

MEDIA RELEASE

Torres Strait communities receive \$2.85M Works for Queensland funding

Torres Strait Island Regional Council has secured vital capital works investment through the Queensland Government 'Works for Queensland' program.

Mayor Fred Gela is committed to improving essential services and failing infrastructure **and** welcomed the investment which "will support much needed infrastructure works across the Torres Strait." "I have been meeting with State and Federal Ministers and strongly advocated for better funding and policy settings for water and wastewater infrastructure for the region".

Most rural or remote Councils such as Torres Shire Council and Northern Peninsula Area Council have 1-2 water storage and 1-2 sewerage treatment facilities. ***TSIRC has TWENTY SEVEN! – approximately 7 times as much infrastructure.***

To maintain all of the water and wastewater infrastructure for the region it will cost over \$60M to maintain all assets. This includes; \$4.9M for water, \$37.3M for waste and \$19.8M for sewerage.

Mayor Gela added that "It is vital that State and Federal funding aligns with Council's priorities and local knowledge about providing **fit for purpose, value for money, and sustainable infrastructure** in our region. Renewal and replacement of existing infrastructure is our priority." "This new funding will enable council to address the 17 identified Infrastructure Projects that urgently require repair and upgrade."

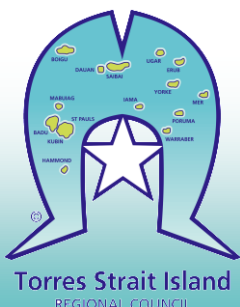
Projects funded under the 'Works for Queensland' range from fencing and water infrastructure through to culture and recreational facilities. The projects will create and sustain employment and training opportunities for community members. All projects are expected to be completed by 30 November 2017.

We acknowledge the level of support provided by the Queensland Government through the Works for Queensland initiative. This funding is an example of the positive working partnership forged between TSIRC and State Government and will improve infrastructure throughout the Torres Strait.

Water projects were prioritised by urgency and impact on community safety, health and wellbeing.

The **\$2.85M Works for Torres Strait projects** are:

- Hammond Water Mains Replacement- \$200,000
- Iama STP (Sewerage Treatment Plants) Fence Repair- \$50,000
- Boigu STP Fence Repair- \$40,000
- Boigu Sewerage Operators Building Repair- \$40,000
- Kubin Lagoon Fence and Lagoon Liner Repair- \$60,000
- Ugar Electrical Maintenance Works for Water Assets- \$50,000
- Warraber Final Effluent Manifold Renewal and Improvement- \$30,000
- Mabuia- Replace ruptured media filter vessel at Mabuia- \$20,000



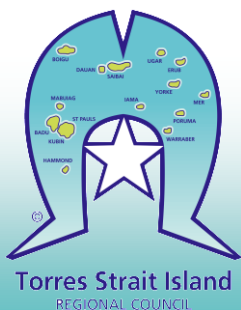
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- St Pauls Well 1 and Kubin Twin Springs Refurbishment- \$20,000
- Supply and install 2 new pumps for Well 1 at Badu- \$40,000
- Repair the damage guttering at the Erub WTP- \$30,000
- Mer STP Maintenance Works- \$180,000
- Iama STP Maintenance Works- \$180,000
- Replacement of Enviroflow Plant Blowers- \$135,000
- Badu Island Stadium & Sportsground Upgrades- \$825,000
- Mer amenities block- \$250,000
- Warraber Cultural & Recreational- \$700,000

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