



Queensland LG Officers – Going Above and Beyond

The Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) services KIRRIRI (Hammond Island), part of the Inner Torres Strait Island group. In March 2020, TSIRC's contractor (Pensar) mobilised to replace the 2.8 km main water supply pipeline on Hammond Island. As we all know, not long after this, the COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions meant that no additional personnel were permitted to travel to the Island unless undertaking a 2-week quarantine period. Once the travel restrictions were in place, the Principal and Contractor's project managers, and the Superintendent could also not access the site.

Bernard Dorante is TSIRC's Division Engineering Officer on Hammond Island who was originally expected to have minimal interface with Pensar. However, seeing a problem, he certainly stepped up. To enable the projects continuation in this new operational environment, Bernard worked above and beyond his stated duties to ensure his community could still receive an upgraded water mains supply.

Bernard selflessly fulfilled increased liaising and support duties, working directly with Pensar to complete construction; something otherwise performed by a site engineer or project manager. He performed witness points, community liaison and conflict resolution and oversaw duties on behalf of the Principal and Superintendent via photos and video teleconferencing. Bernard was so committed to ensuring the project was completed as planned, that he self-initiated longer hours for the 2-month construction phase, including weekends and public holidays.

The project could not have continued without Bernard generously going above and beyond to ensure that his community receives the upgraded water main under the COVID-19 pandemic conditions. It goes without saying, that Bernard is an exemplary role model to his community. Bernard's Council, Torres Strait Islands Regional Council is proud and grateful for his efforts and were delighted to nominate him for this award.

