



End of Term  
**REPORT  
CARD**  
2022-2024



# Acknowledgement

The Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) acknowledges our Native Title Holders, our Elders past and present, and all members of the Communities we serve within the 5 clusters of Zenadth Kes; the Gudaw Maluligal Nation of the Top Western Islands, the Maluligal Nation of the Western Islands, the Kemer Kemer Meriam Nation of the Eastern Islands, the Kulkalgal Nation of the Central Islands, and the Kaiwalagal Kaurareg Aboriginal Nation of the Inner Islands.

We recognise their continuing connection to land and sea, and the strength of a cultural heritage and belief system that spans past, present and future generations.

## DISCLAIMER

Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal peoples should be aware that this publication may contain images or names of people who have since passed away. Council respects the right of families and communities to request the removal from subsequent publications of any image or name that causes distress.





## Mayoral Foreword

It is with great pleasure and a sense of profound gratitude that I present to you this document, a reflection on the remarkable achievements of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council over the past term. As your Mayor, I am honoured to stand before you and share the progress, challenges, and triumphs that have shaped our community during this period.

Undoubtedly, the global pandemic has presented us with unprecedented challenges. The impact of COVID-19 has reverberated through every corner of the world, affecting the health and well-being of individuals, economies, and communities. Our beloved Torres Strait has not been immune to these challenges, and as a community, we have faced difficult times together. The resilience and solidarity demonstrated by each member of our community during this period have been truly inspiring.

Amidst these challenges, I am delighted to highlight a momentous achievement that brought joy and a renewed sense of hope to our community—the signing of the Masig Agreement. This landmark agreement signifies a commitment to the preservation of our cultural heritage, the sustainable development of our islands, and the empowerment of our people. It is a testament to the unity and determination of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council and the Masig community to work together for the benefit of generations to come.

Our journey over the past term has been marked by a dedication to vital

infrastructure projects that are fundamental to the growth and prosperity of our region. From roads to essential facilities, these projects represent a tangible investment in the future of the Torres Strait. The completion of these infrastructure initiatives is a source of pride for us all, as they enhance connectivity, accessibility, and the overall quality of life for our residents.

As we celebrate our achievements, we also recognise that there is more work to be done. The challenges we face are ongoing, and the commitment of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council to the welfare of our community remains unwavering. Together, we will continue to address the unique needs and aspirations of our islands, ensuring that the Torres Strait thrives as a vibrant and resilient community.

I extend my sincere gratitude to every member of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, our dedicated staff, and, most importantly, the resilient and vibrant members of our community. Your collaboration, support, and determination have been the driving force behind our accomplishments. As we move forward, let us do so with the same spirit of unity and purpose that has defined us, knowing that together, we can overcome any challenge and build a brighter future for the Torres Strait.

Wishing you all continued success and prosperity.

**Cr. Pillemon Mosby**  
Mayor



## Message from the CEO

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I introduce this document, which encapsulates the outstanding achievements of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council over the past term. As the CEO, I am honoured to reflect on the collective endeavours, tireless dedication, and remarkable accomplishments that have defined our journey as a community.

At the heart of our achievements lies the unwavering commitment and hard work of our exceptional staff. Their dedication to the well-being and progress of the Torres Strait Island community is truly commendable. Each member of our team, from administration to frontline services, plays a crucial role in ensuring that our initiatives are not just successful but also meaningful and impactful.

Our staff members embody the spirit of service and community that defines the Torres Strait Island Regional Council. Their commitment extends beyond the call of duty, and it is their passion for the betterment of our community that has propelled us to new heights. In the face of challenges, our staff has displayed resilience, creativity, and a strong sense of purpose, ensuring that our community remains not only sustained but continues to thrive.

This document serves as a testament to the collective efforts of our staff. Whether it be in the successful implementation of vital infrastructure projects, the delivery of essential services, or the fostering of community engagement, our team has consistently demonstrated excellence. It

is their hard work and dedication that has allowed us to realize our goals and fulfill our commitment to the Torres Strait Island community.

As we navigate the complexities of community development, we remain deeply grateful for the ongoing support and collaboration of our community members. Your input, feedback, and involvement are invaluable, and they continually shape the trajectory of our initiatives. Together, as a united community, we have achieved remarkable milestones, and it is this collaborative spirit that will guide us towards an even brighter future.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to every member of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council team for their exemplary work and unwavering dedication. To the community, your trust and partnership have been instrumental in our success. As we move forward, let us build upon our achievements, learn from our experiences, and continue to work hand in hand to create a resilient, vibrant, and flourishing Torres Strait Island community.

**James William**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Together, we look forward to creating an even better and more successful future for the Torres Strait Islands and the people who live here.**





# Semester 1, 2020-2022



## Dealing with COVID-19: Protecting our Community

When COVID-19 hit, our Council stepped up to the plate. We formed a new Council in 2020, and with it came new challenges. But guess what? We aced it! Our team worked day and night to keep everyone safe. We translated important updates into Youmpla Tok, our local language, so everyone could stay informed. Despite the challenges, our dedicated team and the whole community pulled together to make sure we all stayed safe.



## Boigu Seawall: Safeguarding Community & Heritage

We've been working hard to keep our community safe from coastal erosion and high tides on Boigu Island. The Boigu Seawall Stage 2 is a big project that involves building and upgrading walls to protect our land. We even brought back traditional elements like dugong and turtle processing slabs to honor our cultural heritage. It's not just about safety; it's about keeping our traditions alive!



## Indigenous Land Use Agreements: A Voice for All

Our Council cares a lot about connection to land. We've been working together with the community to make sure we can use and protect our traditional territories. These agreements help us plan while respecting our rich cultural heritage. It's all about finding the balance between tradition and progress.



## Extinguishing Dumping Hot Spots: Keeping It Clean

We don't like litter! Our Council worked on a program to stop people from dumping waste where they shouldn't. We taught everyone about the impact of illegal dumping and even put up signs to remind people to do the right thing. Cameras and checks help us keep our communities clean and healthy.



## Building a Sustainable Future: Smart Material Use

We're thinking green! Our Council is on a mission to make our houses more environmentally friendly. We're choosing materials that are good for the environment and making our homes modern, liveable and cost-effective. It's all about building a future that's good for us and Mother Earth!



## Intelligent Water Management

We're using smart technology to manage our water wisely. We installed smart water meters in different places to keep an eye on leaks and make sure we're using water the right way. This helps us fix problems quickly and save water. Smart thinking for a brighter future!





# Semester 2, 2022-2024



## Signing of the Masig Statement: History Made

The Masig Statement was signed during the 85th Anniversary celebrations of the First Island Councillors Conference held on Masig Island in 1937. This event marked a significant step towards cultural unity and regional sovereignty for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. It as a link connecting the past, present, and future, respecting history and securing an independent future.

The statement aims for self-determination, allowing the people of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area to freely determine their political status and pursue economic, social, and cultural development. The community plans to work with regional stakeholders and governments to achieve regional goals while safeguarding human rights.

During the 85th Anniversary Regional Celebrations, leaders provided historical context, emphasising the ongoing fight for self-determination. Then, Torres Shire Council CEO, Mrs Dalassa Yorkston, highlighted the significance of 2022, noting the support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Masig Statement. She reflected on the demands made in 1937 by forebears and the progress achieved through legal recognition.

Mrs. Yorkston called for support from the Queensland and Commonwealth governments to fulfill the ambition for self-determination and regional sovereignty by the 100th anniversary in 2037. The Masig Statement will be circulated for community members to sign, symbolising their commitment to the goals set in 1937. Mayor Loban urged the Torres Shire community to stand by the council, supporting the Masig Statement, the Voice referendum, and the vision imagined by leaders in 1937.

Finally, the Torres Shire Council expressed gratitude to Mayor Philemon Mosby, Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Cr. Hilda Mosby, and the Masig Community for hosting the historic occasion.

In the second part of this Council term, some important projects were also finished for our community. One exciting project was the Dauan Multipurpose Court, and it's a big deal for the Torres Strait Island community, especially the people living on Dauan Island. The old basketball court got a makeover, showing how much our Council cares about making life better and more fun for everyone.





DAUAN ISLAND



## Dauan Multipurpose Court: A Community Hub

The upgraded court has new basketball equipment and a modern grandstand.

It makes the whole area on Dauan Island better for sports and games, and it encourages everyone to be active and healthy. The new things also make it a safer and more enjoyable place for people of all ages.

We also built a new pathway with a ramp for people with disabilities, so now everyone in the community, no matter their abilities, can join in events and play sports. This makes our community feel more together and friendly.

The Multipurpose Court is not just for playing sports. It's like a meeting place for everyone in the community. The new grandstand is a perfect spot for watching events and games, and it helps bring everyone closer. It's making our community livelier and more connected.

Adding new fencing, lighting, and electrical, didn't just make the place look modern; it also keeps it safe, especially during the evenings. This way, people can use the court for longer, making our community safer and more active. The Court also respects our traditions and cultural identity, becoming a special place for cultural events and celebrations that connect our past with our future.

Having a nice place like this can also help our community in other ways. People might want to come for events or tournaments, bringing in visitors and helping local businesses grow. This means more opportunities for everyone in our region to benefit.

So, the Dauan Multipurpose Court is more than just a place to play; it's a hub for our community. It makes our culture stronger, keeps us active, and helps our local businesses. It's like a big step towards a better and happier Torres Strait Islands for all of us.



PORUMA ISLAND



## Shelter for those on Poruma: Securing Our Infrastructure

The Poruma Community Roof Replacement Project is now finished, providing significant benefits for the people of the Torres Strait Islands, especially those living on Poruma Island. The Council funded the entire project with a budget of \$499,094.00, showing the Council's commitment to keeping its communities safe and well.

The project started in August 2022 and received a Certificate of Occupancy on December 1, 2023. This quick timeline shows how dedicated the Council is to fixing infrastructure problems promptly and making life better for the residents of Poruma Island.

The project involved replacing old roof sheeting and guttering on important buildings like the Poruma Community Hall, Gazebos, and Staff Accommodation. This wasn't just about fixing things; it was about making sure these crucial community spaces last a long time and stay strong. The new roofs not only protect these places from the weather but also make them safer and more comfortable for different community activities.

Finishing this project brings real and immediate benefits to the people of Poruma Island. Replacing old roof parts makes the Community Hall, Gazebos, and Staff Accommodation safer and more functional. This creates a secure and useable space for community gatherings, events, and staff living, making life better for everyone.

Also, the project fits into bigger plans to keep cultural traditions alive and boost community pride. The Poruma Community Roof Replacement keeps important structures culturally significant, serving as key places for community activities that honour and continue traditional practices.

In summary, completing the Poruma Community Roof Replacement Project isn't just about finishing construction work; it's like investing in the quality of life for Poruma Island residents. By making sure these crucial community spaces are secure, the Council is helping with safety, functionality, and cultural richness on the island, making sure the Torres Strait Islands community has a positive and lasting future.





## The Interim Remote Capital Program: A Connected and Resilient Community

The Interim Remote Capital Program is doing some big things in our Torres Strait Islands, especially in Mabuiag, Iama, Dauan, Saibai, and Hammond. Its main job is to make our community housing better so that everyone has comfortable and useable place to live.

One of the most important things this program addresses is the problem of too many people living in the same houses. To do this, they're building new parts with two bedrooms and one bathroom. This way, families can have more space to live, and things can be better for everyone.

The program started planning in January 2020, and they've already finished three out of five building projects. Map St Mabuiag, O'leary St Iama, and Main Rd Dauan were ready on April 5, 2023, February 7, 2023, and September 28, 2023, respectively. Saibai and Hammond are forecast to be completed by June 2024. This shows that the program is doing well and making our houses better.

The Department of Housing and Public Works is paying for this program, and they've given \$2,139,037.27 for the project. This means they're covering all the costs, so the changes will be big and help our

community a lot.

The program is helping many islands, like Mabuiag, Iama, Dauan, Saibai, and Hammond.

This is good because it means lots of places will get better houses, helping different parts of the Torres Strait Islands.

By adding more houses, the Interim Remote Capital Program is making life better for everyone in our community. When people have better houses, they can be healthier, families can be closer, and the whole community can be happier.

These building improvements will also help our islands in other ways. Local businesses might get involved, which means more jobs and our region's economy can get stronger.

So, in short, the Interim Remote Capital Program isn't just about building houses; it's about making our lives better. By fixing the crowded houses, sticking to a good plan, paying for everything, helping lots of islands, and making our community healthier and richer, this program is a big part of making the Torres Strait Islands even better in the future.



## Rural Remote Program: Building Resilience Into Our Community

The Rural and Remote Program has been working hard to make living conditions better for the people of Badu and Darnley Islands. The QBuild Darnley & Badu Plug-Ins Project is about improving houses in the community. They've finished two out of three parts of this plan, and it's already making a difference for the Torres Strait Island community.

Yalla St Badu got finished on November 29, 2022, and Egrue Village Darnley got done on November 3, 2023. The last part, School Rd Badu, will be finished in January 2024. This tells us that the program is going at a good pace to do what it planned to do.

This project started in April 2021, and they quickly got to work to help with housing problems on Badu and Darnley Islands. They planned and did the work fast, showing how much they care about what the community needs.

The whole project has \$1,420,288.51 funding, and all of it is going to QBuild. This means they have enough money to make the necessary changes and improvements.

The program is helping both Badu and Darnley Islands, and they're building new

structures with two bedrooms and one bathroom. This directly helps the people who live there have a better place to stay.

Their main goal is to fix the problem of too many people living in the same house. By building new spaces to live in, the program is trying to make the living conditions better for families.

This is a big step in making sure people have a safe place to live.

Finishing these building projects means families in Badu and Darnley Islands have more room now. This makes living conditions better, families get along better, and the whole community feels more positive. The program is really making a big change in the lives of the people who live here.

In short, the Rural and Remote Program's QBuild Darnley & Badu Plug-Ins project shows how much they want to make life better for the Torres Strait Island community. They're working hard to fix overcrowding problems, planning carefully, and using their money wisely to create long-lasting improvements that help everyone live better lives.





# Summary

The Torres Strait Island Regional Council has wrapped up its term by presenting a report card highlighting accomplishments over the last four years. Despite challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council and communities worked together to overcome obstacles. The report reflects the Council's commitment to progress, showcasing achievements in community growth, infrastructure improvement, and addressing diverse community needs. The report covers two semesters of accomplishments, including addressing COVID-19 challenges, coastal protection on Boigu Island, sustainable housing initiatives, intelligent water management, waste dumping prevention, Indigenous land use agreements, and various community projects.

The report emphasises the dedication to community well-being, resilience, and cultural heritage. Notable projects include the completion of the Dauan Multipurpose Court, enhancing sports and community spaces on Dauan Island. The Poruma Community Roof Replacement Project secured essential community spaces on Poruma Island, contributing to safety and cultural vitality. The Interim Remote Capital Program aims to address housing challenges, providing additional space for families and fostering community well-being across islands. The Rural and Remote Program's QBuild Darnley & Badu Plug-Ins initiative addresses overcrowding issues in Badu and Darnley Islands, improving living conditions and community dynamics.

In essence, these initiatives go beyond construction projects, symbolizing investments in the quality of life for residents. The Council's commitment to safety, cultural preservation, and economic growth is evident, contributing to a positive and sustainable future for the Torres Strait Islands community.





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