



Australian Government



TSRA
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25 June 2024

The Honourable Senator Louise Pratt
Chair of Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: fpa.sen@aph.gov.au

Correction of Evidence by Torres Strait Regional Authority

Dear Chair Pratt

I am writing to provide clarification and corrections to questions put forth in Senate Estimates by Senator Jacinta Napampinja Price on 25 June 2024.

Senator Price question: In the middle of last year, the ANAO conducted an audit of the northern territory's land councils and found governance issues. So has the TSRA assessed its own governances, rules and processes considering that enquiry?

Response by TSRA a/CEO, Charlie Kaddy: Yes, TSRA reviews its governance arrangement on an ongoing basis.

Current Right language:

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) undertook an internal audit of governance arrangements in 23-24 financial year. On annual basis the governance calendar and TSRA governance structures are approved by the Board.

Senator Price: Based off your annual report one of the difficulties you're facing is the transition, ownership and management of fisheries assets to a locally owned and operated business structure. Can you briefly explain why that's the case?

Response by TSRA a/CEO, Charlie Kaddy:

We're hoping to come to some resolution as soon as possible. In terms of a timeframe we're probably looking at over the next month or so, to work closely with the Zenadth Kes fisheries.

Not only around the licensing and the assets that we hold, but also around the Board for that organisation in terms of making sure that their outcomes, and you know the direction is fully supported and we can achieve the end result of what we want to achieve in terms of fisheries.

Official Misspoke

Leasing of Tropical Rock Lobster assets is on hold until such time as the Protected Zone Joint Authority consider the outcomes of the independent allocation of Tropical Rock Lobster Quota Allocation to the Traditional Inhabitant Boat (TIB) Fishers Project currently underway. The transfer of the one Bech De Mer and 7 Finfish licences is under consideration by the TSRA Board.

Senator Price question: Can you please provide this committee an update on the next Torres Strait Development Plan?

Response by TSRA a/CEO, Charlie Kaddy:

The Torres Strait Development Plan is the Board's strategic plan, so the development plan aligns to the term of our Board, which is four years. And so, the next development plan will cover from 1 July next year over the next four years. Board elections are happening in November this year, and so we'll have a new Board and a new term, and again a new development plan. So it aligns to the term of the Board.

Official Misspoke

The Torres Strait Development Plan is the Board's strategic plan. The Torres Strait Regional Authority Development Plan 2023- 2028 was endorsed by the TSRA Board in November 2023 and gazetted by the Minister for Indigenous Australians 28 February 2024.

The incoming TSRA Board will have the option to reconsider or amend the Development Plan during their term.

Should you need any clarification or have further enquiries please contact me, on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

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Charlie Kaddy
A/Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Regional Authority