



ORDINARY MEETING

24-25 MARCH 2026

MINUTES

Time: 10.30am to 5.00pm

Venue: Warraber (Torres Strait)

Microsoft (TEAMS) Meeting ID: 468 395 201 952 12 | Passcode: YQ9eW2GN

(DAY 1 - Tuesday, 24 March 2026)

PRESENT:

Mayor

Division 1 – Boigu

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 14 – Erub

Cr Phillemon Mosby

Cr Dimas Toby

Cr Torenzo Elisala – *via TEAMS*

Cr Chelsea Aniba

Cr Keith Fell – *joined meeting at 11.30am*

Cr Ranetta Wosomo

Cr Iona Manas

Cr John Levi

Cr Seriako Dorante

Cr Aggie Hankin

Cr Kabay Tamu

Cr Francis Pearson

Cr Ted Mosby

Cr Nixon Mye – *via TEAMS*

APOLOGIES:

Division 13 – Ugar

Division 15 – Mer

Cr Rocky Stephen – *prior commitments*

Cr Bob Kaigey

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

Manager Procurement and Contracts

Executive Assistant to the CEO

Executive Assistant to the Mayor

TSIRC Secretariat

Mr James William

Mr Wayne Green – *joined meeting at 11.30am*

Mr Dawson Sailor – *joined meeting at 11.30am*

Ms Vicki Bishop

Mr David Baldwin

Ms Hollie Faithfull

Ms Kim Kerwin – *via TEAMS*

Mr Tom Masters – *via TEAMS for AI 14.1 only*

Ms Amy Orr

Ms Trudy Lui

Mr Darryl Brooks

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

At 10.50am, 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 March 2026, noting that a quorum of members was present.

The Mayor made the following acknowledgements:

- The Traditional Custodians, Elders and leaders - past, present and emerging – of Warraber;
- The Traditional Custodians, Elders and leaders - past, present and emerging – across the land and seas throughout the length and breadth of Zenadth Kes; and
- Cr Tamu and the Warraber Community for the warm, helpful and heartfelt welcome made to Councillors and Staff on their arrival at Warraber.

The Mayor also thanked Councillors from other Divisions for their attendance at Warraber and acknowledged that these face-to-face meetings of Council provided the perfect opportunity for Councillors (and visiting staff) to get to know the hosting Division and to see first-hand how the overall work of Council is impacting on the ground in Council’s efforts to improve the liveability of communities for the long term.

B. NOTING OF APOLOGIES

#C24-28/2026-3/B

The following apologies were noted and unanimously accepted by Council:

Division	Councillor/Reason	Mover/Seconder
Div. 13 – Ugar	Cr Rocky Stephen – <i>prior commitments</i>	CR ANIBA / CR T. MOSBY
Div. 15 – Mer	Cr Bob Kaigey	CR LEVI / CR MANAS

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 March 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.

The Mayor also welcomed Community Elder **Mr Bogo Billy** from the Warraber Community who was observing proceedings.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1.1. Ordinary Council Meeting (18 February 2026)

#C24-28/2026-3/1.1

CR PEARSON / CR LEVI

Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 February 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.2. Special Council Meeting (6 March 2026)

#C24-28/2026-3/1.2

CR LEVI / CR T. MOSBY

Council confirms the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 6 March 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.3. Strategic Action Reference Group (SARG) Standing Committee Meeting (7 November 2025)

#C24-28/2026-3/1.3

CR ANIBA / CR PEARSON

Council receives and notes the confirmed minutes of the Strategic Action Reference Group (SARG) Standing Committee meeting held on 7 November 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.4. 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.

Action Required:

May 2026 Council Workshop to include discussion around Border Security and the issues raised in the joint media release on 10 February 2026 by Torres Strait lead agencies at the launch of Operation Broadstaff.

2.2. Mayoral Minute

Nil.

3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

3.1. CEO Monthly Report (March 2026)

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

4. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

5. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE**5.1. Climate Resilience Project – Update**

Council noted the report. The Mayor requested the Executive Director Community Services (Mr Dawson Sailor) to convey to Council's Climate Resilience Officers the appreciation of Council for their work across the region.

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

5.2. Social Housing Strategy 2026

#C24-28/2026-3/5.2

CR PEARSON / CR ANIBA

Council:

1. **Receives and notes this report and its content; and**
2. **Pursuant to Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, finalise and execute matters associated with implementing the Social Housing Strategy 2026, including funding arrangements, partnership agreements, and project delivery, in accordance with TSIRC's procurement and ethical sourcing policies.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE**6.1. Community Grants Program Allocation (February 2026)**

#C24-28/2026-3/6.1

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:**
 - **CG2026-057 – BADU P&C, BADU for \$2,000.00**

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

- **CG2026-072 – IAMA ORCHIDS TOUCH TEAM, IAMA for \$2,000.00;**

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

- **CG2026-074 – GUBAU ZIA TOUCH TEAM, PORUMA for \$3,922.00; and**

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

2. to note the information in this report.

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

6.2. Funding Acquisition Report (February 2026)

#C24-28/2026-3/6.2

CR FELL / CR PEARSON

Council receives and notes this report and its content.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.3. Exemption Request – Tender Consideration Plan in Relation to FY2026-27 Insurance Renewal

#C24-28/2026-3/6.3

CR FELL / CR PEARSON

Council resolves to prepare and adopt a Tender Consideration Plan under section 230(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* in relation to the Financial Year 2026-27 insurance renewal.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.4. Change of Council Meeting Date – June 2026 Trustee & Ordinary Council Meetings

#C24-28/2026-3/6.4

CR DORANTE / CR T. MOSBY

Council resolves to conduct the June 2026 Trustee and Ordinary Council Meetings on Tuesday 23 June 2026 via video conference.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

8. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

8.1. Financial Dashboard Report (February 2026)

#C24-28/2026-3/8.1

CR FELL / CR T. MOSBY

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

#C24-28/2026-3/9

CR PEARSON / CR FELL

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].

The verbal update provided by the Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) was noted by Council.

- *The Mayor made a Declarable Conflict of Interest (COI) in relation to Agenda Item 10.2 below and left the meeting prior to the commencement of discussions. The Deputy Mayor (Cr Ranetta Wosomo) assumed the role as Acting Chairperson.*

10.2. Outstanding Payments to Enterprise Management Group

[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".]

#C24-28/2026-3/10.2

CR TOBY / CR TAMU

Council:

1. Approves payment of the outstanding amount of \$75,334.64 to Enterprise Management Group Pty Ltd (trading as My Pathway) for services previously delivered to Council, comprising:
 - Invoice 90025232 dated 30 September 2024 – \$11,288.38
 - Invoice 90025827 dated 31 October 2024 – \$37,732.06
 - Invoice 90027620 dated 18 February 2025 – \$26,314.20; and
2. Notes that future engagements with Enterprise Management Group must comply with Council’s Procurement Policy and the requirements of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *The Mayor returned to the meeting following Council’s decision above and resumed his role as meeting Chairperson.*

11. BUILDING SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Nil.

12. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE**12.1. Impact of Rapidly Increasing Fuel Costs on Commercial Fuel Fees**

[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 “the local government’s budget”.]

#C24-28/2026-3/12.1

CR FELL / CR PEARSON

Council:

1. resolves to lay the officer’s report on the table; and
2. requests a further report for consideration at the April 2026 Council meeting addressing the following:
 - engaging and managing Community expectations in relation to the rising costs of living and the impacts on the cost of fuel; and
 - initial plans around possible options for divesting fuel and/or securing financial support to subsidise costs.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**13. ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTORATE****13.1 Contractual Matter – Tender Evaluation and Award of Contract TC25192 – Central Islands 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".]

#C24-28/2026-3/13.1

CR FELL / CR PEARSON

Council resolves:

1. **To award contract number TC25192 for Central Islands 2025 DRFA Works to Torres Strait Island Homes Pty Ltd for the lump sum price of \$4,928,852.96 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

Action Required:

Mayor to raise with TCICA a joint submission with other Councils for funding to upgrade/improve roads across the region.

13.2 Funding Matter – 2026-27 ATSI TIDS Iama Barge Ramp 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".]

#C24-28/2026-3/13.2

CR FELL / CR MANAS

Council resolves:

1. **To enter into the proposed funding agreement with the Department of Transport and Main Road (TMR) to the amount of up to \$2,560,000 (excl. GST), administered through the ATSI TIDS Program for the Iama Island Barge Ramp Upgrade Project; 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 Funding Agreement, and**
 - (b) **power to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this project and agreement including without limitation any options and/or variations.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action Required:

Mayor to raise at Torres Strait Leaders' Forum the need for a joint media release on urgent marine infrastructure requirements across the region, including the TSIRC footprint.

13.3 Funding Mater TSIRC.0053.2425L.REC Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA)

[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".]

#C24-28/2026-3/13.3

CR MANAS / CR PEARSON

Council resolves:

1. To enter into the proposed funding agreement TSIRC.0053.2425L.REC for Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) & Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA), administered by Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) in relation to Council's submission for the Top Western Islands for a grant sum of up to \$3,142,230.74 (excl. 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 Funding Agreement; and
 - (b) power to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this project and funding agreement including without limitation any options and/or variations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13.4 Funding Matter – TSIRC.0054.2425L.REC Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA)

[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 HANKIN / CR FELL

Council resolves:

1. To enter into the proposed funding agreement TSIRC.0054.2425L.REC for Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) & Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA), administered by Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) in relation to Council's

submission for the Erub land slip for a grant sum of up to \$1,269,670.53 (excl. 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 Funding Agreement; and
- (b) power to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this project and funding agreement 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".]

The Executive Director Engineering Services (Mr David Baldwin) spoke to this report. The report was noted by Council.

Action Required:

The Hammond Island STP to be raised as a priority matter for Council.

14. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

- *The Manager Procurement and Contracts (Mr Tom Masters) spoke to Agenda Item 14.1 below.*

14.1. General Contracted Exposure Due to Rapidly Rising Fuel Costs

[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.]

#C24-28/2026-3/14.1

CR LEVI / CR FELL

- 1. Council receives and notes this report, and
- 2. Resolves that the content of this report is disseminated by Executive Directors to Council Officers who perform the role of Contract Manager (as defined in the Procurement Procedure).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *At 5.10pm the Mayor requested that all staff (including the Chief Executive Officer) leave the meeting to enable Councillors to consider Agenda Item 15.1 below in a discussion restricted to Councillors only.*
- *The Mayor requested that the Executive Director Community Services (Mr Dawson Sailor) and the Executive Director Financial Services (Ms Hollie Faithfull) remain present for the restricted discussion.*
- *The Mayor advised Council that he had a Declarable COI in the matter to be discussed (close family member) and advised that he would excuse himself from discussions. The Mayor then left the meeting at 5.12pm and the Deputy Mayor assumed the role as meeting Chairperson.*
- *Cr Ted Mosby advised Council that he may have a Declarable COI in the matter to be discussed (close family member) and advised that he will excuse himself from discussions if required. Eligible (non-conflicted) Councillors discussed the matter and then endorsed the following motion:*

#C24-28/2026-3/15.1A

CR TAMU / CR HANKIN

In accordance with Chapter 5B of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Chapter 10 of the TSIRC Standing Orders Meeting Procedures Policy, Council notes the declarable conflict of interest advised by Cr T. Mosby and agreed that Cr T. Mosby may remain in the meeting and participate in the decision.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *The Executive Director Financial Services (Ms Hollie Faithfull) spoke to the report.*

15.1 [** Restricted Discussion for Councillors Only ****] Update on Legal Matter Under Section 254J(3)(e) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012***

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

#C24-28/2026-2/15.1

CR HANKIN / CR ANIBA

Council:

- 1. Notes the officer's report;**
- 2. Resolves, pursuant to Section 240 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, to authorise Mr Dawson Sailor to:**
 - (a) give instructions and act as Council's authorised agent in relation to legal proceedings commenced on 19 December 2025; and**
 - (b) sign all documents; and**

3. Resolves that the delegation to Ms Hollie Faithful made on 18 February 2026 in relation to the above matter will come to an end on the date of this resolution.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *The Mayor returned to the meeting at 5.25pm following Council's decision above and assumed his role as meeting Chairperson.*
- *The Mayor then formally suspended deliberations on Day 1 at 5.30pm.*

DRAFT

(DAY 2 - Wednesday, 25 March 2026)

Time: 9.00am to 12.30pm

Venue: Warraber (Torres Strait)

Microsoft TEAMS Meeting ID: 469 952 982 961 05 | Passcode: qp2gG7KB

PRESENT:

Mayor

Division 1 – Boigu

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 14 – Erub

Cr Phillemon Mosby

Cr Dimas Toby

Cr Chelsea Aniba

Cr Keith Fell

Cr Ranetta Wosomo

Cr Iona Manas – *left meeting at 10.00am*

Cr John Levi

Cr Seriako Dorante

Cr Aggie Hankin

Cr Kabay Tamu

Cr Francis Pearson

Cr Ted Mosby

Cr Nixon Mye – *via TEAMS*

APOLOGIES:

Division 13 – Ugar

Division 15 – Mer

Cr Rocky Stephen – *prior commitments*

Cr Bob Kaigey

ABSENT:

Division 2 – Dauan

Cr Torenzo Elisala

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

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 – *via TEAMS*

Ms Amy Orr

Ms Trudy Lui

Mr Darryl Brooks

GUESTS:

Deputation #1

Australian National University (ANU) – Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies	Ms Jacinta Barabug (Research Officer) Dr Julie Lahn (Fellow)
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Deputation #2

Australian Border Force (ABF)	Superintendent North Queensland Ms Tracie Griffin (Qld Operations East Regional Operations) Inspector Bob Cain (Thursday Island)
Australian Federal Police	Federal Agent Northern Command (Thursday Island) Brian McAlonan
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Mr TJ Oberleuter (Treaty Liaison Officer)

At 9.10am, the Mayor welcomed the Deputy Mayor and Councillors, Executives and staff and members of the public to Day 2 of the Ordinary Council meeting for the month of March 2026, noting that a quorum of members was present.

The Mayor made the following acknowledgements:

- Papa God for His awesome wisdom, knowledge, understanding and favour upon our people, our region and our Council;
- The Traditional Custodians, Elders and leaders - past, present and emerging – of Warraber; and
- The Traditional Custodians, Elders and leaders - past, present and emerging – across the land and seas throughout the length and breadth of Zenadth Kes.

Cr Chelsea Aniba delivered the opening prayer.

* * *

➤ *Council deliberations continued as per the Agenda for Day 1.*

16. RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE MEETING TO OPEN DISCUSSION

#C24-28/2026-3/16

CR LEVI / CR MANAS

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**(a) Hammond Island STP**

Cr Dorante requested that consideration be given to a staged approach to funding/completion of the Hammond Island STP.

(b) Travel Arrangements for Councillors

Cr Pearson expressed concern in relation to the 10kg limit for luggage on flights, especially for f2f meetings as Councillors undertaking such travel have cultural obligations requiring the carrying of additional items on these occasions.

(c) Debris Removal/Clean-up following House Fire at St. Pauls

Cr Levi requested Council support be provided locally in relation to clean-up/debris removal following a recent house fire at St. Pauls. The **Chief Executive Officer** will discuss further with Cr Levi out of session to explore further options.

(d) Rising Fuel Costs Impacting Traditional Visitors from PNG

In these uncertain times around global fuel supplies and rising fuel costs, **Cr Aniba** requested that discussions commence with the Torres Strait Treaty Liaison Office to explore options which can be implemented in communities in those circumstances where fuel purchases made by Traditional Visitors from Papua New Guinea begin to impact on the supplies normally available for use by locals. The **Mayor** noted the comments.

(e) Future Divestment Strategy

Cr Tamu requested that work commence to explore how Council will strategically build the capacity of community organisations so that those organisations are prepared to take on responsibility for any assets or services that Council may consider divesting in the future.

The **Chief Executive Officer** responded by advising that Council still has to give further and very careful consideration around a wide range of aspects associated with divesting responsibility onto community of any of its assets or services, as the continuity of maintaining those assets or services require either long-term financial support or carefully considered planning.

The **Mayor** reminded Council that these matters are currently under the purview of the Economic Growth Committee's Economic Development Strategy.

(f) DOGIT Update Request for Divisions 6 and 7

Cr Manas requested that additional information sessions on DOGIT matters be provided for Arkai and Wug (St.Pauls) Communities.

(g) Communities to be Advised in Advance of Changes to Council Policy or Procedures

Cr Tamu requested that communities be advised well in advance before any changes in policies or procedures come into effect on ground, so that those communities can have adequate time to adjust to the changes. Councillors on ground are bearing the

brunt of community frustrations when these changes cause delays or impediments to securing funding or support for community initiatives or events.

(h) Regional Autonomy Information

Cr Wosomo requested that Council explore options to make available to the public as much information as possible around regional autonomy aspirations, timelines and current status, including strategies to engage TSIRC and TSRA members jointly to engage respective local communities. **Cr Toby** advised that he will circulate TSRA information available to him around this issue to Councillors. The **Mayor** advised that the TSRA has indicated that it will commit to establishing a Committee that will work with regional leaders to establish a secretariat and which will also explore policy around the TSRA to invest financial resources to support the secretariat. The secretariat will be responsible for supporting and progressing the regional autonomy aspirations across the region. Once the TOR for the Committee are finalised they will be sent to regional leadership organisations for endorsement. In the meantime, the document prepared by Ms Sandy Killick and Mr Scott Mason (*Malungu Yangu Wakay | Mirkok | Ikyā Malunhumun*) in response to the Masig Statement, should be the tool used by TSIRC members to engage with their communities.

(i) Regional Leadership Forum

Cr Toby sought information on the convening of a Regional Leadership Forum in 2026. The **Mayor** advised that he is currently in negotiation with his regional leadership counterparts (particularly the TSRA Chairperson) for the TSRA to fund and progress the matter.

(j) Telecommunication Issues

Cr Toby requested urgent action around ongoing telecommunication failures which are frequently disrupting community access to a whole range of functions. The **Chief Executive Officer** noted the comments.

(k) Council Mid-Term Review

The **Mayor** advised that Council is now mid-way through its current 4-year term and a process will soon commence to reflect on progress to date and to focus on strategic initiatives for the remaining two years of this term of Council.

19. INFORMATION REPORTS

19.1. BUILDING SERVICES – Building Services Report (February 2026)

19.2. COMMUNITY SERVICES – Community Services (February 2026)

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

19.4. ENGINEERING SERVICES – Engineering Operations

19.5. ENGINEERING SERVICES – Information Report - Water and Wastewater (February 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 – 22 APRIL 2026 (VC)

Noted by Council.

21. CLOSE OF MEETING & PRAYER

Prior to the formal close of meeting, Council received the following deputations:

DEPUTATION #1: Australian National University (ANU)

The Mayor welcomed Ms Jacinta Barabug (Research Officer, Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies) and Dr Julie Lahn (Fellow, Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies) at the ANU who sought a deputation to Council to provide an update on the Japan Zenadth Kes Project.

Ms Barabug and Dr Lahn jointly spoke to an in-house slide presentation on progress to date and sought TSIRC support for the following initiatives:

1. **Small Exhibitions in olgeda Zenadth Kes communities (Dates: Sept 2026 – May 2027, tbd)**
 - Visit communities once more to showcase project results and listen to feedback.
 - One option is to utilise existing IKC venues and resources (showing small videos, posters, photographs and playing music).

2. **Photo Exhibition in Zenadth Kes (Date: 15 May – 30 June 2026 | Gab Titui Cultural Centre | Waiben)**

Title: GOTAT | GUTHATH | 時代の潮目 | TIDES

This exhibition is a travelling version of the June 2025 exhibition in Canberra. The exhibition is co-curated by the JZK Project and Gab Titui. This exhibition will also include short videos created during JZK Project.

The exhibition features archival photographs of olgeda Zenadth Kes communities in the 1970s.

The photographs are on loan from the Professor George Ohshima (dec) collection at the National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka, from the family of Professor Hironobu Kitaoji (dec) and Professor Hiroyuki Matsumoto, Nara, Japan. Professor Niwa from the museum in Osaka will attend the opening. A music performance will be an event during opening weekend (see below).

3. **Project Exhibition in Japan (Date: 10 September – 15 December 2026)**

Title: Torres Strait (Zenadth Kes) and Japan: fifty years of connection and memory (draft title)

The National Museum of Ethnology is a key partner of the JZK Project. They have looked after 2000 photographs of Torres Strait taken by Professor George Ohshima in the 1970s.

The museum is holding an exhibition of his photographs based on our 'Gotat' exhibition. They will add extra information about the Japan-Torres Strait connections through pearlshell. They will include items from their collection of artefacts (for example a fishing spear).

Project Team are commissioning artefacts e.g. Thubul Makarr to show and donate to the museum.

The Mayor thanked deputation members for their presentation and, on behalf of Council, commended their work to date on this important and significant project for the Torres Strait region.

DEPUTATION #2: Australian Border Force (AFB)

The Mayor welcomed the following attendees of the deputation:

- Superintendent North Queensland Tracie Griffin | Qld Operations East | Regional Operations | AFB
- Inspector Bob Cain | Thursday Island | AFB
- Mr TJ Oberleuter (Treaty Liaison Officer) | Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT)
- Mr Brian McAlonan | Australian Federal Police (AFP) Federal Agent Northern Command (Thursday Island)

As an introduction, the **Mayor** invited attendees to provide Council with a brief overview of each of their agencies and their day-to-day roles in the region.

Following these introductions, Superintendent North Queensland **Tracie Griffin** provided Council with an update on Operation Broadstaff and AFP Federal Agent Brian McAlonan provided Council with an update on the North Queensland Joint Organised Crime Task Force (JOCTF), which has been established to counter the growing threat of criminals sourcing methamphetamine and cocaine stockpiled in the Pacific.

The Mayor thanked deputation members for their presentations and their work for the region. The Mayor also reminded the deputation of the sentiments expressed in the joint media release on 10 February 2026 by Torres Strait lead agencies, which advocated strongly on the importance of engaging in real partnerships with key local leadership bodies (such as TSIRC) who are eager to assist with cultural and local guidance and expertise to help agencies collectively to ensure that any security planning across the Torres Strait region is successful and that Torres Strait Islander communities feel safe.

To officially close the March 2026 Ordinary Council, the Mayor thanked members of the public for their attendance and observance of proceedings and thanked **Cr Tamu**, the **Division 10 TSIRC staff** and the **Warraber Community** overall for their generosity, warmth and heartfelt welcome to Council at all times during this meeting.

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

Cr Tamu thanked Councillors and staff for their attendance and for their engagement with the Warraber Community throughout the past week and the community looks forward to another occasion in which to host a future Council meeting.

The Mayor formally closed the meeting at 11.45am and **Cr Levi** delivered the closing prayer.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 22 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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