

Australian Government



TORRES STRAIT & NORTHERN PENINSULA AREA REGIONAL PLAN

Planning for our future: 2009 to 2029



COVER ART:

Artist: Frank Whap
Date of Birth: 1960
Community: Mabuig
Language: Kala Lagaw Ya
Artwork Title: Wasal
Medium: Glass, ceramic tile, board
Created: 2009

My artwork is based on rock paintings that Aborigines, Papuans and Torres Strait Islanders used to record their history. The red, yellow and black tiles are colours that are used to represent both Aborigines and Papuans. The blue, green and white colour tiles are used to represent Torres Strait Islanders. History is recorded either in art, songs or stories. My artwork is based on the dance Wasal (Rock Painting), this special dance is performed by men dancing in pairs.

Cover image courtesy George Serras, NMA.

Torres Strait & Northern Peninsula Area Region & its Constituent Communities



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OUR VISION

Ngalpun yangu kaaba woeydhay, a ngalpun muruygaw
danalagan mabaygal kunakan palayk, bathayngaka
KALA LAGAU YA

Buaigiz kelar obaiswerare, merbi mir apuge mena
obakedi, muige merbi areribi tonarge, ko merbi keub
kerkerem
MERIAM MIR

Ngalpan moebaygal thoepoeriwoeyamoeyn, ngalpan ya
kuduthoeraynu, ngalpan igililmaypa, sepa setha wara
goeygil sey boey wagem
KALA KAWAU YA

Empowering our people, in our decision,
in our culture, for our future.

The traditional people of the Torres Strait are of Melanesian origin and speak two distinct traditional languages. In the Eastern Islands the traditional language is Meriam Mir, whilst the Western and Central Island groups speak either Kala Lagau Ya or Kala Kawau Ya, which are dialects of the same language. Torres Strait Creole and English are also spoken.

Our vision is expressed in the languages of our region, recognizing the importance

and diversity of our culture and traditional languages.

Our vision signifies that the heart of our region is our people, with culture an important part of our lives both now and into the future. Empowering our people to contribute to, and make decisions regarding their future, ensures that our culture will remain strong and that the future will be guided by the people who live in the region and understand and promote its unique characteristics.

FOREWORD

It gives us great pleasure to present the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009-2029.

This Plan outlines the vision we the Elected Leaders of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) want for our region based on the needs of our people, identified through robust whole-of-Government consultations with our communities.

This Plan recognises the Native Title rights and interests of the peoples of this region.

We seek the commitment and support of

government agencies operating in the region to work together with us to achieve integrated service delivery. We also encourage those agencies to use this Regional Plan to guide the strategic direction of their own departmental plans, so that the service delivery efforts of Commonwealth, State and Local Governments are aligned.

This Plan sets a course towards a regional partnership with all levels of Government working together to build a strong future for our people.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge the assistance of the Torres Strait Regional Authority, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Torres Shire Council, Torres Strait Island Regional Council and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council in the development of this Plan. We also thank the Traditional Owners and community members of the region for their input, which informed this Plan.



Cr Pedro Stephen
Mayor
Torres Shire Council



Cr Fred Gela
Mayor
Torres Strait Island
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Mr Toshie Kris
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Torres Strait Regional
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PART A: Introduction

Background and Purpose

This Plan has been developed to address the need for a whole-of-region plan that will guide the development of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area into the future. The idea for such a plan originated collectively from the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA), the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC), the Torres Shire Council (TSC) and the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC), with support from the Queensland Government. Collectively the organisations have agreed to undertake integrated regional planning to ensure that opportunities and resources are maximized to secure the future of the region and provide adequate, appropriate and coordinated service delivery.

The purpose of this Plan is to outline our vision for the future of the region, specify the goals that will need to be attained to secure it, and outline at a high level how this will be achieved. Importantly, this Plan represents a commitment by the three Councils and the TSRA to work together to support the region and its people. It will be used by the four signatories to seek agreement from all levels of government to plan and deliver services in a coordinated manner and in line with the goals and objectives of the Plan. The Plan has a twenty year timeframe and acknowledges that many of our challenges require long-term development initiatives.

This Plan is a live document; it will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure it remains relevant to our circumstances and takes into account changing conditions, locally, nationally and globally. It also recognises existing partnerships and forums already in place and will be a key document to shape the direction of these arrangements.

Challenges

There are a number of challenges facing the region now and over the next twenty years. These include:

- High cost of living due to our population size, reliance on imports, and distance that goods need to be transported
- Significant and complex transportation requirements due to our region being remote and predominately island based
- Securing and maintaining basic infrastructure for our communities
- Maintaining viable communities - the lack of opportunities, particularly in employment, means many of our young people are moving away from the region
- Sustainable population - planning and managing for population growth that does not exceed the carrying capacity of our natural resource base and takes into account the impacts of climate change on the availability of land

- Low health and education standards and outcomes. As with many remote Indigenous people, our region has lower than average standards in health and education delivery and achievements. For the long term development of the region, these two areas require significant improvement
- Impact of climate change such as sea level rise. With the majority of our communities living at or just above sea level we are feeling the effects of climate change now. Without addressing this challenge energetically and comprehensively, some of our communities will simply disappear
- Lower employment rates than the Australian average. To improve our economic well-being we need to create meaningful employment that will result in real wealth creation, increased self-esteem and greater responsibility for our people.

Community Consultation

In developing this Plan substantial consultation occurred with communities and elected representatives. Integrated teams comprising representatives of the TSRA, TSC, TSIRC and the Queensland Government (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships - ATSIP) consulted communities over the period August and September 2008 consulting with communities on the following subject areas:

- Art, Culture and Heritage (including Native Title)
- Economic Development
- Environmental Management
- Infrastructure
- Public Health
- Communities
- Social Services
- Housing
- Population Change
- Governance and Leadership
- Cost of Living
- Schooling
- Early Childhood

This information was collated into regional level information and discussed by elected representatives at an Elected Representative's Forum over the period 6 to 7 November 2008. From this forum the regional vision, goals and objectives were determined. This information will also be used by each Council to inform its Corporate Plan.

The draft Plan was also circulated to communities and the general public for input and comments. Additional comments provided were considered at a second Elected Representative's forum on 1 May 2009 and have been incorporated in the Plan eg. Native Title.

This Plan is a living document and is subject to changes from periodic review to meet emerging needs and aspirations of the Torres Strait and NPA region.

Integrated Planning and Service Delivery

From the outset, organisations within the region agreed to work together to reduce the potential for duplication in service delivery and to achieve a coordinated effort in planning within the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. They recognised the need for all levels of government to undertake planning and to come together to coordinate their plans.

This led to the development of an Integrated Planning and Service Delivery Framework to guide the achievement of Integrated Service Delivery (ISD). It shows how ISD will be achieved. This is found at Appendix C.

The Framework recognises three key elements to successful planning: the consultation process; the planning process and levels of planning involved, and the implementation, monitoring and performance management process. With high level commitment and oversight by all levels of government to this Framework it is believed that successful and meaningful service delivery, which contributes towards the region's growth, is achievable.

Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Region

The Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area of Queensland covers a wide geographic area of approximately 48,000 sq km and includes three Council areas. There are 18 islands with established communities, comprising the Torres Strait, and a further five communities located on the Western Cape area known as the Northern Peninsula Area (NPA).

The TSC's jurisdiction comprises: Waiben (Thursday), Ngurupai (Horn) and Muralug (Prince of Wales) Islands.

TSIRC's jurisdiction comprises of: Badu, Boigu, Erub, Dauan, Hammond, Iama, Masig, Mer, Mabuiag, Moa (Kubin and St. Pauls Communities), Poruma, Saibai, Ugar and Warraber Islands.

NPARC's jurisdiction comprises the Aboriginal Communities of Umagico, Injinoo, and New Mapoon, and the Torres Strait Islander Communities of Seisia and Bamaga.

A map of the region is inside the front cover.

PART B: Strategic Direction

Commonwealth and State Government Policy Considerations

In determining the future of the region not only have community input and needs been considered, but also key Government directions at both Commonwealth and State levels. These are outlined in attached appendices: the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG)

National Indigenous Reform Agreement to 'Close the Gap' in Indigenous disadvantage (Appendix A), and Towards Q2 of the Queensland Government (Appendix B).

A key objective of the Commonwealth Government is to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in the areas of education and health. This is recognised as one of our key challenges and this Plan aims to contribute to the national 'Closing the Gap' strategy by:

- Improving the health of our people with a focus on preventative measures
- Developing our young people and providing opportunities for them to improve their education standards
- Improving the employment opportunities for, and income levels of, our people, and through this enable them to play a direct part in achieving their goals.

PART C: Goals & Objectives

This part sets out the goals and objectives required to meet our regional vision. These goals and objectives will inform government planning and service delivery, and establish the expectations for what may be achieved in the coming years.

Economic Development

Developing the economic standing of the region and our people is a high priority. Wealth creation will improve the standard of living for our people and our communities. Initiatives will be required that support employment creation; training and capacity building; fostering of small business/entrepreneurs; infrastructure development; marketing and transportation across a potentially wide number of industries.

Following are the goal and objectives for economic development to be achieved under this Plan.

Goal:

Enhance our region's wealth, by creating sustainable industries and increasing employment opportunities for our people equivalent to the wider Australian community.

Objectives:

- Improve the wealth of Indigenous people of the region
- Achieve sustainable industries owned and operated by local people (marine based, tourism, arts and craft, construction)
- Ensure access to capital and other opportunities to finance enterprises and industries

- Ensure that there is sufficient land available for economic development opportunities by resolving land tenure issues.

Housing

Our people require adequate and appropriate housing. In many cases housing is sub-standard, overcrowded, or inappropriate for the climate. In the case of the Torres Strait, there is inadequate land available for house construction and a lack of people trained to maintain housing. Housing plays a crucial role in enabling us to retain our people and develop our region. This Plan sets out a clear goal and supporting objectives to be achieved to realise housing of an appropriate standard and quantity.

Goal:

To achieve the provision of adequate, appropriate and affordable housing.

Objectives:

- Ensure that there is sufficient land available for housing by resolving land tenure issues
- Utilise our own people to improve housing standards by developing their knowledge and skills
- Achieve a collective and inclusive approach to land use planning across communities, governments and traditional owners
- Achieve appropriate and effective town planning that supports social housing needs and Indigenous home ownership
- Improved tenancy policy and awareness in line with Residential Tenancies Authority Guidelines to protect the asset and achieve low rental arrears
- Ensure that housing options are available to individuals and families which increase affordable home ownership and rental and address overcrowding across the region
- Ensure communities have essential services and infrastructure to support healthy homes.

Governance and Leadership

Having our own people managing the direction of our region is vital. Our people not only understand the environment and the culture but also have vested interest in their homeland. However, there is a need for more of our people to take advantage of opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skills to ensure future leaders are highly skilled and able to fulfil the appropriate regulatory requirements and governance standards. There is a particular need for Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) to receive support and training so that PBC leaders may work with other leaders to achieve harmonious decision-making and development in the region. We need to grow and develop community leaders

as well as achieve suitable governance standards.

Goal:

Effective and transparent self-government, with strong leadership.

Objectives:

- Effective communication and consultation on community matters between leaders, government organisations and community members
- Strong, honest and committed leadership in communities which supports functioning governance groups
- Strong, effective, committed leadership and decision making that incorporates Ailan Kastom and Aboriginal traditions
- A unified region that understands the importance of effective governance and leadership
- An open, transparent and independent authority in total control of regional affairs
- Sustainable leadership and governance structures that deliver value for money to the community through transparency, accountability, effective communication and capacity building, and acknowledgment of tradition, culture and elders.

Environmental Management

The environment of the Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area is unique and beautiful but also fragile. Rising sea levels; dependency on non-renewable and non-environmentally friendly sources of power (e.g. diesel generators); unsustainable use of some natural resources; and erosion and pest issues all combine to pose significant and credible threats to our environment and well-being. It is up to us, working in partnership with all tiers of government and other organizations, to undertake a range of programs to achieve our goal.

Goal:

Our natural and cultural environment is an asset that is protected, preserved and enjoyed through sustainable management.

Objectives:

- Develop an effective and decisive response to the impact of climate change, including mitigating the impact of tidal inundation and erosion on our communities and natural environment
- Attain effective and efficient waste management and recycling systems to reduce current waste load, and minimize waste accumulation and environmental impact
- Achieve sustainable management of natural resources through:

- adoption of appropriate and sustainable land and sea management plans
- commercial fisheries plans
- surveillance and interception initiatives
- pest, fire and erosion control management plans, &
- improved environmental management of infrastructure development.

- Attain a sufficient number of community members trained to undertake environmental and natural resource management
- Achieve increased utilisation of renewable energies that will contribute to reducing the carbon footprint of our people and our reliance on imported fuel
- Ensure that there is sufficient land available for environmental management opportunities by resolving land tenure issues.

Public Health

Our health standards and life expectancy are lower than the average Australian. Torres Strait Islanders suffer in particular from chronic diseases linked to obesity. In line with the Commonwealth direction, we need to close the gap on Indigenous health. Importantly, we need to provide access to an acceptable and affordable level of health care for our people. Our focus is not only primary health care, but also preventative health care. Improving the health of our people will have positive flow-on effects.

Goal:

Enhance both healthy communities and our living environment.

Objectives:

- Communities have essential services and infrastructure to support healthy living environments
- Health care systems including human resources are effective to meet and support primary health care needs of community members and to deliver appropriate preventative education and awareness raising initiatives
- Improved access to affordable fresh and healthy foods including through the establishment of community gardens
- Reduction of chronic disease and increased life expectancy
- Communities living healthy lifestyles
- Ensure that there is sufficient land available for public health opportunities by resolving land tenure issues.

Communities

It is essential for the future well-being of our region and our people that our communities are developing, safe and healthy. Ailan Kastom is central to community life and

we must develop our communities using our culture and traditions.

Goal:

Safe, healthy, respectful and progressive communities, based on Ailan Kastoms and Aboriginal traditions.

Objectives:

- Communities have access to safe transport and emergency services
- Effective communication systems across the region including effective broadband operation
- Improve the level of awareness of indicators of “at risk” families, and inform such families of their rights and options
- Higher level of awareness of Federal and State laws impacting the community
- Adequate State and community police with sufficient powers to respond to law and order issues
- All movements under the Torres Strait Treaty monitored effectively and managed appropriately
- Community members are well-informed about the range of government and non-government services available to support individuals and families
- Law and order standards are agreed and enforced by the State through the State policing system and through the Councils with appropriate By-Laws
- Raised life expectancy through addressing key social issues including substance abuse, deaths due to violence & accident, and domestic violence and a more active lifestyle
- Maintaining tradition and culture through building economically sustainable communities
- Ensure that there is sufficient land available for communities opportunities by resolving land tenure issues.

Art Culture and Heritage

The diversity and strength of our culture and heritage is a resource, but it also presents some challenges. Multiple language and cultural groups with different histories and allegiances can result in misunderstanding and disagreement. In some areas our culture is threatened by a decline in the use and understanding of traditional languages. At the same time, we have an abundance of talent in traditional art and craft including dance and song. For future generations it is important that our culture, heritage and art are not only sustained but developed. This Plan recognises that targeted initiatives are needed to achieve this.

Goal:

Protect, promote, revitalize and maintain Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal traditions and cultural heritage.

Objectives:

- Attain strong Ailan Kastom and Aboriginal traditions through language, song and dance
- Encourage the practice of traditional family rearing
- Achieve a sustainable community arts and crafts industry to support an economic base
- Retain and preserve culture, heritage and history through identifying and formally recognising traditional cultural values, and ensuring they are understood and appreciated by community members through appropriate education, management and practices
- Preserve sacred sites and record and publish stories
- Preserve and promote traditional languages so they are freely used throughout the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area
- Ensure that there is sufficient land available for art, culture and heritage opportunities by resolving land tenure issues.

Native Title

This Plan recognises the significance of Native Title and our people's aspiration to achieve legal recognition of traditional rights over the region's land and sea country. Native Title plays a vital role in the development and advancement of our region and its people.

Goal:

Protect, maintain and progress Native Title Rights and recognition over the region's land and sea country.

Objectives:

- Manage and protect Native Title rights over land and sea
- Signatories to this Plan establish a working relationship with traditional owners and Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC)
- Resolve the Torres Strait Regional Sea Claim and outstanding land claims so that all Native Title in the Torres Strait is successfully determined. The Regional Sea Claim was filed in 2001 and incorporates the interrelated sea estates of 14 more or less discrete groups of Native Title holders into one regional claim, covering an area in the Torres Strait of 41,800 sq km
- Support and build capacity of Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC).

Schooling

It is vital that we work to provide our young people with educational opportunities equivalent to young people in mainstream Australia. We recognise that our literacy and numeracy standards are lower than the Australian average and that schooling is only one factor contributing to this situation. We need our parents to be partners with schools to influence and ensure our young people attend and are motivated to succeed. Importantly however, we need to include culture as part of our schooling to both make school attractive and ensure the passing on of our culture, heritage and traditions to our young people.

Goal:

Increase regional education to a national standard that is flexible and culturally appropriate, leading to a successful transition from school to jobs and a positive career path.

Objectives:

- Learning disadvantages identified, and solutions investigated and implemented in partnership with Education Queensland, the parents and the Councils
- Improved transition of school leavers to career pathways
- Cultural teaching integrated within the education system
- Numeracy and literacy skills that are equal to the average Australian
- Safe, healthy, flexible learning environments that recognise our culture
- More qualified local teachers
- Increased engagement and interest by parents in their children's learning and development
- Support systems for students and teachers including mentoring, fostering, and partnerships to improve school retention rates and performance and expand opportunities for school graduates
- Ensure that there is sufficient land available for schooling opportunities by resolving land tenure issues.

Social Services

It is important that families and communities can access appropriate and effective resources and support services when they are in need. Individuals need to know about the resources and services available and be comfortable with them. Professional, reliable, long-term provision of support is required. This must be culturally appropriate and promote the positive application of traditional and cultural practices to deal with family and community issues, including the role of Elders in providing leadership and support and resolving disputes. We must strive to protect and enhance respect for the role of Elders in our communities.

Goal:

Strong families and safe and healthy communities that are guided by cultural and traditional Lore.

Objectives:

- Effective levels of communication, coordination and cooperation between law enforcement agencies at Federal and State levels
- Greater level of awareness of, and improved access to, social services and programs
- Mutual respect by all communities members
- Improved networks, family, community and spiritual structures
- Effective drug and alcohol services/programs
- Ensure that there is sufficient land available for social services opportunities by resolving land tenure issues.

Early Childhood

We support the recognition by Governments of the importance of early childhood development to the realisation of an individual's potential. For many of our people, access to, and availability of childcare facilities, where children can be cared for in safe and developmental environments, is the key issue.

Goal:

To nurture early learning development and socialisation opportunities that incorporate Indigenous traditional and cultural practices to build strong and resilient communities.

Objectives:

- Effective child care services that provide safe learning and development environments and appropriate care and activities to support learning and social and mental development
- Creating opportunities for career development pathways for staff with relevant resources
- Increase positive parenting and parental support
- Confident parents caring for their children
- Ensuring the safety of children
- Ensure that there is sufficient land available for early childhood opportunities by resolving land tenure issues.

PART D: Implementation, Monitoring and Review

The Queensland Government has introduced its Local Government Bill (2008) with community engagement as a central element. This Regional Plan is a good example of community engagement driving local (as well as Commonwealth and State) priorities. It also provides a means for communities to hold to account elected leaders and government at all levels responsible for service delivery in the region. As such this Plan serves as a role model for other communities in Queensland and further afield.

The value of this Plan will be determined by the achievement of the goals and objectives.

Successful implementation requires the cooperation of communities, the private sector, Councils and Commonwealth and State Governments. This requires that all organisations recognise the goals and objectives of this Plan and where possible incorporate them into their own planning.

To undertake the implementation, monitoring and review needed, the region will establish an Integrated Planning and Service Delivery Framework. This Framework will be directed by a Steering Group of elected leaders and senior representatives from the three levels of Government. The primary purpose of the Steering Group will be to ensure that Integrated Planning and Service Delivery is undertaken to achieve effective implementation of this Regional Plan. Specifically, the group will:

- Identify and document new and emerging issues in the region
- Seek/facilitate strategic planning for resolution of new problems facing the region
- Monitor implementation of the goals and objectives identified in the Regional Plan
- Periodically review the status of the objectives and progress in achieving them and initiate changes where required.

Primary implementation responsibilities will be assigned to the appropriate organisation, be it Commonwealth, State or one of the region's Councils. Roles and responsibilities will be determined and outlined through a joint service delivery agreement. Under this, working parties comprising relevant responsible agencies may be established to address and manage specific areas.

The rights and responsibilities of individual agencies, authorities and organisations will be respected, including the responsibility for development, resourcing and funding of programs within their areas of interest to achieve the regional objectives.

Effective monitoring and review is essential to ensure a performance and results based approach. Regular monitoring and review will provide feedback so that organisations can adapt plans and services to meet changing conditions or goals and objectives. Essentially

the Steering Group will ensure that all reviews include input from government, the private sector and communities. It will provide an open and accountable process that includes communities in, and informs them of, the outcome of any regional monitoring program.

Through Queensland's Local Government Act Review process and production of the Local Government Bill (2008), Councils are now responsible for activities within their Local Government Areas and are required to report the progress made on these activities on a yearly basis to the State Government through an Annual Report. They are also required to prepare a Community Plan. Council Community Plans will have direct linkages to the objectives identified and developed within this Regional Plan and will discuss and implement a joint approach to achieving these objectives.

APPENDIX A:

COAG National Indigenous Reform Agreement to 'Close the Gap'

In December 2007, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to a partnership between all levels of government to work with Indigenous communities to achieve the target of 'Closing the Gap' in Indigenous disadvantage. It agreed to the following targets:

1. closing the life expectancy gap within a generation
2. halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade
3. ensuring all Indigenous four years olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years
4. halving the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade
5. halving the gap for Indigenous students in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates by 2020, and
6. halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

COAG then produced a National Indigenous Reform Agreement. This outlines out the objectives, outcomes, outputs, performance indicators and performance benchmarks agreed by COAG and shows the links to those already existing agreements across COAG which include elements aimed at closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage.

The Agreement is a 'living document', subject to improvement over time to reflect additions and changes to existing and new Agreements and to take on any COAG-agreed additional reforms to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage.

COAG recognised that overcoming Indigenous disadvantage required long-term, generational commitment with major effort directed across a range of strategic platforms or 'Building Blocks' which support the reforms aimed at Closing the Gap against the six specific targets.

The Building Blocks endorsed by COAG are:

1. Early Childhood
2. Schooling
3. Health
4. Economic Participation
5. Healthy Homes
6. Safe Communities, and
7. Governance and Leadership

COAG recognises that 'strategies aimed at achieving improvements in any particular area will not work in

isolation the building blocks must fit together through the integration of policy ideas and an agreed approach to their implementation,' and 'improving outcomes for Indigenous people requires adoption of a multi-faceted approach that sees effort directed across a range of Building Blocks. An improvement in the area of one building block is heavily reliant on improvements made on the other Building Blocks.'

BUILDING BLOCKS

Early Childhood

For an equal start in life, Indigenous children need early learning, development and socialisation opportunities. Access to quality early childhood education and care services, including pre-school, child care and family support services such as parenting programs and supports, is critical. Appropriate facilities and physical infrastructure, a sustainable early childhood education and health workforce, learning frameworks and opportunities for parental engagement are also important and require attention. Action in the areas of maternal, antenatal and early childhood health is relevant to addressing the child mortality gap and to early childhood development.

Schooling

Human capital development through education is key to future opportunity. Responsive schooling requires attention to infrastructure, workforce (including teacher and school leader supply and quality), curriculum, student literacy and numeracy achievement and opportunities for parental engagement and school/community partnerships. Transition pathways into schooling and into work, post school education and training are also important. Life-long learning is important and attention is also needed regarding adult literacy and numeracy skills.

Health

Achieving improved outcomes for children requires access to, and delivery of, effective primary and preventative health care. Community primary health services play an important role and also need to be responsive to and accountable for achieving government and community health priorities. Parental health is critical to supporting children and the heavy onset of chronic diseases in the 3445 age range requires concerted effort in prevention, management and treatment. Parents also need the skills to promote healthy, structured lifestyles.

Economic Participation

Individuals and communities should have the opportunity to benefit from the mainstream economy - real jobs, business opportunities, economic independence and

wealth creation. Economic participation needs to extend to disadvantaged job seekers and those outside of the labour market. Access to land and native title assets, rights and interests can be leveraged to secure real and practical benefits for Indigenous people. Other financial assets, capacity building, employment and training programs, incentive structures and social and physical infrastructure, including communications and transport, are needed to foster economic participation and community engagement. Through this participation, parents and other adults can become effective role models for their families and community. The design and delivery of welfare (both transfer payments and services) needs to promote active engagement, enhanced capability and positive social norms. Ensuring that communities have support to address factors that are a barrier to engagement such as problem gambling is critical.

Healthy Homes

A healthy home is a fundamental precondition of a healthy population. Important contributors to the current unsatisfactory living conditions include inadequate water and sewerage systems, waste collection, electricity and housing infrastructure (design, stock and maintenance). Children need to live in accommodation with adequate infrastructure conducive to good hygiene and study and free of overcrowding.

Safe Communities

Indigenous people (men, women and children) need to be safe from violence, abuse and neglect. Fulfilling this need involves improving family and community safety through law and justice responses (including accessible and effective policing and an accessible justice system), victim support (including safe houses and counselling), child protection and also preventative approaches. Addressing related factors such as alcohol and substance abuse will be critical to improving community safety, along with the improved health benefits to be obtained.

Governance and Leadership

Strong leadership is needed to champion and demonstrate ownership of reform. Effective governance arrangements in communities and organisations as well as strong engagement by governments at all levels are essential to long term sustainable outcomes. Indigenous people need to be engaged in the development of reforms that will impact on them. Improved access to capacity building in governance and leadership is needed in order for Indigenous people to play a greater role in exercising their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

Source:

Council of Australian Governments 2008. National Indigenous Reform Agreement (Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations).

Accessed at:

http://www.coag.gov.au/intergov_agreements/federal_financial_relations/docs/IGA_FFR_ScheduleF_National_Indigenous_Reform_Agreement.rtf

APPENDIX B: Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland

The Queensland Government has set five goals that address current and future challenges for Queensland.

Within each of these areas, we've set long-term targets that clearly identify what we want to achieve by 2020.

TOWARD Q2 TARGETS:

Strong Queensland

Target 1: Queensland is Australia's strongest economy, with infrastructure that anticipates growth.

Target 2: 50% increase in proportion of Queensland businesses that undertake research and development or innovation.

Green Queensland

Target 1: Cut Queenslanders' carbon footprint by a third with reduced car and electricity use.

Target 2: Protect 50% more land for nature conservation and public recreation.

Smart Queensland

Target 1: All children have access to a quality early childhood education.

Target 2: Three out of four Queenslanders will hold trade, training or tertiary qualifications.

Healthy Queensland

Target 1: Shortest public hospital waiting times in Australia.

Target 2: Cut obesity, smoking, heavy drinking and unsafe sun exposure by a third.

Fair Queensland

Target 1: Halve the proportion of Queensland children living in households without a working parent.

Target 2: Increase the proportion of Queenslanders involved in their communities as volunteers by 50%.

Many of the targets go to the heart of some of the most pressing issues of our generation, like climate change, and rising levels of obesity.

These are the areas we must make real and lasting changes in now if we want to shape a better future for ourselves and our children.

They will tell us where we are doing well and where we need to improve.

The targets don't attempt to cover every area of government activity or community need.

Many important issues, such as Indigenous disadvantage, housing and disability services, are already being addressed through reforms at both a state and national level. This work will continue.

Reporting

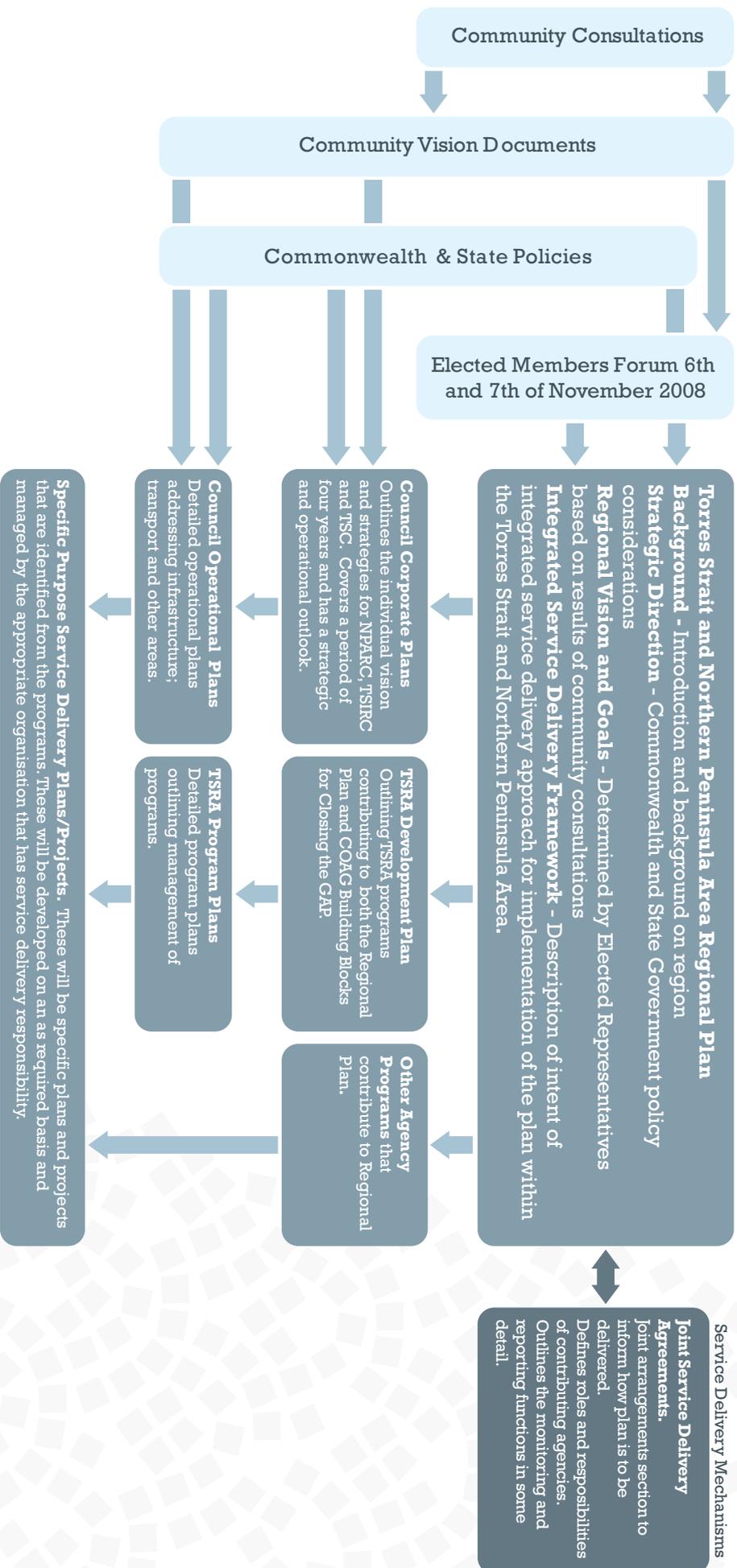
Updates on the progress towards each target will be published on this website. The government will also publish an annual progress report on the targets. This report will also outline what needs to be done in the coming 12 months to work towards meeting each target.

Source:

<http://www.towardq2.qld.gov.au/tomorrow/introduction.aspx>

APPENDIX C: Integrated Planning and Service Delivery Framework

Planning map for Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Region



Glossary
NPARC: Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
TSIRC: Torres Strait Island Regional Council
TSC: Torres Strait Council

Inputs to the Regional Plan and Other Plans - There are a number of inputs which need to be fed into and be part of community and leader consultations. These inputs when considered and discussed with community and leaders are then provided as inputs to the Regional Plan and then subsequent lower level plans by the various organisations involved in service delivery in the Torres Strait and NPA.

Integrated plans that incorporate all levels of integrated service delivery for the Torres Strait and NPA.

Delivery Mechanism in the form of an agreement that will deliver on the integrated service delivery plan and outline governance arrangements.

