

1.3 Local, Regional and Community Organisations

Local

There are 17 Island communities with local government status established under the Queensland *Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984*. These are Badu, Bamaga (Cape York), Boigu, Coconut, Darnley, Dauan, Hammond, Kubin, Mabuiag, Murray, Saibai, Seisia (Cape York), St Pauls, Stephen, Warraber, Yam and Yorke.

The functions of the Island Councils are to provide for the well-being of the residents of their communities, and this includes the making of by-laws and the provision of physical infrastructure and essential services.

The Torres Shire Council incorporated under the Queensland *Local Government Act* provides municipal services on Thursday Island and on Horn and Prince of Wales Islands.

Regional

The *Island Coordinating Council (ICC)* was officially established in 1984 under the Queensland *Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984*.

The functions of the ICC are to advise governments and others on matters affecting the progress and well-being of Islanders and to make recommendations to the State Minister on matters relating to the administration of the *Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984*.

Membership of the ICC consists of the 17 Chairpersons of the Island Councils plus one representative from Tamwoy on Thursday Island.

The other regional body is the *Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)* which is a Commonwealth Statutory Authority. It was established on 1 July 1994 under the Commonwealth's *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*.

The functions of the TSRA are to represent the interests of Islanders to all levels of government and to improve the economic, social and cultural status of Islanders.

Membership of the TSRA consists of the 18 people on the ICC plus one elected representative from the Port Kennedy area of Thursday Island, and one elected representative from Horn Island and Prince of Wales Island.



Community

There are a number of community organisations in the Torres Strait that deal with particular issues. The main ones are:

Far North Queensland and TSI Corporation for Legal Services

Horn Island Women's Group (housing and women's rights)

Kaurareg Tribal TSI Corporation (land matters)

Keriba Kazil TSI Corporation (services to the disabled)

Mura Kosker Sorority (women's issues)

Nurapai Torres Strait Islanders Corporation (housing)

Port Kennedy Association (community welfare)

Tamwoy Development Association (housing and community development)

Torres Strait Co-operative Ltd, (housing)

TSI Media Association (broadcasting)

Torres Strait Museum and Cultural Association Ltd

Torres Strait Home for the Aged

Torres Strait Youth, Recreational and Sporting Association

Torres Strait Islands Regional Education Committee.

T.R.A.W.Q Community Council represents the residents of the suburbs Tamwoy, Rose Hill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine on Thursday Island.

