

Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

AGENDA

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

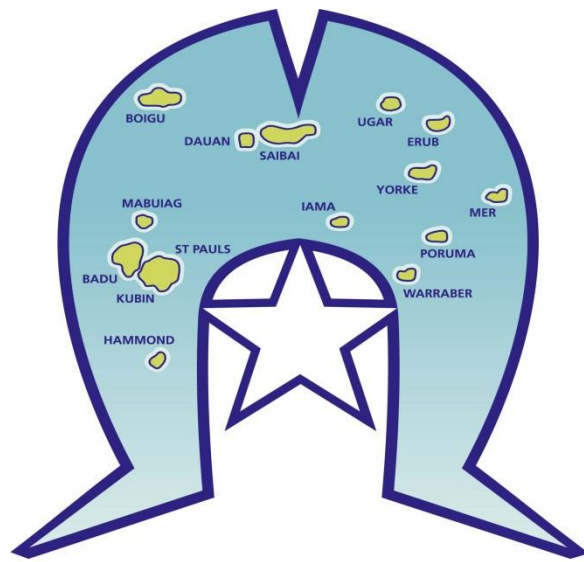
Date: Tuesday, 16th August 2022

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Venue: Video Conference #7 – 0299 165 401

Agenda

1. Welcome (Chair)
2. Opening Prayer
3. Apologies
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest (COI) (Prescribed and Declarable)
5. Noting of previous Ratified minutes – 11th March 2022
6. Action Items List - Nil
7. Climate Change Engagement Policy
8. TS Regional Climate Change Workshop June 2022 (verbal) – Information Report
9. Environment and Health Workshop June 2022 (verbal) – Information Report
10. COMMITTEE MOVES INTO CLOSED BUSINESS
11. **Metal Waste Legacy Cleanup**
12. **Seawalls Program (verbal)**
13. COMMITTEE MOVES OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS
14. General/ Other Business (on notice)
15. Next meeting date
 - Wednesday, 28th September 2022
16. Closing Prayer



Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, 11th March 2022

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Venue: Video Conference

PRESENT:

Cr Hilda Mosby – Chair, Division 12 – Masig (Yorke)

Cr Seriako Dorante – Committee Member, Division 8 – Kirirri (Hammond)

APOLOGY:

Cr Kabay Tamu, Division 10 – Warraber

STAFF:

Mr David Baldwin, Executive Director Engineering Services

Mr Peter Krebs, Manager Legal Services

May Mosby, Acting Secretariat

Agenda

1. Welcome (Chair)

Chair, Cr Hilda Mosby, welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged Traditional Owners on the land we meet today.

2. Opening Prayer

Cr Hilda Mosby invited Cr Seriako Dorante to open the meeting in a word of prayer at 10:15am.

3. Apology

- Cr Kabay Tamu, Division 10 – Warraber

RESOLUTION:

Move: Cr Seriako Dorante; Second: Cr Hilda Mosby

That the Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee accepts the apology of Cr Kabay Tamu for his absence at this meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest (COI) (Prescribed and Declarable)

Cr Hilda Mosby advised the meeting that she holds the following positions:

- Board member for Torres Strait Regional Authority
- Portfolio Member for Environment with Torres Strait Regional Authority
- Indigenous Climate Change

Upon advice sought from Manager Legal Services, Cr Hilda Mosby did not declare a conflict of interest as there are no matters involving Torres Strait Regional Authority.

5. Noting of previous Ratified Minutes – 3rd November 2021

- 3rd November 2021 – VC – Ratified at November 2021 Ordinary Meeting

RESOLUTION:

Move: Cr Hilda Mosby; Second: Cr Seriako Dorante

That the Committee notes the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2021 as true and accurate account of that meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

6. Action Items List

Mr David Baldwin, Executive Director Engineering Services provided an update on the three (3) outstanding action items.

7. Engineering - CHAS Update

Mr David Baldwin, Executive Director Engineering Services spoke to this report.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's Resolution at the Council's March meeting to award the last three phases of CHAS (Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy) to the consultant, Alluvium Consulting to complete the last three phases.

Cr Hilda Mosby requested Mr Jarrah Doran-Smith, Waste & Sustainability Engineer to dial in to speak further to the report.

10:58am – Mr Jarrah Doran-Smith, Waste & Sustainability Engineer joined the meeting.

Cr Hilda Mosby asked if the Adaptation plan will be an individual plan for each division and not just one plan across the whole council. Mr Jarrah Doran-Smith advised that they will be specific to each island due to the geographic conditions and what infrastructure each island has. Cr Hilda Mosby thanked Mr Jarrah Doran-Smith for his explanation on behalf of the committee.

11:10am – Mr Jarrah Doran-Smith left the meeting

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Hilda Mosby; Second: Cr Seriako Dorante

That the Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Committee notes the report and support the content to be referred to full Council at the March 2022 Council Ordinary Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

8. Engineering - Waste Management and Climate Change Adaptation Brief

Mr David Baldwin, Executive Director Engineering Services spoke to report and advised that in future, this report will be an information report.

RESOLUTION:

Move: Cr Hilda Mosby; Second: Cr Seriako Dorante

That the Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee notes this report.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

9. Legal – Joint Statement on Climate Change in the Torres Strait – Late

Mr Peter Krebs, Manager Legal Services spoke to this report regarding an email received from Lisa Viliamu Jameson of 350 Australia seeking Council's support for a joint statement on Climate Change.

11:31am - May Mosby left meeting.

11:34am – May Mosby joined the meeting.

Cr Hilda Mosby asked if Cr Kabay Tamu could dial in to the meeting to talk further on the topic.

11:43am - Cr Kabay Tamu dialled in to the meeting and spoke on the issues of climate change affecting the region and the importance of Council having a position on this matter moving forward.

11:47am – Cr Tamu dialled out of the meeting.

RESOLUTION:

Move: Cr Hilda Mosby; Second: Cr Seriako Dorante

That the Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee recommends that Council endorses the Joint Statement on Climate Change in the Torres Strait.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

10. General/ Other Business (on notice)

Nil

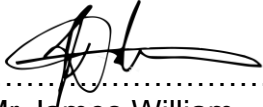
11. Next meeting date

Next meeting date to be confirmed.

12. Closing Prayer

Chair, Cr Hilda Mosby thanked Cr Seriako Dorante and staff for their attendance and participation in the meeting and invited Cr Seriako Dorante to close the meeting in a word of prayer.

MEETING CLOSED - 11:53AM



.....
Mr James William
Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 20th April 2022



.....
Cr Phillemon Mosby
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 20th April 2022



TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

MEETING:	August 2022
DATE:	16 August 2022
ITEM:	Agenda Item for the Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee
SUBJECT:	Climate Change Policy and Engagement Procedure
AUTHOR(S):	Mette Nordling, Manager Governance and Compliance

Recommendation

That the Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee note the information contained in this report and recommend the Climate Change Policy for endorsement by Council.

Executive Summary

This report provides the draft Climate Change Policy for the Committee's review. The policy seeks to formally articulate Council's position of climate change and our response to it.

Background

Climate change is an ever-increasing risk for the liveability for our region. In addition to the multitude of impacts that are induced by Climate Change, tidal inundation and erosion are serious threats in the Torres Strait. Critical infrastructure and places of significance such as burial sites are regularly impacted by climatic change and the prospect of losing such sites is a reality. Coastal protection and climate resilience will inform our ability to protect our land, preserve our important sites and continue living where we do.

Council is committed to rigorously advocate both levels of government of the impacts faced by our communities as a result of climate change.

Considerations

In October 2020 Council sought legal advice from King & Company Solicitors in relation to a Climate Change Policy Position Statement, to ensure that Council could advocate and discuss the impacts of climate change with various stakeholders, without risk of damaging relationships with governments or Council's reputation.

The statement from King & Company Solicitors is attached as attachment 1.

This statement resulting in the attached draft Climate Change Policy, attachment 2, and the attached draft Climate Change and Engagement Procedure, attachment 3.

Consultation

King & Company Solicitors

Statutory Requirements

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012*

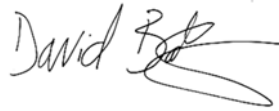
Conclusion:

That the Committee note the content of this report and recommend the draft Climate Change Policy for endorsement by Council.



Author:

Mette Nordling
Manager, Governance and Compliance



Endorsed:

David Baldwin
Executive Director Engineering Services



Recommended:

Peter Krebs
A/Executive Director Corporate Services



Approved:

James William
Chief Executive Officer

Attachments

- Climate Change Policy Position Statement from King & Company Solicitors
- Draft Climate Change Policy
- Draft Climate Change and Engagement Procedure

Climate Change Policy Position Statement from King & Company Solicitors 1 October 2020

Council accepts that climate change is a reality. Given the effects of sea level rise in Council's own local government area, which councillors and others are witnessing first-hand, Council cannot do otherwise.

Nevertheless, Council acknowledges, as must the community, that:

- no one government can stem climate change and its effects;
- addressing the problem requires the concerted action of all governments, not merely in Australia but world-wide;
- as one of the instruments of Australian government, Council must act collegiately and with all of the Australian governments, in particular the Commonwealth and Queensland governments.

In the latter respect, Council depends upon Commonwealth and Queensland government funding to enable it to respond to the effects of climate change. Whilst Council has taken, and will continue to take, every opportunity to encourage those governments to be proactive in working to arrest climate change and its damaging effects, it must engage with them constructively and co-operatively, rather than antagonistically, if it is to secure the best outcomes, both generally and for its local government area.

As a responsible instrumentality of the Queensland government, Council endeavours to act sensibly and constructively rather than viscerally and combatively. In that respect, its 2019-20 bipartisan engagement with the Queensland and Commonwealth governments has secured the commitment of \$26million for seawall construction, marine infrastructure, and the resurrection of an interisland ferry service.

Council does not discourage its members or its employees from acting, in their personal capacities, as climate change advocates and activists but it is important to recognize the difference in their activities as individual citizens and their activities as Council members or employees. Their actions as individuals are not the actions of Council. For councillors in particular, they must be careful to adopt a measured approach to their personal climate change advocacy, to ensure their actions in that respect do not conflict with their duties as councillors, particularly their duties under the statutory Code of Conduct that binds them.

Climate Change Policy

Responsible Manager	Chief Executive Officer
Head of power	<i>Local Government Act 2009</i> <i>Local Government Regulation 2012</i>
Authorised by	Council
Authorised on	
Implemented from	2021
Last reviewed	February 2021
Review history	
To be reviewed on	June 2022
Corporate Plan	Sustainability

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to formally articulate Council's position on climate change and our response to it.

This policy applies to all Councillors, Council Officers and applicable partners in matters related to climate change.

2. Application

This policy applies to all Councillors, Council Officers and applicable partners in matters related to climate change.

3. Legislation/Policies

This policy is established with reference to the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012* as well as Council's Deputation, Acceptable Request and Communication Protocol, and Media Policies.

4. Policy Principles

Council acknowledges:

- a) the reality of climate change for communities within our jurisdictional footprint,
- b) that there is a global climate emergency,
- c) that climate change has impacted our communities and will pose an impact to future generations and the natural and built environment of the Torres Strait for the foreseeable future,
- d) that the Climate related impacts to the Torres Strait are occurring more rapidly and at a community level compared to most of mainland Australian communities.
- e) that we, in collaboration with relevant partners and agencies, should respond quickly, vigorously, and strategically to the current and predicted impacts of climate change in the Torres Strait,
- f) the efforts made by both Council and community to reduce our own contribution to climate change and the need to promote these efforts, and
- g) will not accept community displacement and loss of culture and place, as a default form of Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation.

5. Objectives

Council is committed to:

- a. rigorously advocating at state, national, and international levels:
 - 1. of the very real impacts faced by our communities as a result of climate change, specifically:
 - i) tidal inundation and erosion causing eradication of traditional land and cultural places, and damage to critical infrastructure,
 - ii) increased severe weather patterns and events,
 - iii) changes to marine biodiversity and the downstream impacts on traditional food sourcing and ways of life, and
 - iv) the potential displacement of our communities.

2. that the preservation of culture, heritage, history, and place, as being no less of importance to the protection of natural and built assets.
- b. The development of coastal defences and other adaptation works in relation to the protection of our communities from climate change impacts
- c. introducing strategies that mitigate and reduce community contribution to climate change, and
- d. introducing strategies to adapt Council activities and responsibilities to unavoidable impacts of climate change.

6. Engaging in Climate Change & Related Matters

The Climate Change Position and Engagement Procedure sets forth the process Council undertakes when engaging in climate change and related matters.

In following this procedure, the Mayor, as Council's official spokesperson, will engage publicly on climate change and related matters, unless otherwise delegated to the Deputy Mayor, Chair of the Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee, other Councillors, or the Chief Executive Officer.

General engagement, event attendance, and memberships or partnerships, shall be assessed in alignment with the procedure to ensure effective preparation and risk management.

7. Related Council Policies & Documents

- Deputation Policy
- Acceptable Request and Communication Protocol Policy
- Media Policy
- Climate Change Position and Engagement Procedure (Pending)
- Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee
- Corporate Plan 2020-2025

Climate Change & Engagement Procedure

Responsible Manager	Executive Director of Corporate Services
Head of power	Climate Change Policy (when adopted) Deputation Policy (when adopted)
Authorised by	
Authorised on	
Implemented from	
Last reviewed	March 2021
Review history	
To be reviewed on	
Corporate Plan	Sustainability

1. Relationship to Climate Change Policy

Our Climate Change Policy articulates Council's position on climate change and our response to it; this includes what we acknowledge and what we are committed to:

Council acknowledges:

- a. the reality of climate change for communities within our jurisdictional footprint,
- b. that there is a global climate emergency,
- c. that climate change has impacted our communities and will pose an impact to future generations and both the natural and built environment of the Torres Strait for the foreseeable future,
- d. that the Climate related impacts to the Torres Strait are occurring more rapidly and at a community level compared to most of mainland Australian communities.
- e. that we, in collaboration with relevant partners and agencies, should respond quickly, vigorously, and strategically to the current and predicted impacts of climate change in the Torres Strait,
- f. the efforts made by both Council and community to reduce our own contribution to climate change and the need to promote these efforts, and
- g. that we will not accept community displacement and loss of culture and place, as a default form of Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation.

Council is committed to:

- a. rigorously advocating at state, national, and international levels:
 1. on the very real impacts faced by our communities as a result of climate change, specifically:
 - a. tidal inundation and erosion causing eradication of traditional land and cultural places, and damage to critical infrastructure,
 - b. increased severe weather patterns and events,
 - c. changes to marine biodiversity and the downstream impacts on traditional food sourcing and ways of life, and
 - d. the potential displacement of our communities.
 2. that the preservation of culture, heritage, history, and place, as being of no less importance to the protection of natural and built assets.
- b. the development of coastal defences and other adaptation works in relation to the protection of our communities from climate change impacts,
- c. introducing strategies that mitigate and reduce community contribution to climate change, and
- d. introducing strategies to adapt Council activities and responsibilities to unavoidable impacts of climate change.

2. Application

This procedure applies to all Councillors, Council Officers and applicable partners in matters related to climate change.

3. Legislation

This procedure is established with reference to the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local*

Government Regulation 2012 as well as Council's Deputation, Acceptable Request and Communication Protocol, and Media Policies.

4. Engagement Parties – Internal to Council

4.1 Official Council Spokesperson

Following this procedure, the Mayor, as Council's official spokesperson, will engage publicly on climate change and related matters, unless this has been delegated to:

- a. the Deputy Mayor,
- b. the Chair of the Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee,
- c. other Councillors, or
- d. the Chief Executive Officer.

Council acknowledges that Climate Change is a highly sensitive matter facing our region, for this reason and as a responsible instrumentality of the Queensland Government, Council endeavours to act sensibly and constructively rather than viscerally and combatively.

4.2 Elected Members & Employees - Personal Opinions & Activism

Council does not discourage its Elected Members or its employees from acting, in their personal capacities, as climate change advocates and activists, but it is important to recognize the difference in their activities as individual citizens and their activities as Elected Members or employees. Their actions as individuals are not the actions of Council.

For Councillors in particular, they must be careful to adopt a measured approach to their personal Climate Change advocacy, to ensure their actions in that respect do not conflict with their duties as Councillors, particularly their duties under the statutory Code of Conduct that binds them.

5. Engagement Parties – External to Council

5.1 Constituents & Communities

Our constituents and communities are our most important Climate Change stakeholders. In alignment with our current Corporate Plan (2020-25), Council will maintain a transparent and open approach when engaging with our communities about Climate Change and related matters.

Community engagements on Climate Change, typically cover the following situations:

- a. Development of coastal defences and other adaptation works.
- b. Increased severe weather patterns and events.
- c. Adapting to changes to marine biodiversity and the downstream impacts on traditional food sourcing and ways of life.
- d. Potential community and cultural place displacement activities.
- e. Measuring carbon footprints within communities and the introduction of strategies that mitigate and reduce waste and contributors to Climate Change.
- f. Development of strategies to adapt Council activities and responsibilities to unavoidable impacts of Climate Change.

5.2 Ministerial & Other Members of Government

a. Domestic Engagement

At different times throughout the year, Council will meet and deputise to State and Federal Ministers and other Members of Government. Climate Change and related matters are included as a deputation priority area for discussion with relevant portfolio holders.

b. International Engagement

On occasion, the opportunity may arise to meet with Foreign Ministerial or other Members of those respective Governments to discuss Climate Change and related matters. If not already engaged at the time, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT) should be consulted.

The process set forth within Council's Parliamentary Engagement Procedure should be utilised for these types of engagements.

5.3 Government Departments & Agencies

Council works with several Departments and Agencies on Climate Change and related matters, principally:

- a. Measurement of the effects of climate change within the Torres Strait region.
- b. Development of coastal defences and other adaptation works in relation to the protection of our communities from climate change impacts.
- c. Measuring carbon footprints within communities and the introduction of strategies that mitigate and reduce waste and contributors to Climate Change.
- d. Development of strategies to adapt Council activities and responsibilities to unavoidable impacts of Climate Change.

Engagements with Government Departments and Agencies will typically have a contractual instrument outlining the specific activity type, for example, a funding agreement, schedule of services, or other program/project documentation.

Any marketing, promotional or public communications concerning Government Department and Agency engagements should follow Council's Media Policy and as covered in Section 4.1 of this procedure, the Mayor is Council's official spokesperson unless otherwise delegated. For consistency and continuity of messaging, Section 1 of this procedure should be followed, covering specifically:

- a. what Council acknowledges, in relation to Climate Change, and
- b. what Council is committed to, in relation to Climate Change.

5.4 Journalists & Media Organisations

Council will engage with the media on a number of issues in relation to climate change, and at various stages, for example pre-, during or post a severe weather event.

Typically, the journalists will contact Council, however from time-to-time Council may initiate this engagement through the Corporate Affairs Department.

In all instances, Council's Media Policy should be followed and as covered in Section 4.1 of this procedure, the Mayor is Council's official spokesperson unless otherwise delegated. For consistency and continuity of messaging, Section 1 of this procedure

should be followed, covering specifically:

- a. what Council acknowledges, in relation to Climate Change, and
- b. what Council is committed to, in relation to Climate Change.

5.5 Corporate & Private Sector Organisations

Many domestic and international corporate and private sector organisations have developed public positions on Climate Change, often driven by their corporate social responsibility (CSR) or sustainability functions.

Council may be engaged by these types of organisations, typically for the following situations:

- a. Articulation of the reality of Climate Change for communities within our jurisdictional footprint.
- b. Articulation of Council's Climate Change response, particularly the development of coastal defences and other adaptation works in relation to the protection of our communities from climate change impacts.
- c. Opportunities to partner on projects and programs aimed at Climate Change mitigation, including reducing waste and other contributors.

Any marketing, promotional or public communications in relation to corporate and private sector engagements should follow Council's Media Policy and as covered in Section 4.1 of this procedure, the Mayor is Council's official spokesperson unless otherwise delegated. For consistency and continuity of messaging, Section 1 of this procedure should be followed, covering specifically:

- a. what Council acknowledges, in relation to Climate Change, and
- b. what Council is committed to, in relation to Climate Change.

5.6 Not For Profit Bodies and Climate Action Groups

Climate Change is a topical subject and global area of focus, as covered in the previous section (5.5), Council may also be engaged by Not-For-Profit Bodies and Climate Action Groups, typically for the following situations:

- a. Articulation of the reality of Climate Change for communities within our jurisdictional footprint.
- b. Articulation of Council's Climate Change response, particularly the development of coastal defences and other adaptation works in relation to the protection of our communities from climate change impacts.
- c. Opportunities to partner on projects and programs aimed at Climate Change mitigation, including reducing waste and other contributors.

Any marketing, promotional or public communications in relation to a Not-For-Profit Body or Climate Action Group engagement should follow Council's Media Policy and as covered in Section 4.1 of this procedure, the Mayor is Council's official spokesperson unless otherwise delegated. For consistency and continuity of messaging, Section 1 of this procedure should be followed, covering specifically:

- a. what Council acknowledges, in relation to Climate Change, and
- b. what Council is committed to, in relation to Climate Change.

6. Engagement Methods

Depending on the engagement party type, as outlined in Sections 4 & 5, engagement methods will typically fall into the following categories:

6.1 Deputations

a. Deputation to Council at:

1. an Ordinary Meeting, and/or
2. a Committee Meeting, specifically the Climate Change and Adaptation and Environment Committee.

Deputations to Council should follow the process outlined in Council's Deputation Policy.

b. Council deputation to Ministers and/or other Members of Government.

The process set forth within Council's Parliamentary Engagement Procedure should be utilised for these types of engagements.

6.2 Public Speaking & Events

Invitations to speak at or attend an event should be addressed to the Mayor, as Council's official spokesperson. If accepted, the Mayor will attend or appoint a suitable delegate as articulated in Section 4.1.

The Head of Corporate Affairs will prepare a memo to the Mayor, the delegate and/or other Council attendees of the event, providing speaking points relevant to the topic and audience. More detailed discussion and preparation can be requested if required.

6.3 Interviews

Interviews can occur remotely (by phone or video call) or in person, and could be live or pre-recorded, or captured/transcribed for print media.

All interview requests should be addressed to the Mayor, as Council's official spokesperson. If unavailable, the Mayor may appoint a suitable delegate as articulated in Section 4.1.

The Head of Corporate Affairs will prepare speaking points or other required material for the interview, in alignment with Council's Media Policy.

6.4 Opportunities to Partner

Partnerships will typically have contractual instrument outlining the specific activity type, for example, a funding agreement, schedule of services, or other program/project documentation.

Opportunities to partner, whether led by Council or another party, should be developed in consultation with Council's Corporate Affairs and Legal Services Departments, to ensure a suitable level of due diligence is undertaken and an appropriate risk management framework is put in place prior to engagement.