



MEDIA RELEASE

13 February 2024

TSIRC and Sea Swift advocate for improved marine infrastructure after teaming up to solve Masig Island issue

Sea Swift and Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) are working together to advocate to both State and Commonwealth Government for improved marine infrastructure in the Torres Strait after overcoming recent challenges in the delivery of key freight to the region.

The partnership has been announced after Masig Island residents were recently left isolated due to severe weather events and ramp conditions.

Masig Island annually encounters challenging environmental conditions leading to excess sand on the ramp, preventing deliveries or vessel landings.

A Sea Swift vessel attempted to access the island several times last week, with all attempts unsuccessful due to conditions, before TSIRC workers solved the issue over the weekend.

While working with the high tide early on 9 and 10 February, TSIRC removed approximately 100 tonnes of wet sand from the ramp between 2am and 6am.

Due to this work performed by the council, a Sea Swift vessel was able to successfully arrive on Masig Island on Sunday (11 February) at 8.30am.

"Teams at both TSIRC and Sea Swift should be congratulated for the mammoth effort it took to finally provide for the Masig Island community at this time," said Sea Swift Managing Director Chris Pearce.

"Sea Swift will continue to work closely with the Council to ensure all communities and locations in the Torres Strait have ongoing food and supply security this wet season."

TSIRC Chief Executive Officer James William and Mr Pearce are now lobbying relevant government agencies for support in Northern Australia's remote and coastal communities.

The pair will travel to some of the most challenged islands represented by TSIRC to understand the challenges the vessel crews and communities respectively face in terms of delivery and supply.



Mr William emphasised that many island communities face significant challenges in the region regarding ageing infrastructure, particularly marine assets such as ramps, jetties, and channels.

"In a fresh approach, TSIRC and Sea Swift are now working closely together to better understand these challenges and formulating options to advocate to both State and Commonwealth Government to invest into the region," said Mr William.

Mr Pearce agreed and added that these are complex historical issues that can be solved with solid collaboration between the Council and Sea Swift, as well the continued commitment of investment from State and Commonwealth stakeholders.

"We want to work together with all stakeholders towards continual improvements to vital infrastructure which underpin critical services to this important region," Mr Pearce said.

Sea Swift deliver to many locations throughout Northern Australia and the Torres Strait.

Sea Swift's website (www.seaswift.com.au) is the best place to find the most up-to-date schedule for all locations serviced.

ends

About Sea Swift

Sea Swift has more than 35 years of experience providing essential shipping services and project freight in Northern Australia, and makes a significant contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the region.

Sea Swift operates throughout the region's remote coastal and island communities, with depots in Cairns, Weipa, Seisia, Horn Island, Badu Island, and Thursday Island in Queensland, and Darwin, Gove, Groote Eylandt, Maningrida, and Galiwinku in the Northern Territory.

For more information, visit www.seaswift.com.au

Sea Swift media contact:

Gavin Broomhead | Page One Public Relations

Mobile: +61 (0) 435 077 935 | Email: gavinb@pageonepr.com.au