

25<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Dr Kathleen Dermody  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence & Trade  
PO Box 6100  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dermody

We wish to draw the Committee's attention to the significant research activity relevant to the Committee's Inquiry conducted through the Australian Government's \$40 million [Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility](#) (MTRSF). The MTRSF is managed and delivered by the [Reef and Rainforest Research Centre](#) (RRRC) and is using solution science to increase sustainability of management and use of north Queensland's environmental assets - including the Torres Strait.

A plain-English summary of just a few of the Torres Strait projects that might be of interest to the Committee can be found in a recent issue of the [RRRC Communiqué](#). More detailed information about our activities in the Torres Strait can be found through the links on [these pages](#) on the RRRC website. Of particular interest may be:

- Project 1.3.1 - [Traditional knowledge systems and climate change in the Torres Strait](#)
- Project 1.3.2 - [Ecological role and potential economic value of sponges to the Torres Strait](#) (in which a new environmentally, economically and socially sustainable industry is being developed for the region)
- Project 1.3.5 - [Reporting Ecosystem Health in the Torres Strait](#)

Staff and researchers from the RRRC would be delighted to present relevant information arising from our Torres Strait research and activities to the Committee. Our main office is located in Cairns, but we are able to meet Committee members in Brisbane, Canberra, or in the Torres Strait itself if that were convenient.

We look forward to the opportunity to meet with Committee members.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Morris', written in a cursive style.

***Sheriden Morris***  
Managing Director