



**STRATEGIC ACTION REFERENCE
GROUP (SARG) STANDING
COMMITTEE MEETING
9 MAY 2025**

MINUTES

Time: 9.00am to 4.00pm

Venue: TSIRC Conference Room, Level 3, 111 Grafton Street, Cairns
Microsoft TEAMS Meeting ID: 475 843 639 579 3 | Passcode: Dt2TH9Lp

PRESENT:

Mayor/Chair

Deputy Mayor

Chair - Culture, Arts, Land & Heritage Advisory Committee

Chair - Economic Growth Advisory Committee – *joined meeting at 9.15am*

Chair - Environment & Climate Adaptation Advisory Committee

Chair - Governance & Leadership Advisory Committee – *joined meeting at 9.15am*

Chair - Housing, Families and Safe & Healthy Communities Advisory Committee – *joined meeting at 9.15am*

Cr Phillemon Mosby

Cr Ranetta Wosomo

Cr Chelsea Aniba

Cr Rocky Stephen

Cr Kabay Tamu

Cr Dimas Toby

Cr Keith Fell

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Director Building Services

Executive Director Corporate Services

Executive Director Community Services

Executive Assistant to the Mayor

TSIRC Secretariat

Mr James William

Mr Wayne Green

Ms Susanne Andres

Mr Dawson Sailor

Ms Trudy Lui

Mr Darryl Brooks

APOLOGIES:

Executive Director Engineering Services – *leave*

Executive Director Financial Services – *leave*

Mr David Baldwin

Ms Hollie Faithfull

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

At 9.05am, the Mayor welcomed Committee Members, staff and members of the public 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, families and the region;
- The Traditional Custodians throughout the length and breadth of Zenadth Kes and the communities and constituents that Council serves and the Traditional Custodians across the TSIRC footprint, including Gimuy Country for the TSIRC Cairns Office; 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 – and others who may be observing Sorry Business at this time, the collective thoughts and prayers of the Committee.

Cr Ranetta Wosomo delivered the opening prayer.

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 (5 MARCH 2025)

#SSC24-28/2025-05/1

CR WOSOMO / CR TAMU

The Standing Committee confirmed the Minutes of its meeting held on 5 March 2025.

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.

Advocacy Strategy to State and Australian Governments

Action Required:

Chief Executive Officer to prepare an advocacy strategy to State and Federal Governments to address the priorities identified by Council as soon as possible following the May 2025 Council Workshop.

2. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

#SSC24-28/2025-5/2

CR STEPHEN / 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. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

3.1. Draft Operation Plan 2025-26 – For Review

[Reason for Closed Discussion: To discuss business:

- for which public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of council*
- that involves a contract proposed or information on negotiations relating to a commercial matter*
- that relates to legal advice or proceedings*

that may directly affect the health and safety of an individual or a group of individuals].

The Standing Committee noted the presentation by the Executive Director Corporate Services (Ms Susanne Andres) and agreed to identify a key deliverable for their respective Advisory Committee for 2025-26 for discussion at the May 2025 Council Workshop.

- *NOTE: All staff (including the Chief Executive Officer) were requested to leave the meeting from 10.25am to 11.00am.*
- *NOTE: The Committee agreed that a matter pertaining to Agenda Item 7.1 (Culture, Arts, Land & Heritage Advisory Committee – 3rd Quarter Report) was to be discussed as a Closed Business Item as the matters under consideration may directly affect the health and safety of an individual or a group of individuals.*
- *NOTE: The Committee agreed that Agenda Item 8.1 (CDP Tender Matter) was to be discussed as a Closed Business Item as the matter for discussion involved 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. The Mayor advised that Crs Dimas Toby and Kabay Tamu would be excused from discussions as the matter related to direct Conflicts of Interest around PBC matters. The Councillors were accordingly absent from the meeting (11.05am to 11.30am) when the matter was discussed.*

4. RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE MEETING TO OPEN DISCUSSION

#SSC24-28/2025-05/4

CR WOSOMO / CR FELL

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

The Mayor advised that no formal resolutions resulted from the Closed Session discussions.

6. MAYORAL ITEMS

6.1. Masig Statement Discussion

The Mayor referenced his email dated 5 May 2025 to SARG Members in relation to the Masig Statement Report Card, including the need for Council to demonstrate to the wider regional leadership the actions being undertaken by TSIRC to progress this aspiration.

Cr Dimas Toby (Chair of the Governance & Leadership Advisory Committee) advised that Ms Sandy Killick (Democracy Matters) is currently finalising the TSIRC Masig Statement Report Card and this will be discussed at the May 2025 Council Workshop.

Cr Rocky Stephen also reminded the meeting that the Masig Statement Report Card should also reflect the Regional Autonomy (Regional Assembly) 18—month region ready transition plan.

The Mayor added that the proposal by the Governance & Leadership Advisory Committee to prioritise use of the term 'Malungu Yangu Wakay' (instead of 'The Masig Statement') and to promote other similar regionally-endorsed aspirational statements for Ailan governance, will help regional leadership organisations to understand and acknowledge that this is a whole—of—region push for Ailan governance and not just a TSIRC initiative. However, the Mayor qualified this by saying that TSIRC should be prepared for taking leading steps forward to promote the aspirations of Malungu Yangu Wakay and to demonstrate to other regional leadership that it is possible.

This would be more likely to inspire the three tiers of leadership groups throughout the region (including GBK) to connect and work together on a more culturally appropriate advocacy platform as well as promote the Ailan governance aspiration to the outside world (including Governments) as the united will of the people.

Cr Rocky Stephen recommended that all TSIRC Divisions be encouraged to sign the Malungu Yangu Wakay (the Masig Statement) and that these signed documents be recorded/framed for austerity and future advocacy.

- *Standing Committee deliberations were suspended from 12.05pm to 1.15pm for a lunch break.*
- *Crs Wosomo and Fell returned to the meeting at 1.19pm and Cr Aniba returned to the meeting at 1.30pm.*

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

The Mayor provided the Committee with an update on his recent engagements with fellow Mayors on TS&NPAROC. In particular, the Mayors were keen to progress the ROC and to focus on the lessons learned since the establishment of the organisation.

Agreement was reached by the Mayors for the establishment of an interim body to operate the ROC (subject to formal endorsement – or in-principle endorsement - by the three respective Councils). The Mayor has since held discussions with the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Director Corporate Services to engage a contractor to formally register the ROC and to engage an Executive Officer to run the TS&NPAROC as an entity separate from the three Councils (TSIRC, TSC and NPARC).

The Executive Director Corporate Services (Ms Susanne Andres) recommended that Council pursue the recruitment through a tender process and be mindful that the

process meet the existing Local Government Act and Local Government Regulations requirements.

The Committee noted the update and the Mayor requested that relevant paperwork be prepared for the May 2025 Council Workshop for presentation to the joint meeting between the three TS&NPAROC members.

7. ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS – 3rd QUARTER

- 7.1. Culture, Arts, Land & Heritage (CALH) Advisory Committee – 3rd Quarter Report** *(verbal)*
- 7.2. Economic Growth Advisory Committee – 3rd Quarter Report** *(verbal)*
- 7.3. Environment & Climate Change Adaption (ECCA) Advisory Committee – 3rd Quarter Report** *(verbal)*
- 7.4. Governance & Leadership (G&L) Advisory Committee – 1st, 2nd & 3rd Quarter Combined Report**
- 7.5. Housing, Families and Safe & Healthy Communities (HFSHC) Advisory Committee – 3rd Quarter Report** *(verbal)*

The Standing Committee noted the verbal updates provided by each Advisory Committee Chair, as well as the written report by the Governance & Leadership Advisory Committee.

The Mayor requested that Advisory Committees ensure that written quarterly reports be made a priority for tabling at the relevant SARG meeting in order to inform the Standing Committee of priorities that should either be escalated to the full Council, or which require further work to be undertaken.

8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

8.1. CDP Tender Matter – *verbal discussion with Cr Stephen*

This matter was discussed in Closed Business.

9. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

10. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

11. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

12. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

13. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

14. MATTERS ARISING

Nil.

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

Noted by the Standing Committee.

16. CLOSE OF MEETING & PRAYER

The Mayor thanked Standing Committee members and officers for their attendance and contributions throughout the meeting. The Mayor also requested that SARG members take a leadership role in encouraging their Advisory Committee members to attend and participate proactively at the upcoming May 2025 Council Workshop. The Mayor formally closed the meeting at 2.25pm and Cr Keith Fell delivered the closing prayer.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 9 July 2025

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Cr Phillemon Mosby
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council

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James William
Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Island Regional Council