

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Torres Strait Regional Authority

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Discontinued service/programmes

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

Question reference number: 126

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator McLUCAS: I will finish my questions with one last question, which I hope you will take on notice. Can you give me a list of services or programs that will not continue in 2014-15 or 2015-16, please?

Mr Elu: Yes, we will take that on notice.

Answer:

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) has eight program areas:

- Economic Development
- Fisheries
- Culture Arts and Heritage
- Native Title
- Environmental Management
- Governance and Leadership
- Healthy Communities
- Safe Communities

Each TSRA program area above forms part of the TSRA's 2014/2018 Development Plan. In June 2014, the TSRA Board (the Board) endorsed the TSRA's Portfolio Budget Statements for 2014/2015 and approved the TSRA's Program Budget for 2014/2015. The Board was satisfied that its priorities areas, from the TSRA's 2014- 2018 Development Plan could be delivered against.

The Board also considered options on how to minimise the impact of recent budget cuts to TSRA program areas, \$1.2 million for 2014/2015.

The Board, through discussion and analysis of budget numbers, was able to identify that a reduction in the number of Community Development Employment Projects

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(CDEP) participants for 2014/2015 and out years would result in a reduction of CDEP wages payable by the TSRA over the coming years. The forecast reduction in CDEP participant numbers and the flow on reduction in CDEP wages is forecast to be equivalent to the value of the TSRA budget cuts announced in May this year.

With this information, the Board was able to reallocate funds not needed for CDEP wages to all its remaining programs. This was achieved without any impact to front line service delivery in the Torres Strait.