1. Currently, the Queensland Police Service (QPS) provides policing services to the Torres Strait via a mix of State police and Police Liaison Officers (PLOs) stationed on Thursday and Horn Islands.
2. In the outer islands of the Torres Strait community safety is supplemented by Community Police Officers (CPOs) who are employed by the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, but funded by the State Government through the QPS.
3. To enhance the delivery of community safety in the Torres Strait, CPOs will be employed by the QPS by 1 October 2013 and re-named as Torres Strait Island Police Support Officers. This is Stage 1 of the Torres Strait Policing Model.
4. The Model recognises that the delivery of policing services in Torres Strait communities is unique and must use balanced enforcement and cultural authority responses.
5. Employment of Torres Strait Island Police Support Officers is the central feature of the Model. These officers will work under the supervision and leadership of State police and will be tasked to support State police through the delivery of a range of policing activities aimed at stopping crime and enhancing safety and crime prevention in the Torres Strait.
6. Stage 2 of the Model will see suitable Torres Strait Island Police Support Officers being offered permanent QPS employment by June 2015.
7. It is expected that the Model will enhance and improve upon the good work of the CPO Program operated by the TSIRC and will:
8. improve accountability of service delivery;
9. ensure continuity of the delivery of policing services in these communities;
10. strengthen existing employment opportunities in the Torres Strait islands;
11. improve the skills and capabilities of existing CPOs to ensure they perform their role safely and effectively; and
12. improve training and skills development opportunities for existing CPOs in the Torres Strait to position local employees to pursue employment paths to fully qualified sworn State police positions.
13. The QPS will continue to work collaboratively with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council during and post implementation of the Model.
14. The Minister for Police and Community Safety and the Commissioner of Police will launch the new Torres Strait Island Police Support Officer role on or before 1 October 2013 in the Torres Strait.
15. Cabinet approved the transition of CPOs to State Government employment on or before 1 October 2013.
16. *Attachments*
* Nil.