1. The relatively high cost of food (and the cost of living generally) combined with limited food choices and reduced affordability due to relatively low incomes, are major contributing factors to the incidence of chronic disease in the Torres Strait, particularly Type 2 diabetes mellitus.
2. There is a range of interconnected supply and demand factors that adversely impact on the cost of food (and the cost of living generally) and poor nutrition that are both complex and problematic, necessitating multi-faceted long-term policy responses.
3. The central supply issue is the logistical complications inherent in the 3000 kilometre land-sea supply chain stretching from Brisbane to the Torres Strait that combine to impact directly on price, variety and quality of food. While some supplies are sourced from North Queensland producers and shipped via Cairns, the bulk of produce emanates from South East Queensland where it is either locally produced or passes through in transit from interstate.
4. The determinants of consumer demand include low household incomes; comparatively high food prices; a cultural connection to traditional foods, some of which are high in saturated fat; quality, particularly of perishable produce; and awareness of nutrition. Of particular concern is the high consumption of soft drink and other highly processed energy dense and nutrient poor foods.
5. The Queensland Government will allocate $1.8 million to the Island Board of Industry Service (IBIS) for a new store on Saibai Island to replace the existing facility. The new store will enable IBIS to provide a sufficient supply of healthy foods on a weekly basis and store and display perishables correctly to ensure that quality is maintained.
6. Cabinet noted the progress on measures to alleviate the cost of food and improve nutrition in the Torres Strait.
7. Cabinet endorsed that the Queensland Government allocate $1.8 million to the Islanders Board of Industry and Service for the construction of a new retail store on Saibai Island.
8. *Attachments:*
   * Nil.