

Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

STRATEGIC ADVISORY REFERENCE GROUP

Date: Tuesday 2nd September 2020

Time: 09:00am – 2:00pm

Venue: Video conference – VMR# 8 – 02 9916 5402

SARG Meeting

Video Conference

Tuesday 2nd September 2020
09:00am – 2:00pm

Present: Mayor Mosby (Cairns)
Cr Aven Noah (Mer)
Cr Getano Lui Jnr (Iama)
Cr Hilda Mosby (Masig)
Cr Francis Pearson (Poruma)
Hollie Faithfull, acting Chief Executive Officer (Cairns)
Ilario Sabatino, Chief Operating Officer (Hammond)
Peter Krebs, Senior Legal Counsel (via phone)
Luke Ranga, Head of Corporate Affairs and Engagement (Cairns)
Mette Nordling, Manager Governance and Compliance (Cairns)
Ursula Nai, Senior Executive Assistant (Thursday Island)

Apologies: Cr Keith Fell, SARG Member
Cr Torenzo Elisala, SARG Proxy Member
Cr Rocky Stephen (Ugar)
David Baldwin, Chief Engineer (Cairns)
Naila Nomoa, acting Secretariat (Cairns)

Opening Prayer:

Mayor Mosby invited Cr Noah to open the SARG meeting in prayer.

Acknowledgements:

Mayor Mosby acknowledged and paid respects to Traditional owners of the land on which we meet.

COI/ MPI Disclosures:

Mayor Mosby

- Gur A Baradharaw Kod - Director
- Malu Lamar – Director
- Porumalgai RNTBC Chair

Cr Noah

- Torres Strait Regional Authority – Board Member
- RNTBC – Mer Ged Kem Le – staff member

Cr Lui

- Torres Strait Regional Authority – Board Member

Cr Mosby

- Torres Strait Regional Authority – Board Member

- Masigal PBC – Board Member

Outstanding Strategic Action Items

- Action Items updated

Minutes – SARG Meeting – July

Minutes will be provided at the next SARG meeting.

Minutes – SARG Meeting – 10th August 2020

Minutes to be amended to remove Gur A Baradharaw Kod and Malu Lamar from Cr Noah COI/MPI Disclosures.

Minutes to be amended to add Porumalgai RNTBC Chair as a COI/MPI Disclosure for Mayor Mosby.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Aven Noah; Second: Cr Hilda Mosby

That the minutes of the SARG meeting held on 10th August 2020 is endorsed as an accurate record of that meeting taking into account the above amendment.

MOTION CARRIED

Strategic Updates:

a. Acting Chief Executive Officer: -

1. SARG Meeting Dates

Acting Chief Executive Officer spoke to this report.

A robust discussion was held around the dates for the Standing Committee and the Senior Executive Assistant will liaise with Committee Chair's for dates that align to their calendar's and SARG.

ACTION: Senior Executive Assistant to provide a paper to the next SARG on the proposed Committee Dates for this quarter.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Francis Pearson; Second: Cr Aven Noah

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group review and confirm the following meeting dates for 2020

Option 2 – 2 weeks before Council Meeting

- **Tuesday 6th October 2020 (1pm – 4pm)**
- **Tuesday 3rd November 2020 (1pm – 4pm)**

- **• Friday 27th November 2020 (1pm – 4pm)**

MOTION CARRIED

2. Christmas Shutdown Dates

Acting Chief Executive Officer spoke to this report.

Cr Lui would like the title of the report changed from Christmas Shutdown to Christmas Break Period and for staff to be aware that they will be required to work if and when required.

ACTION: Chief Executive Officer to work with Chief Engineer and Chief Operating Officer to prepare an Information Report to Council on the roster of staff over the Christmas Break Period.

SARG members noted the report and supported the closure.

3. LGAQ Membership

Head of Corporate Affairs and Engagement spoke to this briefing paper and provided SARG a review and overview of TSIRC's LGAQ membership.

Benefits included within Membership are:

- Advocacy
- Indigenous Leadership Forum (ILF)
- Support and Resources
- Human Resources
- Procurement
- Legal Opinions
- Insurance
- Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)
- Training

The Head of Corporate Affairs and Engagement strongly recommends that Council remains a member of LGAQ, however a comprehensive gap analysis is recommended to drive value for money and further ensure a full realisation of the membership benefits which would include:

1. Detailed overview sessions for all Managers within Council, including:
 - Establishing individual access and training for LG Online (member-only portal).
 - Dedicated intranet page and quick reference guide provided on services available and how to access.
2. Detailed overview of services provided to all Councillors, as part of the Elected Member Update (EMU), scheduled for the November 2020 workshop in Cairns, and also including:
 - Established individual access and training for LG Online (Member only portal).
 - Dedicated intranet Page and quick reference guide provided on services available and how to access.

Mayor Mosby has requested a complete gap analysis on the value for money vs LGAQ engagement with Councillors and their powers of veto as trustee and all TSIRC Managers including Divisional Managers and Divisional Engineering Officers in our region.

Deputy Mayor Lui would like evidence of how LGAQ has utilised our contribution to help the people and communities of the Torres Straits.

The current membership is paid until 30 June 2021.

The Chief Operating Officer would like the alliance between the state and LGAQ in relation to the training fund looked into or if there is an option for TSIRC to have this relationship directly with the state.

ACTION: Head of Corporate Affairs and Engagement to complete a gap analysis on the value for money vs LGAQ engagement with Councillors and TSIRC Managers including Divisional Managers and Divisional Engineering Officers also to provide further information on what services LGAQ provide.

ACTION: Head of Corporate Affairs and Engagement to provide training to all Managers on LGAQ and the services they provide and how to access these services and how this benefits the Torres Strait Communities.

4. Local Housing Plan

Mayor Mosby welcomed Zachariah Matysek and Tim Poole from the Housing Unit of the Department of Housing and Engagement and Partnerships Team of the Department of Housing and Public Works to discuss the Local Housing Plans they would like to develop in the TSIRC footprint.

The Local Housing Plans are a key commitment under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan.

The Local Housing Plan is action 1 of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan and the Department of Housing and Public Works is committed and supporting healthy and empowered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through local decision making, opportunity for each community to be involved with key stakeholders to come together and discuss the aspirations for the region and together draft a plan and way forward for each division. Key stakeholders would be:

- TSIRC Council Staff
- Traditional Owners
- Community Members

Zachariah would like to discuss the possibility of the Department of Housing and Public Works request for TSIRC support for the following:

1. To deliver the Local Housing Plan sessions to each island via TSIRC existing Video Conferencing facilities.
2. What support would TSIRC be able to provide on the ground to facilitate these workshops

Mayor Mosby has requested the Departments reasoning behind virtual meetings rather than face to face sessions in each division. Tim mentioned there are a number of reasons however the main reason for this request is due to COVID-19 restrictions and the timing to undertake some of the engagement prior to the regional summit.

Mayor Mosby, Deputy Mayor Lui and Cr Noah discussed their concerns regarding the importance and sensitivity of the topics that will be discussed and believe that these sessions must be held face to face in each community.

Mayor Mosby also mentioned the disadvantages of our broadband width within the TSIRC region and connectivity of using Video Conferencing.

SARG members are in support of the sessions being:

1. In person face to face sessions
2. Sessions are to be COVID Safe and in a cultural appropriate setting
3. 2 weeks' notice

Deputy Mayor Lui would like the Housing Standing Committee to add this topic to their agenda.

Mayor Mosby has nominated Chief Operating Officer as TSIRC key contact on this housing plan to work with Department of Housing and Public Works.

ACTION: Zachariah Matysek to forward a digital copy of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan to SARG members.

ACTION: The Secretariat to add Local Housing Plan as a Standing Agenda Item at their committee meeting.

ACTION: Senior Executive Assistant to send Chief Operating Officers details to Zachariah as he will be TSIRC key contact.

5. TCICA Membership

The Chief Operating Officer spoke to this report and a robust discussion was held.

The Deputy Mayor commended the Chief Operating Officer on the structure of the report as this clearly outlines how the report relates to the Councillor and community.

Mayor Mosby confirms that membership is \$10,000.00 and is currently outstanding

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Noah; Second: Cr Hilda Mosby

That Council resolve that TCICA:

- **Membership is not renewed. TSIRC to firmly retain Cultural Integrity, Relevance, and purpose as standalone entity.**
- **Non-member relations be maintained same as with other indigenous councils. Engagement enabled through invitations from either party that is consistent with other councils' connections with TCICA.**
- **Focus and resources (10k) is optimised and channelled to TSIRC priorities i.e. strengthening of Regional Governance between TSIRC, TSC and NPARC**

b. Mayor Update:

Mayor Mosby asked all staff to leave the discussion.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Hilda Mosby; Second: Cr Aven Noah

That in accordance with section 275 (1) 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:

h) Business for which public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of Council or someone else or enable a person to gain a financial advantage.

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Aven Noah; Second: Cr Hilda Mosby

That Council move out of Closed Business

MOTION CARRIED

Mayors Update

1. Local Housing Plan

Mayor Mosby spoke to this report and reiterated what was discussed in previous Local Housing session.

2a. Terms of Reference for Cultural, Arts and Heritage – Cr. Aven Noah

2b. Terms of Reference for the Governance and Leadership Committee – Cr. Getano Lui

2c. Terms of Reference for Economic Growth Committee – Cr. Rocky Stephen

2d. Terms of Reference for Safe and Healthy Communities – Cr. Keith Fell

2e. Terms of Reference for Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee – Cr. Hilda Mosby

2f. Terms of Reference for Strategic Action Reference Group (SARG) – Mayor Phillemon Mosby

Manager of Governance spoke to all six reports. The reports have been updated as per discussions from August Council Meeting along with the members' update.

The Mayor would like Housing to be added to the title of the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee. All SARG members agreed the new name would be Housing and Safe and Healthy Communities Committee.

The Mayor has been added as a member of each of the standing committees however there is only a certain number of meetings the Mayor is required to attend.

The committee chairs are able to invite external stakeholders to deputise with their committee however they would not have voting rights. The standing committees must feed back into SARG and back to Council Meetings.

SARG members accepted all changes and recommended the reports be adopted at the upcoming September Council Meeting.

ACTION: Manager of Governance to include a proxy member into all Committee Terms of Reference

ACTION: Senior Executive Assistant to liaise with the Chair each committee for dates for their first quarterly meeting.

ACTION: Manager of Governance to change the title of the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee to Housing and Safe and Healthy Communities Committee.

2. State Deputations

Mayor Mosby and the Chief Engineer provided a verbal update on the State Deputations attended by the Mayor, acting Chief Executive Officer and Chief Engineer earlier in the week.

Mayor Mosby thanked the acting Chief Executive Officer, Chief Engineer and Head of Corporate Affairs and Engagement for their contributed effort in.

3. November Workshop

Cr. Getano Lui would like team building session for Councillors to productive and provide outcomes and benefit to the Councillors.

ACTION: Senior Executive Assistant to send out email to Councillors for their suggestions on Team Building activities for inclusion in the November workshop


4. Next SARG Meeting Date

6th October 2020

ACTION: Manager of Governance to update the meeting handbook and provide the draft handbook for review at the next SARG meeting

Meeting Closed in Prayer by Cr Hilda Mosby.


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


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