



MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING

TUESDAY 20TH MARCH 2012

Please find attached Minutes of the above meeting held on Tuesday 20th March 2012 at 9.25am – 3.35pm at *the Erub Sporting Complex*, Erub Island.

**Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC)
Ordinary Meeting
Held at the *Erub Sporting Complex*, Erub Island
Tuesday 20th March 2012**

TUESDAY 20TH MARCH 2012

Present: Cr. Fred Gela, Mayor
Cr. Kenny Bedford, Deputy Mayor, Division 14 - Erub
Cr. Donald Banu, Division 1 – Boigu Island
Cr. Torenzo Elisala, Division 2 – Dauan
Cr. Keith Fell, Division 4 – Mabuiag Island
Cr. Wayne Guivarra, Division 5 – Badu Island
Cr. Nancy Pearson, Division 8- Hammond
Cr. Fraser Nai, Division 12 – Yorke
Cr. Florianna Bero, Division 13 – Ugar
Cr. Ron Day – Division 15 – Mer Island
Mr. John Scarce, Chief Executive Officer
Ms Dania Ahwang, Deputy CEO
Mr. Patrick McGuire, Executive Manager Engineering Services
Mr. Chris McLaughlin, Chief Legal Officer
Mrs Dinah Sailor, Executive Secretary.

Observers: Nil

Apologies: Cr. Ron Enosa, Division 3 – Saibai Island
Cr. David Bosun, Division 6 – Kubin, Moa Island
Cr. Toshie Kris, Division 7 – St. Pauls
Cr. Walter Mackie, Division 9 - Iama
Cr. Willie Lui, Division 10 - Warraber
Cr. Phillemon Mosby, Division 11 – Poruma Island
Mr. David Abednego, Executive Officer
Mr. Anthony Bird, Executive Manager Corporate & Finance

9.25am: Meeting opened in prayer by Cr. Day.

ONE MINUTE SILENCE

There was a minute silence to pay respect to families who have lost their loved ones recently.

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- ✦ Mayor Fred Gela took the opportunity as Mayor of TSIRC currently in Caretaker mode in acknowledging:
 - the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting is held;
 - the PBC Chair Mr. Jimmy Gela;
 - Cr. Kenny Bedford in his capacity as Councillor of Erub, and Deputy Mayor of TSIRC, and;
 - welcoming constituents of Erub Community
- ✦ PBC Chair, Mr. Jimmy Gela
 - Welcome to Country
- ✦ Cr. Kenny Bedford
 - Welcomed Mayor and Councillors
 - Privileged and honoured to host the Council Meeting second time again on Erub, and at last time of Councillors term.
 - Acknowledged PBC Chair, Mr. Jimmy Gela.

ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGY – COUNCILLORS ABSENCE

APOLOGIES NOTED

- Cr. David Bosun, Division 6 – Kubin, Moa Island (*escorting Niece to Boarding School, Atherton*)
- Cr. Toshie Kris, Division - St. Pauls, Moa Island (*attending Senate Estimates in Canberra*)
- Cr. Phillemon Mosby, Division 11 – Poruma Island (*due to weather cancellation of flights from Cairns*)
- Cr. Walter Mackie, Division 9 - Iama (*Attending TAFE Course in Cairns*)
- Cr. Ron Enosa, Division 3 – Saibai, Moa Island (*no show at Airport – Other Commitments*)
- Cr. Willie Lui, Division 10 - Warraber (*Attending TAFE Course in Cairns*)

CR. BOSUN

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr. Bedford, *Seconded* Cr. Nai that Council accepts the apology from Cr. Bosun for his absence at this meeting.

Motion Carried

CR. KRIS

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr. Banu, *Seconded* Cr. Elisala that Council accepts the apology from Cr. .Kris for his absence at this meeting.

Motion Carried

CR. MOSBY

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr. Bero, *Seconded* Cr. Day that Council accepts the apology from Cr. Mosby for his absence at this meeting.

Motion Carried

CR. MACKIE

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr. Fell, *Seconded* Cr. Bero that Council accepts the apology from Cr. Mackie for his absence at this meeting.

Motion Carried

CR. ENOSA

RESOLUTION

It was noted that Cr. Guivarra *Moved* and Cr. Fell *Seconded* the motion to accept the apology from Cr. Enosa for his absence at this meeting.

Motion Lost - Majority Against.

CR. LUI

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr. Nai, *Seconded* Cr. Bedford that Council accepts the apology from Cr. Lui for his absence at this meeting.

Motion Carried

PRESENTATIONS

1. CHANGE OF LEGISLATION DRUG MISUSE ACT

- Mayor welcomed John Harris to the meeting.
- Mr. Harris introduced Detective Snr Sgt Kevin Goan (Officer-in-Charge of the Far Northern Region Drug Squad) and is also an expert in the Drug Misuse Act.
- Mayor advised there was a proposal put to Council in looking at amendments to legislation on the Drug Misuse Act but was initially objected to by Council.
- Detective Snr Sgt Kevin Goan gave a briefing on his background and presented Council their proposal on the amendments of the Drug Misuse Act through a Power Point presentation.
- Detective Goan:
 - advised that the basic proposal was that with the detriment cause to Indigenous Communities throughout Cape York and Torres Strait and elsewhere in Australia, particularly Queensland, they sought to have legislated that there be a circumstance of aggravation added to the Act which sees a greater sentence impose on those who cause that greater detriment to Indigenous Communities.
 - Seek the support from TSIRC to see a change in legislation in a form of a separate circumstance of aggravation to Section 6 of the Drugs Misuse Act that says if worthy of a greater sentence if you do supply into an Indigenous Community or alternatively that we have legislated that it is a separate offence for supply into an Indigenous Community and that offence carries a greater penalty or punishment.
- Mayor
 - Some Councillors in support of this but requests preferred words on what's basically going to be proposed.
 - Advised Detective Goan that a formal letter be provided and addressed to the CEO with a set of words or context on what is proposed here today for the CEO and Chief Legal Officer to look into to it to ensure Council feed into the whole process and capture everything.
 - Detective Goan advised that sought actual support and concept to change the Legislation for an increase deterrent to supplying drugs into Indigenous Communities as a Council
- It was noted that:
 - Council support it in principle, pending decision of the new incoming Council
 - The new Council will put it to a vote if all good pending on the Legislation amendments.
 - Council will also consider looking at minimizing any risk of ambiguity and issues eg looking at restricting overzealous or trigger happy QPS Officer.
- Enforcement at local level – in terms of policing
 - Cr. Day noted that Legislation is one thing, enforcement is another – need to marry the two.
 - Mayor agreed reiterating Cr. Day's comments that QPS need to look into enforcement at local level.
 - There is concern there in looking at how can we ensure that the penalty that is applied here in Queensland/Australia is the same

across the border (Papua New Guinea) because it should be the same.

- Detective Goan advised that there is a provision to do that based on the investigations and risks they conducted and are hoping to go across to PNG based on that information.
- It was noted that discussion on Community Policing and future Community Policing has been deferred to General business
- Mayor thanked Detective Goan advised that would be helpful to bring that information back to the new incoming Council in terms of looking at making the decision and moving on from where we left off.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr. Bedford, *Seconded* Cr. Banu that Council support “in principle” changes to the drug misuse act 1986 to cause an aggravated offence to the supply of drugs **INTO A SCHEDULED COMMUNITY**. Further reserving Councils right on the matter of supporting such legislative change, after being presented with the draft legislative amendments.

Motion Carried.

Against: Cr Day

(Cr. Day reason: Legislation one thing enforcement another)

2. FISH FIN

- Cr. Bedford gave a brief update on the Fishing Industry in the Region partly to do with his role as TSRA Portfolio for Fisheries.
 - Thanked the Regional Council for:
 1. the good work and the co-operations and support given to the development of Fisheries throughout the Region.
 2. on behalf of the TSRA Fisheries team that has been touring the Torres Strait and delivering information through consultation process to update where fin fish is at.
 - One of the key messages that the team has been presenting at those community meetings is the very importance under the new structure from our roles within the TSRA Board, particularly with the change from the CFG representation from every community now to the IPAC members to the limited number of ten (10) expert advisors to the Board.
 - There has been some changes on the ground and Community has been encouraged to continue to be active in their local association/voices as it is important under that restructure that there is community link into that PZJA structure.
 - will continue to be in that TSRA Portfolio for Fisheries until September(TSRA new Election).
 - Would like to be given the opportunity to present to Council whether elected or not in the next term at the first Council meeting in the new term to ensure and bring up to speed a smooth handover on fin fish.
 - Look forward to the continued support that Regional Council has provided to the TSRA but to Fisheries Development in general.

- will look forward to present to next Council Meeting in the near future in his Portfolio as TSRA Board Member on Fisheries.
- Mayor thanked Cr Bedford:
 - reiterating that fin fish had grown since his involvement and even the dialogue and settings he has set and the opportunities the region has now.
 - For his role as TSRA Portfolio for Fisheries, and for his support in balancing his role as well in his capacity as a Councillor.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES - COUNCIL MEETING

✦ **Amendments to Minutes**

- amended spelling error 'access' to 'excess' under Monthly Infrastructure Report.
- amended wording under General Business "In Kind Donations" 2nd paragraph to: *"Councillors were provided with the opportunity to email CEO a listing, identifying matters that Council would like discretionary decision making powers over noting that this occurs now, however to have it well and truly documented in Council's policy of processes. Some examples would be to waiver fees and charges that would apply for the use of Council assets and plants for significant community/cultural gatherings, religious or sporting activities"*.

✦ **Awareness to Household into consumption of excess water**

- CEO advised letter will be sent to all households on awareness of excess water charges, implications etc by end of March month.

✦ **Removal of old vehicles body**

- Environmental Heath Workers (EHW) – Audit of old vehicles in communities, still happening.
- Implement a policy into Local Laws with fees as detriment or solution to funding of removal of old car bodies – CEO advise ongoing.
- The delay on the audit of old vehicles is that EHWs has been attending training in Cairns over the last two (2) weeks which included the Authorized Person training as well.
- An EHW from a neighboring Community will go across to the community who do not have an EHW and to their audit.
- The plan for removal of old vehicles is:
 - EHW do an audit of old cars in communities.
 - Council to get consent from owners where the vehicles are located
 - Work with Engineering to remove them from the Community.
- It was noted that:
 - Cr. Banu's query on how do EHW apply themselves on ground was referred to General Business.
 - Chief Legal Officer is looking at Local laws for fees and charges of vehicles coming into the communities.
 - As audit is being done for cars in the communities at this time, need to also look at audit the amount of cars coming into communities as highlighted by Cr. Day.
 - Fees to be enshrined in the Policy are currently underway and are something that will be adopted by the new Council.
 - Another issue for new Council is looking at fees and charges for dumping materials in communities such as contractors etc.

➤ **Employee Information – Candidate for Councillor**

- CEO advised Information sheet to employees wishing to stand for Council has been done and sent out to all employees.

➤ **Street Lighting Audit**

- Executive Manager Engineering advised he approached Ergon on the following things:
 - Because of the number of lights out at Mabuiag it's considered a priority and have approached them on a number of occasions and they have now agreed that they will replace the lights.
 - Sought timetable from Ergon as at the end of last week they have been unable to tell us when they will do it – we are still pressuring them to get that answer.
 - Will advise Cr. Fell once there is a response from Ergon on the matter.
- In addition in relation to the other lights we undertake the audit as we go around to the various communities.
- It was noted that as Council has a commercial arrangement with Ergon in engaging them to do the work, Council still have to pay them as they are the only ones who can do it.

RESOLUTION

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - COUNCIL MEETING

Moved Cr. Guivarra, Seconded Cr. Bero that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 27 January 2012 be adopted as true and accurate.

Motion Carried

It was resolved that Council break for morning tea at 11.10am – 11.30am.

TORRES STRAIT TREATY

- Lengthy discussions by Councillors on the option paper presented today to Clarify Council's position in relation to the approval process of prior advice notices under the Treaty Strait Treaty.
- if Councillors don't consider the option paper, then the Mayor welcome any input into the paper in relation to any other options or considerations Council would like to see.
- Its only to document that approach because TSRA is trying to look at what level of responsibility and the role of the new incoming TSRA Board member whether it will be the same person or someone different.
- Mayor
 - ▶ If the individual is the same person in the position as TSRA rep and Councillor – no problems there but the primarily responsibility lies with the Councillor to sign off on it because they need to know whether there are resources to support it eg water restrictions in the community etc.

- ▶ membership on TIMS and JAC where some Councillors have been sitting on it not in their capacity as Councillor but sit on the committees and financially support it as TSRA Board member.
- ▶ push to DFAT to have TSIRC Mayor's speaking rights, not observation status because it is not supporting and not reflecting the democracy that is practiced in our Region under Local Government Act.
- ▶ if you disconnect that then you've got a TSRA Board member if it is a different person sitting there talking about issues as a result of Treaty Arrangement where your community has direct respondent to, that you haven't been fed into that process if you as a Councillor elected again.
- ▶ A paper will be put to the TSRA Board Meeting prior to September election on what that responsibility is going to be and how they going to work in partnership through the shared approach with other Government reps.
- ▶ Mayor put the challenge to Councillors that they are the only one that can make that noise and put that position formally on the table at TSRA Meeting.
- ▶ As TSRA Board members put a policy position, get it ratified and resolved there.

- ▶ ***It was noted that there were strong views from majority of Councillors that the delegated responsibility is the Councillor's only, to sign prior advice and no one else.***

Cr. Guivarra

- Residential ruling when applying for TSRA Board Member in the Community.

Mayor

- Same ruling that applies to Local Government where applicant applying for TSRA Board Member must have two (2) years residential continuously residing in that Community.
- If an individual has not been residing in that community for two (2) years, he can run, get elected and then if it is opposed, its investigate and if found that he was not living in that Community for two (2) years residential period then that person will be hoisted out.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr. Fell, Seconded Cr. Bero that Council adopt that the Local Government Councillor democratically elected by his/her Division of TSIRC that Divisional Councillor is the sole person with the delegated authority to sign off on those prior advices.

Motion Carried.

IBIS

- ▶ CEO briefed members on IBIS issue.
 - ▶ Boigu and lama spoke about wanting to take over IBIS Stores to have it locally managed.
 - ▶ As per the relevant Act, IBIS should be entertaining with community based organisations that wish to take it over – same regime as Enterprise Divestment and then it goes to the Minister for his/her approval.
 - ▶ Purpose of the paper was to create discussions.
 - ▶ Could write back to those organisations with expressed:

1. highlight the relevant sections of the Act for them to be able to do it
 2. or get in contact directly with IBIS
 3. or if they want Council to assist with this process Council could write to IBIS informing them of requests from these organisations and how we going to facilitate the process in moving forward, that way Council can also keep an handle of what has transpired
- ▶ Brings up the questions of other communities who have not signed that 30 year lease or about to sign or wish to jump on the same wagon.
 - ▶ Chief Legal Officer advised:
 1. If you have a 30 year release now doesn't mean that it is null avoid.
 2. Request to the Minister has to come from the Councillor whether they agree that the organisation is an appropriate body. Councillor of that Division has to write to the Minister.
- ✦ Mayor
- ▶ gave a brief history on IBIS referring to Cr. Banu's comments.
 - ▶ Mayor advised that if you looking at taking on retails – it has to be all in or not at all, to have the whole region take it on together, cannot be island by island, it has to be a package approach, partnership arrangement than that's something need to look at, rather than going in on your own.
- Cr. Banu advised that he cannot speak on behalf of Cr. Mackie as he is not present but if it is something they can look at then will have that dialogue with Cr. Mackie.

For Information.

ENTERPRISE DIVESTMENT

- CEO briefed members on good news story.
- TSRA is able to give council the funds to upgrade any of our assets providing that we have an exclusive right to Community to undertake the business at the end of the day.
- Process will take a little bit more than 30th April.
- Communities that was parked to one side Masig, St. Pauls, Kubin, Saibai, Warraber, Mer and lama – now that it's dissolved it should be able to be pushed through in the near future.

For Information.

PROJECT INITIATIONS LGIMS

- New System will be come on 1st July 2012.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr. Fell, *Seconded* Cr. Banu that Council endorses the Project Initiation Document for the Implementation of the Local Government Information Management System.

Motion Carried.

EXECUTIVE MANAGER REPORTS

ENGINEERING SERVICES

MONTHLY INFRASTRUCTURE REPORTS

Executive Manager to include charts from the last 5 months of Community in similar draft for Agenda Report to Next Council Meeting after Election as requested by Cr. Bedford.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr. Bedford, *Seconded* Cr. Bero that Council receive the attached monthly reports and authorise release to DLGP and TSRA.

Motion Carried.

LATE REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr. Pearson, *Seconded* Cr. Guivarra that Council adopts the Annual Report for 2009-2010.

Motion Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS

➤ Mabuiag Training

- ▶ Executive Manager Engineering Services
 - ▶ Mabuiag has two (2) employees with ARO qualifications, 1 STP Operator and the DEO has qualifications on water.
 - ▶ Will be running a Training Program and able to fit twelve (12) employees across Council area in the training including one from Mabuiag. Noted that there isn't any dollars (\$) to do more than twelve (12) persons.
 - ▶ Have relied heavily on a Technical Officer to train the staff but as far as training goes that's all Council has to offer.
 - ▶ It was noted that Mabuiag was not the only one experiencing that problem, there are other communities as well.
- ▶ Mayor
 - ▶ Funding always a issue in relation to delivering training.
 - ▶ There are a lot of program areas that needs to provide capacity building to perform their work task appropriately and not only understand the role but have a qualification on that role as well.

- ▶ Most cases it is a requirement to have basic level of qualifications despite funding being an issue.
 - ▶ To date there are a large number of people that are qualified as opposed to twelve (12) months ago.
 - ▶ Despite funding being an issue, Council continue to lobby to try and secure that much needed investment from Government – those funds will look at a stage approach in delivering the necessary training in those areas, in particular the DEO position as they look after our essential services and compliance is a big requirement with Council as Local Government.
- Desalination Plan
- ▶ Delay in installation of the Desalination Plant.
 - ▶ Executive Manager Engineering Services
 - ▶ Refer to updated information in the Monthly Infrastructure Report on the upgrades of the desalination plants.
 - ▶ Giving the Contractor certain directions - going through an encouragement phase with him to complete his task, assist him, have him provide a program as to where he is going next etc.
 - ▶ Understand the frustrations but doing the best they can and working towards a resolution, however, cannot make any promises.
- Apprenticeships - HR Recruiting Process
- ▶ Delay in recruiting Apprentices as per advertisement for individuals to apply for the Building Team and the need to provide an update to those who individuals who expressed their interests of what's happening with those positions.
 - ▶ Deputy CEO advised:
 - ▶ Executive Manager, Building Team working with apprentice's area in HR to ensure Council an adequate qualified Building Supervisor is on board to supervise the apprentices once they're appointed.
 - ▶ Systems need to be put in place before actually going though the recruitment process in selecting apprentices to commence with the Building Team - a similar process will apply for the Builders
 - ▶ Engineering Department and HR visited communities over the last couple of weeks to sign up Engineering Apprentices.
 - ▶ It is envisaged that the process will takes a bit longer with recruiting apprentices but Council wants to make sure that they get the proper supervision to go right through to the end of the period and obtain their trade qualifications.
- Housing Transition to Department of Communities
- ▶ Query on whether the Department of Communities (Housing and Homelessness) was to take over housing by the end March as proposed.
 - ▶ Deputy CEO advised:
 - Hammond Community consultation was proposed for Saturday 24th March but notified by the Department in Brisbane that they did not have enough budgets.
 - So it is envisaged that the phase roll out will begin hopefully in April with four (4) communities, Hammond, Badu, Kubin and St. Pauls in the first instance.
 - Go into communities and do community consultations
 - Sign up tenants on new Tenancy Agreements

- The Consultations will be a joint presentation by the Department of Communities and TSIRC on:
 - What the role out is
 - When its going to happen
 - How its going to effect each of the tenants within the community
 - Tenancy rights
- ▶ It is proposed that the roll out of those communities will take up to a period of two (2) months, once that's been implemented then the Department will look at rolling it out into the other communities.
- ▶ It is envisaged that they go through that process of signing up all 15 communities with the final community to sign up in December 2012.
- ▶ As the Housing Manager finishes at the end of March, Council is looking at what process to support through the Divisional Managers and the Multi-skilled Admin Officer in Council Offices to ensure that some of that Tenancy administration is taken care of, until the Department actually takes over the Tenancy Management role.
- ▶ Mayor advised time is going to be critical and acknowledges the issue that have been raised are the particular issue that has been raised with the Department each time.
- ▶ It was noted that:
 - Tenants will pay under a new formula the "Burketown formula" - more beneficial, cost effective and cheaper.
 - Need to look at providing awareness to tenants as part of an educational process on:
 - What their roles and responsibilities are
 - what their obligations are under the Agreement
 - what the Landlord's obligations are eg. maintenance etc.
 - look at employment of local Housing Officers on ground to assist with consultation in communities due to communication barrier.
- ▶ With the approach taken by Badu as per Cr. Guivarra's comments, Mayor advised Council will need to take on that level of responsibility until the transition by the Department on Tenancy Management arrangements is changed.
- ▶ Housing Rental Payments
 - ▶ Ongoing issues with tenants not paying rent.
 - ▶ Council has very strong Debt Recovery Policy in place which process includes:
 - Identifying tenants in arrears, who owe rent to Council
 - Notice to tenants by letters acknowledging they own rent and given a change to enter into debt repayment plan.
 - They get a reminder notice to clear the debt before it goes in front of a magistrate in small tribunal claim
 - Court ratifies that debt to Council – if they still don't do anything in repaying that debt then Council applies the process of bankruptcy
 - Seven (7) years of bankruptcy to pay back the debt
 - If paid with that 7 years the tenant is discharged from the bankruptcy, if not then another Seven (7) years is added until the debt is paid off.
 - ▶ A tenant that moves from the community, lives in Cairns and pay another rent should not have a Tenancy Agreement in the Torres Strait.
 - ▶ if they have another premises or living in another occupied or have another Rental Agreement their Tenancy Agreement is automatically cancelled.

➤ BRACS Operation

- ▶ 4 positions (20hrs per week) funded till 30th June 2012.
- ▶ Discussions have been fruitful.
- ▶ Future in terms of RIBS operation in community is looking very positive.
- ▶ At this time unaware formally of any other discussions that has taken place in relation to BRACS into the future.
- ▶ Flagged it as an issue of employment prospects for RIBS operators and how far we have budgeted for them.
- ▶ Unable to speculate further on this issue until Council has received formal commitments in black and white on financial support relating to the roll out into all communities.
- ▶ TSRA has taken this on board and Council is working closely with them in relation to hopefully receive something formal on a positive outcome.

➤ Weed it out Program/Treaty

- ▶ Cr. Fell referring to the 'Weed it Out Program' suggested that one solution to the selling of drugs in the TSIRC Communities, is to look at trading goods only instead of cash between TSIRC communities and coastal villages of PNG.
- ▶ Cr. Bedford
 - There has been some commercial trade for traditional items through the Treaty Process.
 - It's been an agenda item on TIM and JAC meetings and has got to the point where there is provision in guidelines that says there is acceptance of small transactions.
 - However, pressure on those commercial nature that particularly see people on the other side benefit commercially through trade, so where there is recognition in identification, there are sometimes cash transaction and reality is that there is going to be cash transactions.
 - In terms of compliances, Its not really seen as an issue but in spirit of the Treaty, it is not for commercial transactions but barter only.
 - But in this day and age it is not going to make any difference to the person selling the drugs.

➤ Mobile Polling Booths – State Elections

- ▶ Councillors raised concerns on missing out on voting with the Mobile Polling Booths going around in the communities at this time.
- ▶ Arrangements has been made with the CEO for Cr. Elisala, Cr. Banu, Cr. Bero, and Cr. Day to travel into Thursday Island to do their voting at the Court House Wednesday 21st March 2012, and return travel as well back to their respective islands.

➤ Removal of Archives from SES Shed – Hammond Island

- ▶ Request by Cr. Pearson who will be taking on the position of the SES Local Controller on Hammond for Council to remove archive boxes from the SES shed on Hammond.
- ▶ The capacity of storage area at Hammond Council office is minimal.
- ▶ Executive Manager was delegated that task to move those archives across to the TI Office.

✦ Community Policing – Future Direction for TSIRC Region

- ▶ CEO briefed Councillors:
- ▶ Council has been forwarded a Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- ▶ The MOU is an Agreement with QPS in relation to policing in the Torres Strait.
 - Highlights a commitment till 2021 for a partnership with TSIRC and the QPS.
 - Within 8 – 10years looking at developing three (3) Police Stations outside of Badu throughout the Torres Strait to be manned by QPS.
 - Council working through Service Agreement which is also attached to the MOU, to ensure the 38 community Police Officers across the Torres Strait is kept at its current ratio as that will determine the money that Council will receive.
 - QPS are comfortable with all the discussions with paying all the wages and operations of the Community Police over that period of time.
- ▶ CEO advised nothing to present to Council at this stage but it was very pleasing that the last conversation the Mayor and he had with the Deputy Commissioner was deduced nearly absolutely everything on to writing on to a piece of paper that Council & QPS can formally sign in the near future.
- ▶ Mayor:
 - Full commitment from State to look at Stations in a cluster model – a step in the right direction.
 - Opportunities for our Community Police:
 - to work in partnership and in harmony with QPS Officers
 - to be in a position where they are provided with that support from QPS Police Officers with the necessary power.
 - To be provided with every available opportunity to look at Justice Entry Programs where they can become full sworn in Constables.
 - In the past it was difficult for some communities - if they went off to do the Justice Entry Program they wouldn't return and get the job in their own local community because there is no police station.
 - State sending a clear message that they do acknowledge that there is a real issue down on ground and they cannot apply all their resources unless they are in partnership with TSIRC. They are:
 - open to having frank discussions in looking at building the capacity of those Community Police.
 - really genuine about this and has come back with timeframes imbedded in the MOU.
 -
 - Policing Model for our future is that those stations will have QPS officers equipped with vessels to visit other communities day or night.
 - Would like Councillors to start reflecting on what Council have actually achieved as we will be in a situation where we will place

our community and the Community Police in a situation where they've never been.

- Need to give that sense of security of the employment of council on ground, that come next financial there will be funding there to employ them.
- Enforcement needs to start somewhere and Council have in this approach, capacity building at this time:
 - Council have been delivering the amount of training because of the funding restraints.
 - Council has been working within but have also delivered more than what was delivered in the past.
- need to take time to start reflecting on what has happen in the past and what Council have actually achieved today because there will be a situation where Council place Community and the Community Police in a situation where they have never been.

➤ Home Ownership

- ▶ Deputy CEO advised no update on this issue. Don't think Department of Communities is including that as part of their community consultation, it's a separate area of that Department to talk about Home Ownership.
- ▶ Mayor provided brief update on Home Ownership:
 - ▶ Know that we have the ability in partnership with the PBC subject to an ILUA (Indigenous Land Use Agreement) being executed PBCs to breath life into 99yr lease.
 - ▶ Council do have the ability under legislation to issue a 99yr lease – that 99yr lease is dead until an ILUA is executed.
 - ▶ Once it is executed there is ability for an individual to buy his own home.
 - ▶ There are discussions yet to occur and Department will be engaging with Communities post-election to talk about this in greater detail
 - ▶ There is a flow chart that has been developed to look at progressing from Step 1 through till the end, even to the extent where there will be a process there prior to the decisions is made the applicant is well aware of his/her responsibility that comes within a Home Owner, the full costs repairs and maintenance etc.
 - ▶ There are discussions that has to be formulated with the various lending bodies such as NAB, CBA, TSRA to look at a Policy change so that way if an applicant want to buy their own home, they can approach these lending bodies to access those investments to buy the house.
 - ▶ There are also discussions that need to occur as well to look at what would happen in any case or any special circumstances if that individual defaults and cannot pay his loan – if it is a house NAB will look at securing that investment back in however, shape or form, they will sell out.
 - ▶ So there needs to be a reform mechanism in place to protect the integrity and the make up that constitute our very identity which is our communities but the opportunities are going to be there – that's one measure.
 - ▶ Katter Lease – discussions happening in June 2012.

✦ Mabo Award

- ▶ In the interim Councillors agreed to have a committee for the Mabo Award with a membership of 3-4 people to look at this process.
- ▶ Council to delegate the Mabo Award Committee to guide and provide directions to the new Council on:
 - Categories
 - No of awards
 - Budget
- ▶ Committee members nominated:
 - Cr. Day
 - Cr. Bero
 - Cr. Guivarra
- ▶ CEO delegated Jess James in providing that Admin supporting the process of Mabo Day Awards.
- ▶ Cr. Bedford advised need to be aware of the impact it would have on communities in organising the 20th Anniversary celebrations with the timeframe being such a small window after the Election.

✦ SES - Badu

- ▶ It was noted that:
 - Still getting funding for SES per community for those Programs.
 - Badu SES is starting to ramp up their activities having access to the SES and a delivery of a vehicle just recently for the SES Team.
 - Mr. Danny Mosby (EMC) is going around to work with the SES Group in communities as well.

CLOSING REMARKS

- ✦ Cr Fell and Cr Bedford express their gratitude of thanks to Mayor, Councillors for their support and contribution during their term with Council.
- ✦ Cr. Bedford as Councillor for TSIRC Division 14 – Erub, and Deputy Mayor especially thanked:
 - ▶ Councillors and Staff for attending the last meeting at Erub for this term.
 - ▶ Erub PBC Chair for his welcome and his attendance
 - ▶ The community members for their support and attendance and to extended families for their contributions in hosting this meeting.
 - ▶ Look forward to next Council meeting at Erub whether or not he is elected as Councillor for the new term of Council.
- ✦ Mayor
 - ▶ Thanked Councillors, Cr. Bedford as Deputy Mayor for their support and contributions throughout the term, Erub Divisional Manager and Staff, Human Resources, and the Community of Erub, for their hospitality, catering and making everybody feel at home here at Erub.
 - ▶ Since Amalgamation Council has had many challenges, moving from Community Services Act to Local government Act and it was a big change for our community and for leadership.
 - ▶ The biggest challenge for Council was to reassure our people that despite the changes services will continue to be provided at that same level and Council will strive to look at lifting up that standard and level of service.
 - ▶ Things that our Island council weren't policed on and didn't have to comply with, today we as Local Government had to as we had no choice.

- ▶ Amalgamation was something that was imposed on us, we did put up a proposal what we think was the best fix for our region but it was not accepted. So we had to quickly find other ways of doing business in our region under the many constraints we were given.
 - ▶ Human Resources play a critical part to the big picture as Council's engine room, from Senior Management to the Garbage Truck Operator. Council can set the policies, the framework and chart the course, but without our human resources we can't achieve anything.
 - ▶ Advised Councillors to recognize and thank their partners, families, and children for supporting them in their role as Councillors.
 - ▶ Encouraged Councillors to always move collectively as colleagues because it shows that unity.
 - ▶ Most critical part is to make sure that people are aware of what we are doing. Communication is the key it holds everything together.
 - ▶ Still more Challenges to come - \$300M housing investment to roll out, in the New Year with the new Council, and sustainability.
 - ▶ TSIRC is totally unique from other Local Government Councils they don't have the legislative challenges. We have challenges from small to big, we face in delivering services in our Region and as small as community such as Ugar they are still our constituents.
 - ▶ We will effect changes to the livelihood of our people and our families.
 - ▶ Thanks to CEO and DCEO, and the Executive Management who all have a big role to play as well.
 - ▶ Esso everyone noting that his role has been a challenge, have no regrets and enjoyed every bit of it.
- ✦ Deputy Mayor on behalf of Council:
- ▶ acknowledged Cr. Gela for his fine leadership that he provided to Council and to the Region as the first Mayor of TSIRC.
 - ▶ Thought that it is very difficult for people over a four (4) year period to appreciate the amount of work that goes into it and the see the significant changes that happened over that time or more importantly see the foundation laid by this Council.
 - ▶ Thank Cr. Gela for his leadership at a very challenging time in the history of Torres Strait Governments and on behalf of all the Councillors wished him all the best in recontesting your position as Mayor.

COUNCIL MEETING CLOSED

3.35pm With no further discussions, the meeting closed in prayer by Cr. Day

.....
Cr Fred Gela
Mayor

.....
Mr John Scarce
Chief Executive Officer