



TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL

*To lead, provide & facilitate a sustainable,
safe & culturally vibrant community*

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10 October 2022

MEDIA RELEASE – PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION REVIEW OF CLOSING THE GAP

The Productivity Commission is conducting an Inquiry into *Closing the Gap* and is analysing progress on *Closing the Gap* against the four Priority Reform outcome areas in the Agreement as well as the socioeconomic outcome areas in the Agreement and the factors affecting progress.

Torres Shire Council Mayor Yen Loban, Deputy Mayor Bani, Cr. Abednego and CEO Dalassa Yorkston met with the Productivity Commission Romlie Mokak and other members of the Review Team to discuss and had an honest conversation regarding the Review and how Council feels that we are not really Closing the Gap.

Cr. Yen Loban, Mayor of Torres Shire Council said today, "Council has pointed out to the Productivity Commission the comparative statistics that illustrate regional disadvantage".

The Regional Profiles Data is issued by the Government Statistician and Council has compared the Torres Strait and NPA regional data against Queensland data. "It is Councils view that once the region reaches parity with Queensland, the issue then becomes more one of the federation reaching parity by the target date", advised Mayor Loban.

Torres Shire Council drew the Commission's attention to the following regional data:

Category	Our Region	Queensland
Estimated Resident Population (ERP)	0.2% estimated growth over 10 years	1.5% over 10 years
Age Profile	30.7% = Aged 0-14 62.6% = Aged 15-64 6.7% = Aged 65+ 27.3 years = Median age	19.3% = Aged 0-14 64.6% = Aged 15-64 16.1% = Aged 65+ 37.8 years = Median Age
Population Projection	Increase 0.6% per year over 25 years 30.3 years = pop mean age as at 30 June 2041	Increase 1.6% per year over 25 years 40.7 years = pop mean age as at 30 June 2041
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population	81.2%	4.6%
Births and Deaths	205 registered births 29 registered deaths (2020)	59,490 registered births 31,367 registered deaths (2020)
Migration	12.6% with a different address one year ago	17.5% with a different address one year ago
Country of Birth	4.6% born overseas	22.7% born overseas

Language spoken at home	70.3% a language other than English	13.5% a language other than English
Family Composition	43.2% of total families = couple families	41.2% of total families = couple families
Household Composition	64.% one family households of total households	70.0% one family households of total households
Dwellings	77.6% separate houses	74.8% separate houses
Dwellings by tenure type	6.9% fully owned	29.1% fully owned
Homelessness	376.1 per 10,000 persons	45.6 per 10,000 persons
Number of Motor Vehicles per dwelling	7.2% with 3 or more motor vehicles 35.3% with no motor vehicles	20.0% with 3 or more motor vehicles 5.7% with no motor vehicles
Internet Access	68.2% with internet access	83.7% with internet access
Schooling	62.2% with year 11 or 12 schooling 58.0% with no school qual	63.6% with year 11 or 12 schooling 59.1% with no school qual
Degree or Diploma	58.1%	59.1%
Profound/Severe Disability	2.9%	6.0%
Socio-economic disadvantage	No person is in the least disadvantaged 81.8% in most disadvantaged quintile	20% are in least disadvantaged 20% in most disadvantaged quintile
Remoteness	100% in very remote	1.1% in very remote
Total Personal Income	\$28,903 = median income	\$40,924 = median income
Total Family Income	\$64,646 = median per year 17.7% = low-income families	\$105,248 = median per year 6.9% = low-income families
Unemployment	16.8% = March 2022	4.9% = March 2022
Building Approvals	5 new houses ending 31 May 2022	26,001 houses ending 31 May 2022

Mayor Loban continued, “Council notes that the Closing the Gap Agreement was developed in partnership between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives and all Australian governments and commits governments (including the Queensland Government) to working in full and genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in making policies to close the gap. Finally, it is to be noted that the Queensland Regional Profiles also apply the national census data and other relevant Australian data sets”.

Council looks forward to lodging a formal submission to the Productivity Commission on the Closing the Gap Review in due course.

End Release.

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