



**Torres Strait Island**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MINUTES**

**ORDINARY MEETING**

**Wednesday 14 December 2016 and Thursday 15 December 2016**

Please find attached Minutes of the above meeting held on Wednesday 14 December 2016 from 9:07am to 3:18pm and Thursday 15 December 2016 from 9:10am-12:39pm in the Philemon Pearson Memorial Hall, Warraber

## **Wednesday 14 December 2016**

### **Present**

Cr Fred Gela, Mayor

Cr Torenzo Elisala, Division 2 – Dauan Island (*by teleconference to 12:45pm*)

Cr David Bosun, Division 6 – Kubin Community at Moa Island

Cr John Levi, Division 7 – St Pauls Community at Moa Island

Cr Mario Sabatino, Division 8 – Kirriri Island (*by teleconference to 12:45pm*)

Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Division 9 – Iama Island

Cr Clara Tamu, Division 10 – Warraber Island

Cr Francis Pearson, Division 11 – Poruma Island

Cr Ted Nai, Division 12 – Masig Island

Cr Patrick Thaiday, Division 14 – Erub Island

Mr Chris McLaughlin, Acting Chief Executive Officer (ACEO)

Mr Rob Dwyer, Acting Executive Manager Corporate Services (AEMCS)

Ms Melissa Barmettler, Executive Manager Financial Services (EMFS)

Mr David Baldwin, Executive Manager Engineering Services (EMES)

Mr David Abednego, Executive Manager Community Services (EMCoS)

Ms Daisy Ketchell, Executive Officer (EO)

Ms Helen Tarrant, Executive Assistant (EA)

### **Apologies**

Cr Dimas Toby, Division 1 – Boigu

Cr Keri Akiba, Division 3 – Saibai Island

Cr Keith Fell, Deputy Mayor, Division 4 – Mabuiag Island

Cr Laurie Nona, Division 5 – Badu Island

Cr Rocky Stephen, Division 13 – Ugar Island

Cr Bob Kaigey, Division 15 – Mer Island

1. **9:07am-9:12am**                      **Opening Prayer and Welcome**

**Mayor's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The Mayor acknowledged Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and elders both past and present and welcomed all to the meeting. The Mayor asked Cr Levi to open the meeting in prayer.

Brother Harold, PBC Chair, welcomed the Mayor and Councillors to Warraber.

Cr Tamu welcomed all to Warraber and echoed the comments of PBC Chair – we are all one family.

The Mayor acknowledged Crs Sabatino and Elisala, participating in the meeting via teleconference.

2. **9:12am-9:16am**                      **Apologies**

The Mayor noted Cr Fell's apologies for this meeting.

Cr Nona – Approved Leave

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved* Cr Bosun, *Seconded* Cr Thaiday

That Council accepts the apology from Cr Nona for his absence at this meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Akiba – Approved Leave

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved* Cr Pearson, *Seconded* Cr Bosun

That Council accepts the apology from Cr Akiba for his absence at this meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Stephen – Approved Leave

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved* Cr Thaiday, *Seconded* Cr Tamu

That Council accepts the apology from Cr Stephen for his absence at this meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Toby – Approved Leave

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved* Cr Levi, *Seconded* Cr Pearson

That Council accepts the apology from Cr Toby for his absence at this meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Kaigey – Approved Leave

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved* Cr Thaiday, *Seconded* Cr Pearson

That Council accepts the apology from Cr Kaigey for his absence at this meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED**

3. **9:16am-9:17am**                      **Declaration of Conflict of Interest (COI) or Material Personal Interest (MPI)**

Nil.

4. **9:17am-9:19am**                      **Confirmation of November 2016 Ordinary Meeting Minutes**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved* Cr Nai, *Seconded* Cr Thaiday

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in November 2016 be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED**

5. **9:19am-9:23am** **Outstanding Strategic Ordinary Meeting Action Items**

Previous Action Item 11 - Fees & charges for IBIS

ACEO – still working on this. Will be dealt with via Local Law.

6. **9:23am-9:26am** **Amended Annual Operational Plan 2016/17**

AEMCS spoke to his report. There being no questions from Councillors, the motion was tabled.

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Nai, Seconded Cr Levi*

*That pursuant to section 174(1) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld), Council adopt the Amended Annual Operational Plan for financial year 2016–2017, as presented.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

7. **9:26am-9:37am** **BUDGET REVIEW 1**

EMFS spoke to her report and presented the revised budget position before depreciation. EMFS reported Council has maintained its commitment to improve its operating surplus. EMFS invited questions: Cr Sabatino queried whether figures are included for new builds? EMFS responded that they were as well as Repairs and Maintenance works.

Mayor referred to the agency frameworks and changes previously discussed.

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Nai, Seconded Cr Bosun*

*That Council adopts in accordance with s169 and s170 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 an amended budget for 2016/2017 Financial Year as presented, incorporating:*

- (i) Statement of Financial Position;*
- (ii) Statement of Cash flow;*
- (iii) Statement of Income and Expenditure;*
- (iv) Notes to Statement of Income and Expenditure;*
- (v) Statement of Changes in Equity;*
- (vi) Long Term Financial Forecast;*
- (vii) Financial Sustainability Ratios;*
- (viii) Capital Budget.*

The Mayor noted a different approach had been taken in terms of budget adoption. The workshop in Cairns had provided an opportunity for all Councillors to ask questions and satisfy themselves that they were comfortable to adopt the budget as tabled. Hence its adoption has been a very smooth process.

8. **9:37am-10:08am** **Saibai Water Infrastructure Replacement**

EMES spoke to his report. Primarily the purpose of the report was to repurpose/reallocate grant funding. The two projects originally identified are fully funded by MIP6 and it is necessary to review alternative eligible projects with Saibai Lagoon Pumps Switchboard and Saibai Reservoir Tank Replacement recommended.

The Mayor explained the background of Minor Infrastructure funding for Councillors present and by teleconference. The Mayor noted some concerns that budget presentation and operational plan proposed projects are fully funded and other projects are left the remaining funds. Our 'Top 15 projects' must be funded from the \$750K available with the hope that additional funds are secured to ensure we have sufficient budget to complete the projects. Engineering have used available funding to seek matched funding to their advantage to ensure that projects can be progressed.

The Mayor cautioned Councillors that we need to secure additional grant funds otherwise we will not be able to complete all projects as we would wish.

Cr Sabatino raised the issue of inefficiencies within some Departments. ACEO noted that it was something that every Department is looking at when developing the budget each year and at budget review.

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Levi, Seconded Cr Nai*

*That Council resolve to:*

*1. Nominate the following projects for repurposing to the TSRA for approval under the Minor Community Infrastructure Fund, recognising that Council must match the funding in a 50/50 agreement:*

- a. Saibai Lagoon Switchboard Replacement*
- b. Saibai Reservoir Replacement*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ACTION**

**EMES to seek additional grant funding for Capital Works.**

**EMFS to look at possible inefficiencies within 2017/18 departmental budgets.**

- 9. **10:08am-10:11am**                      **Development Application – Iama CSP – DATSIP – Reconfiguration of a Lot**

AEMCS spoke to his report. The ACEO clarified that approval was sought for the community survey plan only.

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Lui, Seconded Cr Bosun*

*That Council issue a Development Permit for 'Reconfiguration of a Lot' with the inclusion of the following conditions:*

- 1. *The proposed development is to be undertaken in accordance with the following approved drawings SP270867 & SP282719 subject to any alterations:*
  - a) *found necessary by Chief Executive Officer at the time of examination of drawings or during construction of the works because of particular engineering or cultural requirements and to ensure the works comply in all respects with the requirements of FNQROC Development Manual and good engineering practice; and*
  - b) *to comply with project specific conditions*
- 2. *All works must be carried out in accordance with the approved plans, conditions and specifications, to the requirements and satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer.*
- 3. *This approval is valid for four (4) years. A plan of survey must be lodged with Council for endorsement within this time, otherwise the approval will lapse.*

**Referral Agency Conditions**

No.	Conditions	Condition timing
<b>Reconfiguring a lot (1 lot into 110 lots)</b>		
<p><b>Schedule 7, Table 2, Item 4 – Clearing vegetation and Schedule 7, Table 2, Item 14 – Tidal works, or development in a coastal management district</b>—Pursuant to section 255D of the <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i>, the chief executive administering the Act nominates the Director-General of the <b>Department of Natural Resources and Mines</b> and the Director General of the <b>Department of Environment and Heritage Protection</b> to be the assessing authorities for the development to which this development approval relates for the administration and enforcement of any matter relating to the following condition:</p>		

No.	Conditions	Condition timing
1.	<p>The development must be carried out generally in accordance with the following plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan of Lots 2-13, 15-84, 90-115, 213 &amp; 313, cancelling Lot 13 on Plan TS177, prepared by Brazier Motti Pty Ltd, dated 18.11.2015 reference number SP270872.</li> <li>Plan of Lots 68 and 69, cancelling Lots 68 and 69 on SP270867, cancelling Lot 9 on TS169, prepared by Brazier Motti Pty Ltd, dated 04.11.2015 reference number SP282719.</li> </ul>	Prior to submitting the Plan of Survey to the local government for approval and to be maintained at all times.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10. 10:11am-10:14am Development Application – Dauan CSP – DATSIP – Reconfiguration of a Lot**

AEMCS spoke to his report. Cr Elisala via teleconference questioned the specific area which relates to the community survey plan. The Mayor provided additional background.

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Elisala, Seconded Cr Pearson*

*That Council issue a Development Permit for 'Reconfiguration of a Lot' with the inclusion of the following conditions:*

1. *The proposed development is to be undertaken in accordance with the following approved drawings SP270872 subject to any alterations:*
  - a) *found necessary by Chief Executive Officer at the time of examination of drawings or during construction of the works because of particular engineering or cultural requirements and to ensure the works comply in all respects with the requirements of FNQROC Development Manual and good engineering practice; and*
  - b) *to comply with project specific conditions*
2. *All works must be carried out in accordance with the approved plans, conditions and specifications, to the requirements and satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer.*
3. *This approval is valid for four (4) years. A plan of survey must be lodged with Council for endorsement within this time, otherwise the approval will lapse.*

**Referral Agency Conditions**

No.	Conditions	Condition timing
<p><b>Schedule 7, Table 2, Item 4 – Clearing vegetation and Schedule 7, Table 2, Item 14 – Tidal works, or development in a coastal management district</b>—Pursuant to section 255D of the <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i>, the chief executive administering the Act nominates the Director-General of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and the Director General of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to be the assessing authorities for the development to which this development approval relates for the administration and enforcement of any matter relating to the following condition(s):</p>		
1.	<p>The development must be carried out generally in accordance with the following plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan of Lots 1-9 and 13-77, cancelling Lot 9 on TS169, prepared by Brazier Motti Pty Ltd, dated 23 November 2015, reference number SP270872.</li> </ul>	At all times

**MOTION CARRIED**

11. **10:14am-10:15am**                      **Development Application – Kubin CSP – DATSIP –  
Reconfiguration of a Lot**

AEMCS spoke to his report and read from the report's recommendation.

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Bosun, Seconded Cr Levi*

*That Council issue a Development Permit for 'Reconfiguration of a Lot' with the inclusion of the following conditions:*

1. *The proposed development is to be undertaken in accordance with the following approved drawings SP271019 subject to any alterations:*
  - a) *found necessary by Chief Executive Officer at the time of examination of drawings or during construction of the works because of particular engineering or cultural requirements and to ensure the works comply in all respects with the requirements of FNQROC Development Manual and good engineering practice; and*
  - b) *to comply with project specific conditions*
2. *All works must be carried out in accordance with the approved plans, conditions and specifications, to the requirements and satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer.*
3. *This approval is valid for four (4) years. A plan of survey must be lodged with Council for endorsement within this time, otherwise the approval will lapse.*

**Referral Agency Conditions**

No.	Conditions	Condition timing
<b>Reconfiguring a lot</b>		
<b>Schedule 7, Table 2, Item 14 - Tidal works, or development in a coastal management district and Schedule 7, Table 2, Item 4 - Clearing vegetation</b> - Pursuant to section 255D of the <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i> , the chief executive administering the Act nominates the Director-General of <b>Department of Environment and Heritage Protection</b> and the Director-General of the <b>Department of Natural Resources and Mines</b> to be the assessing authority for the development to which this development approval relates for the administration and enforcement of any matter relating to the following condition(s):		
1.	The development must be carried out generally in accordance with the following plans: Plan of Lots 1-3, 5, 11-26, 31-34, 36, 41, 42, 45-53, 56-58, 60-77 80-86, 89-91, 93-100, 102, 103, 105-125, 129, 131-136, 143-145, 155, 158, 165, 175, 180-183, 221-224, 230-237, 241, 242 & 245 and Proposed Easements A, B & C in Lots 222, 224 & 99 respectively, Cancelling Lots 5 & 11-14 on SP248095 and Lots 16, 17 & 35 on TS304 - Sheets 1-26, prepared by Brazier Motti Pty Ltd, dated 20 September 2016, reference SP271019	Prior to submitting the Plan of Survey to the local government for approval and to be maintained at all times.

**MOTION CARRIED**

12. **10:15am-10:16am**                      **Development Application – Badu – Yalla St – DATSIP –  
Reconfiguration of a Lot Application**

ACEO noted that Council has the right to pass this item in Cr Nona's absence. However, Crs preferred that this report be tabled in Cr Nona's presence so the matter was left laying on the table.

Mr Ettie Gela joined the meeting at 10:16am

## **RESOLUTION**

### **General**

- 1) *The approved Reconfiguration of a Lot are permitted subject to any alterations:*
  - a. *found necessary by Chief Executive Officer at the time of examination of Engineering drawings or during construction of the works because of particular engineering or cultural requirements and*
  - b. *to ensure the works comply in all respects with the requirements of FNQROC Development Manual and good engineering practice and*
  - c. *to comply with project specific conditions and the following standard conditions of approval. All works must be carried out in accordance with the approved plans, conditions and specifications, to the requirements and satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer.*
  - d. *Approved drawings are listed in the table below.*

<b>Plan/Document Number</b>	<b>Plan/Document Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
AECOM 60340155-02-PU-01 Rev 1	Approved ROL Plan - AECOM 60340155-02-PU-01 Plan 2	5/5/2015
RPS Plan 10358-40	DA09-16-05(1) Tipoti St ROL - new lots 593 & 594 Badu	14/9/2016

- 2) *The conditions of any Operational Works Approval permits applicable to the subject lot or lots shall be complied with in conjunction with this development permit.*

### **Timing of Effect**

- 3) *The conditions of this development permit must be affected prior to the approval and dating of the survey plan, except where specified otherwise in these conditions of approval, or at Council's discretion.*

### **Road Dedication or Easements**

- 4) *The applicant is to open new road at the cul de sac head from Lots 594 and 603.*
- 5) *The applicant is to provide a stormwater easement over the pipeline within lot 277, or alternatively dedicate part of Tipoti Yabu as Public Road, at no cost to Council.*

**MATTER LEFT LAYING ON THE TABLE**

### **13. 10:16am-10:23am Leave In Advance**

The Mayor and all Councillors requested Leave in Advance for the January 2017 meeting.

### **RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Levi, Seconded Cr Pearson*

**MOTION CARRIED**

ACEO noted February 2017 meeting would be in Cairns during the Councillors workshop.

### **ACTION**

**AEMCS to include Solid Waste Management Commercial Fee workshop in the February 2017 workshop in Cairns.**

Cr Tamu applied for Leave in Advance of the February 2017 meeting.

Mr Etty Gela blessed the Morning Tea  
**10:23am-11:06am Morning Tea**

14. **11:06am-11:34am**                      **Closed Business**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Nai, Seconded Cr Levi*

*That in accordance with s275 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 it is resolved for the meeting to go into closed session to discuss:*

*(a) The appointment, dismissal or discipline of employees; or*

*(e) Contracts proposed to be made by it; or*

*(h) Other business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government or someone else, or enable a person to gain a financial advantage.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**14.1 CEO Recruitment**

**14.2 TSIRC 2016-90 Tender – Preferred Supplier Arrangement – Goods and Services Report #2**

**14.3 ACEO Strategic Update**

**11:34am-11:36am**                      **Out of Closed Business**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Nai, Seconded Cr Pearson*

*That Council move out of closed business.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**14.2 TSIRC 2016-90 Tender – Preferred Supplier Arrangement - Goods and Services Report #2**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Levi, Seconded Cr Bosun*

*That pursuant to the Local Government Act 2009 (Qld) and Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld), Council resolve to enter into Preferred Supplier Arrangements with the preferred suppliers for the categories specified in this report for a period of two (2) years + a 2 year option to extend at the discretion of Council, and delegate all power financial and otherwise to the Chief Executive Officer to execute agreements and approve purchase orders in accordance with the adopted budget.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

15. **11:46am-12:31pm**                      **Business Arising from Information Reports**

**15.1 ‘Authorised persons’**

Cr Lui asked what is meant by ‘authorised persons’. EMCoS they are the officers who can issue fines under Council’s Local Laws.

**15.2 Water Update**

EMES spoke to his information report regarding water levels at each Division. Main areas for concern are Saibai, Dauan and St Pauls. Recent rains have improved matters a little in Warraber, Masig and Poruma.

The Mayor discussed financial assistance previously received and how far this has gone to alleviate this situation. Mayor felt the \$860K would be better spent recommissioning springs, wells, bores, etc.

**ACTION**

**Mayor requested that ACEO convene a meeting with Chair and CEO of TSRA to discuss this water sustainability funding further. Particularly with regarding to how the \$860K is allocated.**

EMES noted it was 15 times more expensive to make water mechanically rather than to harness wells, springs and bores.

EMES noted that this time next year we will not have the funds to run desalination plants.

**16. 12:31pm-12:45pm Independent Panel on NPARIH – Fred Pascoe**

The Mayor provided an update to Councillors on his recent participation in the Independent review of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH) and the Remote Housing Strategy (the Strategy). NPARIH will end in 2018. A report will be compiled and submitted to the Commonwealth detailing the pros and cons and suggested improvements to the programme going forward. The data the State had on the Torres Strait NPARIH was incorrect with several Divisions omitted. The Mayor noted we need to ensure the correct data is provided and that we are on the same page. The Mayor has now tabled his position and will make a formal submission by 16 December 2016.

The Mayor further noted that no other recipients had supplied data to the review, so our data is being relied on to inform the State's response to other communities.

**12:45pm-2:04pm Lunch**

**17. 2:04pm-2:54pm General Business**

**17.1 Lot 37, lama**

Cr Lui raised a housing matter which he requested advice on. EMHS to determine the facts about representations to tenants of relocation.

**17.2 Kubin**

Cr Bosun raised again the continuing issue of Council Officers using Council vehicles for personal use. This is an on going situation. EMES has talked to the officer and he has been spoken to again more recently. This will now be escalated and readdressed.

**17.3 Poruma**

Cr Pearson requested the reintroduction of random drug and alcohol testing for Council Officers.

Cr Nai joined the meeting at 2:15pm.

**ACTION**

**AEMCS to advise Councillors of costs to reintroduce random drug and alcohol testing in the workplace.**

**17.3 Animal Control**

Cr Lui requested the bating programme be reintroduced.

**ACTION**

**EMCoS to reintroduce bating programme on lama.**

#### 17.4 Traditional Visitors

Cr Thaiday discussed the impact of traditional visitors. Mayor requested that AEMCS brief Councillors on costs. AEMCS had emailed Councillors with this information and will recirculate again for information. Provides a model, prepared by Finance to calculate costs of traditional visits. Current model has been based on 45 days for one person to visit our region over a year period. Cr Bosun noted visits to Top Western would be daily and far in excess of 45 days.

#### **ACTION**

**ACEO to prepare a media release re PNG's visitors' impact on our LGA.**

#### 17.5 Sustainable Housing Model

Cr Nai noted his attendance at the recent Sustainable Housing Model conference at JCU, Cairns from his professional development budget. It was an interesting conference where the use of standard building materials to build a top rated energy efficient house – rating 10 – with no additional costs from that of an average house was discussed. Cr Nai noted he would like to invite them to present to Council at a future meeting – perhaps February. Cr Nai noted there could be considerable benefits to all communities.

#### 17.6 Meeting Dates and Locations for 2017

#### **RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Levi, Seconded Cr Tamu*

*That Council fix dates and times for its Ordinary meetings, as follows:*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
No Ordinary meeting in January 2017	n/a	
Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 February 2017	Cairns	Ordinary
Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 March 2017	Iama	Ordinary/SARG
Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 April 2017	Dauan	Ordinary
Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 May 2017	Ugar	Ordinary/SARG
Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 June 2017	Badu	Ordinary
Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 July 2017	Erub	Ordinary/SARG
Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 August 2017	Masig	Ordinary
Tuesday 19 and Wednesday 20 September 2017	Kubin	Ordinary/SARG
Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 October 2017	Saibai	Ordinary
Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 November 2017	Mer	Ordinary/SARG
Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 December 2017	St Pauls	Ordinary

#### 17.7 February 2017 Councillors' Workshop – date and location

The Councillors' Workshop is proposed for two weeks in Cairns 13-24 February 2017 including SARG, Ordinary Meeting, Risk Workshop, Audit Committee and JV workshop.

Cr Thaiday blessed the Afternoon Tea

**2:54pm-3:18pm Afternoon Tea**

18. 3:18pm Meeting Close

The meeting closed in prayer by Cr Thaiday.

**Thursday 15 December 2016**

**Present**

Cr Fred Gela, Mayor

Cr David Bosun, Division 6 – Kubin Community at Moa Island

Cr John Levi, Division 7 – St Pauls Community at Moa Island

Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Division 9 – Iama Island

Cr Clara Tamu, Division 10 – Warraber Island

Cr Francis Pearson, Division 11 – Poruma Island

Cr Ted Nai, Division 12 – Masig Island

Cr Patrick Thaiday, Division 14 – Erub Island

Mr Chris McLaughlin, Acting Chief Executive Officer (ACEO)

Mr David Abednego, Executive Manager Community Services (EMCoS)

Ms Daisy Ketchell, Executive Officer (EO)

Ms Helen Tarrant, Executive Assistant (EA)

**Apologies**

Cr Dimas Toby, Division 1 – Boigu

Cr Torenzo Elisala, Division 2 – Dauan Island

Cr Keri Akiba, Division 3 – Saibai Island

Cr Keith Fell, Deputy Mayor, Division 4 – Mabuiag Island

Cr Laurie Nona, Division 5 – Badu Island

Cr Mario Sabatino, Division 8 – Kirriri Island

Cr Rocky Stephen, Division 13 – Ugar Island

Cr Bob Kaigey, Division 15 – Mer Island

Mr Rob Dwyer, Acting Executive Manager Corporate Services (AEMCS)

Ms Melissa Barmettler, Executive Manager Financial Services (EMFS)

Mr David Baldwin, Executive Manager Engineering Services (EMES)

19. **9:10am-9:15am** **Opening Prayer and Welcome**

**Mayor's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The Mayor welcomed all to the meeting and invited Cr Levi to open the meeting in prayer.

The Mayor welcomed guest presenters from Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service.

20. **9:15am-10:15am** **PRESENTATION: *Dr Ruth Stewart, Deputy Chair; Dr Tony Brown, Director of Medical Services; Andy Marshall, Executive General Manager – North and Charlotte Tamwoy, Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service – proposed nursing posts in the Torres Strait and impact on Indigenous health workers and cessation of IPA (Isolated Practice Accreditation) for Indigenous health workers***

Andy Marshall thanked the Mayor for his welcome and introduced his colleagues.

TCHHS are looking to establish more nurses on Dauan and Saibai – generally have two or more nurses at every island. Not their intention to have single nurse posts going forward.

The Mayor and Councillors discussed some recent issues in the region.

Charlotte Tamwoy provided an update on training and what training is currently underway.

Dr Ruth Stuart noted Cr Nai and former Councillor Horace Baira are both board members and several of the board are based on the Cape and in the region. Shares our frustration with rate of change. Seeking to get Torres Strait Islanders interested in leadership positions.

The Mayor acknowledged the good work TCHHS are carrying out. However, there are challenges. Sharing openly in good spirit and faith the Mayor noted Indigenous staff morale is very low. Concerns around racism in its structure and processes within Qld Health; double standards. The issue around access to personnel with qualifications needed to address life threatening matters.

The Mayor noted TCHHS would be invited to a future meeting and valued this open dialogue.

The Mayor noted the need to look at targeting screening programmes in areas of rheumatic heart disease and Hepatitis B. The Mayor would liaise with Dr Brown out of session.

Dr Stuart noted previous comments that overcrowding impacts adversely on health. Their funding is provided to spend on hospitals. Housing, clean water and education however are key.

The Mayor thanked all for coming to visit us today and felt it was a positive a discussion. The Mayor wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with some time to spend with family and loved ones.

EO blessed the Morning Tea  
**10:35am-11:35am Morning Tea**

21. **11:35am-12:39am** **General Business Continued...**

**21.1 St Pauls**

Cr Levi sought to find out which blocks were available for purchase. ACEO will check and will advise Cr Levi out of session.

## **21.2 New Housing**

Cr Pearson asked whether these houses can have a concrete slab underneath. The Mayor report that between State and TSIRC funds will be identified to make this happen.

R&M budget of \$5m only has \$1.4m left. Two communities were excluded from the R&M programme – Masig is one – Mayor is advocating for R&M works to occur in those communities too.

Cr Tamu queried what is the timing of completion for these new houses? Families want to know when they can move in and they still do not have a water tank. Cr Tamu had been advised that it is not the responsibility of NPARIH but of Council but there is still no timeframe. ACEO responded that advice was imminent. BAS have approved purchase of water tanks and consultant will be engaged to install. ACEO will check with John Coyle and advise Cr Tamu out of session.

## **21.3 IEOP**

Cr Lui noted that he had been asked to sign the IEOP and would prefer if someone could take him through it, as it's a little confusing. ACEO will follow up with Cr Lui out of session. Cr Lui is concerned not to raise unrealistic expectations. The Mayor reminded Cr Lui that if he was not happy with it, he should not sign it. The Mayor will not sign off on a plan unless the Councillor is happy.

## **21.4 Presentation**

Donald Billy, Australian Border Force, presented a plaque in appreciation to the Mayor and Council in appreciation of our on going support of Australian Citizenship.

The Mayor, on behalf of Council, thanked Australian Border Force for this presentation – even though we have not conducted a citizenship ceremony since 2008.

## **21.5 Mayor's Closing Remarks**

The Mayor thanked all present for their dedication in our roving clinic, the Ordinary meeting. Big Eso to all.

The Mayor thanked ACEO for acting in that role and noted he had been with the organisation for nine years as well as the EMFS and hopes they will be with the organisation for many more.

The Mayor acknowledged the good work of the EA who is soon to leave Council to return to Europe. The Mayor noted he and Councillors look forward to welcoming her back to the Torres Strait another time, noting there will always be a welcome for her and a place for her in the organisation. The Mayor noted she left 'big shoes to fill'.

The Mayor thanked Cr Tamu for her hospitality and to Danielle Bob and her colleague for looking after the Mayor and Councillors.

## **22. 12:39pm Meeting Close**

The meeting closed in prayer by Cr Lui who asked for blessings on the community and for EA in her future endeavours and for all Crs and staff.