

- TSRA – Torres Strait Regional Authority;
- QT – Queensland Transport;
- MR (MPO) – Main Roads (Major Projects Office);
- QT (PTD) – Queensland Transport (Passenger Transport Division);
- QT (RPF) – Queensland Transport (Rail, Ports and Freight);
- QT (SG) – Queensland Transport (Services Group);
- MSQ – Maritime Safety Queensland;
- DMR – Queensland Department of Main Roads (Cairns District);
- TSC – Torres Shire Council;
- DSD – Department of State Development;
- PCQ – Ports Corporation of Queensland; and
- Industry – Ferry and Air Service Operators.

8.1.1 Transport Infrastructure Recommendations

Table 8.1 Transport Infrastructure Actions

Action Number	Action Task	Lead Agency	Support Agencies	Priority	Objectives Supported			
					1	2	3	4
I1	Update the feasibility study for a roll-on roll-off ferry service between Horn and Thursday Islands.	TSRA	PCQ, TSRA, MR, TSC, TSRA, QT(RPF), Industry	Short Term	✓	✓		✓
I2	Review Horn Island airstrip infrastructure needs.	QT (PTD)	TSC, TSRA, QT, Industry	Short Term	✓		✓	
I3	Develop a means of safe, accessible transfer from small boats to shore (pontoon or jetty) suitable for the open water conditions at the outer islands, with a view to eventual replacement of island finger piers.	QT (SG)	MR (MPO), TSRA, DMR, PCQ, Industry, MR (MPO)	Short Term	✓		✓	
I4	Ensure maintenance of transport facilities is included in future programs and investigate means of appointing island maintenance/reporting officers.	QT (SG)	TSRA, DMR, Industry	Short Term	✓	✓		
I5	Undertake long-term sea access and dredging strategy.	QT (SG)	TSRA	Short Term	✓	✓	✓	
I6	Upgrade OTSI berthing dolphins to cater for barges currently using them, and for next generation vessels including continuing the berthing dolphin replacement program.	QT (SG)	MR (MPO), TSRA, DMR, PCQ,	Short Term to Medium Term	✓	✓	✓	

Action Number	Action Task	Lead Agency	Support Agencies	Priority	Objectives Supported			
					1	2	3	4
17	Audit the level of compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act on ferries, buses, planes and at terminal facilities.	QT (PTD)	TSRA, QT (ITP) Industry	Short Term	✓		✓	
18	Accelerate the planned incremental improvements to the access roads into the NPA to provide a quality road link in the longer term.	DMR	NPA, Cook Shire Council	Short Term to Long Term	✓		✓	
19	Investigate provision of a serviced small craft marine facility at Thursday Island.	QT (SG)	QT, PCQ, TSRA	Short Term	✓		✓	
110	Raise the Horn Island jetty causeway.	PCQ	TSC, TSRA,QT	Short Term	✓	✓	✓	✓
111	Complete the Stephen Island feasibility study on passenger transport and freight infrastructure options.	QT (SG)	MR (MPO), TSRA, QT (ITP & PT),	Short Term	✓	✓	✓	
112	Review progress in Native Title Land ownership issues relating to a barge ramp at Murray Island.	QT (ITP)	TSRA	Medium Term		✓	✓	

8.1.2 Further Investigation of Transport Service Issues

Table 8.2 Transport Services Actions

Action Number	Action Task	Lead Agency	Support Agencies	Priority	Objectives Supported			
					1	2	3	4
S1	As part of the review of long distance passenger transport services throughout rural and remote Queensland, look at the performance of Torres Strait passenger transport services and the changes that may need to be made. This review should cover issues at Stephen and Dauan Islands.	QT (PTD)	TSRA, TSC, ICC	Short Term	✓		✓	
S2	Investigate the need for Torres Strait specific regulations and/or education regarding commercial and small boat travel, covering areas such as fuel usage, safety equipment, boat and motor maintenance, wind conditions and safe mooring to improve safety and minimise the environmental impacts of boating.	QT (MSQ)	TSRA, Industry	Short Term	✓		✓	
S3	Investigate means of reducing / minimising the impact of freight cost in and to the Torres Strait given the reduced number of freight modes available to Island residents.	QT (RPF)	TSRA, PCQ, Industry	Short Term to Medium Term		✓		
S4	Facilitate ventures for combined freight / passenger travel in the Torres Strait.	DSD	DSD, TSRA, QT (ITP), PCQ, Industry	Medium Term to Long Term	✓	✓	✓	✓
S5	Make use of improved methods / technology for intermodal coordination / ticketing (e.g. Horn Island airport, bus and ferry connections).	QT (PTD)	Industry	Medium Term	✓		✓	✓
S6	As Dolphins are upgraded, re-introduce the requirement for notification of marine incidents.	QT (MSQ)	TSRA	Short Term	✓	✓		

9.0 Implementation Plan

9.1 Implementing the Transport Plan

The TSTIP is a framework to achieve good planning, management and the development of safe, efficient and maintainable access to freight and passenger transport services and infrastructure, which meets the needs of the Torres Strait Island community.

The transport system recommended for 2026 and the associated strategies and actions identified in the TSTIP have been assigned to lead agencies, supporting agencies, with priority/timing as outlined in Section 6.5.

There is a need to setup a Torres Strait Transport Implementation Group (TSTIG) to monitor the implementation of the TSTIP. The TSTIG would be chaired by QT Regional Manager (Transport Planning) and have representatives from TSRA, QT, MR, TSC and DSD.

9.2 Funding of TSTIP Actions

Currently, funding of projects in the Torres Strait is sourced from a number of government programs (e.g. DMR TIDS program) for transport infrastructure, however funding for transport services is limited to subsidies from government agencies (e.g. QT school transport subsidy and Health) for educational and health related trip purposes.

Stakeholders that allocate funds have indicated tight funding in their annual budgets (e.g. capital works or other identified transport expenditures). Annual budgets of funding agencies need to be co-ordinated by the TSTIG for implementation of actions in the TSTIP.

Detailed costs will need to be developed for short term actions in the implementation program. The program's cost estimates need to be finalised and considered in stakeholder's future work programs.

A significant number of TSTIP actions should be achievable using existing resources such as staff allocated to related tasks and within existing budgets. There are also major benefits in addressing some actions through partnerships with others by developing separate funding submissions.

9.3 Institutional Arrangements

It has been suggested during consultation activities in this study that the TSTIG should be responsible for monitoring implementation of this plan.

It would be useful to nominate people to co-ordinate transport issues in both TSC and the TSRA and be the point of contact for the TSTIP.

9.4 Monitoring and Review

Regular monitoring of the TSTIP actions is required to maintain the plan as a dynamic document. It is inevitable that the plan will encounter both challenges and possible opportunities, therefore a flexible framework is required so that the challenges can be accommodated. The TSTIP document as a whole should be reviewed every three years.

An important attribute of a successful TSTIP will be the ability to monitor and evaluate its performance so corrective action can be taken should implementation activities begin to fail. The TSTIG should establish performance indicators (PI) to help evaluate progress towards an improved transport system.

9.5 Implementation Management

Activities for transport infrastructure and services regarding implementation are outlined in **Table 9.1** below.

Table 9.1 Transport Infrastructure Implementation Actions

Action Number	Action Task	Lead Agency
M1	Continue to coordinate Federal and State agency projects via the Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure committee to avoid overtaxing island resources.	TSRA
M2	Through formation of the TSTIG arrange for annual meetings to review and monitor progress on TSTIP action implementation and outcomes.	QT (ITP)
M3	Nominate transport co-ordinators in both TSC and TSRA to act as the Council's TSTIP co-ordinator and provide transport related information.	TSC, TSRA
M4	Develop organisational delivery plans for TSTIP recommendations.	QT, DMR, TSRA, DSD

10.0 References

The following documents were reviewed as part of the study:

Planning Policies and Programs

- Torres Strait Regional Development Plan;
- Torres Strait Marine Strategy;
- Queensland Transport Policies and Programs;
 - Strategic Plan;
 - Boating Infrastructure Capital and Maintenance Program;
 - School Transport Program;
 - SAFEST; and
 - Minor Public Transport Infrastructure Program;
- Ports Corporation Queensland Policies and Programs;
- Queensland Airport and Regulated Air Transport Plan;
- DMR Policies and Programs;
 - Roads Connecting Queenslanders;
 - Statements of Intent; and
 - Local Roads of Regional Significance (LRRS) / TIDS;
- Torres Strait Planning Scheme.

Recent Studies

- Torres Strait Transport Assessment Background Discussion Paper;
- Torres Strait Aerodrome Inspection Report;
- Torres Strait Marine Inspection Report;
- Roll-On Roll-Off Passenger Vehicle Ferry between Thursday Island and Horn Island Feasibility Study;
- Stocktake of Transport Services in the Torres Strait;
- Prince of Wales Barge Ramp and Passenger Facility Study; and
- Mer Island Barge Ramp Feasibility Study.

Appendix A Air Travel User Survey Form

Torres Strait Transport Infrastructure Plan Travel Survey

Location of Survey: (circle) Horn Island Airport /Yorke Island Airport/Other, specify _____

Date : _____ **Time:** _____ **Survey Completed By:** _____

Question 1

Are you a resident of the Torres Strait?

- A) Yes, specify town/island

- B) No, specify town/island

Question 6

Is this trip:

- A) Private self funded
- B) Business
- C) Funded by employer (circle):
 - Private
 - Government
- D) Subsidised by a concession scheme
- E) Other, specify

Question 2

What is your age?

- A) Younger than 18 years
- B) 18-24 years
- C) 25-34 years
- D) 35-44 years
- E) 45-54 years
- F) 55-64 years
- G) 65 years or older

(circle – Male / Female)

Question 7

Why are you travelling today?

- A) Shopping
- B) Work related
- C) Medical/Dental
- D) Social/Recreation
- E) Education
- F) Personal
- G) Social/Welfare
- H) Other

Air Travel Questions

Question 3

What is the origin of your trip today?

Question 8

How long will you be/were you away from home?

- A) Day trip
- B) Over night
- C) Other, specify _____

Question 4

What is the destination of your trip today?

Question 9

How often do you make this trip?

Question 5

What airline are you travelling with today:

- A) QANTASLink
- B) Skytrans
- C) Regional Pacific
- D) Aerotropics
- E) Charter Service, specify

- F) Other, specify

Question 10

Do you use air travel for other travelling purposes?

- A) Yes, specify

- B) No, why not

Question 14

What do you think are the issues with air travel within the Torres Strait?

Question 11

What do you like about the airline you are travelling with?

Sea Travel Questions

Question 15

If ferry services were available between islands how often would you use it?

- A) Daily
- B) Two or three times a week
- C) Weekly
- D) Fortnightly
- E) Other, specify _____

Question 12

What don't you like about the airline you are travelling with?

Question 16

Would you prefer to travel by dinghy instead of ferry if it was available?

- A) Yes, because _____

- B) No, because _____

Question 13

Without regard to cost, time and safety, would you prefer to travel by plane or boat to other islands in the Torres Strait and Cairns?

- A) Plane, because _____

- B) Boat, because _____

Question 17

What do you see as the issues with travelling by ferry between the islands?

(If boat) Do you still prefer boat travel even though it takes considerably longer time but cost less?

- A) Yes
- B) No

Other Comments

(Refer to travel time/cost comparison handout)