



TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

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MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUE

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COUNCIL SUPPORTIVE OF MERIBA OMASKER KAZIW KAZIPA (TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER TRADITIONAL ADOPTION) BILL

Last Friday (07/08/20), the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee held public and private hearings on Saibai Island alongside the Member for Cook – Cynthia Lui, who introduced the Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Bill 2020 to Queensland parliament.

Council's unequivocal support of Bill:

Mayor Cr. Phillemon Mosby, Cr. Getano Lui Jnr. AM (Deputy Mayor & Councillor for Iama), Cr. Noah (Councillor for Mer), and Cr. Tabuai (Councillor for Saibai) represented Council at the hearing and its unequivocal support of this Bill.

Mayor Mosby stated during the hearing that “this Bill carries a specific and important significance as a new nexus between LORE and LAW. This shows a continual progression from the Mabo Decision to the Bill before us today. The Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa Bill will assist in the strengthening of a traditional practise and Ailan Kastom that has existed since time immemorial” and that “today is a significant event in strengthening our cultural identity.”

Independent Commissioner model:

Mayor Mosby spoke of Council's support for the independent Commissioner model set forth in the Bill, and that person being a suitably qualified Torres Strait Islander, stating “this aligns to our Ailan Kastom, and the principles of privacy and respect. This process will enable us to determine, truly in the spirit of self-determination, our place in a western society”.

Members of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee were: Mr Aaron Harper MP (Committee Chair) - Member for Thuringowa, Mr Michael Berkman MP - Member for Maiwar, Mr Marty Hunt MP - Member for Nicklin, Mr Mark McArdle MP (Committee Deputy Chair) - Member for Caloundra, Mr Barry O'Rourke MP - Member for Rockhampton, and Ms Joan Pease MP - Member for Lytton.

For more information on the Bill, visit: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/HCDSDFVPC/inquiries/current-inquiries/MOKK2020>

- ENDS - HAMMOND

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