



ORDINARY MEETING 23 APRIL 2025

MINUTES

Time: 11.20am

Venue: *Microsoft TEAMS Meeting ID: 476 855 447 656 | Passcode: xg7po2yi*

PRESENT:

Mayor

Division 1 – Boigu

Division 2 – Dauan

Division 4 – Mabuiag

Division 6 – Arkai

Division 8 – Kirirri (Hammond Island)

Division 9 – Iama

Division 10 – Warraber

Division 11 – Poruma

Division 12 – Masig

Division 13 – Ugar

Division 14 – Erub

Division 15 – Mer

Cr Phillemon Mosby

Cr Dimas Toby

Cr Torenzo Elisala – *joined meeting at 1.30pm following cultural commitments on Saibai*

Cr Keith Fell

Cr Iona Manas – *joined meeting at 12.05pm*

Cr Seriako Dorante

Cr Aggie Hankin – *joined meeting at 1.30pm*

Cr Kabay Tamu

Cr Francis Pearson

Cr Ted Mosby

Cr Rocky Stephen

Cr Nixon Mye – *left meeting at 12.10pm*

Cr Bob Kaigey

APOLOGIES:

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

Cr John Levi

ABSENT:

Division 3 – Saibai

Division 5 – Badu / **Deputy Mayor**

Cr Chelsea Aniba – *cultural commitments on Saibai*

Cr Ranetta Wosomo

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Director Community Services

Executive Director Corporate Services

Executive Director Engineering Services

Executive Director Financial Services

Executive Assistant to the CEO

TSIRC Secretariat

Mr James William

Mr Dawson Sailor

Ms Susanne Andres

Mr David Baldwin

Ms Hollie Faithfull

Ms Marie Haines

Mr Darryl Brooks

APOLOGIES:

Executive Assistant to the Mayor

Ms Trudy Lui

GUESTS:

Preston Law

Ms Martine Care – *AI 15 only*

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

At 11.20am, the Mayor welcomed Councillors, Executives and staff and members of the public to the Ordinary Council meeting for the month of April 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;
- Staff providing tireless service in all Divisions and areas across the TSIRC footprint to improve the living circumstances for the community;
- 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 and prayers of Council at this time of bereavement.

B. NOTING OF APOLOGIES

#C24-28/2025-4/B

The Mayor tabled the following apologies, which were noted and accepted by Council:

Division	Councillor/Reason	Mover/Seconder
Division 7 - Wug	Cr John Levi – <i>medical commitment</i>	CR PEARSON / CR FELL

C. CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI) DECLARATIONS

The Mayor invited Councillors to advise if they had any COI declarations to disclose in relation to items listed on the agenda. No declarations were made by Councillors.

The Mayor also requested that if there are any legal matters involving Councillors, then Councillors should advise the Mayor as soon as possible. No declarations were made by Councillors.

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 (18 MARCH 2025)

#C24-28/2025-4/1

CR FELL / CR T. MOSBY

Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18 March 2025.

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.

2. MAYORAL REPORT

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

➤ *The Mayor suspended the meeting from 12.10pm to 1.25pm for lunch.*

3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

3.1. CEO Monthly Report (April 2025)

The Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) spoke to this report, adding the following additional verbal updates:

- appreciation for the Mayor's advocacy work across the region and at other regional and national forums;
- attendance at the Australian Government announcement on 2 April 2025 of \$10.8m funding under the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Climate Resilience Grant Program, where TSIRC secured funding to deliver resilience based activities which are community focussed and in accordance with the grant guidelines;
- working as quickly as possible to finalise the new TSIRC Certified Agreement;
- annual Performance Review of Executives has commenced;
- current data on the Deadly for Diabetes Program has indicated that the program has been very positive and has been a success.

The report was noted by Council.

Action Required:

1. Chief Executive Officer to oversee review of Council policy and process in relation to Environment and Health matters (in relation to the recent dog attack on Badu to secure Council's capacity to take a preventative – rather than reactive – role moving forward).
2. Chief Executive Officer to seek additional funding for 'Sensors' for communities across the region to access as part of the Deadly for Diabetes Program.
3. Chief Executive Officer to discuss off-line with Cr Fell the matter of STP funding for Mabuag.

3.2. Change of Council Meeting Dates – November 2025 Council Workshop & November 2025 Trustee & Ordinary Council Meetings

#C24-28/2025-4/3.2

CR STEPHEN / CR FELL

[AGAINST: CR DORANTE & CR TAMU]

Council resolves to conduct the November 2025 Council Workshop and the November 2025 Trustee and Ordinary Council Meetings as follows:

- **November 2025 Council Workshop to be held in Cairns on 3-13 November 2025; and**
- **November 2025 Trustee & Ordinary Council Meetings to be held in Cairns on 14 November 2025.**

CARRIED

Action Required:

Chief Executive Officer to discuss off-line with Cr Dorante a matter in relation to previously confirmed private travel bookings which were made by the Councillor on the basis of the original November 2025 Council Workshop and monthly Council meeting dates which were endorsed in 2024.

3.3. Annual Internal Audit Plan FY2025

#C24-28/2025-4/3.3

CR FELL / CR PEARSON

Council notes the Annual Internal Audit Plan for FY2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

5. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

5.1. Afterpay Facility Options

#C24-28/2025-4/5.1

CR FELL / CR KAIGEY

Council resolves to not proceed with the option of Buy Now Pay Later (AfterPay) at this time and to revisit this option in the future.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action Required:

Housing, Families & Safe and Healthy Communities (HFSHC) Advisory Committee to explore other options with IBIS and Community Enterprise Queensland (CEQ) in relation to the delivery of essential goods and services to communities in the Torres Strait region, with a view to a future presentation to Council.

6. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

- *Cr Tamu declared his Conflict of Interest (COI) in relation to funding application CG2025—084 (Kimiorah Ladies Touch Team, Warraber) and dialled out of the meeting prior to discussion on the application and was then advised to rejoin the meeting following Council endorsement of that application.*

6.1. Community Grants Program Allocation (March 2025)

#C24-28/2025-4/6.1

1. Council resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to applicants in accordance with the *Community Grants Policy*:

- CG2025-085 – SAMUEL ANIBA, SAIBAI for \$1,500.00, exclusive of GST;

MOVED/SECONDED: CR FELL / CR MANAS

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Council resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to applicants in accordance with the *Community Grants Policy*:

- CG2025-084 – KIMIORAH LADIES TOUCH TEAM, WARRABER for \$2,500.00, exclusive of GST;

MOVED/SECONDED: CR FELL / CR T. MOSBY

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Council resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to applicants in accordance with the *Community Grants Policy*:

- CG2025-095 – KAZI KURRS TOUCH FOOTBALL, IAMA for \$2,500.00, exclusive of GST

MOVED/SECONDED: CR FELL / CR PEARSON

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Council resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to applicants in accordance with the *Community Grants Policy*:

- CG2025-094 – RUNNERS TOUCH FOOTY TEAM, BOIGU for \$1,500.00, exclusive of GST;

MOVED/SECONDED: CR FELL / CR MANAS

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Council notes the following:

- (a) six (6) Community Grants applications were deemed ineligible for funding;
- (b) one (1) Community Grants application required divisional contributions;
- (c) Two (2) Funeral Donation applications required divisional contributions;
- (d) four (4) conflict of interests (COI) were declared;
- (e) the grant applications processed out-of-cycle and funeral donations provided in March 2025.

MOVED/SECONDED: CR FELL / CR MANAS

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action Required:

1. Executive Director Corporate Services to provide Cr Fell with clarification around advice he has received stating that Community Grants funding covering fuel costs for travel can only be used for petrol and not diesel fuel.
2. Executive Director Corporate Services to provide Cr Toby with clarification on the ineligible application decision (CG2025—099 – Brian Peter) for the Community ANZAC Day Celebration on Boigu Island.

6.2. Funding Acquisition Report (March 2025)

#C24-28/2025-4/6.2

CR FELL / CR HANKIN

Council notes this report and its content.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.3. Operational Plan 2024-25 – Q3 Progress Report

#C24-28/2025-4/6.3

CR FELL / CR TAMU

Council receives and notes the progress report on the implementation of the 2024—25 Operational Plan for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 March 2025 (Q3).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

8. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

8.1. Financial Dashboard Report (March 2025)

#C24-28/2025-4/8.1

CR FELL / CR MANAS

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 March 2025, as required under Section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.2. Contractual Matter – Large Procurement Contracts Awarded Under Delegation

#C24-28/2025-4/8.2

CR PEARSON / CR T. MOSBY

Council notes this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

#C24-28/2025-4/9

CR FELL / CR MANAS

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

- *Due to Sorry Business, Mr TJ Oberleuter (Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade) was unable to attend the April 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting as scheduled. The Mayor spoke to Agenda Item 10 below.*

10. TORRES STRAIT TREATY MATTERS – OUTCOMES OF 31ST TORRES STRAIT TREATY BILATERAL MEETINGS

[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 the appointment, discipline, or dismissal of the Chief Executive Officer.]

Council noted the update provided by the Mayor and that the Mayor will extend an invitation to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to present at the next Council meeting.

11. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

12. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

13. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

14. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

14.1. Funding Matter – TSIRC.0039.2324P.REC Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA)

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

#C24-28/2025-4/14.1

CR FELL / CR PEARSON

Council resolves to:

- (a) Enter into the proposed funding agreement for TSIRC.0039.2324P.REC for Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) & Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA), administered by Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) in relation to Council’s submission of TSIRC.0039.2324P.REC for a grant sum of up to \$2,734,125.81 (Excl. GST); and
- (b) Pursuant to Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, delegate to the Chief Executive Officer:
 - power to make, amend or discharge the Funding Agreement; and
 - power to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this project and funding agreement including without limitation any options and/or variations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14.2. Funding Matter – 2024-25 ATSI TIDS Funding

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

#C24-28/2025-4/14.2

CR FELL / CR DORANTE

Council resolves:

- (a) To enter into the proposed funding agreement with the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) to the amount of up to \$2,210,000 (excl. GST), administered through the ATSI TIDS Program for the Dauan Island Barge Ramp Upgrade Project, subject to formalising a funding agreement; and
- (b) Pursuant to Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer:
 - power to make, amend or discharge the Funding Agreement; and
 - power to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this project and agreement including without limitation any options and/or variations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14.3. Information Report – Capital Works

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

#C24-28/2025-4/14.3

CR FELL / CR PEARSON

Council resolves to note this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *Ms Martine Care (Preston Law) joined the meeting for Agenda Item 15 below.*
- *Prior to the commencement of discussion, all staff present at the meeting (including the Chief Executive Officer) were excused from the meeting at 3.05pm.*
- *NOTE: The Chief Executive Officer did not participate in any discussion involving Agenda Item 15 below, despite being advertised on the meeting agenda.*

15. ******RESTRICTED SESSION****** *For Councillors & Ms Martine Care (Preston Law) only*
[Reason for this matter to be discussed in Closed Business: This item involves discussion on matters relating to the appointment, discipline or dismissal of the Chief Executive Officer].

- *Ms Martine Care (Preston Law) left the meeting at 3.30pm.*
- *At the conclusion of discussion on Agenda Item 15 above, all staff were invited to return at 3.40pm.*

16. RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE MEETING TO OPEN DISCUSSION

#C24-28/2025-4/16

CR PEARSON / CR DORANTE

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Council formally resolved on the decisions taken above in relation to Agenda Items 10-16.

18. MATTERS ARISING

- (a) **Cr Seriako Dorante** sought an update in relation to the commencement of works on the sewerage treatment plants on Hammond, Dauan and Ugar. The Executive Director Engineering Services (Mr David Baldwin) advised that these projects (as well as part of Mer) have been identified to the State and Federal Governments through the TSRA as candidate projects as early as the MIF 4 funding round. Significant funding is required, more than that currently available under MIF 7.

The Mayor advised that Council will need to lobby strategically for a collective regional approach to State and Federal Governments for realistic funding across the region. The Chief Executive Officer reassured Cr Dorante that the administrative arm of Council is working to address his concerns.

(b) **Cr Rocky Stephen** advised that notices and background information have been supplied to relevant Divisions for the upcoming Stage 2 consultations for the Economic Development Strategy and requested relevant Councillors to make themselves available for the following meetings:

- Boigu (28 April 2025)
- Saibai (29 April 2025)
- Dauan (30 April 2025)
- Hammond Island (2 May 2025)
- Poruma (6 May 2025)
- Iama (7 May 2025)
- Masig (8 May 2025)

19. INFORMATION REPORTS

- 19.1. BUILDING SERVICES – Building Services Report (March 2025)**
- 19.2. COMMUNITY SERVICES – Information Report - Community Services (March 2025)**
- 19.3. CORPORATE SERVICES - Corporate Services Information Report (March 2025)**
- 19.4. ENGINEERING SERVICES – Engineering Operations**
- 19.5. ENGINEERING SERVICES – Information Report - Water and Wastewater (March 2025)**

Noted by Council.

20. NEXT MEETING – 23 MAY 2025 (Cairns)

Noted by Council.

21. CLOSE OF MEETING & PRAYER

The Mayor thanked Councillors for their attendance, participation and engagement. The Mayor reminded Councillors that they were sworn in to Office on 16 April 2024 and this current term is now officially just over 12 months old. The Mayor asked that Councillors reflect on the past 12 months and take stock of how much has been achieved in such a short period of time and how Council can improve in the delivery of services to our communities for the remainder of our term.

The Mayor also thanked the Chief Executive Officer and his Executive Team for their dedication and support for the business of Council over the past 12 months.

The Mayor formally closed the meeting at 4.30pm and Cr Francis Pearson delivered the closing prayer.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 23 May 2025

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Cr Phillemon Mosby
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 23 May 2025

.....
James William
Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 23 May 2025

DRAFT