

**Torres Strait Island**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# Minutes

## ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022  
Time: 10:39am to 12:44pm  
Venue: VMR #7 – 0299 165 401

PRESENT:

Cr Rocky Stephen – Chair – Ugar (Stephen)  
Cr Jimmy Gela – Committee Member – Division 14, Erub  
(Darnley)  
Ms Hollie Faithfull, Executive Director Financial Services  
Ms May Mosby, Secretariat Officer

APOLOGIES:

Cr Conwell Tabuai – Committee Member – Division 3, Saibai

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Welcome (Chair)**

Chair, Cr Rocky Stephen, welcomed Cr Jimmy Gela and Staff to the meeting and apologised for the late start due to the Audit Committee Meeting which went over time.

### **2. Opening Prayer**

Chair, Cr Rocky Stephen opened the meeting in a word of prayer at 10:39am.

### **3. Apologies**

- Cr Conwell Tabuai – community commitments

#### **RESOLUTION:**

*Move: Cr Jimmy Gela; Second: Cr Rocky Stephen*

**That the Economic Growth Committee accepts the apology of Cr Conwell Tabuai for his absence at this meeting.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

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

No Conflict of Interest from Cr Rocky Stephen.

Cr Jimmy Gela declared a Conflict of Interest on the following positions:

- Board member of GBK and CDEP

Executive Director Financial Services advised that due to no legal representative present to provide legal advice on Cr Gela's COI, that a conservative approach be taken and Cr Gela dial out of the meeting when topics that relates to GBK is discussed.

### **5. Noting of previous Draft Minutes – 18 October 2022**

#### **RESOLUTION:**

*Move: Cr Jimmy Gela; Second: Cr Rocky Stephen*

**That the Committee notes the Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 as true and accurate account of that meeting.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

### **6. Action Items List – Economic Growth Committee**

Ms Hollie Faithfull, Executive Director Financial Services updated the action items list from last committee meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

## **7. Enterprise Development Strategy – Verbal**

Ms Hollie Faithfull, Executive Director Financial Services provided a verbal update on this topic. TSIRC sent a letter to TSRA regarding the matter. Currently awaiting a response from TSRA. Staff are unable to progress further with scheduling of community consultations for strategy until TSIRC know the outcome of the funding.

Chair, Cr Stephen advised he met with TSRA's CEO and Operations Manager last week and raised the concern of the continuation of the funding. TSRA advised that they are supportive of the funding and will investigate the matter further.

Cr Stephen recommended an out of session meeting to discuss how we can progress further once Ms Hollie Faithfull hears back from TSRA.

### **ACTION:**

**Executive Director Financial Services to keep Committee up to date with the status of the TSRA funding.**

## **8. Enterprise Divestment Policy – Verbal**

Ms Hollie Faithfull, Executive Director Financial Services spoke to the topic. An out of session meeting will need to be called specifically to discuss this topic and invite Ms Julia Maurus, Senior Legal Officer to attend. Discussions will be about which assets we can divest that is not going to have a financial effect on Council's financial sustainability.

### **ACTION:**

**Chair of Economic Growth Committee and Executive Director Financial Services to draft email to Senior Legal Officer on topics Committee would like further advice on.**

### **ACTION:**

**Executive Director Financial Services to arrange an out of session Committee Meeting in February to discuss way forward with Enterprise Divestment Policy.**

## **9. Ugar and Dauan Community Access Business Case – Verbal**

Ms Hollie Faithfull, Executive Director Financial Services provided a verbal update on this topic. At the last meeting Enterprise Development functions was requested to draft a letter to TSRA requesting funding for the business case. Letter was issued to TSRA's CEO and TSIRC is currently awaiting a response.

Chair Stephen also recommended that Cr Torenzo Elisala be engaged in the discussions.

**ACTION:**

**Executive Director Financial Services to keep committee updated on the status of the response from TSRA.**

**10. Copper services solution in Torres Strait Update – Verbal**

Ms Hollie Faithfull, Executive Director Financial Services advised that the Manager Information Technology was unable to attend. Update to be provided next meeting.

**ACTION:**

**That Manager Information Technology be invited to the next Committee Meeting to provide a verbal update on Cooper Services Solutions for TSIRC.**

**ACTION:**

**That Manager IT in conjunction with Corporate Affairs to develop an information sheet for committee explaining the effects of removal of Cooper services from island.**

**11. Submarine Telecommunication Cable viability for TSIRC – Verbal**

Ms Hollie Faithfull, Executive Director Financial Services advised the Committee that Mr Jacob Matysek attended a meeting on Thursday Island this week with Queensland Chief Information Officer Mr Chris McLaren and suggested that the committee be provided an update at the next committee meeting.

**ACTION:**

**That Executive Officer be invited to the next Committee Meeting to provide a verbal update on the discussions held with Queensland Chief Information Officer.**

**12. Economic Policy – Verbal**

Ms Hollie Faithfull, Executive Director Financial Services spoke to this topic. Unfortunately, due to time constraints with the November Workshop agenda, the committee was unable to discuss the topic with full Council. The Committee proposes to develop numerous questions for the Elected Councillors to complete so direction can be provided to the Committee in the development of the policy. It is proposed that the draft policy be worked at the May 2023 Councillor Workshop.

**ACTION:**

**That Chair of Economic Growth Committee and Executive Director Financial Services to have an out of session discussion to develop questions regarding Economic Policy to be distributed to Elected Councillors.**

### **13. COMMITTEE MOVES INTO CLOSED BUSINESS**

#### **RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela; Second: Cr Rocky Stephen*

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.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

- 14.** Elphinstone Close Business Proposal – Verbal
- 15.** Fuel Business Proposal – Verbal
- 16.** Building Services Unit (BSU) Update – Verbal
- 17.** CDEP Proposal Submission – Verbal

11.22am - Ms Hollie Faithfull left the meeting

11.26am - Ms Hollie Faithfull re-joined the meeting

11:26am – Mr Wayne Green, Executive Director Building Services joined the meeting.

11:31am - Mr James William, Chief Executive Officer joined the meeting.

11:51am – Mr Wayne Green left the meeting.

#### **ACTION:**

**That an out of session meeting to be called in February to discuss Elphinstone Close Business Proposal and the Fuel Business proposal.**

12:09pm - Cr. Jimmy Gela left the meeting due to a conflict of interest.

Executive Director Financial Services advised that due to no legal representative present to provide legal advice on Cr Gela's COI, that a conservative approach be taken and that Cr Gela dial out of the meeting when topics that relates to GBK/CDEP are discussed.

#### **ACTION:**

**That Chief Executive Officer develop a paper on the positions of CDEP Elphinstone Close and Fuel Business Proposal.**

12:32pm – Mr James William, Chief Executive Officer left the meeting.

12:33pm – Cr Jimmy Gela re-joined the meeting.

### **18. COMMITTEE MOVES OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS**

#### **RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen; Second: Cr Jimmy Gela*

That the Committee move out of Closed Business.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

**19. General/ Other Business (on notice)**

**a. World Indigenous Tourism Summit**

Ms Hollie Faithfull provided an update on the World Indigenous Tourism Summit in Perth in March 2023. Hollie will send an email out to the Committee members of the dates, program and link.

**ACTION:**

**Executive Director Financial Services to send out the program and registration to Committee Members.**

**20. Next meeting date – to be advised once dates are confirmed in the December Council meeting.**

**ACTION:**

**Executive Director Financial Services to liaise with Executive Assistant to the CEO on the proposed meeting dates for Economic Growth Committee for the month of March, June, September and December 2023.**

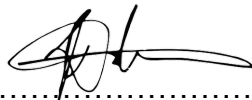
**21. Closing Remarks and Prayer**

Chair, Cr Rocky Stephen expressed his thanks and appreciation to Cr Jimmy Gela and Cr Conwell Tabuai for their support and participation throughout the year and in particular, Ms Hollie Faithfull, Executive Director Financial Services for her support and Ms May Mosby for minute taking and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and look forward to working with everyone again in 2023.

Cr Jimmy Gela, Ms Hollie Faithfull and Ms May Mosby also expressed their gratitude and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Chair, Cr Rocky Stephen closed the meeting in a word of prayer.

**MEETING CLOSED - 12:44PM**



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Mr James William  
Chief Executive Officer  
Torres Strait Island Regional Council  
Date: 9/1/2023



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Cr Phillemon Mosby  
Mayor  
Torres Strait Island Regional Council  
Date: 9/1/2023