

Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

STRATEGIC ADVISORY REFERENCE GROUP

Date: Thursday 12th August 2021

Time: 1:06pm to 5:03pm

Venue: Video Conference

Strategic Advisory Reference Group Meeting
Thursday 12th August 2021

PRESENT:

Mayor Phillemon Mosby
Cr Getano Lui
Cr Aven Noah
Cr Rocky Stephen
Cr Hilda Mosby
Cr Francis Pearson (Proxy for Cr Fell)

David Baldwin, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Ilario Sabatino, Chief Operating Officer
Adeah Kabai, Acting Chief Engineer
Peter Krebs, Senior Legal Counsel
Kathy Cochran, Secretariat Officer

APOLOGIES:

Cr Keith Fell
Hollie Faithfull, Chief Financial Officer

Strategic Advisory Reference Group Meeting
Thursday 12th August 2021

Agenda

1. Welcome (Chair)

Mayor Mosby welcomed all in attendance and acknowledged and thanked God for his blessings and favour. Mayor Mosby acknowledged the Traditional Owners throughout Zenadth Kes and in Cairns.

2. Opening Prayer

Mayor Mosby invited Cr Lui to open the meeting in prayer and for SARG attendees to observe one minute silence for families in sorry business.

3. Apologies

- Cr Fell – Councillor, Division 4, Mabuiag – Sick

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Aven Noah; *Second:* Cr Rocky Stephen

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group accept the apology of Cr Fell for his absence at this meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

- Chief Financial Officer – Ms Hollie Faithfull - Sick

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

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

5. Confirmation of Minutes - SARG Meeting

- 15 June 2021 – VC

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Phillemon Mosby; *Second:* Cr Aven Noah

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group accepts the Minutes of the SARG meeting held on the 15th June 2021 as true and accurate record of that meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

- 13th July 2021 – VC

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen; *Second:* Cr Francis Pearson

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group accepts the Minutes of the SARG meeting held on the 13th July 2021 as true and accurate record of that meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

6. Strategic Action Items Review

Acting Chief Executive Officer provided an update on items listed on the action item register.

1:30pm – Cr Hilda Mosby joined the meeting.

7. Mayor

Transitional Action Plan – Badu feasibility study – verbal update

Mayor Mosby provided SARG with a verbal update on the response from Badu and Kubin communities regarding the feasibility study.

Mayor Mosby confirmed there is a Budget of \$50k this financial year to engage a consultant.

ACTION: The acting Chief Executive Officer to provide a paper to the September SARG with a proposal on what can be completed internally and what is required to be completed by the Consultant. The paper is to include a timeline of the process and what the footprint in Cairns would look like.

ACTION: The Chief Operating Officer to send the Transitional Action Plan report completed in April 2021 to SARG members.

ACTION: The Secretariat to place the Transitional Action Plan on the agenda for the next Economic Growth Standing committee meeting.

ACTION: The acting Chief Executive Officer to provide an updated report on options for Elphinstone Close to the September SARG meeting.

ACTION: The acting Chief Executive Officer to draft a letter to Warren Entsch MP, Federal Member for Leichhardt and Elida Faith, Labour Candidate for Leichhardt outlining TSIRC's current situation, the effects on TSIRC, our future, economic recovery, and job creation regarding Building Better Regions Fund and timings.

Regional Assembly – TSIRC Position to TSRA, TSC & NPARC

Mr Peter Krebs, Senior Legal Counsel provided SARG with an update. Cr Lui suggested a two-prong approach - political and media.

2:23pm – Jacob Matysek joined the meeting and provided SARG with an update from the Zenadth Kes secretariat.

ACTION: Senior Legal Counsel to provide a briefing note on TSIRC position on the independent body before the TSRA Regional Advisory Meeting and attend the meeting along with Mayor Mosby.

Mr Jacob Matysek suggested the Director's of Zenadth Kes Secretariat also have a meeting also prior to the TSRA meeting.

2:35pm – Mr Jacob Matysek leaves the meeting.

8. Chief Financial Officer

Standing Agenda item – Project Plan

Acting Chief Executive Officer provide SARG members with a brief update on the Project Plan in the absence of the Chief Financial Officer.

Fit for Work Policy

Acting Chief Executive Officer spoke to this report.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Aven Noah; *Second:* Cr Francis Pearson

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group note the Fitness for Work Policy and recommend this for inclusion on the agenda at the September Ordinary Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Diversity & Inclusion Policy

Acting Chief Executive Officer spoke to the report. Mayor Mosby would like this policy communicated to all staff as staff currently do not understand their rights

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Aven Noah; *Second:* Cr Hilda Mosby

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group note the Diversity and Inclusion Policy and recommend this for inclusion on the agenda at the September Ordinary meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

ACTION: Chief Financial Officer to ensure that an all-staff email is circulated to all staff on the Diversity and Inclusion Policy so staff gain an understanding of their rights.

9. **Chief Engineer**

Standing Agenda item - Fuel Update

Acting Chief Engineer spoke to the report.

Cr Noah mentioned the church at Mer has given the green light for the project and he is in the process of writing a letter to Bishop.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen; *Second:* Cr Francis Pearson

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

MOTION CARRIED

10. **Chief Operating Officer**

Standing Agenda Item – Housing Authority Update

Chief Operating Officer provided a verbal update on the housing authority.

ACTION: Chief Operating Officer to develop a process on Rental Arrears - Deceased Tenants and distribute to all Councillors for feedback.

Standing Agenda Item - BSU Update

Chief Operating Officer, Mr Ilario Sabatino spoke to the report.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Aven Noah; *Second:* Cr Francis Pearson

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group Committee note the information contained in this advice and endorse its submission to the August Ordinary Meeting of Council.

MOTION CARRIED

Special Holidays

Chief Operating Officer spoke to the report. Mayor Mosby requested a review of the Regional Holidays with the Councillors and suggested a written voting system used with a late report coming to Councillor.

Chief Operating Officer confirmed Divisional Administration capacity to complete the report within short timeframe.

ACTION: Chief Operating Officer to conduct a Regional Holiday Survey between the Councillors and provide a late paper to the August OM for full Council consideration.

Housing Investment Plan

Chief Operating Officer spoke to the report.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen; *Second:* Cr Hilda Mosby

That the Strategic Advisory and Reference Group (SARG) committee note this report as a draft planning schedule consultation of \$14.428m Housing Capital Works Program.

MOTION CARRIED

11. Council moved into Closed Business

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Aven Noah; *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;

ALL IN FAVOUR

1. Elphinstone and Grafton St Office Review – CB – ACEO (verbal)
2. Sea Swift tender – CB – ACEO (verbal)

12. Council Move out of Closed Business

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Aven Noah; *Second:* Cr Francis Pearson

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

MOTION CARRIED

13. General/ Other Business (on notice)

Tender Process – Cr Lui

A discussion was held on the Tender Process and IEOP's. SARG has requested that Building Services Unit and Engineering work together to come up with a consistent approach to be used for all Tenders.

ACTION: Chief Engineer and Chief Operating Officer together with the Head of Building Services to draft a methodology on the Tender Process and present a report to the next Economic Growth Committee meeting. The report is to include examples of Council's achievements in investing in First Nation business/companies.

Local Holidays – Cr Lui

A discussion was held on local holidays.

Torres Strait Flag – Cr Lui

A discussion was held on the Torres Strait Flag and the upcoming meeting to be held with the Namok Family and legal representative. Cr Lui raised the existing MOU and completed Statutory Declarations completed on this issue.

ACTION: Senior Legal Counsel to put together a brief on the Torres Strait Flag prior to the in-person meeting scheduled for the afternoon of the 20th September 2021 on TI with the Namok Family.

Entry onto Trust land– Cr Noah

Cr Noah requested a review of Entry onto Trust Land with amended to the online request to visit form to allow Councillors to comment or respond to applicants prior to approving or rejecting their entry request.

ACTION: Chief Financial Officer to liaise with Head of Corporate Affairs to amend the Request to Visit online form to allow for comments by Councillors to applicants prior to approving or rejecting their entry request. The recommended

changes are to be added Refer also to the Culture, Art, Land and Heritage Committee for review and comment and then to September 2021 SARG meeting.

Pilot Outboard Mechanic visit to island – Cr Noah

A discussion was held on the possibility of an outboard mechanic being engaged by TSIRC and accompanying Remote Fleet on their scheduled visits to each island.

ACTION: Chief Engineer to explore the possibility of an outboard mechanic to accompany the motor mechanic when on his regular visits to Divisions.

Councillors Business Cards – Cr Fell

A discussion was held on the Councillor Business Cards and confirmed that this topic has been referred to Culture, Arts Standing Committee to discuss.

Prepare for Disaster / Cyclone – Cr Fell

A discussion was held, and the Chief Engineer confirmed this information is reported against in the monthly information reports provided to Councillors at the Ordinary Meeting.

Sea Rescue – Fuel / Support – Cr Fell

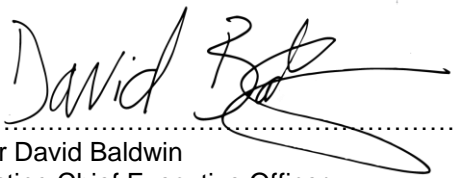
A discussion was held, and the acting Chief Engineer confirmed this is an action from the Council Meeting and the action is currently ongoing.

14. Next meeting date – proposed for Tuesday 7th September 2021

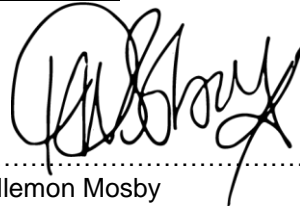
15. Closing Remarks and Prayer

Mayor Mosby thanked Councillors, Acting Chief Executive Officer and staff for the contribution and attendance and invited Cr Francis Pearson to close the meeting in prayer.

Meeting Closed at 5:03pm



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