



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Community Police Service survives**

After months left in the dark about the future of its Community Police Service (CPS), Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) is relieved at the State Government's announcement today, declaring a funding boost of \$2.6 million towards the service.

Community Police officers will be able to continue serving Torres Strait's outer island communities following the funding announcement made by Queensland Premier Anna Bligh, Deputy Premier Paul Lucas and Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Mr. Neil Roberts, while in the Torres Strait for Cabinet today.

TSIRC Mayor Fred Gela is pleased by the announcement which has reassured him that the region's overall safety is no longer in jeopardy.

"I am very thankful that the State Government has been able to see the evident need for our CPS to continue its imperative service," Mayor Gela said.

"No other Local Government organisation within our State has the responsibility to fund, manage and maintain a Police Service like we do.

"Without the funding, we would not only have lost 38 Community Police officers, but communities would have lost a sense of security and safety with no uniformed presence at-hand," Mayor Gela said.

TSIRC Chief Legal Officer in charge of the CPS, Mr Chris McLaughlin is also relieved by the announcement and assured the State that TSIRC demands a high level of service from its officers.

"With the announcement of this funding, TSIRC is in its best position ever to deliver community policing services for the Torres Strait with transparency, accountability and efficiency and on a cost-effective basis," Mr McLaughlin said.

Mayor Gela said this funding boost would ensure that the CPS stays afloat for a further 12 months and that during this time TSIRC would work closely with the Government and QPS to establish an appropriate model of long-term policing our communities.

**ENDS**

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