

MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUE

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MAYOR MOSBY RAISES CONCERNS OVER FURTHER FOREIGN INFRASTRUTURE BORDERING THE TORRES STRAIT



Only a few short months after Torres Strait Island Regional Council Mayor Phillemon Mosby echoed concerns from community leaders about a \$204m multi-function fishery industrial park, earlier today a further project has been publicised for the Papua New Guinean island of Daru.

Leaked documents indicate that a Chinese company has put forward a multi-billion-dollar plan to build a new city on Daru, which would include an industrial zone, seaport, business and commercial zone, along with a resort and significant residential area.

Speaking from Cairns earlier today, Mayor Mosby stated, **“Whilst I welcome investment and industry into our region, I’m understandably concerned about the lack of transparency surrounding these projects, and the downstream impacts projects of this size could have on our already fragile environment and ecosystems.”** adding that **“It’s important that the rest of Australia understands just how close this is to our communities, we are talking about only a short dinghy ride away.”**

Daru Island is only kilometres from several Torres Strait communities. The Torres Strait Islands share Australia’s only international border which is managed under a traditional treaty between 14 Torres Strait Island Regional Council communities and 13 coastal villages of Papua New Guinea. The proximity of this border can truly be felt when standing on the shores of one of our top western islands and looking directly at Papua New Guinea, which is only a short dinghy ride away.

“Our treaty recognises our deep connection to one and other, and most importantly our traditional way of life. It was built on mutual understanding, transparency and respect. Potential projects such as these, threaten the original intent of our treaty.”

Mayor Mosby will be addressing his concerns with the applicable Federal Ministers to ask for their support in gaining further transparency about these projects, and the potential harm they could have, given the proximity to the outer island communities and wider Torres Strait region.

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