



**Goshen Project Submission  
for  
Inquiry into matters relating to the Torres Strait Region**

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**INQUIRY INTO MATTERS RELATING TO THE TORRES STRAIT  
REGION**

**SUBMISSIONS**

**Report to:**

**Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee  
Department of Senate  
P O Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia**

**Report 1/2010 Torres Strait Region Inquiry  
13<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

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## **Goshen Project Submission for Inquiry into matters relating to the Torres Strait Region**

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### **Executive Summary**

Inquiry Into Matters Relating to the Torres Strait Region were on 14 September 2009 referred by the Senate to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee for inquiry and report.

The Goshen Project Division which is a non-profit, humanitarian and spiritual realm of Papua New Guinea originating entity, Samuel Were Petroleum Ltd has over the last twelve years undertaken research and investigative studies for conquerors of and pioneer settlers of Great South Land Australia and Torres Strait, history of travel and trade of the indigenous people of Australia, Torres Strait and South Fly in Western Province of Papua New Guinea. Also significant historical reviews and tracking has been done on current naming of geographical features and place names in current Australia and Torres Strait. Results of these work are diverse and evident.

The Submissions expose and pave way for more proactive and mandatory consultations, participation and beneficiary distribution in as to the matters and issues relating to the Torres Strait Region by both Torres Strait Islanders and South Fly Papuan (southern coast) people. Anthropological and linguistic correlative studies are crucial for pinning down the early to current establishments in the Torres Strait isles. The South Fly Papuan tribes of relevance are; Agob, Bine, Gidra, Gizra and Kiwai tribes.

Such and related work will require ample time, about six months, for data collection and analysis before any further decisions on matters and issues relating to Torres Strait Region.

However, we have made submissions of critical matters that require due consideration and the required indepth consultations. The objective is for a united and amicable addressing and management of matters raised in this submission.

As can be noticed, there is real and legitimate participation and input from South Fly Papuan tribes, hence for the sake of consideration of incurred of costs of travels to Australia, consideration should be some scheduled consultations and meetings to be conducted in Port Moresby.



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**Section A: Provisions of the Torres Strait Treaty**

**Torres Strait Treaty Area**

*Submission 1*

The Torres Strait Treaty areas spans from the Torres Strait to a certain latitude into South Fly District in Western Province, Papua New Guinea. This has been reported, but to date is not public information shown and defined by Relevant Map.

It need to be clear whether or not the Agob, Bine, Gidra, Gizra and Kiwai tribes fall into the Torres Strait Treaty Area? Which of the villages in these tribes are in the Treaty area?

**Torres Strait Treaty Family Connections**

*Submission 2*

During ancestral days direct family lines have settled in either Torres Strait or South Fly Papuan. These families have same or common genealogy, hence need to be treated as One Family in the Treaty. Note these families settled in ancestral days going back to 1400s and earlier.

For instance, my own family, Madu and Were Family are in Horn Island and other islands in the Torres Strait.

I, being of the same family, and should I be an affiliate or enjoy privileges as my own Madu and Were Family are in Horn Island and other islands in the Torres Strait?

**Merian Language Comparison**

The Merian Language of Torres Strait and Bine Language of South Fly Papuan are similar languages, with some word being similar in spelling and meaning.

*Submission 3*

A Linguistic Study is strongly recommended to verify and substantiate the relationships and analysis the history of genealogy and migration.



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**Section B: Role of Torres Strait Regional Authority in Respect of Treaty and Border Issues**

The Regulations and By-Laws on Torres Strait Regional Authority in Respect of Treaty and Border Issues governs the operation and mandatory duties and responsibility of the Authority.

*Submission 4*

The Regulations and By-Laws on Torres Strait Regional Authority in Respect of Treaty and Border Issues need to be made available to or distributed to leaders or representatives concerned parties or affected tribal groupings.

This will be a guide on requesting appropriate advice and support on a specific Treaty and Border issues.

*Submission 5*

If there are clauses for reviews and amendments, then this need to be published to affected family, people and tribes groupings in both Australian and Papua New Guinea sides of border.



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**Section C: Extent of Cooperation with, and between, Australia's Northern neighbours, PNG and Indonesia**

The extent, type, magnitude and duration of cooperation require awareness and more dissemination of information and policy directives.

*Submission 6*

Firstly, a demographic study and statistical evaluation need to be undertaken for affected areas in Western Province by PNG-Australia and PNG-Indonesia borders.

*Submission 7*

It is critical that the general views and contributions are collected and compiled for extent, type, magnitude and duration of cooperation on issues, projects, service delivery, and natural and earth resources exploration and development.

*Submission 8*

The Offices of Representatives, Coordination Centers, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Police and Trade for Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea will require permanent establishment with required facilities in border juncture points.

Communication and information distribution is critical for educating, promoting, implementing and realizing activities and operations for border regions.



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**Section D: Challenges Facing the Torres Strait Region**

The challenges are verified and immense, hence proper awareness and educational programs and organization setups is paramount to reliably to certain extent handle the challenges.

Social, land, economic and spiritual considerations need not to be ignored, but required for in facing challenges.

*Submission 9*

Seabed and land rights are customary obligations to be solved prior to moving on with development programs.

*Submission 10*

Natural Resources prospecting for Petroleum and Mineral in Torres Strait Region will be real potential.  
Strategies and conditions need to be put in place or reviewed.

*Submission 11*

A reality exist for Export of Freshwater from South Fly to Australia. Are there any regulatory requirement in Torres Strait Treaty for Export Water Pipeline?

*Submission 12*

Alternate Energy Projects from Tides, Wave Wind, and other need to be venture for South Fly areas.

*Submission 13*

Sea Level Rise is a real concern for Torres Strait isles and coastal South Fly region. Remedial action plans and programs need to be researched, planned and put in place.