



**Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC)  
Ordinary Meeting  
Held at the Joey Nona Conference Room, Torres Strait Haus  
Thursday Island  
Wednesday 18th February 2009**

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**Present:** Cr. Fred Gela, Mayor  
Cr. Keith Fell, Division 4 – Mabuiag  
Cr. Wayne Guivarra, Division 5 – Badu Island  
Cr. David Bosun, Division 6 - Kubin  
Cr. Toshie Kris, Division 7 – St. Pauls  
Cr. Nancy Pearson, Division 8- Hammond  
Cr. Walter Mackie, Division 9 - Iama  
Cr. Phillemon Mosby, Division 11 - Poruma  
Cr. John Mosby, Division 12 – Yorke  
Cr. Florianna Bero, Division 13 – Ugar  
Mr. John Scarce, Chief Executive Officer  
Mr. Patrick McGuire, Executive Manager Engineering  
Mr. Noel Peters, Manager Human Resources  
Ms Dania Ahwang, Manager Internal Audit  
Mrs Tania Sailor, Executive Secretary.

**Observers:** Nil

**9.25am:** Meeting opened in prayer by Cr. Mackie.

**Apologies:** Cr. Donald Banu, Division 1 – Boigu  
Cr. Raymond Soki, Division 2 – Dauan  
Cr. Ron Enosa, Division 3 – Saibai Island  
Cr. Willie Lui, Division 10 - Warraber  
Cr. Kenny Bedford, Deputy Mayor, Division 14 - Erub  
Cr. Ron Day – Division 15 – Mer Island  
Mr. Malcolm Flavel, Executive Manager Housing & Ports  
Mr. Lloyd Sunderland, Executive Manager Community Services  
Mr. Anthony Bird, Executive Manager Finance

**Deputations:** Nil

**WELCOME**

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Traditional Land Owners

- Mayor Fred Gela

### **MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS**

Mayor expressed his apology on behalf of members to Cr. Bero and the Community of Ugar acknowledging the length of preparation they have put into preparing for the Council meeting, especially families who were billeting Councillors & Staff at Ugar. Unfortunately due to circumstances beyond our control we were not able to convene the Council Meeting at Ugar.

Mayor advised that a formal apology will be sent to Cr. Bero and the Community of Ugar.

It was noted that TSIRC will commit to setting a date to have the Council Meeting at Ugar in the near future and be prepared with any other alternative travel should circumstances such as these arise.

### **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

#### ***Resolution***

*Moved Cr. Pearson, Seconded Cr. Guivarra the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 be adopted as true and accurate apart from some alterations.*

**Motion carried.**

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

#### **West Wing Airline**

- Commence operation 9<sup>th</sup> March with two (2) Caravans, looking at a 3<sup>rd</sup> Caravan as spare, also have two (2) Islanders.
- Look at licensing aspects – that people on the ground have licence to fly the Caravans.
- Look at offering freight service to Cairns when planes are sent down to Cairns for maintenance to keep up services to community.
- Look at ticketing sales – some communities still have facilities eg. Eftpos for use of ticket sales in communities.

#### **Mobile Can Crusher Infrastructure Project**

- Awaiting report on whether or not the \$25,000 allocated to purchasing of Mobile Can Crusher will be used before engaging in further discussions in recommending the \$25,000 to be allocated to another infrastructure project.

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Patrick Mill's Proposal on Alternative Transport

- As soon as an analysis is received by Executive Manager Finance, TSIRC will evaluate, present to Council for decision and reply to Mr. Mills.

25% Rental Calculation

- Cr. Pearson advised that her Community has expressed their views on this issue and are against it.
- Cr. Bosun requested that his Community be brought back in line with the rest of the communities.
- CEO advised that this will be implemented as of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009.
- Referring to Cr. Pearson's query, the CEO advised that currently rates are charged only as per rate per person. Under the new legislation rates are charged per person and per property.

**PORUMA ISLAND FREEZER**

***Resolution***

*Moved Cr. Guivarra, Seconded Cr. Kris that Council:*

1. Supply TSRA with confirmation of its support for the Freezer Operation; and
2. Council enters into a short term management agreement with the Pearson Family – 6 Months to operate the facility until such time as the Management Consultancy on Freezer Operations in the Torres Straits as a whole is completed; and
3. Council provides no capital into the facility;
4. The current operational budget is constrained for the Freezer Operation only; and
5. After 6 months – September Meeting, Council be provided with an update on the Poruma Freezer Operation, with regards to its financial viability or earlier should there be a failure of financial performance.

**Motion Carried**

- I. \$55,000 was put aside for the operation of the Freezer.*
- II. Executive Manager Finance to inform Cr. Mosby on any updates each step of the way on this issue.*

**CLOSED BUSINESS** - Nil

## **LATE REPORTS**

### **MIP 4 PROJECTS**

#### **Mabuiag Roads and Drainage, and Kubin Drainage**

##### ***Resolution 1***

*Moved Cr. Pearson, Seconded Cr. Guivarra* that Council accept the recommendations of the MIP Programme Manager that:

1. *Mabuiag Roads*  
The tender submitted by Maunsell for an estimated cost of \$70,575 plus disbursements of \$9,970 making a total of \$80,545 (excl GST) be accepted; and
2. *Kubin Roads & Drainage*  
The tender submitted by Sinclair Knight Mertz for an estimated cost of \$88,810 plus disbursements of \$7,964 making a total of \$96,774 (excl GST) be accepted

##### **Motion Carried**

- i. *Cr. Bosun to draft written submission in his divisional letterhead to Executive Manager Engineering Services re: Proposal for Boat Ramp.*
- ii. *Cr. Kris advised members to be mindful that MIP is for Major Infrastructure Projects and not smaller projects.*
- iii. *Mayor advised there is a scope of funding already in place.*
- iv. *It was requested that MIP to do a presentation to Council at a future Ordinary meeting on MIP Projects including a spreadsheet with scope of works to be done.*

##### ***Resolution 2***

*Moved Cr. Pearson, Seconded Cr. Bosun* that Council recommends the dredging of Ugar Island be listed as a priority under the MIP Programme.

##### **Motion Carried**

- i. *Executive Manager Engineering Services to table a letter from TSIRC at the next MIP Meeting in relations to Health Services etc on Ugar Island.*

***Resolved that Council break for Morning Tea at 10.30am***

**BADU ILUA**

Lay on Table

- I. QLD Health Solicitors wants the Health Centre lease (30yrs lease) signed off now – but come first of July all leases entered into prior to transfer of assets do not carry forward.*
- II. TSIRC to hold off signing the lease for another 3 - 4 months*
- III. A lengthy consultation process to take place first with all stakeholders. It was noted St. Pauls and Hammond are in a different situation altogether.*
- IV. Look at the outcome of Badu's infrastructure ILUA, and that will set a precedent for other Communities.*
- V. The focus groups doing consultations on the Torres Strait Islander land Act Review involves the PBC/Traditional Land Owners in this process.*

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT \$500M**

**Poruma Cultural Centre, Office & Library**

***Resolution***

*Moved Cr. Fell, Seconded Cr. Bero that Council authorises the CEO to apply for \$2M under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure funds, with the funds to be applied to the Poruma Cultural Centre, Office and Library.*

**Motion Carried**

- I. Applications close 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009.*
- II. 1<sup>st</sup> scope is to expand the \$500,000.*
- III. The \$2M is the estimate design of the building.*
- IV. Any surplus will come back to the table to engage in discussions in recommending allocations to uncompleted infrastructures including the \$25,000 (for mobile can crusher).*
- V. Building of the office will be in-house and not out to contractors.*

**It was resolved that Council breaks for Lunch at 12.00pm**

## **HOUSING REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### ***Resolution***

*Moved Cr. Fell, Seconded Cr. Mackie that Council gathers information from each Island of existing houses that could be utilised immediately.*

Further the administration of Council present to Council what housing and office infrastructure is desired and where, in line with presentations previously made.

Also Council resolves that Hammond Island will be the public office of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

### **Motion Carried**

*Information on all existing houses that are vacant in each community are to be sent to TSIRC by 27/02/09.*

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM INFORMATION REPORT**

### ***Budget***

- TSIRC well under budget
- CEO is tracking and monitoring the budget.
- Mayor encouraged members to contact Executive Manager Finance should they have any queries on the budget.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### ***March Council Meeting***

### ***Resolution***

*Moved Cr. Fell, Seconded Cr. Bosun that the next General Meeting be held at Ugar Island on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009 and all members/staff travel by Chartered airline to Yorke Island and transferred by Helicopter to Ugar Island.*

### **Motion Carried**

*It was noted that Council meeting at Kubin will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009.*

### ***Infrastructure Projects***

- CEO briefed members on the list of infrastructure projects.

Hammond Island

- Hammond Island outside of school hour care that was recently swamped/flooded from drainage area as a result of the recent rainy weather. Noted that the Department of Communities was also present at that time.
- Water Main – no water due to leak in the main.
- Executive Manager Engineering Services reported 3 issues are:
  1. It is an HR Issue
  2. Main water leak – engaged in discussions with Seriako Dorante on how to fix it
  3. Replacement of couple of valves
- Hammond Ferry – licensing has lapsed.
- Computer Network issue – cannot print off Citrix

Update 20/20

- Media draft releases have gone out.
- Profile of Mayor Gela
- Police Engagement
- 20/20 objectives and milestones plus Media release of Malu Sara was distributed to Councillors during the meeting.

Hovercraft Enquiries

- No update as yet.

Incidentals

- CEO to provide details/remittances to Councillors on all incidentals paid to Councillors.

Training

- Compulsory training for Island Managers and Councillors 2<sup>nd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009
- Island Managers will travel in on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> February: Island Managers training and Induction.
- 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> February: Computer Training.
- Councillors will travel in on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2009.
- Department of Local Government Assistance to engage with Bush TV to do a video clip on the roles and responsibilities of Island Managers and Councillors and broadcast it as an awareness to Communities via BRACs etc.

Malu Sara

- Findings handed down Coroner's Court on Malu Sara - Families now seeking compensation/liability.
- Councillors was requested to talk to families in their communities involved in this case:
  - a) To find out where families are with their issue after the findings.
  - b) If families haven't done anything to ask them if they want TSIRC to help them.
  - c) Councillors to liaise feedback from families to TSIRC.
  - d) TSIRC will then do a media release advising that there has been grassroots' liaison with families pursuing this issue.



Corporate & Finance Standing Committee Meetings

- Cr. Kris advised there was no corporate & Finance Meeting because nothing no reports to committee.
- Agenda discussions to consist of:
  1. Budgets & Contracts
  2. Councillors uniforms
- It was noted that two discussion papers (One on Councillors Uniforms and one on Staff Uniforms) be sent through to Corporate & Finance Standing Committee, before it goes to Council Meeting at Ugar.

Authorisation for Training

- In authorising employees attending trainings, the HR Manager checks with the Island Manager and appropriate Executive Manager first if it has been approved.
- HR is working with TAFE in identifying training needs.
- HR Manager to send email to Island Managers and Executive Managers on the process of authorising employees to do training eg. DETIR, TAFE etc.

Community Forums

- Look at roles and responsibilities of Community Forum.
- Need to do review and send it to Minister advising that it is not working.
- Membership of community forums - Executive Secretary to send gazetted notice of community forum membership to Councillors and Island Managers to place up on noticeboards in Communities.
- Code of conduct for Community Forum members - CEO to clarify on this issue.
- Agenda items for next Council meeting:
  - Code of Conduct - for Community Forum Members, Communications, Local Government employees, Councillors etc.

Councillors issues

- Cr. Guivarra's home office fax machine needs a phone line.
- Councillors receive a *Statement of Earnings* not a *Group Certificate* and it is issued as at 30<sup>th</sup> June each year.
- Councillors name badges to be worn when visiting other Communities.

**It was resolved that Council breaks for Lunch at 12.00pm**

Torres Strait Islander Land Act Review Proposed Consultation Visits

Proposed dates distributed to Members.

CEO to advise DNR that some of the proposed dates to visit the communities coincides with Council's General Meetings.

Council's Corporate Plan Meeting

It was noted that the Corporate Plan Meeting will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> March at Ugar Island, followed by the Council's General Meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

Council's Budget Meeting

It was noted that the Budget Meeting will be held in Cairns 3rd week in May 2009.

Asset Revaluation & Identification Tender

Report to go to Corporate & Finance Standing Committee for acceptance of recommendation, and subsequent presentation to March General Meeting.

Councillors to advise training requirements to HR Manager mandatory training – Directors Training, Governance for elected members, media training.

Airport Landing Fees

CEO distributed to some members their history statement of fees paid to individual communities on airports landing fees.

Territory Government


At Mayor's request, Cr. Kris gave members a brief background on the Bamaga Accord.

**MEETING CLOSED**

With no further discussions, the Mayor thanked Cr. Kris organising at the last minute the use of the TSRA Conference room to hold the TSIRC Ordinary Meeting.

5.10pm Meeting closed with a prayer by Cr. Mosby

  
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Cr. Fred Gela  
Mayor

  
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Mr John Scarce  
Chief Executive Officer