



**ORDINARY MEETING**  
28 JANUARY 2026

# MINUTES

**Time:** 10.30am to 5.00pm

**Venue:** *Microsoft (TEAMS) Meeting ID: 422 905 299 745 60 | Passcode: CK3GL9aU*

PRESENT:

**Mayor**

Division 2 – Dauan  
Division 3 – Saibai  
Division 4 – Mabuiag  
Division 5 – Badu / **Deputy Mayor**  
Division 7 – Wug (St. Pauls), Mua Island  
Division 8 – Kirirri (Hammond Island)  
Division 9 – Iama  
Division 10 – Warraber  
Division 11 – Poruma  
Division 12 – Masig  
Division 14 – Erub  
Division 15 – Mer

Cr Phillemon Mosby  
Cr Torenzo Elisala  
Cr Chelsea Aniba  
Cr Keith Fell  
Cr Ranetta Wosomo  
Cr John Levi  
Cr Seriako Dorante  
Cr Aggie Hankin  
Cr Kabay Tamu  
Cr Francis Pearson  
Cr Ted Mosby  
Cr Nixon Mye – *departed meeting 12.45pm*  
Cr Bob Kaigey

APOLOGIES:

Division 1 – Boigu  
Division 6 – Kubin  
Division 13 - Ugar

Cr Dimas Toby – *Sad News/Sorry Business*  
Cr Iona Manas – *Sad News/Sorry Business*  
Cr Rocky Stephen – *Sad News/Sorry Business*

OFFICERS:

**Chief Executive Officer**

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

Mr James William  
Mr Wayne Green  
Mr Dawson Sailor  
Ms Vicki Bishop  
Mr David Baldwin  
Ms Hollie Faithfull  
Ms Kim Kerwin  
Mr Anthony Ottaway – *for Agenda Item 15.5 only*  
Ms Amy Orr  
Ms Trudy Lui  
Mr Darryl Brooks

GUESTS:

Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Mr Todd Spencer (Senior Manager National Compliance Operations) Mr Brendan Rayner (Senior Manager International Compliance Operations)
Queensland Police Service • Torres Strait Patrol Group	Detective Inspector Kevin Goan Mr Corey Stevens (OIC of Thursday Island) Mr Mark Eaton (Acting Inspector)
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Mr TJ Oberleuter (Treaty Liaison Officer)
Department of Defence	Major Katherine Higgins (OIC Sarpeye Company, Thursday Island) Sergeant Major Officer Coggeton
Department of Home Affairs • Maritime Border Command	Mr Matthew Smith (Director of Operations) Nicole Papafinacio (Severn Tender Maritime Border Command Coordination and Inter Agency BA Zone)
• Australian Border Force	Mr Bob Kane (Thursday Island District Office Inspector)

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

At 11.30am, the Mayor welcomed the Deputy Mayor and Councillors, Executives and staff and members of the public to the first Ordinary Council meeting in 2026 (for the month of January 2026), noting that a quorum of members was present.

The Mayor welcomed attendees and made the following acknowledgements on behalf of Council:

- the Traditional Custodians of land and sea throughout the length and breadth of Zenadh 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 also acknowledged and paid respect to Traditional Elders (past, present and emerging).

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 condolences from the Council during this time.

**B. NOTING OF APOLOGIES**

#C24-28/2026-1/B

The following apologies were noted and unanimously accepted by Council:

Division	Councillor/Reason	Mover/Seconder
Div. 1 – Boigu	Cr Dimas Toby – <i>Sad News/Sorry Business</i>	CR MYE / CR KAIGEY
Div. 6 – Kubin	Cr Iona Manas – <i>Sad News/Sorry Business</i>	CR LEVI / CR FELL
Div. 13 – Ugar	Cr Rocky Stephen – <i>Sad News/Sorry Business</i>	CR FELL / CR ELISALA

**C. CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI) DECLARATIONS**

The Mayor advised that no written COI notifications were provided by Councillors in relation to the Council Meeting for January 2026.

The Mayor reminded Councillors to advise of COI declarations as soon as any matters arise during deliberations.

**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 (10 DECEMBER 2025)**

#C24-28/2026-1/1

CR PEARSON / CR MYE

**Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 10 December 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.

- *The Mayor tabled a Mayoral Minute seeking Council endorsement for an additional item to be added to the published January 2026 Ordinary Meeting agenda.*
- *The Manager Governance and Risk (Ms Kim Kerwin) spoke to this report.*

## 2.2. **Mayoral Minute – Additional Item for January 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda**

#C24-28/2026-1/2.2

CR ANIBA / CR HANKIN

**Council agrees to an amendment to the published agenda for the January 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting to include a discussion in Closed Business at 2.30pm between Council, the Treaty Liaison Officer and relevant Federal and State Government Departments and Agency representatives for the region to brief Council on illegal fishing activities and ongoing border security issues.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 3. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS**

### 3.1. **CEO Monthly Report (January 2026)**

The Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) spoke to his report. The report was noted by Council.

The Mayor requested an update on any risks that Council should be aware of. The Chief Executive Officer advised that the following matters are at the forefront of operations:

- asset failure due to the weather conditions in the region;
- workplace health and safety risks in relation to TSIRC fleet transportation;
- recent food security concerns and associated challenges when inclement weather conditions prevail

**Cr Torenzo Elisala** raised concerns about ongoing network failures and the disruption this incurs to the community. The **Chief Executive Officer** advised that ongoing advocacy with relevant service providers is occurring and that a report will be provided to Council on communication challenges.

**Cr Kabay Tamu** recommended that pre-determined activation plans with service providers be developed and approved which can then be triggered by Council to immediately support communities when major events threaten and disrupt community life. The **Chief Executive Officer** advised that conversations have already commenced with service providers such as Community Enterprise Queensland (in relation to exploring additional storage capacities on Islands in the lead-up to major weather events) and advocacy work will be undertaken with Telstra on options that can be triggered to limit communication disruptions.

**Action Required:**

Chief Executive Officer to coordinate the preparation of a report to Council in relation to ready-to-activate contingency planning for major weather events which impact on communications, food security and other community operational capacities.

**4. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

Nil.

**5. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

Nil.

**6. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

**6.1. Community Grants Program Allocation (December 2025)**

#C24-28/2026-1/6.1

CR PEARSON / CR ELISALA

In accordance with Sections 194 and 195 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and Council's Community Grants Policy, Council:

1. notes that there are no Community Grants applications which require Council consideration for the December 2025 period; and
2. notes the information in this report.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6.2. Funding Acquisition Report (December 2025)**

#C24-28/2026-1/6.2

CR WOSOMO / CR PEARSON

Council receives and notes this report and its content.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**7. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

Nil.

**8. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

**8.1. Financial Dashboard Report (December 2025)**

#C24-28/2026-1/8.1

CR ELISALA / CR FELL

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8.2. 2024-25 Financial Statements**

#C24-28/2026-1/8.2

CR MYE / CR FELL

**Council receives and adopts the 2024/2025 Torres Strait Island Regional Council Financial Statements.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8.3. 2025-26 Budget Review 1**

#C24-28/2026-1/8.3

CR ELISALA / CR PEARSON

**Council adopts in accordance with sections 169 and 170 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, an amended budget for the 2025-2026 Financial Year as presented, incorporating:**

- (i) The statements of financial position;**
- (ii) The statements of cashflow;**
- (iii) The statements of income and expenditure;**
- (iv) The statements of changes in equity;**
- (v) The long-term financial forecast;**
- (vi) The relevant measures of financial sustainability; and**
- (vii) The total value of the change, expressed as a percentage, in the rates and utility charges levied for the financial year compared with the rates and utility charges levied in the previous budget; and**
- (viii) Capital budget.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8.4. Councillor Superannuation**

#C24-28/2026-1/8.4

CR FELL / CR ANIBA

Council resolves that:

1. Pursuant to Section 226 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld), Council establish a superannuation scheme for its Councillors that complies with the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993* (Cth) to commence this financial year 2025/26;
2. The superannuation payable to the Councillors' superannuation scheme will be calculated at the same rate as superannuation paid to Council's employees from time to time;
3. Superannuation be calculated and paid from 1 July 2025.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

➤ *Mr Anthony Ottaway joined the meeting at 12.35pm and spoke to AI 8.5 below.*

**8.5. Submission to the Commonwealth Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability Inquiry**

#C24-28/2026-1/8.5

CR WOSOMO / CR DORANTE

Council:

- (a) notes the proposed submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability; and
- (b) resolves to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the power to finalise the submission, reflecting any changes necessary to facilitate comments provided by Councillors at this meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

➤ *The Mayor suspended deliberations from 12.45pm to 1.45pm for lunch.*

**9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**

#C24-28/2026-1/9

CR PEARSON / CR KAIGEY

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

### 10.1. *[Standing Agenda Item]* Update on Current Legal Matters before Council (verbal update)

*[Reason for this matter to be discussed in Closed Business: This matter may contain legal advice obtained by the local government or legal proceedings involving the local government including, for example, legal proceedings that may be taken by or against the local government].*

Noted by Council.

- *Prior to consideration of Agenda Item 11.1 below, Councillors were requested to declare any Conflicts of Interest (COI) in relation to the Approved Contractors List for Repairs and Maintenance.*
- *The following Councillors declared COIs:*
  - *Cr John Levi [Paul Ware Constructions – perceived COI];*
  - *Cr Ranetta Wosomo [Kamaira Guligo – Declarable COI] and [Vincent Wosomo – married to relative];*
  - *Cr Francis Pearson [Nicholas Pearson and TJ Pearson Construction – nephews];*
  - *Cr Kabay Tamu [Jack Sailor – close relative]; and*
  - *Cr Chelsea Aniba [Vincent Wosomo – Declarable COI].*
- *As a result of the above declared COIs, Council observed that it was unable to maintain a quorum to decide the matter and delegated deciding the matter to the Chief Executive Officer under section 257 of the Local Government Act 2009.*

## 11. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

### 11.1. Contractual Matter – Tender Evaluation and Award of Contract for the Approved Contractors List

*[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".]*

#C24-28/2026-1/11.1

CR TAMU / CR ANIBA

**In accordance with section 150EU(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2009, Council resolves to delegate power under section 257 of the Local Government Act 2009 to the Chief Executive Officer to decide the matter.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 12. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

13. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

14. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

14.1. Capital Works – Information Report

*[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".]*

Noted by Council.

- *In relation to Agenda Item 15.1 below, Cr John Levi made a Prescribed COI in relation to St Paul's Lodge which is owned/operated by his Sister and was absent when this matter was decided by Council.*
- *In relation to Agenda Item 15.1 below, Cr Seriako Dorante made a Prescribed COI advising that he is an employee of Seaswift and was absent when this matter was decided by Council.*

15. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

15.1. Contractual Matter – Sole Supplier Register & Expenditure

*[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 pertains to negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving Council for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.]*

#C24-28/2026-1/15.1

CR FELL / CR WOSOMO

**Council resolves:**

1. In accordance with Regulations 235(a) and 235(b) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, that no quotes or tenders need to be sought prior to procuring goods and services from the suppliers listed in Attachment A of the Officer's Report because Council is satisfied that either:
  - (a) those suppliers are the only suppliers reasonably available; or
  - (b) it would be impracticable or disadvantageous for Council to invite quotes or tenders because of the specialised or confidential nature of the services offered by those suppliers;
2. To adopt the Sole Supplier Register appended as Attachment A in the Officer's Report;
3. To delegate power to the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Sections 236 and 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to enter into, negotiate, make, sign, amend or discharge contracts with suppliers on the Sole Supplier Register without seeking quotes or tenders or sub-delegate such powers, subject to the limitations provided for in the Procurement & Ethical Sourcing Policy.

4. To note the expenditure against sole suppliers detailed in Attachment A in the Officer's Report.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**15.2. Contractual Matter – Large Procurement Contracts Awarded Under Delegation**

*[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 pertains to negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving Council for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.]*

#C24-28/2026-1/15.2

CR ANIBA / CR DORANTE

**Council receives and notes this report.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*[NOTE: In accordance with Council's endorsement of the Mayoral Minute (refer Agenda Item 2.2 of these Minutes) Council held a discussion in Closed Business at 2.30pm which included the following State and Federal Government and Agency representatives for the Torres Strait region to discuss the recent influx of local illegal fishing activities and ongoing border security issues:*

- Australian Fisheries Management Authority
- Torres Strait Patrol Group
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Australian Border Force
- Department of Defence
- Maritime Border Command

*[Reason for Closed Discussion: This discussion was held in Closed Business as the issues discussed may involve matters that the local government is required to keep confidential under a law of, or formal arrangement with, the Commonwealth or a State.]*

Council noted the discussion.

**16. RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE MEETING TO OPEN DISCUSSION**

#C24-28/2026-1/16

CR PEARSON / CR T. MOSBY

**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 as indicated in relation to Agenda Items 10-16 above.

**18. ITEMS ARISING**

Nil.

**19. INFORMATION REPORTS**

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

**20. NEXT MEETING – 18 FEBRUARY 2026 (VC)**

Noted by Council.

**21. CLOSE OF MEETING & PRAYER**

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor and Councillors and Officers for their participation and constructive engagement throughout the meeting.

The Mayor also acknowledged and thanked the Chief Executive Officer and his Executive Team for their support around each Council meeting.

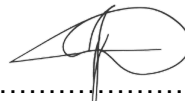
The Mayor also indicated that more work will be undertaken with Divisions and key partners across the Australian and State Government agencies to achieve improvements in relation to border security issues across the region.

The Mayor formally closed the meeting at 3.55pm and **Cr John Levi** delivered the closing prayer.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 18 February 2026



.....  
Cr Phillemon Mdsby  
Mayor  
Torres Strait Island Regional Council



.....  
James William  
Chief Executive Officer  
Torres Strait Island Regional Council