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Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

TORRES STRAIT AND NORTHERN PENINSULA AREA

CLIMATE ALLIANCE FORUM

22 and 23 October 2026

Day 1 Program

Time	Session	Purpose	Speakers | Presenters | Performers
8:30-09:00	Arrivals & Registration	Check-in; welcome packs; housekeeping - accessibility and cultural support, rest area	
09:00-09:20	**Official opening** MC introductions **Welcome to Country** Gimuy Walubara Yidinji Elder **Opening performance** Gimuy dancers	**Welcome to the lands of the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji people** • Elder welcomes guests to Gimuy Walubara Yidinji Country • Performance by Gimuy dancers • MC thanks Elder and Gimuy dancers	Gimuy Elder and dancers Master of Ceremonies
9:20-9:30	**General housekeeping**	**General housekeeping announcement** • Amenities: toilets, emergency exits and rest areas • Point out cultural protocols and safety features • Consent and recording protocols	MC
9:30-9:45	**Opening remarks**	• Setting the scene	MC
9:45-10:10	**Opening address** Acknowledge the urgency Addressing the challenges	• Climate change and the plight of Torres Strait Islanders • **Creating common ground - a single way forward in the age of climate adaptation** • **Issues**: compounding hazards, under-representation, climate justice and self-determination	TSIRC Councillors Fell and Stephens TSIRC CEO James William
10:10-11:05	**Risk Dashboard**	• **Mirabou Energy: Who are we and what are we doing here?** • **Definitions**: brief explanations for climate risk, adaptation/mitigation/ resilience actions, role of data, role of markets, impact on economy • **Concept:** The 'What', the 'So what?' and the 'Now what?' of addressing climate challenges in the Torres Strait • **A climate adaptive and resilient future:** How can the aforementioned concept form a framework for a climate adaptive and resilient Torres Strait?	Mirabou Energy
11:05-11:20		**MORNING TEA BREAK**	
11:20-12:10	**Coastal hazard adaptation strategy (CHAS) – QCoast2100**	**TSIRC's partnership with LGAQ and Alluvium Consulting under the QCoast2100 Program** • How Queensland Government's QCoast2100 program has helped TSIRC secure coastlines • Project overview: David Baldwin, Executive Director Engineering Services • Partnership overview: TSIRC, LGAQ, Alluvium Consulting • From conception to project progression and delivery • Can the CHAS partnership with LGAQ and Alluvium be a blueprint for delivering future climate adaptive projects?	Led by TSIRC Engineering Services and co-presented with LGAQ and Alluvium Consulting

11:20-12:10	**Coastal hazard adaptation strategy (CHAS) – QCoast2100**	**Other elements to consider:** • How can climate adaptive and resilient strategies, like CHAS, be coordinated across the region? • What can sustainable funding and investment models look like? Questions or comments from the floor (10-15 minutes)	Led by TSIRC Engineering Services and co-presented with LGAQ and Alluvium Consulting
12:10-13:10		**LUNCH**	
13:10-14:45		**Climate change and COP31** • Special Envoy Kate Thwaites to provide opening remarks • Pre-COP reflections and panel discussion on what happens next • Ms Thwaites to provide closing reflections	Special Envoy for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Kate Thwaites MP Panel of delegates – Dawson Sailor, TSIRC Councillors
14:45-15:00		**AFTERNOON TEA**	
15:00-15:45	**Breakout session**	**Small-group discussions on what's been presented so far:** • **Present:** What's working? What's not? What's urgent but not being done? What is most pressing for the Torres Strait? • **Future:** How do we develop a framework for Torres Strait climate adaptation and resilient strategies? What are its key features? • **Governance in a climate adaptive and resilient Torres Strait**	Facilitators: MC, TSIRC staff Facilitator-led discussions of projects
15:45-16:30	**Feedback session**	**Feedback from the breakout session** • Groups offer feedback on earlier sessions • Groups elect spokesperson to provide feedback to forum • Facilitators to support MC in getting groups ready to respond	MC to lead
16:30-16:50	**Plenary Session**	Review voice from day 1 sharing to COP31	MC / facilitators to lead All attendees to participate
16:50-17:00	**Day 1 closing remarks**	MC recaps Day 1, highlights Day 2, thanks facilitators, guests **MC closes Day 1**	MC
17:15-18:45	**Reception**	This is an informal social gathering for people to meet and chat in a relaxed setting. Drinks and canapes will be served. Torres Strait cultural dance (Boigu Island)	All forum attendees Malu Kiwai dance group

Day 2 Program

Time	Session	Purpose	Speakers | Presenters | Performers
8:30-09:00	Arrivals	Attendees prepare for the day ahead. Coordinators provide help where needed.	Event coordinators
09:00-09:15	**Welcome to Day 2** Recap of Day 1 Expectations for Day 2	**Day 1 recap, focused on needs of Torres Strait:** • What are the **immediate and future climate concerns** of Torres Strait leaders? • What are the **steps to establish agreement** among Torres Strait leadership for addressing climate change and establishing climate adaptation strategies? **Day 2 expectations:** • Resourcing climate actions in the Torres Strait • Advocating for the Torres Strait at local, national and global level, incl what can Torres Strait leadership take into COP31? • Beyond COP31: What can Torres Strait leaders agree to for a common way forward?	MC to lead
09:30-10:30	**Immediate needs and resources to meet them**	**Resourcing requirements** • People (capacity and capability, access) • Other (freight/transport, materials and equipment, operations and maintenance) • Questions or comments from the floor	MC to lead
10:30-10:45		**MORNING TEA**	
10:45-11:40	**Torres Strait Climate Landscape**	**What are the current foundations for a climate adaptive and resilient Torres Strait?** • Journey to date • Governance arrangements: Climate Resilience Centre, existing Torres Strait organisations • Proposed next steps	Led by Climate Resilience Centre
11:40-12:30	**The role of advocacy**	**What is advocacy? What are the goals of advocacy?** • Features of effective advocacy • How does advocacy support funding and investment outside of typical funding resources? Can it support a market-based approach to investing in climate adaptive infrastructure? • How can advocacy support creating a framework for Torres Strait climate adaptation and resilience? • Alternatives to advocacy	Panel discussion Phillips Group, expert guests

12:30-13:30		**LUNCH**	
13:30-14:30	**Breakout session** Beyond COP31	**What are the priorities for the Torres Strait beyond COP31?** • Funding what is urgent and essential • Creating a framework for a climate adaptive Torres Strait • Is there a role for climate adaptation investment and market creation? • Is there capacity for institutional investors to support climate adaptation projects in the Torres Strait? • Can a climate adaptive Torres Strait be self-sustaining? • Summarise and agree actions	MC to lead Group
14:30-15:15	**Feedback session**	**Feedback from the breakout session** • Groups offer feedback on earlier sessions • Groups elect spokesperson to provide feedback to forum • Facilitators to support MC in getting groups ready to respond • Comments from the floor	Facilitator, panel of COP31 reps, science and industry reps
15:15-15:30		**AFTERNOON TEA**	
15:30-16:30	**Summary and Plenary**	Voice to COP31	MC to lead All attendees to participate
16:30-17:00	**Forum close**	**Wrap up** Farewell performance by Torres Strait dancers (Boigu Island)	MC Malu Kiwai dance group