

Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes

STRATEGIC ADVISORY REFERENCE GROUP

Date: Tuesday 5th April 2022

Time: 1:05pm to 4:00pm

Venue: Video Conference

PRESENT:

Cr Phillemon Mosby, Mayor – Poruma (Coconut)
Cr Hilda Mosby, Division 12 – Masig (Yorke)
Cr Aven Noah, Division 15 – Mer (Murray)
Cr Jimmy Gela, Division 14 – Erub (Darnley) - Proxy for Cr Rocky Stephen
Cr Lama Trinkoon, Division Arkai (Kubin) – Proxy for Cr Getano Lui
Cr Francis Pearson, Division Poruma (Coconut) - Proxy for Cr Keith Fell

STAFF:

Mr James William, Chief Executive Officer
Ms Hollie Faithfull, Executive Director Financial Services
Mr David Baldwin, Executive Director, Engineering Services
Mr Dawson Sailor, Acting Executive Director Building and Community Services
Ms Megan Barrett, Executive Director Corporate Services
Mrs Ursula Nai, Senior Executive Assistant to the CEO
Mr Jacob Matysek – Executive Assistant to the Mayor

APOLOGIES:

Cr Keith Fell, Division 4 - Mabuiag
Cr Getano Lui, Deputy Mayor, Division 9 – Iama (Yam)
Cr Rocky Stephen, Division 13 – Ugar (Stephen)

Ms May Mosby – Secretariat Officer

1. Welcome (Chair)

Mayor Phillemon Mosby welcomed all Councillors and acknowledged the following:

- Our Heavenly father for his awesome knowledge, wisdom and understanding upon our lives
- Traditional owners across the length and breadth of Zenadth Kes including, Cairns office
- Families in sorry business on ples and on the mainland

2. Opening Prayer

Mayor Mosby invited Cr Francis Pearson to open the meeting in a word of prayer at 1:07pm

3. Apologies

- Cr Keith Fell, Division 4 – Mabuiag
- Cr Getano Lui, Deputy Mayor, Division 9 – Iama (Yam)
- Cr Rocky Stephen, Division 13 – Ugar (Stephen)

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Aven Noah; Second: Cr Hilda Mosby

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group Committee accepts the apology of Cr Keith Fell, Cr Getano Lui and Cr Rocky Stephen for their absence at this meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

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

No declarations made. Mayor Mosby encouraged Councillors to make a declaration at any time.

5. Noting of Ratified Minutes - SARG Meeting

- 1st March 2022 – VC – ratified at March 2022 OM

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Francis Pearson; Second: Cr Hilda Mosby

That the Minutes for the SARG meeting held on 1st March 2022 be adopted as a true and correct account of the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

6. **Strategic Action Items Review**

Mr James William, Chief Executive Officer provided an update on the current action items and provided an update on Strategic Priorities and deadlines for the next 3-6months.

7. **Mayor**

1. **Update/review on strategic priorities for all TSIRC Standing Committees - Verbal**

Mayor Mosby spoke to this agenda topic. Mayor Mosby has sent a number of emails to Councillors on this topic and has encouraged the standing committee chairs to complete the template of the 3 priorities for their committees that can be accomplished during this term.

ACTION: Executive Assistant to the Mayor to liaise with the Standing Committee Chairs on completing the 3 priorities for their Standing Committee's.

2. **Update/review of Standing Committee procedures and Agenda Items - Verbal**

Mayor Mosby spoke to this agenda topic and encouraged Standing Committee Chairs to liaise with Administration on the creation of the Agenda. Mayor Mosby and the Chief Executive Officer will continue to look at ways to improve this process.

Cr Aven Noah advised the committee that he is actively engaged in the creation of the agenda and regularly has conversations with Administration to facilitate requests that have come from Council Meeting to his committee.

3. **Update/review of all current TSIRC MOU's (i.e. Defence, TSRA, other) - Verbal**

Mayor Mosby spoke to this topic and advised that TSIRC currently has an expired MOU with TSRA. Mayor Mosby acknowledged that due to staff turnover this has not been renewed. Mayor Mosby discussed that the MOU should be strategically aligned to TSIRC priorities.

ACTION: Executive Director, Corporate Services to liaise with Corporate services to revise TSRA MOU to better align with TSIRC priorities and re-start negotiations with TSRA for execution.

Mayor Mosby discussed the crossover of roles and services TSIRC currently provided verses other departments and organisations and how TSIRC will engage with these stakeholders and Government bodies to discuss these sensitive issues and cross overs and a proposed way forward.

ACTION: Chief Executive Officer to meet with State Government Director Generals to discuss TSIRC concerns and challenges in relation to the crossover of TSIRC services by other departments.

4. **Update/review on policies/plans related to Advocacy and Communication - Verbal**

Mayor Mosby spoke to this topic and requested that the following be included into the draft Advocacy Policy

- Lobbying with Government
- Engagement with Ministers and Departments
- Engagement with stakeholders who wish to assist Council
- Social Media engagement

Ms Megan Barrett, Executive Director, Corporate Services provided an update on the current policies and the need for a broader communication policy along with a plan to deliver the policy

ACTION: Executive Director Corporate Services and Executive Assistant to the Mayor to work together to amend the communication policy and draft the plan to deliver the policy and provide draft as an Agenda Report to the June SARG meeting.

8. **Executive Director Corporate Services**

1. **Digital Connectivity Update**

Ms Megan Barrett, Executive Director, Corporate Services spoke to this report and provided an update on the decommissioning of the copper service in August 2022. An in-depth conversation was held on the topic.

Telstra has given informal advice that there will be a delay in termination of copper services until end of February 2023.

A Funding application has been lodge with the Local Government Grant and Subsidy Program 2022-2024 to fund the upgrades however as backup, should the funding application be unsuccessful, the amount has been included in the Capital Budget for next Financial Year.

Ms Megan Barrett recommends that this matter be treated as a priority and will have a paper to be presented at the May Ordinary Meeting. Mayor Mosby asked if there were alternative options and received advice that there are not.

Mr James William discussed the role of TSRA in advocacy of funding with the Federal Government and NIIA.

ACTION: Executive Director, Corporate Services to draft a letter to TSRA requesting funding to cover the cost of the Digital Connectivity Upgrade.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon, Second: Cr Francis Pearson

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group (SARG) notes the update regarding digital connectivity for TSIRC.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

2. Council Policies – Child and Youth Risk Management Policy

Ms Megan Barrett, Executive Director, Corporate Services spoke to this report and advised the policy changes are only minimal and relate to changes of names only and not the body of the policy.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Aven Noah, Second: Cr Jimmy Gela

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group note the information contained in this report and recommend the Child and Youth Risk Management Policy for endorsement by Council.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

3. Conferencing System Options

Ms Megan Barrett, Executive Director, Corporate Services spoke to this report and provided an update on the provision of a new conferencing system for Council and Standing Committee meetings.

Ms Megan Barrett has advised that the cost of this purchase has been added to the capital budget for the next Financial Year.

Cr Francis Pearson requested further information if using this system will impact staff on ground with limited bandwidth.

ACTION: Executive Director Corporate Service to obtain advice from IT / Supplier on impacts, if any, to current bandwidth if the system is introduced (increase or decrease bandwidth in divisions)

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Hilda Mosby, Second: Cr Jimmy Gela

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group (SARG) notes the update regarding conferencing systems for Council meetings.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

9. **Executive Director, Financial Services**

1. Indigenous Procurement Policy – Verbal

Ms Hollie Faithfull, Executive Director, Financial Services spoke to this topic and provided an update on the status of the policy noting the title is incorrect and should read Strategic Sourcing and Procurement Policy.

ACTION: Executive Director, Financial Services to add this the Strategic Sourcing and Procurement Policy as an agenda report to the next Economic Growth standing committee.

10. Legal Services

1. Status of LHA Lease resolution – Verbal Update

2:40pm - Ms Julia Maurus, Senior Legal Officer dialled into the meeting

Senior Legal Officer gave a verbal update on progress since the February 2022 Trustee Information Report, when the number of unresolved LHA entitlements was 52. Since then, one lease has been granted, and another nine are currently in the process of being granted. That brings the total unresolved entitlements to 42.

John Coyle, Manager of the ATSIP Home Ownership Team, has advised that ATSIP has done everything it can to resolve the remaining 42 entitlements. Most (29) are at Boigu, and Cr Toby has been provided with mapping of the 29 unresolved LHA entitlements. Each of the remaining 42 entitlements has some sort of impediment. Examples include inability to identify or locate the lease beneficiary, disagreement within the family over who should receive the lease, and competing interests on the land such as Council assets or a tenant who needs to be relocated. Mr Coyle has advised that engagement and consultation work has been done for every entitlement and that after 30 June 2022, ATSIP will no longer have resources dedicated to LHA entitlement resolution. The Home Ownership Team will still assist with LHA lease transfers, development applications related to home-ownership, and divestment of Council assets on registered LHA lease land, along with assisting applicants for 99-year home-ownership leases. However, the LHA resolution project will end on 30 June and each unresolved LHA entitlement will be referred to another agency as deemed appropriate: either Department of Resources, Department of Housing or (for beneficiary issues) the Public Trustee.

ACTION: Senior Legal Officer to provide the Chief Executive Officer a full briefing to understand the blockages for the remaining entitlements, so that Council can make a fully informed decision on whether to advocate for additional State resources.

2:49pm – Ms Julia Maurus, Senior Legal Officer dialled out of the meeting.

11. SARG COMMITTEE MOVED INTO CLOSED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION:

Move: Cr Aven Noah; Second: Cr Lama Trinkoon

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:

(f) matters that may directly affect the health and safety of an individual or group of individuals;

(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 UNANIMOUS

- EDES – TSIRC Fuel Improvement Program Status Update Report

- EDBCS – BSU Update – **late**
- EDCS – TAP Update

12. COMMITTEE MOVED OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS AND RESUME IN OPEN BUSINESS

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Francis Pearson; Second: Cr Jimmy Gela

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group Committee move out of closed business and resume in open business.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

Mayor Mosby noted for minute taking purposes.

2:49pm – Mayor Mosby left the meeting and handed the chair over to Cr Aven Noah.

2:50pm – Mayor Mosby re-joined the meeting and took over as chair.

Resolutions following closed business:

EDCS – TSIRC Fuel Improvement Program Status Update Report

RESOLUTION:

Move: Cr Aven Noah; Second: Cr Hilda Mosby

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

EDBCS – BSU Update – **late**

RESOLUTION:

Move: Cr Francis Pearson; Second: Cr Jimmy Gela

That SARG committee notes the information on this report and proceeds to Council ordinary meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

EDCS – Transitional Action Plan (TAP) update

RESOLUTION:

Move: Cr Aven Noah; Second: Cr Francis Pearson

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group (SARG) notes the update regarding the TSIRC Transition Action Plan (TAP).

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

13. General/ Other Business (on notice)

Housing Authority

Mr James William, Chief Executive Officer spoke to this topic and a brief conversation was held.

ACTION: Mayor Mosby and Chief Executive Officer to meet with Minister Fentiman, Cynthia Lui MP and Minister Crawford to discuss Qld Governments policy position in terms of housing assets and the benefit provided back to the community.

Mer Shed Upgrade

Cr Aven Noah spoke to this topic and requested to be kept informed and involved in all aspects of the upgrade.

14. Next meeting date – Tuesday 3rd May 2022 | 1pm – 4pm

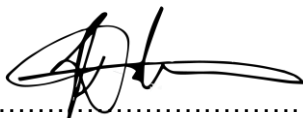
Mayor Mosby advised the dates of the next SARG meeting to be held via video conference.

15. Closing Remarks and Prayer

Mayor Mosby acknowledged and thanked the Councillors for their valuable input, Mr James William, Chief Executive Officer, the Executives and staff for the reports provided and their support.

Cr Hilda Mosby closed the meeting in prayer.

MEETING CLOSED – 4:00PM



.....
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