



ORDINARY MEETING

18 FEBRUARY 2026

MINUTES

Time: 10.30am to 5.00pm

Venue: *Microsoft (TEAMS) Meeting ID: 418 688 724 070 54 | Passcode: Xy2m5Ri9*

PRESENT:

Mayor

Division 2 – Dauan

Division 3 – Saibai

Division 4 – Mabuiag

Division 5 – Badu / **Deputy Mayor**

Division 6 – Kubin

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 13 – Ugar

Division 14 – Erub

Division 15 – Mer

Cr Phillemon Mosby

Cr Torengo Elisala

Cr Chelsea Aniba – *joined meeting at 1.30pm*

Cr Keith Fell

Cr Ranetta Wosomo

Cr Iona Manas – *left meeting at lunch break for medical reasons and returned to the meeting at 2.30pm*

Cr John Levi

Cr Seriaro Dorante

Cr Aggie Hankin – *joined meeting at 1.30pm*

Cr Kabay Tamu

Cr Francis Pearson

Cr Ted Mosby

Cr Rocky Stephen

Cr Nixon Mye

Cr Bob Kaigey

APOLOGIES:

Division 1 – Boigu

Cr Dimas Toby – *medical reasons*

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Director Building Services

Acting Executive Director Community Services

Executive Director Corporate Services

Head of 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 David Abednego

Ms Vicki Bishop

Mr Adeah Kabai

Ms Hollie Faithfull

Ms Kim Kerwin

Mr Anthony Ottaway – *for Agenda Item 14.2 only*

Ms Amy Orr

Ms Trudy Lui

Mr Darryl Brooks

GUESTS:

MacDonnells Law

Director Recruitment, LG Services Group

Ms Joanne Parisi – *for Agenda Item 15.1 only*

Ms Helen Lever – *for Agenda Item 15.2 only*

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

At 11.40am, the Mayor welcomed the Deputy Mayor and Councillors, Executives and staff and members of the public to the Ordinary Council meeting for the month of February 2026, noting that a quorum of members was present.

The Mayor made the following opening acknowledgements on behalf of Council:

- Our Heavenly Father for His awesome wisdom, knowledge, understanding and favour upon our people, our region and our Council; and
- The Traditional Custodians, Elders and leaders - past, present and emerging – across the land and seas throughout the length and breadth of Zenadth Kes, as well as in the TSIRC footprint in (Gimuy) Cairns and the Traditional Custodians, Elders and leaders - past, present and emerging for that region.

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

B. NOTING OF APOLOGIES

#C24-28/2026-2/B

The following apologies were noted and unanimously accepted by Council:

Division	Councillor/Reason	Mover/Seconder
Div. 1 – Boigu	Cr Dimas Toby – <i>medical reasons</i>	CR FELL / CR PEARSON

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 February 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 across the TSIRC footprint to be informed of Council’s deliberations and decisions which impact on the region.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (28 JANUARY 2026)

#C24-28/2026-2/1

CR PEARSON / CR FELL

Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 January 2026.

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 *(verbal update)*

The Mayor advised of the following activities undertaken by him since the previous Council meeting:

- following the recent/ongoing incursions of foreign illegal fishing in the Torres Strait, the Mayor has been engaged with ongoing media commitments which has assisted in raising the matter to the wider community
- engagement with the Minister for Local Government (together with the Chief Executive Officer and Council's consultant Mr Anthony Ottaway) with regard to the financial sustainability of Council;
- finalising with SARG members the Chief Executive Officer's Annual Performance Review 2025; and
- attending the SARG Standing Committee Meeting in Cairns on 4 February 2026.

The update was noted by Council.

3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

3.1. CEO Monthly Report (February 2026)

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

4. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

4.1. Contractual Matter – Expression of Interest for Contract TC26001: Construction, Delivery and Installation of Modular Housing on Badu Island

#C24-28/2026-2/4.1

CR FELL / CR PEARSON

Council resolves, for the purpose of establishing a shortlist of suitably qualified tenderers for Contract TC26001 for the construction, delivery and installation of modular housing on Badu Island in accordance with Regulation 231 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to:

1. **publish invitations for expressions of interest from suitably qualified persons for at least 21 days:**

- a. on the Council’s external website, and
 - b. on the VendorPanel platform;
2. delegate power to the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Sections 236 and 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to:
- a. approve shortlisted candidates on the basis of the sound contracting principles listed in Section 106(3) of the *Local Government Act 2009*;
 - b. enter into, negotiate, make, sign, amend or discharge contracts with suppliers on the shortlist once select tender process has been conducted; and
 - c. Appoint shortlisted respondents to Council’s Approved Contractor List which was established in accordance with Regulation 231 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

6. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

- *Cr Kabay Tamu had a Declarable COI in relation to application CG2026-026 for Agenda Item 6.1 below and was absent from the meeting during discussion of this item.*

6.1. Community Grants Program Allocation (January 2026)

#C24-28/2026-2/6.1

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

1. to allocate Community Grants Program funding to the following applicants:

- CG2026-026 – RUSANTI MISICK, WARRABER for \$2,000.00;

**MOVED/SECONDED: CR ANIBA / CR FELL
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- CG2026-070 – SAIBAI BOYZAL, SAIBAI for \$1,000.00; and

**MOVED/SECONDED: CR FELL / CR MANAS
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

2. to note the information in this report.

**MOVED/SECONDED: CR TAMU / CR MYE
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

6.2. Funding Acquisition Report (January 2026)

#C24-28/2026-2/6.2

CR PEARSON / CR ANIBA

Council receives and notes this report and its content.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.3. Operational Plan 2025-26 – Q2 Progress Report

#C24-28/2026-2/6.3

CR STEPHEN / CR PEARSON

Council receives and notes the progress report on the implementation of the FY2025-2026 Operational Plan for the period October to December 2025 (Q2).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

8. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

8.1. Financial Dashboard Report (January 2026)

#C24-28/2026-2/8.1

CR WOSOMO / CR STEPHEN

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 January 2026, as required under Section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

➤ *The Mayor suspended deliberations from 12.35pm to 1.30pm for lunch.*

➤ *Prior to the formal move into Closed Business, the Deputy Mayor sought approval from the Mayor to seek Council endorsement for an additional item to be added to the published February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting agenda for discussion by Councillors only in Closed Business.*

➤ *The Mayor agreed to the request and the Deputy Mayor tabled a motion which resulted in the following resolution by Council:*

#C24-28/2026-2/A-9

CR TAMU / CR KAIGEY

Council agrees to an amendment to the published agenda for the February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting to include a discussion in Closed Business for Councillors only which

relates to section 254J(e) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

#C24-28/2026-2/9

CR STEPHEN / CR ELISALA

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.

11. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

12. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

13. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

13.1 Contractual Matter – Tender Evaluation and Award of Contract TC25191 – Hammond Island 2025 DRFA Works

[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".]

#C24-28/2026-2/13.1

CR PEARSON / CR DORANTE

Council resolves:

- 1. To award contract number TC25191 for Hammond Island 2025 DRFA Works to Torres Strait Island Homes Pty Ltd for the lump sum price of \$1,049,638.04 ex GST; and**

2. Pursuant to section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer:
 - a. power to make, amend or discharge the contract; and
 - b. power to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this project and contract including without limitation any options and/or variations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13.2 Contractual Matter – Tender Evaluation and Award of Contract TC25196 – Saibai Aerodrome Refuelling Apron Upgrade

[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".]

#C24-28/2026-2/13.2

CR ELISALA / CR FELL

Council resolves:

1. To award contract number TC25196 for Saibai Aerodrome Refuelling Apron Upgrade to T.I. Concrete Works Pty Ltd for the lump sum price of \$1,777,741.76 ex GST; and
2. Pursuant to section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer:
 - a. power to make, amend or discharge the contract; and
 - b. power to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this project and contract including without limitation any options and/or variations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13.3 Contractual Matter – Tender Evaluation and Award of Contract TC25135 – Erub Kemus Road Culvert Upgrade

[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".]

#C24-28/2026-2/13.3

CR PEARSON / CR MYE

Council resolves:

1. To award contract number TC25135 for Erub Kemus Road Culvert Upgrade to T.I. Concrete Works Pty Ltd for the lump sum price of \$793,519.00 ex GST; and
2. Pursuant to section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer:
 - a. power to make, amend or discharge the contract; and

- b. power to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this project and contract including without limitation any options and/or variations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13.4 Contractual Matter – Tender Evaluation and Award of Contract TC25102 – Erub 2025 DRFA REPA Works

[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".]

#C24-28/2026-2/13.4

CR ANIBA / CR FELL

Council resolves:

1. To award contract number TC25102 for Erub 2025 DRFA REPA Works to T.I Concrete Works Pty Ltd for the lump sum price of \$10,396,782.74 ex GST; and
2. Pursuant to section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer:
 - a. power to make, amend or discharge the contract; and
 - b. power to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this project and contract including without limitation any options and/or variations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13.5 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".]

#C24-28/2026-2/13.5

CR TAMU / CR WOSOMO

Council resolves to note this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

14.1. Strategic Investment Plan – 5-Year Capital Plan – Annual Refresh

[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.]

#C24-28/2026-2/14.1

CR WOSOMO / CR TAMU

Council resolves to:

1. **Endorse the Strategic Investment Plan (FY2026 – FY2030); and**
2. **Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to make any further minor administrative amendments to the Strategic Investment Plan (FY2026 – FY2030).**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *Mr Anthony Ottaway (Consultant) joined the meeting at 3.55pm to speak to Agenda Item 14.2 below and then dialled out of the meeting following Council's decision.*

14.2. Strategic Investment Plan – Outcomes from Articulating the ‘So—What’

[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.]

#C24-28/2026-2/14.2

CR LEVI / CR ANIBA

Council:

1. **Notes the previously agreed prioritisation principles;**
2. **Notes the story developed to support the use of the Strategic Investment Plan (FY2026 to FY2030) in Council's advocacy efforts;**
3. **Endorses the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) Advocacy Development and the ‘Essential Infrastructure: Summary of investment needs’ as attached to the officer's report; and**
4. **Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* the power to make any further minor administrative amendments to the advocacy documents attached to the officer's report.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *At 2.30pm the Mayor requested that all staff (including the Chief Executive Officer) leave the meeting to enable Councillors to consider Agenda Items 15.1 and 15.2 below in a discussion restricted to Councillors only.*
- *For the purposes of these Minutes, Agenda Item 15.1 has been listed as such to reflect an in—Council decision (#C24-28/2026-2/A-9) as detailed in the*

Minutes above and the original Agenda Item 15 listed on the published agenda for this meeting has been renumbered as Agenda Item 15.2.

- *Ms Joanne Parisi (MacDonnells Law) dialled in to the meeting to discuss Agenda Item 15.1 below and dialled out of the meeting following the decision by Council.*

15.1 [** Restricted Discussion for Councillors Only ****] Outcomes of Discussion Held Relating to Section 254J(3)(e) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012***

#C24-28/2026-2/15.1

CR PEARSON / CR ANIBA

Pursuant to Section 240 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council resolves to authorise Ms Hollie Faithfull to:

- give instructions and act as Council's authorised agent in relation to legal proceedings commenced on 19 December 2025; and
- sign all documents.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *Ms Helen Lever (Director Recruitment, LG Services Group) dialled in to the meeting to assist discussions and left the meeting following the decision by Council.*
- *Cr Ted Mosby advised that he had a Declarable COI (close family member) and dialled out of the meeting prior to discussion of Agenda Item 15.2 and rejoined the meeting following the decision by Council.*

15.2 [** Restricted Discussion for Councillors 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].

#C24-28/2026-2/15.2-1

CR HANKIN / CR FELL

Council:

- notes the report provided by Ms Helen Lever (Director Recruitment, LG Services Group);
- notes the findings and endorses the recommendations of the Strategic Advisory Reference Group (SARG) Standing Committee as outlined from its meetings held on 2 and 3 February 2026 in relation to the Chief Executive Officer's performance for the period ending January 2026;
- agrees that the Chief Executive Officer is operating at a commendable level as determined under the marking methodology used for the programme and described in that instrument as "better than satisfactory level" for the subject period; and

4. acknowledges and thanks the Chief Executive Officer for his work and leadership of the TSIRC organisation and his advice and support to the Mayor and Councillors along with our communities more broadly in this important role.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *The Mayor left the meeting prior to Council's decision taken below as he had a Declarable COI (close family member). The Deputy Mayor assumed the role as meeting Chairperson during the Mayor's absence.*

#C24-28/2026-2/15.2-2

CR PEARSON / CR FELL

In accordance with sections 194 and 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council delegates authority to the Mayor to enter into negotiations on behalf of the Council with the Chief Executive Officer and to execute a Contract with the incumbent, Mr James William, for a further period of four (4) years following the expiry of the current Contract.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *At 3.55pm all staff (including the Mayor, the Chief Executive Officer and Cr T. Mosby) were invited to rejoin the meeting.*

16. RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE MEETING TO OPEN DISCUSSION

#C24-28/2026-2/16

CR FELL / 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 as indicated in relation to Agenda Items 10-16 above.

The Mayor thanked the **Deputy Mayor** for her leadership around some of the particular matters leading up to the Closed Business discussions and also thanked Councillors for supporting the Deputy Mayor in these matters.

The **Mayor** congratulated the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of Council on his reappointment and thanked him for his leadership throughout his current term, noting that Council's position today is a reflection of the CEO's leadership and '**apasin**' – both to the elected and administrative arms of Council and commended the CEO for his contributions to date.

The Mayor also noted that the CEO's reappointment for a further four (4) years will provide Council with stability, leadership and continuity for the remainder of Council's current term

and into the term of the next Council and will equally provide confidence for the CEO to continue to drive the strategic priorities of Council during this pivotal and critical time.

The **CEO** responded by reaffirming his strong '*apasin*' to support all functions of Council to deliver better outcomes for the people and region of Zenadth Kes.

18. ITEMS ARISING

(a) Mabuia Community

Cr Fell advised the meeting that planning is underway to celebrate the opening of the new road and two new homes on Mabuia and this celebration will coincide with Council's meeting on Mabuia in July 2026. Invitations have been sent to Engineering Services staff to attend the event and for the Mayor to officially open the new road. The **Mayor** advised Cr Fell to liaise with the CEO's Office in relation to this matter.

(b) Seawall Projects

Cr Tamu canvassed the need to lobby to secure dollar-for-dollar funding from the State Government to conclude the projects. The **Mayor** advised that lobbying has been commenced around this issue, including with the TSRA, and requested the CEO to continue to pursue this further.

(c) Climate Resilience Project Officers

Cr Stephen requested advice around the role of Council's Climate Resilience Project Officers in relation to Council's Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS). The **Chief Executive Officer** responded that a briefing will be prepared for Council on the roles, which can also consider strengthening the coordination between TSIRC, Torres Shire Council and GBK on how these roles can be best located and coordinated across the region. **Cr Tamu** (Chair of Council's Environment and Climate Change Adaptation (ECCA) Advisory Committee supported the CEO's proposal.

Action Required:

Executive Director Community Services to provide a report to Council in relation to best utilisation of the Climate Resilience Project Officer roles.

(d) Roll out of DFRA Projects

The **Mayor** requested the Engineering Services Directorate to contact **Cr Kaigey** to provide him with an update on the status of DFRA projects/timelines for Mer. The Head of Engineering Services (**Mr Adeah Kabai**) advised that he will follow-up offline with Cr Kaigey.

19. INFORMATION REPORTS

19.1. **BUILDING SERVICES – Building Services Report (January 2026)**

19.2. **COMMUNITY SERVICES – Community Services (January 2026)**

19.3. **CORPORATE SERVICES - Corporate Services Information Report (January 2026)**

19.4. ENGINEERING SERVICES – Engineering Operations

19.5. ENGINEERING SERVICES – Information Report - Water and Wastewater (January 2026)

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 – 24-25 MARCH 2026 (Warraber)

Noted by Council. **Cr Tamu** also requested that Councillors and the Administration confirm with him their attendance for this meeting in order to ensure that catering and accommodation arrangements can be finalised.

21. CLOSE OF MEETING & PRAYER

The Mayor noted that these are pivotal times for Council and he encouraged Councillors to be vigilant around their political roles to advocate for community and to work with Council's capability partners, with PBCs and local TSRA members and to utilise Council's advocacy documents and materials which have been prepared for this dialogue, and for dialogue with communities and stakeholders – particularly critical issues like financial sustainability in order for our communities ultimately to be prosperous, sustainable and autonomous.

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor, 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 and requested that they convey to their staff the Council's appreciation for their contribution to the work Council.

The Mayor formally closed the meeting at 4.55pm and **Cr Francis Pearson** delivered the closing prayer.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 24 March 2026

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

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