

Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

STRATEGIC ADVISORY REFERENCE GROUP

Date: Tuesday 7th September 2021

Time: 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Venue: Video Conference

Strategic Advisory Reference Group Meeting
Tuesday 7th of September 2021

Attendees

Mayor Phillemon Mosby – Chair
Cr Keith Fell - Mabuyag
Cr Hilda Mosby - Masig
Cr Jimmy Gela – Proxy for Cr Rocky Stephen
Cr Trinkoon – Proxy for Cr Getano Lui
Cr Aven Noah - Mer

David Baldwin – Acting Chief Executive Officer
Hollie Faithfull – Chief Finance Officer
Peter Krebs – Senior Legal Counsel
Dawson Sailor – Acting Chief Operating Officer
Naila Nomoa – Acting Secretariat

Apology

Cr Getano Lui – Iama
Cr Rocky Stephen - Ugar
Adeah Kabai – Acting Chief Engineer

Strategic Advisory Reference Group Meeting
Tuesday 7th of September 2021

Agenda

1. Welcome (Chair)

Mayor Phillemon Mosby acknowledged our father for his wisdom, knowledge and understanding upon our lives. Mayor Mosby acknowledge the Traditional Owners through the length and breathe of Zenath Kes including our office in Cairns.

2. Opening Prayer

Mayor Phillemon Mosby invited Cr Keith Fell to open the meeting in a word of prayer.

3. Apologies

- Cr Rocky Stephen
- Cr Getano Lui

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela; *Second:* Cr Lama Trinkoon

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group accept the apology of Cr Stephen and Cr Lui for their absence at this meeting.

CARRIED

- Cr Aven Noah is unavailable
- Cr Hilda Mosby is unavailable

4. Conflict of Interest (COI)/ Declarable / Prescribed

No declaration made. Mayor Phillemon Mosby encouraged Councillors and staff to make declaration at any time throughout the meeting.

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5. Confirmation of Minutes - SARG Meeting

- 12 August 2021 – VC

Item 2: Mayor Phillemon Mosby raised the code of conduct and expectations as part of general housekeeping.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mayor Mosby; *Second:* Cr Keith Fell

That the Strategic Advisory Refence Group accepts the Minutes of the SARG Meeting held on the 12th August 2021 as true and accurate record of that meeting.

CARRIED

6. Strategic Action Items Review

Acting Chief Executive Officer spoke to Action Items.

1:29pm – Cr Hilda Mosby joined meeting.

Acting Chief Operating Officer will continue to contact each council to check on their special holidays 2022 for their respective Division and provide a paper to the September Ordinary Meeting.

Senior Legal Counsel spoke about the Torres Strait Flag designed by Late Mr Bernard Namok.

- Copyright signed to former Island Co-ordinating Council
- Yet to locate the original Advertisement for The Torres Strait Flag competitions to determine ownership of copyright.
- Mayor Mosby signed off on the letter to the Namok Family

ACTION: Senior Legal Counsel to write to the Namok Family on TSIRC position in relation to the Torres Strait Flag and cancel the scheduled meeting on Monday 20th September 2021.

Cr Jimmy Gela and Cr Lama Trinkoon discussed the visitor registration processes. Acting Chief Operating Officer provided feedback in relation to queries raised.

Mayor Phillemon Mosby advised councillors to discuss directly with the Visitor Operations Manager.

Cr Keith Fell raised the possibility of outboard mechanic to travel to islands quarterly, similar to the Motor Vehicle program. The Acting Chief Engineer is currently investigating this as part of a previous request.

ACTION: Acting Chief Executive Officer along with the Acting Chief Engineer to continue to explore opportunities for an Outboard mechanic with the Economic Development team utilising mechanics already in our region.

7. Mayor

1. Community Grants

Mayor Phillemon Mosby received a letter from Minister Steven Miles regarding Community Grants.

Mayor Phillemon Mosby requested Senior Legal Counsel read the letter from Minister Steven Miles to the Committee.

Discussions were held regarding:

- Propose to workshop community grants after the September Council Meeting and invite Mr John O'Halloran from Local Government to attend
- Councillors to put forward their suggestions on what is to be included/excluded from Community Grants during the workshop
- Councillors to engage with administration after the September Ordinary meeting, instead of holding the process off until the November workshop.

ACTION: Acting CEO to have the appropriate staff organise a workshop on Thursday 23rd September 2021. The workshop is to be facilitated by John O'Halloran Regional Manager at Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and TSIRC staff. All Councillors are to be invited to attend to provide their input into amending the policy.

8. Chief Financial Officer

1. Standing Agenda item – Project Plan

Chief Financial Officer spoke to report and will discuss during item 11 on Agenda item.

2. Christmas Festive Period Closedown 2021/2022

Chief Financial Officer spoke to report with the proposed dates for the TSIRC closedown period.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Keith Fell; *Second:* Cr Lama Trinkoon

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group supports the proposed dates for the Council's annual Christmas Festive Period closedown for 2021/22 and recommends for a report to be presented to September Ordinary Council Meeting for endorsement.

MOTION CARRIED

9. Chief Engineer

1. Fuel Improvement Program Update

Acting Chief Executive Officer spoke to report on behalf of Acting Chief Engineer. Topics discussed included:

- Take 5 training for new employees
- Water detected in fuel
- New water-resistant drums
- Report provided by Manager of Special Projects and Logistics before his departure.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Hilda Mosby; *Second:* Cr Jimmy Gela

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group (SARG) notes the report.

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Mosby

- Educating government, the cost to council
- Long term strategically

10. Chief Operating Officer

1. Standing Agenda Item – Housing Authority Update (verbal)

Acting Chief Operating Officer gave a verbal update on Housing Authority.

- Adoption of 2021/2022 budget includes \$50,000 to engage specialist to scope works of set up of Housing Authority. Acting COO will meet with Governance Manager this week to undertake procurement.
- Mayor Phillemon Mosby advised that transfer of social housing licence for Mer Island and Badu Island to be priority

2. Standing Agenda Item - BSU Update

Acting Chief Operating Officer spoke to report.

Cr Keith Fell questioned if there is information of what is coming in terms of revenue.

Chief Financial Officer advised Cr Keith Fell that they are unable to invoice until the 50% of works are completed. Reporting revenue may be difficult due to different stages of different projects.

Mayor Phillemon Mosby

- Works not being completed properly
- Reports needs to be clear so councillors can make informed decisions

Chief Financial Officer explained AASBIS to Cr Keith Fell

- AASB15 relates to Finance standard and how Capital revenue is reflected in financial reports.
- Adjustments are done on an annual basis.

Cr Keith Fell enquired about the new builds

- How many new builds do we have?
- Are we able to manage it with the 2.4million internally?
- Has there been delays due to weather?

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Keith Fell; *Second:* Cr Hilda Mosby

That the SARG Committee note the information in this report for submission to Council Ordinary Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Rental Arrears – Deceased tenants

Acting Chief operating officer spoke to report.

Cr Keith Fell requested Housing, and Safe and Healthy communities Standing committee to be included in the consultations and involvement in improvements and kept informed on subject matters relating to the Committee

Acting Chief Operating Officer advised Cr Keith Fell that the report went through the committee before being presented to SARG.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon; *Second:* Cr Jimmy Gela
That SARG Committee notes the report.

MOTION CARRIED

11. Chief Executive Officer

1. TSIRC name and boundary change – Legal

Senior Legal Counsell spoke to report.

Mayor Phillemon Mosby advised that Torres Shire opposes the boundary change however TSIRC should not be subject to decision of Torres Shire Council and that TSIRC wants Traditional owners to have a strong say. Mayor Mosby also confirmed we need separation and ownership of assets amongst the Councils.

Cr Keith Fell advised that consultation has occurred previously during the Indigenous Leaders Forum held in Cairns at Holiday Inn and former Mayor Fred Gela was present at the forum.

ACTION: Senior Legal Counsel to do a map of proposed boundary change.

ACTION: Senior Legal Counsel to contact NPARC as they are currently going through the same process as TSIRC on the Boundary Realignment.

ACTION: Senior Legal Counsel to contact Tony Goode from LGAQ as he facilitated the Indigenous Leaders Forum to get the minutes on the Boundary Realignment discussion.

ACTION: Senior Legal Counsel to send information on the Boundary Realignment to councillors for consultation.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Keith Fell; *Second:* Cr Hilda Mosby
That SARG Committee notes the report.

MOTION CARRIED

12. MOVE INTO CLOSED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Keith Fell; *Second:* Cr Hilda Mosby

That in accordance with section 254J of the *Local Government Regulation* 2012 (Qld) it is resolved for the meeting to go into closed session to discuss matters of the following nature:

(e) legal advice obtained by the local government or legal proceedings involving the local government including, for example, legal proceedings that may be taken by or against the local government.

(g) 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.

MOTION CARRIED

1. Elphinstone and Grafton St Office Review – CB – ACEO (verbal)
2. Transition Action Plan – CB – ACEO (verbal)

13. MOVE OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Keith Fell *Second:* Cr Jimmy Gela

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group move out of closed business.

MOTION CARRIED

14. General/ Other Business (on notice)

No business raised.

15. Next meeting date – proposed for Tuesday 5th October 2021

Mayor Phillemon Mosby confirmed the next SARG meeting is to be held on Tuesday 5th October 2021 via video conference.

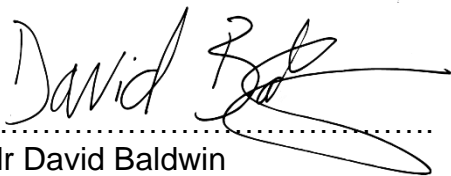
16. Closing Remarks and Prayer

Mayor Phillemon Mosby thanked the councillors who stepped in as proxies from the committees for their time and commitment. Mayor Mosby acknowledged that due to short timeframes it is highly unlikely the Elphinstone report will be presented at the September Ordinary Meeting.

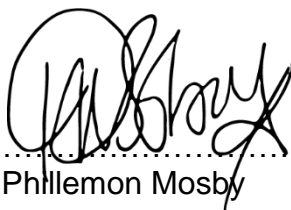
Cr Keith Fell advised that he will be attending the September Hammond Island meeting in person.

Mayor Phillemon Mosby invited Cr Hilda Mosby to close the meeting with a word of prayer.

3:57pm Meeting Closed.



Mr David Baldwin
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
21st September 2021



Cr Phillemon Mosby
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
21st September 2021