



**STRATEGIC ACTION REFERENCE  
GROUP (SARG) STANDING  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
25 OCTOBER 2024**

# MINUTES

**Time:** 1.00pm

**Venue:** Committee Meeting Room, Level 3, 111 Grafton Street, Cairns  
*Microsoft (TEAMS) Meeting ID: 452 580 280 897 | Passcode: YskRaT*

**PRESENT:**

**Mayor/Chair**

Chair - Economic Growth Advisory Committee

Chair - Environment & Climate Adaptation Advisory Committee

Chair - Governance & Leadership Advisory Committee

Chair - Housing, Families and Safe & Healthy Communities Advisory Committee

Cr Phillemon Mosby

Cr Rocky Stephen

Cr Kabay Tamu

Cr Dimas Toby

Cr Keith Fell

**OFFICERS:**

**Chief Executive Officer**

Executive Director Community Services

Executive Director Corporate Services

Executive Director Engineering Services

Executive Director Financial Services – *left meeting at 3.00pm*

Executive Assistant to the CEO – *left meeting at 2.20pm*

Executive Assistant to the Mayor – *left meeting at 2.20pm*

TSIRC Secretariat

Mr James William

Mr Dawson Sailor

Ms Susanne Andres

Mr David Baldwin

Ms Hollie Faithfull

Ms Jessica Conway

Ms Trudy Lui

Mr Darryl Brooks

**APOLOGIES:**

Deputy Mayor – *on leave*

Chair - Culture, Arts, Land & Heritage Advisory Committee – *prior commitment*

Executive Director Building Services

Cr Ranetta Wosomo

Cr Chelsea Aniba

Mr Wayne Green

**A. WELCOME & QUORUM CONFIRMATION | ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | OPENING PRAYER  
| OBSERVANCES**

At 1.05pm, the Mayor welcomed Committee Members and staff to the meeting, noting that a quorum of members was present.

The Mayor made the following acknowledgements:

- Our Heavenly Father for his awesome wisdom, knowledge, understanding, favour and blessings throughout our lives;
- The Traditional Custodians throughout Zenadth Kes and the communities and constituents that Council serves; and
- All Elders – past, present and emerging.

The Mayor also conveyed to those members of the Torres Strait Islander community – throughout the homelands and on the Australian mainland – who may be observing Sorry Business at this time, the thoughts and prayers of the Committee.

The Mayor invited participants to observe a minute of silence for remembrance purposes, especially those going through the processes of Sorry Business.

Cr Keith Fell delivered the opening prayer.

## **B. NOTING OF APOLOGIES**

The Mayor advised that he has received apologies for the Deputy Mayor (Cr Ranetta Wosomo) and Cr Chelsea Aniba (Chair - Culture, Arts, Land & Heritage Advisory Committee).

#SSC24-28/2024-10/B

CR STEPHEN / CR TOBY

**The SARG Standing Committee accepts the apology of Cr Ranetta Wosomo and Cr Chelsea Aniba for the 25 October 2024 Standing Committee meeting.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **C. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

The Mayor invited attendees to table any prescribed or declarable COI matters. No COI declarations were made. The Mayor requested that Committee Members advise of any COI declarations should they arise throughout discussions.

The Mayor also invited attendees to advise of any legal matters that would prevent members from participation in today's meeting. No matters were declared.

## **1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (14 AUGUST 2024)**

#SSC24-28/2024-10/1

CR TOBY / CR STEPHEN

**The SARG Standing Committee confirms the Minutes of its meeting held on 14 August 2024.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **1.1. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) spoke to this item. The update was noted by the Standing Committee.

### **1.2. ACTION ITEMS FROM FORMER STRATEGIC ADVISORY REFERENCE GROUP (SARG) STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) spoke to this item advising that a review of these action items will be provided at the December 2024 Standing Committee meeting.



## 2. MAYORAL ITEMS

### 2.1. Council Workshop (4-14 November 2024, Cairns)

The Mayor advised that he and the Chief Executive Officer are locking in the final parts of the agenda for the November 2024 Council Workshop.

This work will assist Council to prepare strategically on how to move forward with its Advocacy Priorities post-State Government elections on 26 October 2024.

Particular sessions planned for Councillors during the upcoming Workshop will include:

- Improvements/Standardisation for Community Information Sessions across Divisions for consistent messaging on strategic matters;
- Days 1 and 2 (4-5 November 2024) will be focussed on:
  - TS&NPA ROC engagement moving forward in relation to Blue Security (water and Treaty issues)
  - Torres Strait Coalition (TSRA and TS&NPA ROC) to provide an update on regional governance/regional assembly matters, as well as the independent health review;
- LGAQ discussions (particularly Peak Services) will be held on Day 4 to provide training on COI, confidentiality, dual roles, policy development cycles, etc. to enable Councillors to legally undertake their duties;
  - *Cr Toby recommended that LGAQ Updates/Sessions/Training/Refreshers be a standing item for each Council Workshop.*
- The Masig Statement Action Plan (including each Divisional Taskforce, funding submission to TSRA and the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Maritime Strike Exhibition in Brisbane being organised by the Queensland Museum);
- Navigating Native Title Matters and DOGIT Responsibilities. The Council Workshop will consider a refocus around Council developing MOUs with individual PBCs for each Division to strengthen Council's strategic leadership in the region, as well as to allow Council to deliver progress in relation to the high on—ground needs and priorities for 'shovel ready' communities - particularly in relation to critical needs such as housing. In addition, such an arrangement will assist in 'empowering' local PBCs in undertaking their own role within the Division.
- Treaty Matters:
  - using the 50th Anniversary of the Torres Strait Treaty (1975-2025) as an example of self—governance/regional governance and how it should be/could be reshaped over the next 50 years
  - standardising Prior Approval Requests across the region in response to current regional priorities
  - review legacy issues associated with the Torres Strait Treaty (fishing zones, etc.)
- Transitional Action Plan (TAP) discussions, with Mr Scott Mason (CEO LG Services Group) to deliver an in—depth update (including costings, operational commitments/requirements, messaging to the community on TAP, etc.).

**3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER****3.1. General Update *(verbal)***

The Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) spoke to this item covering key issues such as:

- the November 2024 Council Workshop currently being the main focus for Council's administrative arm
- preparations are under way to brief the incoming Government on the TSIRC 11 x priorities and the challenges currently facing Council
- the Comprehensive Assets Valuation is currently underway
- the Operational Investment Plan and the Asset Investment Plan will be explored further at the November 2024 Council Workshop, including financial sustainability for Council (i.e. water losses on Badu currently costs Council \$750k annually due to poor and ageing infrastructure)
- Starlink has been installed in all Divisional Offices. Cabling issues in buildings has nothing to do with Starlink and the Executive Director Corporate Services will take the matter of issues currently being experienced on Mabuia on notice.
- Seaswift analysis has been completed and the Chief Executive Officer will be travelling to Brisbane on 28 October 2024 to have discussions with Seaswift on these matters and a further update will be provided at the November 2024 Council Workshop.

**4. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

Nil.

**5. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE****5.1. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report – Housing, Families and Safe and Healthy Communities (HFSHC) Advisory Committee**

#SSC24-28/2024-10/5.1

CR TOBY / CR TAMU

The Strategic Action Reference Group (SARG) Standing Committee:

1. notes the 1st Quarter Report submitted by the Housing, Families and Safe & Healthy Communities (HFSHC) Advisory Committee for the period July-September 2024 and endorses the report for consideration by Council; and
2. recommends that Council endorse the appointment of the HFSHC Advisory Committee Chairperson as Council's representative on the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' Animal Management Taskforce.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



**6. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE****6.1 Media Policy**

#SSC24-28/2024-10/6.1

CR STEPHEN / CR TAMU

The Strategic Action Reference Group (SARG) Standing Committee notes the Council Media Policy.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****6.2 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report – Economic Growth Committee**

The Executive Director Corporate Services (Ms Susanne Andres) spoke to this item. The Standing Committee noted the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Meeting Minutes submitted by the Economic Growth Committee.

**7. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

The Mayor acknowledged the ongoing work underway by the Engineering Services teams.

The Executive Director Engineering Services briefly updated the Standing Committee with the following:

- the November 2024 Council Workshop to include discussion around the Marine Infrastructure Program (including a recap on the Australian Government funding which is targeted for Saibai, Dauan and Boigu) and an update on the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy;
- Water security issues indicate that 2024 will be worse than 2015 (currently there are 5 communities on Level 4 restrictions and another 2 which are very close to Level 4). In good news, the Erub Water Reservoir asset renewal work is almost complete and similar projects on St Paul's is next (or possibly already underway) and the tanks on Erub or St Paul's will be transferred to Poruma in the interim.

**8. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

Nil.

**9. MATTERS ARISING****(a) Travel/Accommodation Logistics for November 2024 Council Workshop**

The Mayor sought an update on travel and accommodation and T/A arrangements. The Chief Executive Officer will send out advice to Councillors as soon as possible on Monday (28 October 2024).

**(b) Telstra Facilities**

Cr Kabay Tamu requested that a formal request be made to Telstra to review its facilities across the region in view of the recent incident on Warraber. The Mayor advised that he will follow up with the TSRA as this issue rests with the Australian Government (Telstra) as a service provision matter.

**(c) Garbage Trucks for Divisions**

Cr Keith Fell sought an update on the roll-out of garbage trucks for the Divisions, as he has observed that the ongoing delays are impacting staff on ground as a result of them having to manually collect garbage bins.

The Executive Director Corporate Services (Ms Susanne Andres) advised that the status of the roll-out is presented in the monthly Corporate Services Information Report to Council, and the current delays are from the Gold Coast City Council who need to hold these vehicles for use as they await delivery of their new fleet.

**(d) QFleet Matter**

Cr Keith Fell sought an update on the QFleet matter.

The Executive Director Corporate Services (Ms Susanne Andres) advised that the Financial Services Directorate is reviewing the matter as there is currently no budget available.

**(e) Councillor Leave**

The Mayor advised that the Deputy Mayor will be on leave until 4 November 2024. The Mayor will be taking leave in December 2024. The Mayor also requested Committee members to advise if they are taking leave over the upcoming December/January period.

**10. NEXT MEETING – 4 DECEMBER 2024 (Microsoft TEAMS)**

Noted by the Standing Committee.

**11. CLOSE OF MEETING & PRAYER**

The Mayor thanked Standing Committee members and officers for their attendance and contributions throughout the meeting. The Mayor formally closed the meeting at 3.25pm and delivered the closing prayer.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 5 March 2025



Cr Phillemon Mosby  
Mayor  
Torres Strait Island Regional Council  
Date: 5 March 2025



James William  
Chief Executive Officer  
Torres Strait Island Regional Council  
Date: 5 March 2025