

Torres Strait Islander Perspectives on Coastal Management and Climate Change

John (Toshie) Kris

Chair
Torres Strait Regional Authority
PO Box 261 Thursday Island
07 40690700

Abstract

The Torres Strait is a geographically, culturally and ecologically unique region extending from the south western tip of Papua New Guinea to the northern tip of Cape York Peninsula. The area is home to a culturally distinct society comprised of over 18 different communities. Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people have strong and abiding connections with their land and sea country.

The ecologically sustainable and culturally appropriate management of the area poses a huge challenge, with many unique aspects, whilst the prospect of rising sea level and other impacts of climate change cast a cloud over the region which requires comprehensive action both locally and globally.

This presentation will cover the land and sea management strategy for Torres Strait, highlighting the issues across the region, some of the work undertaken to date and a few thoughts specifically about climate change and what is needed to address potential impacts in the region.