



Speech by  
**Jason O'Brien**

**MEMBER FOR COOK**

Hansard Tuesday, 9 October 2007

---

## **DEATHS OF MR DW MOSBY AND MR J AHMAT**

**Mr O'BRIEN** (Cook—ALP) (9.56 pm): Since the parliament last sat, two chairmen of islands in the Torres Strait, unfortunately, have passed away. Tonight I would like to pay tribute to both of those gentlemen.

On 21 August Mr Donald Mosby, the Chairman of Yorke Island, or Masig as it is known, passed away. Mr Mosby was chairman of the Yorke Island Community Council for two terms, a member of the ICC and held the Torres Strait Regional Authority portfolio for small business and economic development and the portfolio for marine and fisheries. Mr Mosby was also a member of the TSRA Fisheries Committee, the PZJA Management Consultative Structure, the Torres Strait Aquaculture Steering Committee and the North Queensland Indigenous Fishing Committee.

Yorke Island is a beautiful island. It was well served by Mr Donald Mosby. Donald had an infectious enthusiasm. He was one of those people who really made the local member's job quite easy. All I had to do was get in behind him. He was always in touch with his community. He knew what was going on, knew what needed to be done and went about trying to service his community with other agencies, whether they were federal or state agencies. My job as the local member was just to support Don and to provide whatever support I could for him to go and do his job.

I used to enjoy catching up with him. He always had ideas and schemes on the go about how he could improve his people, about business ideas that he wanted to get up in his community. He was always looking for ways and means to make those happen. He will be sorely missed by his community there on Masig.

Likewise, Jack Ahmat, the chairperson for Badu, passed away on Sunday, 7 October. He was 56 years old. Jack was in his third term as a representative on the TSRA board as well. He was also a member of the ICC.

Badu is the largest community in the outer Torres Strait. It has well over 1,000 people living on Badu now. One of the things that strikes me when I go to Badu is that it is a large Indigenous community. But it is really just a normal suburb like anywhere else. I could be anywhere in Queensland—in any suburb in Queensland—but I am in this remote location. There are houses and people working.

Jack was instrumental in creating what I think is normality and what we are trying to achieve in Indigenous communities—that is all nature of businesses and services and people working together. I am afraid that I have not got time tonight to put all of Jack's achievements on the record. Both of these gentlemen will be sorely missed.