



Economic Growth Committee

Minutes

Date: 5 July 2023

Time: 10.00am to 12.00nn

Venue: (VC) VMR 8 – 0299 165 402
Guest PIN 6905#

1. Welcome (Chair)

The Committee Chairperson (Cr Rocky Stephen) opened the meeting at 10.25am and welcomed Committee Members and staff. The Chairperson also acknowledged relevant Traditional Custodians across the TSIRC footprint, including the Aboriginal Custodians in Cairns and across Australia.

2. Opening Prayer

The Chairperson invited Cr Conwell Tabuai to deliver the opening prayer.

3. Attendance / Apologies

There were no Committee Member apologies. The following attendees were noted:

Chairperson & Committee Members

Chairperson

Cr Rocky Stephen

Member

Cr Conwell Tabuai

Member

Cr Jimmy Gela

TSIRC Officers

Chief Executive Officer

Mr James William (*)

Acting Executive Director Financial Services

Ms Nicola Daniels

Acting Executive Director Corporate Services

Mr David Kempton

Acting Manager Enterprise Development & Delivery

Ms Melissa Wright

TSIRC Secretariat

Darryl Brooks

(*) *The Chief Executive Officer joined the meeting at 10.45am and left the meeting at 11.45am.*

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

The Chairperson invited Committee Members to make any relevant conflict of interest declarations. No specific declarations were made, however Crs Gela and Tabuai declared that their may be possible declarations to be made in relation to Agenda Item 14 in Closed Business (CDEP Proposal) depending on the subject matters raised.

5. Confirmation of Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 9 May 2023

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Conwell Tabuai

Seconded: Cr Jimmy Gela

That the Draft Minutes of the Economic Development Committee meeting held on 9 May 2023 be now read as confirmed.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Action Items from Previous Meeting

The Acting Executive Director Financial Services provided the Committee with a verbal update on the status of action items arising from the previous meeting held on 9 May 2023. A copy of the updated action items list is at Attachment A.

7. Economic Development Strategy (verbal discussion)

The ED Corporate Services (Mr David Kempton) and the Acting Manager Enterprise Development & Delivery (Melissa Wright) provided the Committee a verbal update. Two options were presented to the Committee in relation to costings for community consultations in August 2023 in relation to the development of the Strategy:

Option 1 – conduct one community consultation session per day (morning meeting, then use afternoon to proceed to next community); and

Option 2 – conduct two community consultations per day

Ms Wright advised that the original scope for the Strategy in 2019 did not include community consultations, resulting in a shortfall of funding to allow for a consultation process in 2023. The Chief Executive Officer may be in a position to authorise funds from his Consulting budget once the Committee decides on its preferred consultation process and the process is approved by the Strategic Advisory Reference Group in July 2023.

The Chief Executive Officer joined the meeting at 10.45am.

The Chief Executive Officer requested a breakdown of details in relation to the consultancy fees being charged (i.e. \$2,800 per day – no charges for weekends). The CEO felt that the fee was on the 'high end' of what is generally charged, and the standard high fee for TSIRC consultants is usually \$1,500 per day. Ms Wright to provide CEO with related correspondence.

The Committee requested an updated Option 1 to include a community meeting in the morning, followed by an afternoon meeting with business owners/operators.

The Committee agreed that tenure issues in relation to freehold matters should also be part of the scope for the project.

The Committee agreed that if a delay in finalising matters arises, it may be necessary to explore options available to the Consultant to undertake the consultation process/completion of the final report until September 2023 and have the final report considered at the November 2023 Council Workshop.

Actions:

1. The Chief Executive Officer to speak to Gambling Fund Organisation to seek assistance for additional funding.
2. Acting Manager Enterprise Development & Delivery to provide the Chief Executive Officer with a breakdown of details in relation to the consultancy fees being charged (i.e. \$2,800 per day – no charges for weekends).
3. The Acting Executive Director Corporate Services suggested as an option to reduce costs, the CEO offer \$1,500 per day for the entire contract, to off-set the current option of \$2,800 per day (excluding weekends).
4. Updated Option 1 to include a community meeting in the morning, followed by an afternoon meeting with business owners/operators.
5. Tenure issues in relation to freehold matters should also be part of the scope for the project.
6. Explore options with the Consultant (if a delay in finalising matters arises) to undertake the consultation process/completion of the final report until September 2023 and have the final report considered at the November 2023 Council Workshop.

8. Enterprise Divestment Policy (verbal discussion)

The Chairperson advised the Committee that an out-of-session meeting will be called before 31 August 2023 to look at what assets were divested, how they were divested, any remaining/outstanding divestments and what remains as potential revenue for the TSIRC.

Actions:

Acting Executive Director Corporate Services (Mr David Kempton) to finalize/circulate report to Committee members as soon as possible.

9. Freight Subsidy from State Government (verbal discussion)

An amount of \$67m for freight subsidy from the State Government is to cover three regions (Torres Strait, NPA and Western) over 5 years.

Unreasonable for communities to have a subsidy in place for 5 years and then costs suddenly leap up again at the end of that term. Monies would be better spent on long-term solutions, including consideration of a central freight location where containers are packed full (which means sharing with other organisations like Queensland Health, Ergon or the TSRA).

Actions:

Acting Executive Director Corporate Services to prepare a briefing for the Strategic Advisory Reference Group (SARG) in relation to setting out TSIRC's position and recommendations in relation to economic, strategic, and long-term solutions around freight subsidies from the State Government.

10. Ugar, Dauan and Hammond Access Feasibility Study (verbal discussion)

The Acting Manager Enterprise Development & Delivery (Melissa Wright) advised the Committee that Council is currently awaiting the outcome of TSRA consideration of its application, with a decision expected to happen on 10 July 2023. It will be necessary to write a letter to include Hammond in the business case proposal, otherwise the TSRA will not fund.

Cr Torenzo Elisala to be included in relation to Dauan matters and an out-of-session meeting will need to be held with Cr Elisala for the scoping report.

The Acting Executive Director Financial Services advised that Peak Services (Vendor Panel) can assist in scoping the report.

Actions:

1. Acting Executive Director Corporate Services and the Acting Manager Enterprise Development & Delivery to finalise what approach the TSIRC will require for scoping the report prior to the Chairperson, the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Director Corporate Services meeting with Mr Michael Campbell on 7 July 2023.
2. Executive Director Financial Services to organise an out-of-session meeting with Cr Torenzo Elisala in relation to Dauan matters.

11. MOVE INTO CLOSED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela

Seconded: Cr Conwell Tabuai

In accordance with section 254J of the *Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld)* the Committee agreed to move into closed session to discuss the following agenda items:

Agenda Item 12: Fuel Business Opportunities (*verbal discussion*)

Agenda Item 13: Elphinstone Close (*verbal discussion*)

Agenda Item 14: CDEP Proposal (*verbal discussion*)

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. MOVE OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen

Seconded: Cr Jimmy Gela

In accordance with section 254J of the *Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld)* the Committee agreed to move out of closed session.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED BUSINESS

12. Fuel Business Opportunities (*verbal discussion*)

The Committee noted the verbal update provided by the Chief Executive Officer in relation to this matter. The Committee agreed that the TSIRC must partner with an organisation that understands fuel better than the TSIRC does. The Committee recommended that the Chief Executive Officer seek endorsement at the next Strategic Advisory Reference Group (SARG) meeting (July 2023) to commence a Non-Disclosure Agreement with an appropriate organisation in relation to the provision of fuel in the Torres Strait Islands.

Action:

Chief Executive Officer seek endorsement at the next Strategic Advisory Reference Group (SARG) meeting (July 2023) to commence a Non-Disclosure Agreement with an appropriate organisation in relation to the provision of fuel in the Torres Strait Islands.

13. Elphinstone Close (verbal discussion)

The Committee noted the verbal update provided by the Chief Executive Officer. The Committee agreed that Elphinstone has the potential to become an ideal freight logistics hub for future TSIRC fuel and energy projects and has the potential to grow into a productive asset for the TSIRC. The Committee requested that the Chief Executive Officer explore opportunities for short-term revenue raising options from the Elphinstone asset for consideration by the Committee.

Action:

Chief Executive Officer to explore opportunities for short-term revenue raising options from the Elphinstone asset for consideration by the Committee.

14. CDEP Proposal (verbal discussion)

The Committee noted the verbal update provided by the Chief Executive Officer in relation to this matter. Noting that Council is the single largest employer in the Torres Strait Islands, the Committee recommends that Council's first priority is to meet with the NIA to discuss CDEP matters in general.

Action:

Executive Director Corporate Services to prepare a letter of invitation from the TSIRC Mayor to the NIA to attend a full Council meeting to discuss CDEP matters in general.

17. General / Other Business (on notice)

No matters were discussed for this agenda item.

18. Next Meeting Date: Friday, 22 September 2023 (10am)

The Committee noted that its next meeting is scheduled for 22 September 2023, however an out-of-session meeting may need to be convened prior to this date.

19. Closing Remarks & Prayer

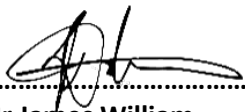
The Chairperson thanked Committee Members and Administrative Staff for their attendance and contributions at the meeting. Cr Conwell Tabuai closed the meeting with prayer at 12.20pm.

Rocky Stephen
Chairperson
Economic Growth Committee

5 July 2023

[Confirmed @ 27 October 2023 Committee Meeting]

RATIFIED AT THE NOVEMBER 2023 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING.



.....
Mr James William
Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 16 November 2023



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Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) AM
Deputy Mayor / Acting Chairperson
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 16 November 2023