



Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

January 2023

Tuesday 24th January 2023, 11:00am – 3:25pm

Wednesday 25th January 2023, 9:00am – 10:10am

Video Conference

RATIFIED - OM Meeting Minutes – January 2023 – **RATIFIED**
(Ratified @ February 2023 Council Meeting)

PRESENT:

Cr Phillemon Mosby, Mayor
Cr Dimas Toby, Division 1 – Boigu
Cr Torengo Elisala, Division 2 – Dauan
Cr Conwell Tabuai, Division 3 – Saibai
Cr Keith Fell, Division 4 – Mabuig
Cr Laurie Nona, Division 5 – Badu
Cr Lama Trinkoon, Division 6 – Kubin (Arkai), Mua Island
Cr John Levi, Division 7 – Wug (St Pauls), Mua Island
Cr Seriako Dorante, Division 8 – Kirriri (Hammond)
Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Deputy Mayor, Division 9 – Iama (Yam)
Cr Kabay Tamu, Division 10 – Warraber (Sue)
Cr Francis Pearson, Division 11 – Poruma (Coconut)
Cr Hilda Mosby, Division 12 – Masig (Yorke)
Cr Rocky Stephen, Division 13 – Ugar (Stephen)
Cr Jimmy Gela, Division 14 – Erub (Darnley)
Cr Aven Noah, Division 15 – Mer (Murray)

STAFF:

Mr James William, Chief Executive Officer
Mr David Baldwin, Executive Director Engineering Services
Mr Wayne Green, Executive Director Building Services
Mr Dawson Sailor, Head of Community Services
Note: Technical Issues prevented Mr Sailor to engage uninterrupted
Ms Noeleen Selke, Executive Director Corporate Services
Ms Nicola Daniels, Acting Executive Director, Financial Services
Ms Julia Mauro, Senior Legal Officer
Mr Jacob Matysek, Executive Officer
Ms Julie Marino, Executive Assistant to the CEO
Ms Trudy Lui, Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Note: Technical Issues prevented Ms Lui to engage uninterrupted

APOLOGIES:

None

COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING
Tuesday, 24 January 2023
Day 1

1. **11:00am – 11:25am** **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Mayor Phillemon Mosby opened the Council meeting for January 2023 and established a quorum and welcomed everyone to the first Council meeting of 2023. Mayor Mosby hoped we all had a relaxing break and had the chance to spend quality and productive time with our family and friends.

A reminder of the elections next year and this Council will proceed to caretaker mode around December this year. It is critical that the Council meetings and Standing Committee Meetings take full advantage of our remaining time and iron out any issues remaining and embrace the knowledge gained from the process of lessons learned. Mayor Mosby expressed his gratitude to work with the team that we have.

Chief Executive Officer, Mr James William stressed that this was a very important year to ensure we have tangible demonstration of outcomes of what is best for community. Chief Executive Officer, Mr James William stressed that the Community must be aware of our challenges otherwise we are exposed to criticism.

2. **11:25am – 11:30am** **Apologies**

No apologies

3. **11:30am – 11:35am** **Declaration of Conflict of Interest (COI) (Prescribed and Declarable)**

Mayor Mosby encouraged Councillors to make a declaration of a Conflict of Interest or any relevant legal proceedings at any time during the meeting. There are no relevant legal proceedings against any Councillor. No Conflict of Interest or legal matters declared.

ACTION:

Senior Legal Officer to clarify at next Council Meeting the obligations and responsibilities of declaring a COI/Prescribed or Declarable.

4. **11:35am – 11:40am** **Confirmation of Previous Council Ordinary Meeting Minutes**

- 13th December 2022

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela; Second: Cr Conwell Tabuai

That Council resolves to accept the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th December 2022 to be a true and accurate account of that meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

11:40am – 11:45am **Confirmation of Previous Council Ordinary Meeting Minutes**

- 14th December 2022

Let the Minutes note that Boigu December 2022 Council Ordinary Meeting was an historic occasion.

The meeting on Wednesday, 14th December 2022 was the first meeting since the Torres Strait Treaty was signed (1985) that PNG Councillors attended a TSIRC/Island Council Meeting on Boigu Island.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Aven Noah; Second: Cr Francis Pearson

That Council resolves to accept the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th December 2022 to be a true and accurate account of that meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

Cr Keith Fell requested an update on Skytrans services.

Executive Director Engineering Services, Mr David Baldwin advised that works are currently underway to install cones and gables. Mer and Mabuiag Islands should re-open early February 2023. Erub has more issues due to aircraft safety and new conditions and the slope of the land on the runway. Unfortunately, our communities are holding Council responsible rather than CASA and Skytrans, where the responsibility actually sits. Council cannot accept lowered standards without taking on potential for liability. Design limitations make it hard to meet the new regulations.

In-depth discussions took place on the option of charter flights being made available in the interim.

5. **11:45am – 11:50am** **Confirmation of Previous SARG Committee Meeting Minutes**
- 2nd December 2022

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Francis Pearson; Second: Cr Conwell Tabuai

That Council resolves to accept the minutes of the Strategic Advisory Reference Group (SARG) held on 2nd December 2022, to be a true and accurate account of that meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

6. **11:50am – 11:55am** **Confirmation of Previous SARG Committee Meeting Minutes**
- 10th January 2023

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala; Second: Cr Lama Trinkoon

That Council resolves to accept the minutes of the Strategic Advisory Reference Group (SARG) held on 10th January 2023, to be a true and accurate account of that meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

7. **11:55am – 12:15pm** **Outstanding Council Ordinary Meeting Action Items**

Executive Director Engineering Services, Mr David Baldwin, provided a verbal update of the action items from December's meeting and provided recommendations – Marine Infrastructure.

LUNCH 12:15pm – 1:15pm

Outstanding Council Ordinary Meeting Action Items continued

1:15pm Mayor Mosby conducted a roll call of Councillors online to establish a quorum.

Mr James William, Chief Executive officer reported that Head of Community Services, Mr Dawson Sailor was experiencing Technical Difficulties and unfortunately could not join the afternoon session.

Chief Executive Officer spoke on the closing of the jetties and that the decision was based on the integrity of the structures which are unsafe. He said that Council is working in the background as a matter of priority to get these jetties back to "business as usual" for our communities.

8. **1:40pm – 1:50pm** **CORPORATE – Community Grants Program – January 2023**

Executive Director, Corporate Services, Ms Noeleen Selke updated the Council on Community Grants Program for January 2023. Ms Selke advised the report is for information only as there are no Community Grant Programs for January 2023. It is noted that closing balances for each division are not current.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala; Second Cr Laurie Nona

That Council resolves to note this report and its contents. No Community Grant applications requiring resolution were received during the month of December.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

9. **1:50pm – 2:00pm** **CORPORATE – Top 5 Priority Project Report**

Executive Director, Corporate Services, Ms Noeleen Selke spoke to the report on the first quarterly report for Top 5 Priority Projects.

Executive Director, Engineering Services, Mr David Baldwin added commentary on the areas related to Engineering.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Keith Fell; Second: Cr Hilda Mosby

That Council resolves to note this report and its content.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

10. **2:00pm – 2:10pm** **CORPORATE – Operational Plan 2022-23 Q2 Update**

Executive Director, Corporate Services, Ms Noeleen Selke spoke to the report on the second quarterly report for Operational Plan 2022-2023 Q2 Update.

Ms Noeleen Selke commented that this paper was a dashboard generated by Corporate Services to report against the requirement in the operational plan Q2.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela; Second Cr Lama Trinkoon

Council resolves to note the Operational Plan 2022-23 Quarter 2 Update.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

11. **2:10pm – 2:20pm** **CORPORATE – Change of Standing Committee Meeting Dates**

Executive Director Corporate Services, Ms Noeleen Selke spoke to the report on the change of dates of the Culture, Arts, Land and Heritage Standing Committee and Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Standing Committee due to the adopted meeting dates falling on Council Ordinary Meetings.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Hilda Mosby; Second: Cr Keith Fell

That Council resolves to:

1. change the meeting dates for the Culture, Arts, Land, and Heritage Committee, from 22 February 2023 to 9 March 2023 and from 25 October 2023 to 18 October 2023

and

2. change the meeting dates for the Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee, from 23 March 2023 at 10am to 30 March 2023 at 1pm.

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MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

12. **2:20pm – 2:30pm** **BUILDING – Building Services Update (January) 2023**

Executive Director Building Services, Mr Wayne Green spoke to the report. Mr Green advised that there has been minimum progression since December 2022 reporting due in both maintenance and upgrade resulting from industry closure over the Christmas – New Year period. Contractors and their staff resumed work from 16th January 2023.

Mr Green spoke on Upgrades and Aged Home Ownership Program and the R & M Program as well as the Housing Investment Program.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Aven Noah; Second: Cr Jimmy Gela

Council resolves to note the Building Services Report for December 2022.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

13. **2:30pm – 2:45pm** **ENGINEERING – Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS) Engagement Briefing**

Executive Director Engineering Services, Mr David Baldwin spoke to the report. Seeking Council resolution to enable Council to go forward with organising a Councillor Workshop / Session in relation to the Coastal Hazard Adaption Strategy Engagement Briefing. This workshop is to align with the timing of the May workshop.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Hilda Mosby; Second: Cr Getano Lui

- Council notes the exemplary work being undertaken by the Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee and in undertaking the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS), and supports the undertaking of a TSIRC two-day Councillor CHAS Workshop in May 2023 to align with the timing of the May Council Workshop, subject to funding being confirmed, and if necessary alternate suitable dates as directed by the Mayor;
- Council acknowledges the Torres Strait 8; and
- Council seeks to collaborate and engage Torres Strait youth in the CHAS Workshop discussions.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

14. **2:45pm – 2:45pm** **COUNCIL MOVES INTO CLOSED BUSINESS**

RESOLUTION:

Move: Cr Jimmy Gela; 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 business to discuss matters of the following nature:

- (c) local government budget.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

15. **2:50pm – 3:00pm** **FINANCE – CB – Financial Dashboard Report**

16. **3:00pm – 3:00pm** **COUNCIL MOVES OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS AND RESUMES IN OPEN BUSINESS**

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Keith Fell; Second: Cr Laurie Nona

That Council resolves to move out of closed business and resume in open business.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

Resolutions and minutes for noting following closed business:

15. 2:50pm – 3:00pm FINANCE – CB – Financial Dashboard Report

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Keith Fell; Second: Cr Getano Lui

That Council receive and endorse the monthly financial statements attached to the officer's report for the 2022-23 year to date, for the period ended 31 December 2022, as required under Section 204 Local Government Regulation 2012.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

3:06pm - For Minute Taking purposes, Staff were asked to leave the meeting for a closed Council session.

17. 3:25pm – 3:25pm Closing Remarks and Prayer

Mayor Mosby thanked Councillors and Staff for their attendance and participation at today's meeting and invited Cr Keith Fell to close the meeting in prayer.

MEETING ADJOURNED – 3:25PM

COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING
Wednesday, 25th January 2023
Day 2

PRESENT:

Cr Phillemon Mosby, Mayor
Cr Dimas Toby, Division 1 – Boigu
Cr Torenzo Elisala, Division 2 – Dauan
Cr Conwell Tabuai, Division 3 – Saibai
Cr Keith Fell, Division 4 – Mabuiag
Cr Laurie Nona, Division 5 – Badu
Cr Lama Trinkoon, Division 6 – Kubin (Arkai), Mua Island
Cr John Levi, Division 7 – Wug (St Pauls), Mua Island
Cr Seriako Dorante, Division 8 – Kirriri (Hammond)
Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Deputy Mayor, Division 9 – Iama (Yam)
Cr Kabay Tamu, Division 10 – Warraber (Sue)
Cr Francis Pearson, Division 11 – Poruma (Coconut)
Cr Hilda Mosby, Division 12 – Masig (Yorke)
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Cr Aven Noah, Division 15 – Mer (Murray)

STAFF:

Mr James William, Chief Executive Officer
Mr David Baldwin, Executive Director Engineering Services
Mr Wayne Green, Executive Director Building Services
Mr Dawson Sailor, Head of Community Services
Note: Technical Issues prevented Mr Sailor to engage uninterrupted
Ms Noeleen Selke, Executive Director Corporate Services
Ms Nicola Daniels, Acting Executive Director, Financial Services
Mr Jacob Matysek, Executive Officer
Ms Julie Marino, Executive Assistant to the CEO
Ms Trudy Lui, Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Note: Technical Issues prevented Ms Lui to engage uninterrupted

APOLOGY:

Mrs Julia Mauro, Senior Legal Officer

COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING
Wednesday, 25th January 2023
Day 2

18. **9:00am – 9:10am** **Welcome and Opening Prayer.**

Mayor Phillemon Mosby opened the second day of Council meeting for January 2023. Mayor Mosby conducted a roll call and established a quorum and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mayor Mosby also acknowledged:

- Our Heavenly Father for his awesome, wisdom, knowledge and understanding upon our lives. our family, our organisation, our people and region;
- Traditional Owners of this land we gather today;
- Elders, leaders, past, present and emerging;
- Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Staff;

Mayor Mosby invited Deputy Mayor, Cr Getano Lui Jnr, to open the meeting in a word of prayer.

19. **9:10am – 9:45am,** **Deputation 1| Ms Mary Bani – Containers for Change**

Mayor Mosby formally welcomed Ms Mary Bani from Containers for Change to the meeting.

Ms Mary Bani provided an overview of Containers for Change and their purposes to Councilors and Staff and information on an overall roll out model and how it will work for Council.

Mayor Mosby thanked Ms Mary Bani for the presentation and recommended that she have further discussions with the Chair of the Standing Committee, Climate Adaptation and Environment, Cr Hilda Mosby and Executive Director Engineering Services, Mr David Baldwin who has vast knowledge of the complexity of the regions.

Chief Executive Officer advised that there a trial with Containers for Change on Poruma and that TSIRC will endeavour to work with Containers for Change and Ms Bani to look at the broader implications and a potential model that may work for the region.

9:45am – Ms Mary Bani left the meeting.

20. **9:45am – 9:50am** **Business Arising from Information Reports**

Cr Keith Fell expressed concerns regarding the lack of connectivity in the region.

Executive Director Engineering Services, Mr David Baldwin advised the information report was submitted two weeks ago and that Mabuiag, Saibai and Iama HF Radios have been repaired. A purchase order has been raised for Warraber for their radio to be repaired and we are currently liaising with a contractor to fix remaining faulty HF Radios and Satellite phones.

21. **9:50am – 9:50am** **Next Council Meeting Date – 21st and 22nd February 2023 – Video conference**

22. **9:50am – 10:05am** **Strategic Matters**

10:05am - Mayor Mosby left the meeting and Deputy Mayor, Cr Getano Lui Jnr, chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Lease on Grafton Street:

Lease renewed for another 2 years.

High Cost of Living Summit:

Scheduled for 20th March on Thursday Island. Council will be advised further when information comes to hand.

Treaty/Border issues

Concerns were raised regarding lack of adherence to Treaty / border issues which affects the safety and wellbeing of our community. Discussions took place on this topic.

23. **10:05am – 10:10am** **Closing Remarks and Prayer**

Deputy Mayor, Cr Getano Lui Jnr, thanked Councillors and Executive Staff for their attendance and participation in the meeting today and closed the meeting in a word of prayer.

MEETING CLOSED – 10:10AM



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Mr James William
Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 22 February 2023



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Cr Phillemon Mosby Mayor
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 22 February 2023

RATIFIED