



**STRATEGIC ACTION REFERENCE
GROUP (SARG) STANDING
COMMITTEE MEETING
5 MARCH 2025**

MINUTES

Time: 9.00am to 4.00pm

Venue: **[TEAMS Meeting]** Meeting ID: 411 763 378 378 | Passcode: vc6EL33X

PRESENT:

Mayor/Chair

Deputy Mayor

Chair - Culture, Arts, Land & Heritage Advisory Committee

Chair - Economic Growth Advisory Committee

Chair - Environment & Climate Adaptation Advisory Committee – *joined meeting at 9.40am*

Proxy - Governance & Leadership Advisory Committee – *joined meeting at 10.35am*

Chair - Housing, Families and Safe & Healthy Communities Advisory Committee – *left meeting at 12.40pm*

Cr Phillemon Mosby

Cr Ranetta Wosomo

Cr Chelsea Aniba

Cr Rocky Stephen

Cr Kabay Tamu

Cr Nixon Mye

Cr Keith Fell

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer – *left meeting at 12.40pm*

Executive Director Building Services

Executive Director Corporate Services

Executive Director Financial Services – *on-line for 9.00am start and left meeting at 9.30am to meet airline schedule*

Mr James William

Mr Wayne Green

Ms Susanne Andres

Ms Hollie Faithfull

Executive Assistant to the CEO

Executive Assistant to the Mayor

TSIRC Secretariat

Ms Marie Haines

Ms Trudy Lui

Mr Darryl Brooks

GUESTS:

Chief Executive Officer LG Services Group – *for Agenda Item 3.1 only*

Consultant – *for Agenda Item 4.1 only*

Mr Scott Mason

Mr Anthony Ottaway

ABSENT:

Chair - Governance & Leadership Advisory Committee

Executive Director Community Services

Executive Director Engineering Services

Cr Dimas Toby

Mr Dawson Sailor

Mr David Baldwin

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

At 9.30am, the Mayor welcomed Committee Members and staff to the meeting, 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 throughout our lives and families;
- The Traditional Custodians throughout the length and breadth of Zenadth Kes and the communities and constituents that Council serves; and
- All Elders – past, present and emerging.

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 at this time, the thoughts and prayers of the Committee.

Cr Keith Fell delivered the opening prayer.

The Mayor then invited participants to observe a minute of silence for remembrance purposes, especially for those going through the processes of Sorry Business.

B. NOTING OF APOLOGIES

No formal apologies were tabled.

C. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

The Mayor invited attendees to table any prescribed or declarable COI matters. No COI declarations were made. The Mayor requested that Committee Members advise of any COI declarations should they arise throughout discussions.

The Mayor also invited attendees to advise of any legal matters that would prevent members from participation in today's meeting. No matters were declared.

D. LIVE STREAM

The Mayor advised that meetings of the Standing Committee are live streamed and a copy of this meeting will soon be available on Council's Youtube channel on the website. The Mayor welcomed members of the public to the meeting and thanked them for their time and interest in the deliberations of Council.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (25 OCTOBER 2024 & 4 DECEMBER 2024)

#SSC24-28/2025-03/1

CR WOSOMO / CR ANIBA

The Standing Committee:

- (a) confirms the Minutes of its meeting held on 25 October 2024; and
- (b) confirms the Minutes of its meeting held on 4 December 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.1. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) spoke to this item. The update was noted by the Standing Committee.

2. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

#SSC24-28/2025-3/2

CR ANIBA / CR FELL

The Standing Committee 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

3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

3.1. TSIRC Transition Action Plan (TAP) Update *(verbal update by Mr Scott Mason)*

[Reason for Closed Discussion: In accordance with section 254J of the Local Government Regulation 2012, it is recommended that this matter be considered by Council in Closed Business as it includes “matters that may directly affect the health and safety of an individual or a group of individuals”.]

The Standing Committee noted the verbal update provided by Mr Scott Mason on the current status of KPIs in relation to the TSIRC Transition Action Plan (TAP).

The Mayor expressed his appreciation for the detail provided by Mr Mason and added that the Standing Committee will need to be mindful of ensuring that Council’s future annual budgets take into account the KPIs identified.

3.2. Acting Chief Executive Officer – verbal discussion

[Reason for Closed Discussion: In accordance with section 254J of the Local Government Regulation 2012, it is recommended that this matter be considered by Council in Closed Business as it relates to the appointment, discipline or dismissal of the chief executive officer].

The Standing Committee noted verbal advice from the Chief Executive Officer that he intends to take leave from 3–9 April 2025 and that a paper will be presented to the March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting seeking endorsement of an Acting Chief Executive Officer during this period.

4. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

4.1. Mirabou Energy Project - presentation

[Reason for Closed Discussion: This report is presented in the closed meeting of the Council under section 254J of the Local Government Regulation 2012, as it involves negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests or the local government.

The Standing Committee noted the presentation by Mr Andrew Ottaway (Consultant) in relation to the Mirabou Energy Project.

Mirabou Energy Project

Action Required:

Chief Executive Officer to include this matter for discussion at the May 2025 Council Workshop.

4.2. Culture, Arts, Land and Heritage (CALH) Advisory Committee – Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with PBCs for Review

[Reason for this matter to be discussed in Closed Business: In accordance with section 254J of the Local Government Regulation 2012, it is recommended that this matter be considered by Council in Closed Business as it involves legal advice obtained by the local government or legal proceedings involving the local government including, for example, legal proceedings that may be taken by or against the local government].

#SSC24-28/2025-03/4.2

CR ANIBA / CR STEPHEN

The Standing Committee agrees to:

- (1) Review the Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provided by the Culture, Arts Land & Heritage Advisory Committee and provide relevant feedback to the Advisory Committee;**
- (2) Endorse the Draft MOU;**
- (3) Recommend that the Culture, Arts, Land & Heritage Advisory Committee commence discussions and negotiations with individual PBCs.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Culture, Arts, Land and Heritage (CALH) Advisory Committee – Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with PBCs for Review

Action Required:

CALH Advisory Committee to ensure that the MOUs state clearly that it is the responsibility of PBCs (not TSIRC) to consult with native title holders.

The Standing Committee noted advice from the Executive Director Corporate Services that the Draft MOU with PBCs will now be circulated to all TSIRC Councillors for comment.

Cr Kabay Tamu also suggested that those PBCs with TSIRC Councillors holding dual roles could be prioritised in the MOU discussion and negotiation process in order to expedite completion of all 15 TSIRC Divisions in a timely manner.

The Mayor thanked the Chairperson and Members of the CALH Advisory Committee (including administrative staff) for advancing this important and much-needed process for Council.

- *Following discussion of the above Agenda Item, the Mayor requested all administrative staff (except the Chief Executive Officer) to leave the meeting for a Councillors-only discussion. Staff left the meeting at 11.40am and were invited to return to the meeting at 11.45am.*

5. RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE MEETING TO OPEN DISCUSSION

#SSC24-28/2025-03/5

CR ANIBA / CR WOSOMO

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

The Standing Committee formally resolved as indicated in Agenda Items 3 to 5 above.

There were additional action items arising from other matters raised and discussed during the Closed Session.

1. Superannuation for TSIRC Councillors

Action Required:

Chief Executive Officer to provide a report to the March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting in relation to Superannuation arrangements for TSIRC Councillors, including any previous TSIRC decisions in relation to the matter.

2. Mabuiag Sewerage Treatment Plant

Action Required:

Chief Executive Officer to urgently raise this matter during his meeting with the TSRA CEO (and possibly the TSRA Chairperson) on 6 March 2025.

7. MAYORAL ITEMS

The Mayor advised that Agenda Items 7.1 to 7.6 relate to emails that have been circulated directly to Standing Committee members.

7.1. Regional Health Reform | Health Equity Strategy

At a recent meeting with the Queensland Minister for Health, the Mayor was advised by the Minister that the Government's focus now is to improve health outcomes for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait area and that previous calls by Torres Strait leaders for an independent Coronial investigation into the delivery of health services in the region is not currently on the Government's agenda.

The Government's focus is on the Health Equity Strategy. The Mayor advise that he will be inviting Queensland Health to present to Council in the coming months.

7.2. Torres Strait & Northern Peninsula Area Regional Organisation of Councils (TS&NPAROC)

The Mayor advised that he and the Chief Executive Officer met with their TS&NPAROC counterparts and have agreed to a short-term timeframe for ROC.

Funding totalling \$300K has been secured and is auspiced by TSIRC. Work has commenced for the recruitment of a suitable executive-level candidate to strategically advance the progress the aspirations of the TS&NPAROC, with the TSIRC CEO and relevant Executive Directors to develop a duty statement/recruitment material (by 31 March 2025), followed by a recruitment process (April 2025) and have the project manager on board by May 2025.

This position will ensure that TS&NPAROC has the capacity to undertake research and advocacy on key regional issues to State and Federal governments; will bring about regional tendering and purchase agreements to achieve economies of scale and better synergies in service delivery through better management of projects across the region and to facilitate cooperative projects between the constituent local governments through shared services and joint Local Government activities.

Torres Strait & Northern Peninsula Area Regional Organisation of Councils (TS&NPAROC)

Action Required:

Executive Director Corporate Services to provide SARG SC members with a copy of the TS&NPAROC Charter.

7.3. Blue Security & Safe Regional Business Service Model

The Mayor advised that he has circulated information out to Councillors on this matter. The Mayor will be meeting with Torres Shire and NPA Regional Council Mayors and other State and Commonwealth agencies in the w/b 10 March 2025 to discuss the Blue Security & Safe Regional Business Service Model. This meeting is being coordinated by the Queensland Police Service. The purpose of this meeting is to reframe the relationship between First Nations people and the Police.

7.4. 2025 Federal Government Advocacy Campaign | Council & TS&NPAROC

Depending on timing issues, the Mayor anticipates that the recruitment process for the TS&NPAROC executive officer position will enable strategic advocacy for the Torres Strait region to secure appropriate funding and collaboration in service delivery to the people.

In relation to regional governance issues, the TS&NPAROC local governments have been developing an 18-month regional transition readiness plan which focuses on building momentum and consensus on raising awareness of business in relation to regional autonomy. TSIRC has been lobbying the TSRA to secure funding to realise the plan and build consensus across the region.

7.5. May 2025 Workshop Agenda

The Mayor advised that he is currently drafting a forward planning schedule that SARG will use to strategically coordinate the Workplans for Council's Advisory Committees. This SARG forward planning will be discussed at the May 2025 Council Workshop.

Councillor attendance and participation during Workshops and at Council meetings will also be discussed at the May 2025 Council Workshop.

The Mayor requested that the Chief Executive Officer develop budget allocations for Council's Advisory Committees as part of the budget review process to support community engagement and advocacy work.

Budget Allocation for Council Advisory Committees

Action Required:

Chief Executive Officer to develop budget allocations for Council's Advisory Committees as part of the budget review process to support community engagement and advocacy work.

7.6. Advisory Committee Annual Plan & Annual Performance Review

The Mayor has proposed that an annual self-review of SARG and Council's Advisory Committees be undertaken in August 2025. The Mayor requested that all Advisory Committees review their Workplans for this purpose, also to meet the requirements for the SARG forward planning.

Council Advisory Committees to update Workplans

Action Required:

Advisory Committee Chairs and Executives to update their Committee Workplan prior to August 2025.

The Mayor advised that he has been nominated by the LGAQ to sit on the Coalition of Peaks. The Coalition consists of national, state and territory non-government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak bodies and independent statutory authorities that have responsibility for policies, programs and services related to Closing the Gap.

The Mayor also advised that TICCA has nominated him to sit on the Northern Australia Regional Development First Nations Advisory Committee which provides advice in relation to Australian Government investment into regional development in Northern Australia.

8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

Nil.

9. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

10. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

➤ *Standing Committee deliberations were suspended from 12.40pm to 1.00pm to allow participants a short break.*

11. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

11.1. Economic Growth Advisory Committee – EMG Community Consultations – 2024-25 Results

Presenter: Ms Tina McGuffie (My Pathway)

The Presenter for this agenda item was not available and the Standing Committee agreed to a recommendation by Cr Rocky Stephen (Chair of the Economic Growth Advisory Committee) that this item be placed on the agenda for the next Standing Committee meeting.

**11.2. Councillor Remuneration, Expenses Reimbursement and Resources Policy –
*Councillors' Meeting Attendance***

The Mayor requested that the Committee explore options which will improve the attendance, participation and engagement of Councillors at all Council meetings.

The Mayor is considering the implementation of a sign-in/sign-out register and changes to travel allowances in an effort improve attendances.

Cr Kabay Tamu thanked the Mayor for requesting an improvement in Councillor meeting attendances. Cr Tamu stressed that attendance and engagement by Councillors is a behavioural matter that should be discussed in an open and honest discussion amongst Councillors (in-camera Councillors only) and suggested that this be discussed at the May 2025 Council Workshop.

Cr Rocky Stephen supported discussion at the May 2025 Council Workshop.

Councillor Meeting Attendance – May 2025 Council Workshop Agenda

Action Required:

Executive Director Corporate Services to organise LGAQ presentation at the May 2025 Council Workshop regarding Councillors responsibilities as elected representatives, including responsibilities regarding attendance and engagement by Councillors at Council meetings.

11.3. Corporate Plan 2025-30 Concept

#SSC24-28/2025-3/11.4

CR ANIBA / CR TAMU

The Standing Committee:

- **endorses the concept of the Corporate Plan 2025-30 and agrees to provide relevant feedback; and**
- **the proposed timeline to progress the development of the Corporate Plan.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Mayor requested that the TSIRC Corporate Plan 2025-30 link with the TSRA development plan to ensure that it captures alignment to Australian Government funding guidelines and criteria to ensure access to funding and other services in an expedient and seamless process.

The Executive Director Corporate Services advised that the Corporate Plan 2025–30 will also be circulated out to all Councillors for feedback and resubmit the Plan back to SARG for recommendation to Council for endorsement.

Corporate Plan 2025-30 Concept

Action Required:

Executive Director Corporate Services to circulate to all Councillors the Corporate Plan 2025-30 Concept for comment and feedback.

12. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

13. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

14. MATTERS ARISING

The Mayor acknowledged and gave special thanks to Cr Ranetta Wosomo (Deputy Mayor) for her support and assistance to the Mayor during recent weeks, including deputising for him at several official engagements. Cr Wosomo has also been actively working with the Mayor as they review overall Council performance during this term.

The Mayor also advised the Committee that he will be contacting members over the coming weeks to prepare a paper for consideration at the March 2025 Council meeting regarding Mayoral duties.

15. NEXT MEETING – 9 APRIL 2025 (Microsoft TEAMS)

Noted by the Standing Committee.

16. CLOSE OF MEETING & PRAYER

The Mayor confirmed also that the March 2025 Trustee and Ordinary Council Meetings will be held on Poruma.

The Mayor thanked Standing Committee members and officers for their attendance and contributions throughout the meeting. The Mayor formally closed the meeting at 1.40pm and delivered the closing prayer.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 9 April 2025

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Cr Phillemon Mosby
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 9 April 2025

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James William
Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 9 April 2025