



TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL

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

P O Box 171
THURSDAY ISLAND 4875

Telephone (07) 4069 1336
Facsimile (07) 4069 1845

Email: ceo@torres.qld.gov.au
ABN 34 108 162 398

26 September 2022

MEDIA RELEASE - OLYMPICS 2032

The International Olympics Committee announced that Queensland will host the 2032 Olympic Summer and Paralympic Games.

Cr Yen Loban, Mayor of Torres Shire Council said today, "Council congratulates the Queensland Government, supported by the Australian Olympics Committee (AOC), together with our sister council (Brisbane City Council) and the Commonwealth Government, in securing the Games. The 2032 Olympic Games presents not only a wonderful opportunity to showcase south-east Queensland, but the whole of the Sunshine State, especially the extraordinary region of the Torres Strait with its rich and diverse cultures, its ancient and surviving languages and customs and its unique physical environment that is second to none".

The Queensland Deputy Premier, the Hon Steven Miles MP recently announced that Torres Shire Council has been allocated \$40,000 to develop a Masterplan for the Thursday Island Sports Complex precinct.

Mayor Loban continued, "Sport is the glue that binds our communities together. It is the pinnacle of the weekly social calendar. It brings bragging rights between sporting communities that can last from one season to the next. The prospect of the Olympics coming to the Torres Strait and specifically Thursday Island is exciting, and we can't thank the Deputy Premier and the Palaszczuk Government enough for assisting Council with funding to prepare the Masterplan for the Sports Complex. We hope this is the beginning we have fought for so long. Because time and time again, the natural talents of our young athletes are not tapped or trained. They run on the sand but have no spikes to run competitively on the athletics track. They have no scholarships that effectively integrate their schooling with their sporting aspirations".

Six hundred students every year leave their families here in the Torres Strait to obtain a quality education in boarding schools on the mainland and data from Queensland Treasury's Statistician's Office demonstrate that they are doing better than the rest of Queensland. They are completing years 11 and 12 at a higher rate than the rest of Queensland.

Mayor Loban continued, "But they cannot stay in their communities or with their families because undertaking remote on-line degrees is a nightmare because telecommunications are below university standard and if they attend TAFE, they are often forced to leave their island home to obtain jobs in more lucrative markets. Is this what we want for our young people? Raise their expectations through support from families and their completion of education, only to have them dashed because of overcrowding and with little or no pathways forward? Where are the youth jobs? If we are going to get serious about Closing the Gap as part of the 2032 Olympics, there must be pathways between school and sport because, after all, we want to show case many Cathy Freemans and Patrick Mills from our Shire and region. We have the talent here, but it will never thrive unless there is investment now. With the help of the Palaszczuk Government, Council is very optimistic that this can and will be turned around and the Master Plan for the Sports Complex is the first step", Mayor Loban concluded.

End Release.

TSC Media Contact: CEO Dalassa Yorkston

Mobile: 0429 691 333 Email: dalassa.yorkston@torres.qld.gov.au