



TRUSTEE MEETING

19 August 2026

MINUTES

Time: 9.00am to 10.30am

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

PRESENT:

Division 2 – Dauan
Division 4 – Mabuiag
Division 5 – Badu / **Deputy Mayor**
Division 7 – Wug (St. Pauls), Mua Island
Division 8 – Kirirri (Hammond Island)
Division 9 – Iama
Division 11 – Poruma
Division 12 – Masig
Division 13 – Ugar
Division 14 – Erub
Division 15 – Mer

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

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Mayor

Division 1 – Boigu
Division 3 – Saibai
Division 6 – Kubin
Division 10 – Warraber

Cr Phillemon Mosby – *Medical / Illness*
Cr Dimas Toby – *Sorry Business*
Cr Chelsea Aniba – *Sorry Business*
Cr Iona Manas – *Other Commitments*
Cr Kabay Tamu – *Personal Commitments / Travel*

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Director Building Services
Executive Director Community Services
Acting Executive Director Corporate Services
Executive Director Engineering Services
Executive Director Financial Services
Acting 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 Joanne Bryant

Mr David Baldwin
Ms Hollie Faithfull

Mr John Coyle

Ms Trudy Lui – *via TEAMS*
Ms Amy Orr
Ms Sarah Acton

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

At 9.05am the Deputy Mayor (**Cr Ranetta Wosomo**) formally opened the Trustee Council meeting for the month of August 2026, noting that a quorum of members was present.

The Deputy Mayor advised that she will be chairing the monthly Trustee Council meeting in the absence of the Mayor.

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

- His sincere appreciation for the many thoughts, prayers and messages of support that he has received during his recovery;
- Sincere appreciation to fellow Councillors for their continued support, leadership and commitment during the Mayor's absence;
- The CEO, the Executive Leadership team, together with all Council staff, for their continued professionalism, dedication and commitment to ensure Council's business continues to progress and our communities remain supported;
- That we still have unfinished regional business and the importance of remaining conscious of the broader started responsibilities of Council.

In relation to the unfinished business acknowledged above, the Deputy Mayor continued to make the following remarks:

There is unfinished business before the Council and across the Torres Strait, with communities continuing to face long-standing issues that affect the everyday lives, well-being and future opportunities of our people. These matters are not new and have been raised consistently by Torres Strait leadership, communities and regional organisations over many years. Including matters relating to essential services, infrastructure, housing, transport, health, education, economic opportunity, environmental pressures, community resilience, and the long-term sustainability of our region.

Council must continue to advocate strongly for these priorities, but advocacy must ultimately be measured by whether it continues to contribute to real and lasting improvement for our people. Remembering the voice of our people in the coming days, communities across our region will the 89th anniversary of the first Island Councils Conference. This is an important occasion because it reminds us that the foundations of Torres Strait local leadership were built on our people coming together, identifying the issues affecting our communities and finding a collective voice to advocate for change.

As we reflect on the history, we should also reflect on the message and the spirit in Malunguyangu Wakai, voice of the deep. The voice is not simply a statement from our past, it should continue to inform how we lead, how we advocate, how we engage with government and how we work together to shape the future of Zenadth Kes. All Councillors are encouraged to revisit and reflect carefully on the Malunguyangu Wakai statement, considering how we can collectively strengthen and utilise it as a framework to our advocacy and engagement. It should not only guide what we say to government, but also how we seek to build genuine partnership with governments at both a Queensland and Australian Government level.

From consultation to partnership, we have recently seen visits to the Torres Strait by State and Commonwealth ministers and senior government representatives. Regional leadership welcomes engagement. We value the opportunity to meet directly with

ministers and government representatives, to present the priorities and concerns of our communities and to share the aspirations we have for our region and our people.

However, visibility must now translate into action. For many years, successive governments have visited the Torres Strait, listening to our regional concerns, acknowledging the strategic importance of the region and expressing willingness to work alongside Torres Strait leadership. We welcome those commitments, but many of the issues consistently raised remain unresolved.

Our communities continue to wait for tangible outcomes, coordinated investment, policy reform and greater certainty. The Torres Strait cannot continue to be a place where governments come to consult, listen and announce without the engagement being followed by meaningful implementation. The time has come to move beyond consultation alone and work towards genuine partnership, shared responsibility and measurable outcomes. The region does not need another cycle of consultation followed by limited implementation. What our communities need is coordinated leadership, clear responsibilities, sustained investment and action that can be seen and felt in our communities.

Our responsibility as Councillors and as elected representatives, we have an important responsibility. We must listen to our communities. We must continue to engage with regional stakeholders. We must continue to advocate with government, but we must also ensure that the voice of our people is consistent, collective and clearly understood across Zenadth Kes. The strength of Torres Strait leadership has always been found in our ability to come together around issues that matter to our people.

Our challenge now is to ensure that the legacy of those who come before us is carried forward with purpose. Let us use the Malunguyangu Wakai, voice from the deep, as a reminder that our advocacy must be grounded in our people, our communities, our culture, and our aspirations for our future. We should seek to move from heavy reliance on government-led consultation towards genuine partnership and shared decision making where regional knowledge and local leadership help shape policy, investment and implementation.

Our people should not simply be consulted about their future. Our people must have a meaningful role in shaping it. That is the responsibility that comes with the privilege of serving as elected Councillors. It is therefore encouraged that each of us take our role seriously, to remain connected with our communities and regional stakeholders, and to ensure that the message and intent of the Malungu Yangu Wakay statement continues to be heard consistently throughout our communities and across all levels of government.

Our advocacy must be respectful, united and persistent. Most importantly, it must remain focused on achieving better outcomes for the people of our region Zenadth Kes. The work before us is significant, the challenge is real, but so too are the opportunities if we work collectively, respectfully, and with a clear sense of purpose.

Let us honour the leadership of those who came before us, but continue the work they started, not only by speaking with a strong voice, but ensuring that our voice leads to action.

The Deputy Mayor acknowledged our Heavenly Father for His wisdom, His understanding, His knowledge, His hand over each and every one of us, our region, and the leadership throughout the Torres Strait.

Cr Keith Fell delivered the opening prayer.

The Deputy Mayor acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land where we are all attending this meeting today and virtually joining in from, the leadership of Traditional Owners throughout Zenadth Kes, our elders past, present and emerging, and members of our communities.

The Deputy 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 Sorry Business, the collective thoughts and prayers of Council throughout their bereavement.

The Trustee Council observed a minute of silence as a gesture of respect and reflection to honour the memory of deceased loved ones and those currently experiencing Sorry Business.

B. LEAVES OF ABSENCE & APOLOGIES

#T24-28/2026-8/B

CR LEVI / CR FELL

Council (as Trustee):

- a) notes the following written apologies from Councillors for the August 2026 Trustee Council Meeting:

Division	Councillor	Reason
Division 6 – KUBIN	Cr. Iona Manas	Other Commitments

and

- b) grants leave of absence for each of the following Councillors for the Trustee Council Meeting dated as listed:

Division	Councillor	Date of Absence	Reason
Mayor	Cr. Philemon Mosby	19 August 2026	Medical / Illness (health-related reasons or medical appointments)
Division 1 – BOIGU	Cr. Dimas Toby	19 August 2026	Personal Commitments (family or personal matters) <i>Attending funeral</i>
Division 3 – SAIBAI	Cr. Chelsea Aniba	19 August 2026	Personal Commitments (family or personal matters) <i>Funeral preparations; Late Jeff Aniba Waia & Late Peter Papua MBD</i>
Division 9 – IAMA	Cr. Aggie Hankin	19 August 2026 (Partial Absence)	Travel (planned interstate or overseas travel) <i>Available 0900hrs-1100hrs</i> <i>Unavailable 1100hrs-1300hrs</i> <i>Available 1300hrs onwards</i>
Division 10 – WARRABER	Cr. Kabay Tamu	19 August 2026	Personal Commitments (family or personal matters) Travel (planned interstate or overseas travel)
Division 5 - BADU	Cr. Ranetta Wosomo	28 October 2026	Personal Commitments (family or personal matters) Travel (planned interstate or overseas travel)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI) DECLARATIONS

The Deputy Mayor advised that a written COI notification was provided in advance by **Cr John Levi** in relation to the Trustee Meeting for August 2026, however no further written COI notifications were received.

Cr John Levi advised that he had a Declarable COI in relation to Agenda Item 2.#2 (Expressions of Interest for 99-Year Home Ownership Leases: Wug (St Pauls Community)) as one (1) of the applicants is a close relative.

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 Deputy 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 this meeting is being LIVE STREAMED on Council's YouTube Channel.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (21-22 July 2026)

#T24-28/2026-8/1

CR FELL / CR MOSBY

Council (as Trustee) confirms the Minutes of the Trustee Meeting held on 21-22 July 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

#T24-28/2026-8/2

CR FELL / CR MOSBY

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

➤ *Cr John Levi left the meeting at around 09.33am due to the conflict of interest in relation to Agenda Item 2.#2 and returned at the end of the meeting.*

- *The Deputy Mayor advised that she was currently experiencing technical issues and will therefore need to temporarily leave the Trustee Meeting and will therefore hand over responsibility to Cr Keith Fell to chair the meeting in her absence.*
- *The Deputy Mayor then left the meeting at around 09.38am and handed the meeting to Cr Keith Fell to chair.*

3. RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE MEETING TO OPEN DISCUSSION

#T24-28/2026-8/3

CR ELISALA / CR MOSBY

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 (as Trustee) 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 Ms Joanne Bryant (DOGIT Transfer, Land Tenure and Native Title Advisor) in the absence of 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 **Ms Joanne Bryant** (DOGIT Transfer, Land Tenure and Native Title Advisor).

4.2. Wug (St Pauls) – 99 Year Home Ownership Lease Application

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

#T24-28/2026-8/4.2

CR KAIGEY / CR MOSBY

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 at Wug (St Pauls) for the following 7 applicants;

1. MUHAMAD; Cessa – Lot 117SP256048

2. VAN-RYSINGE; Michael Joseph Karre – Lot 156SP256048
 3. WAPAU; Edward – Lot 165SP256048
WAPAU; Mary
 4. MENE; Danny Patson – Lot 171SP25648
MENE; Natasha Rose
 5. NAMOK; Alice Hann – Lot 155SP256048
WARE; Peli Lily Josephine
 6. WARE; Gloria Kaidai – Lot 72SP256048
 7. SAVEKA; Gerald Levon – Lot 157SP256048
JOSEPH; Joshua Charles; and
- b) approves the surrender of social housing lease (718552835) over Lot 165SP256048; and
- c) 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;
 - ii. execute necessary documents, including Conditional Agreements to Lease and subsequent leases;
 - iii. sign the surrender of social housing lease (718552835) over lot 165SP256048; and
 - iv. refund the land (lease) sale price to any applicants identified through the Trustee Policy as having a traditional connection to the land.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *The Deputy Mayor returned to the Trustee Meeting at around 09.52am, after experiencing technical issues.*
- *Cr Keith Fell then handed the meeting back to the Deputy Mayor to chair.*

5. ITEMS ARISING

Council (as Trustee) noted there were no items arising.

6. NEXT MEETING – 21-22 September 2026 (Mer)

The Chief Executive Officer (**Mr James William**) spoke to this item, noting that currently the next Trustee Meeting is resolved to be held at Mer on 21-22 September 2026, however in the Ordinary Meeting being held by Council later today (19 August 2026), there is a late report intended to be addressed for discussion for resolution of changing the venue and location of the next Trustee Meeting to instead be held virtually on 22 September 2026.

Noted by the Trustee Council.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Deputy Mayor formally closed the Trustee Council meeting at 09.55am.

MINUTES CONFIRMED – 22 September 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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