



**STRATEGIC ACTION REFERENCE
GROUP (SARG) STANDING
COMMITTEE MEETING
11 JULY 2025**

MINUTES

Time: 9.00am to 4.00pm

Venue: *Microsoft TEAMS Meeting ID: 424 348 872 237 | Passcode: X99jz2uF*

PRESENT:

Mayor/Chair

Deputy Mayor

Chair - Culture, Arts, Land & Heritage (CALH) Advisory Committee

Chair - Economic Growth (EG) Advisory Committee

Chair - Environment & Climate Adaptation (ECCA) Advisory
Committee - *(via TEAMS)*

Chair - Housing, Families and Safe & Healthy Communities (HFSHC)
Advisory Committee - *(via TEAMS)*

Cr Phillemon Mosby

Cr Ranetta Wosomo

Cr Chelsea Aniba

Cr Rocky Stephen

Cr Kabay Tamu – *partial
participation (10.10am to 11.00am
only)*

Cr Keith Fell – *unable to participate
due to local internet connectivity issues*

APOLOGIES:

Chair - Governance & Leadership Advisory Committee

Cr Dimas Toby – *family
commitments*

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Director Building Services

Executive Director Corporate Services

Executive Director Community Services - *(via TEAMS)*

Executive Director Engineering Services

Executive Director Financial Services

DOGIT Transfer, Land Tenure and Native Title Advisor

Executive Assistant to the CEO

Economic Development Lead

TSIRC Secretariat

Mr James William – *left meeting at
12.00nn for a previous commitment*

Mr Wayne Green

Ms Susanne Andres

Mr Dawson Sailor

Mr David Baldwin

Ms Hollie Faithfull

Ms Joanne Bryant – *AI 11.1 only*

Ms Amy Orr

Mr David Brown – *AI 2.6 only*

Mr Darryl Brooks

APOLOGIES:

Executive Assistant to the Mayor

Ms Trudy Lui – *on leave*

GUESTS:

Torres Shire Council – *Deputation #1 only*

Mayor Elsie Seriat

**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, the region the Council and the services it provides to our communities; and
- The Traditional Custodians and Elders (past, present and emerging) 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.

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 (Deputy Mayor) delivered the opening prayer. This was followed by a minute of silence for reflection purposes.

B. NOTING OF APOLOGIES

No formal apologies were tabled. The Standing Committee noted advice received at 9.44am that **Cr Dimas Toby** was unable to attend the meeting due to family commitments.

Cr Keith Fell was unable to participate in the meeting due to localised internet connectivity issues.

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, including for those who may view proceedings at a later time.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (9 MAY 2025)

#SSC24-28/2025-07/1

CR ANIBA / CR STEPHEN

The Standing Committee confirmed the Minutes of its meeting held on 9 May 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.

2. MAYORAL ITEMS

2.1. Advisory Committee Quarterly Reports – 4th Quarter

Advisory Committee Chairs spoke to their respective reports.

In the absence of the ECCA Advisory Committee Chair, the Executive Director Engineering Services (**Mr David Baldwin**) spoke to that report in his capacity as the Advisory Committee's Lead Executive.

In the absence of the G&L Advisory Committee Chair, the Deputy Mayor (**Cr Ranetta Wosomo**) spoke to that report in her capacity as a member of the Advisory Committee.

In the absence of the HFSHC Advisory Committee Chair, the Executive Director Community Services (**Mr Dawson Sailor**) spoke to that report in his capacity as the Advisory Committee's Lead Executive.

The reports were noted by the Standing Committee.

2.2. Review of May/November Workshops – *verbal discussion*

The Mayor advised that informal discussions have been taking place amongst SARG Standing Committee members and various Executives to restrict the duration of future May and November Council Workshops and to redirect subsequent cost-savings across Council's SARG Standing Committee and Advisory Committees to allow greater capacity for those Committees to engage with Community and to assist in the advocacy work of Council.

Following discussion amongst members, the Standing Committee requested that a paper be prepared for the July 2025 Ordinary Council meeting seeking endorsement by Council of the following:

- agreement that Council's annual May and November Council Workshops be held for 4 days only (Monday to Thursday), with the relevant monthly Council meetings to be held the next day following (Friday);
- that cost savings arising from the above changes be redirected to Council's SARG Standing Committee and Advisory Committees to allow greater capacity for those Committees to engage with Community and to assist in the advocacy work of Council;
- that the currently endorsed November 2025 Council Workshop scheduled for 3—13 November 2025 be changed to 10—13 November 2025 and to be held in Cairns;
- that the annual May Council Workshops be held on Division;
- that the SARG Standing Committee identify the priorities to be covered throughout the streamlined Council Workshops; and
- that the SARG Standing Committee carry responsibility for engagement with State and Australian Government Ministers on behalf of Council.

2.3. TSRA MOU and September 2025 Deputation – *verbal discussion*

The Mayor proposed that the Deputy Mayor and another nominated SARG Standing Committee member lead the TSIRC deputation to the TSRA Board Meeting and that the deputation cover the following matters:

- provide a greater insight to the TSRA on the operational aspects of TSIRC around cash—flow issues (i.e. timing of funding coming in to Council and last—minute requests for paperwork);
- SIP funding matters (including outstanding funding requests);
- Wastewater and water security issues;
- regional challenges currently before Council;
- landfill issues and associated costs for new landfill sites.

2.4. Torres Strait & Northern Peninsula Area Registered Organisation of Councils (TS&NPAROC) – *verbal discussion*

The Mayor advised that the three Councils met on 10 July 2025, with the TSIRC Deputy Mayor standing in as the Mayor's proxy. Discussions were held during this meeting with external advisors to move towards registering the TS&NPAROC and to recruit the Executive Officer to drive the work of the three Councils.

2.5. Anniversary of First Councillors' Meeting (23 August) – *verbal discussion*

The Mayor advised that Community Events budgets will be used by each Division to commemorate the anniversary. The Mayor requested that a Communique and associated media material be prepared for the Community to update on progress to date.

The Mayor also advised that Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Corporation (GBK) will be hosting an event to celebrate the 90th Anniversary (in 2026) of the First Councillors' Meeting and will be establishing a regional committee to develop this event. The Mayor proposed that the Chairs of the G&L Advisory Committee and the CALH Advisory Committee be the TSIRC representatives on the regional committee established by GBK.

2.6. Economic Development Strategy – Phase 1 – *verbal discussion lead by Cr Rocky Stephen and Mr John Palmer EMVER Consultant and Mr David Brown (TSIRC Economic Development Officer)*

The Mayor thanked the Chair of the Economic Growth (EG) Advisory Committee for his leadership with the work of the Advisory Committee, as well as the Executive Director supporting the Committee.

Mr John Palmer EMVER Consultant was unable to attend the meeting. The Economic Development Lead (Mr David Brown) provided the Standing Committee with a verbal update on the status of the Economic Development Strategy, including the finalisation of Stage 1 (community engagement) which was completed in June 2025. The Strategy is now in the analysis stage and it is expected that a final report will be completed by 31 August 2025.

A Project Steering Group meeting will be held on 21 July 2025 to review a draft Dashboard Report for each Division and an analysis of the surveys gathering during Stage 1. The Steering Committee comprises the Deputy Mayor, Crs Stephen, T. Mosby, Elisala and Manas and Ms Ella Kris. Outreach will also be undertaken with

the TSRA Economic Development Team seeking feedback on the final draft of the analysis report.

The next stage will then be the development of the long-term strategic action plan and a funding application has been submitted to the TSRA for this stage of the project.

3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Nil.

4. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

5. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

6. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

6.1. Policy Update – Fraud & Corruption Prevention Policy
#SSC24-28/2025-07/6.1

CR WOSOMO / CR ANIBA

The Standing Committee:

- 1. Reviewed the updated Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy; and**
- 2. Refers the updated Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy to the Council's Audit and Risk Committee for review and to Council for adoption.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.2. Corporate Plan 2020-25 Outcomes Report

The Executive Director Corporate Services (Ms Susanne Andres) spoke to this report, highlighting that 64 key deliverables were successfully achieved and 42 deliverables were not achieved, primarily due to funding limitations, staffing constraints and shifts in Council priorities.

These are very good outcomes overall for Council, particularly during this period (2020-25) Council operated under severe COVID-19 impacts, rising cost pressures, staff turnovers and two full Council elections.

The Mayor requested clarification on which of the 42 deliverables under the 2020—25 Corporate Plan have been carried over into the current Corporate Plan. The Mayor also requested that the information contained in the officer's report be customised for the Mayor and Councillors to communicate to their constituents.

The Mayor thanked Ms Andres and her Team for the information contained in the report.

The report was noted by the Standing Committee.

7. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

8. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

DEPUTATIONS

DEPUTATION #1: Torres Shire Council (TSC)

The Mayor of the Torres Shire Council (Mayor Elsie Seriat OAM) joined the meeting online at 10.40am to update the Standing Committee on the 2025 Winds of Zenadth Cultural Festival.

Mayor Seriat made the following points:

- TSC has already locked in the dates for 2027 and 2029;
- the 2025 Festival is now just around the corner (16-19 September 2025) and Mayor Seriat would like to encourage more collaboration between TSC, NPARC and TSIRC on future Festivals;
- TSC is seeking collaboration and support from TSIRC across Divisions for assistance to support and promote the event;

The Executive Director Community Services (Mr Dawson Sailor) advised that work is already well underway on-ground across the Divisions in preparation for the 2025 Festival.

DEPUTATION #2: Ms Hilda Mosby

Did not proceed in the absence of Ms Mosby.

9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

#SSC24-28/2025-7/9

CR ANIBA / CR WOSOMO

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

10. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

➤ *The Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) spoke to this item.*

10.1. Community Development Program (CDP) Beneficial Entity (or Entities) – *verbal update*

[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".]

The update was noted by the Standing Committee.

11. COMMUNITY SERVICES/BUILDING SERVICES/DOGIT NATIVE TITLE ADVISOR

- *The Executive Director Building Services (Mr Wayne Green), the Executive Director Community Services (Mr Dawson Sailor) and the DOGIT Transfer, Land Tenure and Native Title Advisor (Ms Joanne Bryant) both spoke to this item.*

11.1. Update on Native Title Consent Process – QuickStarts – verbal update

[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".]

The update was noted by the Standing Committee.

12. ENGINEERING SERVICES

- *The Executive Director Engineering Services (Mr David Baldwin) spoke to this item.*

12.1. MIP 7 Update – verbal update

[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".]

The update was noted by the Standing Committee.

13. RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE MEETING TO OPEN DISCUSSION

#SSC24-28/2025-07/13

CR WOSOMO / CR ANIBA

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

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

15. MATTERS ARISING

Nil.

16. NEXT MEETING – 8 OCTOBER 2025 (Microsoft TEAMS)

Noted by the Standing Committee.

17. CLOSE OF MEETING & PRAYER

The Mayor thanked Standing Committee members and officers for their attendance and contributions, commitment and leadership for this meeting. The Mayor formally closed the meeting at 12.50pm and Cr Chelsea Aniba delivered the closing prayer.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 8 October 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

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