



**Time:** 10.30am

**Venue:** [\[Microsoft TEAMS\]: Meeting ID: 440 941 261 663 | Passcode: cxhNpo](#)

PRESENT:

**Mayor**

Division 1 – Boigu  
Division 2 – Dauan  
Division 3 – Saibai  
Division 4 – Mabuia  
Division 5 – Badu / **Deputy Mayor**  
Division 6 – Arkai  
Division 8 – Kirirri (Hammond Island)  
Division 9 – lama

Division 10 – Warraber  
Division 11 – Poruma  
Division 12 – Masig  
Division 13 – Ugar  
Division 14 – Erub  
Division 15 – Mer

Cr Phillemon Mosby  
Cr Dimas Toby – *joined meeting at 10.40am*  
Cr Torenzo Elisala  
Cr Chelsea Aniba – *joined meeting at 10.40am*  
Cr Keith Fell  
Cr Ranetta Wosomo  
Cr Iona Manas – *left meeting at 2.15pm*  
Cr Seriako Dorante  
Cr Aggie Hankin – *joined meeting at 2.55pm*  
*(following approved absence for lama Community legal business)*  
Cr Kabay Tamu – *joined meeting at 11.05am*  
Cr Francis Pearson  
Cr Ted Mosby  
Cr Rocky Stephen – *absent 1.00pm to 1.25pm*  
Cr Nixon Mye  
Cr Bob Kaigey

APOLOGIES:

Division 7 – Wug (St. Pauls), Mua Island

Cr John Levi

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer  
Executive Director Building Services  
Executive Director Community Services  
  
Executive Director Corporate Services  
Executive Director Engineering Services  
Executive Director Financial Services  
DOGIT Transfer, Land Tenure and Native Title Advisor  
Manager Governance & Risk  
Executive Assistant to the Mayor  
TSIRC Secretariat

Mr James William  
Mr Wayne Green  
Mr Dawson Sailor *(absent for external meeting from 2.10pm to 3.00pm)*  
Ms Susanne Andres  
Mr David Baldwin  
Ms Hollie Faithfull  
Ms Joanne Bryant  
Ms Kim Kerwin  
Ms Trudy Lui  
Mr Darryl Brooks

**A. WELCOME & QUORUM CONFIRMATION | ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | OPENING PRAYER | OBSERVANCES**

At 10.35am, the Mayor welcomed Councillors, Executives and to the Ordinary Council meeting for the month of January 2025, noting that a quorum of members was present.

The Mayor made the following acknowledgements:

- Our Heavenly Father for His awesome wisdom, knowledge, understanding, favour and blessings upon our lives, our families, our people – especially our Elders and our children, our region and our Council;
- The Traditional Custodians throughout the length and breadth of Zenadth Kes, as well as the TSIRC footprint in Kaurareg Nations and Gimuy in Cairns.

The Mayor also conveyed to those members of the Torres Strait Islander community throughout the homelands and on the Australian mainland who may be observing Sorry Business, the collective thoughts, prayers and well wishes of Council at this time.

**B. NOTING OF APOLOGIES**

#C24-28/2025-1/B

The following apology was noted and accepted by Council:

Division	Councillor/Reason	Mover/Seconded
Division 7 – Wug (St. Pauls), Mua Island	Cr John Levi – <i>personal leave</i>	CR STEPHEN / CR WOSOMO

- *Cr Aggie Hankin's absence from the commencement of the January 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting was approved by the Mayor. Cr Keith Fell moved that this absence be noted. The motion was seconded by Cr Ranetta Wosomo and all Councillors were in favour.*

**C. CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI) DECLARATIONS**

The Mayor advised that he had received no COI declarations from Councillors in relation to this month's agenda items and invited Councillors to declare any COI matters.

The Mayor also requested that if there are any legal matters involving Councillors, then Councillors should advise the Mayor as soon as possible.

**D. LIVE STREAM**

The Mayor advised Council that this meeting is being LIVE STREAMED on Council's YouTube Channel and welcomed members of the general public who may be viewing proceedings.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (11 DECEMBER 2024)**

#C24-28/2025-1/1

CR WOSOMO / CR MYE

**Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11 December 2024.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**1.1. ACTION ITEMS UPDATE**

The Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) spoke to this item. Items noted as 'completed' during this update will be deleted from future reports. The update was noted by Council.

Review Superannuation Arrangements for Councillors

**Action:**

Chief Executive Officer to prepare a report for Council consideration.

**2. MAYORAL REPORT**

The Mayor spoke to his report. The report was noted by Council.

**3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT****3.1. CEO Monthly Report (January 2025)**

#C24-28/2025-1/3.1

CR TAMU / CR TOBY

**Council notes the Chief Executive Officer Report for January 2025.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- *The Chief Executive Officer added in addition to his monthly report that negotiations on TSIRC's new Certified Agreement (following referral of TSIRC to the Industrial Relations Commission by the Unions for mediation) was undertaken. That mediation successfully concluded earlier this month with agreement from Parties. A report will be presented to Council for consideration (with budget implications) and it is recommended by the Chief Executive Officer that Council give the report favourable consideration when it is presented.*
- *Cr Seriaiko Dorante thanked the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Director Corporate Services in relation to the favourable outcome for the Hammond Island Ferry Service subsidy.*

**3.2. Strategic Action Reference Group (SARG) Standing Committee – Meeting Schedule for 2025**

#C24-28/2025-1/3.2

CR TOBY / CR STEPHEN

**Council, in accordance with Section 264(1)(a) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, endorses the following schedule of meetings for the Strategic Action Reference Group (SARG) Standing Committee for 2025:**

- 5 March 2025 (Microsoft TEAMS);
- 9 April 2025 (Microsoft TEAMS);
- 9 May 2025 (Cairns) – Friday before May Council Workshop
- 9 July 2025 (Microsoft TEAMS);
- 8 October 2025 (Microsoft TEAMS); and
- 7 November 2025 (Cairns) – Friday before November Council Workshop.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- *Council deliberations suspended for lunch break from 11.50am to 1.00pm.*
- *At 1.05pm the Mayor confirmed that a quorum of Councillors were present for the meeting to resume.*

#### 4. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

#### 5. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

#### 6. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

##### 6.1. Community Grants Program Allocation (January 2025)

#C24-28/2025-1/6.1

CR FELL / CR PEARSON

**Council notes the following:**

- (a) **Nil (0) Community Grant applications meeting eligibility requirements were received during this reporting period therefore no Council resolution is required;**
- (b) **one (1) Community Grant application was deemed ineligible for funding;**
- (c) **one (1) conflict of interest (COI) was declared;**
- (d) **two (2) grant applications processed out-of-cycle provided in January.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

##### 6.2. Funding Acquisition Report (December 2024)

#C24-28/2025-1/6.2

CR WOSOMO / CR FELL

**Council notes this report and its content.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- *Cr Keith Fell sought clarification on the status of funding requests by Councillors to the administration (i.e. last year he requested funding for the upgrade of the basketball court and oval on Mabuig – what happens to these ad-hoc requests after they come in through the CEO's office?)*

## Mabuiag Dump Road Upgrade – Clarification of Status of Project

**Action Required:**

Executive Director Corporate Services to clarify information in relation to the listing of the Mabuiag Dump Road Upgrade grant application as ‘unsuccessful’ (as the Executive Director Engineering Services advised that funding for that project was successful). Cr Fell requested that he be advised separately on the status of this matter.

Status of funding requests submitted by Councillors

**Action Required:**

Chief Executive Officer to prepare a report for Council on the status of asset funding requests submitted by Councillors to the administration.

**6.3. Operational Plan 2024-25 – Q2 Progress Report**

#C24-28/2025-1/6.3

CR PEARSON / CR ANIBA

**Council receives and notes the progress report on the implementation of the 2024–25 Operational Plan for the period 1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024 (Q2).**

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**Action Required:**

Executive Director Corporate Services to arrange for reporting on the progress of the Operational Plan 2024–25 to be included in the TSIRC Quarterly Newsletter.

**6.4. TSIRC Policy Framework**

#C24-28/2025-1/6.4

CR TAMU / CR ELISALA

**Council:**

1. **Adopts the Torres Strait Island Regional Council Policy Framework; and**
2. **Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to exercise the functions and powers assigned to the Chief Executive Officer under the Framework, including the power to make any further minor administrative amendments to the Framework as they arise.**

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**6.5. Repeal of Council Resolution – Community Radio/Broadcasting Licences**

#C24-28/2025-1/6.5

BY CONSENSUS

**Council defers a decision on this matter by a maximum of three (3) months.*****CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

- *The Mayor stated that given the strategic direction that Council has taken in relation to engagement in the Torres Strait region, it is imperative that Council ensure that this service is able to connect Council to community on a whole range of issues (health, regional governance, Council strategic directions, etc).*

**Action Required:**

Matter to be considered by the Culture, Arts, Land and Heritage (CALH) Advisory Committee and a recommended way forward be presented to the April 2025 Council Meeting.

**6.6. Approval of Dauan Mechanics Workshop Development Application – Reconfiguration of a Lot (Decision Notice for DA 10–24–02(1) Dauan Island Lot 39 on SP270872)**

#C24-28/2025-1/6.6

CR TOBY / CR MANAS

**Council approves the development application for reconfiguring a Lot (1 Lot into 2 Lots - proposed Lot 309 and proposed Lot 310), cancelling Lot 39 on SP270872, Dauan Island, subject to the conditions outlined in Attachment A to this report.*****CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*****7. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE****7.1. Mer Island Coastal Erosion**

#C24-28/2025-1/7.1

CR FELL / CR STEPHEN

**Council resolves to undertake the Mer temporary emergency coastal protection works and delegates to the Chief Executive Officer to act in and approve the execution works.*****CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**8. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE****8.1. Financial Dashboard Report (December 2024)**

#C24-28/2025-1/8.1

CR FELL / CR ANIBA

Council receives and endorses the monthly financial statements attached to the officer's report for the 2024-25 year to date, for the period ended 31 December 2024, as required under Section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****Action Required:**

Executive Director Community Services to develop an information paper for community which clarifies the existing housing debt environment in which Council has to operate in each Division.

**8.2. Bank Signatories – CEO Delegation**

#C24-28/2025-1/8.2

CR STEPHEN / CR FELL

**Council resolves to:**

1. **Appoint account and internet portal administrators for Council's bank and loan facilities as follows:**
  - All Executive Leadership Team
  - Head of Financial Services
  - Manager of Management Accounting
  - Manager of Financial Accounting and Assets; and
2. **Appoint account and internet portal administrators for Council's credit facilities as follows:**
  - - Chief Executive Officer
  - - Executive Director, Financial Services
  - - Head of Financial Services
  - - Manager of Management Accounting
  - - Manager of Financial Accounting and Assets;
3. **Pursuant to Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council delegates the power to amend bank, credit and loan facilities, including any internet administrator rights, to the person and the position; and**
4. **Pursuant to Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council delegates the execution of the authorisation of administrators as outlined in point 3, to the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor to provide signature under seal and deliver for and on behalf of Council.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8.3. Audit Committee – Council Membership**

#C24-28/2025-1/8.3

PART 1

CR ELISALA / CR TAMU

**Council resolves to terminate the memberships of the current elected members of Torres Strait Island Regional Council Audit Committee effective 29 January 2025:**

1. Cr Keith Fell as a Councillor member;
2. Cr Chelsea Aniba as a Councillor member;
3. Cr Bob Kaigey a Proxy Councillor member; and
4. Cr Rocky Stephen as a Proxy Councillor member.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**PART 2

CR STEPHEN / CR ANIBA

**Council resolves to:**

- appoint Cr Keith Fell as a Councillor member of the TSIRC Audit Committee effective from 30 January 2025 until the end of their current term on Council; and
- appoint Cr Ted Mosby as a Councillor member of the TSIRC Audit Committee effective from 30 January 2025 until the end of their current term on Council; and
- appoint Cr Nixon Mye as a Proxy Councillor member of the TSIRC Audit Committee effective from 30 January 2025 until the end of their current term on Council; and
- appoint Cr Bob Kaigey as a Proxy Councillor member of the TSIRC Audit Committee effective from 30 January 2025 until the end of their current term on Council.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

➤ *Part 2 of Council Decision #C24-28/2025-1/8.3 required a nomination process by Councillors for membership on the Audit Committee. The following nominations were made:*

- *Cr Elisala nominated Cr Tamu as a Councillor Member of the TSIRC Audit Committee. Cr Tamu DECLINED the nomination.*
- *Cr Tamu nominated Cr Elisala as a Councillor Member of the TSIRC Audit Committee. Cr Elisala DECLINED the nomination.*
- *Cr Fell nominated Cr Stephen as a Councillor Member of the TSIRC Audit Committee. Cr Stephen DECLINED the nomination.*
- *Cr Pearson nominated Cr Fell as a Councillor Member of the TSIRC Audit Committee. Cr Fell ACCEPTED the nomination. Cr Elisala seconded the nomination.*
- *Cr Aniba nominated Cr Mosby as a Councillor Member of the TSIRC Audit Committee. Cr Mosby ACCEPTED the nomination. Cr Mye seconded the nomination.*
- *Cr Elisala nominated Cr Mye as a Proxy Councillor Member of the TSIRC Audit Committee. Cr Mye ACCEPTED the nomination. Cr Tamu seconded the nomination.*
- *Cr Mye nominated Cr Aniba as a Proxy Councillor Member of the TSIRC Audit Committee. Cr Aniba DECLINED the nomination.*



- *Cr Stephen nominated Cr Kaigey as a Proxy Councillor Member of the TSIRC Audit Committee. Cr Kaigey ACCEPTED the nomination. Cr Fell seconded the nomination.*

**9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**

#C24-28/2025-1/9

CR ANIBA / CR FELL

**The Council resolves to close the meeting to the public pursuant to section 254J of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to allow the Council to discuss items listed on the agenda for closed discussion and for the reasons outlined under those items.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

Nil.

**11. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

Nil.

**12. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Nil.

**13. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

Nil.

CONFIRMED

14. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

14.1. Contractual Matter – Sole Supplier Register & Expenditure

*[Reason for this matter to be discussed in Closed Business: This matter contains information pertaining to 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.]*

#C24-28/2025-1/14.1

CR WOSOMO / CR TAMU

Council resolves as follows:

1. In accordance with Regulations 235(a) and 235(b) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, that no quotes or tenders need to be sought prior to procuring goods and services from the suppliers listed in Attachment A of the officer's report because Council is satisfied that either:
  - a. those suppliers are the only suppliers reasonably available; or
  - b. it would be impracticable or disadvantageous for Council to invite quotes or tenders because of the specialised or confidential nature of the services offered by those suppliers;
2. To adopt the Sole Supplier Register appended as Attachment A of the officer's report;
3. To delegate power to the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Sections 236 and 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to enter into, negotiate, make, sign, amend or discharge contracts with suppliers on the Sole Supplier Register without seeking quotes or tenders or sub-delegate such powers, subject to the limitations provided for in the Procurement & Ethical Sourcing Policy; and
4. To note the expenditure against sole suppliers detailed in Attachment A of the officer's report.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

14.2. Contractual Matter – Large Procurement Contracts Awarded Under Delegation

*[Reason for this matter to be discussed in Closed Business: This matter contains information pertaining to 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.]*

#C24-28/2025-1/14.2

CR FELL / CR PEARSON

Council notes the report.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

15. RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE MEETING TO OPEN DISCUSSION

#C24-28/2025-1/15

CR FELL / CR DORANTE

The Council resolves to move out of closed discussions pursuant to Section 254I of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**16. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION**

Council formally resolved on the decisions taken in relation to Agenda Items 10-14 above.

**17. MATTERS ARISING****(a) Cr Keith Fell (Division 4)**

**Cr Fell** raised the issue of **ongoing Border Security** issues in the Torres Strait region. The local communities are continually frustrated at the perceived lack of action by State and Federal agencies when breaches are reported to them. Feedback at the community level is at the point where the community do not wish to assist authorities. Another issue of great concern deals with drug importation and drug use as a result of these border security issues. **The Mayor** responded to Cr Fell's issues by advising that he had written to TSIRC Councillors by email (27 November 2024) seeking feedback on the Mayor's proposal that regular meetings be held between all three local Torres Strait Regional Councils. The Mayor requested that Councillors review that email and reply to him. Other matters which have prevented a joint approach to addressing these issues included State Government elections, Papua New Guinea federal Government elections and the upcoming Australian Government federal election. **Cr Pearson** added that it was important that both Australia and Papua New Guinea traditional inhabitants receive the same advice. **Cr Aniba** supported Cr Fell's concerns, particularly in relation to community safety matters with international border breaches. The **Chief Executive Officer** added that his view is that the message in relation to security breaches in the Torres Strait is slowly (but surely) getting through to senior managements in Canberra and he encouraged Councillors to remain vigilant in their reporting.

Mayor's email to Councillors dated 27 November 2024 seeking feedback on the Mayor's proposal that regular meetings be held between all three local Torres Strait Regional Councils to discuss border security matters.

**Action Required:**

All Councillors to review/reply to Mayor ASAP.

**(b) Cr Serriako Dorante (Division 8)**

**Cr Dorante** requested that the Chief Executive Officer explore **IBIS interest in taking over operation of Council's fuel outlets**.

IBIS interest in taking over operation of Council's fuel outlets

**Action Required:**

Chief Executive Officer to explore options.

**(c) Cr Rocky Stephen (Division 13)**

**Cr Stephen** enquired if Council will be making a submission to the **Federal Government Budget cycle** bids. If so, Council will need to be aware of any bids which are submitted. The **Chief Executive Officer** advised that the upcoming Federal Government election would more than likely limit any major funding commitments.

**Cr Stephen** requested details on available **funding for new entry positions** in organisations across the Torres Strait region.

Funding for new entry positions through the Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) Program with NIAA / Meriba Ged Ngapun Mab.  
[Remote Jobs | NIAA](#)

**Action Required:**

ED Corporate Services to provide details to Councillors out of session.

**Cr Stephen** requested an update on whether TSIRC is submitting an application against the **\$9m funding available through the Climate Resilience Centre**. The **Chief Executive Officer** advised that TSIRC is currently working on a submission.

**(d) Cr Elisala (Division 2)**

**Cr Elisala** raised concerns in relation to **airline travel for school children, with** long transit delays in/out at Horn Island. The **Chief Executive Officer** to take offline and advise.

Airline transit delays for school children in/out of Horn Island

**Action Required:**

Chief Executive Officer to take offline and advise Cr Elisala.

**(e) Cr Mye (Division 14)**

**Cr Mye** advised that the fuel bowser and desalination plant are not functioning to capacity as these rely on generator power. The Erub Community's preference is for a power pole to be installed for both facilities. The **Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Director Engineering Services** to follow up with Ergon, as a new transformer will be required to rectify this situation.

Fuel bowser and desalination plant on Erub – request for connection to electricity grid

**Action Required:**

Executive Director Engineering Services to follow-up with Ergon.

**Cr Mye** also requested action in relation to abandoned Contractor's materials/rubbish that remains on community, some materials have been abandoned since 2019. The **Chief Executive Officer** advised that outreach is being made to State and Federal Government agencies to ensure that contractual arrangements with suppliers withhold payment until waste is removed.

## 18. INFORMATION REPORTS

### 18.1. BUILDING SERVICES – Building Services Report (December 2024)

#C24-28/2025-1/18.1

CR HANKIN / CR FELL

**Council resolves to note the Building Services Report for December 2024.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 18.2. COMMUNITY SERVICES - Community Services (December 2024)

#C24-28/2025-1/18.2

CR WOSOMO / CR HANKIN

**Council notes this report.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **Action Required:**

The Mayor requested that the Executive Director Community Services include non-Indigenous housing needs across the TSIRC footprint in future reporting in order to build Council's capacity for whole-of-community advocacy. The Mayor further added, that non-Indigenous data should be captured across all aspects of Council's operations in the region. *The Chief Executive Officer reminded Council that ongoing discussions are being held with the Queensland Government Department of Housing for software upgrades to capture enhanced housing data for Council.*

The Mayor commended the Executive Director Community Services and the Housing Team for professional operations in a sensitive environment.

### 18.3. CORPORATE SERVICES - Corporate Services Information Report (December 2024)

#C24-28/2025-1/18.3

CR FELL / CR MYE

**Council notes the Corporate Services Information Report for the month of December 2024.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Action Required:**

Executive Director Corporate Services to work with the CALH Advisory Committee to ensure that cultural awareness abilities are considered during the onboarding of new employees.

**19. NEXT MEETING – 19 FEBRUARY 2025 (Microsoft TEAMS)**

Noted by Council.

**20. CLOSE OF MEETING & PRAYER**

The Mayor’s closing remarks were for Councillors to be mindful of the need to maintain ongoing observance of ‘separation of powers’ protocols between the elected and administrative arms of TSIRC. The Mayor asked that when there are operational matters on ground, Councillors are requested to bring those matters to the attention of the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer in the first instance and not to go directly to TSIRC staff. The Mayor further requested the Chief Executive Officer to remind administrative staff that they should not email Councillors directly.

The Mayor formally closed the meeting at 4.35pm. Cr Francis Pearson delivered the closing prayer.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 19 February 2025



.....  
 Cr Phillemon Mosby  
 Mayor  
 Torres Strait Island Regional Council  
 Date: 19 February 2025



.....  
 James William  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Torres Strait Island Regional Council  
 Date: 19 February 2025

