



**STRATEGIC ACTION
REFERENCE GROUP
(SARG) STANDING
COMMITTEE MEETING
8 OCTOBER 2025**

MINUTES

Time: 9.00am to 4.00pm

Venue: *Microsoft TEAMS Meeting ID: 462 229 464 486 | Passcode: M3hC2vm3*

PRESENT:

Mayor/Chair

Deputy Mayor

Chair - Economic Growth (EG) Advisory Committee

Chair - Environment & Climate Adaptation (ECCA) Advisory Committee

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

Cr Phillemon Mosby

Cr Ranetta Wosomo

Cr Rocky Stephen

Cr Kabay Tamu – *joined meeting at 9.30am*

Cr Keith Fell

ABSENT:

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

Chair - Governance & Leadership Advisory Committee

Cr Chelsea Aniba

Cr Dimas Toby

OFFICERS:

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Executive Director Building Services

Executive Director Corporate Services

Acting Executive Director Community Services

Executive Director Engineering Services

Executive Director Financial Services

Executive Assistant to the Mayor

Executive Assistant to the CEO

TSIRC Secretariat

Mr Dawson Sailor

Mr Wayne Green

Ms Vicki Bishop

Mr David Abednego

Mr David Baldwin

Ms Hollie Faithfull

Ms Trudy Lui

Ms Amy Orr

Mr Darryl Brooks

APOLOGIES:

Nil

GUESTS:

Chief Executive Officer, LG Services Group

Mr Scott Mason

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

At 9.05am, the Mayor welcomed Committee Members and to the meeting, noting that a quorum of members was present.

The Mayor made the following acknowledgements:

- Our Great Creator (Papa God) for his wisdom, knowledge, understanding, favour upon 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 – from Mer in the East to Boigu in the West and 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 Keith Fell delivered the opening prayer. This was followed by a minute of silence for reflection purposes.

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

Due to technical difficulties, the meeting was not live streamed.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (11 JULY 2025)

#SSC24-28/2025-10/1

CR WOSOMO / CR FELL

The Standing Committee confirmed the Minutes of its meeting held on 11 July 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.1. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Acting Chief Executive Officer (Mr Dawson Sailor) spoke to this item. The update was noted by the Standing Committee.

- *The Chief Executive Officer of LG Services Group (Mr Scott Mason) joined the meeting at 9.25am.*

2. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

#SSC24-28/2025-10/2

CR FELL / CR STEPHEN

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

- *The Chief Executive Officer of LG Services Group (Mr Scott Mason) spoke to Agenda Item 3.1 below.*

3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

[Reason for this matter to be discussed in Closed Business: This matter contains matters that may directly affect the health and safety of an individual or a group of individuals.]

The update was noted by the Standing Committee.

4. RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE MEETING TO OPEN DISCUSSION

#SSC24-28/2025-10/4

CR FELL / CR WOSOMO

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.

Action Required:

1. Chief Executive Officer to oversee review of existing MOU between TSRA and TSIRC to match the aspirations around Council's TAP and to discuss this matter at the upcoming TSIRC Deputation to the TSRA November 2025 Board Meeting. The CEO requested SARG Members to consider matters and have these raised at the November 2025 Council Workshop.
2. Chief Executive Officer to provide a copy of existing MOU between TSRA and TSIRC to Mr Scott Mason

3. Chief Executive Officer and Mr Scott Mason to progress formal engagement with the Queensland State Government (particularly at the Ministerial level) to invest in housing funding requirements by Council for TSIRC staff in the context of aspiring to TAP needs.
4. Mayor to raise with the TS&NPAROC the need to ensure that the aspirations of Council's TAP are also pursued with NPARC and TSC in the context of regional governance aspirations for the Torres Strait.
5. Chief Executive Officer to discuss with Australian Maritime Union organisers to ensure that coordination occurs across the region in the lead up to the 90th Anniversary of the Maritime Strike (in 2026) is in sync with regional governance aspirations for the Torres Strait.
6. Chief Executive Officer to distribute to SARG SC members the June 2016 Information Report provided to Council in relation to the location of a TSIRC Head Office in the region to determine the next steps on a way forward.
7. Office of the Mayor to send out information to SARG and the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that TSIRC is represented on the regional working group being established by GBK for the 90th Anniversary of the Maritime Strike (in 2026).

6. MAYORAL ITEMS *(verbal discussion)*

6.1. Advisory Committees – 1st Quarter Reporting (2025-26)

#SSC24-28/2025-10/6.1

CR WOSOMO / CR STEPHEN

The Standing Committee:

1. **notes the Advisory Committee 1st Quarter Reports for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025; and**
2. **recommends that the reports be submitted for noting by Council.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.2. November 2025 Council Workshop – Date Adjustment

The Standing Committee requested that a report be prepared for the October 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting proposing Council agreement for November 2025 Council Workshop to be convened from 10-14 November 2025 and that the current November 2025 monthly Council Meetings scheduled for 14 November 2025 be changed to either 18 or 19 November 2025 and be conducted by Microsoft TEAMS.

6.3. Torres Strait Treaty – Suspension of Traditional Inhabitant visits over Christmas/New Year Period 2025-26

The Standing Committee requested that the Executive Director Community Services prepare a report for the October 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting seeking endorsement of dates for the suspension of Traditional Inhabitant visits over the Christmas/New Year Period 2025-26.

Action Required:

Executive Director Community Services to work with DFAT Treaty Liaison Officer to:

1. ensure that official forms used for prior approval are standardised across all Divisions as it appears that different forms are being used and therefore different criteria are being used; and
2. reported breaches across all Divisions are not accessed/monitored centrally and that more thorough work be done about ensuring that those who are reported for breaches are correctly identified at the time of the breach.

6.4. **Nam Zagethaw Yabugud Pty Ltd | training and employment/economic**

The **Mayor** and **Cr Rocky Stephen** sought feedback on the way forward in relation to Nam Zagethaw Yabugud Pty Ltd (the entity established by Council as a beneficial enterprise to deliver services under the Australian Government's Community Development Program), following the organisation's unsuccessful application for the recent Remote Australia Employment Service (RAES) funding Round.

Cr Stephen proposed that a 2-day workshop be held in October 2025 to discuss the matter further. The Acting Chief Executive Officer (**Mr Dawson Sailor**) to follow-up further with Cr Stephen out of session in relation to a proposed 2-day workshop in October 2025 to discuss the matter further.

6.5. **Investment (Economic Development)**

The Mayor advised that this matter is separate to SIP. The Mayor sought advice on strategic investment into businesses (transport, air transport, fishing business, etc) as a means of financial gain for Council. The Acting Chief Executive Officer (**Mr Dawson Sailor**) will seek advice and provide feedback to the Standing Committee. Cr Kabay Tamu also suggested that the entire Torres Strait region needs to work together for coordinated strategic investment and to ensure that the right organisations are structured to coordinate and deliver these investments for the entire region. **Cr Keith Fell** emphasised that housing supply will be crucial to the success of any long-term strategic investments across the region.

Cr Rocky Stephen reminded the Standing Committee that Phase 2 of Council's Economic Development Strategy will address strategic investment and engagement with key stakeholders. A funding application for Phase 2 has been submitted to the TSRA.

6.6. **Safe, Accessible & Affordable Transport (Alternative Freight provider)**

The Mayor advised that the TS&NPA ROC is currently discussing opportunities across the regions in relation to safe, accessible and affordable transportation options, including:

- road train from Cairns to Bamaga including a storage facility (with economic benefit for local traditional owners);
- Jardine project (with economic benefit for local traditional owners)

- vessel transport from Bamaga to the outer Islands (with storage facility within the Torres Shire)

These proposals have been flagged with the Member for Cook and the Federal Member for Leichardt and the TS&NPA ROC will be formally writing to the TSRA with this proposal and to seek TSRA agreement to undertake a feasibility study to determine the regional appetite for pursuing this initiative especially in the context of the Australian Government's National Food Security Strategy.

6.7. Climate Alliance (3 x TSIRC, TSC, NPARC)

The Acting Chief Executive Officer (Mr Dawson Sailor) advised the Standing Committee that recruitment is currently underway for the engagement of Climate Resilience Officers. A working committee (TSIRC, GBK and Torres Shire) has been meeting to prepare the way forward regionally for training and cooperation between entities when all Officers are on board.

The LGAQ has provided funding for the establishment of a Climate Alliance Committee. TSIRC has appointed Mirabou to coordinate the best way forward for this particular Committee to operate strategically with other regional entities to avoid duplication and to ensure value for money with initiatives.

6.8. Part B TCHHS Report

The **Mayor** advised that Part B of the TCHHS Report has been made public recently. This looked at the structure of TCHHS and basically the report has indicated that TCHHS is culturally safe for staff and clients (or there was no evidence to prove that it was unsafe).

The Mayor has been advocating (unsuccessfully) with his TS&NPA ROC counterparts to issue a joint media response in relation to Part B of this Report. The Mayor sought the Standing Committee's advice on a way forward.

Cr Keith Fell advised that he has been invited to sit as a TSIRC representative on the TCHHS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Council. The Mayor agreed that Cr Fell should accept the invitation as the TSIRC representative based on his current Standing Committee status.

Action Required:

Chief Executive Officer to drafting of a media release for the Mayor responding to Part B of the TCHHS Report.

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Nil.

8. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

9. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

10. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

11. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

13. MATTERS ARISING

Cr Ranetta Wosomo requested an update on progress around the previously reported dog attacks on Badu (November 2024) and a proposed management plan for the region. The Acting Chief Executive Officer (**Mr Dawson Sailor**) advised that no further progress has happened since July 2025 (due to staffing changes) however discussions will be renewed with relevant agencies to engage a consultant to develop a pilot management plan for Badu in the first instance.

14. NEXT MEETING – 7 NOVEMBER 2025 (Cairns)

Noted by the Standing Committee.

15. 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 12.30pm and Cr Rocky Stephen delivered the closing prayer.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 7 November 2025

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Cr Phillemon Mosby
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council

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Dawson Sailor
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Island Regional Council