



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Seawalls

Torres Strait Island Regional Council Mayor Fred Gela would like to reassure the public that the issue of obtaining funds to build seawalls has not fallen by the wayside.

Cr Gela would like to thank Warren Enstch for supporting the Torres Strait in its plight to address the issue surrounding erosion and inundation in Torres Strait communities.

"We thank Mr Enstch for assisting us in educating Australian politicians about this very 'real' issue in the Torres Strait," Cr Gela said.

"A monstrous amount of money is given to climate change internationally in comparison to the mere \$22 million we are asking to ensure a part of Queensland is kept afloat," he said.

"We're talking about Australians and people who contribute to the Australian economy.

"While we acknowledge our pacific brothers and sisters, we also have our own problems.

"We need to assist our own people first before handing out funds in international aid," Cr. Gela said.

Mayor Gela said that Warren Enstch's achievement was great in gaining Federal support when the Private Members motion received bipartisanship in regards to funding the restoration and construction of seawalls in our affected communities, only to be advised by the Federal government that it was State's obligation to fund such issues.

"Stop passing the buck between Federal and State Government," Cr. Gela said.

"We are all Australians and we are calling upon the Federal Government to put their money where their mouth is.

"They supported the private members bill, so it is in fact their responsibility to determine how and where the funds will come from.

"If it is in fact the states responsibility to fund the issue, then the Federal Government need to tell the State Government to step up to there responsibilities and do so," he said.

Mayor Gela said that the Federal Government should no just walk away and remain at arms length from this issue.

"Bipartisan support was provided in the federal arena, so therefore the Federal Government is accountable and at the very minimum need to convene this discussion with the State, dictating to them, that \$22 million is to be provided to seawall funding in the Torres Strait."

**ENDS**

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