# Queensland Government Deputation
# Helicopter Access
# 13 March 2017

Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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# Infrastructure

## Helicopter Access – Dauan and Ugar

**Presented by:** Mayor Fred Gela

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**Presented:** 13 March 2017

**Recommendation:**
That the Queensland Government:

- Fund the upgrade of helicopter access facilities on Dauan and Ugar

**Issues**

Airstrips are not possible on Dauan and Ugar so helicopters are the only form of air access available.

The helipad areas on both Dauan and Ugar are:

- unsecured
- without lighting

The lack of lighting means if there is an emergency and a helicopter needs to land at night it lands with the provision of light from the headlights of cars. This is clearly a dangerous and inadequate situation.

Being unsecured means that there is no barrier between a landing or landed helicopter on the helipad and approaching vehicles. This is also clearly dangerous, for many reasons including the risk of collision and fire.

There have been instances in medical emergencies where a patient has been held overnight on island to await daylight recovery when their medical condition required immediate evacuation.

The Ugar site is not level, which also poses a risk to arriving and departing helicopters. Ugar is a refuelling site, yet has no fence to secure the refuelling area.

The Dauan helipad is small and located between rocky outcrops, both of which pose safety risks. There is no shelter and in wet weather passengers have to approach the helicopter over muddy ground.

The access road to the Ugar helipad is unsealed.

The combination of all the above factors puts the residents of the Dauan and Ugar communities at risk.