

**From:** s47F  
**To:** s47F  
**Subject:** FW: Media Release- Torres Strait sea walls [~~SEC=IN-CONFIDENCE~~]  
**Date:** Friday, 1 June 2012 6:31:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [QLD Torres Strait MR.DOCX](#)

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s47F  
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As discussed, the RDAF application states that 'the project will deliver critical elements of coastal infrastructure required to help protect six low lying island communities in the Torres Strait from destructive coastal erosion and tidal flooding that pose an immediate and increasing threat to their security, viability and wellbeing. RDAF funding will be directed towards undertaking two priority activities on the most critically vulnerable islands of Boigu and Saibai.'

The six communities are: Boigu, Saibai, Warraber, Poruma, Masig and Iama.

Thanks, s47F

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**From:** s47F  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 June 2012 6:07 PM  
**To:** s47F  
**Cc:** s47F

**Subject:** RE: Media Release- Torres Strait sea walls [~~SEC=IN-CONFIDENCE~~]

Hi s47F

Sorry for the delay.

Please reply all so s47F can shoot it back to MO.

Thanks

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s47F

## | Media

FaHCSIA Media | Communication and Media Branch  
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)  
Phone: s47F | Email: s47F | Website [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au)

**NOTE TO MEDIA:** *Unless otherwise agreed, the information contained in this email is for background and not for attribution.*

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**From:** s47F  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 June 2012 5:38 PM  
**To:** s47F  
**Cc:** s47F  
**Subject:** RE: Media Release- Torres Strait sea walls [~~SEC=IN-CONFIDENCE~~]

yes

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**From:** s47F  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 June 2012 5:30 PM  
**To:** s47F  
**Cc:** s47F  
**Subject:** RE: Media Release- Torres Strait sea walls [SEC=~~IN-CONFIDENCE~~]

Hi again.

The MO has just let us know that Crean's office will be putting out the release at 10am on Monday so the MO has requested this be finalised and with them on Sunday. I'll be sending it up in next few minutes but was just wondering if you would be able to clear tonight?

Please feel free to give me a call if you have any questions.

s47F

Media Officer

FaHCSIA Media | Communication and Media Branch

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)

Phone s47F | Fax s47F

**Note to media:** The information contained in this email is only to be attributed to a Departmental spokesperson.

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**From:** s47F  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 June 2012 12:14 PM  
**To:** s47F  
**Cc:** s47F  
**Subject:** RE: Media Release- Torres Strait sea walls [SEC=~~IN-CONFIDENCE~~]

s47F

Below is some initial information on the seawalls:

- The Government recognises the importance of coastal protection for a number of the Torres Strait Islands, which are being badly affected by rising sea levels.
- The seawalls will address damage caused by coastal erosion and inundation, and will also protect existing infrastructure in the specific communities.

I'll have to confirm the details of the funding, but I think Regional Australia will provide \$5million through the Regional Development Australia Fund and our Department will provide an additional \$1million.

It's my understanding that the RDAF application was for major coastal work activities on the specific island of Boigu and Saibai.

FYI - in terms of previous funding for similar purposes in the Torres Strait, in 2010 \$1 million was provided for tidal gauges (jointly funded by FaHCSIA and TSRA), and \$400,000 was provided for research into the impacts of climate change (by the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency).

Cheers,

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s47F

**Policy Officer**

**Native Title Organisations and Torres Strait Policy**

Land Programs Branch

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

**P:** s47F | **F:** s47F | **E:** s47F

**Secure E:** s47F

*FaHCSIA acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures, and to the elders both past and present.*

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**From:** s47F

**Sent:** Friday, 1 June 2012 11:01 AM

**To:** s47F

**Cc:** s47F

**Subject:** Media Release- Torres Strait sea walls [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s47F

Minister Macklin is putting out a joint release with Crean next week. Crean's office is writing the release but the MO has asked us to put some information in about sea walls in Torres Strait.

I'm not sure if you're the right person to speak to on this but if not could you point me in the right direction?

We'll need some dot points just on the sea walls, what they do, when they'll be built and any funding we provide.

Please feel free to give me a call if you have any questions.

Cheers,

s47F

Media Officer

FaHCSIA Media | Communication and Media Branch

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)

Phone s47F | Fax s47F

**Note to media:** The information contained in this email is only to be attributed to a Departmental spokesperson.



**The Hon Jenny Macklin MP**  
Minister for Families,  
Community Services and  
Indigenous Affairs  
Minister for Disability Reform

**The Hon Simon Crean MP**  
Minister for Regional Australia  
Regional Development and  
Local Government  
Minister for the Arts

## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 4 June, 2012

### \$12 MILLION FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TORRES STRAIT COASTAL PROTECTION

The Minister for Indigenous Affairs ~~Minister~~, Jenny Macklin and Regional Australia Minister, Simon Crean today announced the Torres Strait Island Regional Council will be provided with \$12 million in Federal Government support for Torres Strait Coastal Protection.

Funding of \$12 million will be provided towards the \$24 million Torres Strait Coastal Protection Works project with \$XX million [insert where from FACHSIA] and \$5 million from the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF).

Seawalls and other coastal management measures will help the most vulnerable Torres Strait Island communities in their battle against the impacts of king tides and climate change.

The most vulnerable islands, Boigu and Sabai, will be protected by the construction of new, or re-placement of old sea walls and wave return walls.

Ms Macklin said the Government recognises that we need to do more to help protect Torres Strait Islands, including Boigu and Sabai, from rising sea levels.

"The seawalls will help prevent damage caused by coastal erosion and inundation, and will also protect existing infrastructure in the communities," Ms Macklin said.

"I know people in the communities of Boigu and Sabai are very concerned by the impact of rising sea levels.

"This is why the Australian Government is doing all that it can to support the local council, the communities and the people living on the islands to protect their homes."

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Comment [a1]: Funding

Comment [JW2]: Are there other communities?

Comment [JW3]: Which communities?

[insert Macklin quotes]

Regional Australia Minister Simon Crean said the Torres Strait Island Regional Council is one of the organisations in regional Australia joining the dots with significant local employment being generated during the construction phase including delivery of related training.

"The Federal Government is investing \$200 million in projects across Australia worth in the second stage of the five-year regional funding program," Mr Crean said.

"In Queensland alone, eight projects have been funded under RDAF Round Two with the Australian Government contributing \$33.67 million to projects worth more than \$134 million.

"The Regional Development Australia Fund is providing communities across Australia with vital funding to improve local community infrastructure and diversify their economic base.

"The RDAF is part of the rollout of the Federal Government's \$4.3 billion commitment towards regional investments including health and hospitals, skills, higher education and infrastructure.

"We challenged communities to develop creative proposals that stacked up, effectively leveraged other funding and sustained the economic and social future of their regions.

"With Australia's economy in transition, the Australian Government strengthened the role of the nation's 55 Regional Development Australia Committees, which played a vital role in working with local communities to identify and prioritise projects that were consistent with their regional plans.

"Importantly this project will build important infrastructure that will serve the Torres Strait Island community now and into the future.

"The sea wall will protect the community from annual tidal inundation and significant coastal erosion adjacent to key community assets and infrastructure.

"This project announced today demonstrates that this Government is committed to embedding localism in the way we govern this country to ensure all of the patches in our patchwork economy contribute to and share the benefits of growth.

"We have done this by engaging with our 55 Regional Development Australia Committees, including Far North Queensland and Torres Strait through the process from EOI to full application to ensure long term results from these investments," Mr Crean said.

Queensland Senator, Jan McLucas said the Torres Strait Coastal Protection Works project will make an important contribution to the Torres Strait community.

"RDAF is already making a significant difference around regional Australia with \$150 million distributed to 35 projects through Round One last year including \$20.49 million in Queensland," Senator McLucas said.

"The Torres Strait Coastal Protection Works project has been selected because the project's proponents have leveraged funding and demonstrated clear long-term regional benefits, including jobs and opportunities for the broader region.

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"This project will deliver a clear social and economic dividend for the region. It aims to prevent the significant economic impact caused through damage to community assets and infrastructure. This project will also contribute to significant local employment during the construction phase which will include training and skills development," she said.

Mr Crean said this Government was committed to regional Australia and regional development and upcoming rounds of the RDAF would be announced in coming months.

More information on the Regional Development Australia Fund and all projects can be found at [www.regional.gov.au](http://www.regional.gov.au)

**Media contacts:**

Minister Crean's office: Glen Atwell 0403 949 599