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## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUE

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### SEVERE WEATHER ALERT – TORRES STRAIT REGION

The Torres Strait Local Area Disaster Management Group (TS LDMG) remains on ALERT status due to the severe weather activities experienced by Far North Queensland over the course of the last week.

The Torres Strait has experienced significant rain fall, damaging winds with gusts of up to 100km/h and abnormally high tides throughout the region. Instances of tidal inundation have occurred and may affect existing tidal defences on some islands.

As highly evidenced during the Christmas & New Year severe weather patterns, the TS LDMG has shown a quick response and full preparedness for any significant event(s). Both the Torres Strait Island Regional Council and the Torres Shire Council commends the collaborative efforts of Queensland Police Service (QPS), Queensland Fire Service (QFS), Queensland Health, other local agencies, and organisations such as Community Enterprise Queensland (IBIS), in ensuring our communities remain safe, aware and well informed.

#### ***Food Deliveries:***

Mainland road closures and conditions at sea have affected the delivery of food to the region, however IBIS advises that all Torres Strait stores currently remain well stocked, including bottled water supplies, and have contingency measures in place to ensure deliveries within the next week.

#### ***Drinking Water:***

Although recent rainfall has ensured water reserves, boiling of drinking water is still recommended for Torres Shire Council communities, Dauan and Erub islands and emergency desalination equipment is in place for some Torres Strait Island Regional Council communities. Communities should contact their local Council / Divisional Office if they have any questions.

***Fuel Reserves:***

General fuel levels are sufficient throughout the region, including diesel required to operate key infrastructure such as emergency desalination plants. Councils will work with key delivery partners in monitoring the conditions at sea, to ensure successful fuel replenishment within the next fortnight.

***Inter-Island Travel:***

Both Councils remind communities of the danger faced when attempting travel throughout the Torres Strait region during severe weather conditions and **do not recommend inter-island travel** until the ALERT status is lifted by the TS LDMG.

- ENDS -

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