



Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes

STRATEGIC ADVISORY REFERENCE GROUP

Date: Tuesday 7 February 2023

Time: 1:11pm to 3:58pm

Venue: Video Conference

Minutes – SARG – Tuesday 7 February 2023
(ratified at March 2023 Council Meeting)

PRESENT:

Cr Phillemon Mosby, Mayor – Poruma (Coconut)
Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Deputy Mayor – Division 9 Iama (Yam)
Cr Keith Fell, Division 4, Mabuiag (Jervis)
Cr Hilda Mosby, Division 12 – Masig (Yorke)
Cr Rocky Stephen, Division 13 – Ugar (Stephen)

STAFF:

Mr James William, Chief Executive Officer
Ms Noeleen Selke, Executive Director, Corporate Services
Mr Wayne Green, Executive Director Building Services
Mr David Baldwin, Executive Director Engineering Services
Ms Hollie Faithfull, Executive Director Financial Services
Mr Dawson Sailor, Head of Community Services
Ms Trudy Lui, Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Ms Emma William, Travel Officer
Ms Julie Marino, Senior Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
Mr Jacob Matysek, Executive Officer

APOLOGY:

Cr Aven S. Noah, Division 15 – Mer (Murray)

AGENDA

1. Welcome (Chair)

Mayor Phillemon Mosby completed a roll call of committee members and staff and welcomed everyone to the second SARG meeting for 2023.

Mayor Phillemon Mosby also acknowledged the following:

- Our Heavenly Father for his awesome knowledge, wisdom, understanding, favour and blessing upon our lives. A blessing on our families, our organisation and our people.
- Traditional owners across the length and breadth of Zenadth Kes including where our Torres Strait Regional Council footprint on Thursday Island and Cairns offices.
- Acknowledge our family members who are in Sorry Business at this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

2. Opening Prayer

Mayor Mosby invited Cr Keith Fell to open the meeting in a word of prayer at 1:11pm.

A minute's silence was observed for those families who are in sorry business. May their souls rest in peace.

Mayor Mosby welcomed councillors and staff who have returned from leave. This is our second SARG Committee Meeting for 2023 – leaving eleven SARG Committee meetings remaining for 2023.

Mayor Mosby thanked the SARG Members and staff for their continuous engagement and advice. Mayor Mosby reminded meeting attendees how critical it is to maintain an open line of communication. The role of SARG is a tool to enable meeting attendees to discuss pending issues and recommend them to full Council. We must present as a united front not only to our elected arm but to our Region and our two Local Government partners.

Executive Director, Corporate Services, Ms Noeleen Selke, introduced Ms Emma William in her role of Travel Officer.

3. Apologies

Cr Aven S. Noah, Division 15 – Mer (Murray).

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Keith Fell; Second: Cr Hilda Mosby

That the Strategic Advisory Reference Group Committee accepts the apology of Cr Aven S. Noah for his absence at this meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

Council acknowledges that Cr Rocky Stephen will be excused from this meeting later this afternoon to travel to Brisbane to attend a First Nation Summit.

Mayor Mosby declared to Councillors that this meeting has an issue with quorum. For a quorum it is required to have four members in attendance. The Chair plus three other members.

Councillor Nona was contacted to kindly participate in this SARGE meeting by proxy for the purpose of being fully compliant with a quorum.

ACTION:

Secretariat to contact the attendees prior to the meeting to ensure we have sufficient numbers to meet a Quorum.

If Quorum numbers are jeopardised, Secretariat to use a contingency plan to contact other Councillors who are members of other Standing Committees to step in by proxy.

1.10pm Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Deputy Mayor dialled in to the SARG meeting.

Quorum was reached with Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Deputy Mayor dialling in.

4. Conflict of Interest / Declarable / Prescribed

Mayor Mosby encouraged Councillors to make a declaration at any time. Mayor Mosby also asked if there was knowledge of any legal matters that would prohibit Councillors to participate in this meeting today. No declarations made.

5. Noting of Draft Minutes - SARG Meeting

- 10th January 2023

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Hilda Mosby; Second: Cr Keith Fell

That the Minutes for the SARG meeting held on 10th January 2023 be adopted as a true and correct account of the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

6. Strategic Action Items Review

The Chief Executive Officer discusses his Action Items and outcomes from January 2023.

ACTION

Chief Executive Officer will call CASA and speak to the head of regulations to see the possibility around special dispensation and what our options are.

Chief Executive Officer, Mr James William advised he called the Chief Executive Officer of SkyTrans with no success. This is a sensitive issue we cannot be seen to have undue risk on the issue of safety. We have to take the view of looking at the constraints in the region and how CASA would look at the new regulation as opposed to providing dispensation per se with Council because we request a special dispensation.

We have had good success with Mer and getting Yorke and Erub back on with RPT and scheduled flights is of utmost importance. CEO spoke further on this topic.

Cr Keith Fell asked if he could be included in talks with CASA and SkyTrans.

ACTION

Chief Executive Officer to engage with CASA and/or Skytrans to include the respective Councillors and ensure to socialise the message and the challenges that are faced. The respective Councillor must then provide feedback to the community – Mabuiag, Erub and Mer Islands.

ACTION

Chief Executive Officer to secure a meeting with the responsible Minister together with appropriate Executive Staff to discuss the possibility of a special dispensation for Council and to discuss short airstrips and what Council options are.

Cr Keith Fell put forward a recommendation that we first seek the support from stakeholders in the region eg TSRA, Police and Charter Companies to give us a better rationale to go to the Government and say if these companies can come to the party – what can you do?

1:41pm: Cr Stephen joined the meeting.

2:00pm - Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Deputy Mayor left the meeting.

ACTION:

Executive Director, Corporate Services to explore North Queensland airports who as part of their strategic plan, have an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island component, in order to draw on their experience and knowledge to use as leverage and also gain from their experience and lessons learned so we may continually maintain this asset appropriately.

ACTION:

Chief Executive Office to prepare media release – positive review for Council regrading Air Services returning to Mabuiag, Erub and Mer Islands.

Mr Jacob Matysek, Executive Officer, advised that the media releases were being prepared and are ready to go in draft form. Mayor Mosby and Chief Executive Officer to review.

The Advocacy Policy – Executive officer to send out a draft Advocacy Policy:

Mr Jacob Matysek, Executive Officer, sent a copy of the policy to Councillors in preparation for the next meeting. Follow up action not required.

An email was sent out to each member of the 10 Key Priorities.

7. Mayor - Verbal

Mr James William, Chief Executive Officer – Verbal

1. Terms of Reference (LTC Funding)

Mr James William provided the committee with a verbal update.

2. ROC – Mr James William, Chief Executive Officer

Mr James William provided the committee with a verbal update.

3. TSI&NPA Regional Leaders Meeting–Monday,13th February 2023

Mr James William provided the committee with a verbal update.

4. TAP – Chief Executive Officer, Mr James William

Mr James William provided the committee with a verbal update.

5. TORCH – Cr Keith Fell - Verbal

Cr Keith Fell provided the committee with a verbal update.

6. RIAC–DEE - Chief Executive Officer / Executive Director Engineering Services - Verbal

Chief Executive Officer / Executive Director Engineering Services provided the committee with a verbal update. In-depth discussions took place.

Chief Executive Officer – Verbal

a. Elphinstone Close Business Proposal – Following November Workshop 2022.

Mr James William provided the committee with a verbal update.

Executive Director Corporate Services – Verbal

b. Fuel Business Proposal - following November 2022

Ms Noeleen Selke provided the committee with a verbal update.

Executive Director Corporate Services – Verbal

c. Climate Centre of Excellence (MoU)

Ms Noeleen Selke provided the committee with a verbal update.

8. SARG COMMITTEE MOVED INTO CLOSED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen; Second: Cr Getano Lui Jnr

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

- Sea Wall update – Executive Director Engineering Services
- Confidential – Mechanical Service (Vehicles and Plant) to Torres Strait Regional Council - Executive Director Engineering Services
- OCEO – HR Matter

3:30pm – For minute taking purposes all staff were asked to leave the meeting for a closed meeting session except for the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Directors.

9. **SARG COMMITTEE MOVED OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS**

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Keith Fell; Second: Cr Rocky Stephen

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

10. **General/ Other Business (on notice)**

No other business.

11. **Next meeting date – Tuesday 7th March 2023 | 1pm – 4pm**

12. **Closing Remarks and Prayer**

Mayor Mosby thanked SARG members, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Staff for their attendance at today's meeting and invited Cr Rocky Stephen to close the meeting in a word of prayer.

MEETING CLOSED – 3:58PM



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

23/3/2023



.....
Cr Phillemon Mosby
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date:

23/3/2023