



TRUSTEE MEETING

21 JULY 2026

MINUTES

Time: 9.00am to 10.30am

Venue: Mabuiag (Torres Strait)

Microsoft (TEAMS) Meeting ID: 468 219 212 445 76 | Passcode: 9dF2Uy3F

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 – *via TEAMS*
Cr Torenzo Elisala
Cr Chelsea Aniba
Cr Keith Fell
Cr Ranetta Wosomo
Cr Iona Manas
Cr John Levi
Cr Seriako Dorante – *via TEAMS*
Cr Aggie Hankin
Cr Kabay Tamu
Cr Francis Pearson
Cr Ted Mosby
Cr Rocky Stephen
Cr Nixon Mye – *via TEAMS*
Cr Bob Kaigey

APOLOGIES:

Division 1 – Boigu

Cr Dimas Toby – *Sorry Business/Sad News*

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Director Building Services
Executive Director Community Services
Executive Director Corporate Services
Executive Director Engineering Services
Executive Director Financial Services
DOGIT Transfer, Land Tenure and
Native Title Advisor
Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Executive Assistant to the CEO
TSIRC Secretariat

Mr James William
Mr Wayne Green
Mr Dawson Sailor
Ms Michelle Webster
Mr David Baldwin
Ms Hollie Faithfull
Ms Joanne Bryant
Ms Trudy Lui
Ms Amy Orr
Mr Darryl Brooks

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

At 9.50am the Mayor (**Cr Phillemon Mosby**) formally opened the Trustee Council meeting for the month of July 2026, noting that a quorum of members was present.

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

- Our Heavenly Father for His awesome wisdom, knowledge, understanding and blessings upon our lives, and upon the journey of our Council, where we have been, where we are today, and where we're heading as a Council and as a region;
- Traditional Owners of Lag Mabuiag whose lands hosts this monthly Council meeting and their Elders – past, present and emerging;
- Traditional Owners, Elders and Leaders (past, present and emerging) across the length and breadth of Zenadth Kes - including the TSIRC footprint in Gimuy (Walubara Yidinji and Djabugay) and the Traditional Owners of surrounding areas of Cairns.

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 and prayers of Council throughout their bereavement.

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.

The Mayor advised that he will make a few opening remarks and will continue to participate online for the remainder of the Trustee and Ordinary Council Meetings, but will hand over responsibility to the Deputy Mayor to chair proceedings on ground to ensure a smoother flow of Council deliberations and to avoid any further delays caused by connectivity issues.

The Mayor again welcomed the Deputy Mayor, Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer and other Executives and officers to the July 2026 Trustee and Ordinary Council Meetings and to the beginning of a new financial year and made the following remarks:

A new financial year is more than the adoption of a budget. It is an opportunity to reset our priorities, strengthen our leadership and reaffirm our commitments to the people we serve. While our financial projections provide some confidence over the next 18 months, we cannot afford to rely on annual funding rounds alone. If we are serious about building a stronger and more sustainable Council, we must shift our thinking from simply securing funding to securing strategic investment. That means being disciplined in how we manage our costs, while also creating opportunities to grow our own revenue. It means ensuring our strategic investment plan clearly articulates our priorities and presents a compelling case to governments, funding agencies and the private sector partners.

We must be clear about where we are heading. Our community deserves a Council with a well-defined roadmap - one that guides our partnership, informs our decisions and delivers outcomes that reflect the aspirations of the people we represent.

As a Council, we also have a responsibility to look inwards. We must be prepared to review inherited business practices, organisation cultures and the way we deliver

services. If we discover better, smarter, and more efficient ways of doing business, then we should have the courage to embrace them.

Our advocacies must become more strategic, more focused, and more accountable. Every priority we identify must be supported by a clear action plan, properly resourced, regularly monitored, and delivered.

Equally, we must strengthen our capacity to pursue grants and investment opportunities, because every dollar we secure is another opportunity to invest back in our communities. We also need to continue advocating for stronger partnership between the State and Commonwealth, working alongside our regional neighbours and stakeholders to ensure that the unique needs of remote local governments are recognised and supported.

Over the next 18 months, Council must have the discipline to review those services that have gradually shifted from other levels of government onto local government. We need to ask the hard questions about what is genuinely a core Council responsibility, where there is unnecessary duplications and how we can redirect our limited resources to where they have a greater impact.

Finally, we cannot ignore the world around us. Politically and political uncertainty, economic pressures and changing government priorities all influence the decisions we make here at a local level. As one of the most remote local governments in Australia, those impacts are often felt more deeply and more quickly. That is why this Council must retain unity in purpose, discipline in our decision making and ambitions for the future. Our policy and our budget and our advocacy must all be aligned. Our message to government, industries, regional partners and - most importantly - our community must be clear, consistent and credible. The decisions we make today will help shape the future of this region, not only for the next 12 months, but for generations to come.

I look forward to be working with each of you as we continue to build. Building a stronger, more sustainable and more prosperous future for our communities. Leadership is not measured by the challenges we inherit, but by the decisions we make and the legacy we leave. Let us get on with that work today.

The Mayor then handed the meeting to the Deputy Mayor to chair.

B. LEAVES OF ABSENCE & APOLOGIES

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

CR ELISALA / CR KAIGEY

#T24-28/2026-7/B-1

Council grants a leave of absence for Cr Dimas Toby for the July 2026 Trustee Council Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APOLOGIES

CR PEARSON / CR MANAS

#T24-28/2026-7/B-2

Council accepts the apology submitted by Cr Dimas Toby for the July 2026 Trustee Council Meeting due to Sorry Business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI) DECLARATIONS

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

The Deputy Mayor reminded Councillors of their responsibility for informing Council of any prescribed or declarable conflict of interest on matters to be discussed and that Councillors are required to provide COI in writing prior to the meeting being held. If in doubt, declare your conflict of interest and Council will advise a way forward.

The Mayor added that if throughout the course of the discussion that any Councillors become aware of a potential conflict of interest, could that Councillor please immediately let the meeting know and advice would be provided on the way forward.

D. LIVE STREAM

The Deputy Mayor advised that LIVE STREAMING was not available for this meeting due to technical issues.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (23 JUNE 2026)

#T24-28/2026-7/1

CR LEVI / CR T. MOSBY

Council (as Trustee) confirms the Minutes of the Trustee Meeting held on 23 June 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.*

2. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

#T24-28/2026-7/2

CR FELL / CR STEPHEN

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 those items listed in the officer's report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *Council (as Trustee) held Closed Discussions from 10.05am to 10.20am to discuss the following matters:*

1 *[Standing Agenda Item] Culture, Arts, Land & Heritage (CALH) Advisory Committee - Update on Land and Native Title Strategic Matters – verbal update only by Cr Chelsea Aniba (CALH Advisory Committee Chair)*

[s.84(2)(a) - Matter may prejudice the interests of the trustee council or someone else]

2 ***Iama – 99 Year Home Ownership Lease Application – Wilson & Patricia David***

[s.84(2)(a) - Matter may prejudice the interests of the trustee council or someone else]

- *Cr Bob Kaigey and Cr Aggie Hankin both declared COIs in relation to item #2 (Iama – 99 Year Home Ownership Lease Application – Wilson & Patricia David) as the applicants were family relatives. Both Councillors elected to remain present during discussion but would not vote when the Trustee decision is taken.*

3. RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE MEETING TO OPEN DISCUSSION

#T24-28/2026-7/3

CR TAMU / CR FELL

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Council formally resolved as follows:

- 4.1. *[Standing Agenda Item]* **Culture, Arts, Land & Heritage (CALH) Advisory Committee - Update on Land and Native Title Strategic Matters** – *verbal update only by Cr Chelsea Aniba (CALH Advisory Committee Chair)*

Executive Summary

Discussions involve sensitive matters in relation to land or native title.

Discussion only. Council (as Trustee) noted the verbal updates provided by **Cr Aniba** and **Ms Joanne Bryant** (DOGIT Transfer, Land Tenure and Native Title Advisor).

- 4.2. **Iama – 99 Year Home Ownership Lease Application – Wilson & Patricia David**

Executive Summary

This report seeks Trustee approval for an Expression of Interest for a 99-year home ownership lease on Iama. Trustee's approval for the grant of the lease will be subject to conditions set out in the officer's report.

#T24-28/2026-7/4.2

CR ELISALA / CR FELL

[CR KAIGEY & CR HANKIN DID NOT VOTE DUE TO COI]

Council (as Trustee):

- (a) approves, in accordance with the **Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991**, the Expression of Interest (EOI) for a 99-year home ownership lease for **Mr Wilson Charlie David** and **Mrs Patricia Martha David** for **Lot 40SP270867 (44 O'Leary Street) Iama**; and
- (b) delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to:

- i. formalise the Trustee's approval in relation to all matters set out in this resolution, including executing the Conditional Agreement to Lease and subsequent lease; and
- ii. refund the land (lease) sale price if the applicants are identified through the Trustee Policy as having a traditional connection to the land.

CARRIED

5. ITEMS ARISING

(a) State funding to PBCs following a DOGIT Transfer

Cr Torenzo Elisala sought advice about State funding to PBCs following a DOGIT Transfer. The DOGIT Transfer, Land Tenure and Native Title Advisor (**Ms Joanne Bryant**) advised that to her knowledge, there was no funding available from the State as part of a transfer process.

(b) Advice on further DOGIT Transfers

Cr Keith Fell sought advice on DOGIT Transfers across the region and if the State is progressing more transfers once lama is finalised. The DOGIT Transfer, Land Tenure and Native Title Advisor (**Ms Joanne Bryant**) advised that the Department of Resources Director of Indigenous Land Operations previously advised that DOGIT transfers are on a case-by-case basis and PBCs who want to pursue a transfer are encouraged to engage with the State directly.

6. NEXT MEETING – 19 August 2026 (VC)

Noted by the Trustee Council.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Deputy Mayor formally closed the Trustee Council meeting at 10.25am.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 19 August 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