



**Time:** 9.00am to 10.30am

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

PRESENT:

**Mayor**

Division 2 – Dauan  
Division 3 – Saibai  
Division 4 – Mabuiaq  
Division 5 – Badu / **Deputy Mayor**  
Division 6 – Kubin  
Division 7 – Wug (St. Pauls), Mua Island  
Division 8 – Kirirri (Hammond Island)  
Division 10 – Warraber  
Division 11 – Poruma  
Division 12 – Masig  
Division 13 – Ugar  
Division 14 – Erub  
Division 15 – Mer

Cr Phillemon Mosby  
Cr Torenzo Elisala  
Cr Chelsea Aniba  
Cr Keith Fell  
Cr Ranetta Wosomo  
Cr Iona Manas  
Cr John Levi  
Cr Seriako Dorante  
Cr Kabay Tamu  
Cr Francis Pearson  
Cr Ted Mosby  
Cr Rocky Stephen  
Cr Nixon Mye  
Cr Bob Kaigey

APOLOGIES:

Division 1 – Boigu  
Division 9 – Iama

Cr Dimas Toby – *medical reasons*  
Cr Aggie Hankin – *work commitments*

OFFICERS:

**Chief Executive Officer**

Executive Director Building Services  
Acting Executive Director Community Services  
Executive Director Corporate Services  
Executive Director Engineering Services  
Executive Director Financial Services  
Manager Governance & Risk  
DOGIT Transfer, Land Tenure and Native Title Advisor  
Preston Law  
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 David Baldwin  
Ms Hollie Faithfull  
Ms Kim Kerwin  
Ms Joanne Bryant  
Mr Julian Bodenmann  
Ms Amy Orr  
Ms Trudy Lui  
Mr Darryl Brooks

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

At 9.10am the Mayor formally opened the Trustee Council meeting for the month of February 2026, noting that a quorum of members was present.

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

- Papa God for His awesome wisdom, knowledge, understanding, favour and blessings upon our region, our collective leadership at TSIRC and our people across the TSIRC footprint;
- 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 also acknowledging the Traditional Custodians, Elders and leaders - past, present and emerging.

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.

**Cr John Levi** delivered the opening prayer and the Trustee Council observed a minute of silence as a gesture of respect and reflection to honour the memory of deceased loved ones.

## B. NOTING OF APOLOGIES

The following apologies were noted by the Trustee Council:

Division	Councillor/Reason
Div. 1 – Boigu	Cr Dimas Toby – <i>medical reasons</i>
Div. 9 – Iama	Cr Aggie Hankin – <i>work commitments</i>

## C. CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI) DECLARATIONS

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

The Mayor advised that Councillors **Iona Manas** and **John Levi** have Declarable COIs in relation to Agenda Item 2 and will be requested to leave the meeting when this matter is being discussed.

The Mayor reminded Councillors 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.

## 1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (28 JANUARY 2026)

#T24-28/2026-2/1

CR ANIBA / CR LEVI

**Council (as Trustee) confirms the Minutes of the Trustee Meeting held on 28 January 2026.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 1.1. UPDATE ON ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

- *The Mayor excused Crs Iona Manas and John Levi from the meeting prior to the commencement of discussion of Agenda Item 2 below as both Councillors had Declarable COIs in relation to the subject matter as follows:*
  - *Cr Manas (as PBC Chair)*
  - *Cr Levi (Close Associate of applicant/s)*
- *Both Councillors returned to the meeting once the decision was carried.*

## 2. Trustee Policy – Expressions of Interest for Leases: Wug (St Pauls Community)

#T24-28/2026-2/2

CR ELISALA / CR FELL

**Council (as Trustee):**

1. notes the Expressions of Interest (EOIs) received for 99-year home ownership leases and commercial leases at Wug (St Pauls Community);
2. notes that in accordance with the Council's Trustee Policy decision-making process for Wug:
  - (a) the list of the EOIs has been provided to the Divisional Councillor, the Mualgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC and Senpolau Kai Kazil Elders Group; and
  - (b) public notification of the EOIs is to occur on 24 February 2026; and
3. for disputed applications, delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to take steps to deal with the disputed applications consistently with Council's Trustee Policy, including by providing all people involved in a dispute, details of the dispute, including details of other people involved in the dispute.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 3. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

#T24-28/2026-2/3

CR STEPHEN / CR ELISALA

**Council (as Trustee) resolves to close the meeting to the public pursuant to section 84 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to allow the Trustee to discuss items listed on the agenda for closed discussion and for the reasons outlined under those items.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 4. Culture, Arts, Land & Heritage (CALH) Advisory Committee – Update on Land & Native Title Strategic Matters – *verbal update by Cr Chelsea Aniba*

*[Reason for Closed Discussion: To discuss business which public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the trustee council or someone else].*

Council (as Trustee) noted the verbal update.

- *Prior to commencement of discussion on Agenda Item 5 below the Mayor requested that Mr Julian Bodenmann (Preston Law) provide the meeting with advice on the procedure to be followed at the meeting for COI declarations.*
- *Mr Bodenmann advised the meeting that those Councillors who are on PBC boards may form the view that they have a Declarable COI, as the report will require a resolution of native title options associated with social housing. The PBCs will be involved at some point in their capacity as a native title body.*
- *Council (as Trustee) discussed the matter in depth and agreement was reached by **all present** that the following Councillors had Declarable COIs:*
  - *Cr Torenzo Elisala (as PBC Chair);*
  - *Cr Keith Fell (as PBC Board Member);*
  - *Cr Iona Manas (as PBC Chair);*
  - *Cr Kabay Tamu (as PBC Chair);*
  - *Cr Francis Pearson (as PBC Chair);*
  - *Cr T. Mosby (as PBC Board Member);*
  - *Cr Bob Kaigey (as PBC Board Member Proxy).*
- *Council (as Trustee) further discussed the procedures to be followed when Agenda Item 5 is being considered and agreement was reached by **all present** as follows:*
  - *Councillors who have dual roles as PBC Chairs have a higher level of COI in relation to the matter to be considered and Councillors who are PBC Board Members/Proxies have a lower level of COI in relation to the matter;*
  - *Councillors who have dual roles as PBC Chairs must not participate in the decision;*
  - *non-conflicted (eligible) Councillors will decide if Councillors who have dual roles as PBC Chairs will be allowed to remain in the meeting during discussion; and*
  - *non-conflicted (eligible) Councillors will decide if Councillors who are PBC Board Members/Proxies will be allowed to remain in the meeting during discussion and participate in the decision.*
- *Eligible Councillors then endorsed the following resolutions:*

**#T24-28/2026-2/A-5a**  
CR ANIBA / CR WOSOMO

**In accordance with Chapter 5B of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Chapter 10 of the TSIRC Standing Orders Meeting Procedures Policy, Council (as Trustee):**

  - (1) notes the Declarable Conflicts of Interest advised by Councillors Tamu, Elisala, Pearson and Manas and their request for permission to participate in the discussion; and**
  - (2) agrees that Councillors Tamu, Elisala, Pearson and Manas may remain for discussion of the matter, but must leave the meeting for the vote.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**#T24-28/2026-2/A5-b**

CR WOSOMO / CR ANIBA

In accordance with Chapter 5B of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Chapter 10 of the TSIRC Standing Orders Meeting Procedures Policy, Council (as Trustee):

- (1) notes the Declarable Conflicts of Interest advised by Councillors T. Mosby, Kaigey and Fell and their request for permission to participate in the decision making; and
- (2) agrees that Councillors T. Mosby, Kaigey and Fell may participate in the decision.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- *Councillors Elisala, Manas, Tamu and Pearson left the meeting at 11.00am prior to the decision taken on Agenda Item 5 below, then returned to the meeting at 11.10am following the decision.*

## 5. Native Title Resolution for Council's 10-Year Housing Strategy

*[Reason for Closed Discussion: This matter involves a contract proposed to be made by the Trustee Council for which public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the Trustee Council or someone else].*

#T24-28/2026-2/5

CR WOSOMO / CR FELL

Council (as Trustee) resolves:

1. subject to the following paragraphs of this resolution, to utilise section 24JAA of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Native Title Act) to address Native Title for acts associated with constructing social housing dwellings in the Torres Strait Island Regional Council local government area;
2. that the use of section 24JAA of the Native Title Act will only proceed following consultation with and support from the relevant Divisional Councillor whose division covers the location or locations specified in the section 24JAA notice;
3. to offer upfront compensation to the relevant Native Title Party on commercial terms negotiated between the Native Title Party and Council, for the process described in this resolution and at the time the future act is to occur;
4. to negotiate with the relevant Prescribed Bodies Corporate to pay fees for service and enter into Cultural Heritage Agreements (as required), for the process described in this resolution; and
5. to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the power to do all things necessary to give effect to paragraphs 1 – 4 of this resolution, including but not limited to finalising and issuing notices under section 24JAA of the Native Title Act, considering any responses provided to a section 24JAA notice, and negotiating and finalising the terms of any agreed compensation, PBC fees for services and Cultural Heritage Agreements.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- *Cr Tamu requested that information in easy-to-understand language setting out the reasons why the Trustee Council decided to utilise section 24JAA of the Native Title Act 1993 in relation to Council's 10 Year Social Housing Strategy be widely disseminated across the Divisions so that communities, PBCs and native title holders gain a clear understanding on the issue.*

## 6. RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE MEETING TO OPEN DISCUSSION

#T24-28/2026-2/6

CR FELL / CR ANIBA

**Council (as Trustee) resolves to move out of closed discussions pursuant to Section 84 of the Local Government Act 2009.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**7. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION**

Council formally resolved as indicated in relation to Agenda Items 3 to 6 above.

**8. ITEMS ARISING**

**(a) Strategic Security Planning – TSIRC Footprint**

In relation to the recent/ongoing border breaches by foreign fishing boats and overall border security issues in the Torres Strait, the **Mayor** requested the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a report for the Trustee Council on TSIRC leases across the TSIRC Footprint with a view to identifying suitable space/capacity options for Council to potentially submit a proposal to the State and Australian Governments to enable them to invest in providing a greater physical border security presence in the region.

**Action Required:**

Chief Executive Officer to coordinate the preparation of a list of TSIRC leases/licences across the TSIRC footprint that are in place with State and Australian Government border security agencies.

**9. NEXT MEETING – 24 March 2026 (Warraber)**

Noted by the Trustee Council.

**10. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Mayor closed the Trustee Council meeting at 11.15am.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 24 March 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