



**Torres Strait
Regional Authority**

Annual Report 2013 - 2014



Australian Government



TSRA

www.tsra.gov.au

**Torres Strait
Regional Authority**

Annual Report 2013 - 2014



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The cover page and sections of this report feature the artwork of Torres Strait artist Mr Ceferino Sabatino titled '*Clinging for Life*'. This ghost net sculpture was entered in the 2014 Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award and was the winner of the National Museum of Australia History Through Art Award, and People's Choice Award. The artwork was photographed by Mr George Serras of the National Museum of Australia.

Clinging for Life, highlights the environmental impacts of discarded fishing nets on the oceans and marine life in the Torres Strait and the duty of care that Mr Sabatino feels in using these materials to create art and educate others about the issue.



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Saam Karem Beizam Dancers, Gab Titui Cultural Centre 10th Anniversary.

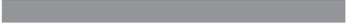
The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) recognises the Traditional Owners of the land on which we operate. We acknowledge the past and present elders of all Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area and respect the culture and lore of all Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal 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 2014 and we offer our apologies for any distress caused if this occurs.

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Vision



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

Kala Lagau Ya

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

Meriam Mir

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

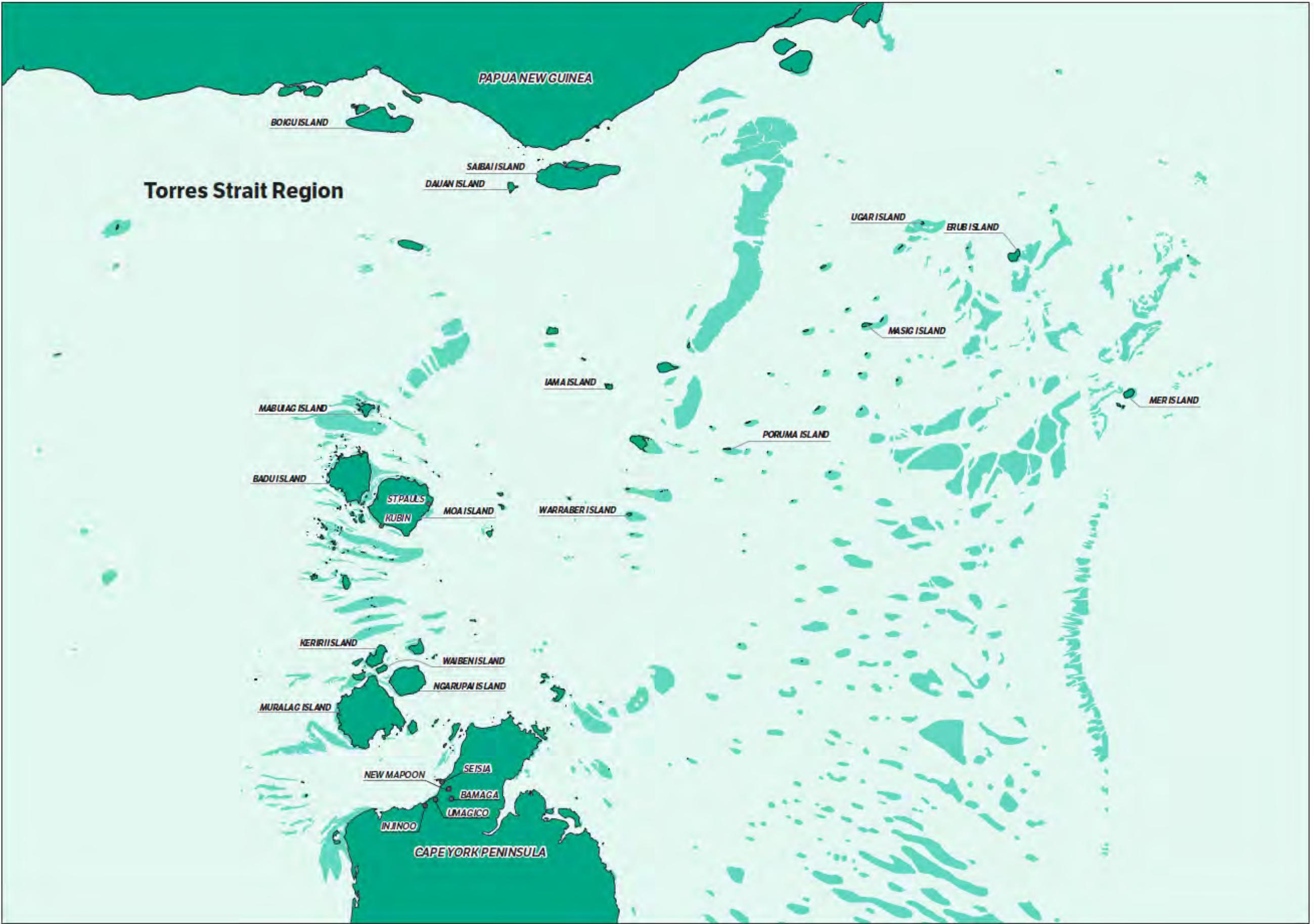
Kala Kawau Ya

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

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.



Torres Strait Region

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BOIGU ISLAND

SAIBAI ISLAND
DAJAN ISLAND

UGAR ISLAND
ERUB ISLAND

MASIG ISLAND

MER ISLAND

IAMA ISLAND

PORUMA ISLAND

MABUAG ISLAND

BADU ISLAND

ST PAUL'S
RUFIN

MOA ISLAND

WARRABER ISLAND

KERIRI ISLAND

WAIBEN ISLAND

NGARUPAI ISLAND

MURALAG ISLAND

NEW MAPOON

SEISIA

BAMAGA

UMAGICO

INJINOO

CAPE YORK PENINSULA

Highlights and Achievements

Celebrating 20 Years

In 2014 the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) celebrates 20 years of serving Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people throughout the Torres Strait and in the Northern Peninsula Area communities of Bamaga and Seisia. The TSRA has delivered significant improvements in health and community infrastructure through four Major Infrastructure Programme (MIP) projects, and has been successful in securing funding to continue with a fifth phase of the programme with MIP 5. The MIP has provided critical infrastructure such as clean drinking water, sewerage services, stormwater drainage and road sealing to communities across the region, improving the health and lives of all residents.

The MIP has provided critical infrastructure such as clean drinking water, sewerage services, stormwater drainage and road sealing.

Over the years the TSRA has participated in education, environmental, art and culture, regional autonomy, cross-border health, fisheries and native title forums ensuring that Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people in the region have a voice in policy setting, strategic planning and service delivery.

The TSRA governance model, with 20 elected representatives from all communities in the region and an Australian Public Service administration, is unique and recognises the region's Ailan Kastom (island custom) and Aboriginal lore.

The 2013 - 2014 Annual Report is the 20th annual report the TSRA has submitted to Parliament. This report builds upon past achievements and outlines the TSRA's contribution this year in Closing the Gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous disadvantage.

Engaging with our Communities

There are 45 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people employed as trainees, rangers and senior rangers, with additional staff employed in administrative and management roles. Collectively, the Land and Sea Ranger Programme delivers natural and cultural resource activities across 14 communities on 13 islands across the Torres Strait.

A seven-month renovation of the Gab Titui Cultural Centre (GTCC) was completed in July 2013. The renovation incorporated air-conditioning throughout the gallery, purpose-built performance areas and improved access for disabled persons. The GTCC, which operates under the TSRA's Culture, Art and Heritage Programme, is the keeping place for significant cultural artefacts and the showcase for regional artists.

The seventh Gab Titui Indigenous Art Awards programme was held on 16 April 2014 to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the GTCC. The 2014 theme was *Ailan Legends*, inviting artists to create works that explore the mythology that has influenced Ailan life as well as 'living legends' and contemporary influences in the Torres Strait. The 2014 event received 45 entries from 13 communities.



John Wigness observing nesting turtle, Dauar Island. (Photo: Tristan Simpson)

The Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) project has been expanded to the near western cluster (Badu, Moa and Mabuiag Islands). TSRA staff and community members in these additional communities have been trained and are now actively recording information for uploading into the TEK database. TEK is managed through the TSRA's Culture, Art and Heritage, and Environmental Management Programmes.

The TSRA's Governance and Leadership Programme and the Native Title Programme have assisted 20 Prescribed Bodies Corporate in the region to maintain their compliance with the requirements of the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations. This is the third consecutive year that full compliance has been achieved. In June 2014 the region's 21st Prescribed Body Corporate was formed following the Regional Sea Claim Part A determination. The Malu Lamar Registered Native Title Body Corporate has responsibility for native title within the area of the Sea Claim Part A and will be included in 2014 - 2015 reporting.

Closing the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage

The TSRA is the Remote Jobs and Communities Agreement Manager for the Torres Strait Islands Region. The TSRA supported the service provider to develop a regional workforce development strategy and community action plan for consideration by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs. These documents help to align activities and training conducted under the Remote Jobs and Communities Programme (RJCP) with priorities and employment opportunities in the region. This year 36 RJCP jobseekers were transitioned into permanent full-time employment positions and a further 69 commenced casual employment.

The TSRA initiated the Torres Strait Marine Pathways Project, a partnership with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Maritime Safety Queensland, which enabled 77 participants to achieve nationally recognised Certificates in Maritime Operations. A further 41 participants obtained statements of attainment towards the completion of this certificate. These qualifications provide employment pathways for work in marine-based industries within the region and across Australia.

The sustainable horticulture project, which is operated by the TSRA's Environmental Management Programme, expanded from four communities in 2012 - 2013 to 13 communities in 2013 - 2014. The TSRA delivers a Horticulture in Schools Programme in collaboration with the Tagai State College. This project has supported the employment of an Environmental Education Coordinator based at Tagai College, with two campuses in the region receiving awards from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for their level of community engagement and produce from the gardens.

In 2013 the TSRA received an Excellence Award for Outstanding Partnership and Collaboration from the Australian Government Leadership Network (Queensland). The award was won by the TSRA's Governance and Leadership Programme for the work undertaken in implementing the Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) project for the region. The award recognises the outstanding performance and achievement by the ISD team in developing productive partnerships and collaboration that has helped solve a complex problem and provided substantial benefits and/or savings to a community, organisation or individual.



Badu foreshore king tide inundation, 30 January 2014.

The TSRA, in partnership with Australian and Queensland Government agencies, and local government and non-government organisations in the region, is delivering against the service and infrastructure shortfalls identified in the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan (2009 - 2029)* and ISD community booklets for each individual community. Community consultations undertaken in 2008 and 2009 identified 1,613 service gaps. Of these, 372 (23 per cent) were addressed in 2012, 656 (41 per cent) were in progress and 585 (36 per cent) had not yet commenced, are not currently feasible or are identified as being a community or other non-government responsibility. As at 30 June 2014 the status is 773 (48 per cent) have been addressed, 382 (24 per cent) are in progress and 309 (19 per cent) have not yet commenced. Some 149 (9 per cent) of the items identified by communities have been assessed as not feasible or are commercial or a non-government responsibility. Statistics for each of the Council of Australian Governments Building Blocks for Closing the Gap in disadvantage between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians are included in Section 3 of this report.

Promoting and Advocating Critical Issues for the Region

In October 2013, the TSRA won two of Australia's most prestigious environmental awards, including an award for an outstanding contribution to national sustainability. The Gold Banksia Award recognises the services the TSRA's Environmental Management Programme has performed on behalf of Torres Strait Islander people, the Queensland and Australian Governments, and the nation as a whole, to develop and implement culturally appropriate and sustainable land and sea management practices in the region.

Maritime safety in the region was enhanced through a collaborative venture between the TSRA and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS). The TSRA and AIMS staff installed a real-time weather station at Masig (Yorke Island) and assisted with the maintenance of existing stations at Madge Reef (Thursday Island) and Poruma Island. The TSRA also installed tide gauges at Boigu, Iama, Kubin and Ugar. These gauges add to the regional network which monitors tidal dynamics across the Torres Strait and improves the accuracy of mean sea level datum values. These projects provide the TSRA, communities and mariners with regular real-time weather and environmental reports.

The *Torres Strait Development Plan (2009 - 2013)* concluded on 30 June 2014. Section 2 of this report documents specific achievements against that plan. In 2013 - 2014 the TSRA Board approved the *Torres Strait Development Plan (2014 - 2018)* to take effect from 1 July 2014. This development plan has been mapped to the Australian Government Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) programme streams. The mapping shows a high degree of correlation between the TSRA's programme outcomes and the IAS.

Highlights and Achievements

The TSRA Chairperson, supported by the Portfolio Members and other Board Members, participated in 29 meetings with Government Ministers and senior departmental officials. These meetings help ensure that matters of relevance and importance to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region are being taken into account for new policies and service delivery. A number of these meetings are described in Section 1 of this report in the Chairperson's Message.

The TSRA in its role as the Native Title Representative Body for the region has, through the Native Title Office, provided support to the Kulkalgal people to lodge a native title determination application for Zuizin (Half-way Island) in the Torres Strait. On 19 June 2014, at a special sitting of the Federal Court of Australia on Thursday Island, Justice Andrew Greenwood made a consent determination of exclusive native title under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) over Zuizin and appointed the Kulkalgal Registered Native Title Body Corporate to hold the native title rights and interests in trust on behalf of the Kulkalgal people.



Tropical rock lobster processing on Badu.

Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities

To explore alternate energy sources to facilitate regional sustainability

With the exception of a small (1,600 MWh) wind turbine installation on Thursday Island, all power generation in Torres Strait communities is from diesel generators reliant on fuel transported by barge from Cairns. Given rising fuel costs, and suitable conditions for wind, solar and tidal energy generation in the region, there are opportunities for research and investment into alternative energy sources to reduce future generation costs and meet community energy needs and aspirations.

To increase economic security

After 10 years of legal proceedings the High Court handed down its decision on the Regional Sea Claim Part A in August 2013. This was a significant victory for the original claimants, the people of the Torres Strait and the future application of native title Australia wide. This was the first claim of its type in Australian waters and the decision means the people of the Torres Strait have now secured the right to control and use their own land and sea resources. The right of Torres Strait Islanders to use marine resources for commercial purposes provides an important foundation for the future economic security of the Torres Strait community.

To improve the outlook for Torres Strait fisheries

The 23rd meeting of the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) was held on Thursday Island over 8-9 April 2014 to discuss the management of fisheries resources in the Torres Strait.

A stakeholder meeting held on 8 April was attended by PZJA members; TSRA Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu; Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture; Dr John McVeigh MP, the Queensland Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; and Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs. Facilitated by the TSRA Fisheries Portfolio Member, Mr Kenny Bedford, the meeting provided an opportunity for stakeholders to ask questions of the PZJA and Minister Scullion. The meeting focused on the native title implications of the High Court sea claim decision, the 100 per cent ownership aspirations of Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait, and traditional fishing rights.

The official PZJA meeting was held on the morning of 9 April 2014. Observers to the meeting included Minister Scullion and delegates from Papua New Guinea. Ownership and native title were at the fore of discussions, with the PZJA recognising and supporting the 100 per cent ownership aspirations and a commitment to work with all stakeholders to develop a pathway towards this while also recognising the rights of non-traditional fishers. The PZJA agreed that the TSRA would lead consultation with communities on a draft roadmap towards achieving 100 per cent ownership of Torres Strait commercial fisheries.

The right of Torres Strait Islanders to use marine resources for commercial purposes provides an important foundation for the future economic security of the Torres Strait community.

To improve communication within and between communities

The Torres Strait Islanders Media Association (TSIMA) and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council have drafted a contract to transition the management of the region's 14 Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Service (RIBS) stations to TSIMA. While there are some native title and leasing impediments to be overcome, plans to revitalise the RIBS network are progressing.

To improve telecommunication services throughout the region

The fibre-optic link to the Torres Strait terminates at Bamaga. All telecommunications (voice and data) to and within the region are by microwave link and satellite. While the main administrative centres of Thursday Island and Horn Island generally have services which meet current demand, there are 15 other island communities that have limited coverage. Six of those communities have very poor coverage for digital data communications. The TSRA has engaged Telstra to conduct a study into extending the fibre-optic link to the region (Thursday Island) and increasing the capacity of inter-island microwave links to facilitate reliable 3G coverage in all communities. The cost of this upgrade is expected to require a whole-of-government(s) response to implement.



Green Turtle hatchling. (Photo: Tristan Simpson)

Challenges

Land tenure

The security of land tenure for investment is the most significant challenge to growth in the region. The region has a combination of freehold, Torres Strait freehold, native title, Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT), and Katter leases. Businesses and some individuals hold leases which may be registered or unregistered, under a range of statutes. Few businesses or individuals in Torres Strait DOGIT or Reserve communities are able to use land as security for borrowing. The lack of tenure and its impact on access to loan funds impacts economic growth. The simplification of land tenure regimes would on its own increase opportunities for private investment.

Water

The joint Australian Government and Queensland Government Major Infrastructure Programme (currently MIP 5) has funded critical infrastructure for water, sewerage and roads in Torres Strait communities. The consistent supply of potable water remains an issue for many Torres Strait communities, several of which still rely on desalination equipment and live with supply restrictions. The region currently does not have the water resources to support a significant population increase or to establish industries which are dependent on potable grade water. This restriction also applies to crops and other plant agriculture.

Air travel costs

The cost of travel to the region is an impediment to the growth of tourism as an industry. While the Queensland Government has recently announced that the Cairns – Horn Island airline route will be deregulated in 2015, the cost of travel to the region and within the region is still high.

Freight and road infrastructure

All freight into the Torres Strait arrives by either sea or air from Cairns. The road north of Cooktown (to Bamaga and Seisia) cannot be used a freight corridor. An all-weather road link between Cairns and the Cape would provide an alternative freight route and open the region for tourism and investment. There are plans to seal the Peninsula Development Road from Laura to Weipa but no plans as yet to seal the road from Weipa to the Northern Peninsula Area.

Adaptation to rising sea levels and temperature change

Global average temperatures are forecast to rise by as much as 3°C by 2070, with significant multi-level threats to Torres Strait communities and environments. If the region is to prepare for sea level change impacts, it will need to establish a clear process to develop and implement appropriate adaptation measures regionally and at community level.

The consistent supply of potable water remains an issue for many Torres Strait communities, several of which still rely on desalination equipment and live with supply restrictions.



Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion with tropical rock lobster, Badu Beach.

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Warraber and Ima rangers recovering a ghost net.



Elder Joseph Wasaga, Bishop Nona, TSRA Deputy Chairperson Aven Noah, Gab Titui reopening.

Letter of Transmittal





SECTION ONE

Strategic Overview



Chairperson's Message

I am pleased to present the Torres Strait Regional Authority's 20th Annual Report, highlighting our progress and achievements in 2013 - 2014.

20 Years of Regional Governance

On 1 July 2014 we marked the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA). This milestone offers an opportunity to reflect on the significant progress that has been made in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area region, particularly the quality of life improvements achieved through the last four Major Infrastructure Programmes (MIP 1 to 4). Most communities in the region now have access to reticulated water and sewerage, sealed or paved roads and storm water drainage systems. Health clinics and primary schools are located in all communities and high schools can be accessed on Thursday Island and on mainland Australia through boarding arrangements. Early childcare and preschool facilities are not yet widespread and remain an area of focus for government. Native title determinations are almost complete, with only three claims to be finalised. Twenty one Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) have been established, enabling communities to have a real say in the management of their lands. While there is still a lot to be done, the TSRA is proud of the role it has played in giving a voice to the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the governance of their region over the past 20 years.

Community Engagement

The Chief Executive Officer and I continued our programme of community visits to ensure that communities are kept informed of the TSRA's initiatives and, most importantly, to consult with and listen to community views. Our schedule this year included visits to the Erub, Badu, Ugar, Warraber, Boigu, Kubin, St Pauls and Poruma communities. During these visits, the TSRA provided information about the work and projects being undertaken by all of the TSRA programmes. The TSRA met with community organisations, groups and individuals to provide information and answer questions. The TSRA has continued to foster

an integrated approach to community engagement, with invitations being extended to other Australian Government agencies operating in the region as well as the Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs to participate in the community information sessions. The elected Divisional Councillors from the Torres Strait Island Regional Council and PBCs also play an important role in supporting and participating in these visits. The TSRA looks forward to continuing this partnership when we visit our communities in the future. The TSRA is also using the visits as an opportunity for communities to provide feedback on



TSRA Chairperson and TSIRC Councillor Jimmy Gela at Erub consultation.

the progress being made with the delivery of services and infrastructure gaps which are identified in the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan (2009 - 2029)* Integrated Service Delivery community booklets. The TSRA has developed individual place-based booklets for each community which can be used as a 'report card' on progress by communities.

Thirteenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

In May 2013, the TSRA was invited to attend the Thirteenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The TSRA delivered an intervention on the practical application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the TSRA in our strategic planning process, and in the design of our service delivery model. The TSRA has completed mapping of all of its programme outcomes to the articles in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The mapping is included as an appendix to the *Torres Strait Development Plan (2014 - 2018)*.

Torres Strait Development Plan (2014 - 2018)

The *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan (2009 - 2029)* continues to be the relevant source of community issues and aspirations for service delivery planning. The TSRA in consultation with the Minister for Indigenous Affairs has developed the *Torres Strait Development Plan (2014 - 2018)*. This plan is based on an eight programme structure covering Economic Development; Healthy Communities; Safe Communities; Native Title; Environmental Management; Culture, Art and Heritage; Fisheries and Governance and Leadership. The programme outcomes in the *Torres Strait Development Plan (2014 - 2018)* have been mapped to the five programmes in the Indigenous Advancement Strategy and there is a good level of alignment. The *Torres Strait Development Plan (2014 - 2018)* comes into effect from 1 July 2014 and will be further developed to fully align with the Australian Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy.



TSRA Board meeting, Mer.

Regional Autonomy

The TSRA is cognisant of wider political aspirations in the region for greater autonomy. The TSRA participated in a meeting of regional leaders in May 2014 at which a blueprint for achieving greater autonomy for the region was discussed. The findings from that meeting were presented to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs in Canberra on 19 June 2014. The TSRA continues to advocate for increased employment and economic growth as being the necessary precursors to support a change in regional governance. There is no one agreed model for a future model of governance for the region and consultation with regional leaders and community members will continue throughout 2014 - 2015.

Badu Island DOGIT Handover

In February 2014, the Badu community celebrated the transfer of the Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) lands from the Queensland Government to the Mura Badulgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate. On behalf of the TSRA Board, I extend the TSRA's congratulations to the Badu community. There are a further 12 communities in the Torres Strait that are eligible to apply for the transfer of DOGIT when it is appropriate for them to do so.

Zuizin Native Title Determination

The determination of native title for Zuizin Island (an uninhabited island proximate to Masig Island) was made on 19 June 2014. The TSRA performs the Native Title Representative Body function for the Torres Strait and has been working with the Kulkalgal Prescribed Body Corporate for many years to achieve a successful determination on behalf of the people of the Masig, Warraber and Poruma communities.

Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority Forums

In April 2014 the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) met with the TSRA Board and representatives of local fisheries associations on Thursday Island. Following the meeting with fisher representatives, I hosted the formal PZJA meeting with the Chair of the PZJA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Senator the Hon

Richard Colbeck, and the Queensland Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Dr John McVeigh MP. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, was also present at the meeting. Observers at the meeting included delegates from the TSRA, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and the Papua New Guinea Government. This PZJA meeting was the first to be held in the region for many years. I look forward to hosting PZJA meetings in the region on a more regular basis.



TSRA Chairperson, TSRA Member for Ugar Jerry Stephen and Danny Stephen, Ugar, July 2013.

Official events and visits

During 2013 - 2014 there were a number of visits to the Torres Strait region by both Australian and State Government Ministers. The TSRA also met with Ministers in Brisbane and Canberra to progress matters for the Torres Strait region.

On 23 July 2013, the TSRA welcomed Senator for the Northern Territory the Hon Nigel Scullion, Member for Leichhardt the Hon Warren Entsch MP, and Queensland Member for Cook Mr David Kempton MP, to the re-opening of the Gab Titui Cultural Centre.

The Hon Dame Quentin Bryce, the then Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, also visited the Torres Strait region on 30 - 31 July 2013 to meet and engage with Torres Strait communities. During her visit to the region, she met with representatives of the Australian Government, the Queensland State Government and local governments and visited the Warraber, Mer and Badu Island communities.

As part of a visit to Canberra, on 12 February 2014, I attended the launch of the 2014 Closing the Gap Report by the Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP.

During April 2014, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs visited Thursday and Badu Islands. Whilst in the region, the Minister attended fisheries meetings, including the PZJA Stakeholder Forum on 8 April 2014, followed by the PZJA meeting with the Australian Government Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture and the Queensland Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia, chaired by the Hon Warren Entsch MP, held public hearings on Thursday Island on 30 April 2014. This Parliamentary Committee has been tasked to consider policies for developing the parts of Australia that lie north of the Tropic of Capricorn. In June 2014, the TSRA Deputy Chairperson, Mr Aven Noah, the Member for Warraber, Mr Willie Liu, and I attended the Northern Development Summit.

The TSRA attended the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee Estimates Hearings on 22 November 2013 and 30 May 2014.



Saibai boat blessing, TSRA Chairperson and rangers.

Statement of Expectations and Statement of Intent

In May 2014 the TSRA received the Statement of Expectations from the Minister for Indigenous Affairs. The TSRA has responded to the Minister with a Statement of Intent outlining the TSRA's commitment to addressing the Australian Government's priorities under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy which include:

- implementing the Australian Government's school attendance strategy
- responding positively to initiatives of the Australian Government to improve Indigenous employment measures
- supporting a significant increase in home ownership on the Torres Strait Islands, particularly by the sale of existing public housing to good renters
- facilitating economic development by identifying and promoting sustainable projects that use the natural resources of the Torres Strait to the benefit of locals
- working with the Australian Government to take all available measures to reduce overheads and operating costs including those of its Board
- keeping the Minister informed regularly of its operations and expenditure, including by providing quarterly reports and agreeing to performance indicators against which its progress will be measured
 - this includes progress in implementing the *Torres Strait Development Plan (2014 - 2018)* and other plans agreed with local and state governments
- as required, providing the Minister with timely advice of emerging issues and possible risks to the performance of the TSRA and the delivery of its objectives
- within the existing scope and functions of the TSRA, engage with the Australian Government as appropriate to highlight the Torres Strait's aspirations for greater autonomy in the future.

Conclusion

I look forward to continuing our close working relationships with all levels of government, our TSRA Members and the Administration over the next year to continue to work and build partnerships with our communities so that challenges are addressed and benefits are delivered for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region.



Joseph Elu
Chairperson



Chief Executive Officer's Message

The 2013 - 2014 financial year has been a year of consolidation for the TSRA which saw the sixth Board, which was elected in September 2012, taking firm control of the formulation of regional policies and stamping their authority on the direction of the TSRA's programme outcomes for the next four years through the *Torres Strait Development Plan (2014 - 2018)*.

The TSRA is continuing to engage with a range of stakeholders from communities and all levels of government to implement the integration of service delivery as the default model for the delivery of services to produce the best outcomes and benefits for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region.

Some of highlights for the TSRA in this reporting period are summarised below.

2012 - 2013 TSRA Annual Report of Operations

The TSRA was proud to receive recognition for the online version of our 2012 - 2013 Annual Report from the Institute of Public Administration Australia through the receipt of a Bronze Award for agencies under the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act. This is an improvement from 2011 - 2012, when the TSRA received a 'highly commended' award.



Board Executive and Program Manager workshop.

TSRA Performance Audit

The TSRA is pleased with the results of the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) performance audit, which in summary found that, overall, the TSRA has effective management arrangements in place for delivering and monitoring its own programmes, and the TSRA's service delivery approach aligned to identified needs and the Australian Government's broader policies to address Indigenous disadvantage. The ANAO tabled its report to Parliament in December 2013. It made two recommendations.

The first relates to the establishment of formal information-sharing arrangements between agencies to assist the coordination and monitoring of services. This is to be implemented in 2014 - 2015 through regular regional inter-agency meetings. These will be conducted in partnership with the Queensland Government Department of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Multicultural Affairs, which is co-located with the TSRA in Torres Haus on Thursday Island.

The second recommendation, to implement a formal complaints process and client satisfaction survey, is being implemented and the TSRA website (www.tsra.gov.au) has been updated to simplify the process of making a complaint. The client survey is under development and will be implemented in 2014 - 2015.

Torres Strait Rangers

The TSRA Ranger Programme comprises a significant element of the TSRA workforce with 45 rangers and 14 support staff, including ranger trainees. The programme employs Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in roles from trainees to senior supervisors to deliver natural and cultural resource activities across 14 communities on 13 outer islands. The Ranger Programme has good support from communities in the region. In 2013 - 2014 the TSRA secured a \$42 million commitment to continue the Ranger Programme for a further five years. Over the last year, the TSRA had a strong focus on accredited training for rangers to enable them to perform better for their communities and also to gain qualifications that could enable them to be employed in a wide range of roles both within the Torres Strait and

beyond. Ranger vessels have been deployed to the Badu, Boigu, Saibai, Mabuiag and Lama communities. A further two vessels will be delivered in late 2014, one each to Erub and Mer. Rangers have worked together with accredited organisations to gain experience with turtle and dugong management, tide gauge maintenance, and coral and seagrass monitoring, in addition to their many land and sea management roles within their own communities. Over the next reporting period the TSRA will continue to strengthen our relationship with Torres Strait communities, and we will work with government agencies to further empower the people in our region to manage their natural and cultural resources.



CEO and staff at Bamaga Farm.

Common Funding Rounds

This year, the TSRA has again run two grant funding rounds. There were 63 successful applications that contributed \$9.48 million to community groups, enterprises and individuals in the region for a range of outcomes. Providing information about the TSRA's Common Funding Rounds has been a key part of the information sessions that the TSRA delivers to communities. This year the TSRA has worked closely with local government organisations to identify projects that can be co-funded, thus extending the impact of TSRA grant funding across a wider range of activities in more communities. Joint funding of projects is one of the activities undertaken under the banner of Integrated Service Delivery.

Native Title Representation

The TSRA is working with Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) in the region to develop a more appropriate funding model for those PBCs that have demonstrated capacity to manage Indigenous Land Use Agreements and Future Acts on behalf of their communities. Over the next 12 months the TSRA will develop Memoranda of Agreement with selected PBCs to trial a new funding model.

The TSRA Board has determined that the TSRA will not re-apply for recognition as the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) for the region when its current term expires on 30 June 2015. The TSRA is working with the Gur A Baradharaw Kod Sea and Land Council to build their capacity to perform the NTRB role from 1 July 2015.

Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (Cth)

The TSRA is ready to move from the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth) to the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) on 1 July 2014. The TSRA Board Members are aware of the changes to their responsibilities and accountability under the PGPA Act and formal training will be conducted for members during the TSRA's strategic planning workshop in November 2014. The draft rules under the PGPA have been circulated to Board Members for information and comment. The TSRA Board Charter has been updated to reflect the changes and this document will be re-published in 2014 - 2015.

Australian Public Service Commissioner's Directions

The TSRA has fully complied with the Australian Public Service Commissioner's directions regarding recruitment and re-engagement.

Conclusion

The TSRA is proud of its many achievements over the past year. A selection of case studies have been included in the programme reporting section of the report of operations to share some of the stories of the work the TSRA is doing to meet the aspirations of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the region.

I look forward to the 2014 - 2015 financial year during which we will commence the implementation of the new *Torres Strait Development Plan (2014 - 2018)* and further develop the plan to align with the Australian Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy programmes.

I express my thanks to TSRA Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, and the Members of the TSRA Board for their ongoing support and their efforts in setting the strategic direction for the next four years of the TSRA's operations. I also extend my appreciation to the many Australian, Queensland and local government agencies that contribute to the partnership arrangements in the region.

I also wish to extend my personal thanks to the TSRA's staff and those communities, Traditional Owners and Councillors that have welcomed the TSRA to their communities and extended their warm hospitality. We look forward to working with you in 2014 - 2015.



Wayne See Kee
Chief Executive Officer



CEO at Mabo Day 2014, Mer.



Sunset, Badu Island.

SECTION TWO

Programme Reporting and Performance Summaries



Departing for marine safety training. (Photo: Tristan Simpson)

How We Meet Our Outcomes

Outcomes and Planned Performance

This section provides details of performance against the key performance indicators contained in the TSRA Portfolio Budget Statements, 'Agency Resources and Planned Performance', 2013 - 2014.

This is followed by additional reporting on other activities undertaken by the TSRA's programme areas:

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

Each programme report provides the following information:

- A statement of the regional goal
- A statement of the programme goal
- Programme expenditure
- A programme map, showing the linkages between programme projects, outputs, benefits, outcomes, regional goals and Council of Australian Governments Closing the Gap Building Blocks
- A statement of the outcomes from the *Torres Strait Development Plan (2009 - 2013)*
- Programme projects and achievements.

The *Torres Strait Development Plan (2009 - 2013)* was developed by the TSRA under section 142D of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). The plan outlines seven TSRA programmes, listing the desired outcomes and benefits to be delivered. The plan ends on 30 June 2014 and will be replaced by the *Torres Strait Development Plan (2014 - 2018)*. The new plan is published on the TSRA website www.tsra.gov.au.

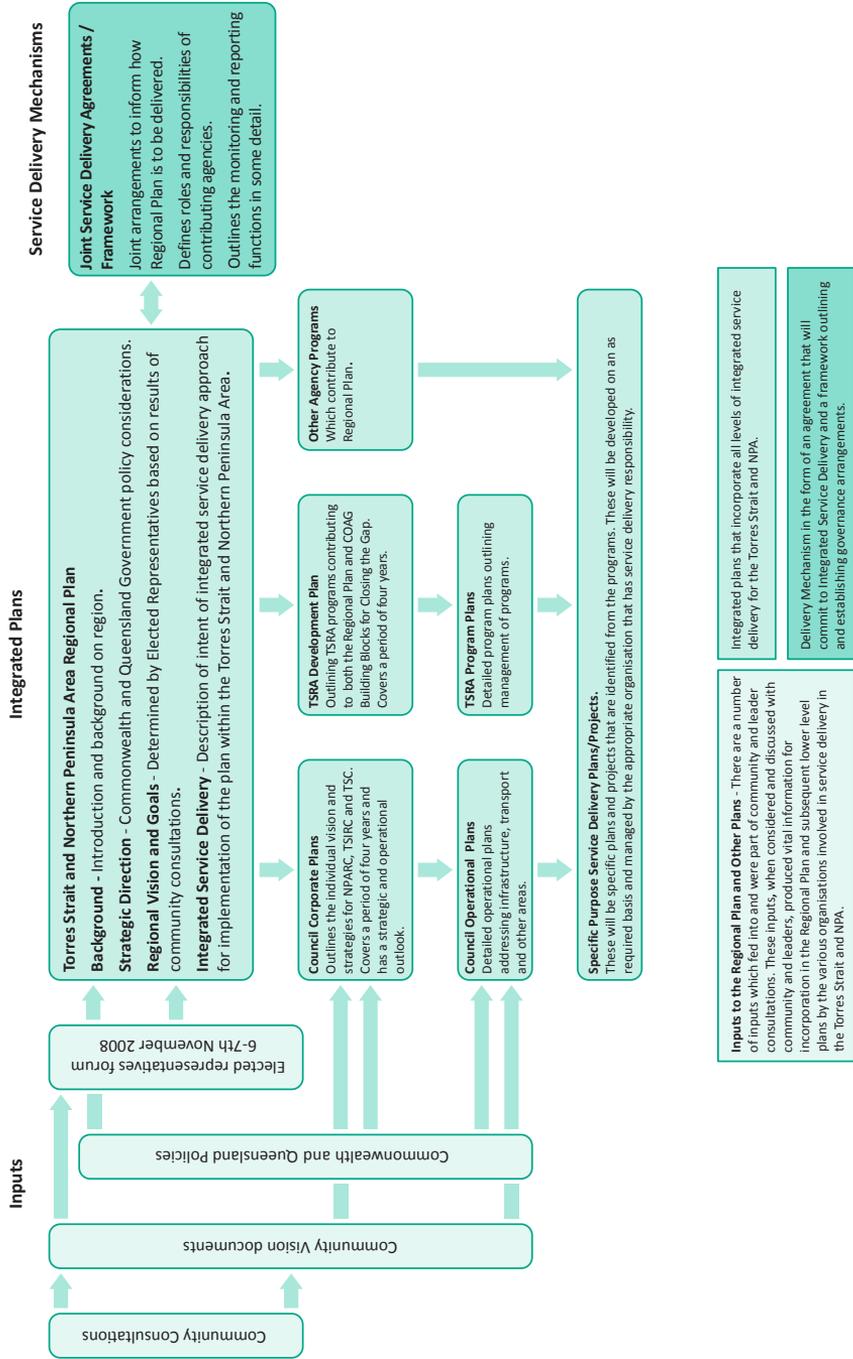
The *Torres Strait Development Plan (2009 - 2013)* is derived directly from the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan (2009 - 2029)*. The Regional Plan was developed by the TSRA, the Torres Shire Council, the Torres Strait Island Regional Council and the Northern Peninsula Area Regional 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 aims to coordinate the effective delivery of a range of government services to local communities while ensuring that duplication and service gaps are minimised.



Protected Zone Joint Authority members with Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion.

Integrated Planning Framework

Figure 2-1 Torres Strait Regional Authority Integrated Planning Framework



Portfolio Budget Statements Key Performance Indicators

Measured change in Business Funding and Housing Loan outcomes

The *Torres Strait Development Plan (2009 - 2013)* targets are for five new business loans and three new home loans each year. In 2013 - 2014 two business loans were approved under the Business Funding Scheme and two home loans were approved under the Home Ownership Programme. The main inhibitor to achieving loan targets is that the complex land tenure arrangements in the Torres Strait continue to make it difficult for loan applicants to provide appropriate security for loans.

The TSRA's Native Title Office (NTO) is working with Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) and Traditional Owners in the region to develop Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) that will assist to resolve land tenure issues.

In addition, the TSRA's business support services provided advisory, technical, and financial support to 32 individuals and five incorporated community organisations. Three of the incorporated organisations made successful Economic Development grant applications in 2013 - 2014.

Measured change in Industry Training outcomes

Training Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region has continued this year, with the training target of 50 persons specified in the *Torres Strait Development Plan (2009 - 2013)* being again exceeded. This training has been delivered through the Remote Jobs and Communities Programme, the Torres Strait Marine Pathways Project and Into Business Workshops provided by the TSRA in partnership with Indigenous Business Australia.

Training was provided to 237 people in:

- Certificate I in Construction (4)
- Certificate II in Hospitality (Kitchen Operations) (11)
- Certificate II in Maritime Operations (77)
- Certificate II in Retail Services (2)
- Certificate II in Surface Extraction Operations (4)
- Certificate II in Indigenous Community Housing Maintenance (8)
- Certificate II in Transport and Distribution (Maritime Operations) (8)
- Certificate III in Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts (11)
- Certificate III in Carpentry (1)
- Certificate III in Community Services Work (2)
- Certificate III in Fishing Operations & Wild Harvest Diver (27)
- Certificate IV in Business Administration (2)
- Certificate IV in Community Development (3)

- Certificate IV in Theology and Ministry (1)
- Certificate IV Indigenous Mental Health (Suicide Prevention) (1)
- Maritime Operations Statement of Attainment (41)
- Business Training Workshops (34).

In 2013 - 2014 the TSRA Culture, Art and Heritage Programme supported 157 artists and cultural practitioners through a broad range of activities.

Number of Indigenous artists and cultural practitioners supported

In 2013 - 2014 the TSRA Culture, Art and Heritage Programme supported 157 artists and cultural practitioners through a broad range of activities. These included grants; cultural and arts skills development projects; and the promotion and creation of sales opportunities through the Gab Titui Cultural Centre gallery, gift shop and exhibitions areas. As at 30 June 2014 there were 140 active artists who engaged directly with the cultural centre.

Measured change in the number of professionally active Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and active art centres in the region

The TSRA supported 35 grant applications funded by the Culture, Art and Heritage Programme. Six of those applications were funded through a partnership with the Queensland Government's Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund. The TSRA received 122 entries in total for the sixth (July 2013) and seventh (April 2014) Gab Titui Indigenous Art Awards.

An arts industry meeting was held at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre on 18 and 19 June 2014, which was attended by 55 artists from the region. All regional art forms were represented and practitioners were engaged in workshops on copyright; marketing; panel discussions and participation in developing areas of focus for the TSRA arts development plan for the next four years. Feedback was received from 32 of the participants, all indicating a positive experience.

Number of native title determinations, native title compliant land and sea outcomes, and number of future act notifications facilitated in the Torres Strait

The NTO finalised one determination in 2013 - 2014 and has two active determinations in process and one claim under development.

The Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim Part A was finalised in the High Court of Australia on 7 August 2013.

In summary, in granting the appeal, the High Court of Australia held:

- That the native title rights to access or take resources (including marine resources) are not restricted to traditional use only and can be for commercial use. Fisheries and other legislation did not extinguish native title rights to trade commercially.
- 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.
- That the native title rights and interests are non-exclusive, which means that the 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.

Number of Indigenous Land Use Agreements finalised

In 2013 - 2014 the NTO provided assistance with the finalisation and execution of four ILUAs. The NTO received 64 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.

Ranger groups have been established in 14 outer island communities, employing Torres Strait Islander people to manage their islands and sea country sustainably.

Number of communities participating in natural resource management activities

There are 15 communities participating in natural resource management (NRM) activities. The Environmental Management Programme is assisting all Torres Strait communities to participate in NRM. Ranger groups have been established in 14 outer island communities, employing Torres Strait Islander people to manage their islands and sea country sustainably and to undertake a wide range of local cultural and NRM projects. The TSRA has also been working with the Kaurareg Traditional Owners in the Kaiwalagal region to establish a management framework for dugong and turtle, and to control cane toads and other invasive pests.

Number of ranger groups in place to assist communities to carry out land, sea and cultural resource management activities

There are 45 Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginals employed as trainees, rangers and senior rangers, with additional staff employed in administrative and management roles. Collectively, the Land and Sea Ranger Programme delivers natural and cultural resource activities across 14 communities on 13 islands across the Torres Strait.

Over \$42 million in funding has been secured under the Working on Country Programme (administered by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet) until 2018 to support the continuation of the ranger programme.

Ranger Working on Country plans have been developed for all communities that have rangers. The plans guide ranger activities and future project proposals to ensure on-ground work is aligned with community priorities and the best available scientific information.

Three Torres Strait Islander trainees were employed and successfully completed training to gain a Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management. All three trainees have now transitioned into other roles within the ranger programme.

Three new Indigenous ranger supervisors at the APS 5 level have been recruited and are located on Boigu, Badu and Poruma. The career progression of local Indigenous staff through the Land and Sea Ranger Programme is proving to be a valuable benefit from the longer term commitment to the programme.

All rangers are involved in essential training needed for safety at work, such as workplace health and safety, chemical handling, chainsaw use, elements of shipboard safety, marine radio and first aid.

Rangers have been involved in training in Certificate II in Indigenous Leadership Training, Australian film and television training, supervising your team with confidence and writing skills in the APS. Rangers have also attended the World Indigenous Network Conference, Indigenous leadership forum, Puliima National Indigenous Language and Technology Forum, the National Landcare Conference and ranger exchanges.

Ranger vessels have been deployed to the Badu, Boigu, Saibai, Mabuiag and Iama communities. A further two will be delivered in late 2014, one each to the Erub and Mer communities.

Number of sustainable land use plans developed

Fifteen Torres Strait communities have sustainable land use plans in place and are using them in local planning decisions. A local government planning scheme is under development for the outer islands, which the TSRA has supported through providing technical input and spatial data. Terrestrial biodiversity profiles have been completed for all outer island communities.

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

The Malu Lamar Registered Native Title Body Corporate was established in June 2014 following the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim Part A determination. The TSRA's NTO assisted with both the Sea Claim (Part A) determination and the establishment of this new PBC. As Malu Lamar did not operate as a PBC until the last weeks of the reporting period it has not been included in the performance reporting below.

All 20 PBCs in the region met the minimum levels of compliance required by the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations by submitting their general report by the due date.

Twelve PBCs held Annual General Meetings (AGMs) within the reporting period and three were granted extensions. One PBC has been granted approval to conduct its AGM on a biannual basis. The remaining four are scheduled to hold their AGMs by the end of the calendar year. In 2013 - 2014 the TSRA completed compliance and capacity-building surveys with all PBCs for inhabited islands. These surveys systematically measure levels of capacity within PBCs to meet their obligations under both the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (Cth). The surveys will enable more targeted assistance to be provided.

The TSRA has revised its PBC support model to recognise the varying levels of operational capability among PBCs. A two-tier support model is being implemented in 2014 - 2015 and will be trialled with the PBCs on Mer and Badu Islands.

The TSRA has provided direct financial assistance to 12 PBCs in the region since starting the grants programme in 2011. In 2013 - 2014 the TSRA assisted 10 PBCs:

- Mer Gedkem Le (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) – both funding rounds
- Kaurareg Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC – both funding rounds
- Erubam Le Traditional Land and Sea Owners (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC
- Porumalgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC
- Kulkalgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC
- Maluilgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC
- Badu Ar Mua Migi Lagal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC
- Malu Ki'ai (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC
- Goemulgaw (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC
- Masigalgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC.

Measured change in regional communications capacity

The TSRA sponsored the operations of the Torres Strait Islanders Media Association (TSIMA) for the provision of Indigenous broadcasting services to the region. This includes the operations of Radio 4MW, which operates on Thursday Island and is re-broadcast to all communities in the region. TSIMA also operates as the Regional Indigenous Media Organisation (RIMO) for the Torres Strait with responsibility for the Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Service (RIBS) operators.

TSIMA maintained the high level of local broadcasting achieved in 2012 - 2013, with 168 hours per week of local programming (this is the maximum possible) and an average of 77 hours per week of local production. This is a significant improvement from 2011 - 2012, in which only 46 per week hours was locally produced and programmed and 122 hours was rebroadcast from other sources.

There has been a decrease in RIBS operations in 2013 - 2014. RIBS is currently the responsibility of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC), with the TSRA providing funding according to the level of operations they are able to support. In 2013 - 2014 the TSRA worked with TSIMA to take operational responsibility for the RIBS network from the TSIRC. TSIMA has been funded to re-establish the RIBS network, with six stations scheduled to be fully operational by 30 June 2015, four stations scheduled in 2015 - 2016 and four in 2016 - 2017. This will complete the refurbishment and operator training for the 14 RIBS facilities throughout the region.

Measured change in outcomes from social support services active in the Torres Strait

The TSRA's outcomes in social services are achieved through the targeted funding of non-government organisations in the region to deliver programmes. The key service delivery organisations are: the Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated, Port Kennedy Association Incorporated, Kaziw Asesered Le Association, Torres Strait Islanders' Regional Education Council, Lena Passi Women's Shelter, Relationships Australia (Queensland), and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service.

Table 2-1 shows the progress being made in Closing the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage in the Council of Australian Governments Building Blocks for safe communities, health and healthy homes. These figures are based on the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan (2009 - 2029)* Integrated Service Delivery community booklets as at 30 June 2014.

Table 2-1 Progress Towards Closing the Gap in the Healthy and Safe Communities Programmes

Healthy and Safe Communities Programmes						
Building Block	Safe Communities		Health		Healthy Homes	
Service issues by year	Identified shortfalls	In progress	Identified shortfalls	In progress	Identified shortfalls	In progress
2010	440	Baseline	311	Baseline	248	Baseline
2012	343	143	234	123	213	145
2014	248	107	137	87	139	82

The Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated delivers a range of social service programmes, including the Indigenous Domestic and Family Violence Counselling Service; child and family support services; the Emergency Relief Programme; the Old People's Action Programme; the Torres Strait Healthy Ageing Programme (delivered to the communities of Warraber, Moa, Dauan and Masig); and Broadband for Seniors.

In 2013 - 2014 the Mura Kosker Sorority was funded to complete a Regional Community Safety Referral Plan. The implementation of the plan is currently underway and is scheduled for completion in 2014.

The Port Kennedy Association Incorporated provides a number of programmes for communities. These include: Vacation Care Services; the Mura Kaimel Playgroup; an after-school childcare programme; the Flexible Respite Care and Day Service Programme; the Disability Support Service; the Family Support Programme; a Recognised Entity Service under the *Child Protection Act 1999* (Cth); and the development and coordination of community events.

The Port Kennedy Association was funded to investigate a social services hub which would be a liaison and coordinating centre for all organisations delivering social services to minimise duplication and identify gaps. This is part of the TSRA's role in monitoring the integration of service delivery throughout the region.

The TSRA provides funding support and works closely with the Attorney-General's Department in order to provide legal aid for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal residents in the Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area region through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service.

The TSRA is working with service providers to provide further evidence-based reporting which will enable the measurement of changes in social outcomes for the communities in which services are delivered.

Appropriation programme expenditure 2013 - 2014 budget as compared to actual

A summary of the TSRA's financial performance for each programme area for 2013 - 2014 is provided in Table 2-2.

Section 5, Financial Statements, provides further information about expenditure for each programme area as of 30 June 2014.

Table 2-2 Appropriation Programme Expenditure 2013 - 2014, Budget Compared to Actual (unaudited)

Programme	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Culture, Arts and Heritage	4,353	4,209	144
Economic Development	13,064	13,003	61
Environmental Management	5,999	5,797	202
Governance & Leadership	5,476	5,505	-29
Native Title Office	2,959	2,898	61
Healthy Communities	12,861	12,809	52
Safe Communities	7,375	7,403	-28
Total	52,087	51,624	463

Notes:
The Fisheries Program outcomes are reported as part of the Environmental Management Program



Michaeline Fuid and Valda Sabatino at Gab Titui Cultural Centre 10th Anniversary.

Details About Our Programmes

Culture, Art and Heritage

Regional Goal

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

Programme Goal

The Culture, Art and Heritage Programme component objectives are:

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

Programme Objectives

The Culture, Art and Heritage Programme 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.

Programme 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.

Programme Expenditure 2013 - 2014

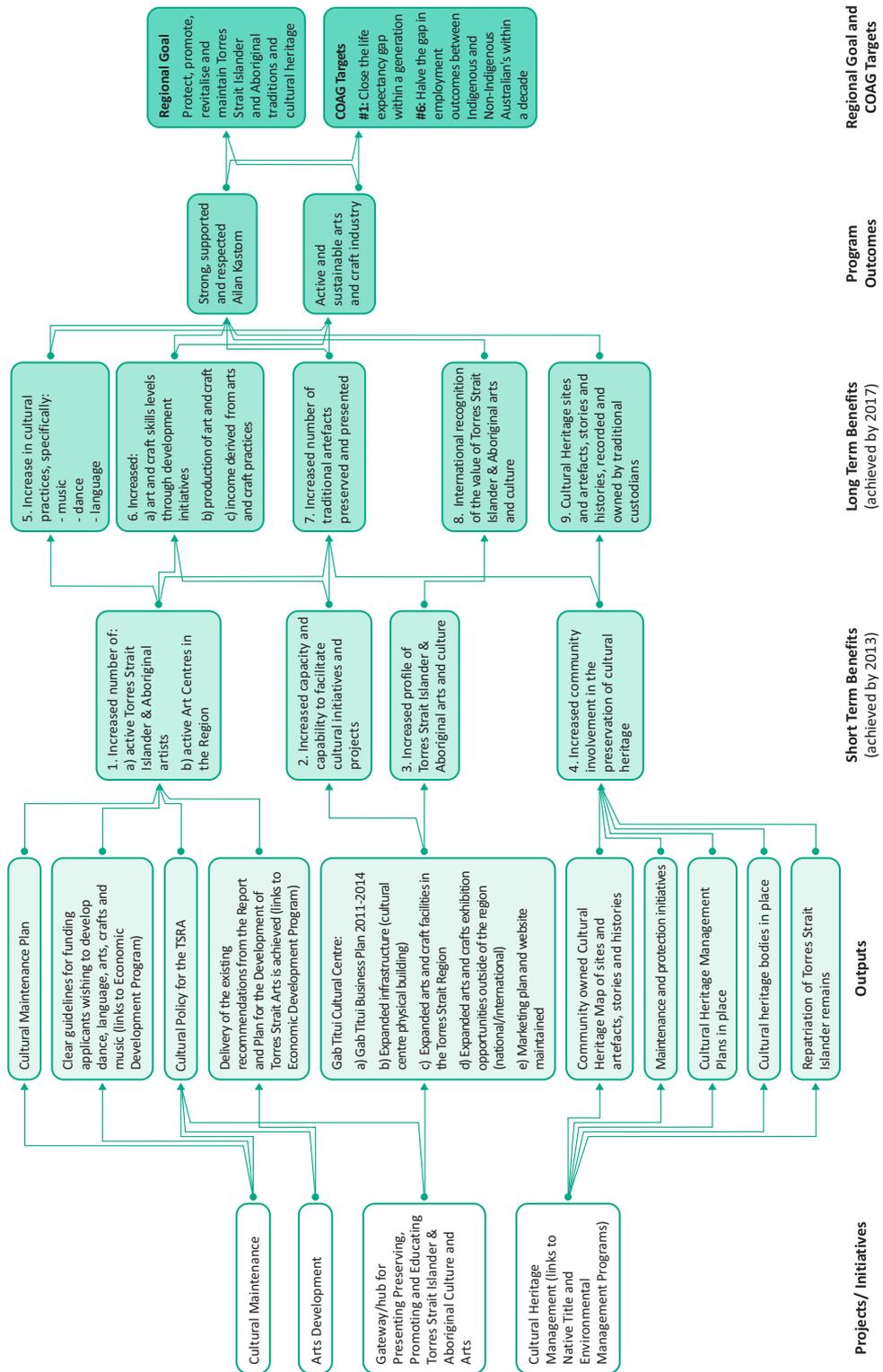
Table 2-3 Culture, Art and Heritage Programme Expenditure 2013 - 2014 (unaudited)

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
4,353	4,209	144

Torres Strait Development Plan Outcomes

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

Figure 2-2 Culture, Art and Heritage Programme Map



Culture, Art and Heritage Programme projects and achievements

Project Name: Cultural maintenance

Project purpose

To support the cultural development and maintenance of Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people residing within the Torres Strait.

To embed the TSRA cultural policy within all TSRA administrative and service delivery processes.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

The Culture, Art and Heritage Programme managed 19 successful grant applications for projects focused on arts development activities and a range of cultural maintenance projects relating to music, dance and language. Six of the grants were co-funded in partnership with the Queensland Government's Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund.

Stage four of the music and dance audit continued documenting and recording traditional and contemporary music and dance across the region. The Mer and St Pauls communities were included in this stage of the audit. The St Pauls community launched their CD and DVD package with traditional celebrations in January 2014. To date, 11 Torres Strait communities have participated in this audit project, the communities of Kubin and Masig are currently in production and four other community audits are yet to be started.

The Torres Strait dance strategy has supported two dance teams to attend major cultural events. The Arpaka Dance Company from the St Pauls community was chosen to participate in the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair in July 2013 and in August 2013 the Urab and Zogo Tudi Dance Team, which includes dancers from both Warraber and Poruma communities, were selected to perform at the 2014 Darwin Festival.

The community cultural planning project continued in 2013 - 2014. The aim of the project is to engage with communities to develop a clear action plan that assists in achieving the community's cultural and artistic goals. Erub was the first community nominated to be part of the project. Consultations commenced in mid-2012, the final plan was updated in June 2014 and the new action plan will be completed in July 2014.

Project Name: Arts development

Project purpose

To implement the Torres Strait Islander arts development plan to achieve:

- *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.*

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

The Gab Titui Cultural Centre assisted three Torres Strait art centres to visit the Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute in September 2013. The three Torres Strait art centres, Erub Erwer Meta (Erub), Ngalmun Lagau Minaral (Moa) and Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh (Badu), presented a comprehensive display of artwork from the region. It was a great success on many levels and provided valuable professional development to art centre staff and artists whilst promoting Torres Strait art and culture on a national stage.

The sixth Gab Titui Indigenous Art Awards programme was held on 23 July 2013. The theme was 'Ailan Style', to communicate the unique stories, designs and ways of Torres Strait communities. The 2013 event received 77 entries from 17 communities, with works ranging from prints, paintings, artefacts and sculptures to multimedia.

The seventh Gab Titui Indigenous Art Awards programme was held on 16 April 2014 to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Gab Titui Cultural Centre. The 2014 theme was 'Ailan Legends', inviting artists to create works that explore the mythology that has influenced Ailan life as well as 'living legends' and contemporary influences in the Torres Strait. The 2014 event received 45 entries from 13 communities.

Twice during 2013 - 2014, arts skills development workshops were undertaken to support the development and maintenance of traditional arts and crafts, including drum making, weaving and carving and jewellery making, with most workshops being offered during the re-opening of the Gab Titui Cultural Centre during July 2013.

Culture, Art and Heritage Programme projects and achievements

Project Name: Gateway / Hub for the presentation, preservation, promotion and education of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal culture and arts

Project purpose

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.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

A seven-month renovation project was completed in July 2013. The renovations incorporate air-conditioning throughout the gallery, purpose-built performance areas and improved access for disabled persons.

The Gab Titui Cultural Centre reopened with a three-day programme of celebrations including public art and crafts workshops. The opening ceremony was presided over by the Chairperson of the TSRA, Mr Joseph Elu, AO. Honoured guests included Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion; the Hon Warren Entsch MP; Mr David Kempton MP; and representatives from the National Museum of Australia, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, the National Film and Sound Archive and Torres Strait organisations and businesses. The programme included performances by Torres Strait Islander musicians and dance teams, the opening of the annual Gab Titui Indigenous Art Award, and the launch of the *Ailan Kastom* documentary. Public workshops in weaving, carving, comb making, jewellery, and drum making were conducted. The biography of Aria Award winning performer Seaman Dan was also launched at this event.

On 30 July 2013 the Gab Titui Cultural Centre welcomed the Hon Dame Quentin Bryce, the then Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, who toured the facilities.

Project Name: Cultural heritage management

Project purpose

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.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

A TSRA cultural policy and cultural protocols guide was produced and promoted to ensure that the TSRA is engaging with people in the region in a culturally appropriate way.

The Culture, Art and Heritage Programme also works with the Environmental Management Programme on the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) pilot project. The TEK pilot project is being delivered on Boigu, Badu, Mabuiag and Moa Islands.

The TSRA has built effective relationships with the State Library of Queensland's Indigenous Knowledge Centre to assist communities to document their heritage.

The TSRA also assists Prescribed Bodies Corporate in the region to prepare to register as cultural heritage bodies under the *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld).

Delivery of Benefits: Torres Strait Development Plan

Professional artists

The TSRA provided funding to the three art centres through a tripartite arrangement with the Australian Government’s Arts Ministry and the Queensland Government’s Arts Queensland Indigenous Art Centre Funding: Erub Erwer Meta (on Erub Island), Ngalmun Lagau Minaral (on Moa Island) and Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh (on Badu Island). The centres have been in operation for five years. During this time the TSRA, in addition to the operational support, has assisted these art centres with governance training, art centre management training, arts skills development and opportunities for touring and promotion. As a result there has been a significant increase in the production and quality of artworks with some artists being presented at prestigious awards.

Short-term benefit description		
<i>Increased number of:</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ active Torres Strait Islander artists ▪ active art centres in the region. 		
Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
<p>15 applications for funding supported through the Culture, Art and Heritage (CAH) Programme this year.</p> <p>Three art centres were established as at June 2011.</p>	<p>The TSRA received 35 grant applications across two Common Funding Rounds. Thirteen grants were approved under the CAH grant programme and a further six applications were supported through co-funding arrangements with the Queensland Government’s, Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund.</p> <p>The 2014 annual Gab Titui Indigenous Art Awards attracted 45 artist entries from 13 communities.</p> <p>Fifty-five artists and arts workers were brought together at an artists’ forum over two days at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre in June 2014 (see the CAH case study).</p> <p>There are 140 active artists engaged with the Gab Titui Cultural Centre. This number includes dance and music practitioners as well as visual artists.</p> <p>The TSRA continues to work in partnership with My Pathway and TAFE to provide training and support to 23 arts workers in the region who are engaged in the transition arts worker project funded through the Ministry for the Arts.</p> <p>The TSRA, in partnership with the Queensland Government and the Australian Government, continued to provide operational funding for the three art centres: Erub Erwer Meta (on Erub Island), Ngalmun Lagau Minaral (on Moa Island) and Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh (on Badu Island).</p>	<p>Strong culture and respect of Ailan Kastom underpins the achievement of all the Closing the Gap targets.</p>

Cultural maintenance

The TSRA, through the Culture, Art and Heritage Programme, works closely with all communities in the region to deliver cultural maintenance benefits. This is done through three avenues:

- **Community cultural plans.** These plans have assisted Poruma and Erub communities to identify their cultural strengths and to build on their cultural capacity to develop enterprises, support the Torres Strait arts industry and maintain cultural objects and traditions.
- **Language strategy.** This involves developing a strategy to address the critical status of Torres Strait languages in the region. Stage one has been completed and a culture and language symposium is planned for November 2014.
- **Traditional crafts.** This involves working with key cultural leaders and craftspeople to maintain and teach craft skills in drum making, comb making, weaving and carving to ensure that Torres Strait culture and art can be preserved and continue to contribute to a stronger cultural identity whilst ensuring the unique artwork of the Torres Strait is maintained.

Short-term benefit description		
<i>Increased capacity and capability to facilitate cultural initiatives and projects.</i>		
Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
Increase display area.	Major renovations at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre have been completed - the official re-opening was held on 23 July 2013.	Strong culture and respect of Ailan Kastom underpins the achievement of all the Closing the Gap targets.
Develop two external partnerships for display by 1 July 2010.	Torres Strait culture and art were presented at the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair in August 2013. Torres Strait art centres toured to Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute in South Australia.	

Arts development

The promotion of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal arts and culture continues to be a core activity of the TSRA through the Culture, Art and Heritage Programme and the Gab Titui Cultural Centre. Exhibitions, ongoing displays of works, events, tours and attendance at art fairs all contribute to raising the profile of the arts and culture of the region. Networking with tourism operators and promotion of activities through industry publications and the Gab Titui Cultural Centre website all contribute to increasing the number of visitors seeking information about Torres Strait culture and the arts, artists and art centres in the region.

Short-term benefit description		
<i>Increased profile of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal arts and culture.</i>		
Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
14,000 visitors to Gab Titui Cultural Centre in 2010 - 2011. \$240,000 generated through retail and activities in 2011 - 2012.	10,863 visitors recorded as at 30 June 2014. \$231,108 was generated through retail activities as at 30 June 2014, most of which was return for artists' work sold through the Centre.	Strong culture and respect of Ailan Kastom underpins the achievement of all the Closing the Gap targets.
20,000 hits on Gab Titui Cultural Centre website.	66,509 hits recorded at 30 June 2014.	

Cultural heritage

This benefit is jointly shared between the Culture, Art and Heritage, Environmental Management, and Native Title Programmes. The Culture, Art and Heritage Programme supports and funds grants for community-based cultural heritage projects; develops partnerships with communities for cultural maintenance and heritage projects through its cultural maintenance exhibition programme at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre; and works with communities on a broad range of opportunities with external parties. It also works with the Environmental Management Programme on the TEK project as an important cultural heritage management initiative.

Short-term benefit description

Increased community involvement in the preservation of cultural heritage.

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
One cultural heritage activity undertaken in 2013 - 2014.	<p>The TEK pilot project is being delivered on Boigu, Badu, Mabuiag and Moa islands. This knowledge will assist the TSRA's Ranger Programme in natural resource management, cultural heritage mapping and maintenance.</p> <p>The Gab Titui Cultural Centre worked closely with communities to source and loan artworks and artefacts that are currently part of the major display in the Ephraim Bani Gallery, the keeping place for Torres Strait culture within the Gab Titui Cultural Centre.</p>	Strong culture and respect of Ailan Kastom underpins the achievement of all the Closing the Gap targets.



Gab Titui Cultural Centre Art Gallery – Apu and Kazi Dhangal woodwork by Marcfarlane Bowie.

Case Study: Inaugural Arts Industry Forum, 2014

An arts industry forum was held on 18 and 19 June 2014. The forum was staged to provide an opportunity for artists, arts workers and arts and cultural industry specialists to come together and network at, as well as gain updated information from, the Gab Titui Cultural Centre and the TSRA's Culture, Art and Heritage (CAH) Programme. The Programme also included opportunities for the TSRA to inform participants of the culture, art and heritage services available to them in the region. The forum provided an opportunity for participants to provide feedback to the CAH Programme and contribute to the development of the *Torres Strait Indigenous Arts Development Plan (2015 - 2018)*.

There were 36 artists from 11 communities and 19 arts workers from eight communities from across the region. The programme included panel discussions, presentations and specialty workshops. The Arts Law Centre of Australia presented a session on intellectual property and artistic and cultural copyright and other related matters and also offered one-on-one

sessions for artists who wanted to discuss their particular issues. Savvy Events' Melissa Robertson spoke about art project planning and gave tips to local artists on effective art project report and grant submissions writing. UMI Arts, Cairns, presented on their work supporting individual artists and offered support and guidance for mounting exhibition ready artwork.

There was a session about the performing arts led by Aaron Fa'aoso, who talked about the opportunities in the film industry. Breakout sessions provided access to some of the more established artists' advice and insights about their journey in the arts industry and issues related to adherence to cultural protocols in the process of producing art. The three established art centres in the communities of Badu, Moa and Erub shared information about their development story.

Feedback forms were received from 32 of the participants and the overall response was very positive, not only about the event, but also about the services that the CAH Programme and the Gab Titui Cultural Centre provided generally. One of the strongest recommendations to come from the group was the recognition that Torres Strait art needed to have a stronger identity and to be branded differently from mainland Aboriginal art. This recommendation will be implemented in collaboration with the art centres and the CAH Programme.

This event has strengthened the Torres Strait artistic community and created a stronger bond between the CAH Programme and the Torres Strait arts industry.



Rosie Ware (left) displaying necklaces by Laura Mooka (right).

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.

Programme 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.

Programme Objectives

The Economic Development Programme component will:

- 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.

Programme Deliverables

- Increased number of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal individuals in non-Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) employment (now the Remote Jobs and Communities Programme, RJCP).
- 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 and kaia (tropical rock lobster) by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people.

Programme Expenditure 2013 - 2014

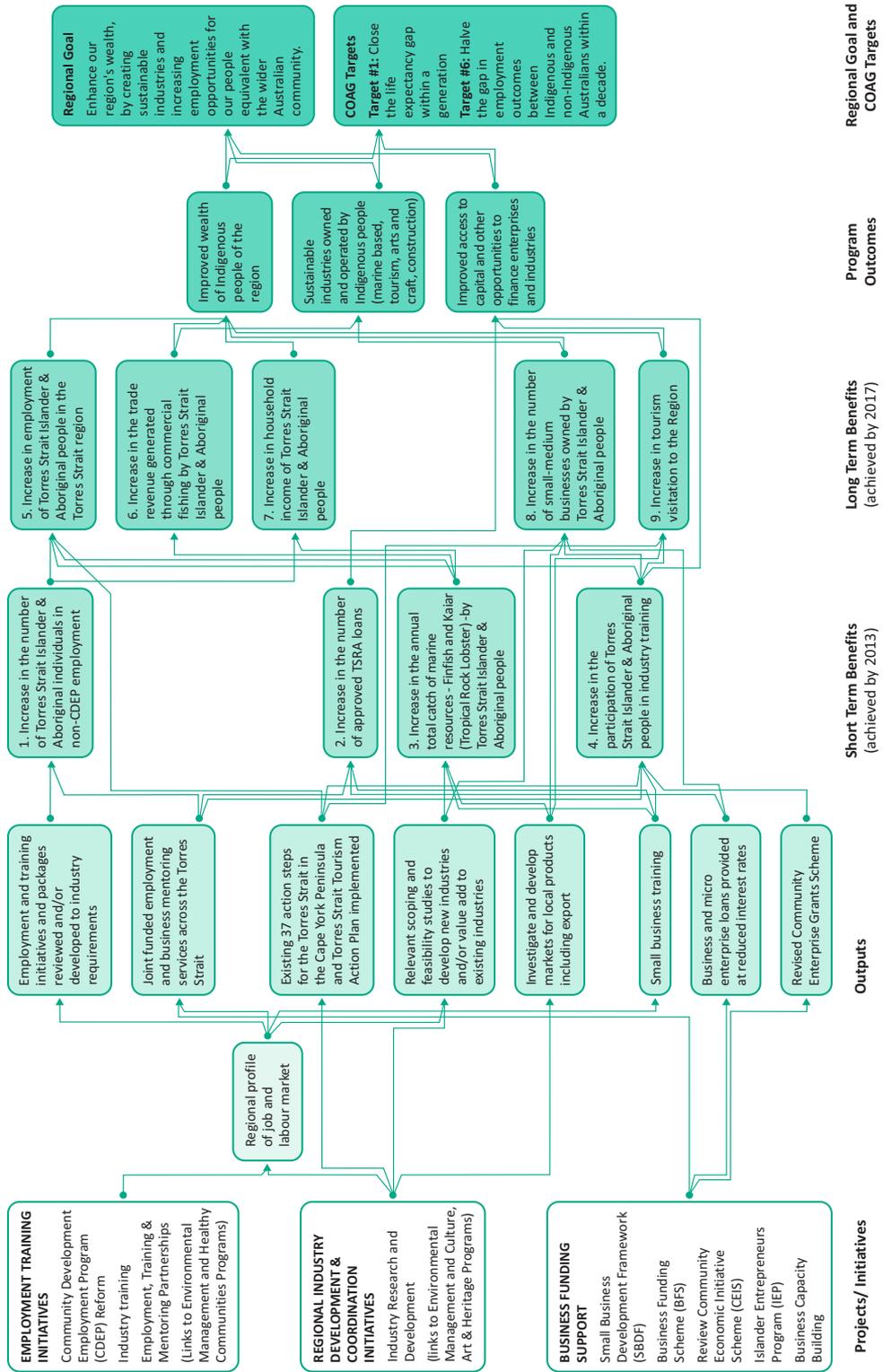
Table 2-4 Economic Development Programme Expenditure 2013 - 2014 (unaudited)

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
13,064	13,003	61

Torres Strait Development Plan Outcomes

- Improved wealth of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people of the region.
- Sustainable industries owned and operated by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal 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 Programme Map



Economic Development Programme projects and achievements

Project Name: Employment and training initiatives

Project purpose

To implement the Remote Jobs and Communities Programme (RJCP) and to advance business skills and align training initiatives with regional employment opportunities.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

As the RJCP agreement manager for the Torres Strait Islands Region, the TSRA supported the service provider to develop a regional workforce development strategy and community action plan for consideration by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs. These documents help to align activities and training conducted under the RJCP to priorities and employment opportunities in the region.

Thirty-six RJCP jobseekers were transitioned into permanent full-time employment positions. These positions were in building, construction and mining; business and administration; childcare; cleaning; communication; community service; education; farming, agriculture and horticulture; fitness and training; fishing and maritime industries; health; hospitality; management; and retail and customer service.

Fourteen RJCP jobseekers were transitioned into part-time employment. These positions were in arts; building, construction and mining; childcare; education; fitness and training; health; and retail and customer service.

Sixty-nine RJCP jobseekers commenced casual employment in arts; building, construction and mining; business and administration; childcare; cleaning; communication; community service; education; farming, agriculture and horticulture; fitness and training; fishing and maritime industries; health; hospitality; management; and retail and customer service.

Training was delivered to 67 RJCP participants across a diverse range of areas such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural arts; business administration; carpentry; community development; community services work; construction; fishing operations and wild harvest diving; hospitality; Indigenous community housing maintenance; Indigenous mental health; retail services; surface extraction operations; theology and ministry; transport and distribution maritime operation; work readiness; and workplace practices.

Through the Torres Strait Marine Pathways Project, a partnership between the TSRA, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Maritime Safety Queensland, maritime industry training was provided for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait region. Seventy-seven participants achieved a nationally recognised Certificate II In Maritime Operations (Coxswain Grade 1 Near Coastal) and / or Certificate II in Maritime Operations (Marine Engine Driver Grade 3 Near Coastal) qualifications. A further 41 participants completed relevant components of these qualifications (obtaining a statement of attainment): 12 achieved Certificate III in Fishing Operations and eight achieved wild harvest dive programme qualifications. These qualifications provided employment pathways for work in marine-based industries within the region and across Australia.



Into Business workshop on Poruma.

Economic Development Programme projects and achievements

Project Name: Regional industry development and coordination initiatives

Project purpose

To stimulate economic development across the region.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

The TSRA, in partnership with Indigenous Business Australia, offered Into Business Workshops to economic development clients in the Torres Strait region.

At no cost to clients, the TSRA assisted community members and directors of Torres Strait Islander (TSI) Corporations, to undertake the Into Business Workshops. The workshops helped participants to research and develop their business ideas, and as a result helped them to assess if their idea was commercially viable. Community members and corporation directors were provided with the opportunity to complete each of the three workshop modules (Workshop A, B and C).

Participation:

- Workshop A: 34 community members and five TSI Corporations (16 corporation directors)
- Workshop B: 22 community members and four TSI Corporations (10 corporation directors)
- Workshop C: 22 community members and three TSI Corporations (seven corporation directors).

All participants actively participated in the workshops and completed their own research between each workshop.

The TSRA supported seven Community Economic Initiatives through its grant funding programme. Details of the Community Economic Initiatives Scheme grants are provided in Appendix 3.

The TSRA helped the Torres Shire Council, Torres Strait Island Regional Council and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council to each employ an events coordinator to assist in promoting the region and coordinate community-based events in each local government area.

The TSRA has provided grant funding to the Torres Shire Council to enable them to refurbish the sports stadium and related infrastructure on Thursday Island. The activity, to be undertaken in partnership with the RJCP provider, will provide employment and training outcomes in addition to flow-on healthy lifestyle benefits. Project planning was undertaken in 2013 - 2014, with works to be completed in 2014 - 2015.

Delivery of Benefits: Torres Strait Development Plan

Business Funding Scheme and Housing Loans

The Business Funding Scheme and Housing Loans project did not meet its targets in 2013 - 2014. Complex land tenure arrangements in the Torres Strait continue to make it difficult for loan applicants to provide appropriate security for loans.

Short-term benefit description

Increase in the number of approved TSRA loans.

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
Five new business loans and three new home loans granted per annum from July 2009 to June 2013.	Two business loans. Two home loans.	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.

Employment

From 1 July 2013, Job Services Australia, Disability Employment Services, the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) programme and the Indigenous Employment Programme in remote regions transitioned to the new RJCP. The TSRA has successfully negotiated to be the RJCP Agreement Manager for the Torres Strait Islands Region. The TSRA has established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to manage the RJCP Contract. The MOU, which was originally agreed between the TSRA and the former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, took effect from 1 September 2013. The MOU is for a period of five years with an option for renewal for a further five years.

Short-term benefit description		
<i>Increase in the number of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal individuals in non-RJCP employment.</i>		
Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
<p>50 people per annum moved from RJCP into non-RJCP jobs per annum from July 2009 to June 2013.</p> <p>Note: this target was initially set for CDEP projects.</p>	<p>36 RJCP jobseekers were transitioned into permanent full-time employment positions. These people were transitioned into permanent employment positions in the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Building, construction and mining (11) ■ Business and administration (8) ■ Community service (2) ■ Education (2) ■ Farming, agriculture and horticulture (3) ■ Health (3) ■ Hospitality (2) ■ Management (2) ■ Retail and customer service (3). <p>14 RJCP jobseekers were transitioned into permanent part-time employment positions. These people were transitioned into permanent employment positions in the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Arts (3) ■ Building, construction and mining (2) ■ Childcare (2) ■ Cleaning (1) ■ Community service (1) ■ Education (1) ■ Fitness and training (1) ■ Retail and customer service (3). <p>69 RJCP jobseekers are engaged in casual employment. These people were engaged into casual employment positions in the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Arts (1) ■ Building, construction and mining (25) ■ Business and administration (5) ■ Childcare (2) ■ Cleaning (6) ■ Community service (2) ■ Education (4) ■ Farming, agriculture and horticulture (3) ■ Fishing and maritime industries (1) ■ Hospitality (3) ■ Retail and customer service (17). 	<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>

Marine Resource Utilisation

Progress against the Marine Resource Utilisation target cannot be quantified at present. The requirement to report catch is not mandatory for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal 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

Increase in the annual total catch of marine resources (Finfish and Tropical Rock Lobster) by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people.

Benefit target	Progress			COAG target
	The TIB sector reported catch (as published in <i>Fishery Status Reports 2012</i>) is:			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.
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. ^a	2010: 191 tonnes	2011: 201 tonnes	2012: 188 tonnes	
	2010 - 2011:	2011 - 2012	2012 - 2013	
Coral Trout: 20 tons per annum. ^b	(Effort) 14 operation days	2.29 tonnes	1.08 tonnes	
Spanish Mackerel: 3.5 tonnes per annum. ^a	(Effort) 14 operation days	1.86 tonnes	1.64 tonnes	

a The percentage increases are for the catch amounts for TIB fishers.

b Catch reporting is voluntary for the TIB sector. Data from processors is also used to provide the best estimate for TIB catch.



View from ferry between Horn and Thursday islands.

Case Study: Small Business Success

TI Main Events, a locally owned party hire company based on Thursday Island, is an example of how the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Economic Development Programme is helping enhance the region's wealth by creating sustainable industries and increasing employment opportunities.

Proprietor Michael Bon established the business in 2008 after an opportunity to purchase two used marquees from a friend enabled him to offer shelter for a range of events, including birthdays, weddings and tombstone openings.

Continual reinvestment during the early years of the business saw Michael purchase chairs and tables to supplement his marquees and to ensure he could service the growing events market on Thursday Island.

In 2011, he approached the TSRA to help fund the purchase of more equipment under the programme area's Business Funding Scheme, an initiative that aims to improve access to capital and other opportunities to finance enterprises and industries.

As part of the loan application process Michael engaged in a business mentoring programme in order to review his business plan and company structure and to project potential cash flow opportunities. The TSRA also sponsored Michael to undertake studies in a Certificate III in Micro Business which allowed him to better understand the issues behind running a small business.

As a demonstration of Michael's hard work and commitment to TI Main Events, he also maintained a separate cleaning job and worked around its set hours to fulfil his hire contracts and to complete his study.



Michael Bon, owner TI Main Events.

The loan provided by the TSRA in 2012 has since enabled Michael to purchase new marquees and a vehicle to properly meet the needs of the burgeoning business.

The next stage in growth for Michael is to add catering equipment to his hire range, including bain-maries, glassware, cutlery and crockery.

Michael is currently studying a Certificate IV in Accounting and hopes to be able to leave his cleaning job and concentrate on building TI Main Events into a full-time venture in the near future.

He is planning to offer his services to the Torres Strait outer islands and the Northern Peninsula Area and eventually enter the Cairns market. He is teaching his younger workforce about the business and the importance of hard work.

Michael says after establishing the business and seeing first hand the benefits of working for himself, he'd like to encourage other Torres Strait Islanders to consider educating themselves to find their own business opportunities, rather than just looking for a job.

Environmental Management

In October 2013, the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) won two of Australia's most prestigious environmental awards, including an award for an outstanding contribution to national sustainability.

The TSRA Environment Portfolio Member, Mr Willie Lui, was presented with the 26th Banksia Indigenous Award and a Gold Banksia Award at the ceremony in Melbourne. The gold award recognised the TSRA as the best entrant in 11 major categories of the annual awards.

The TSRA Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, said the awards were fitting recognition for the Land and Sea Management Unit (LSMU) of the TSRA, based on the scale, breadth of vision, and holistic approach to land and sea management of the Environmental Management Programme. The Programme has demonstrated the positive way in which traditional cultural practices of caring for the land and sea, combined with contemporary management approaches, can lead to better environmental outcomes.

The TSRA established the LSMU in 2006 to coordinate the delivery of natural resource management programmes in the Torres Strait region. The Unit facilitates improved coordination, communication and collaboration between communities, all levels of government, research organisations and other stakeholders to achieve improved environmental conservation outcomes. Communities are assisted to access financial and technical information about the sustainable management of their environments.

The LSMU strives to ensure that Indigenous customary knowledge and management techniques are appropriately recognised and incorporated in contemporary management regimes, especially for culturally iconic species such as dugongs and marine turtles, and areas of high cultural and biodiversity significance. It does so by supporting community-based planning and management approaches, acknowledging the critical role of communities in acting as local custodians of their environmental assets, integrating western and customary knowledge in management arrangements, as well as empowering communities in decision-making and priority setting.



Miya Isherwood, TSRA Land and Sea Management Unit Programmes and Partnerships Officer; Willie Lui, TSRA Environment Portfolio Member and Member for Warraber; and Jenni Pilot, TSRA Land and Sea Management Unit Project Support Officer (Ranger Team) receiving the Banksia Gold Award at the 2013 Banksia Sustainability Awards, Melbourne, October 2013.

Regional Goal

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

Programme Goal

The programme goal is identical to the regional goal.

Programme Objectives

This programme 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.

Programme Deliverables

The Environmental Management Programme is delivered by the TSRA's Land and Sea Management Unit.

The programme deliverables are to achieve the outcomes from the:

- Fisheries project
- Land project
- Garden and horticulture project
- Biodiversity project
- Invasive species project
- Seagrass and other research activities project
- Land and sea rangers project
- Climate change and coastal erosion project
- Research initiatives.

Programme Expenditure 2013 - 2014

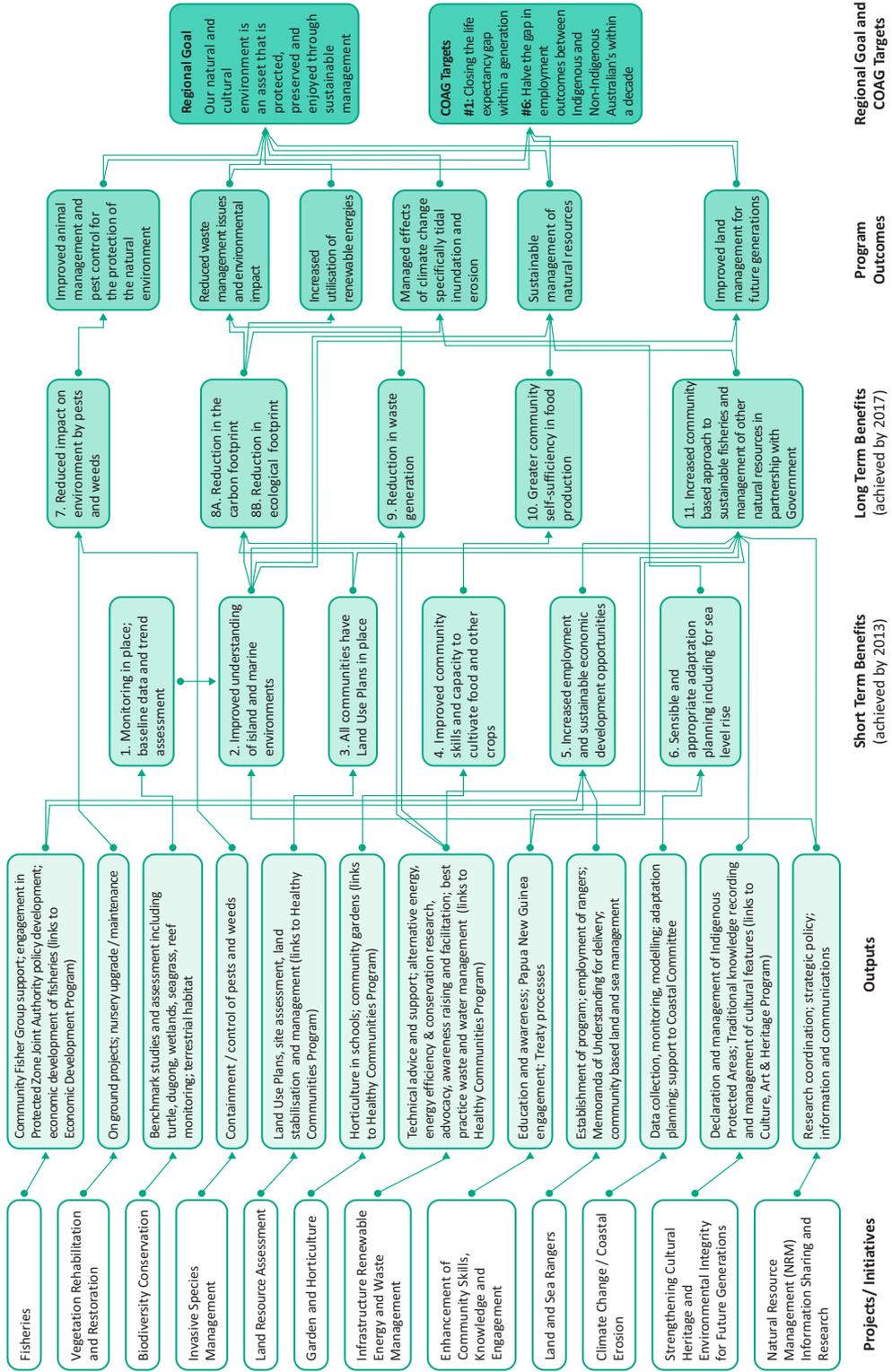
Table 2-5 Environmental Management Programme Expenditure 2013 - 2014 (unaudited)

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
5,999	5,797	202

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.

Figure 2-4 Environmental Management Programme Map



Environmental Management Programme projects and achievements

Project Name: Terrestrial biodiversity conservation

Project purpose

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.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

Terrestrial biodiversity assessments for the Moa community and 12 uninhabited islands were completed.

Ecological fire management was undertaken on Badu and Moa and formal fire training (ground burning and incendiary burning from helicopters) was completed for seven ranger groups from Badu, Moa, Saibai, Mabuig, Erub, Boigu and Dauan.

Under the National Environmental Research Programme, collaborative research is underway to:

- determine disease dynamics across the Torres Strait and improve approaches for disease detection and management
- determine the status and condition of regional mangrove and freshwater ecosystems.

The MangroveWatch Programme continued in the Torres Strait, with rangers trained and equipped for field monitoring.

Project Name: Invasive species management

Project purpose

To support monitoring and management of invasive species in the Torres Strait.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

The TSRA secured Queensland Government funding for an integrated pest management project to manage three invasive species found in Torres Strait; namely, pest fish, cane toads and wild dogs.

Invasive fish surveys were conducted on Boigu, Saibai, Badu and Mabuig Islands in collaboration with researchers from James Cook University.

Cane toad surveys were conducted on Thursday and Horn Islands, and containment measures were subsequently implemented in early 2014. Consultations are underway with freight companies to identify strategies to reduce the risks of accidental transportation of cane toads (and other invasive species) on ships bound for the Torres Strait.

Rangers are monitoring pest animal impacts, and have supported relevant government agencies in conducting island plant and animal health surveys.

Weed management activities have been included in ranger work plans, in line with targeted control programmes across 15 islands.

The TSRA is coordinating the development of a regional invasive species management strategy.

Environmental Management Programme projects and achievements

Project Name: Sustainable horticulture

Project purpose

To provide Torres Strait communities with access to a wider range of fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs at affordable prices.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

Funding was secured under the sustainable agriculture stream of the Caring for our Country programme for the TSRA to continue employing a Regional Landcare Facilitator to promote and support Landcare and food gardening activities. This is complemented by TSRA funding to support project delivery.

Under the sustainable horticulture project, four continuing community garden pilot projects (at St Pauls, Hammond, Horn and Masig) have been supported to increase garden productivity and the uptake of sustainable practices.

The sustainable horticulture project has expanded to include nine additional communities, including trials to re-establish garden or nursery sites and traditional garden beds and to provide horticultural supplies, technical advice and on-ground support.

The Horticulture in Schools Programme was delivered in collaboration with Tagai State College. This project has supported the employment of an environmental education coordinator based at Tagai College, the inclusion of horticulture and an environmental programme in the school curriculum, and extensive garden projects on 14 campuses across the region. Two campuses received awards from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for their level of community engagement and produce from the gardens. The environmental programme within Tagai also received a high commendation and the Premier's award for sustainability (sustainable schools category).



Rangers clearing Manilla rope, Dauan.

Environmental Management Programme projects and achievements

Project Name: Dugong and turtle management

Project purpose

To implement community-based management plans for the sustainable management of dugong and turtle in the Torres Strait.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

The TSRA is supporting 14 Torres Strait communities in implementing their community-based management plans to sustainably manage dugong and turtle populations. The TSRA was successful in obtaining funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country programme to deliver aspects of the dugong and turtle project, which is complemented by additional funding from the TSRA.

The TSRA is also working with the Kaurareg Traditional Owners and communities of the Kaiwalagal region (inner islands) to establish a management framework for dugong and turtle.

An independent review of the effectiveness of the community-based management approach is underway. The review will measure progress in implementing the plans and provide feedback and recommendations for improvement.

Dugong and turtle management signs have been erected in each of the 14 Torres Strait communities to reinforce community and visitor awareness of the management plans.

A prototype device is under development for use by traditional hunters to humanely euthanase green turtles. An animal ethics committee assesses and approves each stage of the project to ensure the device meets animal cruelty standards and is suitable for its purpose and a steering committee, chaired by TSRA, oversees the project.

A review of the voluntary community dugong and turtle catch monitoring programme was completed. The report recommended a pilot of customised data collection models for each community. Further work is progressing on these models.

James Cook University, in collaboration with the TSRA's staff and Traditional Owners, will complete the marine turtles and dugongs of the Torres Strait research project in 2014. Preliminary results indicate that green turtle nesting effort and success was higher this year at both Dauar Island and Maizab Kaur (Bramble Cay), and that hatchling success was also healthy at Maizab Kaur.

Flatback turtle nesting surveys, satellite tagging and genetic sampling of nesting turtles at Warul Kawa (Deliverance Island) was also undertaken. A foraging survey for flatback, green and hawksbill turtles was conducted.

Annual large-scale aerial surveys were completed to identify the distribution and abundance of dugongs throughout the Torres Strait using spatial models developed for the project. The report is being finalised.

The TSRA is facilitating community consultations on a proposed expansion of the existing boundaries of the dugong sanctuary and the inclusion of turtles as protected species in the sanctuary area.

The TSRA is working with the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection on the Raine Island green turtle conservation project.

The TSRA is liaising with Papua New Guinea (PNG) Traditional Inhabitants and the PNG Department of Environment and Conservation in planning and managing shared arrangements for dugongs and turtles.

Environmental Management Programme projects and achievements

Project Name: Seagrass monitoring and other related research activities

Project purpose

To support community-based seagrass monitoring activities to assess the health, condition and extent of seagrass beds throughout the Torres Strait.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

TSRA staff successfully coordinated seagrass monitoring at 11 sites across five islands (Moa, Mabuiag, Iama, Mer and Badu) to monitor the health of seagrass beds. A seagrass monitoring refresher workshop was organised by James Cook University (JCU), in order to improve the accuracy of monitoring outcomes. The sea team and ranger groups are now responsible for coordinating the surveys and data quality control before forwarding data to JCU for analysis.

The JCU is assessing seagrass productivity, resilience to sea temperature change and capacity for recovery in the Torres Strait in order to model stronger predictive relationships between climate and seagrass health.

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), in collaboration with the TSRA, undertook a National Environment Research Programme (NERP) project to assess the health of coral reefs in Torres Strait this year. Thirteen TSRA staff members were trained in coral reef monitoring methods during a broader biodiversity survey in January 2014. The interim report updates the baseline information, which will be critical for future change reference points, identifies new coral and fish species, and provides an assessment of coral bleaching locations.

As part of the project, the TSRA and AIMS staff installed a second real-time weather station at Masig (Yorke Island) and assisted in maintaining the existing stations at Madge Reef and Poruma Island. These stations provide the TSRA and communities with regular real-time weather, coral bleaching and environmental conditions reports for vulnerable areas in the Torres Strait.

TSRA staff are also responsible for the retrieval and replacement of in-water temperature data loggers across Torres Strait. The data collected from the loggers will enable scientists to predict fluctuations in water temperature which may lead to coral bleaching.

Project Name: Indigenous Protected Areas

Project purpose

To deliver the Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) programme in the Torres Strait.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

Funding was secured from the Department of the Environment (now from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet) for the continuation of the IPA project for a further five years.

Draft management plans for the proposed Warraberalgahl and Porumalgal IPA and Warul Kawa IPA have been developed. A dedication for the proposed Warraberalgahl and Porumalgal IPA is currently being negotiated.

The TSRA assisted Traditional Owners to manage the existing IPAs at Warul Kawa and Pulu Islet.

Environmental baseline studies have been completed on all the uninhabited islands of the proposed Warraberalgahl and Porumalgal IPA, providing important ecological data.

Environmental Management Programme projects and achievements

Project Name: Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Project purpose

To establish a Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) recording system for the Torres Strait, to enable land and sea planning and management activities to be informed by Ailan Kastom using appropriate intellectual property and communication protocols.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

Funding has been secured for the continuation of the TEK project until 2018 under the Australian Government's Caring for our Country programme.

The TSRA supported the community-owned TEK database system on Boigu Island.

The TEK project has been expanded to the near western cluster (Badu, Moa and Mabuiag Islands). TSRA staff and community members in these additional communities have been trained and are now actively recording information for uploading into the TEK database.

TSRA staff and consultants provided technical support for rangers using the TEK system.

Project Name: Climate change and coastal management

Project purpose

To manage coastal impacts and climate change issues in the Torres Strait.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

A marine water quality monitoring programme has been established across the Torres Strait to assess the changes to the local marine environment.

Four tide gauges were installed (at Boigu, Iama, Kubin and Ugar) to monitor tidal dynamics across the region and improve the accuracy of mean sea level datum values.

Four community workshops were delivered for the NERP funded building resilient futures for Torres Strait communities project, in partnership with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

A coral reef response plan was developed to address sea level and water temperature change, disease and crown-of-thorns starfish threats to Torres Strait reef systems.

The TSRA partnered with AIMS in the development of a web-based information visualisation platform (E-Atlas) for the Torres Strait.

Numerous mapping and spatial information products have been developed to support internal and external projects, including maps of electoral boundaries, natural resource management maps, development of emergency evacuation maps, coastal hazard maps, maps of sea wall projects and infrastructure maps.

Project Name: Fisheries

Project purpose

To increase employment in the fishing industry and create sustainable businesses whilst ensuring ecologically sustainable management.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

Through the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) consultative structure, the TSRA helped community representatives to contribute Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal fisher and community perspectives at PZJA related meetings. Also through the PZJA, the TSRA secured support from other PZJA members for the aspiration of 100 per cent ownership of Torres Strait Fisheries by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait.

Delivery of Benefits: Torres Strait Development Plan

Community skills and capacity

The TSRA's LSMU administers the TSRA's Environmental Management Programme. This Programme provides information, technical support and access to resources and equipment to enable all Torres Strait outer island communities to carry out cultural and natural resource management activities that achieve outcomes under the Environmental Management Programme. Ranger groups on the islands play an integral part in facilitating and delivering these activities at the local level. Communities and Traditional Owners continue to be engaged in all stages of project design and delivery to ensure local and cultural priorities are adequately addressed.

Short-term benefit description

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

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
Eight communities supported to establish sustainable horticulture activities by 2011 - 2012.	<p>The Regional Landcare Facilitator is promoting and supporting land care and food gardening.</p> <p>Four communities have active, food producing gardens in place.</p> <p>Nine additional communities are being supported through the land care facilitator to trial the adoption of sustainable horticultural practices and to establish community gardens and nurseries.</p> <p>An environmental education programme that embeds sustainable horticulture within the school curriculum is being delivered.</p>	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.



Clutch excavation, TSRA rangers on Bramble Cay. (Photo: Tristan Simpson)

Monitoring in place / baseline regional environmental data available

Baseline terrestrial and marine biodiversity datasets continue to be acquired to guide sustainable planning, priority setting, investment, project design, implementation and evaluation. Research through the NERP tropical ecosystems hub, and previous programmes, has contributed significantly to the development of more comprehensive regional baseline datasets. The TSRA now has internal capacity to manage geographic information system datasets and to develop maps and associated products to support management and planning activities, and has established important linkages with other initiatives and information sharing platforms. The TSRA has also facilitated effective ongoing collaboration between scientists and communities to identify and assess trends and the impacts of environmental and climate change on key species and ecosystems in the region.

Short-term benefit description		
<i>Monitoring in place / baseline data established and trend assessment in progress.</i>		
Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
Trend analysis contributing to environmental management initiatives realised progressively from July 2010.	<p>Environmental baseline data is in place to support sustainable land use planning for all inhabited islands.</p> <p>Biodiversity profiles have been completed for all outer island communities.</p> <p>Vegetation datasets and regional ecosystem maps have been completed for all communities.</p> <p>Fire management profiles are available for Moa, Badu, Mabuia, Saibai, Dauan, Boigu and Erub.</p> <p>Seagrass surveys have been undertaken again at 11 sites on Mabuia, Mer, lama, Moa and Badu.</p> <p>Coral monitoring surveys have been undertaken and rangers trained in coral monitoring techniques.</p> <p>Turtle and dugong catch data provided by community members continues to be collated.</p> <p>Green turtle nesting surveys have been undertaken annually since 2006 on Maizab Kaur (Bramble Cay) and Dauar Island. Flatback turtle nesting surveys, tagging, genetic sampling and satellite tracking activities are also contributing baseline population data.</p> <p>The aerial dugong survey and draft report have been completed, highlighting no significant decline in Torres Strait dugong populations since surveys began.</p> <p>The impacts of climate change are monitored using data retrieved from the sea surface temperature monitoring network, the installation of tide and sea level gauges and baseline data on coastal erosion.</p> <p>Four tide gauges have been installed (Boigu, lama, Kubin and Ugar) to monitor tides across the Torres Strait. A sea level gauge is also being constructed on Thursday Island wharf.</p> <p>A marine water quality monitoring project is providing baseline data on the marine environment in the region, as well assessing the intrusion of pollutants into the Torres Strait from PNG.</p>	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.

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 My Pathways and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council to deliver minor coastal works programmes on eight communities.

Short-term benefit description		
<i>Sensible and appropriate adaptation planning including for sea level rise.</i>		
Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
Regional climate change modelling and adaptive planning strategies are in place for communities by 2011 - 2012.	<p>Coastal hazard maps have been completed for the entire coast line of inhabited islands.</p> <p>Community adaptation workshops have been trialled on three communities through the NERP funded building resilient futures for Torres Strait communities project run by the CSIRO.</p> <p>A tide gauge network has been installed to measure tidal dynamics and sea level rise and to improve the accuracy of datum points.</p> <p>Coastal hazard mapping has been fed into local government planning schemes.</p> <p>Coastal impact mitigation option reports have been developed for the Mabuia, Mer and Erub communities.</p>	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.
A Climate Change Strategy Action Plan is to be developed by 2011 and implemented progressively from 2011.	<p>The Torres Strait climate change strategy and associated action plan have been revised and updated for release.</p> <p>Major research and modelling components have been completed. The environmental and climate change monitoring framework is being developed.</p> <p>A regional and community-based adaptation and resilience planning process has been initiated.</p>	



Hatchling trenches on Bramble Cay. (Photo: Tristan Simpson)



Rangers discussing coral diversity. (Photo: Tristan Simpson)

Case Study: Coral Reef Monitoring in Torres Strait

Project description

Coral reefs are fundamental to the culture, lives and livelihoods of Torres Strait Islanders. The ecosystem services provided by coral reefs are invaluable, and yet there is limited knowledge of their current condition and threats to their future health. The first instance of large-scale coral bleaching for the region was recorded in 2010. The extent of other potential impacts, such as crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks and coral disease, are relatively unknown. Additionally, reefs in the Torres Strait are affected by the impacts of sea level and sea temperature changes, as well as regional threats such as increased shipping and the runoff from development activities in Papua New Guinea.

The TSRA, in partnership with the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and the University of Queensland, is conducting a project under the National Environmental Research Programme (NERP) entitled 'Monitoring the health of Torres Strait coral reefs'. Data collection under the coral monitoring project started in 2011.

Aims

The project aims to address critical knowledge gaps, build regional capacity and improve future regional marine natural resource management outcomes. It does so by developing appropriate monitoring mechanisms necessary to assess the biodiversity and health status of the Torres Strait's coral reefs. Over the longer term, the monitoring programme will gauge any changes against identified threats and the level of their impact. Its outcomes will benefit communities and rangers by empowering them to make informed decisions regarding their sea country and the contemporary threats to Torres Strait coral reefs.

Achievements

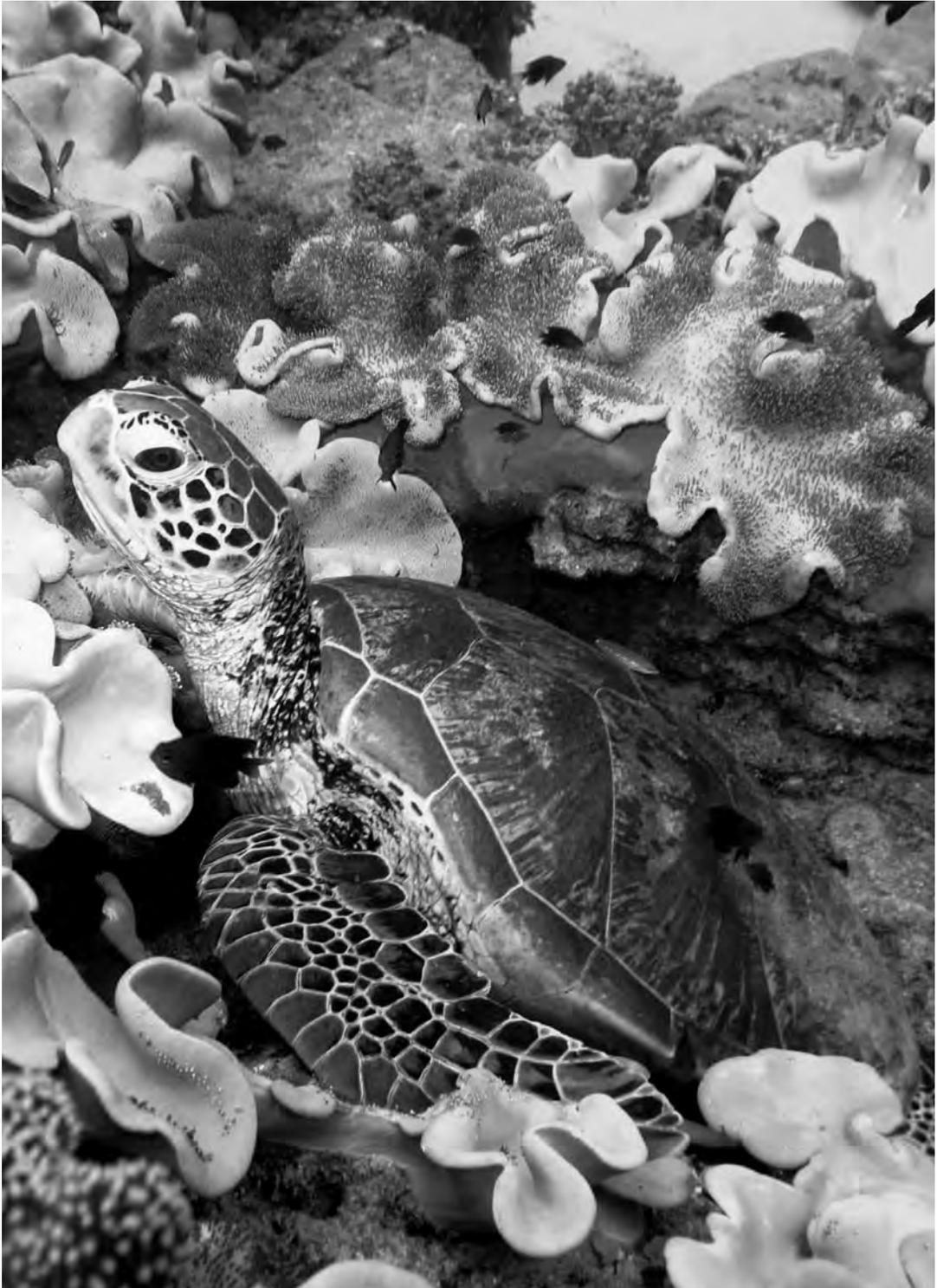
In 2013, the TSRA formed their first snorkel team to work alongside coral reef researchers. The team, comprising 13 TSRA Environmental Management Programme staff, primarily rangers, completed training in reef health and impact survey and manta tow benthic survey monitoring methods. The snorkel team is also responsible for a variety of other project tasks, such as the retrieval and replacement of water temperature loggers across the Torres Strait.

Initial survey outcomes have identified previously unrecorded fish and hard-coral species, as well as occurrences of coral bleaching, coral disease and crown-of-thorns starfish in the region.

As part of this initiative, the TSRA assisted the AIMS with the installation and maintenance of two real-time weather stations located at Madge Reef (Thursday Island) and Masig that record various atmospheric and marine conditions. The data is used to develop an early warning reporting system for coral bleaching. This information is provided to communities to promote maritime safety in the region, as well as provide a record of changing climatic conditions over time.

This multifaceted project is already addressing some key gaps in our knowledge about coral reefs and the threats to their health, while fostering partnerships between the TSRA and researchers and building the skills and capacity of rangers.

This multifaceted project is already addressing some key gaps in our knowledge about coral reefs and the threats to their health, while fostering partnerships between the TSRA and researchers and building the skills and capacity of rangers.



The coral reefs of the Torres Strait are a natural habitat for the green turtle. (Photo: Tristan Simpson)

Governance and Leadership

In 2013 the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) received an Excellence Award for Outstanding Partnership and Collaboration from the Australian Government Leadership Network (Queensland).

The award was won by the TSRA's Governance and Leadership Programme for the work undertaken in implementing the Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) project for the region.

The award recognises the outstanding performance and achievement by the ISD team in developing productive partnerships and collaboration that has helped solve a complex problem and provided substantial benefits and / or savings to a community, organisation or individual.

The TSRA Deputy Chairperson, Mr Aven Noah, said:

Integrated planning and service delivery is the keystone for the Council of Australian Government's Building Blocks for Closing the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage. The TSRA through the Governance and Leadership Programme is leading the way in the Torres Strait to establish a culture of collaboration between all levels of government and the communities we serve.

Between 2010 and 2011 the TSRA completed consultations in 20 communities, with three local councils, 13 Australian Government departments and agencies and 21 Queensland Government departments and agencies to develop an ISD Governance Framework, ISD Whole of Government Action Plan and 19 Community Report Cards.

Partnerships have been developed with the Australian and Queensland governments, the Torres Shire Council, the Torres Strait Island Regional Council and the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council to work together to improve the coordination of services throughout the Torres Strait.



Receiving the excellence award (L-R) Charlie Kaddy, representing the Governance and Leadership team, Wayne See Kee, TSRA Chief Executive Officer, and Paul Flynn, Australian Government Leadership Network—Queensland.

Regional Goal

Effective, transparent self-government with strong leadership.

Programme 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.

Programme Objectives

The Governance and Leadership Programme will:

- involve Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal leaders in legislative processes, policies and priorities in terms of setting direction for integrated planning and service delivery
- involve Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal leaders in monitoring progress towards reaching 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.

Programme Deliverables

- Integrated Service Delivery – Monitoring.
- Governance and Leadership Capacity Building.
- Support to Torres Strait Regional Broadcasting .
- Enhanced Support for Women and Youth in Leadership.
- Support to Prescribed Bodies Corporate.
- Support TSRA Governance Committees.

Programme Expenditure 2013 - 2014

Table 2-6 Governance and Leadership Programme Expenditure 2013 - 2014 (unaudited)

	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
	5,476	5,505	-29

Torres Strait Development Plan Outcomes

- Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal 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.

Governance and Leadership Programme projects and achievements

Project Name: Integrated Service Delivery monitoring

Project purpose

To ensure that Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) is being implemented as the normal mode of business for all agencies providing services to the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

Ten Torres Strait communities were included in the ISD monitoring activities. The basis of validating the effectiveness of service delivery remains the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan (2009 - 2029)* ISD community booklets, which represent the baseline of services as reported in 2012. The community-based statistical information relating to the regional plan is refreshed every two years.

The 2012 baseline indicated that 1,619 service gaps were identified through the planning process in 2008 - 2010. An audit conducted in 2013 found six duplications; these have been removed, adjusting the baseline to 1,613. Of these, 372 (23 per cent) were completed, 656 (41 per cent) were in progress and 585 (36 per cent) had not yet commenced, are not currently feasible or are identified as being a community or other non-government responsibility.

The 2013 - 2014 statistics incorporate changes in the data collected for 10 (of 19) communities. These were: Erub, Badu, Boigu, Ugar, Warraber, Kubin, Masig, Mer, St Pauls and Poruma. The remaining communities will be updated in 2014 - 2015.

The current status is that 773 (48 per cent) have been completed, 382 (24 per cent) are in progress and 309 (19 per cent) have not yet commenced. During the review, 149 items (9 per cent) were identified as not feasible or being a commercial or other non-government responsibility.

Over 20 cross-government and cross-agency projects were undertaken in the region in 2013 - 2014. Examples included:

- Alignment of the Remote Jobs and Communities Programme activities and Community Action Plans to the service gaps identified in the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan (2009 - 2029)* ISD community booklets. My Pathways (the RJCP provider) is working with a number of community organisations and service delivery agencies to coordinate the delivery of services and infrastructure.
- The Torres Strait Marine Pathways Project is delivering industry-specific training and job placements in the Torres Strait. The project is a collaborative effort between the TSRA, the Department of Environment and Sustainability and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).
- The Torres Strait Social Services Hub is being formed with the assistance of the TSRA, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and the Port Kennedy Association (the lead non-government organisation (NGO) for the project). The hub will connect all NGOs to coordinate the services they deliver, reduce duplication and address any gaps in service delivery.

Project Name: Governance and leadership capacity building

Project purpose

To deliver leadership, governance and capacity-building initiatives for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal persons and / or organisations within the Torres Strait region.

To increase the governance and leadership capacity of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal women and youths in the region.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

The TSRA sponsored Ms Chè Stow to attend the Australian Rural Leadership Programme (ARLP) course number 21. Ms Stow will complete this programme in 2015. Mr Kenny Bedford, the TSRA Member for Erub and Portfolio Member for Fisheries, was the sponsored student for course number 20. Mr Bedford has completed four of the five course modules and has deferred module five. Mr Bedford will complete the programme in 2015.

The TSRA sponsored four participants in the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation's Training Rural Australians in Leadership programme and three participants in the Torres Strait Youth Leadership Programme.

The TSRA is sponsoring seven undergraduates to undertake university studies through the Assistance with Tertiary Education Scheme.

Governance and Leadership Programme projects and achievements

Project Name: Enhanced support for women in leadership

Project purpose

To increase the role of women in governance activities through the region.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

The TSRA sponsored 28 women to participate in the Oxfam 'Straight Talk' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's regional forum, held in the Torres Strait.

A new women's leadership programme has been developed in partnership with the ARLP. This programme is specifically targeting Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal women residing in the Torres Strait to prepare them for senior leadership roles and public office. The first module will commence in September 2014 with an intake of seven women.

Project Name: Support TSRA governance committees

Project purpose

To support the effective governance of the TSRA.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

Four board meetings were conducted in 2013 - 2014. The June 2014 meeting conducted at the Mer community (Murray Island) was the first Board meeting to be held at an outer island community. This meeting coincided with the celebration of Mabo Day 2014.

The TSRA Board considered 118 papers, of which 42 were decision papers and 76 were for noting or information. Throughout 2013 - 2014 Board Members were provided with copies of the draft Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (PGPA) rules for comment as they were released.

The Board Executive Committee, comprising the Chairperson and Portfolio Members, participated in a three-day strategic planning workshop with the Chief Executive Officer and programme managers. The workshop set the strategic direction and project priorities for the TSRA for 2014 - 2015. Governance training relating to the TSRA's legislation and the Board charter was also provided during this workshop. The workshop is an annual event.

The TSRA Board was involved in all phases of the writing and production of the *Torres Strait Development Plan (2014 - 2018)*, from the determination of the programme structure and mandates through to clearance of the final report for consideration by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

The Board met with other elected leaders, Traditional Owners and elders in the region to consult on matters of regional autonomy, the formation of a new sea and land council and representation on Protected Zone Joint Authority fisheries committees. These consultations informed Board decision-making and regional policy settings on those issues.

The Board commissioned reports on the effectiveness of TSRA's Community Economic Initiatives Scheme (CEIS), which provides economic assistance grants to individuals and Indigenous corporations, and on the effectiveness of delivery and outcomes from the non-government organisations supported by the TSRA to deliver social services in the region.

Delivery of Benefits: Torres Strait Development Plan

Influence

The TSRA Chairperson, supported by the Portfolio Members and other Board Members, participated in 29 meetings with Government Ministers and senior departmental officials. These meetings help ensure that matters of relevance and importance to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region are being taken into account for new policies and service delivery. A number of these meetings are described in Section 1 of this report, in the Chairperson’s Message.

Short-term benefit description

Greater influence by elected Indigenous leaders in policy direction and performance monitoring of government service delivery in the Torres Strait.

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
TSRA Chairperson and Executive Members participate in 16 senior government and ministerial level meetings per annum.	The target was exceeded (29 meetings)	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.

Service delivery policy

The TSRA, in partnership with the Queensland Government Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs, is leading the implementation of Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) in the region. ISD is described under the ISD monitoring project, earlier in this section. The TSRA community visit programme focuses on improving community understanding of the responsibilities of each level of government, the private sector and the community itself in meeting community needs and aspirations.

Short-term benefit description

Improved understanding of service delivery in the Torres Strait informing policy direction for Integrated Service Delivery.

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
A service map showing all services delivered in the Torres Strait, highlighting gaps, duplications and inefficiencies. Analytical report on service delivery and community satisfaction delivered to the signatories to the Regional Plan. Integrated / Regional Service Delivery Meetings held.	The service map has been completed. A culture of service integration is being embedded in the region. The TSRA has aligned its grants programme to place a higher weighting on activities delivered through partnerships and with direct connection to the service needs documented in the <i>Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan (2009 - 2029)</i> ISD community booklets.	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.

Prescribed Body Corporate compliance

The status of Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) has been covered at the beginning of section 2 of this report under 'Portfolio Budget Statements Key Performance Indicators'. The following table is provided for ease of reference to the benefit statements in the *Torres Strait Development Plan (2013 - 2014)*.

Short-term benefit description		
<i>Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) have the capacity to manage their responsibilities effectively.</i>		
Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
Twenty registered PBCs are compliant with the legislation.	The target was achieved. The Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations has determined that 20 PBCs remained compliant with their general reporting obligations.	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.



Governance and Leadership Programme workshop, Bamaga, May 2014.

Case Study: Leadership Capacity Building

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) offers a suite of leadership capacity-building initiatives delivered through the Governance and Leadership Programme for Indigenous residents of the Torres Strait region. Two of these initiatives are the Torres Strait Youth Leadership Scholarship (TSYLS) and the Training Rural Australians in Leadership (TRAIL) programme. These programmes are delivered in partnership with the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (ARLF). This is the fourth year of the TSRA's partnership with the ARLF.

Torres Strait Youth Leadership Scholarship

The TSYLS has been designed specifically for 18- to 25-year-old Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait to equip them with key leadership skills that they can use in both their professional and personal lives.



Ms Megan Matthew.

One of the recent participants in the TSYLS scheme is Ms Megan Matthew, who comes from Boigu Island in the top western cluster of the Torres Strait. Ms Matthew is keen to pursue a career in the Royal Australian Navy and has completed the Defence Indigenous Development Programme administered by the Department of Defence, the former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, and the Northern Territory Department of Education. She participated in the TSYLS scheme to gain exposure to a range of activities and real-life situations that not only bring out key leadership attributes, but also challenge participants to expand their limits and capabilities. The programme has given Ms Matthew an introduction to the attributes of effective leadership. She hopes to build on her newly acquired skills once she commences her training with the Royal Australian Navy. Ms Matthew's goal is to serve on an Australian warship as a Naval Officer.

Training Rural Australians in Leadership

The TSRA administers the TRAIL programme in partnership with the ARLF. The TRAIL programme targets mature candidates who are emerging leaders or new to leadership roles. The key focus areas of the programme include team and leadership development, effective communication, conflict management, advocacy, governance, personal influence, strategic planning and problem solving.



Ms Elsie Seriat.

The TSRA sponsored four positions on the TRAIL programme. Thursday Island resident Ms Elsie Seriat has successfully completed the programme. Ms Seriat is already a role model in the region through her various sporting achievements and she was one of the drivers behind the establishment of women's rugby league in the Torres Strait. Ms Seriat has used her experience on the TRAIL programme to build on her leadership qualities. She describes her experience on the programme as inspiring and life changing!

Allowing me to undertake this opportunity has given me energy to accomplish many of my goals that I thought I could never reach. Engaging in an environment with different people with different qualities gave me the opportunity to really set out my future. One of my short term goals was to be selected in the Indigenous Marathon Programme to run in New York. The TRAIL programme had a huge impact on my decision to compete in New York. Thank you to the TSRA and the TRAIL programme for bringing out my hidden abilities where I can now truly see that there are no limits to be successful.

After completing the TRAIL programme, as indicated in the quote, Elsie participated in a trial for the Indigenous Marathon Project (IMP) and was one of two Torres Strait Islanders selected from the region. Former Australian Marathon Champion Mr Rob De Castella plays a lead role in the IMP. Elsie is one of the region's TRAIL candidates who have progressed to higher levels in their chosen fields after completing the programme.



TSRA Board and staff, Mer, June 2014.

Native Title

Regional Goal

Effective and transparent self-government with strong leadership.

Programme 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.

Programme Objectives

This programme 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
- 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.

Programme Deliverables

- Provide legal, policy and advocacy support for Prescribed Bodies Corporate.
- Support native title activities, including determination of claims and provision of legal advice and support.
- Negotiate and execute Indigenous Land Use Agreements and other statutory agreements and provide legal advice and support in relation to Future Acts.

Programme Expenditure

Table 2-7 Native Title Programme Expenditure 2013 - 2014 (unaudited)

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
2,959	2,898	61

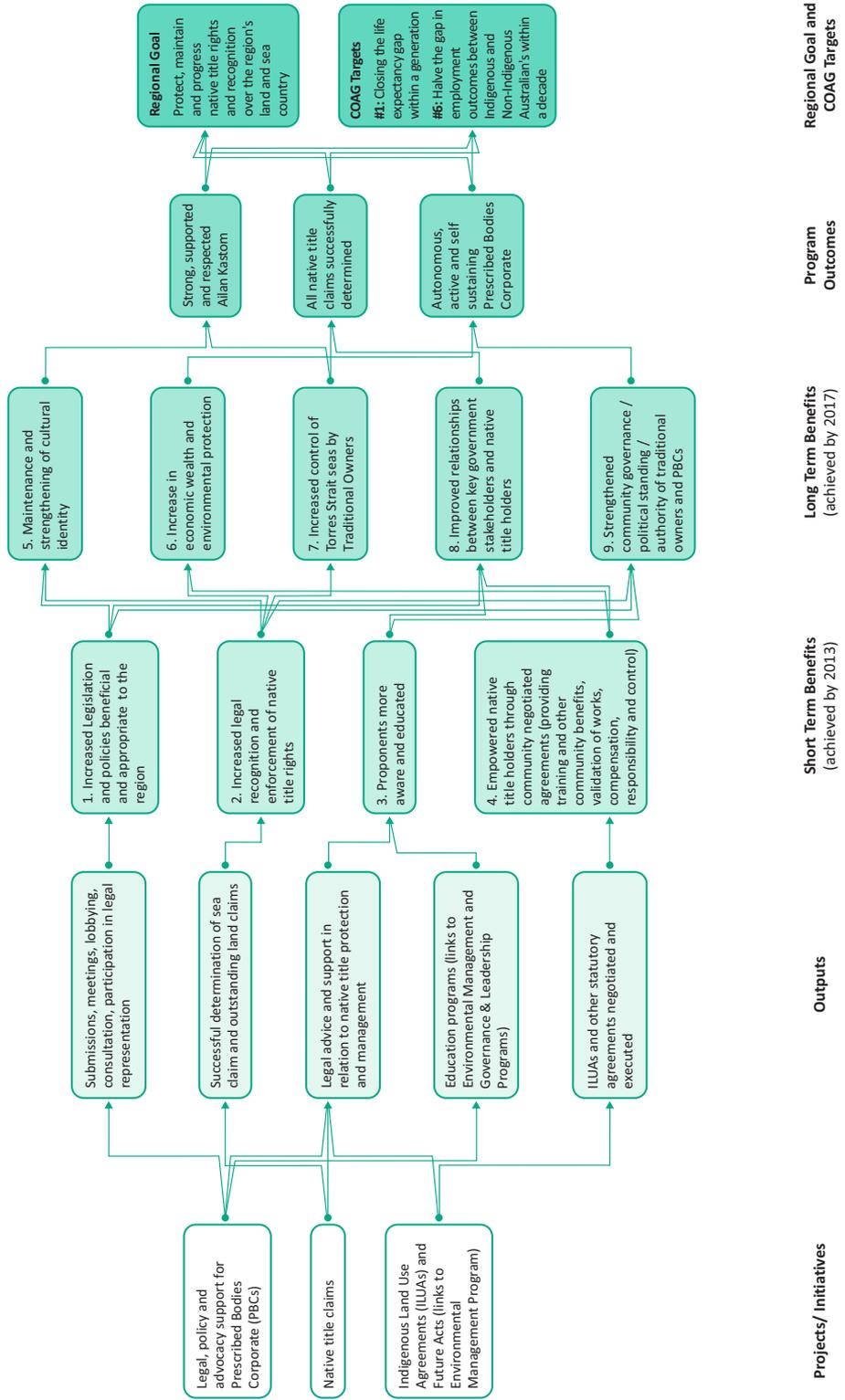
Torres Strait Development Plan Outcomes

- Strong, supported and respected Ailan Kastom.
- All native title claims successfully determined.
- Autonomous, active and self-sustaining Prescribed Bodies Corporate.



Native Title Office staff at the Zuizin Determination.

Figure 2-6 Native Title Programme Map



Statistical Data

Table 2-8 Native Title Programme Performance Statistics (unaudited)

Facilitation and assistance:	Number
<i>The Claims Experience</i>	
Claimant applications	
Active claims represented at 30 June 2013	3
Plus claims filed this year by NTRB	0
Less claims determined 2013 – 2014	1
Less claims dismissed 2013 – 2014	0
Less claims withdrawn 2013 – 2014	0
+ or - Other disposition (describe)	
Active claims represented at 30 June 2014	2
- Number of these registered by NNTT	2
Claims in development	1
Non-claimant applications	0
Compensation claims	0
<i>The Agreements Experience</i>	
Future Act notices received	64
Responses to Future Acts	39
Agreements concluded	1
Agreements in development	0
ILUAs concluded and registered	4
ILUAs in development	18
<i>Complaints and Disputes</i>	
Complaints	
- Received	0
- Resolved	0
- Pending	0
Disputes relating to native title applications	0
Disputes relating to ILUAs, rights of access and other matters	0
<i>Requests for Review of Decisions not to Assist</i>	
.- Requests received	0
.- Reviews completed	0

Native Title Programme projects and achievements

Project name: Indigenous Land Use Agreement and Future Acts

Project purpose

Native Title compliance and infrastructure delivery.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

The Native Title Office (NTO) executed four Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs). The ILUAs have been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal.

Agreement has been reached regarding native title compliance regarding the Saibai Sea Walls project with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

The ILUA matters progressed in 2013 - 2014 include:

- drafting of an Infrastructure and Housing ILUA template
- execution and registration of the Badu Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) transfer ILUA
- on-going negotiations for six Islander Board of Industry and Service leases
- ongoing negotiations for the social housing ILUAs
- ongoing negotiations for three Department of Agriculture ILUAs
- ongoing negotiations for the Hammond Island DOGIT transfer.

Project name: Native title claims

Project purpose

Native title determination.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

The decision in the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim Part A High Court Appeal was handed down on 7 August 2013 upholding the decision of Justice Finn that the native title rights and interest included the right to use marine resources for any purpose including the right to commercial use.

A consent determination of native title was made for Zuizin (Half-way) Island by the Federal Court sitting on Thursday Island on 19 June 2014.

There are two current ongoing native title determination claimant applications in the Federal Court:

- Warral and Ului
- Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim Part B.

There is ongoing anthropological research for Naghir Island with a view to lodge a future native title claimant application.

Malu Lamar Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) has been established for the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim Part A.

Native Title Programme projects and achievements

Project name: Legal, policy and advocacy support for Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate / Prescribed Bodies Corporate

Project Purpose

Infrastructure delivery, law reform and interpretation of Native Title Act 1993 (Cth).

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

The TSRA made submissions:

- on the Attorney General's Department consultation on amending the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) regarding the tax status of payments under ILUAs
- to the Queensland Government in response to a proposed bill regarding freehold title on Torres Strait Islander communities.
- to the Federal and Queensland Governments regarding support to Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) post DOGIT transfer
- to the Federal and Queensland Governments regarding the enhancement of Traditional Owner control of Torres Strait fisheries.

DOGIT transfer matters were progressed with the successful transfer of the Badu DOGIT to Mura Badulgal RNTBC on 1 February 2014.

The Native Title Office arranged a sea forum summit in Cairns over three days in January 2014, attended by PBC executives, to discuss matters of regional importance, including the enhancement of traditional owner control of fisheries and land tenure in the Torres Strait.

The Native Title Office helped establish a Torres Strait fisheries reform working group to further enhance the involvement of Traditional Owners in the Torres Strait's fisheries while the Malu Lamar RNTBC is being established.



Malu Lamar Working Group meeting.

Delivery of Benefits: Torres Strait Development Plan

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 NTO provides support to Prescribed Bodies Corporate (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

Increased legislation and policies beneficial and appropriate to the region.

Proponents more aware and educated.

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
One or more policies developed by end of 2013 - 2014.	<p>The NTO progressed DOGIT/Reserve transfer matters by providing legal support to PBCs in their negotiations with government representatives.</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 which included compensation and economic benefits for Traditional Owners.</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>
Legislative requirements met for Future Acts (including timing and process) from 1 July 2013 onwards.	All legislative requirements were met.	COAG Target 6 - Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

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

The number of native title determinations in the Torres Strait.

There are 22 native title determinations in the Torres Strait. This is an increase of two from the 2012 - 2013 Annual Report.

The NTO advocates for 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 Part A. 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 judgment on 14 March 2012 upholding the Australian Government's appeal and rejecting the claimant's appeal. The NTO sought special leave to appeal this decision in the High Court of Australia. Leave was granted on 5 October 2012, and the appeal was heard by the High Court of Australia on 12 February 2013.

The final decision was handed down on 7 August 2013, finding in favour of the claimant's appeal and upholding Justice Finn's original decision that the native title rights and interests in the sea claim area included the right to use marine resources for any purpose, including the right to commercial use. Following on from this decision, with help from the NTO, Malu Lamar RNTBC was set up to manage the native title rights and interests in Part A of the sea claim by order of Justice Andrew Greenwood on 26 June 2014.

On 19 June 2014, Justice Greenwood accepted that Zuizin had been part of the traditional estate of the Kulkalgal people since time immemorial and made a consent determination of exclusive native title under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). This determination is outlined in the Native Title case study at the end of this section.

Short-term benefit description		
<i>Increased legal recognition and enforcement of native title rights.</i>		
Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
One regional Sea Claim (Part A) resolved.	The Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim Part A appeal decision was handed down in the High Court of Australia on 7 August 2013 upholding the applicant's appeal. Malu Lamar was set up to be the RNTBC for the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim Part A area.	COAG Target 1 - Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.
One remaining land claim and the Regional Sea Claim Part B progressed by June 2014.	The NTO has successfully progressed the Kulkalgal number two (Zuizin) claim to a consent determination which occurred on 19 June 2014. The Warral and Ului matter is now in case management in the Federal Court. Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim Part B is now in case management in the Federal Court. The NTO is currently assisting with a possible Naghir native title claim with agreement between the parties regarding further anthropological research. The NTO is currently engaged in researching a possible compensation claim for past extinguishment of native title in the region.	

Indigenous Land Use Agreements and Future Acts

Number of Indigenous Land Use Agreements

The NTO assists PBCs 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 ILUA, with the agreement of all parties, in the near future.

Short-term benefit description

Empowered native title holders through community negotiated agreements (providing training and other community benefits, validation of works, compensation, responsibility and control).

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
Reduction in outstanding Indigenous Land Use Agreement matters as at July 2013, by June 2014.	Four ILUAs were negotiated, finalised and / or executed. 64 Future Act notifications were processed. PBC and community consultations have been ongoing to progress the Major Infrastructure and Housing ILUAs. The NTO assisted native title holders to negotiate compensation and other benefits for a number of ILUAs.	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.



TSRA Staff with Gail Mabo, daughter of the late Eddie Koiki Mabo, during the 2014 Mabo Day celebrations.

Case Study: Zuizin Native Title Consent Determination

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), provided support to the Kulkalgal people to lodge a native title determination application for Zuizin (Half-way Island) in the Torres Strait.

Zuizin, which is an uninhabited Island about 70 nautical miles north-east of Thursday Island, lies at 10 degrees 06' South, 143 degrees 19' East and covers about 161.9 hectares. The first recorded European contact with Zuizin was when Captain Matthew Flinders, who was in command of HMS Investigator, landed on the island on 30 October 1802 and found evidence of human occupation.

The native title claim was lodged in the Federal Court of Australia in 2007 after an earlier claim had been withdrawn. The NTO engaged Dr Garrick Hitchcock, an anthropologist, to prepare a connection report outlining the Kulkalgal people's connection to Zuizin, along with their traditional laws and customs. During this process, Dr Hitchcock interviewed many senior Kulkalgal Elders and obtained from them evidence of Kulkalgal traditional laws and customs and how Zuizin was part of the traditional estate of the Kulkalgal people.

After the successful High Court appeal in Part A of the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim on 7 August 2013, the NTO entered into negotiations with the State of Queensland and the Torres Shire Council, which finally led to agreement on the terms of the consent determination.

Outcome

On 19 June 2014, at a special sitting of the Federal Court of Australia on Thursday Island, Justice Andrew Greenwood, after reviewing the evidence and submissions of the applicant, accepted that Zuizin had been part of the traditional estate of the Kulkalgal people since time immemorial and made a consent determination of exclusive native title under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) over Zuizin. He appointed the Kulkalgal Registered Native Title Body Corporate to hold the native title rights and interests in trust on behalf of the Kulkalgal people.



(L-R) Daisy Kabay, Florence Kennedy, Justice Andrew Greenwood, Dan Mosby and Pastor Nelson Billy.

Native Title Representative Body Reporting

The information reported in this section is specific to 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 that they should 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 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 reapply and was subsequently recognised as the Torres Strait NTRB for the period 2013 - 2015.

The NTO Operational Plan for 2012 - 2013 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 Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC). PBCs must be incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (Cth). The PBC model was adopted to enable native title communal property rights to interact meaningfully with Australian property law. It ensures that the native title holders are 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 Islander) 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 Programme. The NTO was instrumental in establishing the Queensland PBC working group as a lobby group to highlight the issues facing PBCs in Queensland and the rest of Australia.

All PBCs in the region are invited to apply for financial assistance to offset the administrative costs associated with their native title role.

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 the conduct of research, and the preparation and making of claims, by groups of Aboriginal peoples or Torres Strait Islanders, for determinations of native title and for compensation for acts affecting their native title
- assisting in the resolution of disputes within groups about the making of such claims
- 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 for and assistance to PBCs.

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

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

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

Organisational structure and corporate governance policies

NTO staff operate as a programme within the TSRA and are therefore included within the TSRA's organisational structure (see Appendix 1). Similarly, NTO staff are bound by the same corporate governance policies that apply to the TSRA generally.

Report on Performance

In addition to the information below, the Native Title Programme Report on pages 63-71 provides statistical data on claims, agreements and complaints.

The TSRA operates in a predominantly post-determination environment. There are no significant trends in operating statistics which require intervention.

The TSRA is continuing to negotiate with the Queensland Government to resolve specific points in the Infrastructure and Social Housing Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA). This ILUA is in its 19th draft and the TSRA expects the issues to be resolved in 2014 - 2015.

There have been no significant changes in the nature of the principal functions and services provided through the NTO.

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 NTO reinforce this requirement with PBC members during community visits.

Summary resources table

For the 2013 - 2014 financial year, the NTO received \$2.959 million for operations.

The financial performance of the TSRA in its NTRB capacity is outlined in Table 2-9.

Table 2-9 NTRB Financial Performance (unaudited)

NTRB Functions	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variation
	2012 - 2013 \$'000	2013 - 2014 \$'000	2013 - 2014 \$'000	2013 - 2014 \$'000
Expenditure				
Capital	-	-	-	-
Activities	2,032	2,337	2,293	(44)
Corporate	595	622	605	(17)
Total	2,627	2,959	2,898	(61)
Income				
Australian Government via Appropriation	2,615	2,959	2,959	0
Activity Generated Income	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-
Reversal of previous asset write downs	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	12	0	(61)	(61)

Performance against Budget

In performing its NTRB role, the TSRA has operated within the planned budget for 2013 - 2014.

There have been no significant changes in funding from 2012 - 2013 or changes to the 2013 - 2014 budget during the year.

There have been no significant occurrences during the period between the end of the reporting period and the tabling of the Annual Report of Operations.

Management of human resources

The NTO has five employees, four of whom live in the region. They are:

- a Principal Legal Officer
- a Paralegal
- three Administration Support Officers.

Since 2005, the NTO has assisted 17 law students to undertake legal internships through the Aurora Project. One student has also undertaken Practical Legal Training.

Information about 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 with other TSRA staff as well as training and development to meet the requirements for legal practitioners in Queensland under the relevant legislation.

Table 2-10 shows the representation of Equal Employment Opportunity groups and classification levels in the NTO as at 30 June 2013. Two NTO positions that were vacant on 30 June 2013 are under recruitment.

Table 2-10 Equal Employment Opportunity Groups, Native Title Office (unaudited)

APS classification	Female	Male	Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal	People with a disability
Executive Level 2	0	1	0	0
Executive Level 1	0	0	0	0
APS Level 6	0	0	0	0
APS Level 5	1	0	1	0
APS Level 3	3	0	3	0
Total	4	1	4	0

NTO consultancies for the 2013 - 2014 reporting period

The NTO uses external legal counsel and external consultants to meet its strategic objectives. Table 2-11 shows the consultants engaged during the reporting period.

Expertise	Consultant	Service
Legal	Robert Blowes SC	Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim High Court Appeal Senior Counsel for the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim Establishment of a Regional Sea Claim PBC
	Bret Walker SC	Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim High Court Appeal
	Tom Keely	Junior Counsel for the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim Junior Counsel for the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim High Court Appeal
	Tina Jowett	Counsel assisting with the negotiation of ILUAs and compensation
	Michael Neal	Independent legal representation for Naghir matter & Warral and Ului
	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 Social Housing ILUA Advice and assistance with the Mer Reserve Transfer ILUA Advice and assistance with the Saibai Sea Walls project
	Helen Bowskill	Advice and assistance with the DOGIT transfer
	Chalk and Fitzgerald	Kaurareg Native Title Claims
	Greg McIntyre SC	Independent Legal Representative for Naghir matter
	Paul Sheiner	Independent Legal Representative for Naghir matter
	Bottoms English	Badu DOGIT Transfer
	Anthropological	Dr Garrick Hitchcock
Dr Brendan Corrigan		Anthropological advice regarding the Warral and Ului native title claim Research and advice for the Naghir matter

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

ILUAs provide environmental and cultural heritage protection. While the clauses in each ILUA may differ, the ILUAs place 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 judgment. Pursuant to the judgment, a determination was made by Justice Finn 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 on limited grounds involving the recognition of the right to trade in marine resources as a native title right. The full bench of the Federal Court heard the appeal in May 2011 and handed down their judgment in March 2012, upholding the appeal. The NTO lodged an application for special leave to appeal this decision in the High Court of Australia; leave was granted on 5 October 2012. The appeal was heard by the High Court of Australia on 12 February 2013, and the decision upholding the appeal was handed down on 7 August 2013. This decision upheld the original decision of Justice Finn, which recognised the native title right to use marine resources for any purpose, including commercially.

A consent determination of native title was made over Zuizin Island on 19 June 2014 by Justice Greenwood of the Federal Court of Australia.

Compliance index

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



The Hon Dame Quentin Bryce at Mer Island school.

Healthy Communities

Regional Goal

- To enhance both healthy communities and our living environment.
- To achieve the provision of adequate, appropriate and affordable housing.

Programme Goal

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

The Programme also provides direct support for initiatives that promote healthy lifestyles, and supports home ownership and other specific housing initiatives that are linked to healthy lifestyles and economic development in the region.

Programme 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 programmes 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 Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal 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 Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal 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.

Programme Deliverables

Healthy homes initiatives:

- funding contributions towards community market garden and horticulture initiatives in conjunction with the Environmental Management Programme
- 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 programmes, motivation, substance abuse and sport and recreation
- funding contributions towards sport and recreation minor infrastructure.

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 Programmes.

Programme Expenditure 2013 - 2014

Table 2-12 Healthy Communities Programme Expenditure 2013 - 2014 (unaudited)

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
12,861	12,809	52

Torres Strait Development Plan Outcomes

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

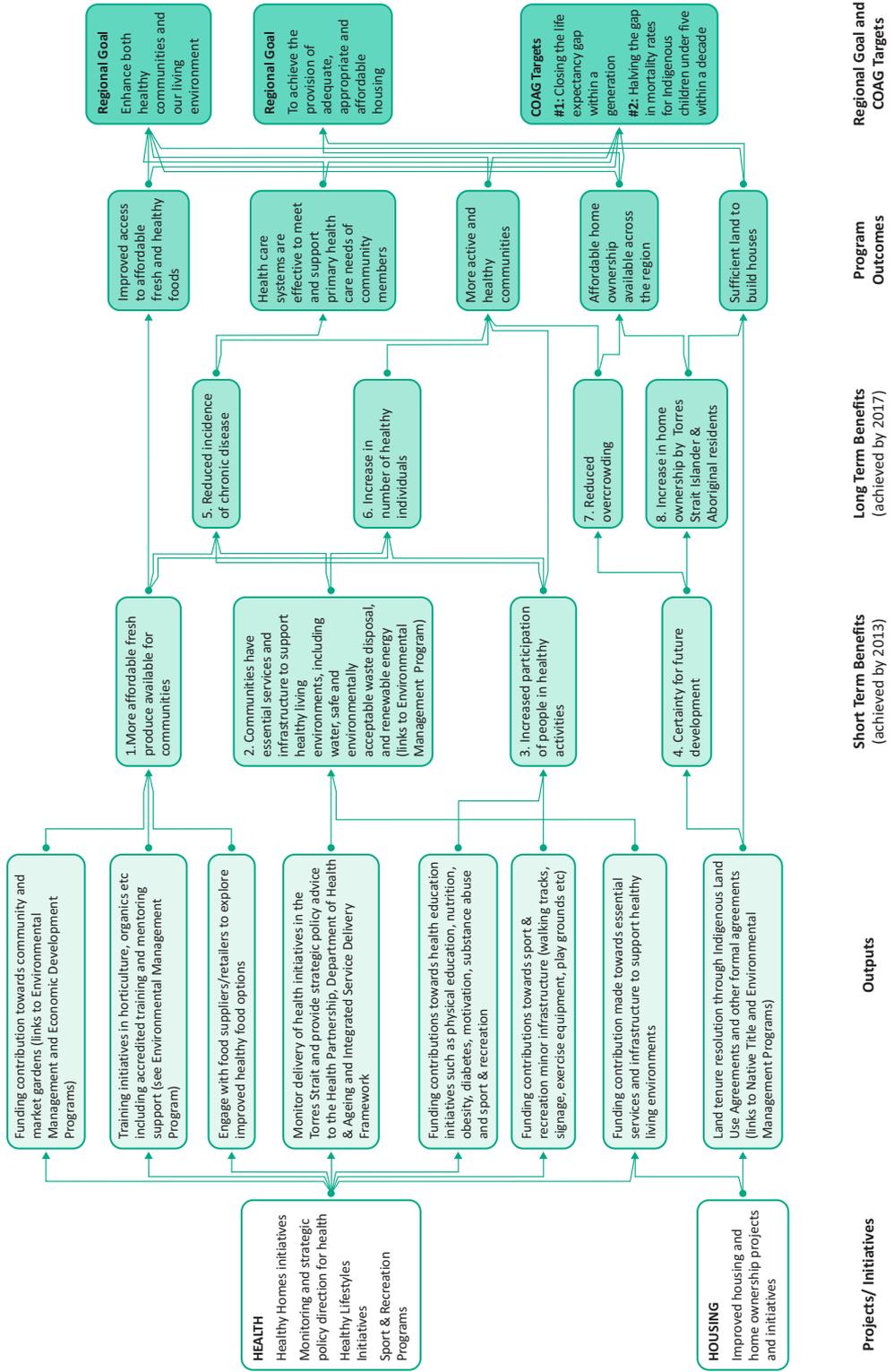


Healthy Communities, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, Bamaga Farm.

Section 2 Program Reporting and Performance Summaries

Details About Our Programmes | Healthy Communities

Figure 2-7 Healthy Communities Programme Map



Healthy Communities Programme projects and achievements

Project Name: Health / Healthy homes initiatives / Community market gardens

Project purpose

To provide funding contributions towards the establishment of community and market gardens and support training initiatives in horticulture for community members.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

The TSRA has exceeded the target to establish eight community sustainable horticulture systems by 2013, as outlined in the *Torres Strait Development Plan (2009 - 2013)*.

The regional land care facilitator is supporting four community market garden pilot projects, at St Pauls, Masig, Hammond and Horn Islands, as part of the TSRA's Environmental Management Programme sustainable horticulture project. The Regional Landcare Facilitator supports horticultural activities in nine other communities.

Two of the new community gardens have been established on Saibai—a traditional horticulture garden, which is over two hectares in size, and a smaller garden demonstrating non-traditional vegetable production.

The Regional Landcare Facilitator is also supporting the community of Dauan to prepare gardens which are similar to the Saibai model.

Project Name: Health / Healthy homes initiatives / Improved access to healthy foods

Project purpose

To engage with relevant retailers and food suppliers to explore options for improved access to affordable healthy food.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

The TSRA has provided financial support to the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council towards operating costs for the Bamaga Farm. This activity is currently transitioning into a Remote Jobs and Communities Programme (RJCP) activity. The farm has produced harvests of corn, melons, pumpkins, cassava and bananas which have been sold in the Bamaga and Seisia stores. Other crops are being trialled with a view to expanding operations through RJCP participation.

Project Name: Horn Island Affordable Housing Project

Project purpose

This joint TSRA and Torres Shire Council project seeks to:

- *provide safe, healthy, adequate, appropriate and affordable housing at Horn Island to local Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal families residing in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area region*
- *provide an opportunity for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal employment and training in the development of land and housing construction.*

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

The detailed master planning and housing design, housing eligibility and governance policy framework were completed in 2013 - 2014.

The Torres Shire Council employed a dedicated Horn Island Affordable Housing Project (HIAHP) officer.

The project is now at a stage where clearing of land and construction of serviced lots can begin; however, additional native title issues have emerged, which have delayed the construction phase.

The TSRA Native Title Office is working with the Queensland Government to resolve these issues.

Healthy Communities Programme projects and achievements

Project Name: Health / Healthy homes initiatives / Monitoring and strategic policy direction for health

Project purpose

To monitor the delivery of health initiatives in the Torres Strait and provide strategic policy advice to ensure that advances are being made in primary and preventative health care.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

The TSRA hosted the cross-border Health Issues Committee (HIC) meeting on Thursday Island in April 2014. This meeting was attended by health representatives from Australia and Papua New Guinea and was the first HIC meeting to be co-chaired by the Australian and Papua New Guinea health departments.

The HIC identified and is addressing health issues arising in the Torres Strait Protected Zone and South Fly coast of Papua New Guinea. This year members worked collaboratively to focus on ways to improve cross-border communications infrastructure to support reliable cross-border health communication. Some key outcomes from the meeting were:

- agreement to the need to replace high-frequency radios in Papua New Guinea treaty villages;
- agreement to the need for further investment in tuberculosis management in the Western Province of Papua New Guinea.

Project Name: Health / Healthy lifestyles initiatives

Project purpose

To provide funding contributions towards health education initiatives, including:

- *physical education*
- *nutrition*
- *obesity*
- *diabetes*
- *substance abuse.*

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

The TSRA provides grant funding for a range of healthy communities initiatives, including the Lift for Life Programme, the Torres Shire sports complex gym expansion and a healthy communities training workshop.

Funding provided to the Torres Shire Council has facilitated an upgrade of the Torres Shire sports complex gymnasium. This project will be completed in 2014.

The Torres Strait Island Regional Council has been funded to coordinate a healthy communities workshop which will support 25 participants aged between 16 and 25 years to attain a Certificate II in Indigenous Youth Leadership. This programme is to be delivered by the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre. The workshop is targeted at young people to increase awareness on nutrition, physical education and healthy leadership.

Project Name: Health / Healthy lifestyles initiatives / Sport and recreation programmes

Project purpose

To provide funding contributions to sporting groups and community organisations to support activities that contribute to the Healthy Communities Programme objectives.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

In 2013 - 2014 the TSRA sport and recreation grants were managed through the Torres Strait Youth and Recreation Sporting Association (TSYRSA). The TSRA provides funding to the TSYRSA to provide sport and recreation grants in the region.

The TSYRSA supported 11 major local sporting events and administered 54 grants that encouraged participation in a range of sporting and recreational activities.

Thirty Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal individuals were assisted to participate in various sporting events at state and national championships.

Healthy Communities Programme projects and achievements

Project Name: Major Infrastructure Programme

Project purpose

To improve the health and general wellbeing of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal 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, Community Recovery and Resilience (DLGCRR). The Major Infrastructure Programme (MIP) is administered by the TSRA. The three regional local government councils, Torres Shire Council (TSC), Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC), are the beneficiaries of environmental health infrastructure works constructed under the MIP.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

Stage 4 of the MIP delivered the following projects in 2013 - 2014:

- Poruma reticulated sewerage treatment plant.
- TSIRC asset sustainability group B (water supply and desalination upgrades at Mer, Masig, Poruma, Iama, Boigu and Warraber).
- Bamaga subdivision (minor works completed).
- NPARC asset renewal (minor repairs completed).
- Tidal gauges at Boigu, Kubin, Iama and Ugar (now at practical completion).

Planning and consultation for MIP Stage 5 has commenced.

- As part of the planning process for the rollout of MIP Stage 5, the TSRA led a regional infrastructure needs planning and prioritisation process. Undertaken in conjunction with the DLGCRR, TSC, TSIRC and NPARC, this process resulted in a comprehensive list of regional environmental health infrastructure priorities which will guide the delivery of MIP works until 2016.
- Thirteen infrastructure projects will be completed under MIP Stage 5.

Project Name: Torres Strait Sea Walls Project 2014 - 2017

Project purpose

The Torres Strait Sea Walls Project 2014 - 2017 has been co-funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments to provide sustainable coastal protection systems that reduce the likelihood of inundation and damage to community infrastructure in the six priority Torres Strait communities of Iama, Saibai, Boigu, Poruma, Masig and Warraber.

Frequent tidal inundation poses a range of threats to communities in the Torres Strait, including damage to critical infrastructure, increased health and disease risks, impacts on important cultural and heritage sites such as cemeteries, and damage to community gardens.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

Significant work has been undertaken in assessing coastal risks and preferred mitigation options.

A project governance committee comprising representatives from the DLGCRR, TSIRC, TSRA, Australian Government Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development and Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has been established to provide oversight over the project.

The MIP5 / Seawalls Memorandum of Understanding 2014 - 2017 has been signed between the TSRA and DLGCRR. The *Sea Walls Project Implementation Plan 2013 - 2017* has been endorsed by each of the funding agencies. Project designs are being finalised for works on Saibai, Boigu and Poruma, with work to commence in the second half of 2014.

Healthy Communities Programme projects and achievements

Project Name: Torres Strait Island Regional Council Engineering Services: Water Services Operations and Maintenance Programme

Project purpose

To achieve improved health, economic and social outcomes for communities through the provision of funding assistance to the 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 2013 - 2014

The TSRA provided funding to the TSIRC for the maintenance of essential water services to outer island communities throughout 2013 - 2014. 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 both the regulator and the TSRA. The TSRA also provided funding to support the establishment of a local water testing facility on Thursday Island.

Delivery of Benefits: Torres Strait Development Plan

Health services and infrastructure

Five projects were completed through the MIP. One of these projects, the Asset Sustainability Group B project, provided major water supply and desalination upgrades at six outer island communities.

Five projects were completed under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme, providing seven communities with essential marine and transport infrastructure. These projects were possible due to ongoing whole-of-government partnerships and joint funding arrangements.

Short-term benefit description

Communities have essential health services and infrastructure to support healthy living environments, including water, safe and environmentally friendly waste disposal, and renewable energy

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
90 per cent of health winfrastructure projects completed per annum as per the Major Infrastructure Project (MIP) Implementation Plan.	100 per cent of MIP Stage 4B projects have been completed. Planning and consultation for MIP Stage 5 has commenced which will see 13 infrastructure projects completed by 2016. From a baseline of 311 identified shortfalls in health services and health infrastructure documented in 2010, 174 have been addressed, and 87 are funded or in progress. The remaining 50 have not yet resolved or have been identified as either unachievable or not a responsibility of government.	COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation. COAG Target 2 – Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.

Healthy activities

The TSRA supported the Torres Shire Council, Torres Strait Island Regional Council and Torres Strait Youth and Recreation Sporting Association (TSYRSA) to encourage individuals to participate in healthy sport and recreational activities. The TSYRSA supported major local sporting events and administered grants to support individual participation in sporting and recreational activities. Targeted early intervention grants were supported by the TSRA to encourage youth and individuals at risk, to make sustainable long-term changes to their health. These included the Lift for Life Programme and the Healthy Communities Workshop.

Short-term benefit description		
<i>Increased participation of people in healthy activities.</i>		
Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
A five per cent per annum increase in the number of people participating in healthy activities.	<p>This target is achieved through grant funded activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 11 major local sporting events were supported. ■ 54 sport and recreation grants encouraged participation in a range of sporting and recreational activities. ■ 30 Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal individuals were assisted to participate in various sporting events at state and national championships. ■ The Lift for Life Programme received 170 referrals, 30 male and 140 female. The programme is open to all residents and there is over 80 per cent Indigenous participation. Participants receive training 2 - 3 times a week, completing cardio and weight loss programmes as well as nutrition intervention and dietary planning. 	<p>COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.</p> <p>COAG Target 2 – Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.</p>

Future development

The TSRA and the Torres Shire Council continued their partnership to progress the delivery of the Horn Island HIAHP. The detailed planning phase of the project was completed in 2013 - 2014 and construction of the subdivision civil works will commence in 2014 - 2015. A focus of the detailed planning phase was to ensure the project provided local training, employment and economic development outcomes for Torres Strait Islander communities.

Short-term benefit description		
<i>Certainty for future development.</i>		
Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
Land made available for housing development through Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs)	<p>The TSRA's Native Title Programme is finalising a Social Housing ILUA with the Queensland Government.</p> <p>The Horn Island Affordable Housing Project subdivision is ready to start construction of 30 serviced lots; however, the project has been delayed pending the resolution of a native title issue.</p> <p>Native title issues in most Torres Strait island communities remain a barrier to home ownership.</p>	<p>COAG Target 1 - Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.</p>

Case Study: Successful Completion of the Major Infrastructure Programme Round 4

Project description

The Major Infrastructure Programme Round 4 (MIP 4) was the most recent stage of the successful regional capital works programme that has delivered essential infrastructure to the islands of the Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area region. MIP 4 (including the extended MIP 4B) comprised projects totalling \$130 million and is the largest stage of the programme to date. The major benefits that the communities within the Torres Strait region received included:

- improved water supply and treatment augmentation
- new reticulated sewerage treatment systems
- improvements to existing sewerage treatment systems
- new fully serviced subdivision housing lots
- improved stormwater drainage and surface drainage infrastructure
- upgraded internal roads
- planning documentation (mapping, community infrastructure plans etc).

Aim

The aim of MIP 4 was to improve the quality of life for Torres Strait communities, by implementing capital works that address environmental health infrastructure needs within the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. This programme contributed to the Australian



Major Infrastructure Programme, Poruma Sewerage Treatment Plant.

Government Closing the Gap initiative in Indigenous communities. The programme had to deliver infrastructure to communities in a timely and cost-effective manner, targeting as many priority infrastructure projects as possible within the defined programme budget. The programme also maximised employment and training opportunities for local people and provided community development opportunities.

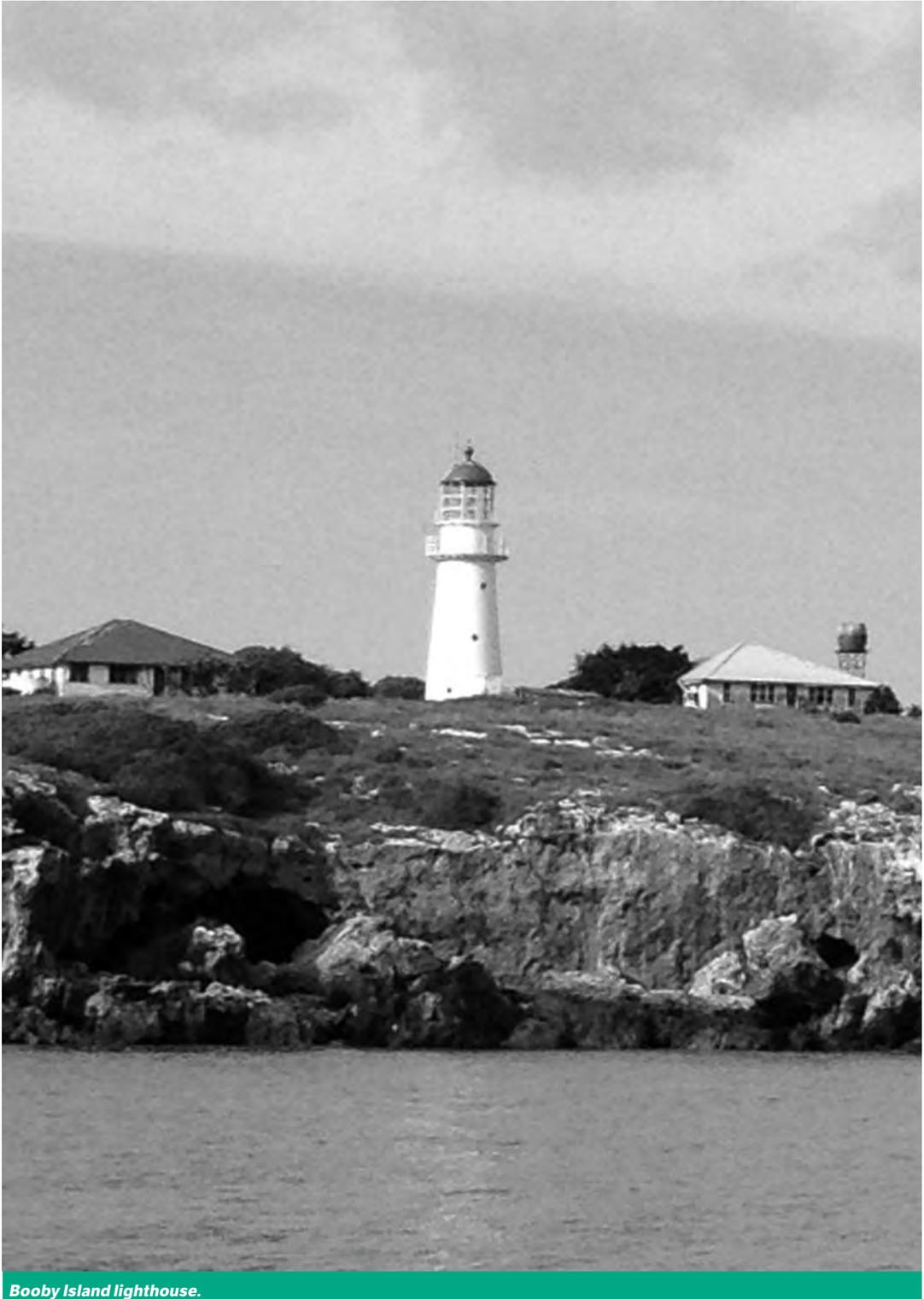
Achievements

MIP 4 successfully delivered 27 health infrastructure projects ranging from the provision of new desalination plants on six island communities and a council-built housing subdivision at Bamaga to a fully reticulated sewerage system for Poruma. In addition to the original MIP 4 projects, a further six projects were able to be delivered due to the substantial cost savings made in some projects under the programme. In 2013 the Australian National Audit Office noted that the MIP is a major example of joint service delivery. By 2013, \$212 million had been committed to the MIP.

Along with the many health benefits the infrastructure has provided communities, MIP 4 also provided Indigenous employment and training, with many trainees taking on permanent positions within their local councils. A total of 236 Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people participated in the programme, providing over 130,000 hours of training and employment.



MIP 4 Project: Wasaaga Road and drainage on Horn Island.



Booby Island lighthouse.

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.

Programme Goal

The programme goal is identical to the regional goal.

Programme Objectives

The Safe Communities Programme 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, 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 will not provide mainstream social or community services).

Programme Deliverables

Social services initiatives:

- developing a service map of social support services in the Torres Strait
- funding contributions made to social service providers supporting Torres Strait communities
- contributing to the development of standards for the 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.

Programme Expenditure 2013 - 2014

Table 2-13 Safe Communities Programme Expenditure 2013 - 2014 (unaudited)

Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
7,375	7,403	-28

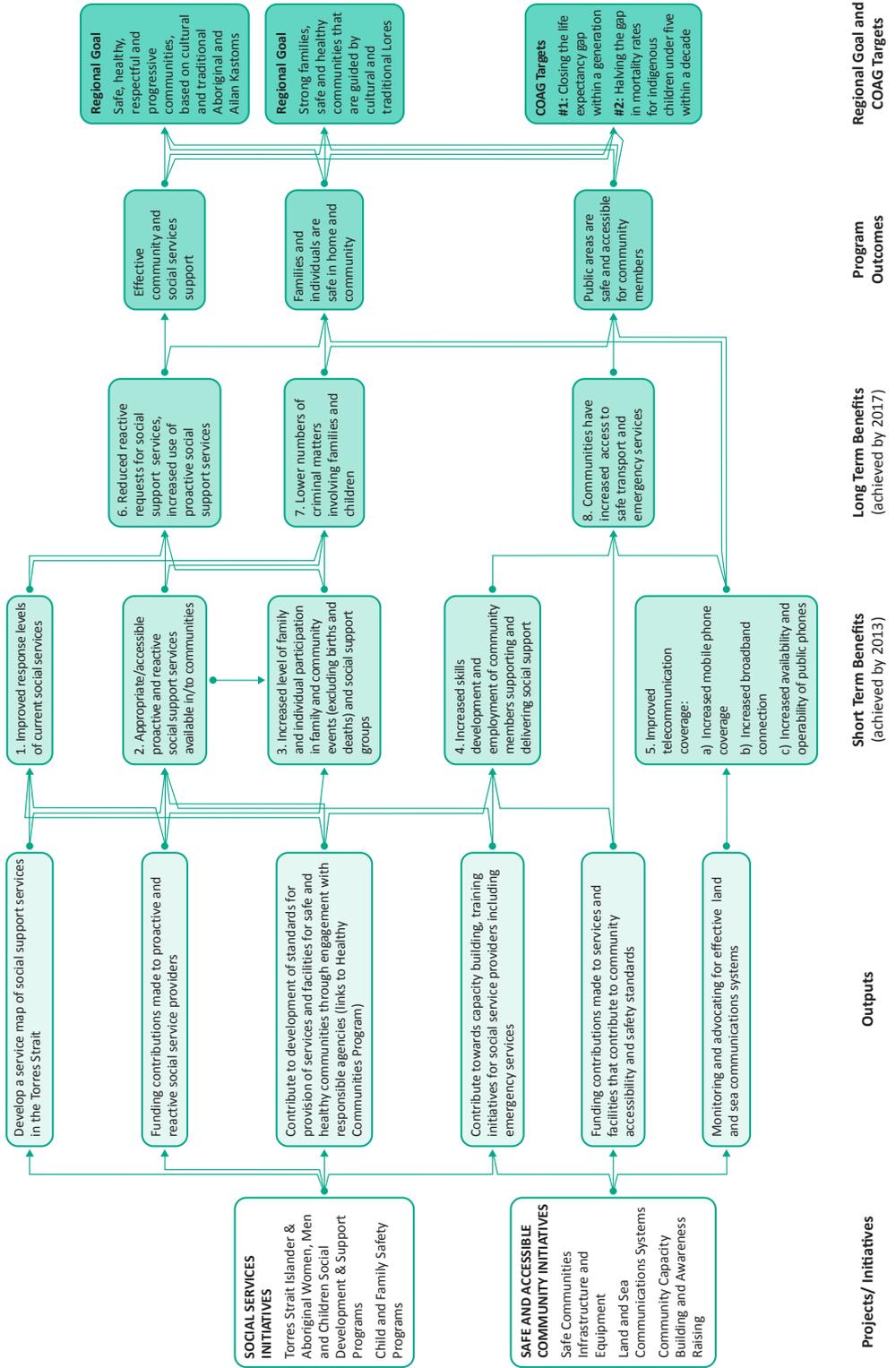
Torres Strait Development Plan Outcomes

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



Helicopter refuelling at Ugar.

Figure 2-8 Safe Communities Programme Map



Safe Communities Programme projects and achievements

Project Name: Safe and accessible community initiatives / Safe communities infrastructure and equipment / Airstrips and marine transport infrastructure

Project purpose

To contribute towards improved safety of the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region through a contribution to the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS). TIDS is a Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads programme which provides for the upgrade of community airstrips, roads and marine infrastructure in the region.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

A Memorandum of Understanding is in place between the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the TSRA, outlining the schedule of works to be completed under the TIDS during 2013 - 2014.

The following infrastructure projects were completed as at 30 June 2014:

- Seisia wharf capital maintenance project
- St Pauls jetty repairs
- Reseal of Warraber and lama airstrips
- Kubin and St Pauls drainage and sealing of access road
- Badu airstrip drainage project.

The following infrastructure projects commenced under the TIDS in 2013 - 2014:

- Repairs of barge ramps at Badu, Masig, Erub and Kubin communities
- Hammond Island drainage and sealing project.

Project purpose

Contribute towards capacity-building and training initiatives for social service providers, including emergency services.

Achievements for 2013 - 2014

The TSRA supported 28 people who have either completed or are in the process of completing training in social services. Courses included Certificate III in Children's Services, Certificate III Aged Care, Certificate III and IV in Disability Work, Certificate and Associated Degree in Indigenous Health, Diploma In Education (Community Teaching), Certificate II in Workplace Practices, Domestic and Family Violence Awareness, and Senior First Aid Certificate.



Warraber boat welcome, community procession.

Delivery of Benefits: Torres Strait Development Plan

Short-term benefit description		
<i>Appropriate and accessible proactive and reactive social services available for communities.</i>		
Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
Service map showing all social support services and identifying service delivery gaps in the Torres Strait presented to Integrated Service Delivery Steering Committee.	<p>Since the after-school care programme delivered by the Port Kennedy Association commenced in 2010, the number of children participating has increased from 30 to 40. There are nine children on the waiting list. Three Indigenous staff are currently employed in the programme.</p> <p>The TSRA funded a two-day regional hub workshop, led by the Port Kennedy Association. The regional hub is established to ensure a coordinated approach to the provision of high-quality social services to all communities. The regional hub workshop was attended by 80 participants representing non-government organisations, government agencies, outer island and Northern Peninsula Area representatives and 11 local community organisations.</p> <p>The TSRA funded a joint governance workshop, hosted by the Port Kennedy Association, to provide specialised governance training to 16 participants, building the capacity of six local non-government organisations delivering social services to the region.</p> <p>The TSRA funded the 'We Feel Prapa Gud, We Feel Safe' project delivered by Relationships Australia (Queensland). The project included consultations in 10 Torres Strait outer islands communities. Stage 2 of this project will cover the remaining five communities. This project will help to develop responsive social programmes that provide information, education and counselling programmes that directly meet the needs of the community, particularly for outer island Torres Strait communities.</p> <p>The Mura Kazil Sagulau 'All Children Play' programme is an early intervention strategy which is managed by the Mura Kosker Sorority. The programme promotes the safety and wellbeing of children and young people through supporting parents by building understanding of child development and promoting positive parent-child interaction. Mura Kosker formed a partnership with the Centre for Child Development and Education (CCDE) in the Menzies School of Health Research and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council with support from James Cook University to implement the programme. During 2013 - 2014, 300 children across five communities participated in this programme. The programme provides a range of service activities that build on family, community and cultural strengths to enhance outcomes for children, young people and their families residing in the Torres Strait. It also promotes the safety and wellbeing of children and young people through the use of prevention and early intervention strategies.</p>	<p>COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.</p> <p>COAG Target 2 – Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.</p>

Section 2 Program Reporting and Performance Summaries

Details About Our Programmes | Safe Communities

Short-term benefit description		
<i>Increased level of family and individual participation in family and community events and social support groups.</i>		
Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
Five per cent improvement in participation and two additional events supported, commencing in July 2010, to a maximum of six additional events by 2013.	<p>A wide range of community events were supported through TSRA grant funding, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mura Kosker Sorority's International Women's Day events, National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day, NAIDOC Week activities, Child Protection Week activities, White Ribbon Day awareness, Reclaim the Night activities, and Twilight Markets in conjunction with the 2013 multicultural event. ■ Port Kennedy Association's monthly mini-markets; Biggest Morning Tea; Christmas events, including Carols by Candlelight; and an event to celebrate National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day. 	<p>COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.</p> <p>COAG Target 2 – Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.</p>

Short-term benefit description		
<i>Increased skills development and employment of community members supporting and delivering social support.</i>		
Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
<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>The TSRA has exceeded targets for 2013 - 2014, as outlined in the <i>Torres Strait Development Plan (2009 - 2013)</i>. The TSRA supported 19 individuals to undertake skills development training in the social services sector. Of the 19 individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ three participated in Domestic and Family Violence Awareness workshops ■ two completed Education and Teacher Aide training ■ four completed Indigenous and basic health care training ■ five completed First Aid Certificate training ■ three are completing Certificate III in Workplace Practices ■ two completed Certificate II in Hospitality <p>Training / courses reported are for current staff undertaking on-the-job training.</p>	<p>COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.</p> <p>COAG Target 2 – Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.</p>

Short-term benefit description

Improved telecommunication coverage:

- *increased mobile phone coverage*
- *increased broadband connection*
- *increased availability and operability of public phones.*

Benefit target	Progress	COAG target
<p>Five per cent increase / improvement in coverage realised by 2013.</p>	<p>The TSRA Information Communications and Technology (ICT) team replaced the wireless radio data links between the TSRA offices on Thursday Island and six communities which previously had limited reception. The upgrades included new mast/antenna and Cel-Fi equipment. This equipment has created mobile hotspots that cater for both voice and data communications.</p> <p>Communications infrastructure has been upgraded at the TSRA ranger offices on Mabuig and Warraber. Planning is complete to improve the level of service at the ranger offices on Poruma, Erub and Ugar.</p> <p>The TSRA, through the Corporate Services section, has started negotiations with Telstra for an upgrade of services to eliminate all communication black spots across the region.</p>	<p>COAG Target 1 – Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.</p> <p>COAG Target 2 – Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.</p>



Poruma Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Service studio.

Case Study: Seisia Indigenous Knowledge Centre

The TSRA provided funding support to the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC) to assist them in providing improved access to internet services at the Seisia Indigenous Knowledge Centre.

Aim

To provide a greater level of internet access at the Seisia Indigenous Knowledge Centre and increase community access and the use of online services by the residents of the Northern Peninsula Area communities. The project is designed to increase participation in the digital economy, assist in numeracy and literacy, promote parental engagement in children's education, and encourage participation by children of all ages.

Achievements

The local community has the opportunity to use an increased range of equipment such as computers, iPads and digital cameras to showcase their talent in song writing, singing, music production and video recording.

The Seisia Indigenous Knowledge Centre operating hours have been extended to meet the needs of local residents.

Community members are able to access the free internet service for internet banking, email, accessing and lodging online forms with other service providers, researching genealogy and local history, school projects, travel bookings, Skype, etc.

NPARC's aged care clients regularly visit the Seisia Indigenous Knowledge Centre to learn how to use the technology. Participants are able to share their experience with their grandchildren and great grandchildren at home.

The Seisia Indigenous Knowledge Centre coordinated a 'Culture Love' project that focused on the establishment of the Seisia community following the relocation of residents from Saibai to Seisia beginning in 1948. Residents from Seisia were able to interact with those in Saibai through Skype using iPads and computers. This activity helps to document the unique history of Seisia and celebrates the shared culture and traditions of both communities.



Ready for business: the internet kiosk at the Seisia Indigenous Knowledge Centre.

SECTION THREE



Report of Operations

TSRA Member for Iama Mr Getano Lui Jr, Ranger Supervisor Mark Anderson and David Baragud at Iama boat blessing.

Where We Operate

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 inundated by sea water. Many

of the western islands are hilly and steep. The central islands are predominantly coral cays; those to the east are volcanic.

The TSRA delivers services across the entire Torres Strait region, which includes 17 inhabited islands and the communities of Bamaga and Seisia in the Northern Peninsula Area of mainland Australia. Due to the area's remote location, the TSRA relies on air and sea links to Cairns and limited phone, facsimile and internet communications between communities for the delivery of its services. Most travel within the region is restricted to small watercraft, helicopters and light aircraft. The main gateway to the Torres Strait is Ngarupai Airport located on Horn Island, a 20-minute ferry ride from the Australian Government, Queensland Government and two local government administration hubs located on Thursday Island.

Culture

The picturesque Torres Strait region is predominantly inhabited by native Torres Strait Islanders and Kaurareg Aboriginal people. As of 30 June 2014 the Australian Bureau of Statistics reports that the total population of the region is 8,738, of whom 6,997 (80.1 per cent) 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 and performances, and the preservation of language and traditional knowledge, which are passed from one generation to the next. Cultural values are strongly intertwined with traditional, ancestral ties and respect for waterways, the land, the 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.

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 Meriam 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 Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal 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 their native title rights over seven inner islands: Ngarupai (Horn Island), Muralag (Prince of Wales Island), Zuna (Entrance Island), Yeta (Port Lihou Island), Mipa (Turtle Island), Tarilag (Packer Island) and Damaralag. In 2013 - 2014 native title was granted over Zuizin Island for the Kulkalgal people. There are now 22 native title determinations in the Torres Strait.

The Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim Part A determination was finalised in 2013 - 2014 and the Malu Lamar (spirit of the sea) Registered Native Title Body Corporate has been established to manage native title over this area. Malu Lamar is the 21st Prescribed Body Corporate to be set up in the region.

Native title claims are being pursued over the remaining two land claims and one sea claim.

Progress towards Closing the Gap

Closing the Gap is a commitment by the Australian Government and State and Territory Governments to improve the lives of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Australians and, in particular, to provide a better future for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal 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 focused on overcoming Indigenous disadvantage.

Targets

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

Closing the Gap is a commitment by the Australian Government and State and Territory Governments to improve the lives of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Australians.

- to ensure access to early childhood education for all Indigenous four-year-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.

In May 2014 COAG agreed a new five-year target of Closing the Gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous school attendance with focus on regions that are achieving less than 80 per cent.

In 2013 - 2014, the TSRA continued to work towards the 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 Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal culture.

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

COAG Building Blocks

The TSRA's Programme 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 (ISD) project.

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)*. The second phase is under development and was published as the *Torres Strait Development Plan (2014 - 2018)* on 1 July 2014.

The ISD project identified 1,613 gaps in service delivery across 20 communities. Progress is measured every second year. The status as at 30 June 2014, measured using each of the Building Blocks, is shown in Table 3-1 and figures 3-1 and 3-2 below. Detail of the services by community is contained in the Torres Strait Regional Plan ISD community booklets for 2012, which have been prepared for each community and are published through the TSRA's Information Publishing Scheme. The community booklets can be accessed on the TSRA website www.tsra.gov.au. Ten community booklets were refreshed in 2013 - 2014 and the remainder will be updated in 2014 - 2015.

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

Building Block	2008			2012			2014			
	Not yet programmed	In progress	Available	Not yet programmed	In progress	Available	Excluded	Not yet programmed	In progress	Available
Early Childhood	58	0	0	34	20	5	4	18	19	17
Schooling	132	0	0	32	63	38	4	15	29	84
Health	311	0	0	117	126	70	19	62	87	144
Economic Participation	322	0	0	152	108	63	58	67	41	156
Healthy Homes	248	0	0	74	147	27	16	69	82	109
Safe Communities	440	0	0	185	167	89	41	101	107	192
Governance and Leadership	102	0	0	22	40	40	7	7	17	71
Community Total	1,613	0	0	616	671	332	149	339	382	773

Key:

Dark green: Service or infrastructure has been completed / is available / has been established.

Pale green: Funding has been secured / Planning is in Progress / Construction is Underway.

Dark grey: Not yet programmed.

Black: Excluded: Not feasible / not a government provided service

Note: An audit of the community booklet conducted in 2013 - 2014 identified some duplication of entries, reducing the total number of issues identified from 1,619 to 1,613 items.

Figure 3-1 Closing the Gap Trend Analysis 2010 - 2014

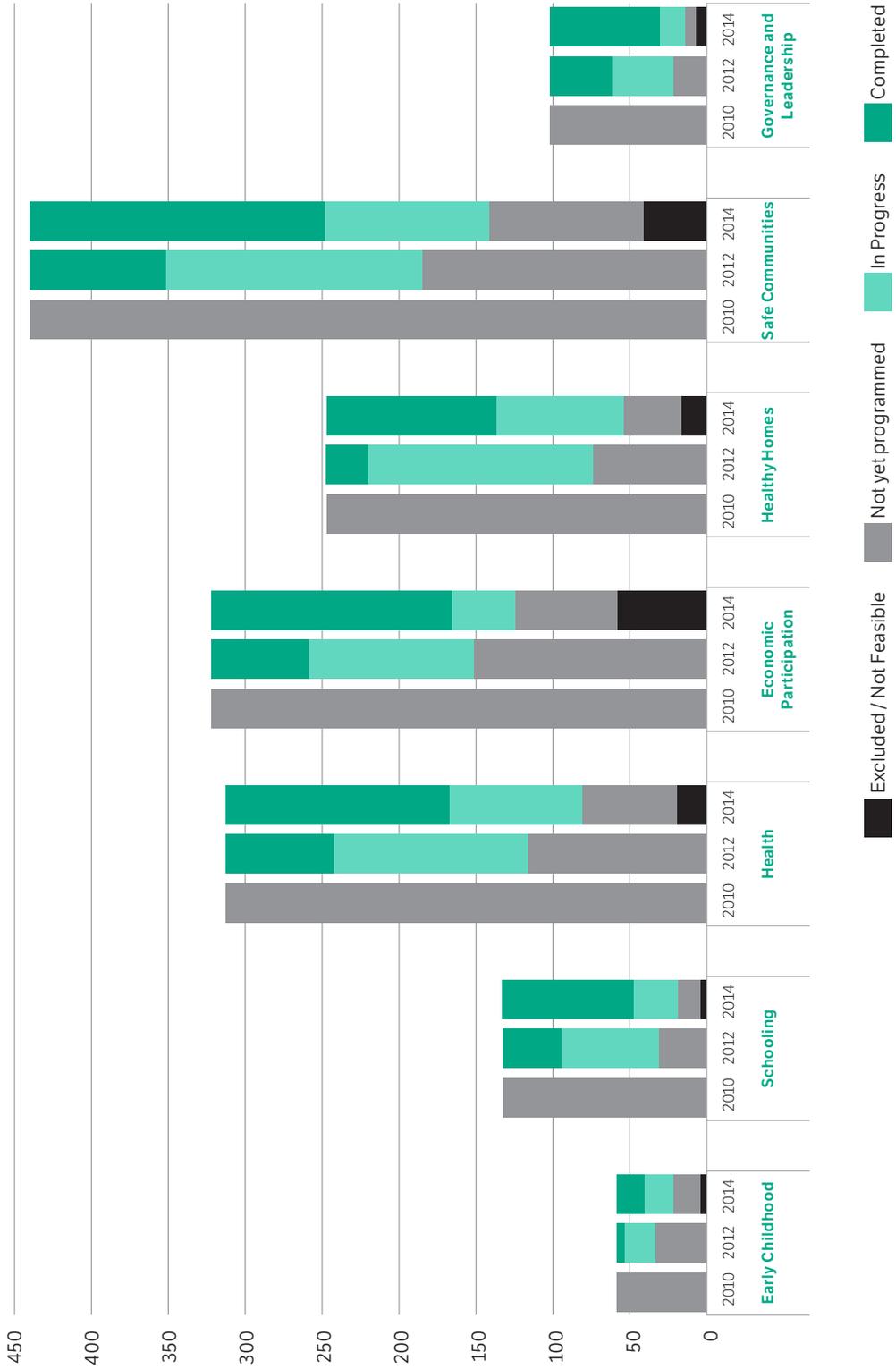
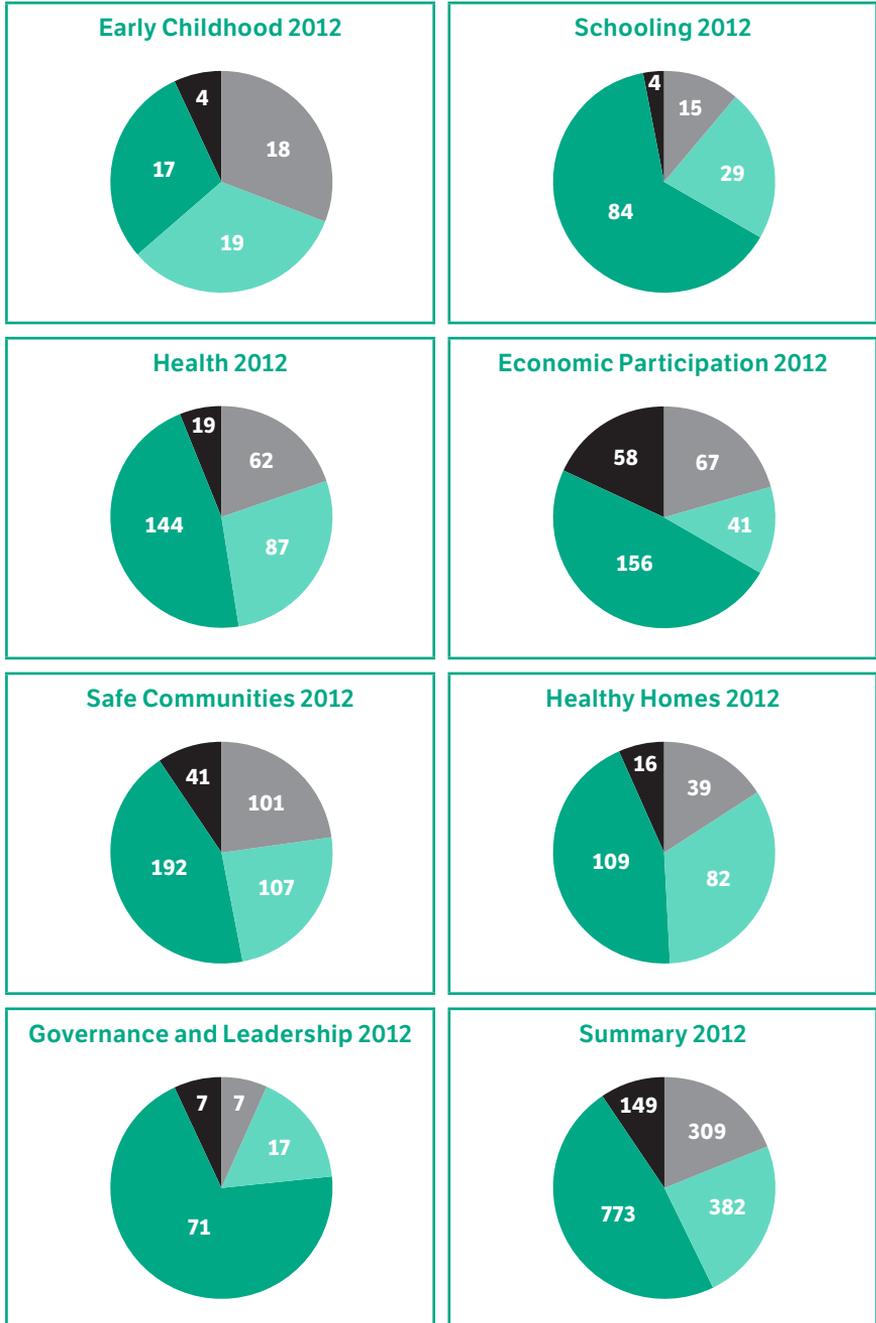


Figure 3-2 Progress Towards Closing the Gap by COAG Building Block Status 30 June 2014



Excluded / Not Feasible
 Not yet programmed
 In Progress
 Completed

Regional Statistics

The latest data available at the time of writing this report was from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This data, based on the Census data collected in 2011, has been used to benchmark the progress of the TSRA's Programmes against Closing the Gap targets. The data used throughout this section is taken from the ABS website (Census QuickStats) and was current at 30 July 2014.

The figures used in the 2013 - 2014 report are for the Torres Strait and the two communities in the Northern Peninsula Area (Bamaga and Seisia) that are included in the TSRA's area of responsibility. In past years figures for the Northern Peninsula Area communities of Umagico, New Mapoon and Injinoo have been included in TSRA reporting. The higher granularity of reporting now available from the ABS enables these figures to be excluded.

Population

The comparison of population changes across the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area (Bamaga and Seisia) is shown in tables 3-2 to 3-5.

Table 3-2 Total Population of the Torres Strait, including Bamaga and Seisia

Torres Strait		Bamaga		Seisia		Total (region)	
2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011
8,576	7,489	784	1,046	165	203	9,525	8,738

Table 3-3 Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Population of the Torres Strait, including Bamaga and Seisia

Torres Strait		Bamaga		Seisia		Total (region)	
2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011
7,105	5,921	688	939	125	137	7,918	6,997

In 2011 the Torres Strait and Aboriginal population represented 80.1 per cent of the total population. This is a slight decrease from 83.1 per cent in 2006. The 2011 figure represents 4.5 per cent of the Torres Strait and Aboriginal population in Queensland and 1.3 per cent of the Torres Strait and Aboriginal population of Australia.

Table 3-4 Gender Balance of the Torres Strait, including Bamaga and Seisia

	Torres Strait		Bamaga		Seisia		Average (region)	
	2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011
Male	49.7%	45.1%	47.8%	49.4%	50.9%	49.1%	49.5%	47.9%
Female	50.3%	54.9%	52.2%	50.6%	49.1%	50.9%	50.5%	52.1%

The gender balance in 2006 was slightly biased towards female; this increased by 1.6 per cent in 2011 to 4.2 per cent.

Table 3-5 Average Age of Population of the Torres Strait, including Bamaga and Seisia

Torres Strait		Bamaga		Seisia		Region	
2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011	2016	2011
21	22	22	23	30	31	22	23

The population age has remained more or less consistent between the 2006 Census and 2011 Census. The age profile in Seisia is believed to be skewed by the number of non-resident visitors in the community at the time of the census.

Employment

Employment data for the Torres Strait columns in Table 3-6 relates only to Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people. The figures for Bamaga and Seisia include non-Indigenous employees. The 'not in the labour force' figures were reported in the 2006 census but not collected in 2011. These figures represent persons of working age who were not seeking employment.

Table 3-6 Employment in the Torres Strait, including Bamaga and Seisia

Employment type	Torres Strait		Bamaga		Seisia		Total (region)	
	2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011
Full Time	2,705	1,039	225	277	71	76	3,096	1,392
Part Time		837	82	84	13	17		938
Away from Work	n/a	226	6	14	0	6	6	246
Unemployed	137	173	18	29	3	0	158	202
Total Labour	2,842	2,275	331	404	87	99	3,260	2,778
Not in Labour Force	1,352	n/a	134	n/a	27	n/a	1,513	n/a

Across the region there is 8.8 per cent unemployment. This is 2.8 per cent higher than the Australian rate as at 30 June 2014, which was 6.0 per cent. Seasonally adjusted labour force participation rates for the region are not available. The significant variation in employment between 2006 and 2011 is due to differences in data collection between the two censuses. In 2006 only 'employed' was reported, with no distinction between full- and part-time positions. There has been a decrease of 603 persons in employment between the censuses. This is reflective of the overall decrease in population noted in Table 3-3 above.

Education

The number of people undertaking some form of education in 2013 - 2014 was 2,583.

The education categories are shown in Table 3-7.

Table 3-7 Education in the Torres Strait, including Bamaga and Seisia

Education level	Torres Strait		Bamaga		Seisia		Total (region)	
	2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011
Pre-School	n/a	136	n/a	15	n/a	0	n/a	151
Primary	n/a	1,022	n/a	175	n/a	22	n/a	1,219
Secondary	n/a	404	n/a	88	n/a	8	n/a	500
Technical and Further	n/a	113	n/a	23	n/a	3	n/a	139
University	n/a	38	n/a	11	n/a	3	n/a	52
Other	n/a	49	n/a	7	n/a	0	n/a	56
Not Stated	n/a	395	n/a	54	n/a	17	n/a	466
Total	0	2,157	n/a	373	n/a	53	n/a	2,583

The average school attendance in 2013 across years one through 12 was 84 per cent. This is consistent with the attendance rates in 2011 (85 per cent). This is well above the Australian average for Indigenous school attendance which in 2013 was 63.3 per cent, but below the non-Indigenous attendance rate of 89.3 per cent.

Income

The 2011 Census data indicates that household incomes of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people were again significantly lower than the reported Queensland and Australian average. This is reflected in Table 3-8.

Table 3-8 Median Wealth in the Torres Strait, including Bamaga and Seisia (\$)

Income type	Torres Strait		Bamaga		Seisia		Average (region)	
	2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011
Personal	n/a	360	n/a	577	n/a	506	n/a	411
Household	n/a	952	n/a	1,117	n/a	785	n/a	971

The Queensland average for personal and household income was \$587 and \$1,253 per week. The Australian averages were \$577 and \$1,234. In the region, personal earnings are 70.0 per cent of Queensland average earnings and 71.2 per cent of Australian average earnings. Household earnings are 78.6 per cent of both Queensland and Australian average earnings.

Housing Tenure

The 2011 ABS QuickStats (June 2014) report that there were 1,722 private dwellings out of a total of 2,291 dwellings. Of these 1,718 had tenure arrangements as show in Table 3-9.

Table 3-9 Tenure of Private Dwellings in the Torres Strait, including Bamaga and Seisia

Tenure type	Torres Strait		Bamaga		Seisia		Total (region)	
	2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011
Owned	116	90	6	0	5	5	127	95
Mortgaged	26	33	0	0	3	4	29	37
Rented	1,448	1,200	198	245	49	53	1,695	1,498
Other	16	18	6	3	0	0	22	21
Not Stated	47	59	7	8	13	0	67	67
Total	1,653	1,400	217	256	70	62	1,940	1,718

The figures in Table 3-9 indicate a decrease in the number of houses owned in the region between 2006 and 2011. This may be representative of the decrease in population in the region reported in Table 3-3. There has been a 21.6 per cent increase in the number of properties under mortgage between 2006 and 2011, with all but one being in the Torres Strait communities. The lack of freehold land and long tenure leasehold land in the region remains a barrier to an increase in home ownership.

Health

A synthesis of data from the ABS and the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey shows that in 2013 - 2014:

- Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people were three times as likely as non-Indigenous people to have diabetes/high sugar levels.
- Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people were twice as likely as non-Indigenous people to have asthma.
- Obesity rates for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal females and males were significantly higher than the comparable rates for non-Indigenous people in almost every age group.
- Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people rates for heart disease were significantly higher than the comparable rates for non-Indigenous people in all age groups from 15 to 54 years.

The mortality rate for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people continues to be significantly higher than that of non-Indigenous people.

How the TSRA Operates

Formation

The TSRA is a Commonwealth Statutory Authority which was established on 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 comprises 20 elected representatives (the Board) and Australian Public Service administrative staff. The 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. In 2013 the former Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs renewed the TSRA's NTRB status for a further two years. The TSRA holds this NTRB responsibility until 30 June 2015.

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 TSRA programme 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 has separated responsibility for fisheries management from the Environmental Management Programme and established a standalone Fisheries Programme. This change will be reflected in the fifth plan, the *Torres Strait Development Plan (2014 - 2018)*, which will take effect on 1 July 2014. For consistency of reporting against the Portfolio Budget Statements and the current Torres Strait Development Plan, the outcomes from the Fisheries Programme have been reported under the Environmental Management Programme.

Enabling Legislation

The TSRA's enabling legislation is the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). Part 3A, Division 1, section 142 of the Act 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.

Functions

The functions of the TSRA, as outlined in Section 142A(1) of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), are:

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

Powers

The powers of the TSRA 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);
 - (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.



The then Governor-General, the Hon Dame Quentin Bryce, visiting Warraber, August 2013.

Responsible Minister

During the 2013 - 2014 reporting year the TSRA was an Agency within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio. The responsible Minister for the 2013 - 2014 reporting period is Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs. For the period 1 July 2013 to 18 September 2013, the former Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs the Hon Jenny Macklin MP was the responsible Minister.

Ministerial Directions

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 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 from the Minister during the reporting period.

Statement of Expectations and Statement of Intent

In May 2014, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs provided a Statement of Expectations to the TSRA concerning the operation and performance of the TSRA. In response, the TSRA provided a Statement of Intent to the Minister.

Ministerial Appointments

There were five Acting Chief Executive Officer appointments from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

Under delegation from the then Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Acting Deputy Secretary, in accordance with Section 144 L(a) of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), appointed Mr Damian Miley and Mr Chris de Mamiel as Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Torres Strait Regional Authority for the periods outlined below.

Appointed: Damian Miley

Duration: 7 September 2013 to 4 October 2013

Appointed: Chris de Mamiel

Duration: 7 October 2013 to 18 October 2013

There were three appointments made by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, to the Acting Chief Executive Officer role in accordance with Section 144 L(a) of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). They were:

Appointed: John Ramsay

Duration: 16 December 2013 to 13 January 2014

Appointed: Damian Miley

Duration: 20 January 2014 to 31 January 2014

Appointed: Chris de Mamiel

Duration: 3 February 2014 to 28 February 2014

Briefings and Information

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

Judicial Decisions and Reviews

In 2013 - 2014, one judicial decision relating to the Torres Strait Sea Claim Part A was made in the High Court of Australia and one judicial decision was made regarding the Zuizin Native Title Claim in the Federal Court of Australia. No decisions of administrative tribunals, Parliamentary Committees, the Commonwealth Ombudsman or the Australian Information Commissioner impacted on the TSRA's operations.



TSRA Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson with the member for Leichhardt the Hon Warren Entsch and the Treasurer the Hon Joe Hockey MP.

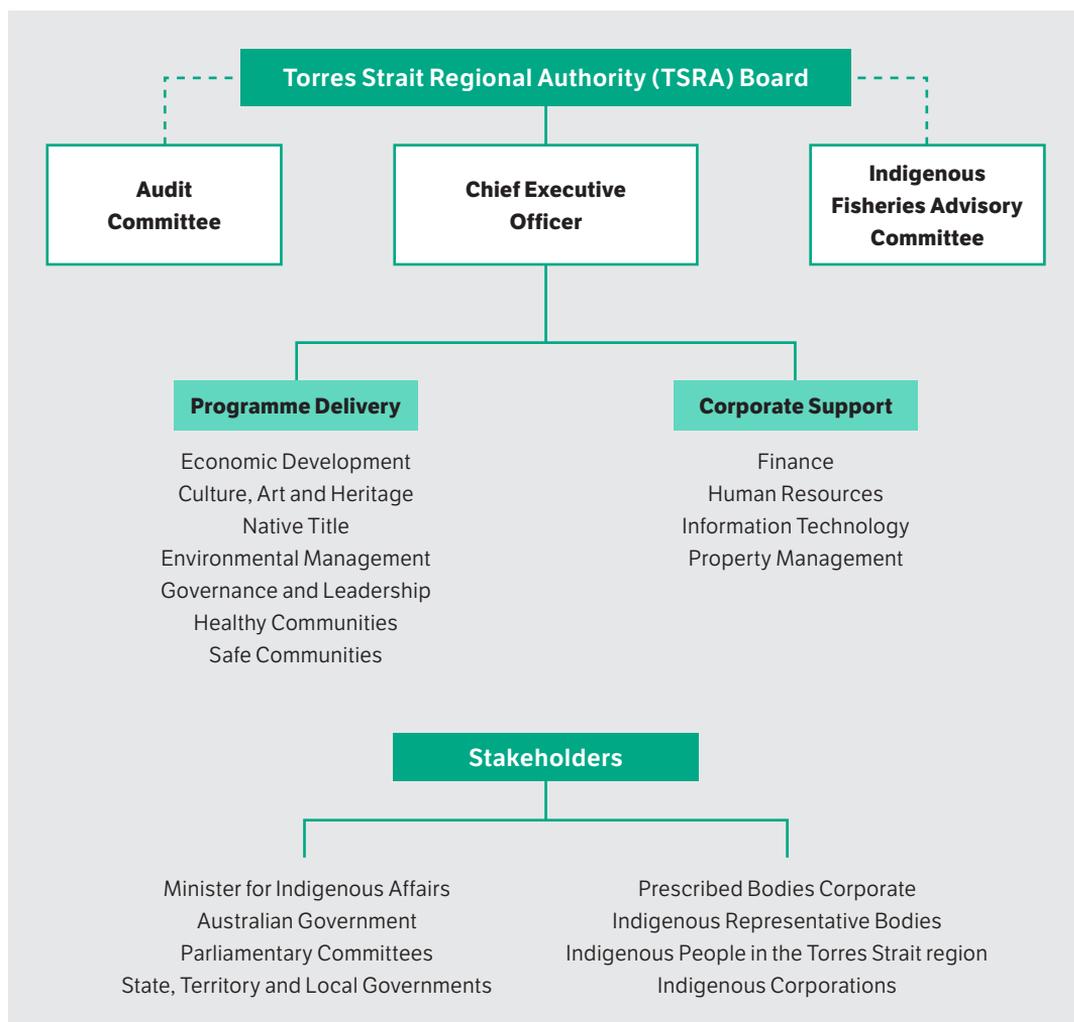


SECTION FOUR

Corporate Governance and Accountability

Overview of Governance Structure

Figure 4-1 TSRA Governance Framework at 30 June 2014



Governance Framework

The governance framework of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) provides a system of direction and controls, enabling regional outcomes to be achieved through organisational goals and objectives. The framework allows risks and issues to be escalated to the appropriate level. Resolution of risks and issues occurs through formal project management structures, programme structures, the Programme Steering Committee, the TSRA Audit Committee and the TSRA Board.

TSRA Board

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
- oversee the TSRA's strategic objectives and direction
- approve programme mandates
- review the TSRA's performance, its objectives and outcomes
- manage strategic risk and regional stakeholder relations.

The Chairperson and Executive Members of the TSRA are elected by the Members at the first Board meeting following the TSRA General election. All TSRA Board Members are also Directors under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth) and are classified as Non-Executive Directors.

2012 - 2016 Appointments

The TSRA Board consists of 20 Members elected under Division 5 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth). Following a review of the TSRA Board's governance arrangements in 2010 - 2011, the method of appointing the TSRA Board was changed, removing the automatic appointment of Councillors elected under the Queensland Government Local Government Act. Twenty TSRA electoral wards were created and the first independent TSRA Board Member elections were held in 2012. Twenty members for the communities of Badu, Bamaga, Boigu, Dauan, Erub, Hammond, Ngarupai/Muralag, Iama, Kubin, Mabuia, Masig, Mer, Port Kennedy, Poruma, Seisia, Saibai, St Pauls, TRAWQ, Ugar and Warraber were declared elected by the Australian Electoral Commission. The current Board will serve until elections are held in 2016.

Profiles of TSRA Board Members



Mr Joseph Elu, AO Chairperson and Member for Seisia

In October 2012 Mr Joseph Elu was elected for the fifth time to the TSRA Board. Mr Elu's previous terms were 1994 - 1997, 1997 - 2000, 2000 - 2004 and 2004 - 2008.

At the inaugural meeting of the new TSRA Board in November 2012, Mr Elu was elected as the TSRA Chairperson and the Portfolio Member for Governance and Leadership.

During his career, Mr Elu has been an influential leader in Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal affairs and Indigenous economic development. Mr Elu has been instrumental in assisting Indigenous people throughout Australia to develop sustainable economic enterprises. During his term, Mr Elu will continue to advocate for, and encourage, Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area communities to generate sustainable enterprises to create their own income.

Mr Elu became the Chairperson of Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) (formerly known as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Commercial Development Corporation), in 1996 and remained there for 12 years. During his time as the Chairperson of IBA, Mr Elu influenced dynamic changes and grew the organisation, creating economic and employment opportunities for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people nationally.

In 2001, Mr Elu was awarded the Centenary Medal for his achievements and in 2002 was presented with an Honorary Doctorate from the Queensland University of Technology for his lifelong work in fostering the economic development of Indigenous people throughout Australia.

During 2008, Mr Elu was made an Officer of the Order of Australia and was also awarded the NAIDOC Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr Elu has been the Chairperson of a number of organisations and committees nationally during his career. He has also held the position of Mayor of the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council and Chairperson of the Cape York Natural Resource Management Board, from which he recently resigned.

Mr Elu is the Chairperson of Seisia Enterprises Pty Ltd and Seisia Community Torres Strait Islander Corporation. He also an elected Councillor on the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council.



Mr Aven Noah Deputy Chairperson and Member for Mer

This is Mr Aven Noah's first term on the TSRA. He was elected in September 2012. At the inaugural meeting of the 2012 TSRA Board, Mr Noah was elected by the Board as Deputy Chairperson and Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage. Since becoming a Member of the TSRA Board, Mr Noah has quickly grasped what his roles and responsibilities are to carry out his functions.

Mr Noah believes traditional land and sea rights are paramount to control resources, and that the TSRA must work closely with Traditional Owners as these resources will form the foundation of the region's economic independence as an autonomous state. Mr Noah's passion is for greater autonomy for the people of the Torres Strait and this year, with the combined meeting with regional leaders, feels that their actions are starting to breathe oxygen into 'Home-Rule'.

Mr Noah is very proud that this year marks the TSRA's 20th anniversary and that the TSRA has celebrated the occasion by holding the Board's inaugural outer Torres Strait Island meeting in his community, Mer. The 90th TSRA board meeting coincided with the Meriam people Mabo Day celebration where the TSRA Chairperson, supported by Torres Strait Shire Mayor and Torres Strait Island Regional Council Mayor, declared that Mabo Day should be recognised as a national public holiday.

Mr Noah has extensive experience in media and communications and is interested in the development of the media and communications in the region and the implications for the region of the rollout of the National Broadband Network.



Mr Willie Lui
Alternate Deputy Chairperson and Member for Warraber

In September 2012 Mr Willie Lui was elected for his second term to the TSRA Board. He was elected as the Alternate Deputy Chairperson and Portfolio Member for Environmental Management. Mr Lui previously served on the Board from 2008 to 2011.

Mr Lui served as the elected Torres Strait Island Regional Councillor for Warraber from 2008 to 2012 and was re-elected to the Council in 2014. Mr Lui holds a Certificate IV in Finance and is also a qualified carpenter.

The key areas of concern for Mr Lui are the high cost of living, lack of employment opportunities and native title issues. He aims to work to see those concerns addressed through effective implementation of the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan (2009 - 2029)*, and the TSRA's *Torres Strait Development Plan (2009 - 2013)*.



Mr Maluwap Nona
Member for Badu

In September 2012 Mr Maluwap Nona was elected for a second time to the TSRA Board. He was elected by the board as the Portfolio Member for Native Title.

In his previous term (2004 - 2007) Mr Nona held the portfolio for language, culture, sport and youth and shared responsibility for the portfolios for regional governance and legislative reform.

As the Portfolio Member for Native Title, Mr Nona is keen for the TSRA and the recently formed Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council Working Group to commence engagement and work towards the Sea and Land Council achieving their goals and aspirations by June 2015.

Mr Nona is passionate that fisheries in the Torres Strait region are progressed and aims to work and engage with fishers in the development of a business plan for the Malu Lamar (TSI) Corporation (Malu Lamar). Mr Nona will also assist Malu Lamar fishers to ensure there is representation on the Protected Zone Joint Area (PZJA) Working Groups to work towards achieving 100 per cent ownership of fisheries in the region.

Mr Nona will work towards the establishment of a regional sea and land use agreement between the TSRA, Malu Lamar, Gur A Baradharaw Kod, and Commonwealth and Queensland fisheries.

Over the next year, Mr Nona looks forward to working with the TSRA's Native Title Office to host and celebrate the Federal and High Court decisions on the Torres Strait Sea Claim handed down on 2 July 2010 and 7 August 2013.



Mr Reginald Williams **Member for Bamaga**

In September 2012 Mr Reg Williams was elected for his fifth term to the TSRA Board. Mr Williams was the TSRA Member for Bamaga from 1994 to 1997, 1997 to 2000, 2000 to 2004 and 2008 to 2012.

Mr Williams was formerly the Chairperson of the Bamaga Island Council prior to its amalgamation into the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC). He is a former Deputy Mayor of NPARC.

Mr Williams has specialist knowledge of his community, Bamaga, and possesses strong communication, negotiation and relationship management skills. Mr Williams also has unique communications skills that relate to Ailan Kastom.

In his previous terms, one of Mr Williams's key concerns was housing in the Northern Peninsula Area. In his term he will continue to advocate for the development of more serviced housing blocks to cater for the needs of families in the region.



Mr Eric Peter **Member for Boigu**

Mr Eric Peter was elected to the TSRA Board as the Member for Boigu for the first time in September 2012.

Mr Peter was previously on the Board of the Malu Ki'ai (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate and was the elected Councillor for Boigu between 1997 and 1999. Mr Peter is currently the Boigu Divisional Manager for the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Mr Peter holds a Diploma in Community Administration / Management and a Certificate IV in Quarantine and Export Inspection. He is currently completing a Degree in Business at the Australian Catholic University. He has completed Australian Public Service (APS) Leadership and Indigenous Leadership programmes and has worked in the APS for more than 21 years.

Mr Peter's key concerns relate to the low level of funding for community infrastructure, the weak regional economy, and the low number of private enterprises and businesses owned and operated by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region.

As a TSRA Board Member, Mr Peter aims to empower the people of the region by supporting them to start up businesses and enterprises.



Mr Sam Maka
Member for Dauan

Mr Sam Maka was elected as the Member for Dauan in September 2012. This is Mr Maka's first term on the TSRA Board. At the inaugural meeting of the new TSRA Board in November 2012, Mr Maka was elected as the Portfolio Member for Economic Development.

Mr Maka plays an important role in the Dauan community, being an office holder for a number of organisations, including the Department of Agriculture (Biosecurity Officer); the Dauanalgalaw (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC; Holy Cross Church Parish, Diocese of Torres Strait; and Outer Islands Rugby League.

Mr Maka gained his decision-making, strategic planning and leadership experience from his time in the military, community policing, public service and community volunteer groups.

Mr Maka has a wide range of concerns, such as building the capacity of the Dauan Prescribed Body Corporate, protecting sacred sites, further developing the Dauan island town plan, establishing a recycling plant, and fostering awareness of natural resources. He seeks to be proactive, consistent and persistent in seeking to address these issues.

During his term on the TSRA Board Mr Maka wishes to establish and strengthen working relationships with other TSRA Board Members so projects can be progressed and realised; encourage the TSRA and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council can work together to achieve concrete outcomes for his community; and achieve continuity in government funding for the region.



Mr Kenny Bedford
Member for Erub

Mr Kenny Bedford was elected to the TSRA Board as the Member for Erub for his second consecutive term in September 2012. Mr Bedford was elected as the TSRA Portfolio Member for Fisheries, a post he held during his first term (2008 - 2012). In his first term, Mr Bedford was also the TSRA Alternate Deputy Chairperson.

Mr Bedford is president of the Erub Fisheries Management Association, serves on the board of Reconciliation Australia and is a member of Erubam Le Traditional Land and Sea Owners (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC and the Abergowrie College Community Consultative Committee.

Mr Bedford has a Bachelor of Applied Health Science and Diploma of Youth Welfare. He received the Vincent Fairfax Fellowship in 2000 and is a current participant of the Australian Rural Leadership Programme.

As a commercial fisher as well as the Portfolio Member for Fisheries, Mr Bedford is acutely aware of the challenges the Indigenous people of the region face to gain greater ownership and control over management of Torres Strait marine resources. He is committed to increasing economic development opportunities, especially through the greater and more efficient participation of Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people across the various Torres Strait commercial fisheries. The Member for Erub acknowledges the importance of working with Traditional Owner representatives and local community fisher organisations and stakeholders to help achieve these targets.

Mr Bedford's other areas of attention and interest relate to the Ranger Programme and Torres Strait art, heritage and cultural maintenance. He is acutely aware of the important and positive role art and culture play in community health, cohesion and wellbeing. Environmental management, housing, education and health are additional areas of concern for Mr Bedford towards improving the Torres Strait standard of living.

Mr Bedford believes that growing community expectations can be better addressed through clear and regular communication of the factors and opportunities influencing Torres Strait policy development, and by ensuring individuals, families and communities are able to access their TSRA Member and the TSRA in a two-way flow of information.

In his second term Mr Bedford continues to diligently represent Erub and the region, and, in particular, to play a constructive role in the economic and cultural development of Torres Strait fisheries for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders.



Mr Mario Sabatino
Member for Hammond

Mr Mario Sabatino was elected to the TSRA Board as the Member for Hammond for the first time in September 2012. Mr Sabatino is the Councillor for Hammond Island on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Mr Sabatino is well known in his community as a businessman – he currently owns and operates the M&M Mini Mart on Hammond Island and the Hammond Island Ferry, for which he is the Ship's Officer. Mr Sabatino is a Director on the Boards of a number of community organisations.

Mr Sabatino has a Master Class 3 Diploma of Transport and Distribution (Maritime – Deckwatch Keeping) and has 25 years commercial marine experience as Master and Officer.

Mr Sabatino's key concerns are the need for regional and island economic development, improved training and employment outcomes in communities and achievement of real land tenure throughout the Torres Strait. He is also concerned that Hammond does not have a community-based organisation.

Mr Sabatino will advocate for enhanced networking with government agencies and the private sector to facilitate economic development; on-the-ground training that meshes with established organisations, businesses and partnerships in the region; and real land tenure to encourage outside investment in communities.



Mr Yen Loban
Member for Ngarupai and Muralag

In September 2012 Mr Yen Loban was elected to the TSRA Board for the first time as the Member for Ngarupai and Muralag. He is a member of the TSRA Board Audit Committee.

Mr Loban is well known in his community. He is the Deputy Mayor of the Torres Shire Council as well as a businessman with 30 years experience in the light marine industry. He is owner / operator of a sea cat marine charter, and a director of the Torres Shire Co-operative.

Mr Loban's primary concerns are the lack of basic service infrastructure on Muralag, and the low level of support provided to the ongoing development for Ngarupai.

As a TSRA Board Member, Mr Loban will be working to ensure that the communities of Ngurapai and Muralag are healthy and safe; that they receive the same services as other communities across the Torres Strait; and that TSRA programmes focus on equity in service provision to the benefit of both those communities.



Mr Getano Lui Jr AM **Member for Iama**

In September 2012 Mr Lui Jr was elected for the fourth time to the TSRA Board. Mr Lui's previous terms were from 1994 to 1997, 1997 to 2000, and 2000 to 2004. Mr Lui was the TSRA's first Chairperson and during his term in 2000 - 2004 he shared responsibility for the regional governance and legislative reform portfolio.

Mr Lui is the Councillor for Iama on the Torres Strait Island Regional Council. He previously held the positions of Councillor and Chairperson of the Iama Community Council (1974 - 2004), Chairman of the Island Coordinating Council (1985-2000), and Chairman of the Islander Board of Industry and Service (1985 - 2000).

Mr Lui's key areas of concern are health, housing and infrastructure, and the transfer of decision-making powers to local communities to enable them to control and manage their own affairs. He plans to advocate for community empowerment through self-determination and self-management.



Mr Saila Savage **Member for Kubin**

Mr Saila Savage was elected to the TSRA Board as the Member for Kubin on 8 December 2012. This is Mr Savage's third time on the TSRA Board; he previously served from 2000 to 2004 and 2004 to 2008.

Mr Savage is a Board Member of the Mualgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC and the Kaurareg Land Trust and sits on the Cape York Land Council. He held the position of Chairman of Kubin Community for nine years between 2000 and 2009.

Mr Savage has many years experience working on the railways, and for the past four years has worked in the technical division of the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Mr Savage's key concerns for the Kubin community include the lack of public / community transport; the impact of drugs and alcohol; the inadequate number of in-community traineeships offered for youth; the safety of children; the provision of social housing; the control of dogs and horses; the lack of a Queensland police presence; and insufficient numbers of land and sea rangers.

During his time on the Board, Mr Savage will be dedicated to serving his community and his people to the best of his ability to achieve positive and satisfying outcomes. He will be their voice at the table.



Mr Keith Fell
Member for Mabuiaq

In September 2012 Mr Keith Fell was re-elected to the TSRA Board for a second consecutive term. He was subsequently elected by the Board as Portfolio Member for Healthy Communities, an office he held in his first term.

Mr Fell also holds the office of Deputy Mayor of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council and is the Chairperson of the Torres Strait Kaziw Meta College Board.

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 achieving individual success and increasing the standard of living of people in the region. He is concerned with economic development and cultural and social issues.

Mr Fell is passionate about sports, recreation and good health practices for all people in the Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area—more activities, more participation, a better lifestyle and a healthier future.

During his previous term on the TSRA Board, Mr Fell focused on achieving affordable housing for Torres Strait Islander people, and worked towards empowering his people through accessible employment and training opportunities. He aims to continue this work in his second term.



Ms Hilda Mosby
Member for Masig

Ms Hilda Mosby was elected as the Member for Masig in September 2012. This is Ms Mosby's first term on the TSRA Board.

Ms Mosby has more than 17 years experience in the Australian Public Service, working for the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (now part of the Department of Agriculture), and for the Department of Immigration and Citizenship as a Movement Monitoring Officer.

Community involvement has been a paramount focus for Ms Mosby, who is an active member on committees dealing with education, health, justice, fisheries and native title in her community of Masig.

Of key concern to Ms Mosby is the impact of coastal erosion on low-lying Torres Strait communities, including her own community of Masig. Over her term she will advocate that coastal erosion issues continue to be addressed through an integrated approach by the relevant Australian Government and Queensland Government agencies.

The preservation of Torres Strait culture through language, music and art is another area that Ms Mosby is passionate about and she will continue to advocate for the best outcomes for the cultural wellbeing of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in this region.



Mrs Romina Fujii
Member for Port Kennedy

In September 2012 Mrs Romina Fujii was elected to the TSRA Board for a second time. Mrs Fujii previously served on the TSRA Board from 1994 to 1997. Mrs Fujii is a member of the TSRA Audit Committee. She has also been nominated by TSRA to represent the Torres Strait on the National Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children Steering Committee.

Mrs Fujii is the Chairperson and an active member of the Port Kennedy Association Inc., James Cook University Advisory Board, Queensland Women's Health Network Committee, and Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak Ltd.

Mrs Fujii has experience in health, education, employment and training; governance training; and working with non-government organisations. She has a Certificate IV in Workplace Training and Assessment and has completed a degree in Social Work.

Mrs Fujii has worked as a volunteer in not-for-profit organisations such as Lena Passi Women's Shelter, Mura Kosker Sorority and Torres Strait Home for the Aged. Mrs Fujii is also a member of the Thursday Island Rotary Club.

Mrs Fujii's key concerns are the lack of skilled local people to draw on in the community and she therefore supports up-skilling in the workplace. Mrs Fujii believes in the TSRA's aim to support enterprise and believes there is a great need to develop a well-planned strategy for economic development for the region.

During her time on the Board, Mrs Fujii will also advocate to ensure that all families are safe in the region and that the wellbeing of each family and youth are paramount. The aim is, through non-government organisations, for a regional services hub to improve the delivery of all social services in the region.



Mr Francis Pearson
Member for Poruma

In September 2012 Mr Francis Pearson was elected for the second time to the TSRA Board as the Member for Poruma. He previously served on the Board from 2000 to 2004.

Mr Pearson is a director of the Porumalgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC and is the Torres Strait Island Regional Council Airport Coordinator at Poruma. He also holds the position of Divisional Engineering Officer.

Mr Pearson has a Diploma in Teaching from James Cook University.

Mr Pearson's key concerns are climate change and associated coastal erosion and the impact of high tides on low-lying Poruma, overcrowding, and community representation in Indigenous fisheries management.

Mr Pearson aims to advocate for more say from communities in decisions concerning fisheries in Torres Strait waters, and to push for a solution – that satisfies community expectations and concerns – to the erosion of low-lying islands.



Miss Chelsea Aniba **Member for Saibai**

Miss Chelsea Aniba was elected as the Member for Saibai in September 2012. This is Miss Aniba's first term on the TSRA Board.

Miss Aniba has qualifications in radio broadcasting, business administration, social housing and justice studies.

Miss Aniba has established a profile through her involvement in local radio, her eight years in radio broadcasting, and her membership of the Torres Strait Islanders Media Association (TSIMA) Board. She is also a member of the Saibai Community Development Corporation.

Miss Aniba's two primary concerns, which closely affect her home of Saibai Island, are coastal erosion and rising sea levels, and the insufficient supply of social housing. Over her term, Miss Aniba will advocate for the construction of sea walls throughout the affected Torres Strait communities and the rollout of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing.

Miss Aniba's other concerns relate to employment and economic development opportunities for local families; helping to keep, restore and revitalise our culture; and strengthening Prescribed Bodies Corporate to enable them to progress native title issues. Miss Aniba will advocate for the best outcomes in these areas.



Mr Kiwat Lui **Member for St Pauls**

In September 2012 Mr Kiwat Lui was elected to the TSRA Board for the first time. Mr Lui is also a member of the TSRA Audit Committee and a member of the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee.

Mr Lui is a pastor at Kozan Outreach Church on St Pauls and a member of Sempolau Koey Kazil Inc (St Pauls Elders Group). He is also a former member of the Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee.

Mr Lui holds a Bachelor of Arts (Aboriginal Affairs Administration), and has over 20 years experience working with local and state government agencies in administration and financial services.

Mr Lui's prime concerns are the lack of a long-term stable income stream for the people of the Torres Strait, continuing poor health outcomes and families struggling to make ends meet. He believes two means to address these concerns are to give Indigenous people of the region first preference for jobs, and to direct resources to health services that produce enormously tangible outcomes for the wellbeing of Indigenous people living within the region.

In his term on the TSRA Board Mr Lui will be working to create wealth for the Torres Strait and its people, through assistance to small business from private consortiums, the Queensland Government and the Australian Government to enable them to become self-sufficient. Mr Lui also wants to ensure that all TSRA decisions are transparent and meet the region's needs and aspirations.



Mr John Abednego
Member for TRAWQ

In September 2012 Mr Abednego was re-elected for a fifth time to the TSRA Board as the Member for TRAWQ (communities of Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine on Thursday Island). His previous terms on the TSRA Board were 1994 - 1997, 1997 - 2000, 2000 - 2004 and 2008 - 2012.

Mr Abednego held the office of TSRA Chairperson in his 1997 - 2000 term and was the Portfolio Member for Legal and Media in 2000 - 2004. Currently, Mr Abednego is the Portfolio Member for Safe Communities.

Mr Abednego is a Councillor on the Torres Shire Council and member of the Parents and Citizens Committee of Tagai Secondary Campus. He also plays a role in the Anglican Church.

Mr Abednego has considerable experience in board management and administration, and policy development and strategic planning. Over his career he has been involved in mediation and counselling, court referrals and social justice interagency networking.

Mr Abednego's key concerns are land tenure, home ownership, social and alcohol-related issues and funding difficulties.



Mr Jerry Stephen
Member for Ugar

In September 2012 Mr Jerry Stephen was elected to the TSRA Board for the first time.

During the past two years of his term, Mr Stephen has worked on and contributed to a number of regional issues including fisheries, native title, environmental management and regional governance.

Mr Stephen has also worked in partnership with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Prescribed Bodies Corporate and the Ugar community elders at to address local issues and progress the development of a proposed concept plan for the Ugar rock-groyne.

Mr Stephen has over 20 years experience working in the private and public sectors. His work has included the delivery of Australian Government programmes throughout the Torres Strait.

During Mr Stephen's four-year term he will be working vigorously to support the TSRA Board to achieve positive outcomes for the Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait) region.

Board meetings

The Chairperson of the TSRA must convene at least four TSRA 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.

The TSRA Board met four times in 2013 - 2014, as shown in Table 4-1

Table 4-1 Board Meetings and Apologies

Meeting no.	Dates	Apologies	Absent
87	11 - 13 September 2013	Mr Reg Williams, Member for Bamaga Mr Mario Sabatino, Member for Hammond	Nil
88	4 - 6 December 2013	Mr Reg Williams, Member for Bamaga Mr Mario Sabatino, Member for Hammond (Part Meeting)	Nil
89	5 - 7 March 2014	Nil	Nil
90	4 - 6 June 2014	Mr Reg Williams, Member for Bamaga Mr Keith Fell, Member for Mabuiag Mr Getano Lui Jr, Member for Iama Mr Mario Sabatino, Member for Hammond	Nil



TSRA Chairperson and TSIRC Councillor for Boigu Mr Dimas Toby.

Attendance at Board meetings is shown in Table 4-2. The TSRA has issued a corrigendum to Table 4-2 on page 121 of the 2012 - 2013 Annual Report correcting the Board Meeting Attendance figures.

Table 4-2 Board Meeting Attendance

Member	Number of meetings attended
Mr Joseph Elu	4 of 4
Mr Aven Noah	4 of 4
Mr Willie Lui	4 of 4
Mr John Abednego	4 of 4
Miss Chelsea Aniba	4 of 4
Mr Kenny Bedford	4 of 4
Mr Keith Fell	3 of 4
Mrs Romina Fujii	4 of 4
Mr Yen Loban	4 of 4
Mr Getano Lui (Jr)	3 of 4
Mr Kiwat Lui	4 of 4
Mr Sam Maka	4 of 4
Ms Hilda Mosby	4 of 4
Mr Maluwap Nona	4 of 4
Mr Francis Pearson	4 of 4
Mr Eric Peter	4 of 4
Mr Mario Sabatino	1.5 of 4
Mr Saila Savage	4 of 4
Mr Jerry Stephen	4 of 4
Mr Reg Williams	1 of 4

TSRA Board Charter and Ethics

A TSRA Board Charter was adopted in 2012 - 2013. The TSRA Board Charter brings together in one handbook all the resources that Board Members require to enable them to exercise their powers and responsibilities. The handbook is based on ethical standards, good governance and contains the Board Members code of conduct, charter of representation, performance and accountability and the terms of reference for Board committees. On 1 July 2014 the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) replaced the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. This has necessitated a review of the TSRA Board Charter and the document will be re-released in 2014 - 2015 to reflect the new Act.

Board Member induction

There were no changes in the composition of the TSRA Board in 2013 - 2014. No Board induction session were conducted.

Board Code of Conduct

The TSRA Board's Code of Conduct and ethics policies are published in the TSRA Board Charter.

Executive coaching

An executive coach is available for board members. A three-day strategic planning and training workshop for members is conducted in November of each year.

Performance review

The TSRA undertakes a performance review at the mid-term point of the TSRA Board period of appointment. The last review was conducted in 2010 - 2011 and the next is scheduled in 2014 - 2015. Performance reviews are conducted by external independent consultants.

Education

The TSRA provides an opportunity for Board Members to undertake accredited training in governance, leadership or business during their term. Individual qualifications are stated in the 'Profiles of TSRA Board Members' in this section.



TSRA Chairperson and local government mayors sign off on Regional Climate Change Strategy.

Executive Committee

An executive committee consisting of eight TSRA board members has been formed to assist the TSRA Chairperson to carry out his functions. The Executive Committee's portfolio structure is aligned to the TSRA's programmes. The TSRA Board determined the membership of the Executive Committee by open ballot following the Board election in 2012. 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) (ATSIA Act), the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth), the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) (from 1 July 2014) 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 to Torres Strait communities government policy, TSRA decisions and achievements as they relate to the Executive Committee's portfolio responsibilities.

Members

The 2013 - 2014 TSRA Executive Committee members and their portfolio responsibilities are shown at Table 4-3.

Table 4-3 Membership of the 2013 - 2014 Executive Committee

Member	Role
Mr Joseph Elu	Chairperson Portfolio Member for Governance and Leadership
Mr Aven Noah	Deputy Chairperson Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage
Mr Willie Lui	Alternate Deputy Chairperson Portfolio Member for Environmental Management
Mr John Abednego	Portfolio Member for Safe Communities
Mr Kenny Bedford	Portfolio Member for Fisheries
Mr Keith Fell	Portfolio Member for Healthy Communities
Mr Sam Maka	Portfolio Member for Economic Development
Mr Maluwap Nona	Portfolio Member for Native Title

Meetings

The 2013 - 2014 TSRA Executive Committee met six times. Those meetings are shown in Table 4-4.

Table 4-4 Executive Committee Meeting Dates and Apologies

Dates	Apologies
9 September 2013	Nil
2 December 2013	Mr Willie Lui, Member for Warraber
3 March 2014	Nil
10 March 2014	Nil
23 April 2014	Nil
2 June 2014	Mr Keith Fell, Member for Mabuiag Mr Kenny Bedford, Member for Erub

Attendance

Attendance at TSRA Executive Committee meetings is shown in Table 4-5.

Table 4-5 Executive Committee Meeting Attendance

Member	Number of meetings attended
Mr Joseph Elu	6 of 6
Mr Aven Noah	6 of 6
Mr Willie Lui	5 of 6
Mr John Abednego	6 of 6
Mr Kenny Bedford	5 of 6
Mr Keith Fell	5 of 6
Mr Sam Maka	6 of 6
Mr Maluwap Nona	6 of 6

Other Boards and Committees

Programme Steering Committee

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

The PSC includes the TSRA Chief Executive Officer, Programme 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 programme boundaries, ensuring that the programmes, strategies and operational activities align with the TSRA's Outcome. Further detail on programme reporting is contained in Section 2 of this report.

Torres Strait Coastal Management Committee

The Torres Strait Coastal Management Committee (TSCMC) was formed by the TSRA in 2006 to 'develop a strategic coordinated approach to dealing with disaster mitigation, coastal erosion, inundation and long-term coastal planning issues in the Torres Strait through collaboration with all parties; with an emphasis on the most severely impacted islands; and to provide a pathway for community members to address coastal issues on their islands'. The TSCMC is not an advisory committee under the meaning of the ATSI Act. The TSCMC meets biannually.

Membership of the TSCMC includes the TSRA, Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Torres Shire Council, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Emergency Management Queensland, James Cook University, CSIRO, Reef and Rainforest Research Centre and Australian Department of Climate Change.

The TSRA's membership of the TSCMC is shown in Table 4-6.

Table 4-6 Membership of the Torres Strait Coastal Management Committee

Member	Role
Mr Joseph Elu	Chairperson and Member for Seisia
Miss Chelsea Aniba	Member for Saibai
Mr Eric Peter	Member for Boigu
Mr Getano Lui Jr	Member for Iama
Mr Willie Lui	Member for Warraber
Mr Francis Pearson	Member for Poruma
Ms Hilda Mosby	Member for Masig

Advisory Committees

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

Audit Committee

The TSRA Audit Committee has four members. The Audit 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. 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 Audit Committee are shown in tables 4-7, 4-8 and 4-9.

Membership

The membership of the Audit Committee is shown in Table 4-7.

Table 4-7 Audit Committee Members

Name	Role
Mr Adrian Kelly	Chairperson and Independent Member
Mrs Romina Fujii	Member for Port Kennedy and Rotational Member
Mr Yen Loban	Member for Ngarupai and Muralug
Mr Kiwat Lui	Member for St Pauls

Meeting dates

The Audit Committee met four times in 2013 - 2014, as shown in Table 4-8.

Table 4-8 Audit Committee Meeting Dates and Apologies

Dates	Apologies
10 September 2013	Nil
3 December 2013	Nil
4 March 2014	Nil
30 May 2014	Nil

Attendance

Members' attendance at Audit Committee meetings is shown in Table 4-9.

Table 4-9 Attendance at Audit Committee Meetings

Member	Number of meetings attended
Mr Adrian Kelly	4 of 4
Mrs Romina Fujii	4 of 4
Mr Yen Loban	4 of 4
Mr Kiwat Lui	4 of 4

Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee

The Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee (IFAC) was established in 2012 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 programmes 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.

The effectiveness of the IFAC in engaging with fisher communities and providing independent industry advice to the TSRA board was reviewed in 2014. Meetings of the IFAC were suspended while the review was conducted. The board determined that a different model of engagement with community fishers was required. The IFAC was disbanded on 5 June 2014.

Membership

The membership of the IFAC is shown in Table 4-10.

Table 4-10 Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee Members

Name	Membership period
Gavin Mosby	25 May 2011 to 31 March 2014
Dimas Toby	25 May 2011 to 31 March 2014
Daniel Takai	25 May 2011 to 31 March 2014
Cyril Gabey	25 May 2011 to 31 March 2014
Ned Larry	5 December 2011 to 31 March 2014
Ralph Bann-Pearson	5 December 2011 to 31 March 2014
Michael Passi	6 September 2012 to 5 June 2014
Bert Matysek	4 June 2013 to 5 June 2014

Meetings

The IFAC meeting dates are shown in Table 4-11.

Table 4-11 Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee Meetings and Apologies

Dates	Apologies
1 August 2013	Michael Passi, Bert Matysek and Cyril Gabey

Attendance

Attendance at the IFAC meetings is shown in Table 4-12.

Table 4-12 Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee Attendance

Member	Number of meetings attended
Gavin Mosby	1 of 1
Dimas Toby	1 of 1
Daniel Takai	1 of 1
Cyril Gabey	0 of 1
Ned Larry	1 of 1
Ralph Bann-Pearson	1 of 1
Michael Passi	0 of 1
Bert Matysek	0 of 1

Enabling Functions

Support for
TSRA Board
Members
based
on Island
communities
with poor to
no mobile
reception
was improved
with the
installation
of mast/
antenna/
Cel-Fi
equipment.

Information Management and Technology

The TSRA Information Communications and Technology (ICT) Team once again had an extremely busy year.

During 2013 - 2014 the wireless radio data links between the offices on Thursday Island were replaced as the existing equipment was coming to end of life in terms of maintenance support. Additionally links were put into place for a new leased building to bring it into the TSRA ICT network. Planning is currently underway for the next stage, where the high use link between Torres Strait Haus and the Native Title Office and Land and Sea Management Unit building will be replaced by a new link that will operate at a greater capacity.

Support for TSRA Board Members based on Island communities with poor to no mobile reception was improved with the installation of mast/antenna/Cel-Fi equipment that provided for a local mobile hotspot to improve voice and data communications. Similar infrastructure was put in place at the ranger offices on Mabuiag and Warraber. Planning has been undertaken to provide this same improved level of service to ranger offices on Poruma, Erub and Ugar.

Following a health check undertaken of the TSRA's voice over internet protocol (VoIP) telephone system, a significant firmware upgrade was performed that modernised the system. Health checks are planned for all other infrastructure in 2014 - 2015.

A significant upgrade to the Torres Strait Haus virtual server environment was undertaken to build on the data centre infrastructure changes in the previous year. The virtual server environment in the TSRA Torres Haus data centre has been designed for expansion, thereby readily able to cater for an increase in the number of virtual servers. The increase in number of virtual servers was driven by the need to upgrade existing TSRA enterprise resource planning (ERP) software applications: HP TRIM (document management), Chris21 (human resource management) and AccPac (financial management). The human resource and finance systems have been upgraded to the latest versions. The document management system upgrade is scheduled to be completed in July 2014.

A number of challenges in records management continue to be addressed. Additional containers of records were shipped from various Thursday Island storage locations to a secure record archive facility in Cairns. The TSRA has completed archiving more than 80 per cent of its paper-based records. Significant improvements were made to digital records management in 2013 - 2014, including the redesign of the records management information structure. The new design is supported by the National Archives of Australia.

Improvements to the TSRA's Cairns office ICT environment were made through the installation of more robust server and appliance infrastructure that better supports file and print services as well as network communications over ADSL and WiFi.

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 4-13 provides an overview of the TSRA's environmental activities and operations in relation to Section 516A of the EPBC Act.

Table 4-13 Compliance with the EPBC Act, section 516A (Environmental Reporting)

ESD reporting requirement	TSRA response
How the TSRA's activities accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.	<p>The TSRA has issued an environmental policy outlining measures to improve its ecological sustainability. During 2013 - 2014, the TSRA continued work on implementing activities identified through its environmental management system, which is focused on ensuring that the TSRA is taking all reasonable steps to reduce its ecological footprint.</p> <p>The TSRA's environmental risks are managed at the project, programme and portfolio levels and are captured in the organisation's risks and issues registers.</p> <p>The TSRA maintains an environmental legal and other requirements register.</p> <p>The TSRA has established a biennial audit process for its environmental management system. The next audit is scheduled for late 2014.</p>
Outcomes contributing to ecologically sustainable development.	<p>The TSRA's Environmental Management Programme contributes to ecologically sustainable development across all Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area communities. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ employment of 45 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as trainees, rangers and senior rangers ■ partnering with Tagai State College in the Horticulture in Schools Programme ■ improving animal management and invasive species control, including management strategies for invasive fish, cane toads, feral dogs impacting on green turtle nesting sites and the development of a regional pest management strategy ■ producing biodiversity profiles, fauna surveys and fire management plans for all inhabited Torres Strait Islands ■ providing technical assistance to improve food production in the Torres Strait through a sustainable horticulture programme ■ 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	<p>The TSRA is committed to managing its operations and those of its contractors to minimise adverse environmental impacts and protect the environment.</p> <p>There were no recorded adverse environmental impacts from TSRA activities in 2013 - 2014.</p>

ESD reporting requirement	TSRA response
<p>Measures taken to minimise environmental impacts</p>	<p>During 2013 - 2014 the TSRA implemented a number of environmental initiatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ installation of solar photovoltaic systems to three TSRA office sites, resulting in a projected energy saving of 140,000 kilowatt hours per annum or 96.5 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide ▪ replacement of conventional fluorescent office lighting with low energy T8 LED tubes ▪ installation of motion activated lighting to meeting rooms and low occupancy areas ▪ installation of solar window tinting to reduce the need for air-conditioning ▪ trial of office kitchen waste composting. <p>The TSRA requires its employees, contractors and suppliers to comply with the TSRA's Environment Policy and environmental management systems by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ implementing conservation measures in the TSRA's offices ▪ minimising 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. <p>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.</p> <p>The TSRA has adopted appropriate technologies to reduce travel and its dependency on paper-based filing systems. Those technologies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ telephone and videoconferencing facilities ▪ iPads, to be used at all formal meetings, reducing paper consumption ▪ an electronic document and records management system. <p>The TSRA continues to modernise its computing operations through the adoption of new virtual technologies and desktop solutions. The new technology provides the TSRA with the opportunity to further reduce energy consumption and the impact of computers on the environment.</p>

Risk Management

The TSRA has standardised its processes for the identification, documentation and management of risks and issues. All TSRA projects and managed activities include risk assessments as part of the project planning and approval process. The TSRA assesses risks in the following categories:

- framework
- performance
- property
- policy
- schedule
- environment
- control
- reputation
- flora / fauna
- fraud
- resources
- land / sea
- compliance
- budget
- air.
- execution
- people

The TSRA risk processes aim to minimise impacts in critical areas such as health, safety and the environment. The TSRA adopts a risk-managed approach to decision-making and devolves the management of risk to the most appropriate level within the organisation.

The TSRA's risk management system is:

- dynamic – by being responsive to change and assisting corporate learning and continuous improvement
- systematic – by being rigorous, transparent and explicit and taking into account stakeholder perspectives
- integrated and embedded – in so far as practicable, by reviewing established management planning, decision-making and reporting processes.

The risk management system is based on the better practice principles and processes outlined in the International Standard AS/NZ ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management – principles and guidelines on implementation.



TSRA Deputy Chairperson Mr Aven Noah and TSRA Member for TRAWQ Mr John Abednego with Queensland Premier the Honorable Campbell Newman.

Accountability

External Scrutiny

During the 2013 - 2014 reporting period the TSRA was a statutory authority of the Australian Government and was accountable to the Parliament of Australia and the Minister for 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 agreed to by the Auditor-General and the TSRA. The 2013 - 2014 audit was conducted in August 2014. 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. No incidences of fraud were detected in 2013 - 2014.

Internal Audit

The TSRA Audit Committee is assisted in the internal audit function by an external contractor, PDM Consultancy. PDM Consultancy is responsible for implementing the TSRA's internal audit programme, which aims to provide assurance that key risks are being managed effectively and efficiently, including that the TSRA complies 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 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 the *Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011*.

A compliance index is included in Section 7 of this Annual Report, and a table, Compliance with Australian Government Statutes and Policies, is attached in Appendix 5.

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 the 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, the TSRA reviewed its insurance coverage in 2013 - 2014 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 2013 - 2014 was \$6,784.

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 that directors make a formal declaration of their interests at each TSRA Board meeting. The declarations are recorded in the minutes of the meeting, which are distributed to all communities through their elected TSRA Board Members. The pecuniary interest processes applies to all governance committees of the TSRA.



TIB coxwains training participants.

Human Resources

The TSRA's employees are located at TSRA facilities on Thursday Island, and throughout the Island Communities of the Torres Strait, Queensland. A small TSRA office in Cairns continues to be used to increase TSRA's capacity to attract people with skills and experience not available in the Torres Strait.

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 \$42,334 for an APS level 1 staff member to \$130,164 for an EL2 staff member (effective from 16 October 2013).

Payroll and Leave Records

The human resources and payroll company Frontier Software Pty Ltd provides payroll software to the TSRA to facilitate in-house payroll management.

Learning and Development

The TSRA's employees attended internal and external learning and development courses throughout 2013 - 2014. This included programme and project management training, career development training, cultural awareness training, fraud awareness training, accredited university studies and various other learning and development courses. In addition, mentoring and coaching were provided to various staff.

As part of their induction, all new TSRA employees complete the Australian Public Service Commission's induction programme, which is delivered online.

The TSRA Performance Development Programme informs the learning and development needed by staff and supports them in achieving the best outcomes possible for them as TSRA employees and as people.

Health and Safety Management Arrangements

The TSRA fulfilled its responsibilities under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (Cth) in 2013 - 2014.

There was one accident or dangerous occurrence during the year that arose out of the conduct of undertakings by the TSRA that required the giving of notice under the workplace, health and safety legislation. No further action was required by COMCARE.

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

The TSRA is committed to supporting a culture of equity, inclusion and diversity, and to ensuring the TSRA workforce is representative of the broader community.

The TSRA's Work Health and Safety Committee comprises TSRA staff and managers who are responsible for developing and implementing strategies to protect employees from risks to their health and safety. The Work Health and Safety Committee works cooperatively to manage all 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 employees.

The TSRA has a Preventing Bullying and Harassment Policy, and two trained Harassment Contact Officers are available to provide employee support. The TSRA engages Ingeus Australia Pty Ltd trading as Assure Programs (ACN 152 509 37) to provide Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) services to all employees where required.

Workplace Diversity

The TSRA is committed to supporting a culture of equity, inclusion and diversity, and to ensuring the TSRA workforce is representative of the broader community. The TSRA upholds the Australian Public Service values and strives to provide a workplace that is free from discrimination and recognises the diversity of the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal communities that it serves. All TSRA staff receive up-to-date information on key developments in human resources, including developments in equal employment opportunity, harassment free workplaces and workplace diversity. Employees can also access publications from the Australian Public Service Commission and other related agencies.

A range of statistical information is collected during the recruitment of TSRA staff and is provided to the Australian Public Service Commission on request.

Workplace Consultative Arrangements

The TSRA fosters and promotes workplace consultation through regular management, programme area and staff meetings. In addition, the TSRA conducts regular meetings with staff representatives on the Workplace Consultative Committee. As appropriate, management consults with employees on:

- major workplace changes
- the development of guidelines and policies applying to employment conditions
- the development and implementation of an Enterprise Agreement.

Privacy

The Australian Information 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. A reviewed Privacy Policy has been put in place to comply with the privacy law reform.



TSRA Staff at Mabo Day on Mer.

Staffing Profile

Tables 4-14 and 4-15 provide information on the TSRA's employee numbers and classifications as at 30 June 2014.

Table 4-14 Staff Profile at 30 June 2014, by APS Level

Classification	Number of staff
PEO	1
Executive Level 2	6
Executive Level 1	18
APS 6	25
APS 5	27
APS 4	6
APS 3	28
APS 2	8
APS 1	22
Trainee	0
Total	141

Table 4-15 Staff Profile at 30 June 2014, by EEO Group

Classification	Male	Female	Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal	People with a disability
PEO	1	0	1	0
Executive Level 2	4	2	1	0
Executive Level 1	10	8	3	0
APS 6	12	13	16	1
APS 5	9	18	17	0
APS 4	1	5	5	0
APS 3	13	15	28	0
APS 2	3	5	8	0
APS 1	18	4	22	0
Trainee	0	0	0	0
Total	71	70	101	1

Other Reportable Matters

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.

Exemption from Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders

The TSRA has not relied upon any exemption from the Finance Minister from any requirement of Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders in the preparation of this report.

Significant Events

There were no significant events notifiable under Section 15 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs during the reporting period.

Freedom of Information

Agencies subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act) are required to publish information to the public as part of the Information Publication Scheme (IPS). 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 (www.TSRA.gov.au/publications/information-publication-scheme/TSRA-information-publication-scheme-agency-plan.aspx).



TSRA rangers rescue a trapped turtle.

Property Management

The TSRA has a property portfolio which includes office accommodation at three sites on Thursday Island; the Gab Titui Cultural Centre; and residential accommodation, consisting of 40 houses and apartments. The TSRA also owns and maintains the Green Hill Fort. The Green Hill Fort is a listed place on the Commonwealth Heritage List. In addition TSRA has a fleet of vehicles and vessels, most of which are located on outer island communities in the Torres Strait as part of the TSRA ranger programme.

Schedules for regular maintenance of property and assets are in place and these works are contracted out to appropriate tradespeople. Ongoing repairs and maintenance have been carried out in a way that considers our obligations to environmental sustainability, meets government procurement guidelines and supports local business.

TSRA offices have been through an electrical audit, and significant and ongoing upgrades are being made to ensure compliance and scalability to meet future needs.

Renovations to residential property have been carried out in line with the TSRA five-year maintenance programme.

The Gab Titui Cultural Centre underwent a significant renovation, primarily extending the gallery space, including the Ephraim Bani Gallery. The reopening occurred in July 2013.

A proposal for a medium works project has been approved by the public works committee for an 18-dwelling residential development on Clark Street, Thursday Island. The construction of this housing is expected to reduce the TSRA's reliance on rental accommodation and provide longer term financial benefits for the TSRA.

Disclosure of Sacred Matters

In accordance with Section 144ZB(4) of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), the TSRA Annual Report 2013 - 2014 does not disclose any matters known by the TSRA to be held sacred by Torres Strait Islanders or Aboriginal people.



King tide, Thursday Island wharf.



SECTION FIVE

Financial Statements



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Torres Strait Regional Authority for the year ended 30 June 2014, which comprise: a Statement by the Directors, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer; the Statement of Comprehensive Income; Statement of Financial Position; Statement of Changes in Equity; Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Commitments; Schedule of Contingencies; and Notes 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 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.

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 2014 and 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
11 September 2014

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTORS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2014 are based on properly maintained financial records and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders made under the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997, 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.

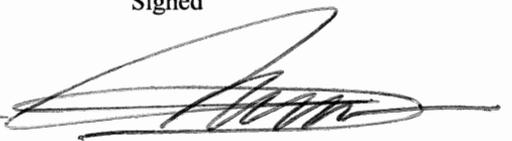
Signed



Mr J Elu
Chairperson

10 September 2014

Signed



Mr A Noah
Deputy Chairperson

10 September 2014

Signed



Mr W See Kee
Chief Executive Officer

10 September 2014

Signed



Mr C de Mamiel
Chief Financial Officer

10 September 2014

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TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the period ended 30 June 2014

	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits	3A	14,617	13,801
Supplier	3B	16,507	15,811
Grants	3C	31,760	16,891
Depreciation	3D	1,250	1,268
Finance costs	3E	135	132
Write-down and impairment of assets	3F	1	77
Total expenses		<u>64,270</u>	<u>47,980</u>
Own-Source Income			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	4A	517	384
Interest	4B	2,130	2,372
Other revenue	4C	14,476	5,399
Total own-source revenue		<u>17,123</u>	<u>8,155</u>
Gains			
Gains from sale of assets	4D	34	-
Reversals of previous asset write-downs and impairments	4E	65	144
Total gains		<u>99</u>	<u>144</u>
Total own-source income		<u>17,222</u>	<u>8,299</u>
Net cost of services		<u>47,048</u>	<u>39,681</u>
Revenue from Government	4F	49,645	45,680
Surplus attributable to the Australian Government		<u>2,597</u>	<u>5,999</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to profit or loss			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		184	411
Total other comprehensive income		<u>184</u>	<u>411</u>
Total comprehensive income attributable to the Australian Government		<u>2,781</u>	<u>6,410</u>

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 30 June 2014

	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6A	2,711	1,476
Trade and other receivables	6B	6,409	8,055
Other investments	6C	37,394	36,800
Total financial assets		<u>46,514</u>	<u>46,331</u>
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings	7A,C	32,236	32,176
Plant and equipment	7B,C	1,582	1,640
Total non-financial assets		<u>33,818</u>	<u>33,816</u>
Total assets		<u>80,332</u>	<u>80,147</u>
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	8A	4,247	5,491
Grants	8B	288	1,828
Other payables	8C	391	378
Total payables		<u>4,926</u>	<u>7,697</u>
Provisions			
Employee provisions	9A	3,050	2,875
Total provisions		<u>3,050</u>	<u>2,875</u>
Total liabilities		<u>7,976</u>	<u>10,572</u>
Net assets		<u>72,356</u>	<u>69,575</u>
EQUITY			
Contributed equity		32	32
Reserves		13,862	13,678
Retained surplus		58,462	55,865
Total equity		<u>72,356</u>	<u>69,575</u>

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 2014

	Retained earnings		Asset revaluation surplus		Contributed equity/capital		Total equity	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance								
Balance carried forward from previous period	55,865	49,866	13,678	13,267	32	32	69,575	63,165
Adjusted opening balance	55,865	49,866	13,678	13,267	32	32	69,575	63,165
Comprehensive income								
Surplus for the period	2,597	5,999	-	-	-	-	2,597	5,999
Other comprehensive income	-	-	184	411	-	-	184	411
Total comprehensive income	2,597	5,999	184	411	-	-	2,781	6,410
Closing Balance attributable to the Australian Government as at 30 June 2014	58,462	55,865	13,862	13,678	32	32	72,356	69,575

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 2014

	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Receipts from Government		49,645	45,680
Sales of goods and rendering of services		15,959	6,238
Interest		2,082	2,325
Net GST received		3,313	825
Total cash received		<u>70,999</u>	<u>55,068</u>
Cash used			
Employees		14,429	13,687
Suppliers		19,526	21,478
Loan payments		58	103
Grants		34,113	20,241
Total cash used		<u>68,126</u>	<u>55,509</u>
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	10	<u>2,873</u>	<u>441</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Loan receipts		513	562
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		34	-
Total cash received		<u>547</u>	<u>562</u>
Cash used			
Loan payments		523	563
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		1,068	4,992
Investments		594	14,502
Total cash used		<u>2,185</u>	<u>20,057</u>
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities		<u>(1,638)</u>	<u>(19,495)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		<u>1,235</u>	<u>(19,936)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>1,476</u>	<u>21,412</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	6A	<u>2,711</u>	<u>1,476</u>

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

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS
as at 30 June 2014

	2014	2013
BY TYPE	\$'000	\$'000
Commitments receivable¹		
Net GST recoverable on commitments	22	20
Total commitments receivable	<u>22</u>	<u>20</u>
Commitments payable		
Other commitments		
Operating leases ¹	693	986
Total other commitments	<u>693</u>	<u>986</u>
Total commitments payable	<u>693</u>	<u>986</u>
Net commitments by type	<u>671</u>	<u>966</u>
BY MATURITY		
Commitments receivable		
Net GST commitments receivable		
Within 1 year	15	18
Between 1 to 5 years	7	2
Total GST commitments receivable	<u>22</u>	<u>20</u>
Total commitments receivable	<u>22</u>	<u>20</u>
Commitments payable		
Operating lease commitments payable		
Within 1 year	416	586
Between 1 to 5 years	277	400
Total operating lease commitments	<u>693</u>	<u>986</u>
Total commitments payable	<u>693</u>	<u>986</u>
Net commitments by maturity	<u>671</u>	<u>966</u>

Note: Commitments were GST inclusive where relevant.

Footnote

1. Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:

Commitments Receivable

In financial year 2012-13, Operating lease income from staff housing was incorrectly categorised as a Commitment Receivable of \$1.47m. In financial year 2013-14, Operating lease income from staff housing has not been included as a Commitment Receivable as staff-housing tenancy agreements do not have a specified end date. The expiry date of each agreement is inherently linked to the ongoing employment of the tenant with the TSRA. This change in presentation requires the comparative figures for financial year 2012-13 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.

Lease for office and residential accommodation

Lease payments exist for 2 office accommodations. One lease is for a period of 2 years with 2 subsequent 2 year renewal options. The lease increases at 3% each year. The second lease is for a period of 1 year with no option to extend.

The TSRA currently lease houses for staff and contractor accommodation. Lease terms range from 1 month to 3 years with varying expiry dates.

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

**TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES**

as at 30 June 2014

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Contingent liabilities		
Bank guarantee	116	-
Total Contingent Liabilities	116	-
Net Contingent Assets (Liabilities)	(116)	-

Details of each class of contingent liabilities and contingent assets listed above are disclosed in Note 11, along with information on significant remote contingencies and contingencies that cannot be quantified.

During 2013-14, the TSRA recognised a contingent liability in respect of a bank guarantee in favour of the Torres Shire Council. Details are provided in Note 11.

The above 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 2014

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 the 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 statement of financial position 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 a judgement 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. In some instances, the TSRA's buildings are purpose-built and may in fact realise more or less in the market.
- 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 Australian 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/interpretations/amending standards that were issued prior to the sign-off date and are applicable to the future reporting period that are expected to have a 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
- 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 TSRA.

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

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 2013-14 or 2012-13).

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 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 entity as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements (this did not occur in 2013-14 or 2012-13).

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.

Restructuring of Administrative Arrangements

Net assets received from or relinquished to another Australian Government entity under a restructuring of administrative arrangements are adjusted at their book value directly against contributed equity.

Other Distributions to Owners

The FMOs require that distributions to owners be debited to contributed equity unless it is 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 expected within twelve months of the end of the reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

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 will be 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

The estimate of the present value of the long service leave 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

The TSRA's staff 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's administered schedules and notes.

The TSRA makes employer contributions to the employees' 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 2013-14, the TSRA leased two vehicles, office accommodation, 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 Fair Value Measurement

No transfer between levels of the fair value hierarchy has occurred at the end of the reporting period.

1.12 Cash

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents includes:

- a) cash on hand; and
- b) 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.

1.13 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 that are recognised at fair value through profit or loss.

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 carried 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.

1.14 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).

1.15 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position 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.

1.16 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.

1.17 Land and Buildings on Freehold Land

Asset Recognition Threshold

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

The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

Revaluations

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 were 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 was eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset was 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>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Buildings on freehold land	40 years	40 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Other Plant and Equipment	3 to 8 years	3 to 5 years

All heritage and cultural assets have indefinite useful lives and are not depreciated

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2014. 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 (2013 : 21) distinct Cultural and Heritage assets with an aggregated fair value of \$60,000 (2013: \$60,000). Cultural assets are comprised of artworks, carvings, and traditional headdresses. Heritage assets consist of models of two (2013 : 2) sailing vessels and a brass Pearl Diver's helmet (2013 : 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 heritage and cultural 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.

1.18 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.

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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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.

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 3: Expenses

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 3A: Employee Benefits		
Wages and salaries	11,375	10,999
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	1,081	949
Defined benefit plans	424	477
Leave and other entitlements	1,737	1,376
Total employee benefits	14,617	13,801
Note 3B: Suppliers		
Goods and services supplied or rendered		
Consultants and professional fees	5,998	5,419
Travel	3,106	2,607
Repairs and maintenance	1,161	859
Other staff costs	783	966
Office running costs	1,353	1,210
Property costs	487	921
Transport, freight and storage	706	698
Media, advertising and public relations	363	280
Other	1,450	2,141
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	15,407	15,101
Goods supplied in connection with		
External Parties	324	576
Total goods supplied	324	576
Services rendered in connection with		
External Parties	15,083	14,525
Total services rendered	15,083	14,525
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	15,407	15,101
Other supplier expenses		
Operating lease rentals in connection with		
External Parties		
Minimum lease payments	1,100	645
Workers compensation expenses	1	65
Total other suppliers	1,101	710
Total suppliers	16,507	15,811

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
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	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 3C: Grants</u>		
Public sector:		
Australian Government entities (related parties)	440	700
State and Territory Governments	-	48
Local Governments	16,675	6,654
Private sector:	-	-
Non-profit organisations	8,080	9,489
For-profit organisations	6,565	-
Total grants	<u>31,760</u>	<u>16,891</u>
<u>Note 3D: Depreciation</u>		
Depreciation:		
Buildings	743	656
Plant and equipment	507	612
Total depreciation	<u>1,250</u>	<u>1,268</u>
<u>Note 3E: Finance Costs</u>		
Finance costs		
Write down of loans to net present value	135	132
Total finance costs	<u>135</u>	<u>132</u>
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.		
<u>Note 3F: Write-Down and Impairment of Assets</u>		
Asset writedowns and impairments from:		
Receivables goods and services - external parties provided for as impaired	1	77
Total write-down and impairment of assets	<u>1</u>	<u>77</u>

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
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Note 4: Income

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
<u>Note 4A: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services</u>		
Sale of goods in connection with		
External parties	225	105
Total sale of goods	225	105
Rendering of services in connection with		
External parties	292	279
Total rendering of services	292	384
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	517	384
<u>Note 4B: Interest</u>		
Loans	352	369
Deposits	1,778	2,003
Total interest	2,130	2,372
<u>Note 4C: Other Revenue</u>		
Rent	14	12
Other Government contributions	14,462	5,387
Total other revenue	14,476	5,399
Gains		
<u>Note 4D: Gains from Sale of Assets</u>		
Plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale	34	-
Carrying value of assets sold	-	-
Net gains from sale of assets	34	-
<u>Note 4E: Reversals of Previous Asset Write-Downs and Impairments</u>		
Reversal of losses from remeasuring loans and receivables	60	96
Reversal of impairment losses	5	48
Total reversals of previous asset write-downs and impairments	65	144
<u>Note 4F: Revenue from Government</u>		
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs		
CAC Act body payment item	16,548	45,680
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet		
CAC Act body payment item	33,097	-
Total revenue from Government	49,645	45,680

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 5: Fair Value Measurements

The following tables provide an analysis of assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value. The different levels of the fair value hierarchy are defined below.

Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at measurement date.
 Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
 Level 3: Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

Note 5A: Fair Value Measurements

Fair value measurements at the end of the reporting period by hierarchy for assets and liabilities in 2014

	Fair Value \$'000	Fair value measurements at the end of the reporting period using		
		Level 1 Inputs \$'000	Level 2 Inputs \$'000	Level 3 Inputs \$'000
Non-financial assets				
Land	9,360	-	9,360	-
Buildings on freehold land	22,715	-	22,715	-
Leasehold improvements	161	-	161	-
Heritage and cultural	60	-	-	60
Other property, plant and equipment	1,522	-	-	1,522
Total non-financial assets	33,818	-	32,236	1,582
Total fair value measurements of assets in the statement of financial position	33,818	-	32,236	1,582

Fair value measurements - highest and best use differs from current use for non-financial assets (NFAs)

The highest and best use of all non-financial assets are the same as their current use.

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Note 5B: Valuation Technique and Inputs for Level 2 and Level 3 Fair Value Measurements**Level 2 and 3 fair value measurements - valuation technique and the inputs used for assets and liabilities in 2014**

	Category (Level 2 or Level 3)	Fair Value \$'000	Valuation technique(s) ¹	Inputs used	Range (weighted average) ²
Non-financial assets					
Land	Level 2	9,360	Market valuation	Sales prices of comparable land adjusted for property size, location, topography, and other inherent attributes	N/A
Buildings on freehold land	Level 2	22,715	Depreciated Current Replacement Cost	Construction costs of comparable buildings adjusted for size and type of structure, location and condition rating.	N/A
Leasehold improvements	Level 2	161	Depreciated Current Replacement Cost	Construction costs of comparable leasehold improvements adjusted for size and type of structure and location.	N/A
Heritage and cultural	Level 3	60	Depreciated Current Replacement Cost	Sales prices of similar artwork adjusted for the Condition Rating and cost of achieving a sale.	Condition Rating 2 (2)
Other property, plant and equipment	Level 3	1,522	Depreciated Current Replacement Cost	Sales prices of similar equipment adjusted for the Condition Rating and cost of achieving a sale.	Condition Rating 1-3 (1.9)

1. No change in valuation technique occurred during the period.

2. Significant unobservable inputs for Level 3 assets or liabilities only. Not applicable for assets or liabilities in the Level 2 category.

Recurring and non-recurring Level 3 fair value measurements - valuation processes

The TSRA procured valuation services from Neil Teves - AAPI Registered Valuer No. 382, and relied on valuation models provided by Mr Teves. The entity tests the procedures of the valuation model every 12 months. Mr Teves provided written assurance to the entity that the model developed is in compliance with AASB 13.

Recurring Level 3 fair value measurements - sensitivity of inputs

The significant unobservable input used in the fair value measurement of the entity's heritage and cultural assets and other property, plant and equipment is the condition rating of the item. The condition rating has a possible range of 1 to 5. Significant increases (decreases) in this input in isolation would result in a significantly lower (higher) fair value measurement.

Note 5C: Reconciliation for Recurring Level 3 Fair Value Measurements

The reconciliation for recurring level 3 fair value measurements is as follows:

	Non-Financial Assets		
	Heritage and cultural 2014 \$'000	Total land & buildings 2014 \$'000	Total 2014 \$'000
Recurring Level 3 fair value measurements - reconciliation for assets			
Opening balance	60	1,580	1,640
Purchases	-	449	449
Depreciation	-	(507)	(507)
Closing balance	60	1,522	1,582

The entity's policy for determining when transfers between levels are deemed to have occurred can be found in Note 1.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 6: Financial Assets

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 6A: Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash on hand or on deposit	2,041	931
Cash on hand or on deposit - TSRA Housing Fund	670	545
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,711	1,476

TSRA's financial performance and balance sheet must be read in the context of its enabling legislation, the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 (ATSI Act)* and the impact of accounting standards on the valuation of financial assets.

The ATSI Act requires that funds available under the TSRA Housing Fund, including interest earnings, are to be used exclusively for housing loans. Consequently, income earned on the TSRA Housing Fund is not available for operational expenses but is directed back into new loans.

Note 6B: Trade and Other Receivables

Goods and services receivables in connection with

External parties	204	1,235
Total goods and services receivables	204	1,235

Other receivables

GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	955	1,681
Loans	5,362	5,319
Total other receivables	6,317	7,000
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	6,521	8,235

Less impairment allowance

Goods and services	-	(65)
Loans	(112)	(115)
Total impairment allowance	(112)	(180)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	6,409	8,055

Trade and other receivables (net) expected to be recovered in

No more than 12 months	1,878	3,524
More than 12 months	4,531	4,531
Total trade and other receivables (net)	6,409	8,055

Trade and other receivables (gross) aged as follows

Not overdue	6,477	8,030
Overdue by:		
0 to 30 days	12	18
31 to 60 days	7	7
61 to 90 days	6	8
More than 90 days	19	172
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	6,521	8,235

Impairment allowance aged as follows

Overdue by:		
More than 90 days	(112)	(180)
Total impairment allowance	(112)	(180)

Credit terms are net 30 days (2013: 30 days).

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
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2014	2013
\$'000	\$'000

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 2014 are as follows:

Concessional loans - nominal value	5,831	5,761
Less: unexpired discount	(469)	(442)
Concessional loans - carrying value	<u>5,362</u>	<u>5,319</u>

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 2014 in accordance with the loan contracts. Effective interest rates average 4.21% (2013: 4.17%) for Business Funding Scheme loans and 5.06% (2013: 5.29%) for Housing loans.

Reconciliation of the Impairment Allowance:

Movements in relation to 2014

	Goods and services \$'000	Loans \$'000	Total \$'000
Opening balance	(65)	(115)	(180)
Amounts recovered and reversed	65	3	68
Closing balance	-	(112)	(112)

Movements in relation to 2013

	Goods and services \$'000	Loans \$'000	Total \$'000
Opening balance	(57)	(123)	(180)
Amounts written off	-	3	3
Amounts recovered and reversed	-	5	5
Increase recognised in net surplus	(8)	-	(8)
Closing balance	(65)	(115)	(180)

2014	2013
\$'000	\$'000

Note 6C: Other Investments

Term deposits	30,321	30,000
Term deposits - TSRA Housing Fund	7,073	6,800
Total other investments	<u>37,394</u>	<u>36,800</u>

Other investments are expected to be recovered in:

No more than 12 months	37,394	36,800
Total other investments	<u>37,394</u>	<u>36,800</u>

Term deposits were invested at 30 June 2014 for \$29,139,946 (3.65% interest rate maturing on 25 October 2014), \$2,080,956 (3.66% interest rate maturing on 30 October 2014) and \$6,172,911 (2.5% interest rate maturing on 19 September 2014).

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 7: Non-Financial Assets

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 7A: Land and Buildings</u>		
Land		
Fair value	9,360	9,360
Total land	9,360	9,360
Buildings on freehold land:		
Work in progress	442	175
Fair value	22,273	22,641
Total buildings on freehold land	22,715	22,816
Leasehold Improvements:		
Fair value	161	-
Total leasehold improvements	161	-
Total land and buildings	32,236	32,176

No indicators of impairment were found for land and buildings.

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

Note 7B: Plant and Equipment

Heritage and cultural:		
Artifacts and artworks		
Fair value	60	60
Total heritage and cultural	60	60
Other plant and equipment:		
Fair value	3,913	3,517
Accumulated depreciation	(2,391)	(1,937)
Total other plant and equipment	1,522	1,580
Total plant and equipment	1,582	1,640

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.

Revaluations of non-financial assets

All revaluations are conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1. In 2013-14, an independent valuer, Neil Teves - AAPI Registered Valuer No. 382, conducted the revaluations as at 30 June 2014.

There were no revaluation increments or decrements recorded for land (2013: \$175,000). There were no revaluation increments or decrements recorded for plant and equipment (2013: Nil). Revaluation increments were recorded for buildings on freehold land of \$184,185 (2013: \$235,711) and have been credited to the asset revaluation surplus 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.

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Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 7: Non-Financial Assets

Note 7C: Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment for 2014

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Total land & buildings \$'000	Heritage ¹ & cultural \$'000	Other plant & equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2013						
Gross book value	9,360	22,816	32,176	60	3,517	35,753
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	-	-	-	(1,937)	(1,937)
Total as at 1 July 2013	9,360	22,816	32,176	60	1,580	33,816
Additions:						
By purchase	-	619	619	-	449	1,068
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	-	184	184	-	-	184
Depreciation	-	(743)	(743)	-	(507)	(1,250)
Total as at 30 June 2014	9,360	22,876	32,236	60	1,522	33,818
Total as at 30 June 2014 represented by						
Gross book value	9,360	22,876	32,236	60	3,913	36,209
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	-	-	-	(2,391)	(2,391)
Total as at 30 June 2014	9,360	22,876	32,236	60	1,522	33,818

Note 7C (Cont'd): Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment for 2013

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Total land & buildings \$'000	Heritage ¹ & cultural \$'000	Other plant & equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2012						
Gross book value	9,185	18,753	27,938	60	3,008	31,006
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	-	-	-	(1,325)	(1,325)
Total as at 1 July 2012	9,185	18,753	27,938	60	1,683	29,681
Additions:						
By purchase	-	4,483	4,483	-	509	4,992
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	175	236	411	-	-	411
Depreciation	-	(656)	(656)	-	(612)	(1,268)
Total as at 30 June 2013	9,360	22,816	32,176	60	1,580	33,816
Total as at 30 June 2013 represented by:						
Gross book value	9,360	22,816	32,176	60	3,517	35,753
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	-	-	-	(1,937)	(1,937)
Total as at 30 June 2013	9,360	22,816	32,176	60	1,580	33,816

¹ Land, buildings and other plant and equipment that met the definition of a heritage and cultural item were disclosed in the heritage and cultural asset class.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 8: Payables

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 8A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors and accruals	4,247	5,491
Total suppliers	4,247	5,491
Suppliers expected to be settled		
No more than 12 months	4,247	5,491
Total suppliers	4,247	5,491
Suppliers in connection with		
External parties	4,247	5,491
Total suppliers	4,247	5,491
Settlement was usually made within 30 days.		
Note 8B: Grants		
Public sector:		
State and Territory Governments	-	900
Local Governments	196	714
Private sector:		
Non-profit organisations	92	214
Total grants	288	1,828
Grants expected to be settled		
No more than 12 months	288	1,828
Total grant	288	1,828
Note 8C: Other Payables		
Wages and salaries	343	340
Superannuation	48	38
Total other payables	391	378
Other payables expected to be settled		
No more than 12 months	391	378
Total other payables	391	378

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 9: Provisions

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 9A: Employee provisions</u>		
Long Service Leave	1,534	1,367
Annual Leave	1,427	1,414
Personal Leave	89	94
Total employee provisions	<u>3,050</u>	<u>2,875</u>
Employee provisions are expected to be settled		
No more than 12 months	1,235	709
More than 12 months	1,815	2,166
Total employee provisions	<u>3,050</u>	<u>2,875</u>

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 10: Cash Flow Reconciliation

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per statement of financial position to cash flow statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per		
Cash flow statement	2,711	1,476
Statement of financial position	2,711	1,476
Discrepancy	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from operating activities		
Net cost of services	(47,048)	(39,681)
Revenue from Government	49,645	45,680
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Depreciation	1,250	1,268
Net writedown of financial assets	78	107
Interest on concessional loans	(48)	(45)
Reversal of previous loan writedowns and impairments	(65)	(144)
Gain on Sale of Assets	(34)	-
Movements in assets and liabilities		
Assets		
(Increase) / decrease in net receivables	1,691	(1,416)
Liabilities		
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	175	25
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	(1,244)	(3,714)
Increase / (decrease) in grants payable	(1,540)	(2,610)
Increase / (decrease) in other payables	13	89
Net cash from operating activities	<u>2,873</u>	<u>(441)</u>

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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Note 11: Contingent Assets and Liabilities

The movement is due to the change in accounting treatment which requires all non-reciprocal transfers to be recognised as income when control arises over the assets.

	Bank Guarantees		Total	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Contingent liabilities				
Balance from previous period	-	-	-	-
New contingent liabilities recognised	116	-	116	-
Total contingent liabilities	116	-	116	-

Quantifiable Contingencies

The schedule of contingencies reports no contingent assets (2012-13 : Nil).

The schedule reports a contingent liability as at 30 June 2014 in respect of a bank guarantee in favour of the Torres Shire Council. As a result the TSRA has recognised the contingent liability of \$116,000 as at 30 June 2014 (2012-13 : \$Nil).

Unquantifiable Contingencies

There are no unquantifiable contingencies as at 30 June 2014 (2012-13: Nil).

Significant Remote Contingencies

There are no significant remote contingencies as at 30 June 2014 (2012-13: Nil).

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Note 12: Directors Remuneration

Note 12A: Non-executive directors remuneration

	2014	2013
	No.	No.
\$0 to \$29,999	15	31
\$30,000 to \$59,999	4	2
\$60,000 to \$89,999	-	1
\$150,000 to \$179,999	-	1
\$270,000 to \$299,999	1	-
Total number of non-executive directors of the TSRA	20	35

Total remuneration received or due and receivable by non-executive directors of the TSRA for 2014 is \$640,016 (2013: \$461,723).

The TSRA Board consists of 20 elected members who are Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal people living within a ward in the region. In accordance with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth) the election in 2012 was the first time all Members were directly elected to the TSRA board. The Australian Electoral Commission conducted the TSRA Board Member Elections on 15 September 2012. Members are elected every four years. All Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living within contested TSRA wards who are 18 years of age and over were eligible to vote.

The directors other than the chairperson receive sitting fees when undertaking business of the TSRA. Remuneration of senior executives is included in Note 14: Senior Executive Remuneration.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2014

Note 13A: Related Party Disclosures

Loans to Directors and Director-Related Entities

Loans were made to 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 board.

<u>TSRA Director Name</u>	<u>Council Relationships</u>
Mr Joseph Elu	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
Mr Reginald Williams	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
Mr Keith Fell	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Getano Lui (Jnr)	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Mario Sabatino	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr Willie Lui	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mr John Abednego	Torres Shire Council
Mr Yen Loban	Torres Shire Council

The table below outlines the loan holder/s and the TSRA director with whom a related party connection exists.

Loans

Seisia Community Torres Strait Islander Corporation
 - Joseph Elu - TSRA Chairperson
 Seisia Island Council
 - Joseph Elu - TSRA Chairperson
 Elthies Alion Bowie
 - Aven Noah and John Abednego - TSRA Board Members
 Ronald George Passi
 - Aven Noah - TSRA Board Member
 Robert Sagigi
 - John Abednego - TSRA Board Member
 Anthony Titsey
 - Keith Fell - TSRA Board Member
 James Mills
 - Keith Fell - TSRA Board Member
 Michael Paul Mills
 - Keith Fell - TSRA Board Member
 Quintin Morris Mills
 - Keith Fell - TSRA Board Member
 Ruth Doolah
 - Keith Fell - TSRA Board Member
 Triple A Family Values Pty Ltd
 - Keith Fell - TSRA Board Member
 Mica Newie
 - Kiyat Lui - TSRA Board Member
 Harry Nona
 - Maluwap Nona and Romina Fuji - TSRA Board Members
 Thomas Fujii
 - Maluwap Nona and Romina Fuji - TSRA Board Members
 Bonita Yamashita
 - Mario Sabatino - TSRA Board Member
 Bamaga Enterprise Pty Ltd
 - Reg Williams - TSRA Board Member
 Dirk Ernest Laifoo
 - Romina Fujii - TSRA Board Member
 Harry Nona
 - Maluwap Nona and Romina Fuji - TSRA Board Members
 Nicholas Charles Loban
 - Yen Loban - TSRA Board Member
 Karl David Takai
 - Yen Loban - TSRA Board Member
 Loban Marine
 - Yen Loban - TSRA Board Member
 Richard Takai
 - Yen Loban - TSRA Board Member
 Samuel Lewin
 - Yen Loban - TSRA Board Member

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Loans to directors outstanding at year-end	22,740	10,563
Loans to directors during the year	40,000	-
Loan repayments by directors during the year	16,375	12,000
Loans to director-related entities outstanding at year-end	2,219,529	1,159,106
Loans to director-related entities during the year	268,684	421,234
Loan repayments by director-related entities during the year	396,028	265,576
Interest revenue included in net cost of services from loans to directors/director-related entities	114,192	76,003
Related party loans written off	-	5,369

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 2014

Note 13B: 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 and may not be a representative of the governing body of the entity receiving the grant.

Directors' Name	Council	Grants Received	
		2014 \$	2013 \$
*	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	60,500	476,850
*	Torres Shire Council	2,530,000	254,000
*	Torres Strait Island Regional Council	3,267,350	5,967,536
A Noah	Andrew Passi	-	5,000
K Bedford	Australian Rural Leadership Foundation	50,000	-
M Nona	Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	80,000	-
M Nona & W Guivarra	Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	-	25,000
M Nona	Badu Art Centre	-	124,000
M Nona	Badu Island Foundation Ltd	7,500	-
M Nona & W Guivarra	Badu Island Foundation Ltd	-	101,440
R Williams	Bamaga Enterprises Limited	8,000	-
F Pearson	Buthu Lagau Saral (TSI) Corporation	15,000	-
F Pearson & P Mosby	Buthu Lagau Saral (TSI) Corporation	-	45,000
M Sabatino	Ceferino Sabatino	-	10,000
S Savage	Community Enterprises Australia Ltd	1,665,366	-
K Lui & S Savage	Community Enterprises Australia Ltd	-	4,608,204
S Maka	Dauanalgaw	-	10,000
K Lui	Denis Allan Newie	6,500	-
K Fell	Department of Transport and Main Roads	500,000	-
S Savage	DFK Kidsons	117,100	-
	- Grant Controller for kaurareg Native Title Aboriginal Corporation		
M Sabatino	Edwin Turner	-	10,500
K Bedford	Erub Erwer Meta (TSI) Corporation	92,000	60,000
K Bedford	Erub Fisheries Management Association	-	9,460
K Bedford	Erubam Le Traditional Land and Sea Owners Corporation (RNTBC)	12,000	-
F Pearson	Fred David	8,350	5,000
K Bedford	George Kapua Gutchen	10,000	-
G Lui (Jnr) & W Makie	Iama Mura Mabaigal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	-	15,000
H Mosby	Kailag Enterprises	8,373	-
S Savage	Kaurareg Native Title Aboriginal Corporation	28,800	-
K Lui	Kaziw Asesered Le Association	30,000	21,615
J Stephen & F Bero	Kos and Abob Fisheries (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation	-	30,000
H Mosby, J Mosby, W Makie, P Mosby & W Lui	Kulkalgal (central Islands) Development Association Inc	-	12,712
F Pearson	Kulkalgal Torres Strait Islander Corporation	10,000	-
R Fujii	Lena Passi Womens Centre	15,000	-
E Peter	Malau Ki'ai (TSI) Corporation	8,400	-
H Mosby	Masigalagal (TSI) Corporation RNTBC	11,500	-
A Noah	Mer Gedkem Le (TSI) Corporation	30,100	-
A Noah & R Day	Mer Gedkem Le (TSI) Corporation	-	39,000
M Nona & W Guivarra	Mura Badulgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate	-	14,000
R Fujii	Mura Kosker Sorority Inc	524,000	-
R Fujii & N Pearson	Mura Kosker Sorority Inc	-	697,000
S Savage & D Bosun	Ngalmun Lagau Minaral TSI Corporation	-	50,000
R Fujii	Port Kennedy Association	606,000	790,500
F Pearson	Porumalgal (TSI) Corporation RNTBC	2,500	14,000
J Abednego	Relationships Australia Queensland	-	98,000
C Aniba	Saibai Community Development (TSI) Corp	10,000	-
C Aniba & R Enosa	Saibai Community Development (TSI) Corp	-	7,700
J Elu	Seisia Community (TSI) Corporation	-	39,000
W Lui	Tony Harry	-	5,000
C Aniba, A Noah & J Abednego	Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	798,780	-
J Abednego & A Noah	Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	-	1,347,636
K Fell	Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and Other projects Trust	13,817,413	-
K Fell	Torres Strait Youth and Recreation Sporting Association Inc	325,000	-
K Fell & W Guivarra	Torres Strait Youth and Recreation Sporting Association Inc	-	1,183,000
K Lui	Wug Danalaig Incorporated	25,000	-
K Lui & JT Kris	Wug Danalaig Incorporated	-	30,000

*Please refer to Note 13A for information regarding Director relationships with these entities.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2014

Note 14: Senior Executive Remuneration

Note 14A: Senior Executive Remuneration Expenses for the Reporting Period

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits		
Salary	816,906	954,775
Remote area and other allowances	140,200	156,682
Total short-term employee benefits	<u>957,106</u>	<u>1,111,457</u>
Post-employment benefits		
Superannuation	143,215	165,052
Total post-employment benefits	<u>143,215</u>	<u>165,052</u>
Other long-term employee benefits		
Annual Leave Accrued	129,884	110,153
Long-service leave	18,637	38,484
Total other long-term employee benefits	<u>148,521</u>	<u>148,637</u>
Total senior executive remuneration expenses	<u>1,248,842</u>	<u>1,425,146</u>

Notes

- Note 14A was prepared on an accrual basis (therefore the performance bonus expenses disclosed above differ from the cash 'Bonus paid' in Note 14B).
- Note 14A excludes acting arrangements and part-year service where remuneration expensed was less than \$195,000

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2014

Note 14B: Average Annual Reportable Remuneration Paid to Substantive Senior Executives during the Reporting Period

Average annual reportable remuneration paid to substantive senior executives in 2014		Substantive senior executives		Reportable salary ²		Contributed superannuation ³		Reportable allowances ⁴		Bonus paid ⁵		Total reportable remuneration	
		No.		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Average annual reportable remuneration (including part-time arrangements)													
Average annual reportable remuneration ¹		4		128,260	-	17,002	-	-	-	-	-	-	145,262
less than \$195,000		2		177,175	-	24,968	-	-	-	-	-	-	202,143
\$195,000 to \$224,999		1		211,566	-	27,690	-	-	-	-	-	-	239,056
\$225,000 to \$254,999													
Total number of substantive senior executives		7											

Average annual reportable remuneration paid to substantive senior executives in 2013

Average annual reportable remuneration paid to substantive senior executives in 2013		Substantive senior executives		Reportable salary ²		Contributed superannuation ³		Reportable allowances ⁴		Bonus paid ⁵		Total reportable remuneration	
		No.		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Average annual reportable remuneration (including part-time arrangements)													
Average annual reportable remuneration ¹		6		123,115	-	19,753	-	-	-	-	-	-	142,869
less than \$195,000		1		188,137	-	22,588	-	-	-	-	-	-	210,726
\$195,000 to \$224,999		1		208,744	-	32,484	-	-	-	-	-	-	241,228
\$225,000 to \$254,999													
Total number of substantive senior executives		8											

Notes:

- This table reports substantive senior executives who received remuneration during the reporting period. Each row is an averaged figure based on headcount for individuals in the band.
- 'Reportable salary' includes the following:
 - gross payments (less any bonuses paid, which are separated out and disclosed in the 'bonus paid' column);
 - reportable fringe benefits (at the net amount prior to 'grossing up' to account for tax benefits);
 - exempt foreign employment income; and
 - salary sacrificed benefits.
- The 'contributed superannuation' amount is the average cost to the entity for the provision of superannuation benefits to substantive senior executives in that reportable remuneration band during the reporting period.
- 'Reportable allowances' are the average actual allowances paid as per the 'total allowances' line on individuals' payment summaries.
- 'Bonus paid' represents average actual bonuses paid during the reporting period in that reportable remuneration band. The 'bonus paid' within a particular band may vary between financial years due to various factors such as individuals commencing with or leaving the entity during the financial year.
- Various salary sacrifice arrangements were available to senior executives including superannuation, motor vehicle and expense payment fringe benefits. Salary sacrifice benefits are reported in the 'reportable salary' column, excluding salary sacrificed superannuation, which is reported in the 'contributed superannuation' column.

Note 14C: Average Annual Reportable Remuneration Paid to Other Highly Paid Staff during the Reporting Period

There were no other employees where total remuneration exceeded \$195,000.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2014

Note 15: Remuneration of Auditors

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Financial statement audit services were provided by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO).		
Fair value of the services provided		
Financial statement audit services	<u>46</u>	<u>46</u>
Total fair value of services rendered	<u>46</u>	<u>46</u>

No other services were provided by the ANAO.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2014

Note 16: Financial Instruments

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 16A: Categories of Financial Instruments		
Financial Assets		
Held-to-maturity		
Term deposits	37,394	36,800
Total held-to-maturity	37,394	36,800
Loans and receivables		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,711	1,476
Trade and other receivables	204	1,170
Loans receivable	5,250	5,204
Total loans and receivables	8,165	7,850
Total financial assets	45,559	44,650
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Trade creditors	4,247	5,491
Grant liabilities	288	1,828
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	4,535	7,319
Total financial liabilities	4,535	7,319

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 2014 are as follows:

Concessional loans - nominal value	5,831	5,761
Less: unexpired discount	(469)	(442)
Less: impairment allowance	(112)	(115)
Concessional loans - carrying value	5,250	5,204

Note 16B: Net Gains or Losses on Financial Assets

Held-to-maturity		
Interest revenue	1,778	2,003
Net gains on held-to-maturity	1,778	2,003
Loans and receivables		
Interest revenue (see note 4B)	352	369
Impairment (see note 4E)	5	48
Reversal of losses from remeasuring loans and receivables (see note 4E)	60	96
Write down of loans to Net Present Value (see note 3E)	(135)	(132)
Receivables Goods and services - external parties provided for as impaired (see note 3F)	(1)	(77)
Net gain on loans and receivables	281	304
Net gain on financial assets	2,059	2,307

The net income from financial assets not at fair value from profit or loss is \$2,059,000 (2013: \$2,307,000)

Note 16C: Net Gains or Losses on Financial Liabilities

There are no gains or losses on financial liabilities for the year ending 30 June 2014 (2013: \$Nil)

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2014

Note 16D: Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The carrying amount of financial instruments matches their fair value in 2013-14 as in 2012-13.

Note 16E: Credit risk

TSRA was 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 (2014: \$5,454,000 and 2013: \$6,374,000)

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 \$111,529 in 2014 (2013: \$179,945) to an allowance for impairment. Security underpinning this impairment includes a 5 bedroom house, which was independently valued in November 2013 at an estimated total value of \$555,000.

Credit quality of financial instruments not past due or individually determined as impaired

	Not past due nor impaired 2014 \$'000	Not past due nor impaired 2013 \$'000	Past due or impaired 2014 \$'000	Past due or impaired 2013 \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	2,711	1,476	-	-
Receivables for goods and services	197	1,084	7	151
Loans receivable	5,213	5,150	149	169
Term Deposits	37,394	36,800	-	-
Total	45,515	44,510	156	320

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2014

	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	4	-	1	2	7
Loans receivable	8	7	5	17	37
Total	12	7	6	19	44

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2013

	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	5	-	2	79	86
Loans receivable	13	7	6	28	54
Total	18	7	8	107	140

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2014

Note 16F: Liquidity Risk

TSRA's financial liabilities were trade creditors and accruals and grant liabilities. The exposure to liquidity risk was based on the notion that TSRA will encounter difficulty in meeting its obligations associated with financial liabilities. This was highly unlikely due to Government funding and mechanisms available to TSRA and internal policies and procedures put in place to ensure there were appropriate resources to meet its financial obligations.

Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities in 2014

	On demand \$'000	within 1 year \$'000	between 1 to 2 years \$'000	between 2 to 5 years \$'000	more than 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
Trade creditors and accruals	-	4,247	-	-	-	4,247
Grant liabilities	-	288	-	-	-	288
Total	-	4,535	-	-	-	4,535

Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities in 2013

	On demand \$'000	within 1 year \$'000	between 1 to 2 years \$'000	between 2 to 5 years \$'000	more than 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
Trade creditors and accruals	-	5,491	-	-	-	5,491
Grant liabilities	-	1,828	-	-	-	1,828
Total	-	7,319	-	-	-	7,319

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.

The entity had no derivative financial liabilities in either 2014 or 2013.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2014**Note 16G: Market Risk**

TSRA holds basic financial instruments that did not expose TSRA to certain market risks such as 'currency risk' and 'other price risk'.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. TSRA is exposed to interest rate risk primarily from cash deposits and concessional loans.

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 0.60%. 0.60% is anticipated to be a reasonable estimate of the maximum movement in market interest rates in financial year 2014-15.

Sensitivity Analysis of the risk that the TSRA is exposed to for 2014-15 with respect to cash at bank and term deposits

	Value \$'000	Effect on Statement of Comprehensive Income Income (Expense) \$'000
Anticipated interest earned for 2014-15 financial year at current market interest rate	1,376	-
Increase of 0.60% in market interest rate	1,617	241
Decrease of 0.60% in market interest rate	1,135	(241)

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 0.60%. 0.60% is anticipated to be a reasonable estimate of the maximum movement in market interest rates in financial year 2014-15.

Sensitivity Analysis of the risk that the TSRA is exposed to for 2014-15 with respect to concessional loans

	Value \$'000	Effect on Statement of Comprehensive Income Income (Expense) \$'000
Net Present Value of Loans 30 June 2014	5,362	-
Increase of 0.60% in market interest rate	5,147	(215)
Decrease of 0.60% in market interest rate	5,593	231

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 2014

Note 17: Financial Assets Reconciliation

		2014	2013
		\$'000	\$'000
<u>Financial assets</u>	Notes		
Total financial assets as per statement of financial position		46,514	46,331
Less: non-financial instrument components			
Other receivables	6B	<u>955</u>	<u>1,681</u>
Total non-financial instrument components		<u>955</u>	<u>1,681</u>
Total financial assets as per financial instruments note		<u>45,559</u>	<u>44,650</u>

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2014

Note 18: Compensation and Debt Relief

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Compensation and Debt Relief		
No payments were made during the reporting period. (2013: No payments made).	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2014

Note 19: Assets Held in Trust

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 2014 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.

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
MIP trust account - Monetary assets		
Total amount held at the beginning of the reporting period (1 July)	41,278	57,885
Receipts	20,106	15,533
Payments	<u>(21,000)</u>	<u>(32,140)</u>
Total amount held at the end of the reporting period (30 June)	<u>40,384</u>	<u>41,278</u>

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.

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Finfish trust account - Monetary assets		
Total amount held at the beginning of the reporting period (1 July)	449	603
Receipts	556	226
Payments	<u>(119)</u>	<u>(380)</u>
Total amount held at the end of the reporting period (30 June)	<u>886</u>	<u>449</u>

The values above are estimated fair values at the time when acquired.

Non-monetary assets

The entity had no non-monetary assets held in trust in both the current and prior reporting period.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the period ended 30 June 2014

Note 20: Reporting of Outcomes

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Expenses	64,270	47,980	64,270	47,980
Own-source income	17,222	8,299	17,222	8,299
Net cost of outcome delivery	47,048	39,681	47,048	39,681

Outcome 1 is described in Note 1.1.



Corporate Services Team.

SECTION SIX



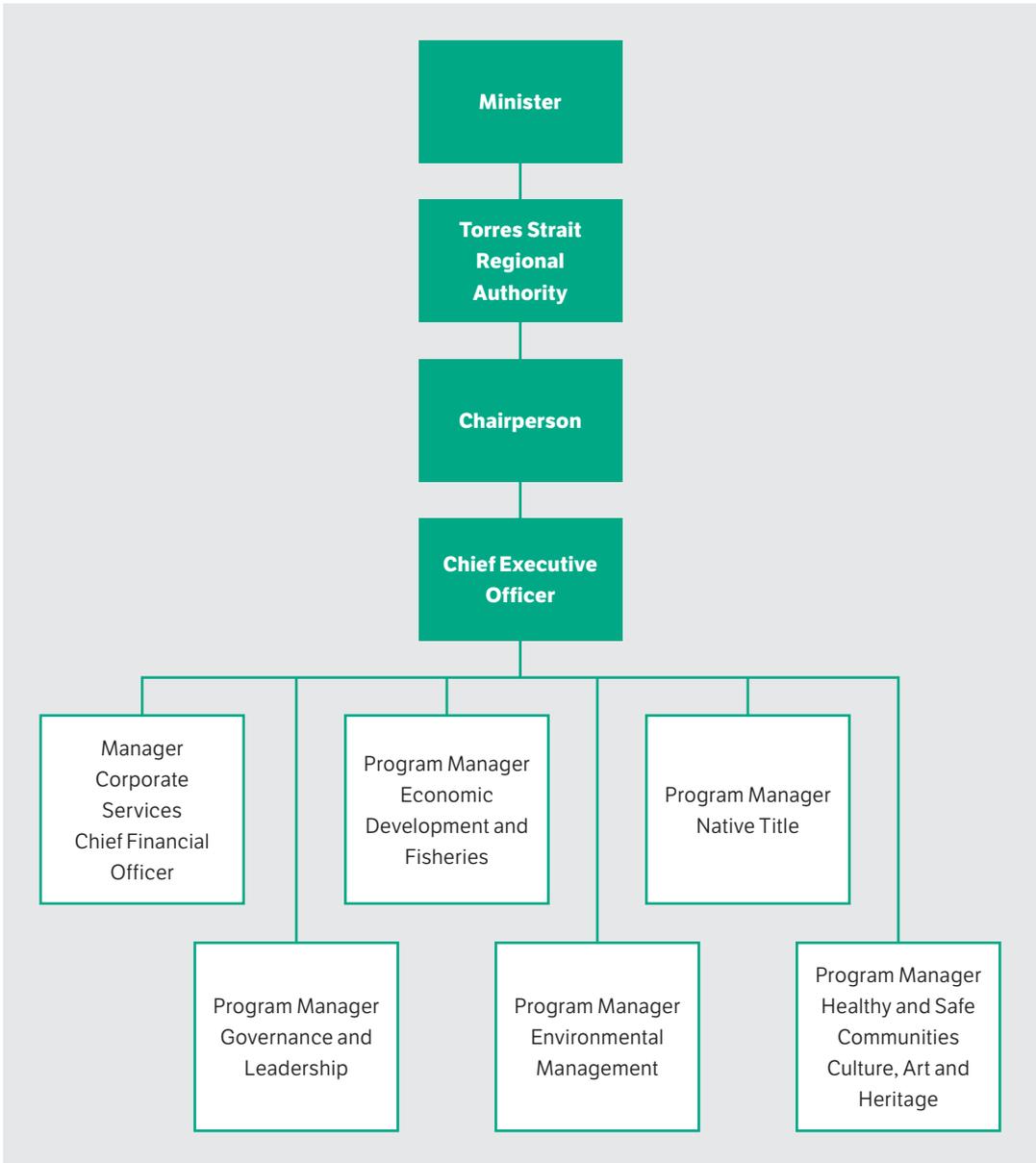
Australian Government



Appendices

Appendix 1: Organisational Structure

Figure 6-1 Torres Strait Regional Authority Structure



Appendix 2: Advertising and Market Research

The TSRA advertises all ongoing vacancies and non-ongoing vacancies which exceed 12 months duration using the Online Australian Public Service Jobs and SEEK websites, as well as other selected national advertising. The TSRA uses the Australian Government's preferred supplier AdCorp Australia Ltd 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 the distribution of the TSRA Community Newsletters, in line with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.

The TSRA did not conduct any advertising campaigns or make payments to market research, polling, direct mail or media advertising organisations in 2013 - 2014.



Ugar Island.

Appendix 3: Details of Grants

Table 6-1 Details of Grants

Grantee	Purpose	Amount \$
Australian Maritime safety Authority	Torres Strait Marine Pathways Project	400,000
Australian Rural Leadership Foundation	Sponsorship of Australian Rural Leadership Program	50,000
Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation Trading as Badu Art Centre	Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh operations	80,000
Badu Island Foundation Ltd	Badu ar Mua Migi Lagal Prescribed Body Corporate Support Grant	7,500
Bamaga Enterprises Limited	Purchase of catering equipment	8,000
Billy Michael Bourne	Adult and Children Language Project	8,000
Buthu Lagau Saral (TSI) Corporation	Urab dancers to participate in Chancestry, a celebration of Country through performance	15,000
Community Enterprises Australia Ltd	Community Development Employment Projects	1,665,366
Denis Allan Newie	Make dance apparatus	6,500
Department of Transport and Main Roads	Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme	500,000
DFK Kidsons - Grant Controller for kaurareg Native Title Aboriginal Corporation	Prescribed Body Corporate support	117,100
Enterprise Management Group Pty Ltd	Community Development Employment Projects	6,564,970
Erub Erwer Meta (TSI) Corporation	Produce an animation of Dauma and Garom	12,000
Erub Erwer Meta (TSI) Corporation	Erub Art Centre Operations	80,000
Erubam Le Traditional Land and Sea Owners Corporation (RNTBC)	Prescribed Body Corporate support	12,000
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	Finfish fisheries action plan	40,000
Fred David	Promote music CD	8,350
George Kapua Gutchen	Produce and document traditional dance objects	10,000
Kailag Enterprises	Upgrade the TV network at Lowatta Lodge	8,373
Kaurareg Native Title Aboriginal Corporation	Prescribed Body Corporate support	12,000
Kaurareg Native Title Aboriginal Corporation	Prescribed Body Corporate support	16,800

Table 6-1 Details of Grants

Grantee	Purpose	Amount \$
Kaziw Asesered Le Association	Take Arparka Dance Company to Cairns Indigenous Art Fair	30,000
Kulkalgal Torres Strait Islander Corporation	Prescribed Body Corporate support	10,000
Lena Passi Womens Cntre	2014 Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Program	15,000
Malau Ki'ai (TSI) Corporation	Prescribed Body Corporate support	8,400
Masigalagal (TSI) Corporation RNTBC	Prescribed Body Corporate support	11,500
Mer Gedkem Le (TSI) Corporation	2014 Mabo Day Celebrations	5,500
Mer Gedkem Le (TSI) Corporation	For George Sambo to produce 70 art objects	5,400
Mer Gedkem Le (TSI) Corporation	Prescribed Body Corporate support	19,200
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc	Cultural Resource Development Workshop	25,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc	Produce music film clip by Patrick Mau	25,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc	Produce studio album by Joey Tapau	25,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc	Produce studio album by Dayne Noah	25,000
Mura Kosker Sorority Inc	Operational funding	424,000
Ngalmun Lagau Minaral TSI Corporation	Operational funding	30,000
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Funding for Bamaga Farm Supervisor position at Bamaga Farm	45,500
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Empowering Northern Peninsula Area Youth	15,000
Oxfam	Straight Talk Regional Gathering 2014	36,300
Port Kennedy Association	Feasibility Report for Regional Hub	60,000
Port Kennedy Association	Joint Governance Development Workshop	29,000
Port Kennedy Association	Showcase original songs and music by Nasona Pedro	13,000
Port Kennedy Association	Thursday Island Main Events business expansion	65,000
Port Kennedy Association	Urab and Zogo Tudi dance teams participation at the Darwin Indigenous Arts Fair	70,000
Port Kennedy Association	Operational funding	369,000
Porumalgal (TSI) Corporation RNTBC	Prescribed Body Corporate support and Mabo Day Celebrations	2,500

Table 6-1 Details of Grants

Grantee	Purpose	Amount \$
Saibai Community Development (TSI) Corp	Justina Warusam showcase Saibai culture through music, song, dance arts and crafts	10,000
Torres Shire Council	Upgrade and maintenance of sports facilities in the Council region	500,000
Torres Shire Council	Upgrade water supply on Muralag island	500,000
Torres Shire Council	Preparing for disasters	10,000
Torres Shire Council	Upgrade Waibene Island Sports Complex	1,150,000
Torres Shire Council	2014 Winds of Zenadth Cultural Festival	70,000
Torres Shire Council	Waibene Island Sports Complex Gym expansion	150,000
Torres Shire Council	Lift for Life	150,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Upgrade Lowatta Lodge	103,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Upgrade and maintenance of sports facilities in the Council region	500,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Renovate Badu Island Community Hall and upgrade coolroom	100,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Boigu Island Airport fencing	65,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Shade sail for Keriri Island basketball court	19,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Solar lights for Keriri Island wharf	19,250
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Mer Island airport waiting area	75,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Poruma Island basketball court refurbishment	60,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Saibai Island Community Hall refurbishment	100,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Upgrade Ugar Island Community Hall	300,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Fitout of Warraber Island welding workshop	20,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Water Related Infrastructure	1,800,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Shadow fitness program on Mer island	6,000
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Establish an oral health care environment in schools and child care facilities	15,100
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Employ 1 Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Services broadcaster on each of Erub and Warraber Islands	40,000

Section 6 Appendices

Appendix 3: Details of Grants

Table 6-1 Details of Grants

Grantee	Purpose	Amount \$
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Healthy Communities Workshop	45,000
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Audio processing and equipment upgrade	16,600
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Emergency 3 phase backup generator	50,000
Torres Strait Islanders Media Association	Financial assistance for the Provision of Indigenous Broadcasting	732,180
Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and other projects Trust	Ngurupai Island affordable housing project	541,332
Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and other projects Trust	Works related to the repair and construction of seawalls	2,500,000
Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and other projects Trust	Major Infrastructure Program	7,276,081
Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and other projects Trust	Ugar Island safe access	2,000,000
Torres Strait Major Infrastructure and other projects Trust	Enhance mobile network coverage in the Torres Strait	1,500,000
Torres Strait Youth and Recreation Sporting Association Inc	Operating, recurrent and sporting subsidies	325,000
Wug Danalaig Incorporated	Dennis Newie record 14 new cultural songs	25,000
Total		31,759,802

Appendix 4: Details of Consultants

Table 6-2 Details of Consultants

Name	Purpose	Amount \$	Selection Process	Justification
Arenelle Pty Ltd	Program and Planning Support and Mentoring	168,494	Direct sourcing	C
Accsys Consulting	System review	15,317	Open tender	B
Aecom Australia Pty Ltd	Coastal Erosion and inundation hazard assessment	36,465	Direct sourcing	B
Analytics Group	Air Services Review	53,373	Direct sourcing	C
Andrew Mitchell	Environmental Monitoring Workshop	9,900	Direct sourcing	B
Arafura Consulting	Anthropological Services	1,500	Direct sourcing	B
Australian Federal Police	Security Review and Plan	3,300	Direct sourcing	B
Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre	Accredited Training	181,900	Direct sourcing	B
Black & More	Engineering Support	29,120	Direct sourcing	B
Business Mapping Solutions	Business Support Services	26,403	Open tender	B
C2O Consulting	Coral Reef Response Plan	11,362	Direct sourcing	B
Contact First Business Solution	Business Support Services	8,754	Open tender	B
Crowe Horwath (Aust) Pty Ltd	Business Support Services	13,000	Open tender	B
Curious Minds Co	Facilitation and Planning Workshop	4,000	Direct sourcing	B
David Fell Environmental	Biodiversity Surveys	99,150	Direct sourcing	B
Davidson Workplace Solutions Pty Ltd	Enterprise Agreement Support	67,047	Direct sourcing	B
Deltapoint Pty Ltd	Human Resources Support	37,967	Direct sourcing	B
Diane Chambers	Technical Research and Policy Drafting	8,942	Direct sourcing	B
Emamulda Consulting	Anthropological Services	5,908	Direct sourcing	B
Environmental Systems Solutions	Traditional Ecological Knowledge System	104,300	Open tender	B

Section 6 Appendices

Appendix 4: Details of Consultants

Table 6-2 Details of Consultants

Name	Purpose	Amount \$	Selection Process	Justification
Fieldworx	GTCC Business and Marketing Planning	36,291	Direct sourcing	B
Friendly Fire Ecological Consultants	Fire Equipment and Training	8,500	Direct sourcing	B
Indigenous Business Australia	Into Business Workshops	41,563	Direct sourcing	B
James Cook University	Seagrass Research	120,500	Direct sourcing	B
James Cook University	Invasive Fish Survey	40,000	Direct sourcing	B
James Cook University	Water Quality Monitoring	205,455	Direct sourcing	B
Kapish Services Pty Ltd	Software Upgrade	3,553	Open tender	B
Keith Murray (ITB Facilitator)	Into Business Workshops	376	Open tender	B
Kewagama Research	Dugong and Turtle Catch Reporting System	26,964	Open tender	B
Kleinhardt Pty Ltd	Business Loan Support and Mentoring	21,393	Open tender	C
KPMG Australia	Healthy & Safe Communities Grant Review	16,962	Open tender	B
Lewis Troutman & Associates	Structural Review	47,175	Select tender	C
Marsden Jacob & Associates	IFAC Review	99,400	Open tender	C
MI Murren Trust	Erub Community Cultural Plan	50,000	Direct sourcing	B
Michael Bradby	Land Team Assistance	37,927	Direct sourcing	B
Michelle Walker	Land and Sea Planning Forum Facilitator	4,080	Direct sourcing	B
Pegasus Studios	Music and Dance Audit	100,000	Direct sourcing	B
Queensland Murray Darling Committee Inc	Contribution to NRM Groups Information Guide	4,000	Direct sourcing	B
RCR Haden Pty Ltd	Building Services Upgrade Review	3,910	Direct sourcing	B
Rohan Hamden & Associates	Adaptability and Resilience workshops	13,173	Direct sourcing	B

Table 6-2 Details of Consultants

Name	Purpose	Amount \$	Selection Process	Justification
Savvy Events (Melissa Robertson)	Event Planning	16,136	Direct sourcing	B
SC Lennon & Associates	CEIS Grant Review	92,650	Open tender	C
Sea Systems Engineering Pty Ltd	Coastal Vulnerability Assessment	27,500	Direct sourcing	B
Setbees Pty Ltd	Native Title Meeting Facilitation	4,035	Direct sourcing	B
Tagai State College	Horticulture in Schools Project	100,000	Direct sourcing	B
Telstra	Telecommunications Feasibility Research	323,529	Direct sourcing	C
Tourism Naturally Pty Ltd	Feasibility Study	13,888	Select tender	B
Tracker Development	Governance Training	1,535	Open tender	B
Tuna Blue Pty Ltd	Dugong and Turtle review of the 4th year	43,470	Select tender	C
University of Queensland	Develop a humane method for the euthansing of green turtles	39,058	Direct sourcing	B
University of Sydney	Cane Toad Control Strategy	12,199	Direct sourcing	B
Zakazukha Marketing Communications	Marketing and Media Assistance	41,783	Open tender	B
Total Consultants		2,483,207		
Justification code: A: Skills currently unavailable in TSRA B: Need for specialised or professional skills c: Need for independent research or assessment				



Tuesday Islands.

Appendix 5: 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:

- directions issued by the responsible Minister, or other Minister, under the enabling legislation of the TSRA or other legislation;
- general policies of the Australian Government that were notified to the TSRA before 1 July 2008 under Section 28 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth) (CAC Act) and which continue to apply to the TSRA;
- General Policy Orders that apply to the TSRA under Section 48A of the CAC Act.

Table 6-3 Directions and Government Policies that Apply to the TSRA

Direction and Government Policy	Compliance
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005</i> (Cth), including the Indigenous Affairs Legislation Amendments Bills numbers 1 and 2 of 2011	Compliant
Advertising and market research	Compliant
Australian Competitive Grants Register (ACGR)	Not applicable
Competitive neutrality (CN)	Compliant
<i>Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997</i> (Cth)	Compliant
Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011	Compliant
Disability reporting mechanisms	Compliant
Energy Efficiency in Government Operations	Compliant
Fraud Policy	Compliant
<i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i> (Cth)	Compliant
<i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth)	Compliant
Protective Security Policy Framework	Compliant
<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> (Cth)	Compliant
Senate Continuing Order no.6, as varied by the Senate on 3 December 1998	Compliant

Appendix 6: Explanation of Programme Budget Variance

This appendix is in reference to the appropriation programme expenditure 2013 - 2014. Table 2-2 on page 24 provides additional information on the reason for the variances for each programme area's expenditure as compared to budget allocations.

During 2013 - 2014, the TSRA operated under a programme structure which was focused 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)*.

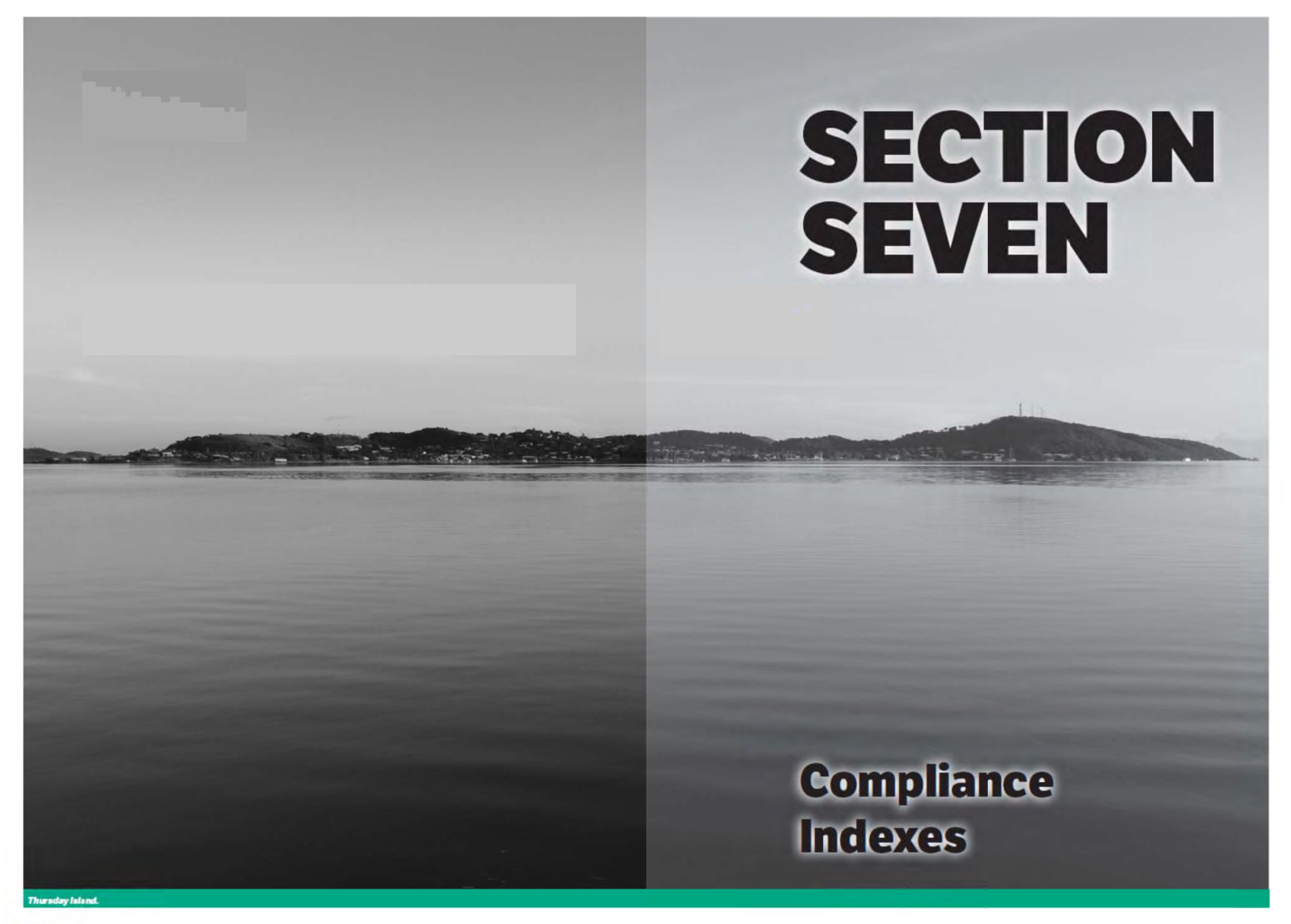
Table 2-2 on page 24 provides actual programme spend for 2013 - 2014 compared to budget allocations from appropriation. The actual 2013 - 2014 programme spend from appropriation totalled \$51.624 million compared to a budget allocation of \$52.087 million, resulting in a variance (\$0.463 million).

No material variances were recorded against appropriation expenditure at 30 June 2014. Where possible, program, underspends were identified early, and reallocated to priority projects that could not be funded earlier in the year.

The following programs recorded variances against budget for the financial year 2013 - 2014.

Table 6-4 Programme Budget Variance (unaudited)

Program	Variance \$'000
Culture, Arts and Heritage	144
Economic Development	61
Environmental Management ¹	202
Governance & Leadership	-29
Native Title Office	61
Healthy Communities	52
Safe Communities	-28
¹ Includes Fisheries	



SECTION SEVEN

**Compliance
Indexes**

Commonwealth Authority

This Annual Report is prepared in accordance with section 144ZB of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (Cth), and all other sections.

As a Commonwealth Authority, the TSRA is also required to prepare an Annual Report in accordance with:

- requirements of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (Cth), as set out in the *Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011*
- requirements of other Commonwealth legislation, namely the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.

Table 7-1 below details the reporting requirements and provides the location of the relevant information within this Annual Report.

Any inquiries relating to this Compliance Index can be directed to the TSRA by phone on (07) 4069 0700 or (toll free) 1800 079 093, or by email to info@tsra.gov.au.

Table 7-1 TSRA Compliance Index

Guiding Legislation Requirement	Page reference
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:</i>	
Any directions given by the Minister under section 142E	Page 113
Any consultants engaged under section 144T	Page 210
<i>(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:</i>	
The name of the individual or body	Page 206
The amount and purpose of grant	Page 206
<i>(4) Report must not disclose sacred matters:</i>	
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	Page 150
<i>(5) Report must include certain details about consultants</i>	
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

Table 7-1 TSRA Compliance Index

Guiding Legislation Requirement	Page reference
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</i>	
(1) the Directors of a Commonwealth Authority must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 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 for presentation to the Parliament. 	(a) This requirement has been met (b) This requirement has been met
Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997(Cth) – Schedule 1 Annual Report for Commonwealth Authority	
<i>Part 1 – Contents of Annual Report</i>	
(1) Summary of contents the annual report must include:	
(a) A report of operations, prepared by the directors in accordance with the Finance Minister’s orders;	Page 15 - 114
(b) financial statements, prepared by the directors under clause 2 of this schedule; and	Page 154 - 200
(c) the Auditor-General’s report on those financial statements, prepared under Part 2 of this schedule and addressed to the responsible Minister.	Page 154 - 155
(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.	Compliant
(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.	Financial statements give a true and accurate record Page 154 - 200
(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.	Page 156
(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.	The TSRA is not a government business enterprise (GBE) or statutory marketing authority (SMA)

Table 7-1 TSRA Compliance Index

Guiding Legislation Requirement	Page reference
<i>Part 2 – Auditor’s report on Financial Statements</i>	
(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	Page 155
(b) Give a true and fair view of the matters required by those orders.	Page 155
(2) If the Auditor-General is not of that opinion, the Auditor-General must state the reasons.	Page 155
(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.	Page 155
(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.	The TSRA has not contravened Section 20
(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.	The TSRA obtained all necessary information and explanations
(6) Subsidiaries’ financial statements	
(1) this clause applies if the authority’s financial statements are consolidated financial statements	The TSRA financial statements are not consolidated statements
(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, as above 6(1)
(3) if the consolidated financial statements include information derived from financial statements of an entity of a kind referred to in subclause (2), then: (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 (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.	Not applicable, as above 6(1)

Table 7-1 TSRA Compliance Index

Guiding Legislation Requirement	Page reference
(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>	<p>Not applicable, as above 6(1)</p>
Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011	
<i>Preliminary</i>	
(6) Approval by directors	
<p>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.</p>	<p>Page 156</p>
<p>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).</p>	<p>Page xxi</p>
(7) Exemptions	
<p>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.</p>	<p>No exemption was granted</p>
<p>Details of an exemption relied upon by the Commonwealth authority must be provided in the Annual Report of Operations.</p>	<p>No exemption was granted</p>
<i>Requirements</i>	
(8) Parliamentary standards of presentation	
<p>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.</p>	<p>The annual report is compliant with the presentation and printing standards for documents presented to the Parliament</p>

Table 7-1 TSRA Compliance Index

Guiding Legislation Requirement	Page reference
(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 110 - 112
(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 113
(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 c. General Policy Orders that apply to the Commonwealth authority under section 48A of the CAC Act. <p>Where a direction or applicable policy has not been fully complied with, the report must include an explanation of the non-compliance.</p>	Page 113 and 214
(13) Information about directors	
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.	Page 119 - 134

Table 7-1 TSRA Compliance Index

Guiding Legislation Requirement	Page reference
(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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the organisational structure of the Commonwealth authority (including subsidiaries); and b. the location, in Australia or elsewhere, of major activities and facilities. 	<p>Page 118 and 204 Page 100</p>
<p>Statement on governance</p> <p>The Annual Report of Operations can assist a Commonwealth authority to demonstrate that its governance is sound. 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; b. education and performance review processes for directors; and c. ethics and risk management policies. 	<p>Page 133 Page 132 Page 131 and 141</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>Page 188 - 189</p> <p>The approval of payments for goods and services and provision of grants is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer</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; b. operational and financial results of the authority; c. key changes to the authority's state of affairs or principal activities; d. amendments to the authority's enabling legislation and to any other legislation directly relevant to its operation. 	<p>Page 149</p> <p>Section 5 Page vi - xiv Page 9 and 58</p>

Table 7-1 TSRA Compliance Index

Guiding Legislation Requirement	Page reference
(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. 	Page 8 and 114
(18) Obtaining information from subsidiaries	
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.	The TSRA does not have subsidiaries
(19) Indemnities and insurance premiums for officers	
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.	Page 144
(20) Disclosure requirements for GBEs	
Changes in financial conditions and community service obligations	The TSRA is not a GBE
(21) Index of annual report requirements	
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.	Page 218
Other Legislation	
The annual reports of Commonwealth authorities must under s516A of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act), now include a report on environmental matters in their annual reports. Details of what is required can be found at http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/about/reports.html#annualcwth	Page 140
The annual reports of Commonwealth authorities must include information set out in sub-item 4(2) of Schedule 2 of the <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</i>	Page 145 - 146
Section 93 of the <i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i> requires agencies, including the TSRA, to provide information and statistics to the Australian Information Commissioner. Further details about these requirements can be obtained from the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's website at www.oaic.gov.au .	Page 149
Disability Reporting	Page 149
Advertising and Market Research	Page 205



Crops at Bamaga Farm.

Native Title Representative Body

As a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB), the TSRA is 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 the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C).

The following table is the checklist of reporting requirements for 2013 - 2014 for an NTRB as supplied by the Land Programs Branch of PM&C.

All CAC Act requirements have been referenced in the Compliance Index.

Inquiries relating to this Compliance Index can be directed to the Principal Legal Officer, Native Title Office, TSRA, by phone on (07) 4069 2581 or by email to info@tsra.gov.au.

Table 7-2 NTRB Compliance Index

Requirement	Page Reference
<i>Letter of Transmittal</i>	Page xxi
<i>Table of Contents</i>	Page xvi - xviii
<i>Index</i>	Page 238
<i>Glossary</i>	Page 235
<i>Contact Officer, Internet Home Page Address and Internet Address for the Report</i>	Page ii
<i>Report by Chairperson</i>	Page 2
<i>Report by Chief Executive Officer including:</i>	Page 7
(a) summary of significant issues and developments; (b) overview of performance and financial results; (c) outlook for the following year.	
<i>NTRB Overview</i>	Page 73 - 78
(a) overview description of NTRB	
(b) role and functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) legislation (ii) legislative functions (iii) Corporate Governance Policies 	
(c) organisational structure	
(d) outcome and output structure	
(e) Key features – strategic plan, operational plan	

Table 7-2 NTRB Compliance Index

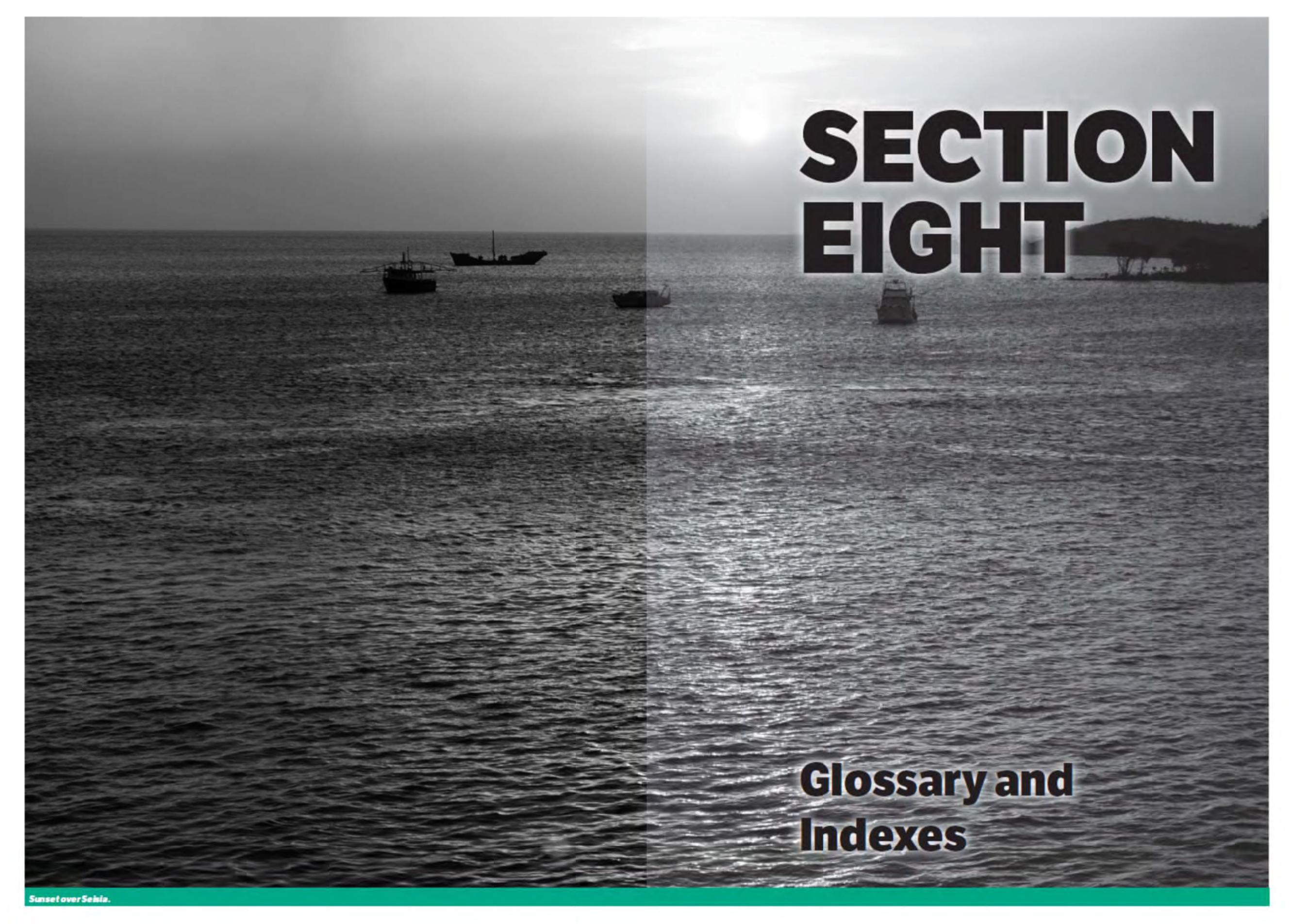
Requirement	Page Reference
<i>Report on Performance</i>	
(a) (i) of performance during the year in relation to strategic and operational plan and by function (ii) summary data on outputs. Discussion of outputs achieved.	Page 63 - 71
(b) narrative discussion and analysis of performance (i) trend information (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	Page 73 - 78
(c) summary resources tables by outputs, budget / actual by main heads of expenditure and revenue (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 75 Table 2-9
(d) developments since the end of financial year that have affected or may significantly affect the NTRB's operations in future.	During the reporting period, the Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council Torres Strait Islander Corporation was established. The Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council Torres Strait Islander Corporation is in the process of building capacity to enable them to be in a position to apply for the Native Title Representative Body Status for the Torres Strait in 2015.
<i>Corporate Governance – statement of the main practices in place</i>	
(a) name of the senior executive and their responsibilities	Page 119 - 129
(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	Page 118 - 138
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(d) approach adopted to identifying areas of significant financial or operational risk and arrangements in place to manage risks	Page 141

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(e) policy and practices on the establishment and maintenance of appropriate ethical standards	Page 131
(f) nature and amount of remuneration for senior management and how it is determined	Page 190
<i>External Scrutiny – Significant developments in external scrutiny</i>	
(a) judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals	Page 78
(b) evaluation and / or audit reports – findings and responses	Page 154
(c) other external reviews	There were no other external reviews
<i>Management of Human Resources – Assessment in effectiveness in managing and developing human resources to perform NTRB functions and achieve NTRB objectives</i>	
(a) workforce planning, staff turnover and retention	Page 76
(b) training and development undertaken and its impact	Page 76
(c) impact and features of Certified Agreements and AWA's	Page 76
(d) occupational health and safety performance	Page 145
(e) statistics on staffing	Page 76
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(a) competitive tendering and Contracting practices	Page 77 Page 210 - 212
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(b) statement by Governing Committee and CEO	Page 156
(c) financial statements	Page 158 - 163
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Dancers, Boigu Ranger Boat blessing.



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Urab Ladies dancing at the Kulkalgal Determination.

Glossary

Acronym	Meaning
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AGLN-Q	Australian Government Leadership Network - Queensland
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AIATSIS	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
APS	Australian Public Service
ARLP	Australian Rural Leadership Program
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
AWA	Australian Workplace Agreement
CDEP	Community Development Employment Projects
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
Cth	Commonwealth
DATSIMA	Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs
DLGCRR	Queensland Department of Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience
DOGIT	Deed(s) of Grant In Trust
EAP	Employee Assistance Program
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
EPBC	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
FOI	freedom of information
GTCC	Gab Titui Cultural Centre
HIAHP	Horn Island Affordable Housing Project
IBA	Indigenous Business Australia
ICT	information communications technology
IFAC	Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee

Acronym	Meaning
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area
ISD	Integrated Service Delivery
ISO	International Standards Organisation
JCU	James Cook University
LSMU	Land and Sea Management Unit
MIP	Major Infrastructure Programme
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NERP	National Environmental Research Programme
NGO	non-government organisation
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
NPARC	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
NRM	natural resource management
NTO	Native Title Office
NTRB	Native Title Representative Body
PBC	Prescribed Body Corporate
PGPA	Public Governance, Performance and Accountability
PM&C	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PSC	Programme Steering Committee
PZJA	Protected Zone Joint Authority
RIBS	Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Service
RJCP	Remote Jobs and Communities Programme
RNTBC	Registered Native Title Body Corporate
SC	Senior Counsel
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
TEK	Traditional Ecological Knowledge
TIB	Traditional Inhabitant Boat
TIDS	Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme

Acronym	Meaning
TRAIL	Training Rural Australians in Leadership
TRAWQ	Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine
TSC	Torres Shire Council
TSCMC	Torres Strait Coastal Management Committee
TSI	Torres Strait Islander
TSIMA	Torres Strait Islanders Media Association
TSIRC	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
TSRA	Torres Strait Regional Authority
TSYLS	Torres Strait Youth Leadership Scholarship
TSYRSA	Torres Strait Youth and Recreation Sporting Association



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