



ORDINARY MEETING

10 DECEMBER 2025

MINUTES

Time: 10.30am to 5.00pm

Venue: Microsoft (TEAMS) Meeting ID: 466 069 832 218 | Passcode: vR3gj2k2

PRESENT:

Mayor

Division 1 – Boigu
Division 2 – Dauan
Division 3 – Saibai
Division 4 – Mabuiag
Division 5 – Badu / **Deputy Mayor**
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
Cr Chelsea Aniba
Cr Keith Fell – *left meeting at lunch break*
Cr Ranetta Wosomo – *left meeting at lunch break*
Cr Seriako Dorante
Cr Aggie Hankin
Cr Kabay Tamu
Cr Francis Pearson
Cr Ted Mosby
Cr Rocky Stephen
Cr Nixon Mye
Cr Bob Kaigey

APOLOGIES:

Division 6 – Kubin
Division 7 – Wug (St. Pauls), Mua Island

Cr Iona Manas – *Sad News/Sorry Business*
Cr John Levi – *prior travel commitments*

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Director Building Services
Executive Director Community Services
Executive Director Corporate Services
Executive Director Engineering Services
Manager Governance & Risk
Consultant
Executive Assistant to the CEO
TSIRC Secretariat

Mr James William
Mr Wayne Green
Mr Dawson Sailor
Ms Vicki Bishop
Mr David Baldwin
Ms Kim Kerwin
Mr Anthony Ottaway – *for Agenda Item 15.1 only*
Ms Amy Orr
Mr Darryl Brooks

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

At 10.15am, the Mayor welcomed Councillors, Executives and staff and members of the public to the Ordinary Council meeting for the month of December 2025, noting that a quorum of members was present.

The Mayor welcomed attendees and made the following acknowledgements:

- Traditional Custodians of land and sea throughout the length and breadth of Zenadth Kes and the communities and constituents that Council serves; and
- The Traditional Custodians of Gimuy Country and surrounding areas of Cairns which host elements of the TSIRC footprint.

The Mayor conveyed to those members of the Torres Strait Islander community locally and throughout the homelands and on the Australian mainland who may currently be experiencing Sorry Business, the collective thoughts, prayers and well wishes of the Council during this time.

The Mayor thanked Councillors for their participation, engagement and leadership throughout the year.

The Mayor's final acknowledgement was to Papa God for His awesome wisdom, knowledge, understanding and favour upon our lives, as well as His direction in guiding Council's decision-making capacities throughout the year.

B. NOTING OF APOLOGIES

#C24-28/2025-12/B

The following apologies were noted and accepted by Council:

Division	Councillor/Reason	Mover/Seconder
Div. 6 – Kugin	Cr Iona Manas – <i>Sad News/Sorry Business</i>	CR DORANTE / CR KAIGEY
Division 7 – Wug (St. Pauls), Mua Island	Cr John Levi – <i>prior travel commitments</i>	CR ELISALA / CR PEARSON

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.

- **Cr Francis Pearson** reminded Council that he had declared a COI in relation to a funding application to be considered under Agenda Item 6.1 (Community Grants Program Allocation – November 2025) and will leave the meeting when that application is being considered.

No other declarations were made by Councillors.

The Mayor also invited Councillors to declare if they are involved in any current legal matters that they are required to advise the Mayor as soon as possible. No such declarations were made by Councillors.

Action Required:

Councillors to provide CEO with written notice of any COI matters prior to each Council meeting.

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. The Mayor added that this livestreaming service offers transparency and allows members of the general public and organisational partners in the region TSIRC footprint to be informed of Council's deliberations and decisions which impact on the region.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (19 NOVEMBER 2025)

#C24-28/2025-12/1

CR ANIBA / CR WOSOMO

Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 November 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.1. Action Items Update

The Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) spoke to this item. The update was noted by Council. *Items noted as 'completed' during this update will be removed from future reports.*

2. MAYORAL REPORTS

2.1. Mayoral Monthly Report

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

3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

3.1. CEO Monthly Report (November 2025)

The Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) spoke to his report, and made two additional verbal updates as follows:

- the Executive Leadership Team met with Mr Scott Mason to explore evolving the business of Council effectively into the future to meet the aspirations currently being prioritised by Council (such as TAP and regional governance matters) and these discussions helped form the material for the TSIRC presentation to the TSRA in November 2025. A copy of the TSIRC material presented will be circulated to Councillors; and
- the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer presented to the Department of Climate Change, Energy and Water on 9 December 2025 advocating a proposal for a Torres Strait Regional Climate Forum in Cairns which can be attended by Pacific regional interest groups.

#C24-28/2025-12/3.1

CR ANIBA / CR WOSOMO

Council notes the Chief Executive Officer Report for November 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action Required:

Standing Agenda Item in Closed Business in future Council meetings: CEO to report on any legal matters before Council.

CONT

3.2. TSIRC Meeting Schedule for 2026

#C24-28/2025-12/3.2

CR MYE / CR FELL

In accordance with Section 257(1) of the *Local Government Regulations 2012*, Council:

1. Rescinds para (a)(i) of Council Decision #C24-28/2025-7/3.2 and agrees that the annual Council Workshops normally held in May and November be convened over a 5-day period (Monday to Friday);
2. Endorses the following schedule of Trustee Council meetings, Ordinary Council meetings and Council Workshops for 2026:
 - Wednesday, 28 January 2026 (VC)
 - Wednesday, 18 February 2026 (VC)
 - Tuesday & Wednesday, 24-25 March 2026 (f2f - Warraber)
 - Wednesday, 22 April 2026 (VC)
 - Monday to Friday, 11-15 May 2026 (Council Workshop to be held on Badu)
 - Wednesday, 20 May 2026 (VC)
 - Wednesday, 24 June 2026 (VC)
 - Tuesday & Wednesday, 21-22 July 2026 (f2f – Mabuiag)
 - Wednesday, 19 August 2026 (VC)
 - Tuesday & Wednesday, 22-23 September 2026 (f2f - Mer)
 - Monday to Friday, 12-16 October 2026 [Council Workshop to be held in Cairns]
 - Wednesday, 28 October 2026 (VC)
 - Tuesday & Wednesday, 17-18 November 2026 (Kirirri)
 - Wednesday, 16 December 2026 (VC); and
3. In accordance with Section 254B of the *Local Government Regulations 2012*, Council agrees that the schedule of Trustee and Ordinary Council Meetings for 2026 be published in the *Torres News* and on the Council website.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

➤ *The Mayor suspended deliberations from 12.00nn to 1.00pm for lunch.*

4. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

5. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

5.1. Torres Strait Treaty – Suspension of Traditional Visits Over Christmas/New Year Period 2025-26

#C24-28/2025-12/5.1

CR ANIBA / CR T. MOSBY

Council:

- (a) Resolves that traditional inhabitant visits between Papua New Guinea and Australia under the *Torres Strait Treaty* will be suspended from close of business on Tuesday, 23 December 2025 to Sunday 4 January 2026 (border reopens on Monday 5 January 2026); and
- (b) Agrees that Councillors (as authorising officers) will adhere to the suspension dates and to ensure that this suspension period is clearly communicated throughout the community.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

➤ *Cr Francis Pearson left the meeting prior to consideration of Grant Application CG2026-045 (Agenda Item 6.1 below) as per his declared COI and returned to the meeting at the conclusion of deliberations on this application.*

CONFIRMED

6. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

6.1. Community Grants Program Allocation (November 2025)

#C24-28/2025-12/6.1

1. Council resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to applicants in accordance with the *Community Grants Policy*:
 - CG2026-043 – MARIA BOSUN (KUBIN JRLC) for \$3,732.00, exclusive of GST;

MOVED/SECONDED: CR ANIBA / CR MYE

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Council resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to applicants in accordance with the *Community Grants Policy*:
 - CG2026-045 – JIMMY LARRY (PORUMA JRLC) for \$2,000.00, exclusive of GST;

MOVED/SECONDED: CR DORANTE / CR T. MOSBY

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Council resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to applicants in accordance with the *Community Grants Policy*:
 - CG2026-055 – SAM JOE (MABGUIAG JRLC) for \$10,000.00, exclusive of GST;

MOVED/SECONDED: CR PEARSON / CR DORANTE

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Council resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to applicants in accordance with the *Community Grants Policy*:
 - CG2026-058 – MARY WAPAU (ST PAULS JRLC) for \$3,732.00, exclusive of GST;

MOVED/SECONDED: CR ANIBA / CR TAMU

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Council resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to applicants in accordance with the *Community Grants Policy*:
 - CG2026-59 – MALETTA WAIGANA (ERUB JRLC) \$5,490.00, exclusive of GST;

MOVED/SECONDED: CR T. MOSBY / CR PEARSON

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

➤ *Council also noted the following:*

- (a) *five (5) Community Grant applications were deemed eligible for processing;*
- (b) *one (1) Community Grant application was deemed ineligible for processing;*
- (c) *three (3) Funeral Grant applications were considered eligible;*
- (d) *three (3) Funeral Grant applications were supported using divisional contributions.*

6.2. Funding Acquisition Report (November 2025)

#C24-28/2025-12/6.2

CR STEPHEN / CR ELISALA

Council receives and notes this report and its content.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action Required:

Executive Director Corporate Services to oversee:

1. Future Funding Acquisition Reports to list efforts to attract and improve funding opportunities to Council (both Government and non-Government) which demonstrates Council's efforts to secure funds for the TSIRC footprint.
2. Future Funding Acquisition Reports to include additional information on the follow-up actions being pursued in relation to unsuccessful funding applications.

6.3. TSIRC 2024-25 Annual Report

#C24-28/2025-12/6.3

CR DORANTE / CR HANKIN

Council:

1. **Adopts the Annual Report for the period of 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 for the Torres Strait Island Regional Council in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009* and associated regulation; and**
2. **Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to make minor administrative amendments and finalise all matters associated with publishing this report.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

➤ The Mayor acknowledged the layout, readability and detail provided in the 2024-25 Annual Report and thanked TSIRC staff involved in compiling the final report.

➤ The Manager Governance & Risk (Ms Kim Kerwin) spoke to AI 6.4 below.

6.4. Policy Update – Complaint Management Policy

#C24-28/2025-12/6.4

CR ANIBA / CR PEARSON

Council resolves to endorse the updated Complaint Management Policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.5. TSIRC Economic Development Community Engagement Report – Phase 1

#C24-28/2025-12/6.5

CR ANIBA / CR T. MOSBY

Council receives and notes the outcomes of the 2025 TSIRC Economic Development Community Engagement Report – Phase 2.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

➤ In the absence of the Executive Director Financial Services, the Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) spoke to Agenda Item 8.1 below.

8. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

8.1. Financial Dashboard Report (November 2025)

#C24-28/2025-12/8.1

CR PEARSON / CR TAMU

Council receives and endorses the monthly financial statements attached to the officer's report for the 2025-26 year to date, for the period ended 30 November 2025, as required under Section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

#C24-28/2025-12/9

CR TAMU / CR ANIBA

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

10. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Nil.

11. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

12. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

13. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

CONFIRMED

14. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

➤ *Point 3 of AI 14.1 was an addition to the recommendation originally provided in the officer's report and was proposed in—Council by the Executive Director Engineering Services (Mr David Baldwin) and subsequently accepted by Council.*

14.1. Seawalls Program Funding Distribution

[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".]

#C24-28/2025-12/14.1

CR ANIBA / CR PEARSON

Council resolves:

1. To endorse the allocation of surplus and remaining contingency funds from completed (from Round 2 funding) Seawalls Projects to be allocated to the current (Round 2) Masig Seawalls Project;
2. To formally request the Seawalls Project Governance Committee to approve allocation of these funds;
3. Subject to confirmation of further on-island Sand harvesting opportunities and the overall Project Sand Volumes available, Council seeks PGC endorsement to extend the current Warraber Coastal Protection Works Eastwards and into the Stage 2 alignment as far as practical and within current allocated Project budget; and
4. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2009* to prepare, submit, and manage the funding allocation request and execution of any related contractual and budget amendments.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

➤ *Mr Andrew Ottaway (Consultant) spoke to Agenda Item 15.1 below.*

15. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

15.1. Mirabou Energy – Renewable Energy Project Status 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".]

#C24-28/2025-12/15.1

CR KAIGEY / CR DORANTE

Council receives and notes:

- (a) the status update on the renewable energy project as endorsed by the Project Steering Committee on 1 December 2025; and
- (b) that pilot islands in the master agreement will be reduced from four to three (with Mer to be removed).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE MEETING TO OPEN DISCUSSION

#C24-28/2025-12/16

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 in relation to Agenda Items 10-16 above.

18. ITEMS ARISING

Nil.

19. INFORMATION REPORTS

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

Council receives and notes the information reports. Any enquiries by Councillors in relation to the information reports can be raised directly by Councillors with the respective Directorate Executive Director, or the Chief Executive Officer.

Action Required:

1. Executive Director Building Services/Executive Director Community Services to provide an update at the January 2026 meeting in relation to the provision of clear advice for Division staff and for Communities on Divisions in relation to housing repair and maintenance issues and tenant obligations for rental payments.
2. Executive Director Community Services to pass on to Housing Officers the Mayor's thanks and acknowledgement of their work on-ground for our Communities.
3. Chief Executive Officer to report back to a future Council meeting options available to Council to address ongoing housing repair and maintenance issues (including the establishment of a Torres Strait Housing Authority).
4. Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director Community Services to lobby the State Government to convene a Torres Strait Regional Housing Summit as soon as possible.

20. NEXT MEETING – 28 JANUARY 2026 (VC)

Noted by Council.

21. CLOSE OF MEETING & PRAYER

The Mayor thanked Councillors and Officers for their participation and constructive engagement throughout the meeting. The Mayor also thanked Councillors for their leadership throughout 2025, their commitment to Council and the region. Many lessons have been learned throughout the year.

The Mayor also acknowledged and thanked the Chief Executive Officer and his Executive Team for their support throughout the year and Council and wished all families the very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Mayor formally closed the meeting at 3.40pm and **Cr Chelsea Aniba** delivered the closing prayer.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 28 January 2026



.....
Cr Phillemos Mosby
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council



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James William
Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Island Regional Council

CONFIRMED