

Strait *Talk*

NAYGAY 2026

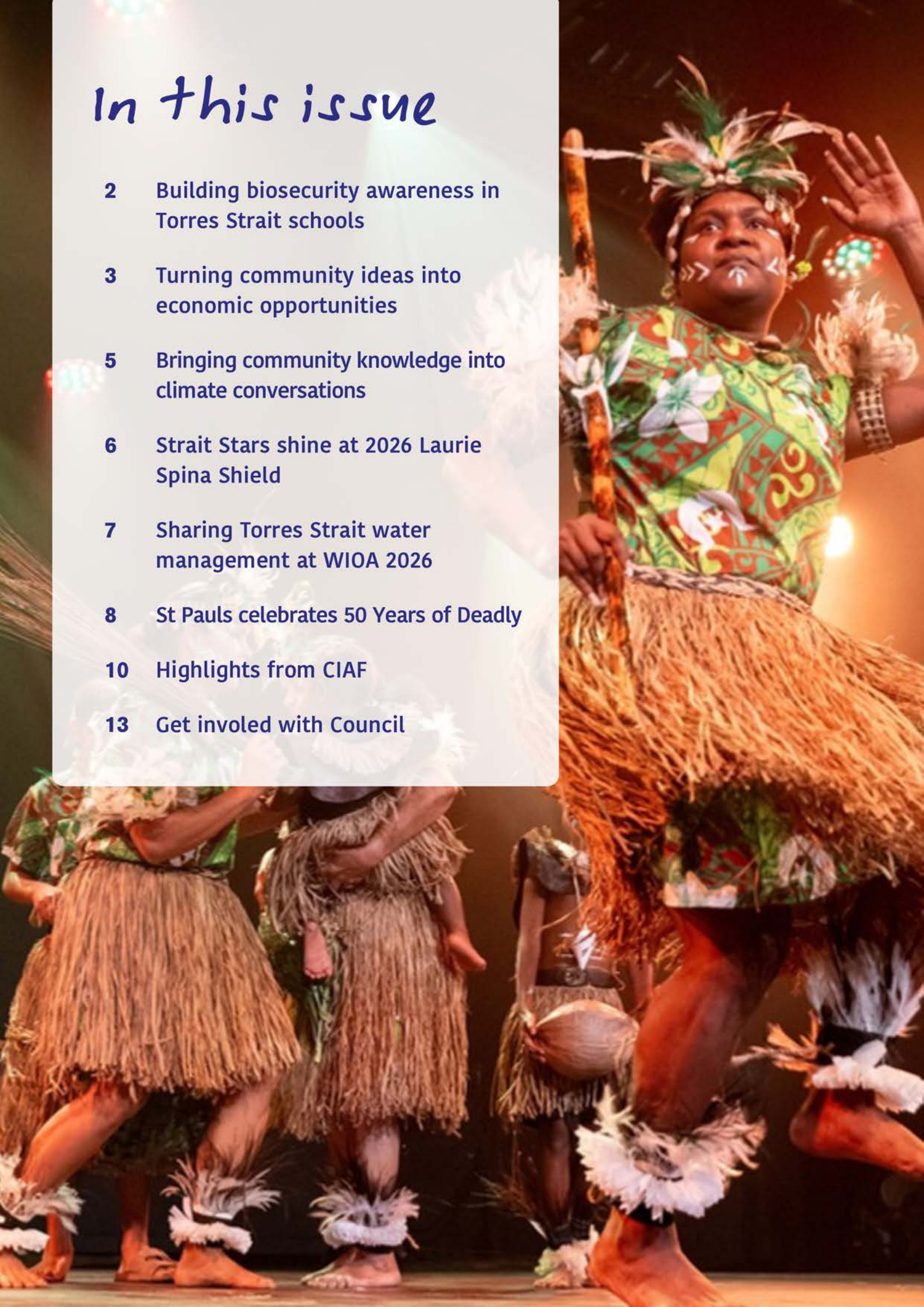


Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL



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Building biosecurity awareness in Torres Strait schools

Our Environmental Health Workers (EHWs), in collaboration with Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC), recently delivered biosecurity and responsible pet ownership sessions in Torres Strait schools.

The sessions helped students understand how they can care for their pets. They also showed why responsible pet management is important for the health of our communities and the environment. Students learned about the importance of taking part in the veterinary program and how regular veterinary care can help prevent and manage health issues in pets. They also learned how pets can carry infectious diseases, parasites and invasive species that can threaten people, animals, the environment and wildlife across our islands.

The sessions included hands-on activities that gave them the opportunity to learn through participation. Students showed lots of enthusiasm and curiosity while learning about pet care, veterinary services and the importance of protecting our islands.

The Torres Strait plays an important role in protecting Queensland from biosecurity threats. Managing an international border means that communities are on the frontline of protecting the region from pests, diseases and invasive species that can enter through people, animals and goods. By building this knowledge from a young age, our children understand people's role in biosecurity and the actions they can take at home to reduce the risks.

A big eso to our EHW team and AMRRIC for bringing this important learning into our schools, and to Queensland Biosecurity Education Project for funding this important project.



Turning community ideas into economic opportunities

Council is making steady progress on Phase Two of its Economic Development Strategic Action Plan. Funded by TSRA, Council has worked with Emver Partners in the last few months to meet with small businesses, stakeholders, community members, leaders and Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) Chairs across the region. These conversations have given people an opportunity to share their ideas, priorities and aspirations for the economic future of our 15 communities.



Through this engagement, we identified 75 potential pathways for economic development across the outer islands.

The team is now working to bring these ideas together into five strategic objectives. These will help guide economic development over the next 10 years. The next step will be turning the ideas and priorities gathered from the engagement into a clear direction and practical framework for the future.

Phase Two builds on the findings of Council's Economic Development Community Engagement Report. This was completed during Phase One. The first phase conducted online surveys, stakeholder interviews and face-to-face engagement across all 15 TSIRC communities. It was the most comprehensive economic engagement process undertaken across the Outer Islands.



Phase One captured more than 300 surveys, 50 stakeholder interviews and over 200 hours of on-island engagement. The findings highlighted the importance of greater local control, sustainable growth and culturally aligned economic opportunities. Communities also identified industries that could support jobs, businesses and long-term economic development.

Phase Two is taking these findings a step further by working with communities and stakeholders to identify the priorities that can shape a 10-year economic development strategy.

Mayor Mosby highlighted that “our communities know what works for their islands and what opportunities exist. This strategy is about bringing those ideas together and creating a clear pathway for economic development that is shaped by our people.”

The strength of this strategy is its focus on each community. Rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach, Council is following its own ‘Look. Listen. Adapt.’ strategy. The long-term aim is to support business development, create employment opportunities and strengthen local economies, island by island.

Big eso to TSRA for funding both Phase One and Two, to Emver Partners for their work on the project, and to everyone across Council and our communities who has taken the time to share their ideas and contribute to this important process.



Bringing community knowledge into climate conversations

The Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) recently hosted a Women's Group Gathering and Elders Day in Warraber. This brought community members together to share knowledge, stories and experiences.

The gathering also provided an opportunity to talk about the changes happening across our region and how they affect our communities and islands.

GBK Climate Resilience Officers joined the gathering to deliver a workshop focused on climate change and adaptation. The workshop explored how climate change is affecting the Torres Strait and created space for community members to share what they are seeing and experiencing on their own islands.

The discussion looked at changes to the environment, weather and conditions around our communities, as well as the challenges these changes can create for people, Country and everyday life. By bringing community members and climate resilience teams together, we can share local knowledge and identify solutions for each unique community to adapt.

Warraber was the first island visited as part of the GBK Climate Resilience program, with further climate adaptation workshops planned across the region.

Eso to everyone who took part. Our knowledge, experiences and voices all have a role in shaping how we respond to change and care for our communities for future generations.





Strait Stars shine at 2026 Laurie Spina Shield

The Strait Stars proudly represented their communities at the 2026 Laurie Spina Shield. The team travelled from the Torres Strait to Cairns, Innisfail and Townsville for a week filled with team building, cultural exchange, leadership activities, and of course, rugby league.

The team was outstanding. Winning the majority of their games, they finished in the top 8 out of 79 teams. This gave them the opportunity to play their final match at Queensland Country Bank Stadium.

While their on-field performance was impressive, what stood out most was the way the team carried themselves off the field. They were encouraging other teams, showing respect, supporting one another and representing their community with pride. They demonstrated that success is not only measured by wins, but also by teamwork. They showed leadership, humility and a positive example right throughout the carnival.





Congratulations to the players, coaches, families and supporters on this fantastic achievement!

A big eso to Sea Swift and CEQ for your generous support and last minute save in helping our team attend the event. And to all the sponsors - Torres Shire Council, TSRA, Community Justice Groups, All Stones Memorial, Badu Island Foundation, Strait Barging, Radiant Life College, QRL, Ganyarra Rugby League Academy, NRL Cowboys House and TSIRC. Your contribution helped create an unforgettable opportunity for our young athletes to represent Zenadth Kes.



Sharing Torres Strait water management at WIOA 2026

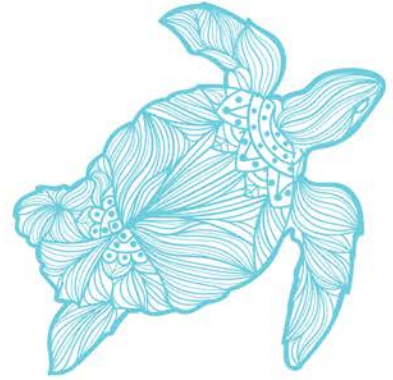
Aken Baragud and Marcus Warusam represented Torres Strait Island Regional Council at the Water Industry Operations Association of Australia (WIOA) 2026 Conference in Newcastle. There, they shared their experience managing water services across the Torres Strait.

The opportunity to attend the conference followed their presentation at the 2026 Queensland Health Indigenous Local Government Drinking Water Symposium. Aken and Marcus' presentation placed second in the symposium. This earned them a sponsored trip to attend and present at the WIOA conference.

At WIOA 2026, they shared their story with water industry professionals from across Australia. Their presentation highlighted the unique challenges of managing water services in the Torres Strait. This included working across remote communities under extreme weather conditions like drought or monsoonal rains.

Big eso Aken and Marcus for representing TSIRC on the national stage and sharing the story of the important work our water teams deliver on our islands every day.

St Pauls celebrates 50 Years of Deadly



St Pauls came together in August to celebrate NAIDOC Week under the theme “50 Years of Deadly,” with a strong focus on culture, community, unity and pride.

Council, GBK, other interagency organisations and community groups hosted a memorable NAIDOC celebration that brought community members, families, Elders, young people and service providers together.

The day began with a vibrant NAIDOC march. Everyone came together in song, laughter and celebration as they made their way to the DUW Community Hall. The celebration continued with opening speeches and a warm welcome from local Elders and St Pauls division Councillor representatives. The day was filled with laughter, music, food, activities and opportunities for people to connect and enjoy the occasion.



NAIDOC Week is an important time to recognise and celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal peoples. For St Pauls, the celebration was also a reminder of the importance of keeping culture strong and passing knowledge and traditions on to future generations.

Division 7 would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who contributed to making the NAIDOC celebration a success.

Highlights from CIAF







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