the number of Torres Strait Islanders fishing in an economical and environmentally sustainable way in the fishery.

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Finfish trust account - Monetary Assets		
Total amount held at the beginning of the reporting period	692	533
Receipts	69	152
Interest received	9	7
Payments	(167)	-
Net cash (used in) / provided by finfish program activities	(89)	159
Total amount held at the end of the reporting period	603	692

The values above are estimated fair values at the time when acquired.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 18: Reporting of Outcomes

Note 18A: Net Cost of Outcome Delivery

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2012	2011	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Expenses	56,338	75,726	56,338	75,726
Own-source income	16,356	9,635	16,356	9,635
Net cost of outcome delivery	39,982	66,091	39,982	66,091

Outcome 1 is described in Note 1.1.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2012

Note 18B: Major Classes of Expenses, Income, Assets and Liabilities by Outcomes

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2012	2011	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Expenses				
Employees	12,046	8,066	12,046	8,066
Suppliers	13,929	12,682	13,929	12,682
Depreciation and amortisation	1,121	840	1,121	840
Write-down of assets	204	150	204	150
Grants	29,038	53,988	29,038	53,988
Total	56,338	75,726	56,338	75,726
Income				
Income from government	50,454	69,758	50,454	69,758
Sales of goods and services	506	499	506	499
Interest	1,777	2,090	1,777	2,090
Sale of assets	14	-	14	-
Reversal of previous asset write down	320	358	320	358
Other	13,739	6,688	13,739	6,688
Total	66,810	79,393	66,810	79,393
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	21,412	21,057	21,412	21,057
Trade and other receivables	6,734	11,117	6,734	11,117
Other investments	22,298	-	22,298	-
Land and buildings	27,938	27,425	27,938	27,425
Plant and equipment	1,743	1,565	1,743	1,565
Total	80,125	61,164	80,125	61,164
Liabilities				
Suppliers	9,205	2,079	9,205	2,079
Grants	4,438	236	4,438	236
Other	467	4,759	467	4,759
Employee provisions	2,850	2,130	2,850	2,130
Total	16,960	9,204	16,960	9,204



Landcare national finalist Angela Fox gets help to water seedlings.





Section Six: Appendices

Appendix 1: Organisational Structure

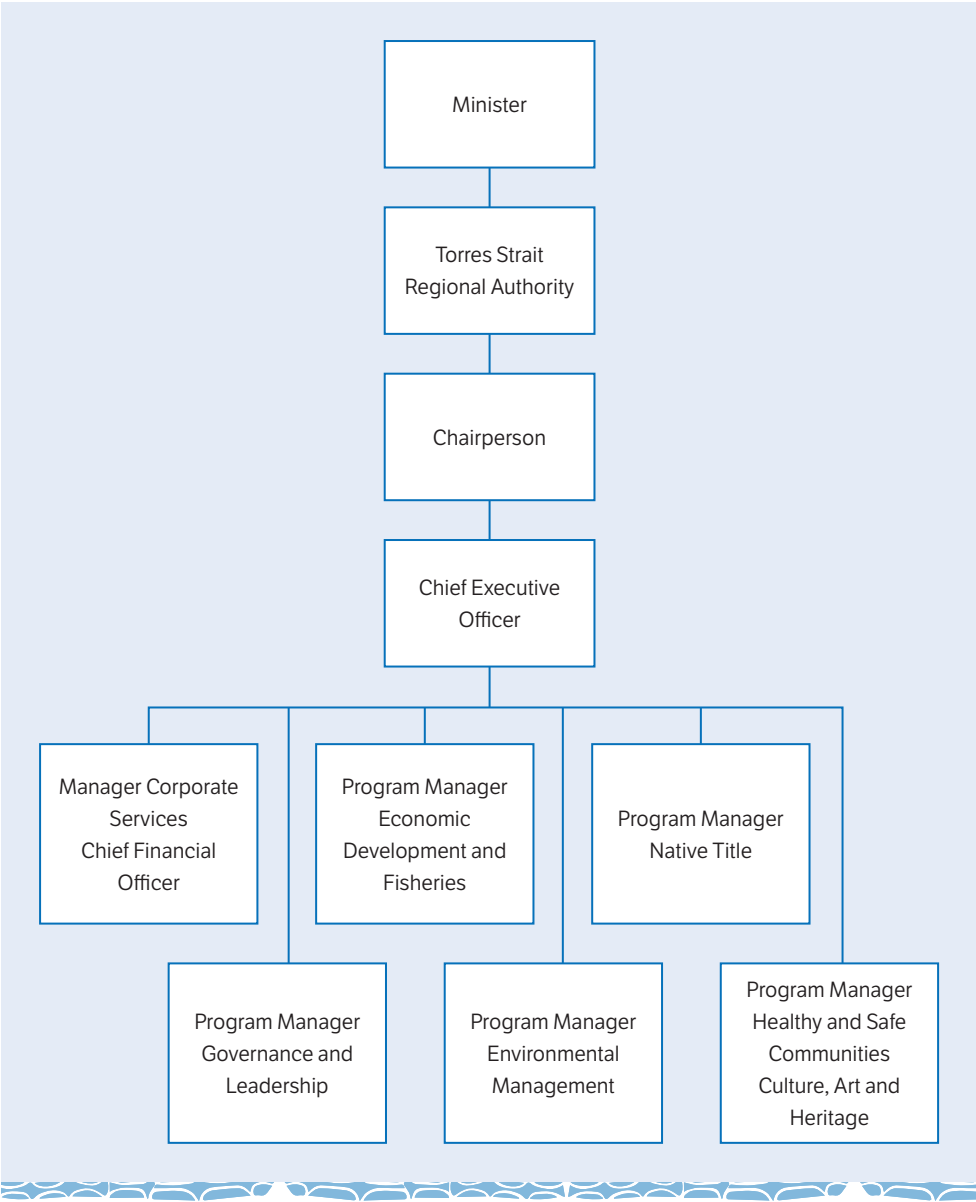


Figure 6-1
TSRA Organisational Chart

Appendix 2: Freedom of Information

From 1 May 2011 agencies subject to the FOI Act are required to publish information to the public as part of the Information Publication Scheme. This requirement is in Part II of the FOI Act and has replaced the former requirement to publish a Section 8 statement in an annual report. An agency plan showing what information is published in accordance with the requirements is available on the TSRA's website (<http://www.tsra.gov.au/publications/information-publication-scheme/tsra-information-publication-scheme-agency-plan.aspx>).

Public comment can be submitted through dedicated community meetings which are conducted for specific policy issues. These meetings provide a mechanism for the public to be informed about the TSRA's activities, and to provide feedback on policy issues. The TSRA routinely provides information and seeks feedback through media notices.

The TSRA is part of the Australian Government's Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) portfolio. Information about the portfolio can be found on the department's website (www.fahcsia.gov.au).

Organisation, functions and decisionmaking powers

The broad functions of the TSRA are described in Section 3 'Report of Operations' in this report. The TSRA's legislative Framework is detailed on page 95.

Categories of Documents

The Corporate Services Section manages paper and electronic documentation on; TSRA budget expenditure, financial records, wages, client accounts, financial procedures, asset register, property management records, workplace agreement, recruitment, personnel files of TSRA officers, grants and personnel policy documents, and instructions from the; Australian Public Service and Information Commissioner, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Remuneration Tribunal, National Archives, and Comcare.

The Corporate Services Section is also responsible for documentation in relation to; engagement of consultants, Workplace Health and Safety, Equal Employment Opportunities, Industrial Democracy, responses to the Office of the Federal Privacy Commissioner, statistics for the Australian Bureau of Statistics, information for the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, survey for the Australian National Audit Office, information for the Australian Public Service, information for the Remuneration Tribunal and responses to Freedom of Information activities.

Public comment can be submitted through dedicated community meetings which are conducted for specific policy issues. These meetings provide a mechanism for the public to be informed about the TSRA's activities and to provide feedback on policy issues.

A number of manuals and guidelines are used in the TSRA’s decision-making processes, including; TSRA Decision Making Principles, Finance Procedures manual, and Program, Administration and Personnel Delegation manuals.

The Governance and Leadership program area provides administrative support services to the office of the Chairperson and maintains copies of; submissions that have been presented to TSRA Board meetings, minutes of the TSRA Board meetings, TSRA Decision Sheets, and financial records relating to payment of TSRA members and costs of meetings, Register for Ministerial Briefings Responses to the Ombudsman. The TSRA’s Program areas maintain records relating to program-specific activities.

Members of the public can make representations in writing to the TSRA concerning any matters related to the organisation. The TSRA aims to provide information requested by public informally, wherever possible, and through disclosure in its IPS. FOI requests can also be directed to the TSRA FOI Co-ordinator. The TSRA holds documents either as paper records or on digital media. Requests for access to documents must be made in writing to the address shown below and include an address in Australia to which notices and documents can be sent:

- By email: foi@tsra.gov.au
- By post: Torres Strait Regional Authority
PO Box 261
Thursday Island, Queensland, 4875
- By hand: Torres Strait Regional Authority
Torres Haus
Level 1, 46 Victoria Parade
Thursday Island, Queensland
- By fax: (07) 4069 1879

FOI applications are subject to administrative charges. The TSRA provides applicants with an estimate of the administrative charges for each request. If applicants are dissatisfied with a decision made under the FOI Act, they may apply for an internal review of the decision. In certain circumstances — such as financial hardship or if the release of the document in question is in the general public interest — administrative charges may be waived under section 29 of the FOI Act.

No applications to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for external review of decisions made under the FOI Act were received during 2011 - 2012. No applications to amend records under the FOI Act were received during 2011 - 2012.

Freedom of Information statistics

Activity	Number
Number of Requests on hand at 1 July 2011	Nil
New requests received during 2011 - 2012	4
Number of Requests Finalised During Period	4
Total requests on hand 30 June 2012	Nil

Table 6-1
Freedom of Information Statistics 2011 - 2012

Appendix 3: Advertising and Market Research

The TSRA advertises all on-going vacancies and non-on-going vacancies which exceed twelve months duration using the Online APS Jobs and SEEK websites, as well as other selected national advertising. The TSRA uses the Commonwealth Government's preferred supplier AdCorp Australia Ltd National to advertise tenders and recruitment notices.

The TSRA also uses Far North Queensland region based print media for advertising job vacancies, publishing media releases and for the distribution of the TSRA Community Newsletters, in line with Australian Government Procurement Guidelines.

No market research or polling and direct mailing of organisations was undertaken in 2011 - 2012 by the TSRA.

Appendix 4: Details of Grants

Grantee	Purpose	Amount
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Legal Services (Townsville N.Q.) Ltd	Legal Services for Torres Strait	180,965
Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh TSI Corporation	Silicon, bronze and aluminium casting foundry	15,000
Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh TSI Corporation	Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh Operations	50,000
Badu Island Foundation Ltd	Quarry Cultural Survey	9,100
Badu Island Foundation Ltd	Upgrade Wireless and Server Project	16,364
Badu Island Foundation Ltd	Fuel storage security fencing project	19,090
Badu Island Foundation Ltd	Lagau Supermarket	20,000
Badu Island Foundation Ltd	Tama Mudh Motel Refurbishment	28,000
Badu Island Foundation Ltd	Badu Nursery Business Restructure	33,863
Badu Island Foundation Ltd	Badu Quarry Maintenance Project	52,000
Badu Island Foundation Ltd	Badu Quarry Benching Project	230,000
Betty Margaret Tekahika	Provide traditional entertainment on Thursday Island	10,000
Budhu Lagau Saral Torres Strait Islander Corporation	Instruction in the making of traditional dance apparatus	6,730
Budhu Lagau Saral Torres Strait Islander Corporation	Urab Dancers 2012 Cultural Festival	15,000
Community Enterprises Australia (Torres Strait)	Hammond Island Structured Arts Working Group Art materials	4,500
Community Enterprises Australia (Torres Strait)	Saibai Island Structured Arts Working Group Art materials	4,500
Community Enterprises Australia (Torres Strait)	Warraber Island Structured Arts Working Group Art materials	4,500
Community Enterprises Australia (Torres Strait)	Murray Island Structured Arts Working Group Art materials	4,500
Community Enterprises Australia (Torres Strait)	Coconut Island Structured Arts Working Group Art materials	4,500
Community Enterprises Australia (Torres Strait)	Yam Island Structured Arts Working Group Art materials	4,500
Community Enterprises Australia (Torres Strait)	Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) TSRA	15,142,594
Erub Erwer Meta Torres Strait Islander Corporation	Island Echoes Project	5,000

Grantee	Purpose	Amount
Erub Erwer Meta Torres Strait Islander Corporation	5 day weaving workshop	30,000
Erub Erwer Meta Torres Strait Islander Corporation	Erub Erwer Meta Operations	50,000
Erubam Le Traditional Land & Sea Owners Corporation	PBC Administrative Support	4,000
Erubam Le Traditional Land & Sea Owners Corporation	Attend Aurora PBC Conference	14,000
Ged Erub Trading Homeland Enterprise (TSI) Corporation	Capacity Building	35,000
Iama Mura Mabaigal TSI Corporation	Capacity Building	20,000
Kailag Enterprises	Enterprise Divestment	10,000
Kailag Enterprises	Sponge Farm Product Development	86,000
Kaziw Asesered Le Inc	Live Long Live strong Program	43,000
Kaziw Asesered Le Inc	Healthy Ilan Homes	50,000
Kos and Abob Fisheries (TSI) Corporation	Ugar Communities Fisheries Development	125,000
Kura Stephen	Kura Stephen Band Travel to CIAF and Website Production	10,000
Lax Charters and Tours	Eco Lodge Feasibility Study and Marketing Plan	30,000
Leftfield Productions Cairns	Produce Documentary "Torres Strait"	20,673
Mer Gedkem Le (TSI) Corporation	PBC Administrative Costs	19,100
Mer Gedkem Le (TSI) Corporation	20th Anniversary Mabo Day Celebrations	25,000
Mer Gedkem Le (TSI) Corporation	Operational Expenses	26,000
Mer, Dowar & Waier (TSI) Corporation for Fisheries	Restart Fishing Industry	100,000
Mura Badulgal (TSI) Corporation	PBC Support Funding	11,500
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc	Patrick Mau CD Production	15,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc	Operating Costs	357,000
Ngalmun Lagau Minaral TSI Corporation	Ngalmun Lagau Minaral Operations	50,000
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Arts Workshops	16,845
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Partnership on events coordination activities	35,000

Grantee	Purpose	Amount
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Tourism Website and Communication Plan	35,000
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Northern Peninsula Area Events and Tourism Promotion	60,910
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Hearse Project	140,000
Oxfam Australia	Oxfam Straigh Talk Regional Gathering Torres Strait	32,000
Port Kennedy Association	Fred David CD Production	14,092
Port Kennedy Association	Ephraim Bani FilmResource	17,000
Port Kennedy Association	Northern Xposure CD Production	20,000
Port Kennedy Association	20th Anniversary Mabo Day Celebrations on Mer	25,000
Port Kennedy Association	Community After School Care	80,000
Port Kennedy Association	Operating Costs	180,000
Power of the Spirit Limited	Torres Blue Seafoods	33,773
Power of the Spirit Limited	Occupational Divers Course and Infrastructure	80,000
Saibai Community Development (TSI) Corporation	Capacity Building for Divestment Part 2 Guesthouse	30,000
Saibai Community Development (TSI) Corporation	Enterprise Divestment	93,500
Seisia Community (TSI) Corporation	Coconut Oil Project	23,900
Tagai State College	Tropical Fruit Tree Planting Project	6,500
Torres Shire Council	Events Coordinator Position	35,000
Torres Shire Council	Horn Island Airport Security Upgrade	1,000,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Masig- healthy Community Day 23 Aug 2011	4,500
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Arts workshops Dauan Island	15,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Reef Line and Spanish Mackerel Dory	33,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Erub Outdoor Exercise Equipment	35,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Events Coordinator Position	35,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Kubin Oyster Farm	40,310
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Kubin Freezer Upgrade	55,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Service (RIBS) Support	56,000

Grantee	Purpose	Amount
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Tidal Gauge maintenance	350,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Garbage Trucks	400,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Heavy Equipment Management and Training Program	660,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS)	1,000,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Landfill solid waste management works	1,100,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Water Related Infrastructure Management Support Contributions	1,700,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Works related to the repair and construction of seawalls	3,237,456
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Torres Strait Choral Project	15,000
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Financial Assistance for Provision of Indigenous Broadcasting	400,907
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Provision of Indigenous Broadcasting including Remote Indigenous Media Organisation Services	524,000
Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting association Inc	Operating Costs	450,000
Vocational Education and Training	Language and Cultural Awareness Project	24,000
Wug Danalaig Incorporated	Block Plant Feasibility Study	20,000
Total		\$29,105,672

Table 6-2

*Details of Grants**(Total from audited Financial Statements, detail unaudited)*

Appendix 5: Details of Consultants

Name	Amount	Purpose	Selection Process	Justification
3D Environmental Vegetation Assessment and Mapping Specialists	\$77,600	Ecosystem mapping	Direct Sourcing	B
Accsys Consulting	\$280,112	Accounting and system support	Open Tender	B
Aecom Australia Pty Ltd	\$82,155	Poruma Sea Wall investigation	Direct Sourcing	B
Answerz IT Consulting	\$5,690	IT Support	Direct Sourcing	B
Arafura Consulting	\$60,986	Anthropological Services	Direct Sourcing	B
Arenelle Pty Ltd	\$32,796	Program and Planning Support and Mentoring	Direct Sourcing	C
Australian Public Service Commission	\$2,821	Scribing for recruitment	Direct Sourcing	B
Attorney Generals Department	\$600,000	Legal services	Direct Sourcing	B
Australian Government Solicitor	\$3,554	Legal Services	Direct Sourcing	B
Baiwa Dance Company	\$9,900	Echo of Drums performance at GTCC 28th & 29th September	Direct Sourcing	B
Black & More	\$43,451	Engineering Support	Direct Sourcing	B
Brendan Corrigan	\$5,750	Native Title Claim Support	Direct Sourcing	B
Brett Walker	\$11,500	Native Title Claim Support	Direct Sourcing	B
Catherine Holmes Consulting	\$8,125	Development of a discussion paper on Financial wellbeing services	Direct Sourcing	B
Chalk & Fitzgerald	\$91,603	Native Title Claim Support	Direct Sourcing	B
Data3	\$16,450	IT Support	Direct Sourcing	B
Davidson Workplace Solutions	\$37,399	Enterprise Agreement support	Direct Sourcing	B
Deltapoint Pty Ltd	\$15,265	Human Resources support	Direct Sourcing	B

Name	Amount	Purpose	Selection Process	Justification
DELV Pty Ltd	\$90,145	IT Support	Direct Sourcing	B
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	\$300,000	Seagrass Monitoring	Direct Sourcing	B
Department of Environment and Resource Management	\$10,000	Turtle Research	Direct Sourcing	C
DFK Kidsons	\$34,122	Legal Services Practice Management	Direct Sourcing	C
DFK Kidsons	\$66,575	Grant Controller	Direct Sourcing	C
Diana Abiad	\$6,260	Conduct Arts Workshops	Select Tender	B
Effective Governance	\$139,712	Governance Structure Review	Open Tender	C
Environmental Systems Solutions	\$171,427	Traditional Ecological Knowledge System	Open Tender	B
Eric Lui	\$2,273	Filming of Purple Spider dance performance at Henley.	Direct Sourcing	C
Fieldworx Pty Ltd	\$1,771	Arts workshop	Direct Sourcing	B
Friendly Fire	\$21,726	Procurement of fire equipment	Direct Sourcing	B
Gilkerson Legal	\$269,644	Native Title Claim Support	Direct Sourcing	B
Go Marine Surveyors	\$6,309	Ranger Marine Operations Program	Direct Sourcing	B & C
Hallets Financial Services Group Pty Ltd	\$2,640	Tax Support	Direct Sourcing	B
Harbinger Consultants	\$80,000	Community Cultural Plan	Open Tender	B
Icognition Pty Ltd	\$8,356	IT Support	Direct Sourcing	B
James Cook University	\$10,000	Mangrove Watch Training Workshop	Direct Sourcing	B
James Cook University	\$35,736	ARC Linkage Project	Direct Sourcing	B

Name	Amount	Purpose	Selection Process	Justification
Jim Brooks	\$4,856	Native Title Claim Support	Direct Sourcing	B
Julie Baker-Smith & Associates Pty Ltd	\$8,978	Human Resources Support	Direct Sourcing	C
Knight Frank	\$16,120	Native Title Support	Direct Sourcing	C
Leftfield Productions	\$20,673	Documentary on Torres Strait Culture	Select Tender	B
Lloyd Consulting Pty Ltd ATF The Lloyd Family Trust	\$8,555	Facilitate Program Planning meeting	Direct Sourcing	B
Mariana Babia	\$125	Translator	Direct Sourcing	B
Marybeth Sarra	\$3,245	Human Resources Support	Direct Sourcing	B
Moore Stephens Melbourne Pty Ltd	\$45	Independent Chair of the Audit Committee	Select Tender	C
NGA.Net	\$62,521	Recruitment Software Support	Direct Sourcing	B
Online 365 Pty Ltd	\$17,600	ITC Support	Direct Sourcing	B
P & E Law	\$78,073	Native Title Claim Support	Direct Sourcing	C
PDM Consultancy	\$45	Internal Audit	Select Tender	C
Pegasus Studios	\$30,000	Music and Dance Audit	Direct Sourcing	B
People and Strategy	\$3,528	Human Resources Support	Direct Sourcing	B
Queensland Regional Groups Collective	\$10,000	Spatial coordination project	Direct Sourcing	C
Reef & Rainforest Research Centre	\$76,754	Communications support	Direct Sourcing	B
Robert Blowes	\$29,300	Native Title Claim Support	Direct Sourcing	B
RPS Australia East Pty Ltd	\$5,000	Coastal Imagery	Direct Sourcing	B
Russ Larkin & Associates Pty Ltd	\$900	Valuation	Direct Sourcing	B
Samuel Taylor	\$58,740	ITC Support	Direct Sourcing	B

Name	Amount	Purpose	Selection Process	Justification
Shaun Skerritt Consulting	\$39,520	Maritime operations	Direct Sourcing	B
Squiz Australia Pty Ltd	\$66,000	Website Development	Open Tender	B
Sturt Glacken SC	\$4,705	Native Title Claim Support	Direct Sourcing	B
Tagai State College	\$50,000	Horticulture in Schools Project	Direct Sourcing	B
Tina Jowett	\$5,330	Native Title Claim Support	Direct Sourcing	B
University of the Sunshine Coast	\$30,909	Valuation Services	Direct Sourcing	B
Visual Obsession	\$10,620	IPA filming and DVD production	Direct Sourcing	B
YouMe Training Consultant	\$29,510	Vessel Induction Program	Direct Sourcing	B
Total Consultants	\$3,313,505			

Justification Code:

A: Skills currently unavailable within TSRA

B: Need for specialised or professional skills

C: Need for independent research or assessment

Table 6-3

Details of Consultants

(Total from audited Financial Statements, detail unaudited)

Appendix 6: Compliance with Australian Government Statutes and Policies

Under the Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011, Schedule 1, Clause 12, the TSRA is required to provide particulars of general policies of the Australian Government that were notified to the Commonwealth Authority

before 1 July 2008 under Section 28 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Company Act 1997* (Cth).

The following table details the policies (as per clause 12) that apply to the TSRA.

Statute / Government policy	Obligation	Compliance
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005</i> (Cth), including the Indigenous Affairs Legislation Amendments Bills Numbers 1 and 2 of 2011	Various	Fully compliant, please see Compliance Index, Section 7
Australian Competitive Grants Register (ACGR)	Comply with eligibility for inclusion on ACGR	Not applicable
Competitive Neutrality (CN)	Comply with CN Policy as provided by Treasury	Compliant
Energy Efficiency in Government Operations	Comply with Australian Greenhouse Office energy data reporting requirements	Compliant
Fraud Policy	Comply with Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines	Compliant, the TSRA has a fraud control plan in place
<i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i> (Cth)	Comply with <i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i> (Cth)	Compliant, See Appendix 2
<i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth)	Comply with <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth) - Personal Information Digest	Compliant, no breaches to <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth) during 2011 - 2012
Protective Security Policy Framework	Attorney Generals Department Australian Government Protective Security Survey	Compliant, no breaches to the Protective Security Policy Framework during 2011 - 2012
Senate Continuing Order No.6 as varied by the Senate on 3 December 1998	TSRA to provide FaHCSIA with an indexed list of file title created each six monthly period to comply with Senate Order Number 6.	Compliant. No new files were created in 2011 - 2012. The TSRA is using an Electronic Document Records Management System and is working with the National Archives to ensure continuing compliance with this Order.

Table 6-4
Compliance with Australian Government Statutes and Policies

Appendix 7: Explanation of Program Budget Variance

This appendix is in reference to the Appropriation Program Expenditure Table 2-1 on page 13 and provides additional information on the reason for the variances for each program area's expenditure as compared to budget allocations.

During 2011 - 2012 the TSRA operated under a program structure which was focussed on the delivery of outcomes and realisation of measurable benefits against the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029* and the *Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013*.

Table 2-1 on page 13 provides actual program spend for 2011 - 2012 compared to budget allocations from appropriation. The actual 2011 - 2012 program spend from appropriation totalled \$42.436 million compared to a budget allocation of \$43.167 million, resulting in a variance \$0.731 million.

In the main, the variances can be attributed to changes in operational activity including a decision to defer some projects until the 2012 - 2013 financial year. Where possible, program underspends were identified early and reallocated to initiatives that could not initially be supported through various funding rounds in 2011 - 2012 or towards planned capital expenditure in the out years.

The following programs recorded variances against budget for the financial year 2011 - 2012.

Program Area	Variance \$'000
Economic Development	105
Culture Arts and Heritage	(147)
Native Title	(46)
Environmental Management	(21)
Governance and Leadership	(240)
Healthy Communities	(3)
Safe Communities	(379)
Total	(731)

Table 6-5
Program Budget Variance
(unaudited)





Section Seven: Compliance Indexes

TSRA - Commonwealth Authority

This TSRA Annual Report 2011 - 2012 is prepared in accordance with Section 144ZB of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), and all other Sections.

As the Torres Strait Regional Authority is a Commonwealth Authority it is also required to prepare an Annual Report in accordance with the *Commonwealth and Companies Act 1997* (Cth). The reporting requirements are set out in the *Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011*.

Table 7-1 below references the specific legislation reporting requirement and informs the location of the information within this TSRA Annual Report 2011 - 2012.

Any inquiries relating to this Compliance Index can be directed to the TSRA by telephoning (07) 4069 0700, toll free telephone 1800 079 093, or by email to info@tsra.gov.au.

Guiding legislation requirement	Page Reference
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005- Section 144ZB</i>	
(2) Certain matters must be included in the Annual Report. The TSRA must include in each Annual Report details of:	
Any directions given by the Minister under Section 142E.	Pages 97 - 98 Section 3, Report of Operations, Minister
Any consultants engaged under Section 144T.	Pages 184 - 187 Section 6, Appendix 5, Details of Consultants
(3) Report must include details of grants. If a grant was made by the TSRA during a financial year to an individual or body, then, in addition to the matters referred in subsections (1) and (2), the Annual Report for that year must set out:	
The name of the individual or body.	Pages 180 - 183 Section 6, Appendix 4, Details of Grants
The amount and purpose of grant.	Pages 180 - 183 Section 6, Appendix 4, Details of Grants
(4) Report must not disclose sacred matters:	
The TSRA must not disclose in any Annual Report any matters known by the TSRA to be held sacred by Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal persons.	No disclosure of sacred matters has been reported
(5) Report must include certain details about consultants	
If an Annual Report gives details of a consultant engaged under Section 144T, the report must set out any significant differences between the terms and conditions on which that consultant was engaged and the standard terms and conditions for the engagement of consultants by the TSRA as set out in the instrument referred to in subsection 144T(3).	There have been no deviations from the standard terms and conditions.

Guiding legislation requirement		Page Reference
<i>Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 (Cth) – Part 3, Division 2 Reporting Obligations - Subdivision A Annual Report and related obligations</i>		
(9) Directors must prepare an Annual Report		
(1) The Directors of a Commonwealth Authority must:		This requirement has been met
(a) Must prepare an Annual Report in accordance with Schedule 1 for each financial year; and		
(b) Give it to the responsible Minister by the deadline for the financial year presentation to the Parliament.		This requirement has been met
<i>Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 (Cth) - Schedule 1 Annual Report for Commonwealth Authority</i>		
Part 1 - Contents of Annual Report		
(1) Summary of contents the Annual Report must include:		
(a) A Report of Operations , prepared by the directors in accordance with the Finance Ministers Orders;		Pages 86 - 99 Section 3, Report of Operations Page xi, Letter of Transmittal
(b) Financial Statements, prepared by the directors under clause 2 of this Schedule; and		Pages 128 - 172 Section 5, Financial Statements
(c) The Auditor-General's report on those financial statements, prepared under Part 2 of this Schedule and addressed to the responsible Minister.		Pages 128 - 172 Section 5, Financial Statements
(2) Financial Statements		
(1) The Financial Statements must be prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders and must give a true and fair view of the matters that those orders require to be included in the statements.		Pages 128 - 172 Section 5, Financial Statements
(2) If Financial Statements prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders would not otherwise give a true and fair view of the matters required by those Orders, the Directors must add such information and explanations as will give a true and fair view of those matters.		Not applicable
(3) In the Financial Statements the directors must state whether in their opinion the Financial Statements give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders.		Pages 128 - 172 Section 5, Financial Statements
(4) If the Commonwealth Authority is a GBE or SMA, the directors must state whether or not, in their opinion, there are, when the statement is made, reasonable grounds to believe that the authority will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.		Not Applicable

Guiding legislation requirement	Page Reference
Part 2 - Auditor's report on Financial Statements	
(3) Whether the statements comply with the Finance Minister's Orders	
(1) The Auditor-General must state whether in the Auditor-General's opinion, the financial statements: (a) Have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders; and	Pages 128 - 172 Section 5, Financial Statements, Independent Auditor's Report
(b) Give a true and fair view of the matters required by those Orders.	Pages 128 - 172 Section 5, Financial Statements, Independent Auditor's Report
(2) If the Auditor-General is not of that opinion, the Auditor-General must state the reasons.	Not applicable
(3) If the Auditor-General is of the opinion that failing to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Finance Minister's orders has a quantifiable effect, the Auditor-General must quantify that financial effect and state the amount.	Not applicable
(4) Proper accounting records not kept	
If the Auditor-General is of the opinion that the Authority has contravened section 20, the Auditor-General must state particulars of the contravention.	Not applicable
(5) Inadequate information and explanations	
If the Auditor-General is of the opinion that the Auditor-General did not obtain all the necessary information and explanations, the Auditor-General must state particulars of the shortcomings.	Not applicable
(6) Subsidiaries' financial statements	
(1) This clause applies of the authority's financial statements are consolidated financial statements	Not applicable
(2) The Auditor-General must state the name of each entity (if any) that satisfies the following description: (a) The entity was a subsidiary of the authority at any time during the financial year; and (b) The Auditor-General has not: (i) Acted as auditor of the entity for the financial year; or (ii) Audited the entity's financial statements for the financial year.	Not applicable
(3) If the consolidated financial statements include information derived from financial statements of an entity of a kind referred to in subclause (2), then:	Not applicable

Guiding legislation requirement	Page Reference
<p>(a) if the Auditor-General has not examined those financial statements and the auditor's report (if any) on them, the Auditor-General must state that fact; and</p> <p>(b) if an auditor's report on any of those financial statements included any qualification, the Auditor-General must state the name of the subsidiary and the particulars of the qualification.</p>	
(7) Deficiencies in consolidation	
<p>If the Auditor-General is of the opinion that:</p> <p>(a) Any of the financial statements that were used in preparing consolidated financial statements were not appropriate and proper, in both form and content, to be used in that way; or</p> <p>(b) There was any deficiency in the procedures and methods used in arriving at the amounts taken in to consolidated financial statements; the Auditor-General must state the particulars of the deficiency</p>	Not applicable
Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011	
Preliminary	
(6) Approval by directors	
The Annual Report of Operations must be approved by a resolution of directors of a Commonwealth authority. If the Commonwealth authority has only one director, the Report of Operations must be approved by that director.	Page xiii Letter of Transmittal
The Annual Report of Operations must be signed by a director and include details of how and when approval was given. The Annual Report of Operations must also state that directors are responsible for the preparation and contents of the Annual Report of Operations (as required in section 9 of the CAC Act and in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders).	Page xiii Letter of Transmittal
(7) Exemptions	
The Finance Minister may grant a written exemption to the directors of a Commonwealth authority, or a class of Commonwealth authorities, from any requirement of these Orders. An exemption must be in writing and may be subject to conditions.	Not applicable
Details of an exemption relied upon by the Commonwealth authority must be provided in the Annual Report of Operations.	Not applicable

Guiding legislation requirement	Page Reference
Requirements	
(8) Parliamentary standards of presentation	
The annual report of a Commonwealth authority is tabled in Parliament by the responsible Minister under paragraph 9(1)(b) of the CAC Act. Once tabled in Parliament, the annual report becomes part of the Parliamentary Papers series and as such, the report must comply with the presentation and printing standards for documents presented to the Parliament.	The Annual Report is compliant with the presentation and printing standards for documents presented to the Parliament.
(9) Plain English and clear design	
<p>The Annual Report of Operations must be constructed having regard to the interests of the Parliament and other users. Information included in the report must be relevant, reliable, concise, understandable and balanced. For example, to the extent practicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. use clear design, including through headings and adequate spacing; b. define acronyms and technical terms (such as through a glossary); c. use tables, graphs, diagrams and charts; and d. include any additional matters that may be appropriate. 	Information included in the report is relevant, reliable, concise, understandable and balanced.
(10) Enabling legislation	
The Annual Report of Operations must also specify the Commonwealth authority's enabling legislation, including a summary of its objectives and functions, as specified in its legislation.	Page 95 Section 3, How the TSRA Operates, Legislative Framework
(11) Responsible Minister	
The Annual Report of Operations must specify the name of the current responsible Minister and the names of any other responsible Ministers during the relevant financial year being reported on.	Page 97 Section 3, How the TSRA Operates, Responsible Minister
(12) Ministerial directions and other statutory requirements	
<p>Directions and Government policies</p> <p>The Annual Report of Operations must provide details of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. directions issued by the responsible Minister, or other Minister, under the enabling legislation of the Commonwealth authority or other legislation; and b. general policies of the Australian Government that were notified to the Commonwealth authority before 1 July 2008 under section 28 of the CAC Act (as in force before 1 July 2008) and which continue to apply to the Commonwealth authority; and 	<p>Page 98 Section 3, How the TSRA Operates</p> <p>Pages 98 - 99 Section 3, How the TSRA operates</p> <p>Pages 97 - 99 and Appendix 6 Compliance with Australian Government Statutes and Policies</p>

Guiding legislation requirement	Page Reference
<p>c. General Policy Orders that apply to the Commonwealth authority under section 48A of the CAC Act.</p> <p>Where a direction or applicable policy has not been fully complied with, the report must include an explanation of the non-compliance.</p>	<p>Page 124 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability Appendix 6, Compliance with Australian Government Statutes and Policies Not Applicable</p>
<p>Subsection 516A(3) of the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> requires a Commonwealth authority to report on certain environmental matters.</p>	<p>Pages 120 - 122 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability, Enabling Functions, Environmental Impact Management</p>
<p>Schedule 2, Part 4 of the <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</i> (Cth)</p>	<p>Page 125 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability, Human Resources</p>
(13) Information about directors	
<p>The Annual Report of Operations must include information on the directors of the Commonwealth authority. This information includes directors' names, qualifications, experience, attendance of board meetings and whether the director is an executive or non-executive director.</p>	<p>Pages 100 - 119 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability</p>
(14) Outline of organisational structure and statement on governance	
<p>Organisational structure</p> <p>The Annual Report of Operations must provide an outline of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the organisational structure of the Commonwealth authority (including subsidiaries); and the location, in Australia or elsewhere, of major activities and facilities. 	<p>Page 102 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability, Overview of Governance Structure Pages 88 - 89 Section 3, Where we Operate and Page 126 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability, Property Management</p>

Guiding legislation requirement	Page Reference
<p>Statement on governance</p> <p>The Annual Report of Operations can assist a Commonwealth authority to demonstrate that its governance is sound.</p> <p>Consequently, the Annual Report of Operations must include information on the main corporate governance practices that the Commonwealth authority used during the financial year. For example, details should be provided on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. board committees of the authority and their main responsibilities; and b. education and performance review processes for directors; and c. ethics and risk management policies. 	<p>Pages 103 - 104 and 116 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability Page 115 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability Pages 122 - 124 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability, Risk Management</p>
(15) Related Entity Transactions	
<p>The Annual Report of Operations must disclose the decision-making process undertaken by the board of the authority when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. it approves for the authority to pay for a good or service from another entity, or provide a grant to another entity; and b. a director of the authority is also a director of the other entity that provides the good or service or receives the grant; and c. the value of the transaction, or if there is more than one transaction, the aggregate value of those transactions, exceeds \$10,000 (GST inclusive). <p>If decision-making processes relate to multiple transactions to a single entity, with an aggregate value of more than \$10,000 (GST inclusive), then a single report can be provided that explains the number of transactions and the aggregate of expenditure.</p> <p>The aim is to improve transparency around potential conflicts of interests in the operations of Commonwealth authorities.</p>	<p>Not applicable for the 2011 - 2012 Annual Report of Operations</p>
(16) Key activities and changes affecting the authority	
<p>Highlighting key activities and changes that have affected the Commonwealth authority can assist the reader to understand the authority's performance over the past financial year. Consequently, the annual report must detail any key activities and changes that affected the operations or structure of the authority during the financial year. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. significant events under section 15 of the CAC Act such as forming or participating in the formation of a company, significant partnership or trust; and 	<p>Not Applicable</p>

Guiding legislation requirement	Page Reference
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. operational and financial results of the authority; and c. key changes to the authority's state of affairs or principal activities; and d. amendments to the authority's enabling legislation and to any other legislation directly relevant to its operation. 	Pages 128 - 172 Section 5, Financial Statements Pages 2 - 7 Section 1, Strategic Overview, Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Messages Page 99 Section 3, Report of Operations
(17) Judicial decisions and reviews by outside bodies	
<p>As entities of the Australian Government, Commonwealth authorities are expected to have levels of accountability suitable for the public sector. Part of demonstrating these qualities involves reporting on judicial decisions and reports by third parties. As such, the Annual Report of Operations must include particulars of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals that have had, or may have, a significant effect on the operations of the Commonwealth authority; and b. reports about the authority made by the Auditor-General, a Parliamentary committee, the Commonwealth Ombudsman or the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner. 	Pages 98 - 99 Section 3, Report of Operations, Legislative Framework, Judicial Decisions and Review Pages 98 - 99 Section 3, Report of Operations, Legislative Framework, Judicial Decisions and Review
(18) Obtaining information from subsidiaries	
<p>Where directors of a Commonwealth authority are unable to obtain information from a subsidiary that is required to be included in the Annual Report of Operations before the annual report is submitted under section 9 of the CAC Act, the directors must include an explanation on the missing information and how this affects the annual report.</p>	Not applicable
(19) Indemnities and insurance premiums for officers	
<p>The Annual Report of Operations must include details of any indemnity given to an officer against a liability, including premiums paid, or agreed to be paid, for insurance against the officer's liability for legal costs.</p>	Page 124 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability
(20) Disclosure requirements for GBEs	
<p>Changes in financial conditions and community service obligations</p> <p>The Annual Report of Operations for a GBE must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. an assessment of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. significant changes in its overall financial structure and condition over the financial year; and ii. any events or risks that could cause reported financial information not to be indicative of future operations or financial condition; and b. dividends paid or recommended in relation to the financial year; and 	Not applicable

Guiding legislation requirement	Page Reference
<p>c. details of any community service obligations the GBE has, including:</p> <p>i. an outline of actions the GBE has taken to achieve those obligations; and</p> <p>ii. an assessment of the cost of fulfilling those obligations.</p> <p>Information that is commercially prejudicial</p> <p>However, information required by this clause 20 can be excluded if the directors believe, on reasonable grounds, that the information is commercially sensitive and would likely result in unreasonable commercial prejudice to the GBE. The annual report must state whether such information has been excluded.</p>	
(21) Index of annual report requirements	
<p>To assist readers to locate the information required by the CAC Act (including these Orders) or other applicable legislation, the Annual Report of Operations must provide an index of annual report requirements, identifying where relevant information can be found in the annual report.</p>	<p>Pages 192 - 200 Section 7, Compliance Indexes and Section 8, Glossary and Indexes</p>

Table 7-1
TSRA Compliance Index

TSRA - Native Title Representative Body (NTRB)

The TSRA is a Commonwealth Authority and as such is governed by Section 144ZB of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), and the *Commonwealth and Companies Act 1997*(Cth).

The TSRA is also a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) and required to provide an Annual Report of its operations and performance of Representative Body functions together with financial statements prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

The following table is the checklist of reporting requirements for 2011 - 2012 for an NTRB as supplied by the Land Programs Branch of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs on 7 August 2012.

All *CAC Act 1997*(Cth) requirements have already been referenced in the Compliance Index titled - TSRA as a Commonwealth Authority in Table 7-1.

Any inquiries relating to this Compliance Index can be directed to the Principal Legal Officer, Native Title Office, Torres Strait Regional Authority by telephoning (07) 4069 2581 or by email to info@tsra.gov.au

Requirement	Page Reference
Letter of Transmittal	Page xiii Letter of Transmittal
Table of Contents	Page ix Table of Contents
Index	Section 8, Glossary and Indexes
Glossary	Section 8, Glossary and Indexes
Contact Officer, Internet Home Page Address and Internet Address for the Report	Page ii Cover Sheet
Report by Chairperson	Pages 2 - 4 Section 1, Strategic Overview, Chairperson's Message
Report by Chief Executive Officer including:	Pages 5 - 6 Section 1, Strategic Overview, General Manager's Message
(a) Summary of significant issues and developments;	Pages 128 - 172 Section 5, Financial Reports
(b) Overview of performance and financial results;	Page vii Opportunities and Challenges
(c) Outlook for the following year.	
NTRB Overview	
(a) Overview description of NTRB	Pages 61 - 62 Section 2, Program Reporting, Native Title Program, NTRB Reporting

Requirement	Page Reference
(b) Role and functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Legislation (ii) Legislative functions (iii) Corporate Governance Policies 	Pages 61 - 62 Section 2, Program Reporting, Native Title Program, NTRB Reporting
(c) Organisational structure	Pages 102 and Section 6, Appendix 1, Organisational Structure
(d) Outcome and output structure	Page 53 Section 2, Program Reporting and Performance Summaries, Native Title Program Map
(e) Key features - strategic plan, operational plan	Pages 52 - 61 Section 2, Program Reporting and Performance Summaries, Native Title Program, NTRB Functions
Report on Performance	
(a) (i) Review of performance during the year in relation to strategic and operational plan and by function	Pages 54 - 60 Section 2, Program Reporting and Performance Summaries, Native Title Program, NTRB Functions Page 56 Section 2, Program Reporting and Performance Summaries, Native Title Program, NTRB Functions
(a) (ii) Summary data on outputs. Discussion of outputs achieved.	
(b) Narrative discussion and analysis of performance	Page 63 Section 2, Program Reporting and Performance Summaries, Native Title Program, NTRB Summary Resources Table
(i) Trend information	
(ii) Factors, events or trends influencing performance	
(iii) Significant changes in nature of principal functions/services	
(iv) Performance against service charter/standards, complaints data and the NTRB's response to complaints	
(c) Summary resources tables by outputs, budget / actual by main heads of expenditure and revenue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Discussion of analysis of NTRB's financial performance against budget (ii) Discussion of any significant changes from the prior year or from budget 	Page 63 Section 2, Program Reporting and Performance Summaries, Native Title Program, NTRB Functions

Requirement	Page Reference
(d) Developments since the end of financial year that have affected or may significantly affect the NTRB's operations in future.	Not applicable
Corporate Governance - statement of the main practices in place	Pages 103 - 111 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability, Board Members
(a) Name of the senior executive and their responsibilities	
(b) Senior Management committees and their roles - Separation of Powers (i) Number of Board and Committee Meetings, attendance by Members (ii) Training arrangements for Board Members	Pages 116 - 119 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability, Board Members Page 115 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability, Board Members
(c) Corporate and operational planning and associated performance reporting and review	Pages 61 - 66 Section 2, Program Reporting and Performance and Page 95, Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability
(d) Approach adopted to identifying areas of significant financial or operational risk and arrangements in place to manage risks	Page 122 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability, Risk Management
(e) Policy and practices on the establishment and maintenance of appropriate ethical standards	Page 123 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability
(f) Nature and amount or remuneration for senior management and how it is determined	Pages 128 - 172 Section 5, Financial Statements
External Scrutiny - Significant developments in external scrutiny	Page 98 Section 3, Report of Operations, Judicial Decisions and Review
(a) Judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals	
(b) Evaluation and / or audit reports - findings and responses	Pages 128 - 172 Section 5, Financial Statements
(c) Other external reviews	Not applicable
Management of Human resources - Assessment in effectiveness in managing and developing human resources to perform NTRB functions and achieve NTRB objectives	Page 125 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability, Human Resources
(a) Workforce planning, staff turnover and retention	

Requirement	Page Reference
(b) Training and development undertaken and its impact	Page 115 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability, Board Induction Page 125 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability, Staff Development and Training
(c) Impact and features of Certified Agreements and AWA's	Page 125 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability, Workplace Agreement
(d) Occupational health and safety performance	Page 125 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability, Health and Safety Management Arrangements
(e) Statistics on staffing	Page 64 Section 2, Program Reporting and Performance, Native Title Office, NTRB
(f) Indemnities and insurance premiums for officers	Page 124 Section 4, Corporate Governance and Accountability
Consultants and Competitive tendering and Contracting	Pages 184 - 187
(a) Competitive tendering and Contracting practices	Section 6, Appendix 5, Details of Consultants
(b) Number of consultancy services contracts let and total expenditure on consultancy services	Pages 184 - 187 Section 6, Appendix 5, Details of Consultants
Financial Statements	Pages 128 - 172
(a) Auditor's Report	Section 5, Financial Statements
(b) Statement by Governing Committee and CEO	Pages 128 - 172 Section 5, Financial Statements
(c) Financial Statements	Pages 128 - 172 Section 5, Financial Statements
(d) Notes to Financial Statements	Pages 128 - 172 Section 5, Financial Statements
Other information	Pages 201 - 204
(a) Index	Section 7, Compliance Index

Table 7-2

NTRB Compliance Index



Off to school on Saibai Island.





Section Eight: Glossary and Indexes

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Terms and Abbreviations

Ailan Kastom	Island Custom
APSC	Australian Public Service Commission
ATES	Assistance with Tertiary Education Scholarship
ATSI Act	<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 (Cth)</i>
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
ATSICLS	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Legal Services
AWA	Australian Workplace Agreement
BFS	Business Funding Scheme
BSA	Building Services Authority
CAC Act	Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 (Cth)
CAH	TSRA Culture, Arts and Heritage Program
CDEP	Community Development Employment Project
CFG	Community Fishers Group
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DEEDI	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
DERM	Department of Environment and Resource Management
Development Plan	<i>TSRA Torres Strait Development Plan 2009 - 2013</i>
DIP	Department of Infrastructure and Planning
DOGIT	Deed of Grant in Trust
DTMR	Department of Transport and Main Roads
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
Erub	Also known as Darnley Island
FaHCSIA	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
FOI	Freedom of Information
GBE	Government Business Enterprise
GTCC	Gab Titui Cultural Centre
HEMTP	Heavy Equipment and Management Training Program
Iama	Also known as Yam Island
IBIS	Islander Board of Industry and Services
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
ISD	Integrated Service Delivery - an action from the Regional Plan
Kaia	Traditional name for Tropical Rock Lobster

Masig	Also known as Yorke Island
Mer	Also known as Murray Island
MIP	Major Infrastructure Program
MP	Member of Parliament
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTSRF	Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
NPA	Northern Peninsula Area
NPARC	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
NTO	Native Title Office
NTRB	Native Title Representative Body
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
PBC	Prescribed Body Corporate
PEO	Principal Executive Officer
PNG	Papua New Guinea
Poruma	Also known as Coconut Island
PSC	Program Steering Committee
PZJA	Protected Zone Joint Authority
Regional Plan	<i>Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009 - 2029</i>
RNTBC	Registered Native Title Body Corporate
SMA	Statutory Marketing Authority
TIB	Traditional Inhabitants Boating sector
TIDS	Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme
TRAWQ	Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine
TRL	Tropical Rock Lobster
TSC	Torres Shire Council
TSI	Torres Strait Islander
TSIRC	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
TSIRC ES	Torres Strait Island Regional Council Engineering Services
TSRA	Torres Strait Regional Authority
TSYRSA	Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association
Ugar	Also known as Stephen Island
Warraber	Also known as Sue Island

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