



**STRATEGIC ACTION
REFERENCE GROUP
(SARG) STANDING
COMMITTEE MEETING
4 FEBRUARY 2026**

MINUTES

Time: 9.00am to 1.00pm
Venue: TSIRC Committee Room, Level 3, 111 Grafton Street, Cairns
Microsoft TEAMS Meeting ID: 412 369 619 159 7 | Passcode: iD6Zv968

PRESENT:

Mayor/Chair

Deputy Mayor

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

Chair - Economic Growth (EG) Advisory Committee

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

Cr Phillemon Mosby

Cr Ranetta Wosomo

Cr Chelsea Aniba

Cr Rocky Stephen

Cr Keith Fell

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Director Building Services

Executive Director Community Services

Executive Director Corporate Services

Executive Director Engineering Services

Executive Director Financial Services – *joined meeting at 10.20am*

Manager Governance and Risk – *joined meeting at 11.30am*

DOGIT Transfer, Land Tenure and Native Title Advisor

Preston Law

Acting Head of Financial Services – *left meeting at 10.20am*

Consultant – *Agenda Item 10.2 only*

Executive Assistant to the CEO

TSIRC Secretariat

Mr James William

Mr Wayne Green

Mr Dawson Sailor

Ms Vicki Bishop

Mr David Baldwin

Ms Hollie Faithfull

Ms Kim Kerwin

Ms Joanne Bryant

Mr Julian Bodenmann

Mr Frank Barbieri

Mr Anthony Ottaway

Ms Amy Orr

Mr Darryl Brooks

APOLOGIES:

Chair - Governance & Leadership (G&L) Advisory Committee

Cr Dimas Toby – *community cultural commitments*

ABSENT:

Chair – Environment & Climate Change Adaptation (ECCA) Advisory Committee

Cr Kabay Tamu

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

At 9.05am, the Mayor welcomed Committee Members, Executives and guests to the first meeting of the Standing Committee for 2026, noting that a quorum of members was present.

The Mayor made the following acknowledgements:

- Our Heavenly Father for His awesome wisdom, knowledge, understanding, favour upon our lives, our families and our communities across the length and breadth of Zenadth Kes; 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 in Gimuy Country and traditional surrounding areas 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 who are observing Sorry Business/Sad News at this time, the collective thoughts and prayers of the Committee.

Cr Ranetta Wosomo delivered the opening prayer. This was followed by a minute of silence for reflection purposes.

B. NOTING OF APOLOGIES

The Standing Committee noted an apology from the Chair of the G&L Advisory Committee (Cr Dimas Toby) due to community cultural commitments.

C. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

The Mayor advised that no written COI notifications were provided by Members in relation to the SARG Standing Committee Meeting for 4 February 2026.

The Mayor reminded members that Council was recently advised that the process for Councillors moving forward is to review Council meeting papers sent out to them prior to the scheduled meeting to ascertain if any COI declarations were required and if that was the case, then Councillors are required:

- i. to complete the relevant COI forms;
- ii. send them to the Chief Executive Officer prior to the meeting; and
- iii. also declare that COI at the relevant Council meeting.

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

D. LIVE STREAM

The Mayor advised 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 Chief Executive Officer sought and received agreement from the Mayor to table before the Standing Committee a request to allow for a non-listed late item from the Financial Services Directorate to be considered on the agenda of the SARG Meeting. The late item is a slide presentation to provide the Standing Committee with an update on the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). A motion as such was put to the Standing Committee, resulting in the following decision:*

#SSC24-28/2026-2/0

CR ANIBA / CR WOSOMO

In accordance with section 254D(4) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and paragraph 4.2 of the TSIRC Standing Orders (Meeting Procedures) Policy, the Standing Committee agrees to an amendment to the published agenda to allow a presentation (in Closed Business) by the Financial Services Directorate on Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) matters.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For the purposes of these Minutes, the approved late item is listed as Agenda Item 10.2.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (7 NOVEMBER 2025)

#SSC24-28/2026-2/1

CR STEPHEN / CR FELL

The Standing Committee confirms the Minutes of its meeting held on 7 November 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, with the Chief Executive Officer reminding the Committee that items noted as 'completed' with this update will be removed from future reports.

2. MAYORAL ITEMS *(verbal discussion)*

The Mayor tabled a Mayoral Minute seeking the Committee's approval to discuss in Closed Business (restricted discussion – SARG members only) a non-listed late item relating to the Chief Executive Officer's Annual Performance Review 2025. The Mayor then read a motion to this effect, resulting in the following Committee resolution:

#SSC24-28/2026-2/2

CR WOSOMO / CR ANIBA

The Standing Committee agrees to an amendment to the published agenda for the 4 February 2026 Standing Committee Meeting to include a discussion in Closed Business for SARG Standing Committee members only (no staff) to discuss the Chief Executive Officer's KPIs.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For the purposes of these Minutes, the approved late item is listed as Agenda Item 10.3.

3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

3.1. SARG Meeting Schedule 2026

#SSC24-28/2026-2/3.1

CR WOSOMO / CR FELL

In accordance with Paragraph 7 of its Terms of Reference (TOR) and in accordance with section 268 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the Standing Committee endorses the following schedule of meeting dates:

- Wednesday, 8 April 2026 (VC);
- Thursday & Friday, 7-8 May 2026 (F2F Scrum – Badu);
- Wednesday, 8 July 2026 (VC) **OR** Wednesday, 5 August 2026 (VC)
- Thursday & Friday, 8-9 October 2026 (F2F – Cairns);
- Wednesday, 25 November 2026 (VC).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

5. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

6. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

7. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

8. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

#SSC24-28/2026-2/9

CR ANIBA / 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

- *Ms Joanne Bryant (DOGIT Transfer, Land Tenure and Native Title Advisor) and Mr Julian Bodenmann (Preston Law) jointly spoke to Agenda Item 10.1 below.*

10. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

10.1. Native Title Consent Process for Council's 10-Year Housing Strategy (Social Housing Strategy 2024)

[Reason for this matter to be discussed in Closed Business: This matter relates to 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].

#SSC24-28/2026-2/10.1

CR FELL / CR WOSOMO

The Strategic Action Reference Group (SARG) Standing Committee recommends that Council seek a Trustee resolution on the Native Title options set out in this paper for Council's ten-year social housing strategy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *Mr Anthony Ottaway (Consultant) joined the meeting at 9.40am to speak to Agenda Item 10.2 below and then left the meeting at 10.10am.*

10.2. Financial Services Directorate – Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) Update

[Reason for this matter to be discussed in Closed Business: This matter relates to the local government's budget].

The Standing Committee noted the update.

- *At 11.00am the Mayor requested that all staff (including the Chief Executive Officer) leave the meeting to enable the Standing Committee to consider Agenda Item 10.3 below (refer to decision taken at Agenda Item 2 above).*
- *Ms Helen Lever (Director Recruitment, LG Services Group) joined the meeting at 11.05am to address the Committee in relation to Agenda Item 10.3 below and left the meeting at 11.20am.*

10.3. [**** Restricted Discussion for SARG Members Only ****] Chief Executive Officer's Annual Performance Review 2025

[Reason for this matter to be discussed in Closed Business: This matter relates to the appointment, discipline or dismissal of the chief executive officer].

#SSC24-28/2026-2/10.3

CR FELL / CR ANIBA

The Standing Committee receives and notes the verbal update and recommendation and agrees that a detailed report be provided at the next Council meeting in Closed Business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *At 11.20am all staff (including the Chief Executive Officer) were invited to rejoin the meeting.*

11. RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE MEETING TO OPEN DISCUSSION

#SSC24-28/2026-2/11

CR STEPHEN / ANIBA

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

The Standing Committee formally resolved as indicated in relation to Agenda Items 10-11 above.

Action Required:

Chief Executive Officer to schedule a full session on COI (including culturally relevant real life scenario exercises for Councillors) as part of the May 2026 Council Workshop.

13. ITEMS ARISING

13.1. Update on Recent Incursions of Illegal Foreign Fishing Boats in the Torres Strait

The **Mayor** requested an update from the Chief Executive Officer on actions taken following on from Council's meeting in January 2026 with State and Australian Government agencies in relation to recent incursions of illegal foreign fishing boats in the Torres Strait.

The **Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William)** advised that correspondence has been drafted for the Mayor's signature to the Australian Government Minister for Home Affairs and the Queensland Government Minister for Primary Industries and the Queensland Government Minister for Police and Community Safety on this matter.

The Chief Executive Officer further advised that he will be meeting with Australian Border Force representatives on 5 February 2026 around this matter, as well as advocating Council's call for more work to be undertaken to grow community confidence around communication and community safety.

Cr Chelsea Aniba recommended that information be made available for Councillors and Communities on the specific roles and responsibilities for each of the State and Federal agencies in this space.

Action Required:

Chief Executive Officer to oversee the development of a management plan/framework (similar to a Disaster Management Plan) with State and Federal Government agencies to enable Councillors and Communities to

effectively escalate responses from communities when illegal foreign incursions occur in the Torres Strait.

13.2. Telecommunications Services

The **Mayor** advised that the region has recently experienced significant telecommunication failures which had impacted on productivity, access to health records, school children return to school arrangements, elder welfare check-ups by families and carers and emergency telephone/internet access.

The **Chief Executive Officer** advised that these matters will need to be escalated to the Australian Government at Torres Strait regional leadership level, as the current telecommunication issues are a region-wide issue. TSIRC has introduced Starlink across Council offices, but this has limited Wi-Fi range and limited access in order to protect the security of Council's information and only addresses part of the issue. Further work is being undertaken to explore sharing the Wi-Fi access to the community in emergency situations.

The **Deputy Mayor** recommended that any advocacy should reference the recent events in the region with the illegal foreign fishing vessels as evidence that telecommunication coverage and reliability need to be radically upgraded.

Action Required:

Chief Executive Officer to oversee the preparation of a report to Council on a way forward for strategic advocacy to the Australian Government for urgent telecommunication upgrades across the Torres Strait region.

13.3. Food Security

The **Mayor** requested an update be provided for the Standing Committee to consider recommending to Council contingency planning to ensure food security across the region, including agreements/MOUs between TSIRC, Seaswift and Community Enterprise Queensland (CEQ).

Cr Rocky Stephen added that the long-requested Ugar transportation issues be addressed as a priority, as that vessels also had access issues on this occasion. The **Chief Executive Officer** advised that he would take action on this request.

Action Required:

Chief Executive Officer to oversee the preparation of a report to Council on contingency planning to ensure food security across the region, including agreements/MOUs between TSIRC, Seaswift and Community Enterprise Queensland (CEQ).

14. NEXT MEETING – 8 April 2026 (VC)

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 participation for this meeting. The Mayor formally closed the meeting at 12.10pm and **Cr Chelsea Aniba** delivered the closing prayer.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 8 April 2026

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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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