



ORDINARY MEETING  
18 SEPTEMBER 2024

# MINUTES

**Time:** 10.30am  
**Venue:** (Microsoft TEAMS)  
Meeting ID: 450 516 418 607  
Passcode: St9vxc

PRESENT:

**Mayor**

Division 2 – Dauan  
Division 3 – Saibai  
Division 5 – Badu / **Deputy Mayor**  
Division 7 – Wug (St. Pauls Community), Mua Island  
Division 8 – Kirirri (Hammond Island)  
Division 12 – Masig  
Division 13 – Ugar  
Division 14 – Erub  
Division 15 – Mer

Cr Phillemon Mosby  
Cr Torenzo Elisala  
Cr Chelsea Aniba  
Cr Ranetta Wosomo  
Cr John Levi  
Cr Seriako Dorante  
Cr Ted Mosby  
Cr Rocky Stephen  
Cr Nixon Mye  
Cr Bob Kaigey

APOLOGIES:

Division 1 – Boigu  
Division 4 – Mabuiag  
Division 9 – Iama  
Division 10 – Warraber  
Division 11 – Poruma

Cr Dimas Toby  
Cr Keith Fell  
Cr Aggie Hankin  
Cr Kabay Tamu  
Cr Francis Pearson

Executive Director Financial Services  
Executive Director Engineering Services

Ms Hollie Faithfull  
Mr David Baldwin

ABSENT:

Division 6 – Arkai (Kubin), Mua Island

Cr Iona Manas

OFFICERS:

**Chief Executive Officer**

Executive Director Building Services  
Executive Director Community Services  
Executive Director Corporate Services  
Head of Engineering Services  
Head of Financial Services  
Interim Executive Advisor to the CEO  
Executive Support Coordinator  
Executive Assistant to the Mayor  
TSIRC Secretariat

Mr James William  
Mr Wayne Green  
Mr Dawson Sailor  
Ms Susanne Andres  
Mr Adeah Kabai – *for AI 13 only*  
Ms Nicola Daniels – *for AI 8.1 only*  
Ms Jessica Buxton – *for AI 3.1 only*  
Ms Sharon Russell  
Ms Trudy Lui  
Mr Darryl Brooks

GUESTS:

Ms Nicole Carroll, Regional Development &  
Engagement Manager FNQ, nbn Local

*Deputation* (Proposed nbn  
Telecommunications Upgrades &  
Australian Government's School  
Student Broadband Initiative)

Mr Anthony Ottaway

*Agenda Item 3.3* (CEO Report)

CONFIRMED

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

At 10.40am, the Mayor welcomed Councillors to the Ordinary Council meeting for the month of September 2024, noting that a quorum of members were present.

**B. NOTING OF APOLOGIES**

The following apologies were noted by Council:

Division 1 – Boigu	Cr Dimas Toby
Division 4 – Mabuiag	Cr Keith Fell
Division 9 – Iama	Cr Aggie Hankin
Division 10 – Warraber	Cr Kabay Tamu
Division 11 – Poruma	Cr Francis Pearson

**Resolution**

#C24-28/2024-09/B

CR ANIBA / CR LEVI

**Council accepts the apologies of Cr Dimas Toby, Cr Keith Fell, Cr Aggie Hankin, Cr Kabay Tamu and Cr Francis Pearson for the September 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

The Mayor called for Councillors to declare any COI matters. No declarations were made. The Mayor also requested that if there are any legal matters involving Councillors, then Councillors should advise the Mayor as soon as possible.

**D. LIVE STREAM**

Nil.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (21 August 2024)**

#C24-28/2024-09/1

CR WOSOMO / CR MOSBY

**Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21 August 2024.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**1.1. Confirmation of Draft Minutes of Special Council Meeting (4 September 2024)**

#C24-28/2024-09/1.1

CR LEVI / CR WOSOMO

**Council confirms the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 4 September 2024.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 1.2. ACTION ITEMS UPDATE

The Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) spoke to this item. Items noted as 'completed' during this update will be deleted from future reports. The update was noted by Council.

## 2. MAYORAL REPORT

The Mayor spoke to his report. The report was noted by Council.

- *The Mayor left the meeting at 11.30am and returned at 11.40am. Cr Ranetta Wosomo (Deputy Mayor) chaired the meeting during this absence.*

## 3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

### 3.1. TSIRC Advocacy Action Plan 2024-25

#C24-28/2024-09/3.1

CR WOSOMO / CR MYE

**Council resolves to:**

1. agree that Water Security will now form an additional priority (Advocacy Priority 11) for Council;
2. accept the draft Advocacy Action Plan (with Water Security added as Advocacy Priority 11) and for this to be finalised for publication; and
3. accept the aspirational statement "Advancing our unique region to be Sustainable, Prosperous and Liveable for all of our Communities."

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Mayor also confirmed that he has had full consultation and input into the Advocacy Plan and fully supports the document. The Mayor also expressed his appreciation to the CEO and his Executives for expediting this to completion in such a tight timeline.

Cr Rocky Stephen strongly recommended that the outstanding issue of Ugar dredging requirements and the transportation options for Ugar and Dauan be included. The Mayor stated that Advocacy Priority 1 (Safe, Accessible and Affordable Transport Infrastructure) is the TSIRC overall framework for the region and the Chief Executive Officer advised that priorities specific to Ugar and Dauan can be referenced to Advocacy Priority 1, but will need to be pursued as separate projects.

- *The Mayor adjourned the meeting from 12.00nn to 1.00pm for lunch.*

**3.2. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – TSIRC and Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)**

#C24-28/2024-09/3.2

CR KAIGEY / CR WOSOMO

**Council resolves to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding 2024-2027 between TSRA and TSIRC.**

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**Action:**

Chief Executive Officer to ensure that the Masig Statement is formally incorporated into the MOU between TSRA and TSIRC.

➤ *Mr Anthony Ottaway (ADO & Co Consultancy Pty Ltd, Chartered Accountants) joined the meeting.*

**3.3. CEO Monthly Report (September 2024)**

The Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) spoke to his report.

Mr Anthony Ottaway (ADO & Co Consultancy Pty Ltd, Chartered Accountants) joined the meeting to speak to the 'Organisational practices and financial review' aspects mentioned in the CEO's Monthly Report.

#C24-28/2024-09/3.3

CR MYE / CR ANIBA

**Council notes the Chief Executive Officer Report for September 2024.**

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

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**DEPUTATION: nbn Presentation on Regional Connectivity**

Council noted the deputation from Ms Nicole Carroll (Regional Development and Engagement Manager FNQ, nbn Local) on the proposed nbn Telecommunications Upgrades and her role within the Far North to lift the digital capability of regional and remote communities.

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**4. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

Nil.

**5. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

Nil.

**6. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

- *Prior to briefing Council on AI 6.1, the Executive Director Corporate Services (Ms Susanne Andres) advised Council of the following applications which have been withdrawn for Council consideration at this meeting:*
  - *Item 3 (CG2025-018 – Stanley Marama of Boigu) – ineligible. If supporting documentation is received, the application can be internally assessed/decided out of cycle and will require endorsement by Cr Toby; and*
  - *Item 4 (CG2025-024 – Malu Kiwai RLC Boigu) – ineligible. Should acquittals and evidence of spending of previous grant funding by Council be provided, the current application can be internally assessed/decided out of cycle and will require endorsement by Cr Toby.*
- *The Mayor recommended that the application by Josephine David of Iama (CG2025-026) not be considered by Council in the absence of Cr Aggie Hankin (no indication in the paperwork that Cr Hankin supports the application). A recommendation from Cr Hankin is first required and the application can then be decided out of cycle.*
- *Cr Rocky Stephen declared a COI in relation to the application by the P&C Association of Ugar (CG2025-027) as he is a member of the Association. Cr Stephen also advised Council that he supports the application only for a total of \$2,500, exclusive of GST.*

**6.1. Community Grants Program Allocation (August 2024)**

#C24-28/2024-09/6.1

CR STEPHEN / CR ANIBA

- (a) Council resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to applicants in accordance with the *Community Grants Policy*.**
- (b) For the reporting period, three (3) Community Grants applications were received for eligible amounts that require Council resolution:**
  - 1. CG2025-015 – RESTORATION REVIVAL AUSTRALIA, SAIBAI for the amount of \$1,000.00, exclusive of GST;**
  - 2. CG2025-016 – GAWATHAW KAAGUL RLFT, BADU for the amount of \$500.00, exclusive of GST;**
  - 3. CG2025-027 – P&C ASSOCIATION of UGAR for the amount of \$2,500.00, exclusive of GST;**
- (c) The Council notes the following:**
  - **zero (0) Community Grants applications were declined due to unavailable funds**
  - **two (2) Community Grants applications were deemed ineligible for funding**
  - **one (1) conflict of interest (COI) were declared**
  - **the grant applications processed out-of-cycle and funeral donations provided in August 2025.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- *The Deputy Mayor (Cr Ranetta Wosomo) advised Council that she has set a cap on her annual Community Grants budget to a total amount of \$2,000 per month. Therefore, if a total of four (4) applications are received for that month, those applications will be supported to a total of \$500 each (i.e. 4 x \$500 = \$2,000).*

**6.2. Funding Acquisition Report (August 2024)**

#C24-28/2024-09/6.2

CR LEVI / CR MOSBY

**Council notes the report and its content.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6.3. TSIRC Annual Closedown 2024-25**

#C24-28/2024-09/6.3

CR DORANTE / CR ANIBA

**Council endorses that the annual Christmas/New Year closedown of operations commence from 12noon on Tuesday 24 December 2024 and reopen on Thursday 2 January 2025.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6.4. Council Insurance Renewal 2024-25**

#C24-28/2024-09/6.4

CR WOSOMO / CR MOSBY

**Council notes the Council Insurance Renewal Report 2024-2025.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**7. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

Nil.

**8. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

**8.1. Financial Dashboard Report (August 2024)**

#C24-28/2024-09/8.1

CR ELISALA / CR MYE

**Council receives and endorses the monthly financial statements attached to the officer's report for the 2024-25 year to date, for the period ended 31 August 2024, as required under Section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**

#C24-28/2024-09/9

CR ELISALA / CR STEPHEN

**The Council resolves to close the meeting to the public pursuant to section 254J of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to allow the Council to discuss items listed on the agenda for closed discussion and for the reasons outlined under those items.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

Nil.

**11. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

Nil.

**12. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

Nil.

**13. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE****13.1. TSIRC 2024-788 Marine Infrastructure Procurement – Expression of Interest**

*[Reason for this matter to be discussed in Closed Business: This matter contains information on negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government".]*

#C24-28/2024-09/13.1

CR STEPHEN / CR WOSOMO

**Council resolves to:**

- Invite an expression of interest (EOI) procurement process in accordance with Section 228 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* for the Torres Strait Islands Marine Infrastructure Project TSIRC 2024-788 comprising proposed jetty replacement works at Dauan, Saibai and Boigu Islands; and
- That an EOI is the preferred approach on the basis that it would be in the public interest to invite expressions of interest before inviting written tenders due to the nature of the proposed project work that requires specialist equipment and capabilities that are not readily available in the region, and that will generate maximum interest, transparency and competition; and
- Delegate power to the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this Procurement Process in accordance with section 288 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and as per Council's procurement and ethical sourcing policy.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



**13.2. Information Report – Capital Works**

*[Reason for this matter to be discussed in Closed Business: This matter contains information on negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government".]*

#C24-28/2024-09/13.2

CR STEPHEN / CR WOSOMO

**Council resolves to note this report.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Action:****Inundation of Homes on Mer as a result of Coastal Erosion (Cr Kaigey)**

Chief Executive Officer to organise a meeting of the Community Services and the Engineering Services Teams to do a Rapid Assessment of the impacted area and pursue urgent action from the Queensland and Australian Governments around these emergent issues. [The Head of Engineering Services advises that a Seawalls specialist coastal engineer has been engaged to do an assessment on the coastal erosion to inform how best to address the matter at an operational level to inform when seeking an appropriate level of funding to address the situation].

**14. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

Nil.

**15. RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE MEETING TO OPEN DISCUSSION**

#C24-28/2024-09/15

CR STEPHEN / CR ANIBA

**The Council resolves to move out of closed discussions pursuant to Section 254I of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**16. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION**

Council formally resolved on the decisions taken in relation to Agenda Items 10-14 above.

➤ *Cr Stephen left the meeting at 3.10pm.*

**17. MATTERS ARISING****(a) Border Closure Dates for Torres Strait Treaty Traditional Visits over the Christmas/New Year Period 2024/2025**

Cr Aniba requested that Council discuss this matter at the October 2024 Ordinary Council meeting. The Mayor agreed and advised Council that SARG will be discussing these matters and the Mayor will be meeting with newly appointed Treaty Liaison Officer.

The Mayor also advised Councillors that under no circumstances should the level of approved traditional visitors outnumber the population on Island as this imposes health and safety and security risks to our communities as well as serious border security issues.

Cr Elisala advised the Mayor that he would send through contact details of a Professor from New South Wales who recently addressed a GBK meeting on Boigu to give a new perspective communications between the two Traditional Inhabitant peoples under the Treaty.

**(b) MOU between TSIRC and GBK**

Cr Elisala (in his capacity as a member of GBK) advised Council that the TSIRC members on GBK have been tasked to push for a joint meeting between the two bodies. The Mayor responded by indicating that such a development is in the best interest of Council and the community for this to happen because there has been inconsistency with conversations/messages to community from both sides. The Mayor added that this matter will need to be progressed through the Culture, Arts, Land and Heritage (CALH) Advisory Committee in the first instance.

The Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) addressed the Council (and more directly those Councillors who hold dual positions on TSIRC and GBK in relation to this matter) stressing quite clearly that the proper process moving forward would be for GBK to formally write to Council with a proposal. The Chief Executive Officer further stressed that if GBK has tasked GBK members who are also TSIRC members to progress GBK business whilst in attendance at TSIRC meetings, then those Councillors immediately have a Conflict of Interest. It is in the best interest of community that all major stakeholders in the region have a good, effective working relationship that has been properly formalised. When Councillors sit in TSIRC meetings, it is the Councillors' sole responsibility to deliberate on Council's best interest and the best interest of community because that is an elected Councillor's public mandate.

The Chief Executive Officer further stressed that this same principle applies to all Councillors who hold dual positions on any other bodies.

The Chief Executive Officer concluded, therefore, that it would be prudent for GBK to formally write to TSIRC seeking to explore partnership on what terms.

**Action:**

Mayor to forward to the CALH Advisory Committee Chair (Cr Aniba) information regarding aspirations to be captured in a MOU between TSIRC and GBK.

**(c) Mandatory Training for Councillors**

The Mayor stressed and requested that all Councillors ensure that they complete their mandatory training as Local Government elected members, advising that there are legislative deadlines for this training to be completed and failure to meet those deadlines will result in penalties such as suspension from Office. The Chief Executive Officer further advised that this compliance requirement is singularly the most urgent matter individually for Councillors to attend to.

**Action:**

**ALL COUNCILLORS** – to prioritise completion of the mandatory training as Local Government elected members.

**(d) Masig Statement Taskforce for Each Division**

The Mayor requested that Councillors prioritise the establishment of the Masig Statement Taskforce on each Division as impetus continues to build around the region and on the mainland to strategically progress the Masig Statement aspirations.

**18. INFORMATION REPORTS****18.1. BUILDING SERVICES – Building Services Report (August 2024)**

#C24-28/2024-09/18.1

CR ANIBA / CR MOSBY

**Council resolves to note the Building Services Report for August 2024.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**18.2. BUILDING SERVICES/COMMUNITY SERVICES – Information Report – Housing Register Update**

#C24-28/2024-09/18.2

CR LEVI / CR MOSBY

**Council resolves to note the Information Report for the Housing Register Update.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Action:**

Executive Director Community Services to follow up out-of-session a matter raised by Cr Aniba in relation to options available to a family living in a home on Saibai that Qbuild have advised is unfit for occupation.

**18.3. COMMUNITY SERVICES - Community Services (August 2024)**

#C24-28/2024-09/18.3

CR LEVI / CR WOSOMO

**Council resolves to note the Community Services Report for August 2024.*****CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*****Action:**

Executive Director Building Services to follow up a matter out-of-session raised by Cr Kaigey in relation to lengthy delays with work orders on Mer.

**18.4. CORPORATE SERVICES - Corporate Services Information Report (August 2024)**

#C24-28/2024-09/18.4

CR ANIBA / CR MOSBY

**Council notes the Corporate Services Report for the month of August 2024.*****CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*****18.5. ENGINEERING SERVICES – Engineering Operations****18.6. ENGINEERING SERVICES – Water and Wastewater**

Council noted the Engineering Services reports (AI 18.5 and AI 18.6) above. The Mayor encouraged Councillors to follow-up directly with Executive Directors if they required clarification on any matters contained in the Information Reports.

**19. NEXT MEETING – 15-16 OCTOBER 2024 (Dauan)**

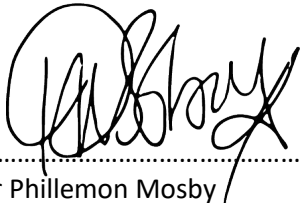
Noted by Council.

**20. CLOSE OF MEETING & PRAYER**

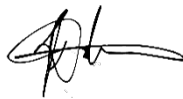
The Mayor thanked Councillors and staff for their contributions to this monthly meeting of Council.

The Mayor formally closed the meeting at 4.10pm and the Deputy Mayor (Cr Wosomo) delivered the closing prayer.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 15 October 2024



Cr Phillemon Mosby  
Mayor  
Torres Strait Island Regional Council  
Date: 15 October 2024



James William  
Chief Executive Officer  
Torres Strait Island Regional Council  
Date: 15 October 2024

CONFIRMED