Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda

Date: 23-24 January 2024

Time: 10.30am to 5.00pm – Day 1
Meeting ID: 480 443 297 711
Passcode: PrGwbk

9.00am to 5.00pm – Day 2
Meeting ID: 418 597 307 656
Passcode: cjMMTt

Venue: Microsoft TEAMS

Time		Subject
10.30am	1.	Welcome & Quorum Confirmation
10.45am	2.	Apologies
10.50am	3.	Conflict of Interest (COI) - Declarable/Prescribed
10.55am	4.	Confirmation of Council Ordinary Meeting Minutes – December 2023
	5.	Ratification of Economic Growth Committee Meeting Draft Minutes – 15 December 2023
	6.	Ratification of Culture, Arts, Land & Heritage (CALH) Committee Meeting Draft Minutes – 11 January 2024
11.05am	7.	Action Items from Previous Council Ordinary Meetings
11.15am	8.	Mayor Report – January 2024
11.25am	9.	Chief Executive Officer Report – January 2024 (late report)
	10.	BUILDING SERVICES: Building Services Update (December 2023)
	11.	CORPORATE SERVICES: Community Grants Program Allocation – December 2023
	12.	CORPORATE SERVICES: Funding Acquisition Report (December 2023)
	13.	CORPORATE SERVICES: Delegations Update
	14.	CORPORATE SERVICES: Community Radio
	15.	CORPORATE SERVICES: Change of Date & Venue Confirmation – March 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting
	16.	CORPORATE SERVICES: Advancing the Masig Statement
	17.	FINANCIAL SERVICES: Financial Dashboard Report – December 2023
3.00pm	18.	MOVE INTO CLOSED BUSINESS
	19.	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Seaswift Litigation Update *[Reason for closed discussion: This matter involves 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]*
	20.	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Iama (Yam) Island, Deeds of Grant in Trust *[Reason for closed discussion: This matter involves 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]*
	21.	CORPORATE SERVICES: Fuel & Fleet Update *[Reason for closed discussion: These matters involve 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]*

22. CORPORATE SERVICES: Torres Strait Islander Flag Policy

    [Reason for closed discussion: This matter involves 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]

23. CORPORATE SERVICES: Mirabou Energy – Renewable Energy Project

    [Reason for closed discussion: These matters involve 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]

24. CORPORATE SERVICES: Beneficial Enterprise Proposal

    [Reason for closed discussion: These matters involve 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]

25. ENGINEERING SERVICES: Mer Desalination Refurbishments

    [Reason for closed discussion: These matters involve 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.]

26. ENGINEERING SERVICES: Information Report – Capital Works

    [Reason for closed discussion: These matters involve 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.]

27. MOVE OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS

28. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED BUSINESS

29. BUSINESS ARISING *(from information reports)*

30. Strategic Matters

31. Next Council Meeting Date: **20-21 February 2024 (Teams)**

5.00pm 32. Official Close & Prayer

Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Draft Minutes

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

12 & 19-20 December 2023

DRAFT

Day 1 – Tuesday, 12 December 2023

PRESENT:

Mayor: Cr Phillemon Mosby

Officers:

Chief Executive Officer	Mr James William
Acting Executive Director Corporate Services	Mr Gary Stevenson PSM
Secretariat Officer	Mr Darryl Brooks

As per the rescheduling of Day 1 of the preceding Trustee Council Meeting, the Mayor observed that the Day 1 of the Ordinary Council Meeting for December 2023 had not achieved a quorum due to the implications of Tropical Cyclone Jasper and with due regard for Sorry Business on Warraber Island. As there was no prospect of the meeting being quorate, Mayor Mosby declared the meeting adjourned until 10.30am on Tuesday 19 December 2023.

The meeting closed at 9.15am.

DRAFT

Day 2 – Tuesday, 19 December 2023

PRESENT:

Division 1 - Boigu	Cr Dimas Toby
Division 2 – Dauan	Cr Torenzo Elisala
Division 3 – Saibai	Cr Conwell Tabuai
Division 4 – Mabuiag	Cr Keith Fell
Division 5 – Badu	Cr Ranetta Wosomo
Division 6 – Arkai	Cr Lama Trinkoon
Division 7 – Wug (St Pauls)	Cr John Levi
Division 8 – Kirirri	Cr Seriako Dorante
Division 9 - Iama	Cr Getano Jui (Jnr) AM - **Deputy Mayor**
Division 10 – Warraber	Cr Kabay Tamu
Division 11 – Poruma	Cr Francis Pearson
Division 12 – Masig	Cr Hilda Mosby
Division 13 - Ugar	Cr Rocky Stephen
Division 14 - Erub	Cr Jimmy Gela
Division 15 – Mer	*not represented*

APOLOGIES:

Mayor	Cr Phillemon Mosby

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer	Mr James William
Executive Director Building Services	Mr Wayne Green
Executive Director Community Services	Mr Dawson Sailor
Acting Executive Director Corporate Services	Mr Gary Stevenson PSM
Acting Executive Director Financial Services	Ms Nicola Daniels
Corporate Services Support	Ms Margaret Gatt
Executive Support Coordinator	Ms Sharon Russell
Executive Assistant to the Mayor	Ms Trudy Lui
Senior Executive Assistant	Ms Julie Marino

DRAFT

- *In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor chaired Day 2 of the December 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting.*

1. Welcome & Quorum Confirmation

The Deputy Mayor formally opened Day 2 of the December 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting at 2.28pm, noting that a quorum of members was established.

2. Apologies (Day 2)

The following apologies were noted:

Mayor	Cr Phillemon Mosby

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala *Second: Cr Lama Trinkoon*

Council accepts the apology of the Mayor, Cr Phillemon Mosby, for Day 2 of the December 2023 Council Ordinary Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala *Second: Cr Lama Trinkoon*

Given the unplanned changes to meeting days/times, Council approves payment of attendance fees for all Councillors for the December Ordinary Council meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *The Chief Executive Officer joined the meeting at 2:30pm.*

3. Conflict of Interest (COI) - Declarable/Prescribed

The Deputy Mayor invited Councillors to make any relevant conflict of interest declarations and to also advise if they were currently involved in any legal proceedings which pertain to Ordinary Council business to be considered at the meeting.

No declarations were made.

4. Confirmation of Council Ordinary Meeting Minutes - November 2023

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala *Second: Cr Lama Trinkoon*

Council agrees that the Minutes for the Council Ordinary Meeting held on 16-17 November 2023 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Action Items from Previous Ordinary Council Meetings

The Chief Executive Officer provided the Council with a verbal update on the status of Action Items arising from the previous meeting, as well as outstanding action items from previous meetings.

6. Mayor Report - December 2023

DRAFT

RESOLUTION
Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen *Second: Cr Lama Trinkoon*

Council notes the Mayor's Report for December 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Chief Executive Officer Report – December 2023

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
That Council notes the Chief Executive Officer Report for December 2023.

RESOLUTION
Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen *Second: Cr Torenzo Elisala*

Council notes the Chief Executive Officer's Report for December 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. BUILDING SERVICES: Building Services Report – December 2023

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
Council resolves to note the Building Services Report for December 2023.

RESOLUTION
Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen *Second: Cr Lama Trinkoon*

Council resolves to note the Building Services Report for December 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. PRESENTATION: End of Term Report Card
Presenter: Mr Scott Mason (LG Services Group)

- *Mr Mason was unable to participate in the meeting and his paper was presented by Ms Margaret Gatt, Corporate Services Support.*

RESOLUTION
Moved: Cr Francis Pearson *Second: Cr Jimmy Gela*

Council resolves to note the End of Term Report Card.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *Ms Margaret Gatt, Corporate Services Support, left the meeting at 3:30pm.*

10. CORPORATE SERVICES: Community Grants Program Allocation – December 2023

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
Council resolves to:
(a) allocate Community Grants Program funding to the following applicants in accordance with the Community Grants Policy:
- *Joshua Thaiday for the eligible amount of $2,500.00, exclusive of GST;*
- *Gertie Lowatta for the available amount of $7,602.00, exclusive of GST; and*

(b) note this report of grant applications processed out-of-cycle and funeral donations provided in November 2023 in accordance with the Community Grants policy.

- *Note: It was established that the Community Grant for Joshua Thaiday was out of date and therefore not applicable*

- *Cr Torenzo Elisala left the meeting at 4:00pm*

- *Cr Francis Pearson left the meeting at 4:03pm and returned at 4.08pm*

RESOLUTION

Moved: *Cr Francis Pearson* *Second:* *Cr Hilda Mosby*

Council resolves to:

(a) allocate Community Grants Program funding to the following applicant in accordance with the Community Grants Policy:

- **Gertie Lowatta for the available amount of $7,602.00 exclusive of GST; and**

(b) note this report of grant applications processed out-of-cycle and funeral donations provided in November 2023 in accordance with the Community Grants policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *The Deputy Mayor closed Day 2 of the Ordinary Council Meeting at 4.15pm.*

DRAFT

Day 3 – Wednesday, 20 December 2023

PRESENT:

Mayor	Cr Phillemon Mosby
Division 1 - Boigu	Cr Dimas Toby
Division 2 – Dauan	Cr Torenzo Elisala
Division 3 – Saibai	Cr Conwell Tabuai
Division 4 – Mabuiag	Cr Keith Fell
Division 5 – Badu	Cr Ranetta Wosomo
Division 6 – Arkai	Cr Lama Trinkoon
Division 7 – Wug (St Pauls)	Cr John Levi
Division 8 – Kirirri	Cr Seriako Dorante
Division 10 – Warraber	Cr Kabay Tamu
Division 11 – Poruma	Cr Francis Pearson
Division 12 – Masig	Cr Hilda Mosby
Division 13 - Ugar	Cr Rocky Stephen
Division 14 - Erub	Cr Jimmy Gela
Division 15 – Mer	*not represented*

Officers:

Chief Executive Officer	Mr James William
Executive Director Building Services	Mr Wayne Green
Executive Director Community Services	Mr Dawson Sailor
Acting Executive Director Corporate Services	Mr Gary Stevenson PSM
Head of Financial Services • Business Services	Ms Nicola Daniels
Executive Support Coordinator	Ms Sharon Russell
Senior Executive Assistant	Ms Julie Marino

APOLOGIES:

Division 9 - Iama	Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) AM - **Deputy Mayor**

- **Welcome & Quorum Confirmation (Day 3)**

Mayor Mosby formally opened Day 3 of the December Ordinary Council Meeting at 9:03am noting that a quorum of members was established.

- **Apologies (Day 3)**

The following apologies were noted:

Division 9 – Iama	Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) AM - **Deputy Mayor** *(unable to dial-in due to inclement weather impacting IT access)*

DRAFT

RESOLUTION
Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon *Second: Cr Torenzo Elisala*

Council accepts the apology of the Deputy Mayor, Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) AM, for Day 3 of the December 2023 Council Ordinary Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- **Conflict of Interest (COI) - Declarable/Prescribed**

The Deputy Mayor invited Councillors to make any relevant conflict of interest declarations and to also advise if they were currently involved in any legal proceedings which pertain to Ordinary Council business to be considered at the meeting.

No declarations were made.

- *Note: Council resumed the Agenda for the Ordinary Council Meeting December 2023 commencing with Item 11.*

11. CORPORATE SERVICES: Funding Acquisition Report (December 2023)

OFFICER *RECOMMENDATION*:
That Council resolves to note this report and its content.

RESOLUTION
Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon *Second: Cr Torenzo Elisala*

That Council resolves to note this report and its content.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. CORPORATE SERVICES: 2024 Election and Caretaker Period Arrangements

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
That the Election and Caretaker Period arrangements be noted and endorsed.

RESOLUTION
Moved: Cr Kabay Tamu *Second: Cr Francis Pearson*

That the Election and Caretaker Period arrangements be noted and endorsed

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action:

Acting Executive Director Corporate Services to send out to Councillors useful links relating to election information on the upcoming 2024 Local Government Elections.

13. CORPORATE SERVICES: Holy Trinity Church – Saibai Island - Update

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
That Council receives and notes the information report on the Holy Trinity Church Saibai Island.

RESOLUTION
Moved: Cr Conwell Tabuai *Second: Cr Torenzo Elisala*

That Council receives and notes the information report on the Holy Trinity Church Saibai Island.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. FINANCIAL SERVICES: Financial Dashboard Report - November 2023

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
That the Council receive and endorse the monthly financial statements attached to the Officer's Report for the 2023-2024 year to date, for the period ended 30 November 2023, as required under Section 204 Local Government Regulation 2012.

RESOLUTION
Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon *Second: Cr Francis Pearson*

That the Council receive and endorse the monthly financial statements attached to the Officer's Report for the 2023-2024 year to date, for the period ended 30 November 2023, as required under *Section 204 Local Government Regulation 2012.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. FINANCIAL SERVICES: 2023-24 Budget Review 1

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
That Council adopts in accordance with s169 and s170 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 an amended budget for the 2023-2024 Financial Year as presented, incorporating

i. The statements of financial position
ii. The statements of cashflow;
iii. The statements of income and expenditure;
iv. The statements of changes in equity;
v. The long-term financial forecast;
vi. The relevant measures of financial sustainability; and
vii. The total value of the change, expressed as a percentage, in the rates and utility charges levied for the financial year compared with the rates and utility charges levied in the previous budget; and
viii. Capital budget.

RESOLUTION
Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon *Second: Cr Francis Pearson*

That Council adopts in accordance with s169 and s170 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* an amended budget for the 2023-2024 Financial Year as presented, incorporating

i. The statements of financial position
ii. The statements of cashflow;
iii. The statements of income and expenditure;
iv. The statements of changes in equity;
v. The long-term financial forecast;
vi. The relevant measures of financial sustainability; and
vii. The total value of the change, expressed as a percentage, in the rates and utility charges levied for the financial year compared with the rates and utility charges levied in the previous budget; and
viii. Capital budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *Note: Council took a 5 minute break from 10:20am and resumed at 10:25am*

16. MOVE INTO CLOSED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION
Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala *Second: Cr Francis Pearson*

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 under Closed Business and for the reasons outlined under those items.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

22. MOVE OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION
Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon *Second: Cr Rocky Stephen*

That Council resolve to re-open the meeting to the public pursuant to *Section 254I of the Local Government Regulation 2012.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

23. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED BUSINESS

17. CORPORATE SERVICES: Fuel and Fleet Update

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
That the Council notes the report.

RESOLUTION
Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela *Second: Cr Francis Pearson*

That the Council notes the report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

18. ENGINEERING SERVICES: Award Tender No. TSIRC 2023-605 – Design and Construct Contract, LGGSP Fuel Infrastructure Upgrade – Dauan and Poruma Islands

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
That Council resolve to :

- *Award Tender No. TSIRC-2023-605-Design and Construct Contract, Separable Portion A- Dauan Fuel Infrastructure Upgrade, to TI Concrete Works Pty Limited for an amount of up to $322,773.20 excl. GST; and*
- *Award tender No. TSIRC- 2023-605 Design and Construct Contract, Separable Portion B Poruma fuel Infrastructure Upgrade, to TI Concrete Works Pty Limited for an amount of up to $309,573.20 excl. GST; and*
- *Pursuant to Section 257 of the Local Government Act 2009, t delegate to the Chief Executive Officer:*
  - *Power to make, amend or discharge the Contract No. TSIRC2023-605 (Separable Portion A and B), and*
  - *Power to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation t this project, funding and contract including without limitation any options and/or variations asper Council's procurement and ethical sourcing policy.*

RESOLUTION
Moved: Cr Keith Fell *Second: Cr Conwell Tabuai*

That Council resolve to:

(a) Award Tender No. TSIRC-2023-605-Design and Construct Contract, Separable Portion A-Dauan Fuel Infrastructure Upgrade, to TI Concrete Works Pty Limited for an amount of up to $322,773.20 excl. GST;

(b) Award tender No. TSIRC- 2023-605 Design and Construct Contract, Separable Portion B Poruma fuel Infrastructure Upgrade, to TI Concrete Works Pty Limited for an amount of up to $309,573.20 excl. GST; and

(c) Pursuant to Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer:

i. Power to make, amend or discharge the Contract No. TSIRC2023-605 (Separable Portion A and B); and

ii. Power to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation t this project, funding and contract including without limitation any options and/or variations asper Council's procurement and ethical sourcing policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

19. ENGINEERING SERVICES: Award Tender No. TSIRC 2023 – 603 – Masig Island Aerodrome Safety Upgrade

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
That Council resolves to:

(a) Award Tender No. TSIRC 2023-603 Masig Island Aerodrome Safety Upgrade – Separable Portion A Masig Island Helipad Upgrade to T.I. Concrete Works Pty Ltd for an amount and up to $1,436,254.33 excl. GST;

(b) Award Tender No. TSIRC 2023-603 ATSI TIDS Masig Island Aerodrome Safety Upgrade –Separable Portion B Masig Island Aerodrome Fencing Upgrade, to T.I. Concrete Works Pty Ltd for an amount and up to $479,217.00 excl. GST; and

(c) Pursuant to section 257 of the Local Government Act 2009 to Delegate power to the Chief Executive Officer:

- *power to make, amend or discharge the Contract No. TSIRC2023-603 (Separable Portion A and B); and*
- *power to negotiate, finalise, and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this project, funding and contract including without limitation any options and/or variations as per Council's procurement and ethical sourcing policy.*

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kabay Tamu *Second: Cr Rock Stephen*

That Council resolves to:

(a) Award Tender No. TSIRC 2023-603 Masig Island Aerodrome Safety Upgrade – Separable Portion A Masig Island Helipad Upgrade to T.I. Concrete Works Pty Ltd for an amount and up to $1,436,254.33 excl. GST;

(b) Award Tender No. TSIRC 2023-603 ATSI TIDS Masig Island Aerodrome Safety Upgrade – Separable Portion B Masig Island Aerodrome Fencing Upgrade, to T.I. Concrete Works Pty Ltd for an amount and up to $479,217.00 excl. GST; and

(c) Pursuant to section 257 of the Local Government Act 2009 to Delegate power to the Chief Executive Officer:

- **power to make, amend or discharge the Contract No. TSIRC2023-603 (Separable Portion A and B); and**

- **power to negotiate, finalise, and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this project, funding and contract including without limitation any options and/or variations as per Council's procurement and ethical sourcing policy.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

20. ENGINEERING SERVICES: Information Report – Capital Works Project Update

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
That Council notes this report.

RESOLUTION
Moved: *Cr Rocky Stephen* *Second:* *Cr Hilda Mosby*

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

21. ENGINEERING SERVICES: Information Report – 2023 Christmas Shutdown

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
That Council notes this report.

RESOLUTION
Moved: *Cr Lama Trinkoon* *Second:* *Cr Francis Pearson*

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

24. BUSINESS ARISING *(from Information Reports)*

The Chief Executive Officer advised if there is any Business Arising from the Information Reports to please contact the relevant Executive Director for further discussion.

25. STRATEGIC MATTERS

(a) Cr Conwell Tabuai enquired about Holy Trinity Church – Saibai Island – work over Christmas/New Year Period – considering there will be limited man power resources.

- Executive Director Building Services advised that work will continue over the Christmas/New Year Period as close to normal as possible.

(b) Cr Hilda Mosby enquired if there will be closure of amenities over the Christmas/New Year Period as Community may wish to use the facilities.

- Chief Executive Officer advised there should be no problem for Community to access amenities during the Festive Season.
- Executive Director Community Services added that TSIRC always gives access to Community of amenities throughout the Festive Season.

(c) Cr Rocky Stephen brought up Advancing the Masig Statement Working Towards 2037. We must endorse at the January 2024 Ordinary Council meeting in preparation for the new council in March 2024. It is important to support current administration and look at the strategic matters for current endorsement.

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Action:
The Mayor requested that the documents "Advancing the Masig Statement – Working Towards 2023" be submitted for consideration at the January 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting, prior to the 'Caretaker Period.'

26. Next Council Meeting Date: 23-24 January 2024

Noted by Council.

27. Official Close & Prayer

The Mayor thanked Councillors, Executives and Staff for their contributions in 2023 and made the following closing remarks:

- It has been a wonderful and challenging year where we learnt about our own strengths and weaknesses and also our peers' strengths and weaknesses.
- We strive to continuously and consistently improve community liveability and thank you to everyone for your trust.
- We are the most vulnerable local council in Australia.

The Mayor's heartfelt behest was for all to stay safe over the Festive Season and to spend quality time with family and loved ones.

The Chief Executive Officer added his thanks and appreciation to Council for its guidance and leadership throughout the year and made the following observations:

- We have moved from strength to strength.
- Thank you for doing your best every single day.
- It has been an honour and a privilege to work with you.
- With the new year on the horizon, I wish that you embrace it with an open heart and go forward with faith, hope, and courage.

The Mayor officially closed the meeting at 11.30am and then delivered the closing prayer.

……	……
Mr James William	Cr Phillemon Mosby
Chief Executive Officer	Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date:	Date:

DRAFT

Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

DRAFT

Economic Growth Committee

Minutes

Date:	15 December 2023
Time:	10.00am to 12.00nn
Venue:	Microsoft TEAMS Meeting Meeting ID: 417 972 878 534 Passcode: bq3cMS

1. Welcome | Quorum Confirmation | Opening Prayer

The Committee Chairperson (Cr Rocky Stephen) opened the meeting at 10.30am, noting that all Committee Members were present and welcomed Committee Members and staff.

Cr Conwell Tabuai delivered the opening prayer.

The Chairperson also made the following acknowledgements:

- Papa God for his continued blessing, guidance and protection for our communities and organisations;
- Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners of the Cairns region;
- Acknowledgements of Traditional Owners throughout Zenadth Kes and the communities and constituents that Council serves;
- All Elders with us, past, present and emerging leaders.

2. Noting of Apologies

There were no Committee Member apologies.

The following attendees were noted:

Chairperson & Committee Members	
Chairperson	Cr Rocky Stephen
Member	Cr Conwell Tabuai
Member	Cr Jimmy Gela
TSIRC Officers	
Acting Executive Director Financial Services	Ms Nicola Daniels
Executive Director Building Services	Mr Wayne Green – *left meeting at 12.25pm*
Executive Director Community Services	Mr Dawson Sailor
Acting Executive Director Corporate Services	Mr Gary Stevenson PSM
TSIRC Secretariat	Darryl Brooks
Guest	
Division 2 – Dauan	Cr Torenzo Elisala *(for discussion in relation to AI 7)*

The Committee noted that the Executive Director Financial Services was currently on leave and formally welcomed the Acting Executive Director Financial Services (Ms Nicola Daniels).

3. Conflict of Interest (COI) - Declarable/Prescribed

The Chairperson invited Committee Members to make any relevant conflict of interest declarations.

Cr Jimmy Gela advised that he had a possible conflict of interest in relation to AI 14 (CDEP Proposal) owing to his PBC/GBK role.

Cr Rocky Stephen (Chairperson) advised that he had a declarable conflict of interest in relation to AI 13 (Enterprise Divestment and Licence Fee Waivers) in relation to the Ugar Community Centre Kitchen as the owner of this enterprise is a direct family member (brother).

4. Ratified Minutes of Meeting held on 27 October 2023

The Committee noted the Ratified Minutes of its meeting held on 27 October 2023.

5. Action Items from Previous Meetings (verbal update)

The Acting Executive Director Financial Services provided the Committee with a verbal update on the status of action items from the previous meeting, as well as outstanding actions from other previous meetings. The Committee noted the update.

6. Economic Development Strategy

To be discussed at the January 2024 SARG Meeting.

- *Cr Torenzo Elisala (Division 2 – Dauan) dialled in to the meeting at 11.15am.*

7. Ugar & Dauan Transport Business Case (verbal discussion)

The Chairperson welcomed Cr Elisala to the meeting and thanked him for making time to discuss and contribute to the Committee's deliberations. Cr Elisala thanked the Committee for extending this invitation to him to participate and looked forward to contributing towards progressing this important issue.

The Acting Executive Director Corporate Services referred the Committee to the background papers provided which outlines a proposal to develop a business case for alternative and improved methods of transportation options on helicopter and ferry services for Dauan and Ugar Islands.

The Acting Executive Director Corporate Services reminded the Committee that a prior proposal from Lucid Economics (May 2023) and advised that Lucid Economics are aware that TSIRC has revised the scope of the project and are going back to market. There is therefore no obligation from Council to Lucid Economics with this project and that firm has expressed an interest in resubmitting a quote for the revised scope.

The Committee supported the new transport business case as proposed and requested that the following points be noted:

- Include options for alternatives around safety issues with prevailing winds in the area. Cr Elisala indicated that the current location of the new helipad site on Dauan is not ideal because of prevailing winds.
- Include options for improved service provision for any breakdowns associated with the ferry service (i.e. mobile mechanic)
- Explore options for governments and non-government agencies and departments to co-contribute to the project (similar to assistance being provided to Rebel Marine for the Hammond Island Ferry Service).

The Committee also supported the proposal by the Acting Executive Director Corporate Services that the following three consultants be invited to submit a quote on the proposal:

1. Lucid Economics (provided previous proposal in May 2023
2. Emver Partners (consultants based on Thursday Island)
3. Synergies Economic Consulting (has done work in the Torres Strait)

The Chairperson thanked Cr Elisala for his contributions to the Committee's deliberations on this matter and extended him an invitation to participate again at the February 2024 Committee meeting when this matter is discussed again. Cr Elisala thanked the Committee for the opportunity to

participate and contribute and emphasised that this project will make an incredible difference in the quality of life for smaller communities in the Torres Strait like Ugar and Dauan.

The Acting Executive Director Corporate Services advised that Committee that a broad timeframe for the next stages in this project are as follows:

- Jan 2024 – request for quote process (allowing 3-4 wks for consultants to put together a meaningful quote)
- Feb 2024 – receive submissions and take a decision (provided the funding available is sufficient to cover the quotes that are received)
- Feb 2024 – award the contract
- Apr/May 2024 – community consultations (not ideal for a community consultation process to commence in the lead-up to local government election period)

RESOLUTION:
Moved: Cr Conwell Tabuai *Seconded: Cr Jimmy Gela*
The Committee:

a) supports the new Ugar and Dauan Transport Business Case as proposed and requests that the following points be noted:
- **Inclusion of alternative options around safety issues with prevailing winds specific to the area;**
- **Inclusion of options for improved service provision for any breakdowns associated with the ferry service (i.e. speedy access to a mobile mechanic)**
- **Explore options for government and non-government agencies and departments to co-contribute towards the project; and**

b) Notes that the following three consultants will be invited to submit a quote on the proposal:
1. **Lucid Economics (provided previous proposal in May 2023**
2. **Emver Partners (consultants based on Thursday Island)**
3. **Synergies Economic Consulting (has done work in the Torres Strait)**

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action/s:

Executive Director Corporate Services to provide an update at the Committee's February 2024 meeting.

8. Economic Opportunities under Aged Care Funding (verbal discussion)

The Executive Director Community Services advised the Committee that there is scope available under the Federal Department of Health Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) funding to engage members of the community to undertake yard maintenance for aged care clients, with the possibility of extending that type of work onto Council facilities in order to create opportunities for community members to start their own business from such work.

The Executive Director Community Services and the Head of Community Services are currently preparing further information for presentation to the February 2024 Economic Growth Committee meeting.

Action/s:

The Executive Director Community Services to present an update at the February 2024 Economic Growth Committee meeting.

9. BSU Performance Update (verbal discussion)

The Executive Director Building Services provided the following update for the Committee:

- Currently reviewing maintenance agreements with our funding partners (rates and the mark-ups for the delivery of our services tool). Have engaged a consultant (Quantity Surveyor) to review our rates. That has been finalised and a meeting with Qbuild is planned for the w/b 18 December 2023 to discuss the revised rates;
- Sales for maintenance is currently $1m ahead of schedule (compared to last financial year), however this is counteracted by home upgrades/ownerships where we are $1m behind on sales. Have been meeting with our funding partners to discuss the release of our future program of works in order to advance opportunities over the coming months;
- The recent engagement of the Head of Building Services (Mr Evaness Hollingsworth) has developed a roadmap for the coming months to further streamline the processes of our delivery of services (i.e. reshaping current structures, upgrade IT systems, etc);

The Chairperson reaffirmed the Committee's support and appreciation for the work of the TSIRC Building Services Directorate.

10. Indigenous Councils Funding Program (ICFP)

The Acting Executive Director Financial Services advised the Committee that Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning has allocated an additional $26m has been allocated to Indigenous Councils in the 2023-24 financial year. This is a one-off allocation and the administration is currently engaging with Peak Services to lobby the Queensland Government for this to become an annual allocation.

The Committee supports this approach.

11. MOVE INTO CLOSED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela *Second: Cr Rocky Stephen*

The Committee resolves to close the meeting to the public pursuant to section 254J of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to allow the Committee to discuss items listed on the agenda under Closed Business and for the reasons outlined under those items.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. MOVE OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Conwell Tabuai *Second: Cr Jimmy Gela*

The Committee resolves to move out of closed business and resume in open business

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED BUSINESS

12. Fuel Business Opportunities (verbal discussion)

Not discussed. The Committee noted that the Chief Executive Officer will provide an update at the January 2024 SARG Meeting and a further updated be provided to the Committee at its February 2024 Meeting.

- *Cr Rocky Stephen declared his conflict of interest in relation to AI 13.*
- *Cr Conwell Tabuai proposed that Cr Stephen be allowed to remain present during deliberation of this agenda item, but refrain from voting. This proposal was supported by Cr Jimmy Gela.*

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Conwell Tabuai *Second: Cr Jimmy Gela*

The Committee agrees that Cr Rocky Stephen should remain present during deliberation of Agenda Item 13 (Enterprise Divestment Strategy/Policy), but shall refrain from voting on this matter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *Cr Rocky Stephen remained present during deliberations, then departed the meeting at 1.15pm prior to endorsement of the resolution.*
- *Cr Conwell Tabuai chaired the meeting in the absence of Cr Stephen.*

13. Enterprise Divestment Strategy/Policy (verbal discussion)

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela *Second: Cr Conwell Tabuai*

The Committee makes the following recommendations to Council:

1. **That Council resolve to cancel the divestment of the following enterprises and assets, due to the passage of time, surrender or abandonment, and due to the need to undertake a feasibility and sustainability analysis and develop a formal TSIRC Divestment Policy:**
    - **Boigu Motel/Guesthouse/ICC demountables**
    - **Boigu Crab Farm**
    - **Dauan Guesthouse**
    - **Dauan Kiosk**
    - **Erub Fish Freezer**
    - **Erub Ocean View Lodge Accommodation**
    - **Hammond Arts Centre Complex including nursery**
    - **Kubin Horticulture**
    - **Kubin Arkal Kaziw Childcare Centre**
    - **Kubin Mrs Lizzie Nawia Motel**
    - **Kubin Mualgal Minnaral Artists' Collective (Arts Centre Lot 73)**
    - **Mabuiag Guesthouse/Motel**
    - **Mabuiag Kiosk**
    - **Mabuiag Donga Accommodation**
    - **Poruma Sawadgee Donga Accommodation**
    - **Poruma Kiosk**
    - **St Pauls Old Childcare Centre**

- **St Pauls Mechanical Workshop**
- **Warraber Kiosk (Saloma Kaikai House)**
- **Saibai New Canteen**
- **Saibai Old Canteen**
- **St Pauls Nursery**
- **Ugar Community Centre Kitchen**
- **Warraber Guesthouse**
- **Warraber Motel/Resort**
- **Iama Kiosk**
- **Iama Kodakal Lodge**
- **Iama Sundowner Guest House**
- **Saibai Guesthouse**
- **Saibai Variety Store including gym**
- **Ugar Ferry Service including trailer**
- **Ugar Freezer**

2. **That Council direct Legal Services to notify previously approved applicants of the above resolution.**
3. **That Council direct Financial Services to engage a consultant to undertake a financial analysis of all non-divested enterprises and assets and to make recommendations to Council on the feasibility of asset divestment or retention. This will inform the development of Council's Divestment Policy and Enterprise Development Strategy.**
4. **That Council adopts a policy position of first option rights for previously approved divestees.**
5. **That a further report regarding existing completed divestments and divestments completed (lease pending) be submitted to the Economic Growth Committee and Council early in 2024.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *Cr Rocky Stephen rejoined the meeting following endorsement of the above agenda item resolution.*
- *Cr Rocky Stephen resumed the Chair at 1.20pm.*

14. CDEP Proposal (verbal discussion)

To be discussed at the January 2024 SARG Meeting.

17. General / Other Business (on notice)

Cr Conwell Tabuai requested that consideration be given to a review of the Councillor Remuneration and Reimbursement of Expenses policy to consider the payment of Sitting Fees from the Professional Development Fund for undertaking Committee-related activities.

Action/s:

The Executive Director Corporate Services to present an update at the February 2024 Economic Growth Committee meeting.

DRAFT

18. Next Meeting Date: (TBC) 8 February 2024

The Committee noted the next meeting date of 8 February 2024.

19. Closing Remarks & Prayer

The Chairperson thanked Committee Members and Administrative Staff for their attendance and contributions at the meeting today and throughout the year.

The Chairperson acknowledged the Executive Director Financial Services for her executive support to the Committee throughout 2023, as well as the contributions of her staff.

The Chairperson also thanked the Acting Executive Director Corporate Services for his contributions in assisting the Committee with advice and by expediting a number of outstanding matters.

The Chairperson also made special mention of Mayor Phillemon Mosby, who recognised economic development as a very high priority for the Torres Strait region and championed the establishment of the Economic Growth Committee to guide Council in its deliberations.

The Chairperson formally closed the meeting at 1.45pm, and Cr Conwell Tabuai delivered the closing prayer (asking for blessings to be extended to all Councillors, all TSIRC staff and all communities throughout the TSIRC footprint for the upcoming Festive Season and throughout 2024).

Cr Rocky Stephen
Chairperson
Economic Growth Committee

15 December 2023

DRAFT

RATIFIED AT THE JANUARY 2024 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING.

……	……
Mr James William	**Cr Phillemon Mosby**
Chief Executive Officer	**Mayor**
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	**Torres Strait Island Regional Council**
Date: 24 January 2024	**Date: 24 January 2024**

Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Culture, Arts, Land & Heritage (CALH) Committee

DRAFT

Minutes

Date: 11 January 2024

Time: 10.00am to 12.00nn

Venue: Microsoft TEAMS Meeting

1. Welcome | Quorum Confirmation | Opening Prayer

The Committee Chairperson (Cr Ranetta Wosomo) opened the meeting at 10.05am, welcoming fellow Committee Member Cr Torenzo Elisala and staff.

Cr Torenzo Elisala delivered the opening prayer.

The following attendees were noted:

Chairperson & Committee Members	
Chairperson	Cr Ranetta Wosomo
Member	Cr Torenzo Elisala

TSIRC Officers	
Executive Director Community Services	Mr Dawson Sailor
Acting Executive Director Corporate Services	Mr Gary Stevenson PSM
Senior Legal Officer	Ms Julia Mauro
TSIRC Secretariat	Darryl Brooks

2. Noting of Apologies

The Committee noted an apology from the Mayor who was unable to attend due to a medical appointment.

3. Conflict of Interest (COI) - Declarable/Prescribed

The Chairperson invited Committee Members to make any relevant conflict of interest declarations.

No declarations were made.

4. Ratified Minutes of Meeting held on 15 March 2023

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala *Seconded: Cr Ranetta Wosomo*

The Committee noted the Ratified Minutes of its meeting held on 15 March 2023.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Action Items from Previous Meetings (verbal update)

The Acting Executive Director Corporate Services (Mr Gary Stevenson PSM) and the TSIRC Senior Legal Officer (Ms Julia Mauro) provided the Committee with verbal updates on the status of action items from the previous meeting. The Committee noted the updates.

6. Community Radio

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Committee recommends to Council that:

1. *The renewal of licenses update be noted,*
2. *The representations made to the Australian Communications and Media Authority be endorsed,*

3. *The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to facilitate an expression of interest process to identify a suitable service broadcaster and,*
4. *The Chief Executive Officer be requested to present expressions of interest to Council as soon as practicable after the 2024 local government election for consideration, with of a recommendation to Council to follow in April/May 2024.*

RESOLUTION:
Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala *Seconded: Cr Ranetta Wosomo*

The Committee recommends to Council that:

1. **The renewal of licenses update be noted;**
2. **The representations made to the Australian Communications and Media Authority be endorsed;**
3. **The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to facilitate an expression of interest process to identify a suitable service broadcaster; and**
4. **The Chief Executive Officer be requested to present expressions of interest to Council as soon as practicable after the 2024 local government election for consideration, with a recommendation to Council to follow in April/May 2024.**

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee also offered the following suggestions in relation to this process:

- The shortlisted/preferred EOI applicants be invited to present to Council prior to Council endorsement of a service broadcaster for the region; and
- A community consultation process be undertaken in relation to this project as the community radios are an important communication resource which is valued and utilised widely throughout the Torres Strait Islands.

7. MOVE INTO CLOSED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION
Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala *Second: Cr Ranetta Wosomo*

The Committee resolves to close the meeting to the public pursuant to section 254J of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to allow the Committee to discuss items listed on the agenda under Closed Business and for the reasons outlined under those items.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. MOVE OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION
Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala *Second: Cr Ranetta Wosomo*

The Committee resolves to move out of closed business and resume in open business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED BUSINESS

8. CORPORATE SERVICES: Torres Strait Islander Flag Policy

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala *Second: Cr Ranetta Wosomo*

The Committee refers the draft Torres Strait Islander Flag Policy to the Strategic Advisory Reference Group (SARG) to consider recommending to Council that Council decline statutory licensing royalties from the Copyright Agency on the basis of Council's policy that Council does not seek any financial reimbursement for the use of the Torres Strait Islander flag image.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Executive Director Community Services (Mr Dawson Sailor) suggested to the Committee that following consideration of this matter by SARG and the Council, the Committee may like to consider recommending to Council that the Torres Strait Islander community be made aware of the history and copyright arrangements for the Torres Strait Islander Flag.

Action/s:

The Acting Executive Director Corporate Services to seek advice from SARG about the formal colour codes used for the Torres Strait Islander Flag, for inclusion in the policy.

11. General / Other Business (on notice)

The Chairperson invited Cr Elisala and other attendees to nominate matters for consideration.

Cr Torenzo Elisala sought information on Councillors' professional development funds and/or funds to support future Committees to better undertake their Terms of Reference responsibilities for the purposes of expediting progress on matters considered.

Action/s:

The Executive Director Corporate Services to consult with the Executive Director Financial Services and provide the Committee with feedback out of session with advice on any budget allocations available to assist Committees Members (i.e. training, meeting/conference attendances, etc.) in relation to Committee business.

Cr Ranetta Wosomo sought clarification on the regularity of Committee Meetings and suggested that the current arrangement for Committees to meet quarterly is inadequate to address matters placed before them. This sentiment was supported by Cr Torenzo Elisala.

The Acting Executive Director Corporate Services (Mr Gary Stevenson PSM) advised the Committee that the regularity of future Committee Meetings will be a matter addressed by the new Council in 2024.

12. Closing Remarks & Prayer

In closing this last meeting of the Culture, Arts, Land and Heritage Committee in this term of Council, the Chairperson thanked Committee Member Torenzo Elisala for his involvement, time, input and commitment over the lifetime of this current Committee.

The Chairperson also acknowledged and thanked the Senior Legal Officer (Ms Julia Mauro) for her guidance, advice and contributions to the work of the Committee during its term.

The Chairperson also made special mention of the Executive Director Community Services (Mr Dawson Sailor) for his leadership of the Committee in its early stages and for his ongoing readiness to advise.

The Chairperson also thanked the Acting Executive Director Corporate Services (Mr Gary Stevenson PSM) for his advice and guidance during the short period that he has been with Council and particularly in the leadup to this last meeting of the Committee.

Cr Torenzo Elisala took the opportunity to congratulate Cr Ranetta Wosomo on chairing her first/last meeting of the Committee for this term and added that he looked forward to continuing the work of the Committee should he and Cr Wosomo be elected to the next term of Council. Cr Elisala also thanked the administrative staff and thanked both Dawson Sailor and Julia Mauro in particular for their work during the term of the Committee.

The Chairperson delivered the closing prayer and the meeting was formally closed at 11.40am.

Cr Ranetta Wosmo
Chairperson
Culture, Arts, Land and Heritage Committee

11 January 2023

RATIFIED AT THE JANUARY 2024 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING.

……	……
Mr James William	**Cr Phillemon Mosby**
Chief Executive Officer	**Mayor**
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	**Torres Strait Island Regional Council**
Date: 24 January 2024	**Date: 24 January 2024**

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING ACTION ITEMS

Agenda Item	Action	Action Area	Current Status
Dec 2023 Mtg AI 12 2024 Election and Caretaker Period Arrangements	Acting Executive Director Corporate Services to send out to Councillors useful links relating to election information on the upcoming 2024 Local Government Elections.	ED Corporate Services	Completed. Email sent to Councillors on 4 Jan 2024.
Dec 2023 Mtg AI 25 (c) Advancing the Masig Statement Working Towards 2037	The Mayor requested that the documents "Advancing the Masig Statement – Working Towards 2023" be submitted for consideration at the January 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting, prior to the 'Caretaker Period.'	ED Corporate Services	
Nov 2023 Mtg AI 32(g) Removal of Unwanted Persons	Executive Director Corporate Services (Legal Services) to prepare advice for the December 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting on the removal of unwanted persons from the community.	ED Corporate Services / Legal Services	
Oct 2023 Mtg AI 31 (c) Business Arising (from Information Reports)	<u>Ugar Dredging Matters (Cr Rocky Stephen)</u> November 2023 Council Workshop to consider options to address issues in relation to dredging matters for standard Ugar access.	ED Engineering Services	Discussed at Nov 2023 Council Wokshop. ED Engineering Services to report back to Council.

Agenda Item	Action	Action Area	Current Status
Sept 2023 Mtg AI 7 Mayor Report	ED Corporate Services to explore social media options for Councillors to promote TSIRC News.	ED Corporate Services	In progress.
Sept 2023 Mtg AI 11 Community Grants Program Allocation	1. ED Corporate Services to review options available to Division 5 (Badu) in relation to future applications under the Community Grants Program for the remainder of the 2023-24 Financial Year.	ED Corporate Services	1. Cr Wosomo to alert when need arises.
September 2023 Mtg AI 16 Auditor-General Observation Report on the Interim Audit for the Y/E 30 June 2023	ED Corporate Services to oversee the review and update of the TSIRC Recruitment Policy to include the requirement for criminal history checks for positions that warrant a higher level of vetting as part of the recruitment process.	ED Corporate Services	Paper to be presented to Dec 2023 Council Mtg.
Aug 2023 Mtg AI 8 Action Items from Previous Meetings	<u>(Refer also AI 34 of July 2023 Meeting – Garbage/Waste Collection Vehicle for Moa):</u> 1. Chief Executive Officer will obtain an update via Executive Director Engineering, regarding "Safety – Manual Handling" training. 2. Executive Director Engineering and Acting Executive Director Corporate Services, in conjunction with the TSIRC Workplace Health and Safety Coordinator, to expedite interim safety procedures until a long-term solution can be arranged.	ED Engineering Services / ED Corporate Services (WHS Coordinator)	In progress. Priority being made for an interim replacement vehicle for Moa, followed by the delivery of donated fleet from the Gold Coast Regional Council.
July 23 Mtg AI 34 General Matters	**(6) Fuel Depot upgrade/repair for the ageing fuel infrastructure on Arkai** Executive Director Engineering Services to explore short-term/long-term solutions.	ED Engineering Services	In progress.
	(7) Asset Condition Report	ED Corporate Services/ED Engineering Services	In progress. Peak Services to coordinate.

Agenda Item	Action	Action Area	Current Status
	Acting Executive Director Corporate Services to prepare relevant correspondence to the TSRA around costings before the November 2023 TSRA Board Meeting (discuss with Cr Rocky Stephen prior to submission).		
	(8) Hammond Island Ferry Service Acting Executive Director Corporate Services to draft correspondence to Chief Executive Officer TSRA requesting funding for a feasibility study for the Hammond Island Ferry Service.	ED Corporate Services	Matter currently being follow-up through the Economic Growth Committee Chair and ED Corporate Services to prepare specific request for funding to the TSRA.
	(9) Alternative Location for Helicopter Landings on Oval at St. Paul's Executive Director Community Services to investigate a more suitable area for the Helipad on Wug that would not interfere (noise and distribution of dust and debris) with local school and surrounding houses.	ED Community Services	Ongoing. Currently working with Cr Levi and the local PBC to identify an alternative site.

Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Mayors Report January 2024

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT

ORDINARY MEETING:	January 2024
DATE:	23 – 24 January 2024
ITEM:	Agenda Item for Resolution by Council
SUBJECT:	Mayor Report – January 2024
AUTHOR:	Mayor Mosby

Recommendation:
That the Mayor's Report be noted.

Executive Summary:
The Mayor's monthly report summarises key operational activities undertaken since the previous Council meeting, including any key media activities.

This report has been tabled for noting.

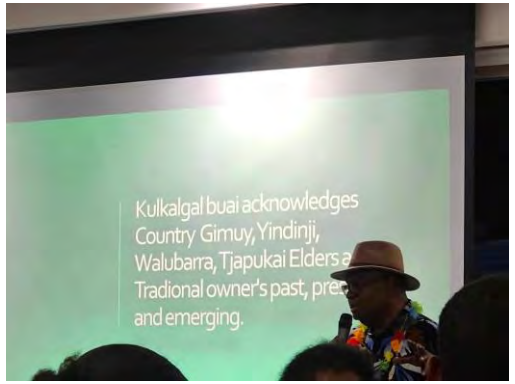
Cr Phillemon Mosby
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council

Key Correspondence Received **Email: mayor@tsirc.qld.gov.au**	• Acting Director-General of the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works Re: **Modelling Meeting Procedures**.	12 January 2024
Key Correspondence Sent	• Poruma Seawall Opening Ceremony Invitations signed by Mayor Mosby. • Hon Scott Stewart Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals Re: **Iama Transfer Negotiations.**	Sent December 2023 22 December 2023
Ministerial Meetings		
Media		

CAIRNS CENTRAL ISLAND FAMILIES SING-ALONG NIGHT

NOVOTEL CAIRNS OASIS RESORT

5 JAN 2024



PORUMA SEAWALL OPENING CEREMONY
TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 2024

PORUMA COMMUNITY ACKNOWLEDGING DEPUTY MAYOR CR LUI LEADERSHIP PRIOR TO HIS RETIREMENT THIS YEAR

TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 2024

SALTY MONKEY ENGAGEMENT ON PORUMA

WORKING WITH PORMALGAL YOUTHS REGARDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE AROUND MARINE DEBRIS MANAGEMENT AND MARINE BOAT SAFETY.

EXHIBITION LAUNCH CAIRNS COURTHOUSE FRIDAY 19 JANUARY 2024

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

COUNCIL REPORT

ORDINARY MEETING:	January 2024
DATE:	23-24 January
ITEM:	Agenda Item for Noting by Council
SUBJECT:	Building Services Update
AUTHOR:	Wayne Green – Executive Director TSIRC BSU

Recommendation:

Council resolves to note the Building Services Report for December 2023.

Executive Summary:

This report provides an overview of the ongoing activities carried out by the Building Services Unit (BSU) during the reporting period of December 2023.

Upgrade & HO Program:

BSU has initiated the tendering process for this financial year, Upgrade Works & Home Ownerships. Regular meetings with funding partners are being held to address challenges related to high delivery costs, extended timeframes for project completion and tender awarding.

Current Status (as of 30 December 2023)

Tenders Awaiting Approvals - 65

Upgrades – 54 projects ($8.6m)

Home Ownerships – 11 projects ($6.5m)

Upgrade and HO Program - Revenue Comparison July to December

	2022		2023		Variance
$	5,385,555.09	$	5,735,395.72	$	349,840.63

The above figures are based upon actual invoices and do not include accruals.

Priority Upgrade works, in the Vacant and Dis-Mod (OT) work types, has been initiated for enhanced visibility and priority actions.

Strategies are continuing the implementation of planning for the delivery of the NAHA Upgrade program and Home Ownerships. These strategies encompass:

- Reviewing contractors' existing workloads
- Prioritising essential works
- Conducting bulk tendering for all upgrades in each community
- Holding contractors accountable through liquidated damages
- Reviewing and modifying contracts to mitigate risk to TSIRC (e.g., material, freight, flights, etc.)

R&M Program:

The realignment of the Tier 1 stream has continually improved service delivery to our customers and most importantly our communities. This restructure has also led to increased revenue for TSIRC.

As of 31December, 2023, there is a backlog of maintenance work comprising 2289 tasks with a total value of approximately $3.4 million that has been pending for over 30 days. The increase of 500plus tasks is due to Cyclone Jasper events and Christmas closure – strategies have been implemented to address especially the increased aged works.

R&M Program - Revenue Comparison July to December

	2022		2023		Variance
$	4,922,265.72	$	5,891,730.55	$	969,464.83

The above figures are based upon actual invoices and do not include accruals.

Housing Investment Plan (Capital Housing Program) - $14.4M:

Stage 1 funding was released on September 27, 2022. In October 2023 Council resolved to deliver the program through a staged approach and in partnership with QBuild. Working closely with Community Services and identifying the priorities for deliveries (domestic violence, disability services and overcrowding) the Communities of Erub, Iama, Mabuiag, Saibai and Warraber have been identified as priority 1.

Meetings and presentations with Warraber and Mabuiag PBC's were delivered on the 10 January regarding how TSIRC wished to work closely with the PBC's to ensure we are improving our communities liveability and the restricted funding Council has to deliver this program. Discussions focussed on designs and fees associated with Social Housing ILUA's. Both meetings were positive and further follow up meetings will be planned to implement the finalisation of the ILUA's.

Business Relationships:

Meetings are continuing on a weekly basis between BSU and key stakeholders.

TSIRC BSU and Communities are working together in partnership to improve the delivery of service to our communities to ensure we are improving the liveability within each Division

Logistics:

TSIRC Contract documentation has been updated to establish contractor accountability for the projects they undertake. Timely project delivery is a priority for TSRIC.

Considerations:

Risk Management

- Continued review of scheduled works for this financial year to clarify projects and their financial impact.
- Ongoing review of departmental structure, resourcing, and processes to enhance service delivery across all levels.
- Regular monitoring of performance to manage revenue, expenses, service delivery, and community outcomes

Consultation:

- Building Services Executive Director
- Building Services Management
- Business Services Accountant
- Building Services Construction Software
- Procore Published Industry statistical data

Links to Strategic Plans:

Corporate Plan 2020-2025

- Delivery of Capital Works program

Statutory Requirements:

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012*
- *National Construction Code Building Act 1975*
- *Building Regulation 2006*
- *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991*
- *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018*

Conclusion:

That Council notes the information contained in this report.

Recommended:
Wayne Green
Executive Director Building Services

Approved:
James William
Chief Executive Officer

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT

ORDINARY MEETING:	January 2024
DATE:	23-24 January 2024
ITEM:	Agenda Item for Resolution by Council
SUBJECT:	Community Grants Program Allocation – January 2024
AUTHOR:	Lisa-Mae Meara, Community Grants Officer, Enterprise Development and Delivery Team

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Recommendation:

Council resolves to:

(a) allocate Community Grants Program funding to the following applicants in accordance with the Community Grants Policy:

- Dhahdin Geai Warriors for the available amount of $10,000.00, exclusive of GST; **Note: Badu fund balance of $882.29 will not be sufficient to support the application of $10,000.00.**

(b) note this report of grant applications processed out-of-cycle and funeral donations provided in January 2024 in accordance with the Community Grants policy.

Executive Summary:

In accordance with Council's Community Grants Policy, one (1) Community Grant applications meeting eligibility requirements were received during the reporting period that require Council resolution:

Applicant	Amount Requested	Project/Event	Amount Supported by Councillor	Applications submitted within the last 3 years	Location
Dhahdin Geai Warriors	$10,000.00	Contribution towards costs associated with hosting the 2024 Island of Origin event on Badu Island, 14-16/06/2024.	$10,000.00 supported by Cr Ranetta Wosomo	Nil	Badu

Links to Strategic Plans:

These projects strategically align to specific delivery objectives under the People and Prosperity pillar of Council's Corporate Plan.

Finance & Risk:

No financial risk identified as the allocation is within existing Community Grants budget.

Sustainability:

N/A

Statutory Requirements:

Local Government Act 2009

Conclusion:

Council resolves to note this report of grant applications processed out-of-cycle and funeral donations provided in January 2023 in accordance with the Community Grants policy.

Prepared/Recommended:
Lisa-Mae Meara
Acting Community Grant Officer

Endorsed:
Susanne Andres
Executive Director Corporate Services

Approved:
James William
Chief Executive Officer

***Attachments**:*

1. *Fund Balances*
2. *Applications Processed During the Reporting Period*
3. *Reconciliation - Approved Funding Table*

Attachment 1: Fund Balances

(Balance prior to payment of applications endorsed during the January 2023 OM)
Please note that Divisional Closing Balances may vary between reporting periods due to variances between committed and actual expenditure, as well as applications that have been cancelled or withdrawn.

Division	Councillor	Budget	Less Approved Funding	Closing Balance
Boigu	Cr. Toby	$25,000.00	$21,342.91	$3,657.1
Hammond	Cr. Dorante	$25,000.00	$5,608.00	$18,332.0
St Pauls	Cr. Levi	$25,000.00	$23,619.52	$282.6
Ugar	Cr. Stephen	$25,000.00	$8,781.12	$16,218.9
Badu	Cr. Wosomo	$25,000.00	$23,473.71	$882.3
Dauan	Cr. Elisala	$25,000.00	$20,477.59	$4,522.4
Erub	Cr. Gela	$25,000.00	$9,596.83	$11,512.0
Iama	Cr. Lui	$25,000.00	$19,422.00	$5,578.0
Kubin	Cr. Trinkoon	$25,000.00	$7,973.20	$16,326.8
Mabuiag	Cr. Fell	$25,000.00	$14,806.94	$9,193.1
Mer	Cr. Noah	$25,000.00	$12,296.04	$4,500.4
Poruma	Cr. Pearson	$25,000.00	$7,626.60	$1,631.4
Saibai	Cr. Tabuai	$25,000.00	$17,217.95	$206.0
Warraber	Cr. Tamu	$25,000.00	$15,906.48	$4,093.5
Yorke	Cr. Mosby	$25,000.00	$10,699.04	$14,301.0
Mayor	Mayor Mosby	$15,000.00	$499.55	$14,000.5
Community Gifts	CEO	$25,000.00	$5,556.58	$19,443.40
		$415,000.00	**$224,904.06**	**$144,681.34**

Attachment 2: Applications Processed During the Reporting Period for Noting

Application Type	Community Entity Applicants	Amount Requested	Project/Event	Amount Approved	Location
Out-of-Cycle Applications	Norah Tabuai	$1,300.00	Contribution towards costs associated with hosting the community Christmas Dinner, 25/12/2023.	$1,300.00	Saibai
	Jack Matthew	$1,400.00	Contribution towards hosting the community end of New Year celebration dinner, 12-13/01/2024.	$1,400.00	Saibai
Funeral Assistance	James Zaro	$2,500.00	Funeral donation/travel assistance towards the funeral expenses of the Late Mrs Millia Salee on Mer Island, 12/12/2023	$2,500.00	Mer
	Georgina Thaiday	$2,271.02	Funeral donation towards the funeral expenses of the Late Ms Florrie Thaiday on Erub Island, 16/12/2023.	$2,271.02	Erub
	Ndoro Kaigey	$5,000.00	Funeral donation towards the funeral expenses of the Late Mrs Helen Mabo on Mer Island, 09/01/2024.	$5,000.00	Mer
	Nellie Lui	$5,000.00	Funeral travel assistance to attend the funeral service for the Late Mr Norman Baragud in Mackay, 19/01/2024.	$5,000.00	Yam
	Aken Baragud	$1,524.00	Funeral travel assistance to attend the funeral service for the Late Mr Norman Baragud in Mackay, 19/01/2024.	$1,542.00	Warraber

Attachment 3: Reconciliation - Approved Funding Table
This table refers to the divisional funds that have been approved and committed for this reporting period.

Division	Applicant	Completed Payments	Committed Funds	Approved Funding Total
Boigu	Saint Saviour Church – August 7th Festival	$4,538.50		$21,342.91
	Church of The Rock – Church Dedication Celebration	$1,858.50		
	Aron Tom – Funeral Travel Assistance	$512.00		
	Aron Tom – Funeral Travel Assistance (Return Travel)	$388.99		
	Gerari Peter – Funeral Donation Application	$4,044.92		
	Malu Kiwai – Dan Ropeyarn Cup catering expenses	$5,000.00		
	Malu Kiwai – Dan Ropeyarn Cup travel expenses	5,000.00		
Hammond	Gabriel Pearson – Funeral Travel Assistance	$1,440.00	$1,060.00	$5,608.00
	Rita Dorante	$4,168.00		
St Pauls	Lalita-Ann Kris - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials	$723.00		$23,619.52
	Toshina Sailor - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials	$723.00		
	Eunice Hosea – Funeral Travel Assistance	$5,000.00		
	Kozan Outreach Fellowship Ministry	$4,525.81		
	Lalita-Ann Kris - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials	$606.54		
	Toshina Sailor - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials	$606.54		
	Abigail Lui – Funeral Travel Assistance	$4,537.06		
	Samantha Kris – Year 6 Graduation	$2,191.57		
	Toshina Sailor – Funeral Travel Assistance	$3,926.00		
	Alice Namok - Make, Paint, and Sip Workshop	$780.00	$1,097.86	
	Kiali Wapau – Out-of-Cycle Community Grants		$2,500.00	
Ugar	Bob Modee – Ark of Transfiguration's Church Day	$2,282.79	$217.21	$8,781.12
	Ugar P&C Association – 2023 Ugar Graduation	$998.34	$1,001.66	

Division	Applicant	Completed Payments	Committed Funds	Approved Funding Total
	Diane Sabatino – Funeral Donation Assistance	$499.99		
	Joseph Pau	$5,000.00		
Badu	Brenda Nona - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials (Travel)	$723.00		$23,473.71
	Anaclita Ahmat - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials (Travel)	$723.00		
	Denna Nona - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials (Travel)	$723.00		
	Jesaray Nona - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials (Travel)	$723.00		
	Mulga Football Team – QLD Murri Rugby League Carnival	$5,000.00		
	Aragun Warriors – Gordonvale All Blacks Rugby League Carnival	$3,000.00		
	Louisa Ahmat – Daughter's Air Force Graduation	$930.00		
	Geiza Stow/Josephine Ahmat – Funeral Donation Assistance	$2,500.00		
	Kayin Koasals – Dan Ropeyarn Cup	$998.40		
	Aragun Warriors – Mackay All Blacks Rugby League Carnival	$1,000.00		
	Courtney Morseu – Tagai Secondary Graduation	$500.00		
	Elsie Nona - U12's Girls Rugby League State Championship	$1,215.35		
	Brenda Nona - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials (Accomm)	$606.54		
	Anaclita Ahmat - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials (Accomm)	$606.54		
	Denna Nona - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials (Accomm)	$606.54		
	Jesaray Nona - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials (Accomm)	$606.54		
	Josephine Ahmat – Funeral Donation Application	$1,245.44		
	Naizel Enosa – Funeral Donation Application	$1,221.25		

Division	Applicant	Completed Payments	Committed Funds	Approved Funding Total
	May Ahmat – Badu Year 6 Graduation	$545.11		
	Kulpiyam Youth & Spors Inc		$644.00	
Badu	Dhahdin Geai Warriors		$10,000.00*to be tabled at January Council meeting.	
Dauan	Roxin Eagles – Roxin Eagles Gala Night	$4,999.13		$15,477.59
	Wrench Mau – Funeral Travel Assistance	$5,000.00		
	Anai Bigie – Funeral Travel Assistance	$2,978.47		
	Charles Bigie – Funeral Travel Assistance (Return Travel)	$2,000.00		
	Diane Sabatino – Funeral Donation Assistance	$499.99		
	Dengham Elisala – Son's participating in 2024 National Junior Championships in Adelaide.		$2,500.00	
Erub	Maryann Tamwoy – Funeral Travel Assistance	$833.33		$10,988.00
	Meo Sailor – Funeral Travel Assistance	$833.33		
	Pensio Gela – Funeral Travel Assistance	$335.61		
	Sarah Gela – Funeral Travel Assistance	$686.81		
	Tabane Bustard – Funeral Travel Assistance	$1,48.54	458.46	
	Diane Sabatino – Funeral Donation Assistance	$799.47		
	Nazareth Thaiday – Funeral Travel Assistance	$3,742.89		
	Georgina Thaiday – Funeral Donation Assistance	$2,271.02		
Iama	Rene Baluz – Funeral Travel Assistance	$5,000.00		$19,422.00
	Getano Lui – Funeral Donation Application	$5,000.00		
	Milleon Tamu/Josephine David – Funeral Travel Assistance	$4,422.00		
	Nellie Lui – Funeral Travel Assistance.	$5,000.00		

Division	Applicant	Completed Payments	Committed Funds	Approved Funding Total
Kubin	Louise Manas – Funeral Travel Assistance	$4,474.95		$7,973.20
	Jeanon Bosun – Funeral Donation Application	$2,498.26		
	Jean Tamwoy – Funeral Travel Assistance		$700.00	
	Diane Sabatino – Funeral Donation Assistancwe	$999.99		
Mabuiag	Larissa Bani – Funeral Travel Assistance	$3,624.00		$14,806.94
	Goemu Bau Raiders – Dan Ropeyarn Cup	$5,993.46		
	Mabuygiw Garkaziw Kupay TSI Corporation - Dabangay Cultural Heritage Management Plan		$1,000.00	
	Bau Au Stingers – Dan Ropeyarn Cup	$4,890.00		
	Diane Sabatino – Funeral Donation Assistance	$299.48		
Mer	St James Anglican Church – Church Day Celebration	$1,999.61		$12,296.04
	Rottannah Passi – Funeral Travel Assistance	$1,000.00		
	Leila Passi – Funeral Donation Application	$5,000.00		
	Andrew Passi – Local Volley and touch competition.	$2,500.00		
	James Zaro – Funeral Donation Assistance	$2,500.00		
	Ndoro Kaigey – Funeral Donation Assistance	$5,000.00		
Poruma	Mokathani Lui – Annual Christmas Competition		$640.00	$7,626.60
	Kerriann Noack – Track & Field Trials	$2,272.30	$227.70	
	Barbara David – Kulkalgal Weaving Workshop		$2,500.00	
	Joseph Pearson – Funeral Travel Assistance	$867.30		
	Anthony Fauid – Funeral Travel Assistance	$1,487.00		
	Freddie David – Community Grants Assistance	$2,500.00		
	Gertie Lowatta – Zenadh Kes Volleyball Carnival		$7,602.00	

Division	Applicant	Completed Payments	Committed Funds	Approved Funding Total
	Diane Sabatino – Funeral Donation Assistance	$500.00		
	Renee Pearson – Funeral Donation Assistance	$5,000.00		
Saibai	Alimah Dai - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials (Travel)	$723.00		$17,217.95
	Alison Wosomo - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials (Travel)	$723.00		
	Bethel Wosomo - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials (Travel)	$723.00		
	Kaithalinah Wosomo - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials (Travel)	$723.00		
	White Dove Ministry – Church Musical Instruments	$5,000.00		
	Alimah Dai - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials (Accomm)	$606.54		
	Alison Wosomo - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials (Accomm)	$606.54		
	Bethel Wosomo - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials (Accomm)	$606.54		
	Kaithalinah Wosomo - Inaugural Under 17's NQ Sistas Rugby League Trials (Accomm)	$606.54		
	Mary Enosa – Funeral Travel Assistance	$5,000.00		
	Evelyn Dau – Funeral Donation Assistance	$2,499.00		
	Waiben Wosomo – Funeral Travel Assistance	$1,734.76		
	Mekei Wosomo	$444.00		
	Yakopeta Akiba-Bowie	$2,000.00		
	Norah Tabuai – Out-of-Cycle Community Grants Assistance`	$1,300.00		
	Jack Matthew – Out-of-Cycle Community Grants Assistance	$1,400.00		
Warraber	Louise Mari – Tikisha Mari World Challenge in New Zealand	$2,500.00		$15,906.48

Division	Applicant	Completed Payments	Committed Funds	Approved Funding Total
	Catharine Enosa – Community Sorry Business (Travel)	$1,602.00		
	Nancy Mari - Kenya Mari World Challenge in New Zealand	$2,000.00		
	Romiyah Tamu – James Cook UniLodge	$2,000.00		
	Florence Lui – Funeral Travel Assistance	$396.00		
	Patricia Harry – Funeral Donation Application	$5,000.00		
	Daniel Billy – Funeral Travel Assistance	$384.48		
	Diane Sabatino – Funeral Donation Assistance	$500.00		
	Donald Billy – Funeral Donation Assistance	$5,000.00		
	Aken Baragud – Funeral Travel Assistance	$1,524.00		
Yorke	Church of The Living God – Spring Church Conference	$1,872.56	872.56	$10,699.04
	Masig Thurud Wap – Dan Ropeyarn Cup	$3,000.00		
	Dalassa Billy – Funeral Travel Assistance	$4,325.43		
	Pensio Gela (Snr) – Funeral Travel Assistance	$1,501.05		
Mayor	Rowena Johnson – Funeral Donation Application	$499.55		$499.55
	Rowena Johnson – Funeral Travel Assistance		$500.00	
CEO – Community Gifts	Rowena Johnson – Funeral Donation Application	$1,899.27	$100.73	$5,556.58
	Rowena Johnson – Funeral Travel Assistance	$1,758.89	$241.11	
	Tagai State College – OOC-Bursary Awards Night	$1,000.00		
	Diane Sabatino – Funeral Donation Assistance	$898.42		

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

AGENDA REPORT

ORDINARY MEETING:	January 2023
DATE:	23/24 January 2023
ITEM:	Agenda Report
SUBJECT:	Funding Acquisition Report
AUTHOR:	Sharon Russell – Grants Administration Officer

Recommendation:

That Council resolves to note this report and its content.

Executive Summary:

The Funding Acquisition Report provides an update and summary of Council's current grant application and acquisition outcomes for the December reporting period.

Within the current financial year, Council have secured approximately $5 Million of funding through successful applications. Much of this funding was advocated by Engineering Services and applied for within the previous financial year.

In comparison to the same period, last year, see the table below:

	1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023	1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022
Applied for in period	18,172,738	3,712,729
Unsuccessful in period	(15,000,000)	196,150
Successful (applied in current period)	306,357	1,953,000
Successful (applied for in prior period)	4,607,357	3,060,000
Total succesful in period	**4,913,714**	**5,013,000**

Current Application Status Report:

The following two tables highlight all current and pending funding applications, including details on their outcome and a status report on all unsuccessful and long-term pending applications separated into Recurrent & Operational Funding and Capital Project Funding. Some applications can span numerous financial years. Please note, whilst the reporting period is for the fiscal year to align with Council's budget and projected forecasts, there will be a level of discrepancy between the figures listed on this report to and actuals reported in budget and financial reports. This is largely due to the carry-over of project underspends from operational funding, as well as capital projects that receive progress payments spanning over multiple financial years combined with revenue recognition requirements per Accounting Standards.

Operational Funding								
Funding Stream	Total	2023/24 FY	2024/25 FY	2025/26 FY	Project Details	Date of Application	Outcome	Current Status Report
QRRRF	*$162,737*	*$162,737*			*Mabuiag Dump Road Upgrade*	*20th December 2023*	*Pending*	*Expected Outcome Q1 2024*
Department of Sport & Recreation	*$391,229*	*$391,229*			*MIIFF – Kubin Sports Courts Upgrade*	*16th November 2023*	*Pending*	*Application submitted by Peak Services*
Department of Sport & Recreation	*$577,256*	*$577,256*			*MIIFF – Masig Island Sports Court Amenities*	*16th November 2023*	*Pending*	*Application submitted by Peak Services*
TRDI Innovation	*$1,735,159*	*$1,735,159*			*Satellite Tech supply & install 15 Starlink (Telstra is the lead applicant)*	*17th November 2023*	*Pending*	*Application submitted by Peak Services*
LGAQ – QCoast 2100 3.0	*$485,000*	*$485,000*			*Coastal Hazard Adaption Strategy – Implementation Funding*	*23rd June 2023*	*Pending*	*Expected outcome in Early 2024*
Department of Seniors, Disability Services, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	*$10,000*	*$10,000*			*Mepla Voice Project – Capture traditional island dance, songs, and hymns in each of the 3 language groups for preservation.*	*23rd June 2023*	*Successful*	
Torres Strait Regional Authority	*$85,000*	*$85,000*			*Funding for a Business Case to develop travel options for Dauan & Ugar.*	*31st May 2023*	*Successful*	

Total of Funding Applied **Noting funding can span over numerous financial years*	***$3,446,381***
Total of Funding Successful	*$95,000.00*
Total of Funding Unsuccessful	*$0*
Total of Funding Pending	*$3,351,381*

Capital Project Funding					
Funding Stream	**Total**	**Project Details**	**Date of Application**	**Outcome**	**Current Status Report**
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts	*$15,000,000*	*Growing Regions Round One – Expressions of Interest*	*2nd August 2023*	*Unsuccessful*	*Full application to be lodged in December 2023*
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts	*$306,357*	*Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program – Phase 4 Funding to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects.*	*July 2023*	*Successful*	*Confirmation of actual project/s to be determined.*
Torres Strait Regional Authority	*$1,530,000*	*Funding for the Erub Reservoir Refurbishment.*	*June 2023*	*Successful*	*Application submitted by Engineering Services*
Torres Strait Regional Authority	*$2,980,000*	*Funding for the Mabuiag Sewer Treatment Plant Replacement.*	*June 2023*	*Successful*	*Application submitted by Engineering Services*
Gambling Community Benefit Fund	*$12,357*	*Funding requested for minor capital works to be carried out on the Iama Basketball Courts to support the Iama Youth Group.*	*February 2023*	*Successful*	*Waiting on funding agreement and documentation*
Total of Funding Applied **Noting funding can span over numerous financial years*	***$19,828,714***				
Total of Funding Successful	*$4,828,714*				
Total of Funding Unsuccessful	*$15,000,000*				
Total of Funding Pending	*$0*				

Annual Local Government Funding

The table below highlights all Annual Local Government Funding, that Council was allocated for 2023/24. No application is required for this type of funding. Council officers note that the below figures will not reconcile to budget documents or financial statements as per AASB 1058, Council is required to recognise revenue on receipt of funds.

Annual Local Government Funding				
Funding Stream	**23/24 Total Allocation**	**Project Details**	**Date of Application**	**Comments**
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	*$26,521.43*	*This payment recognises the costs incurred by Local Government in providing support to their SES Groups and Units.*	*Annual Allocation*	*100% paid upfront for current financial year 23/24*
Financial Assistance – Indigenous Councils Funding Program	*$15,886,108*	*The ICFP replaces the SGFA & RRP and represents a significant investment in Queensland's Indigenous communities, increasing the Queensland Government's support for Indigenous councils by $25.8 million for 2023-24.*	*Annual Allocation*	*100% paid upfront for current financial year 23/24*
Financial Assistance – General Purpose	*$15,118,824*	*Financial Assistance General Purpose is an annual allocation-based program for local government bodies based on the principal of horizontal fiscal equalisation, enabling them to function by reasonable effort to an average standard.*	*Annual Allocation*	*100% paid upfront for current financial year 23/24*
Financial Assistance – Local Roads	*$239,119*	*Financial Assistance Local Roads is an annual allocation-based program to assist local governments with roads expenditure and to preserve its roads assets.*	*Annual Allocation*	*100% paid upfront for current financial year 23/24*
Total Allocation for 23/24	*$31,270,572.40*			

Councilor's Top 5 Priorities Status:

The Councilor Top 5 Priority Projects will be reported in a separate report on a quarterly basis during January, April, July, and October Council meetings.

Links to Strategic Plans:

- Corporate Plan 2020-2025:
  - People - Outcome 4: We are a transparent, open, and engaging Council.
  - Sustainability - Outcome 8: We manage Council affairs responsibly to the benefit of our communities.

Statutory Requirements:

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012*

Conclusion:

That Council resolves to note and provide any necessary feedback to this report.

Recommended:
Gary Stevenson
Acting, Executive Director of Corporate Services

Approved:
James William
Chief Executive Officer

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

MEETING

MEETING:	January 2024
SUBJECT:	Community Radio
AUTHOR:	Susanne Andres, Executive Director Corporate Services

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Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Notes the renewal of licenses update provided in this brief;
2. Endorses the representations made to the Australian Communications and Media Authority;
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to facilitate an expression of interest process to identify a suitable service broadcaster; and
4. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to present expressions of interest to the Council as soon as practicable after the 2024 local government election for consideration of a recommendation to Council in April/May 2024.

Background:

TSIRC's community broadcasting services licences listed below were due to expire in 2022.

Licence Number	Licence Area	Callsign	Expiry Date
10200	SAIBAI ISLAND RA1 – 106.1 MHz	4ACR	4/10/2022
10185	BOIGU ISLAND RA1 – 106.1 MHz	4ACR	4/10/2022
10197	MURRAY ISLAND RA1 – 106.1 MHz	4ACR	4/10/2022
10188	DAUAN ISLAND RA1 – 105.7 MHz	4ACR	4/10/2022
10194	KUBIN RA1 – 105.9 MHz	4ACR	4/10/2022
10203	STEPHENS ISLAND RA1 – 105.9 MHz	4ACR	5/10/2022
10209	YORKE ISLANDS RA1 – 106.1 MHz	4ACR	4/10/2022

At its Ordinary meeting in March 2022, Council resolved to adopt recommendations of the Cultural, Arts, Land and Heritage Committee to;

1. Apply to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to renew Council's community broadcasting services licences that are expiring in 2022, including Saibai Island, Boigu Island, Murray Island, Dauan Island, Kubin (Moa Island), Stephens Island and Yorke Island; and

2. Delegate authority to the CEO pursuant to section 257 of the Local Government Act 2009, to apply to and liaise with the ACMA for the licence renewals.

Subsequently, application was made to ACMA and approval granted in August 2022, but ACMA noted that none of the services were operating.

ACMA also emphasised Council's "*obligations to comply with the licence conditions applicable to community broadcasting services at Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Services Act 1992 (BSA). As well as licence conditions prohibiting the broadcasting of advertisements for which the licensee receives any consideration in cash or in kind and limiting the amount time that may be spent broadcasting sponsorship announcements, the condition at paragraph 9(2)(d) in Schedule 2 requires licensees to provide community broadcasting services for community purposes. The non-provision of the services for a lengthy period may potentially breach this licence condition.*"

ACMA also requested additional information as follows;

- "*The proposed recommencement of broadcasting of the services, including how and when it will be achieved, and how much programming (e.g. number of hours per week) will be locally produced.*
- *The proposed partnership with Black Star, including how much programming will be provided or produced by Black Star.*"

ACMA also requested that Council Please also submit a completed B12 application form for each service to enable the ACMA to issue a related apparatus licence.

The Torres Strait Islanders Media Association Inc (TSIMA) has licences in place for use of Council premises at:

1. Iama BRACS facility,
2. Poruma BRACS facility,
3. Warraber BRACS facility, and
4. St Pauls BRACS facility.

At the time Council was also aware of interest by Blackstar Media (in partnership with TSIMA) which made a presentation to Councillors at the November 2021 workshop.

At the May 2023 workshop another presentation was made by Lonestar Productions with interest in community radio broadcasting as part of a broad media and communications strategy. The Executive Director Community Services met with the principal of Lonestar Production Group in November 2023 and the Acting Executive Director Corporate Services held further discussion in late December 2023 to confirm the company's interest.

Officers Comment:

Unfortunately, due to turnover of key officers, the fulfilment of the ACMA requirements lagged.

However, the apparatus licence applications were lodged with ASCMA on 27 December 2023 by the Acting Executive Director Corporate Services (under delegated authority of the CEO).

ACMA has responded on 5 January to acknowledge Council's submissions. The risk of license lapsing appears therefore to have been averted.

The representations made to ACMA included the following;

- "Council acknowledges the delays and discontinuity of its handling of community radio broadcasting arrangements but clearly prioritises the relevant communities' best interests in all of its deliberations.
- With that in mind Council hopes to ultimately achieve a broader set of goals relating to media and communication in these communities. The community radio service is just one element of the potential broader strategy.
- Earlier this year Council received a presentation by Lonestar Productions Group regarding extensive community engagement and the potential to develop a comprehensive media strategy for the Torres Strait Islands. Council is attracted to this strategic approach and intends to facilitate if possible.

- During January 2024 it is my intention to present a report to Council to lay out a process whereby the strategy can be developed and enabled, and community radio broadcasting can recommence. The process will involve the negotiation with, and engagement of a suitable local broadcaster.
- It is anticipated that broadcasting will commence with the maximum practicable local programming in mid-2024.
- The detail regarding the broadcasting will be defined and can then be provided as a product of this process, hence I am not in a position to respond specifically to some aspects of your questions at present."

Given that there may be a number of suitable broadcaster interested in securing a licenses to provide community radio services, it is recommended that Council conducts a process to identify the most suitable service provider by calling for Expressions of Interest during February and March with a view to presenting the expressions of interest to Council as soon as practicable after the 2024 local government election.

The criteria for expressions of interest would address broader strategic objectives in addition to the community broadcasting services aligned to Council's Corporate Plan.

Submissions would then be considered and a recommendation made to Council at the April or May 2024 Ordinary meeting.

It is anticipated that this would allow sufficient time for the newly appointed licensee to prepare for and commence broadcasting in mid-2024.

Consultation:

The Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Director Community Services and the Senior Legal Officer have been involved in discussions leading to this report.

The Mayor and the Chair of the Culture, Arts, Land and Heritage Committee were provided an advance copy of the report for their awareness.

On 11 January 2024 the Culture, Arts, Land and Heritage Committee considered the report and endorsed the recommendation to the Strategic Advisory Reference Group (SARG). SARG considered the report at its meeting on 19 & 22 January 2024 and has subsequently endorsed the Committee's recommendation for consideration at the Council's Ordinary Meeting on 23-24 January 2024.

Links to Strategic Plans:

TSIRC Corporate Plan 2020–2025

"4.1 Foster increased community consultation opportunities for direct and indirect Council services or programs.

- *Refresh Council's community engagement strategy via the Youmpla Voice program, focusing on clear consultation models and identified sectors of community.*
- *Utilise linguists and graphic specialists to ensure greater access to Council content.*

4.2 Evolve Council's communication channels and community's access to information.

- *Launch Council's digital enablement program, evolving online and enabling physical access points.*
- *Work with key agencies and partners to establish regular community information materials and updates."*

Statutory Requirements:

Disposal of interest in land (lease/license) requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012* may apply to the recommended path.

Conclusion:

It is recommended that Council endorses the recommendations of both the Culture, Arts, Land and Heritage Committee and SARG that:

1. The renewal of licenses update be noted,

2. The representations made to the Australian Communications and Media Authority be endorsed,

3. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to facilitate an expression of interest process to identify a suitable service broadcaster and,

4. The Chief Executive Officer be requested to present expressions of interest to Council as soon as practicable after the 2024 local government election for consideration of a recommendation to Council in April/May 2024.

Recommended:

Susanne Andres
Executive Director Corporate Services

Approved:

James William
Chief Executive Officer

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING

MEETING:	23-24 January 2024
SUBJECT:	Change of Date & Venue Confirmation - March 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting
AUTHOR:	Gary Stevenson PSM – Acting Executive Director Corporate Services

Recommendation:

That Council resolves to conduct the March 2024 Ordinary Council meeting on Iama Island on 12-13 March 2024.

Background:

A schedule of meeting dates and locations was adopted by Council on 13 December 2022.

The March meetings (Council and Trustee) were to be held on 5-6 March 2024.

Officers Comment:

To facilitate the conduct of the meetings in conjunction with a function to celebrate the retirement and the long and valued service of Deputy Mayor Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) AM on a date that will maximise guest availability (including State Government representatives whose Parliament is sitting on 5-6 March) it is proposed to change the date of the March meetings (Council and Trustee) to 12-13 March 2024.

The 2024 local government election is to be held on 16 March 2024.

Consultation:

The Chief Executive Officer has consulted the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Links to Strategic Plans:

Nil

Statutory Requirements:

Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012

Conclusion:

Council is asked to change the date of the meeting to enhance this important event.

Recommended:
Gary Stevenson PSM
Acting Executive Director Corporate Services

Approved:
James William
Chief Executive Officer

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

MEETING

MEETING:	19-22 January 2024
SUBJECT:	Advancing the Masig Statement
AUTHOR:	Susanne Andres, Executive Director Corporate Services

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. **Adopts the report entitled "Advancing the Masig Statement - a 100 year journey to Ailan governance" and expresses appreciation to the report's author Ms Sandy Killick of Democracy Matters;**
2. **Requests the Chief Executive Officer to strengthen the report by describing the process of drafting, agreeing and endorsing the Masig Statement which would allow regional stakeholders to identify with the document;**
3. **Adopts the Masig Statement Action Plan;**
4. **Requests the Chief Executive Officer to allocate action responsibilities to relevant officers for further development of the actions, outcomes and timing;**
5. **Requests the Chief Executive Officer to incorporate the report findings into relevant strategic Council documents including the next version of Council's Corporate Plan;**
6. **Requests the Chief Executive Officer to prepare and submit to Council, a three-year Advocacy Strategy with a clear focus on the Commonwealth Government's next election to secure support/commitment to meaningfully advance the attainment of Masig Statement objectives no later than the end of May 2024;**
7. **Requests the Chief Executive Officer to prepare and submit to Council, a three-year Community Engagement Strategy (including activation of the regional Taskforce) to engender community awareness and enduring commitment to meaningfully influence relevant Commonwealth and State Government policy and financial settings no later than the end of May 2024;**
8. **Requests the Chief Executive Officer to change Council's website to include a dedicated page called "The journey to Ailan sovereignty by 2037" no later than the end of May 2024, with the web page to include promotion of the Action Plan, the Advocacy Strategy and the Community Engagement Strategy and that the case study 'Delivering climate suitable, healthy and affordable housing the Ailan way' be published as an example of a 'look, listen, adapt approach' and that other case studies using the Ailan Way be added over time;**
9. **Requests the Chief Executive Officer to include adequate provision in the draft 2024/25 operational budget to facilitate the implementation of relevant stages of the Action Plan and the implementation of the Advocacy Plan and the Community Engagement Plan;**
10. **Requests the Chief Executive Officer to report to Council post-election on the merit of establishing a role for one of Council's Standing Committees to monitor progress on advancing the Masig Statement.**

Background:

Council commissioned Democracy Matters to facilitate a workshop in November 2022, following Mayor Mosby's attendance at the 2022 ALGA National Congress where he engaged with the Director of Democracy Matters, Ms Sandy Killick.

Since that time Ms Killick has facilitated further workshop discussions with Councillors in May 2023 and November 2023, and has completed a report entitled "Advancing the Masig Statement - a 100 year journey to Ailan governance" (December 2023).

A copy of the report is attached along with November 2023 workshop notes and a draft Action Plan.

The Strategic Advisory Reference Group discussed progress of the report's development at its meetings in April and June 2023.

At the July 2023 Ordinary Meeting, Council agreed on establishing a taskforce which consists of community members, to represent communities and spearhead the Masig Statement and ensure the three LGAs (TSIRC, Torres Shire Council and Northern Peninsula Regional Area Regional Council) continue the advocacy on achieving objectives of the Masig Statement ie formation of the RoC.

Council also submitted a motion ("Masig Statement - Malungu Yangu Wakay") to the Local Government Association of Queensland for consideration at its 2023 Annual Conference, but the LGAQ Agenda Committee rejected the proposed motion.

While this was not considered to be acceptable (as recorded in the September 2023 Ordinary Council meeting minutes), it is noted that LGAQ in its correspondence committed to providing advocacy support including media support, advocacy and intergovernmental relations advice, securing meetings with State and Federal representatives, preparing briefing notes and supporting Council before, during and after those meetings and working to find opportunities to drive Council's agenda forward.

The Acting Executive Director Corporate Services has engaged recently with LGAQ's Head of Advocacy and has confirmed that the offer of assistance remains current.

At its November 2023 Councillors' workshop the following recommendations were captured;

- *"The Qbuild project is a powerful illustration of a 'look, listen, adapt' approach. Strongly recommend documenting the process and making it available on TS/RC website. Other opportunities for broadcasting this example of community developed solutions. (Can link to the Qld Productivity Commission 2017 Service Delivery in Remote and Discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.)*
- *There is a significant risk of staying in discussion mode. In the next term of council, it is very important to shift into 'doing' mode. Are there any opportunities in the Council Strategic Plan for experimenting? Experimenting allows stakeholders to step out of their political roles and be TS people.*
- *Link the 'Advancing the Masig Statement Action Plan' to Council's strategic plan.*
- *One of Council's committees be made responsible for nominated driving monthly discussion on advancing the Masig Statement.*
- *Plan ways to work at both local and regional levels throughout the next cycle of council to continue to make progress, bring more people into the discussion and generate momentum.*
- *Develop a Masig Statement section on the TS/RC website which showcases QBuild casestudy, August community celebrations and has links to any media about the Masig Statement to date."*

Officers Comment:

The report entitled "Advancing the Masig Statement - a 100 year journey to Ailan governance" (December 2023) records the current and recent phase of the journey and is a very sound reference document that will guide Council and the communities for the future.

The tenet of workshop conversations though clearly describes a need for progress to be emboldened with actions rather than words.

Specifically as a result of each of the workshops Ms Killick has advised as follows;

> *"The deliverable from the Workshop One in November 2022 is a report called 'Advancing the Masig Statement - A one hundred year journey to Ai/an sovereignty'. The report is written for a wide audience, covering the actions since 1937 lead up to the development of the Masig Statement. One section explains the meaning of self determination, regional autonomy and sovereignty. Other sections cover the Ai/an Way - Look, listen & adapt' as well as 'Next steps to regional autonomy.' It helps people understand the vision and ambitions of the Masig Statement.*
>
> > *Recommendation 1: That the report 'Advancing the Masig Statement - A one hundred year to Ai/an sovereignty' be adopted by Council in the January 2024 meeting.*
> >
> > *Recommendation 2: The report be strengthened by describing the process of drafting, agreeing and endorsing the Masig Statement - this would allow regional stakeholders to see themselves in this document.*
>
> *The focus of Workshop Two in May 2023 was an Action Plan for TS/RC. Attached is a draft Masig Statement Action Plan proposing 6 key strategies.*
>
> > *Recommendation 3: The Masig Statement Action Plan be reviewed by the SARG committee at the January 9th 2024 meeting. Changes can made in time for January 2024 Council meeting.*
> >
> > *Recommendation 4: The Masig Statement Action Plan approved by the SARG is tabled for adoption at January 2024 Council meeting. Once adopted, the parties responsible for each strategy can develop the next stage of the action plan - the actions, outcomes and timing for 12 month periods.*
>
> *Workshop 3 in November 2023 (post the Voice referendum) highlighted the significance and strength of the Masig Statement for moving Torres Strait Islanders towards a better future. The workshop also highlighted the need to move from discussion into action to achieve Masig Statement outcomes by 2037. The 'Ai/an Way - Look, listen and adapt' approach was discussed an effective vehicle for moving into action. A case study about the current housing pilot 'Delivering climate suitable, healthy and affordable housing the Ai/an way' has been developed to show the benefits of the Ai/an Way.*
>
> > *Recommendation 5: A new section be developed on the TS/RC website called 'The journey to Ai/an sovereignty by 2037.'*
> >
> > *Recommendation 6: The case study 'Delivering climate suitable, healthy and affordable housing the Ai/an way' be published as an example on the TS/RC website as an example of a 'look, listen, adapt approach' and that other case studies using the Ai/an Way be added overtime."*

These recommendations are considered to be essential elements of the platform for the next phase of the journey and have been incorporated into the Officer's Recommendation in this report along with suggestions regarding planning for advocacy, community engagement, strategic planning and budgeting summarised in short as follows;

1. Adoption and strengthening of the report entitled "Advancing the Masig Statement - a 100 year journey to Ailan governance"
2. Adoption of the Action Plan.
3. Embedding the Masig Statement objectives and actions into Council's strategic documents.
4. Preparation of a 3-year Advocacy Strategy aimed at influencing the next Commonwealth Government election.
5. Preparation of a 3-year Community Engagement Strategy.

6. Enhancement of Council's website to dedicate a page to inform readers about the journey to sovereignty by 2037.
7. Future budget allocation to achieve the above.

Consultation:

- Strategic Advisory Reference Group (19 & 22 January 2024)
- The Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director Community Services.
- The Mayor and Deputy Mayor have been provided with an advance draft of this report.
- Ms Sandy Killick was consulted regarding the report and recommendations.

Links to Strategic Plans:

Each of the strategic pillars described in the Corporate Plan are relevant as are several of the Outcomes including;

Outcome 1: We preserve cultural heritage, history and place.

Outcome 2: Our communities are safe, healthy and active.

Outcome 3: We ensure accessibility to community support services.

Outcome 5: We plan effectively for the future of our individual communities and region.

Outcome 7: Our communities are consulted around liveable places, aligned to lifestyle and environmental suitability.

Outcome 10: We advocate and foster regional prosperity through enterprise development.

Outcome 11: We invest in the retention of key skills within our region.

Outcome 12: We bring opportunity to our region and put our culture on the world stage.

In particular the following Objective and Key Deliverable are most relevant;

Obie ctive 4.3 Ensure community advocacy and engagement at all levels of government.

Deliverables:

- Facilitate Round Table Meetings and regular liaison with State and Federal Government Members, providing appropriate community feedback.
- Work with Community to provide a regional legal framework which addresses both State and Traditional Lore requirements.
- Continue implementation of regional governance via One Boat and Regional Plans.

Statutory Requirements:

Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012
Torres *Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2013*
Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984

Conclusion:

On the back of the earnest deliberations of the past two years it is appropriate and timely for Council at the end of its current term to establish a platform for future advancement of the Masig Statement.

Recommended:

Susanne Andres
Executive Director Corporate Services

Approved:

James William
Chie Executive Officer

DEMOCRACY MATTERS

Advancing the Masig Statement

A one hundred year journey to Ailan sovereignty

January 2024

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01. REPORT PURPOSE

Pre 1872, the people of the Torres Strait were self governing with a system of island leaders or *mamooses*. The seperate island communities were autonomous, independent and self-governing before being annexed by the British Colony of Queensland in 1872 and 1879.

This report documents the work of past and present Torres Strait Islanders striving to establish a balance between island based self governance and top down state/federal governance.

The first call for Ailan Government was in 1937 at the inaugural Torres Strait Island Councillors Conference on Masig Island. As the eighty fifth anniversary of the Conference approached, Torres Strait people faced the same health, housing and economic problems raised in 1937. Community discussions and action resulted in **Malungu Yangu Wakay, the Voice from the Deep -** the **Masig Statement** of 2022.

The **Masig Statement** is a fresh call for self determination and regional autonomy so Torres Strait peoples can freely pursue economic, social and cultural development.

It is a living statement from Torres Strait people to all partners - local, state, federal representatives, as well as public servants, private sector partners and other stakeholders.

To understand the significance and promise of the Masig Statement, it is necessary to understand the actions of Torres Strait people, especially since 1937. Here you can read the history behind the Masig Statement.

This report explains the necessity of a 'look, listen, adapt' approach going forward. Finally, it invites each of us to consider the purposeful actions we must take to bring the Masig Statement alive by August 2037.

02. CHALLENGES

OVERGOVERNED

Torres Strait people are overburdened with federal & state bureaucracy which doesn't meet local needs. Funding goes to bureaucratic overheads & external providers rather than meeting community needs.

INADEQUATE ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Service provision by external agencies leads to service inefficiencies, duplication, gaps, declining well being & further dilution of autonomy.

LIMITED EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Job opportunities are lost when external contractors & businesses provide services. Public sector roles do not offer career development.

SIGNIFICANT HEALTH PROBLEMS

Poor outcomes caused by very limited access to GPs + specialists + diagnostics, limited fresh food supply. Non TSI professionals recommend culturally inappropriate solutions.

UNMET HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEMANDS

High cost of contractor built housing & equipment maintenance. Limited housing & office supply. Port & airport infrastructure maintenance costly & inadequate. Telecommunications connectivity inconsistent across the islands.

02. CHALLENGES

LOSS OF ECONOMIC SELF RELIANCE

Commercial fishing profits go out of the region. Few Torres Strait Islanders are employed in this industry. Strong reliance on federal & state funding. Economic independence is a building block for regional autonomy.

TRANSPORT SAFETY CONCERNS

Inconsistent aviation regulation on aircraft maintenance creates unsafe air transport for community + visting specialists. Airstrip runways are not safe enough to meet new regulations, eg Mer, Erub & Mabuyag.

LOSS OF REGIONAL AUTONOMY

Repeal of Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984 (Qld) undermined cultural practices & decimated community driven services

AILAN KASTOM MARGINALISED

Wide dispersion of small TSI populations limits recognition & representation. External fishing & tourism services do not reflect traditional practices & customs.

03. THE 100 YEAR CAMPAIGN

The Torres Strait Islands were annexed by Queensland in two stages in 1872 and 1879, making it part of the British colony of Queensland, despite some islands being positioned closer to the New Guinea coast. Federation in 1901 made the Islands part of the State of Queensland.

The 1936 Maritime Strike by Torres Strait Islander workers against the Protector system imposed by the Queensland government was a turning point. It triggered the 1937 Councillors Conference and started a century of persistent and significant action towards self determination.

- August 23, 1937 the first formal call for Ailan Government is made at the inaugural Torres Strait Inter-Islander Councillors Conference on Masig Island.
- 1939 The second Inter-Islander Councillors Conference lays the ground work for the *Torres Strait Islanders Act 1939,* passed by Queensland parliament. For the first time Islanders are legally recognised as a separate people. Many restrictions from the Protector era still remain.
- 1962 Torres Strait Islanders obtain the right to vote in Federal elections and State elections in 1964.
- 1965 The *Torres Strait Islander Act, 1939* is repealed and replaced by the *Aborigines and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Act*. Almost all the restrictive clauses under the 1939 Act were removed, including the old restrictions on the right to travel to the mainland.
- 1984 Queensland parliament passes the *Community Services (Torres Strait) Act* 1984 based on a strong self governance framework.
- 1988 Thursday Island Leaders forum reaffirms self determination.
- Late 1980s TSI cultural leaders reclaim the name of the region with the acronym 'Zenadth Kes' describing the region's winds & geography.
- June 1992 Mabo case: the High Court of Australia finds Meriam people hold traditional ownership of the Mer lands, proving *terra nullius* is false.
- 1994 the Torres Strait Island Regional Authority (TSRA) is established. It is an Australian Public Service agency to support TSI programs.

03. THE 100 YEAR CAMPAIGN

A key moment: 1992 Mabo decision builds the case for sovereignty

In simple terms, sovereignty is about the authority and autonomy of a group to govern its own people and jurisdiction.

Sovereignty means Torres Strait Islanders have the right to be in decision making positions, to make informed decisions and choose their own ways of governing themselves, within the nation-state of Australia.

Sovereignty includes the right to preserve the different collective identity and cultures of the Torres Strait. It means absolute power over their community lies with the community itself.

At its deepest level, Indigenous sovereignty means the ancestral, spiritual relationship to the land. It encompasses the obligations to country and community that Aboriginal Elders and leaders hand on to new generations.

Sovereignty is a power commonly claimed by nation-states. It was historically asserted by settler colonial states, eg Britain, when they took over the lands of Indigenous peoples. A nation-state is a geographically bounded group of people who identify as a nation.*

Colonisation in Australia happened without any treaties with, or payment to, First Nations peoples. The British Empire justified this with the legal fiction of '*terra nullius*' that Australia was an 'empty land belonging to no-one'.

The Mabo case, brought by Torres Strait Islanders Eddie Koiki Mabo, Reverend David Passi, Celuia Mapoo Salee, Sam Passi and James Rice, overturned the legal fiction of *terra nullius*. It created momentum for Indigenous sovereignty.

*Source: aigi.org.au

The Mabo decision prompted the then Federal Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs Senator, the Hon John Herron to call for a House of Representatives Standing Committee inquiry into Torres Strait Islanders autonomy in August 1996. It delivered the *New Deal for Torres Strait Island People* report in 1997.

CASE STUDY: A NEW DEAL FOR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

1997 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INQUIRY REPORT

From 1996 - 1997 the Federal House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs examined the long term social, economic and political problems undermining the well being of the Zenadth Kes communities.

Many of the issues reviewed in 1997 were raised at the 1937 Torres Strait Island Councillors' Conference.

The bipartisan Standing Committee found ethical grounds exist for addressing the problems and that realistic solutions are available.

Their report ***'Torres Strait Islanders: A new deal. A report on greater autonomy for Torres Strait Islanders'*** highlighted multiple key findings including the fact Australia's federal system does not serve the people of the Torres Strait well:

"*While the distinct levels – Commonwealth, state and local government – provide a satisfactory means of delivering services and allowing democratic representation to most Australians, this has not been so for Torres Strait Islanders. The result for a small, contained and geographically isolated population has been inefficiency, duplication, a lack of services and a dilution of real autonomy." (Page ix)*

03. KEY FINDINGS

01

Necessity of local decision making
"The very act of being involved in decision making gives great hope to community members. .."*

02

Economic self reliance
Local economy based on fisheries, tourism, construction, health service delivery, entry level public sector jobs & careers.

03

Better service outcomes
Locally controlled, coordinated & culturally aligned services would correct delivery problems & increase accountability.

04

Employment & Training
Once set up, local businesses can support new apprenticeship programs & employment. State & federal cadetships & training should offer career pathways.

05

A role for elders
A Council of Elders advises on cultural & traditionally significant issues. This maintains social structures.

06

Preservation of Ailan Kastom
Local decision making, program design & delivery integrates cultural values safeguards & grows Ailan Kastom.

07

Greater regional autonomy
Is a worthy & achievable goal that offers enriched lives for current & future generations.

*From Kaurareg Land Council submission, Standing Committee report, page 14

03. 100 YEAR CAMPAIGN CONTINUED

- Despite the Standing Committee's strong support for regional autonomy and practical recommendations in the **'Torres Strait Islanders: A new deal. A report on greater autonomy for Torres Strait Islanders'** report, the then Commonwealth Government does not endorse this direction and little impact results from the inquiry.

- 2001 Bamaga Accord proposes a new regional governance framework for the Torres Strait, developed by the Greater Autonomy Task Force, initiated by the TSRA.

- 2008 the Queensland Government imposes amalgamation on fifteen TSI councils. Torres Strait Island Regional Council & NPARC are created.

- 2009 TSRA, TSIRC, TSC and NPARC collaborate to develop the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Regional Plan Regional Plan: 2009 - 2029.

- October 2011 Queensland Premier Bligh writes to Prime Minister Gillard requesting support for greater regional autonomy for the Torres Strait and to initiate a reform process.

- 2013/2014 discussions about governance reforms are held with Federal Minister Nigel Scullion, Warren Entsch MP, Warren Mundine Chair of Indigenous Advisory Council, plus various Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula stakeholders.

- 2014 Joint Leaders' Forum (Thursday Island) develops a 'One boat' Zenadth Kes Regional Assembly model.

- 2015, the *'One boat' Zenadth Kes Regional Assembly Model for Torres Strait* presented to Prime Minister Abbott. This meeting explores a self governed territory model, similar to Norfolk Island (pre 2016) plus options from New Zealand Government, Fijian Government, ACT/Northern Territory arrangements.

03. 100 YEAR CAMPAIGN CONTINUED

- 2015 Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Nigel Scullion, publicly supports Torres Strait Islanders' aspirations to improve governance arrangements, confirmed by letter December 2nd, 2015.

- July 2016 TSIRC deputation to Queensland Government proposes regional government enacted via legislation.

- 2020 Queensland parliament passes the *Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Act*.

- 2021 the Zenadth Kes Secretariat Torres Strait Islander Corporation (ZKS) is incorporated under the CATSI Act as Torres Strait Islander Corporation.

- As the 85th anniversary of the 1937 call for 'Ailan Government' approaches, a new statement - the **Masig Statement** - is drafted.

- August 2022 - Torres Strait Islander community elders & members endorse the **Masig Statement**. Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, Torres Shire Council & the Torres Strait Island Regional Council elected representatives also endorse the statement.

- The **Masig Statement** aligns with Article 3 of the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (ratified by the Australian government in 2009). It calls for regional autonomy via self government as well as economic, social and cultural development.

- The Masig Statement requires State and Federal governments to work in partnership by stepping back and adopting a 'look, listen and adapt' approach to enable the community based decision making that sits at the heart of Indigenous sovereignty.

The Masig Statement offers a culturally united path to regional sovereignty by 2037.
It represents the culmination of a 100 year campaign.

THE MASIG STATEMENT
MALUNGU YANGU WAKAY
The Voice from the Deep
23 August 2022

Purpose

To establish principles and parameters on behalf of the peoples of the Torres Strait Island & Northern Peninsula Area to act together in unity, in order to pursue and achieve self-determination and regional autonomy and, in doing so, preserve our distinctive and diverse spiritual, material and economic relations with the lands, territories, waters, coastal seas and other resources with which we have a connection under Ailan Kastom and Aboriginal tradition.

Aims

1. In accordance with Article 3 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on September 13th 2007 and supported by the Australian Government on 3rd April 2009 and the Preamble of the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld), we seek to achieve our right to self determination as the people of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

2. By virtue of our sovereign right, we have the right to freely determine our political status and to freely pursue our economic, social and cultural development.

3. In keeping with Article 4 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in exercising our right to self determination, we have the right to autonomy or self government in matters relating to our internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

4. Therefore, we will create partnerships with Key Regional Stakeholders, the Queensland and Australian governments together with other relevant organisations; to better equip us to work together to achieve our regional goals and aspirations; and in working together as representatives of the peoples of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area obtain and safeguard our human rights enshrined in international, national and Queensland law.

PAST: 23 August 1937 was the beginning of regional autonomy - the Torres Strait Island Councillors Conference.

PRESENT: 23 August 2022 is the beginning of a new beginning, a culturally united path to regional sovereignty - the MASIG Statement.

FUTURE: 23 August 2037 will be the beginning of regional sovereignty.

Torres Strait Islander community members started endorsing the statement on August 23, 2022. It has also been endorsed by elected representatives on the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, Torres Shire Council & the Torres Strait Island Regional Council. Endorsing the Masig Statement is an ongoing process - community members and partners are invited to sign the statement.

05. THE MEANING OF SELF DETERMINATION, REGIONAL AUTONOMY & SOVEREIGNTY

The Masig Statement deliberately uses distinct terms - self determination, regional autonomy, self governance, sovereignty and Ailan Kastom. These terms explain the life Torres Strait Islanders want to establish for future generations and to keep Torres Strait culture strong.

Self determination is the 'fundamental right of people to shape their own lives.' It means Torres Strait Islanders:

- Have a choice in determining how their lives will be governed.
- Participate in decisions affecting their lives, including a right to formal recognition of group identities, values and beliefs.
- Have control over their lives and their future, including their economic, social and cultural development. (1)

Self governance is a vital part of self determination. Self governance means having genuine power to make decisions relating to internal and local affairs. It involves taking responsibility for what happens on Torres Strait land and sea. It requires external partners to be directly accountable to Torres Strait elders and community.

The impact of colonisation since the Torres Strait Islands were annexed in the late 1800s and interactions with state and federal governments has created governance structures, silos and habitual ways of working that don't align with Torres Strait values, beliefs and customs. It will take incremental steps to achieve sustainable self governance by 2037.

What does 'incremental self governance' look like?

- entering into agreements or contracts that steadily increase financial independence;
- building strong mechanisms for local control of decision-making or dispute resolution; and
- designing culturally-legitimate governance solutions. (2)

Self governance works for Torres Strait Islanders because they were self governing before 1872 and have continued to practice clan and community based democracy daily. Local government in the Strait has an expanded scope of operations, including managing the treaty agreement,

and the Torres Strait Protected Zone, between the border of mainland Australia and Papua New Guinea (PNG), delivering housing services, meeting the needs of community living in remote locations, maintaining national maritime infrastructure, roads and airports as well as holding community courts and making community by-laws.

Good governance means finding solutions to challenges facing current and future generations. Torres Strait Islanders are best placed to design the solutions to address their challenges, with input from state/federal partners, experts and other stakeholders who are willing to use a 'look, listen, adapt' approach, rather than ready made solutions.

Regional autonomy means a power sharing arrangement between local decision makers and state/federal authorities. It implies a continuing degree of economic, political and cultural connection with constitutionally recognised authorities. At its strongest level, it can be described as 'internal self-government' within a state. It requires finding ways and means to finance autonomous functions. (3)

The people of the Torres Strait have high levels of cultural autonomy as a result of their unique Ailan Kustom being recognised by Australian judicial and legal systems. Examples include the Mabo case decision which extinguished terra nullius and established native title law and the Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Act (2020).

Political autonomy is high as well. For example the Strait is treated as a discrete administrative region by the Queensland Government and the Commonwealth Government. (4)

Economic autonomy, while at a lower level, can be strengthened by trying new structures, processes, enterprises and agreements. Regional autonomy offers Torres Strait communities stability against the changes of government policy and commitment following state and federal elections.

05. THE MEANING OF SELF DETERMINATION, REGIONAL AUTONOMY & SOVEREIGNTY

Regional autonomy is a formal goal the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, as set out in the Torres Strait Regional Authority's Regional Assembly Transition Plan (2018). Establishing a Regional Assembly model of government would enable a greater level of autonomy to discharge local, state and commonwealth powers in one governing entity, formally recognising the principles of Ailan Kustom, and traditional governance systems. (5) The Masig Statement identifies the first Inter-Island meeting of Councillors on Masig in August 1937 was the beginning of regional autonomy.

The final term to clarify is **sovereignty. T**he Masig Statement declares 23 August 2037 will be the beginning of 'regional sovereignty.'

"...sovereignty is the exercise by a people - whether a clan, a tribe or nation - of control over a particular territory through their political and social institutions." In law, it has three main features - control, territory and entitlement. It differs from land ownership. (6) In lore, it is established through continuous connection to country and Ailan Kustom.

In modern times, sovereignty is rarely vested in one person or entity. For example, since Federation 'Australian sovereignty' has been divisible between the Crown, the Commonwealth and the States and Territories. (7)

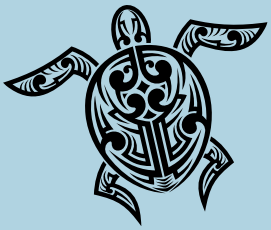
In his 1993 ABC Boyer Lecture, Councillor Getano Lui Junior reminds us Australia has three inhabited island territories: Norfolk, Christmas and Cocos Keeling, each with its own tailor made local constitution.... (to) suit local cultural, historical and environmental realities. And that a federation like Australia is made up of different levels of government - where and how they fit is a matter for review. (8)

Achieving regional sovereignty requires relationship building, respect, trust and deliberation. Imagination is also vital, to see different ways of sharing power, making decisions and institutional arrangements. With a commitment to collaboration by all stakeholders, self determination, regional determination and and nation building can become the norm.

HOW DO TSIRC COUNCILLORS FEEL ABOUT THE VOICE FROM THE DEEP?

The past and the present are coming together to create our future.

Ancestors are awakening.

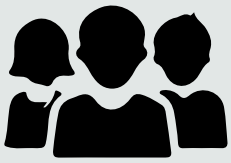


It's a cry from our region - we have been talking about the same issues for 85 years. .

We were at the front of the boat with a bow but no arrow. Now we have the arrow.

Sovereignty needs to be realised to overcome poverty, bring resources to communities and give young people a future.

It's a voice for the community. A statement of unity. We are working together.



Insights from the Masig Statement Workshop in November 2022 - Figure 1.

COUNCILLORS CONCERNS ABOUT REALISING THE MASIG STATEMENT

How might we involve younger generations?

What can we do when stakeholders are not listening?

How might we hold the attention of TSI people for 15 years?

How can we make the Masig statement practical in the regions?

What is the best way to maintain resources for this work?

How do we sing with one voice?

Figure 2 TSI Councillor concerns, November 2022 workshop

06. THE AILAN WAY - LOOK, LISTEN & ADAPT

The Ailan Way means all parties working on a challenge start go to the community to look at the situation, listen to the elders and community members about what is working and what is not, and adapt options to fit with what they have seen and heard.

Elders and community are involved in the process from the beginning to the end, providing feedback and sharing the wisdom that comes from living with a challenge.

The **Ailan Way** means our partners will **'look, listen and adapt'** by visiting community, building relationships, being curious about what does or doesn't work, and designing solutions with us.

"It's like a story - invite everyone to be part of it. Be open, be transparent, don't leave the community out."
Wayne Green, TSIRC Executive Director, Building Services

Fit for purpose housing in the Strait
Since July 2022 TSIRC, QBuild and the Office of Queensland Government Architect have been using a 'look, listen, adapt' approach based on three principles - community visits to build relationships and see properties, meeting with tenants and community to listen to them, and weekly communication to build trust and transparency. See the **Journey to Regional Sovereignty by 2037** section of the TSIRC website to track results

"The principles for Torres Strait... renewal are simple: we need to be able to make decisions about social, cultural, economic and environmental matters in our region, not just the right to attend advisory meetings which may or may not pass our ideas up the line."
Councillor Getano Lui Junior,1993 ABC Boyer Lecture,

This self determination & regional autonomy campaign must be anchored in the community - elders, young people, people with different experiences involved.
May 2023 'Advancing the Masig Statement' TSIRC workshop

07. NEXT STEPS TO REGIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

Action is necessary to secure regional sovereignty. Collaborative action using the Ailan Way approach - look, listen & adapt - is the most effective path to delivering sustainable solutions and strengthening self governance by 2037.

- **Act & reflect constantly:** Take action in each term of council. Run experiments, observe what emerges and learn through reflection. Avoid staying in discussion mode.
- **Challenge assumptions & old ways:** Ask questions constantly. What if the current approach was disrupted? Why do we do it this way?
- **Collaborate** to shift from an 'us vs them' mentality to an 'all of us' approach. Build trust and understanding through dialogue to discover key insights that can lead to new possibilities and ways of working.
- **Look, listen & adapt** each day to build your skills for working the Ailan Way.
- **Communicate openly and constantly** - everyone must know weekly what is happening on the ground, within a community, what has emerged.
- **Work across generations** - active, Intergenerational Taskforces in each community enable learning together and deepen leadership skills. They must speak directly and regularly to Council and external partners.
- **Look for chances to build strong relationships with the Masig Statement** - ensure Islanders have regular opportunities to sign the statement, share stories of their ancestor's involvement in the 100 year campaign, communicate what a satisfying future means to them and those they care about, encourage all to choose a part they can play in the journey to 2037.
- **Keep calling people into** the journey to 2037, invite them to help 'write' the story of how regional sovereignty in the Torres Strait was achieved. Artists, musicians, story tellers deepen the emotional connection to the journey.
- **Put the Masig Statement on the agenda** whenever Islanders meet - at community forums, Council meetings and stakeholder meetings.
- **Be accountable to elders and community** - look for chances to directly answer questions from community members and provide updates.
- **Focus on taking the next step,** rather than revisiting the problem.
- **Share successes, big and small** so people can see the new system of self determination and regional sovereignty growing around them.

08. REFERENCES

- GBK Symposium on Regional Autonomy and Independence Gur A Baradharaw Kod (GBK) Torres Strait Sea and Land Council Torres Strait Islander Corporation, Address by June Oscar AO, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, May 2019 (1)

- 'Self determination', Australian Indigenous Governance Institute, https://aigi.org.au/toolkit/self-determination-for-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples, accessed January 2024. (2)

- 'Indigenous autonomy in Australia: Some concepts, issues and examples', W.S. Arthur, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, The Australian National University, No. 220/2001. (3)

- As above. (4)

- Priority Area Six - Regional Governance, TSIRC website https://www.tsirc.qld.gov.au/deputations/regional-governance. (5)

- 'Sovereignty', Dr Michael Dodson, Chairperson of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Studies in 'Balayi: Culture, Law and Colonialism', Volume 4, 2002. (6)

- 'Treaty and sovereignty in Australia', Dr Lisa Strelein and Dr Belinda Burbidge, AIATSIS, Native Title Newsletter 2019, Issue 2. (7)

- 'Self determination', Getano Lui Junior, ABC Radio National Boyer Lecture - https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/bigideas/2022-boyer-lecture-one-noel-pearson-1993-boyer-getano-lui/102093404. (8)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to acknowledge the traditional owners and native title holders of the Kemer Kemer Meriam Nation, the Kulkalgal Nation, the Maluligal Nation, the Kaiwalagal Kaurareg Aboriginal National and the Gadaw Maluligal Nations of the Torres Strait.

I pay my respects to the elders - past and present - of the lands, waters and winds of the Torres Strait Island community.

I express my gratitude to the Torres Strait Island Regional Council members for the opportunity to journey with you to 2037.

Sandy Killick, CEO, Democracy Matters

To amend or update this report, please email

sandy@democracymatters.com.au

or call +61 409 204 100

Proposed *Advancing the Masig Statement* Action Plan for TSIRC (2024 - 2028)

Purpose

To identify the key strategies required to strengthen self governance and progress regional autonomy. Over time, the collective impact of these strategies will deliver self determination and regional sovereignty.

Current state	Comments made at TSIRC workshops in May and November 2023
Where we are now	Patchy awareness of Masig Statement in TS communities. Masig Statement must be community centred. Each TSI community must connect meaningfully with the Masig Statement. The Masig Statement is not part of TSIRC's planning and budget processes. Some key stakeholders are in the boat, some are out of the boat. Key stakeholders do not have the same level of information and understanding about the Masig Statement. Sovereignty is misunderstood and is a block for some stakeholders, eg Queensland government

Key strategies	Rationale	Responsibility & core action
1. The Masig Statement is an everyday business for TSIRC.	The Masig Statement outcomes can only be realised if they become the part of the day to day business of community and Council.	Governance and Leadership Committee identifies the most appropriate processes, budgets, events and discussions where the Masig Statement should be on the agenda for regular discussion, action and review.
2. Council always has one or two 'Ailan Way - Look, listen & adapt' pilot projects occurring at any time, to help participants 'feel their way forward' towards	Pilot projects involving external stakeholders are the best way to understand how self governance and regional autonomy can work. Pilot projects are powerful because they shift stakeholder's focus from the problem to the solution. A pilot project makes it possible to 'see the future', makes it possible for new forms of agreement making to emerge and helps all	SARG with CEO and Executive Directors identify pilot projects that can address core and significant issues facing TS people, eg the housing pilot project. Working on the key challenges facing TS

	stakeholders see how community centred decision-making works and the benefits it offers. Reporting to elders and community members increases accountability.	people will deliver the greatest shift towards self determination and regional sovereignty.
3. There is intergenerational understanding and ownership of the Masig Statement.	Intergenerational Task Forces are elected in each community for a set term. They agree on a meeting schedule for listening to the community. They have direct and regular dialogue with Council and external stakeholders to provide feedback, communicate issues, concerns, successes and impact. They are a strong link between community, council and partner agencies.	Governance and Leadership Committee ensures that the Intergenerational Task Forces are operating, understand their purpose and processes are in place to ensure direct and regular dialogue with Council and external stakeholders.
4. Regional dialogue with Torres Shire Council, NPARC, GBK and TSRA identifies existing processes or projects where an 'Ailan Way - Look, listen & adapt' approach can be incorporated.	*'Starting something new is appealing, however the important work is fixing existing but broken or underperforming initiatives and organisations.'* (Radical Collaboration Guidebook) Choosing existing processes/projects where a 'Ailan Way - Look, listen & adapt' approach is the most straightforward way of incorporating the Masig Statement goals at regional level. Piloting a 'Look, listen & adapt' approach allows regional partners to 'feel their way forward' to understand how power needs to be distributed differently and the types of collaboration required for regional autonomy. Each stakeholder will need to reflect on their own assumptions and actions - are they enabling or disabling progress towards regional autonomy? Reporting to elders and community members helps to reality check solutions and increases accountability to the community.	ROC? TSRA? Regional assembly? To be confirmed To build upon the drafting and signing of the Masig Statement, a dialogue focused on identifying which existing processes or projects are most appropriate for a 'Look, listen & adapt' approach is recommended. There is a danger of staying at a discussion level only and not making any impact. To generate momentum towards 2037, dialogue and trialing a 'Look, listen & adapt' approach can work together.
5. 'Communicating the journey towards 2037' is a core priority.	Communication is a simple yet powerful strategy in the journey towards 2037. The importance of communication is often overlooked and insufficient time is given to it. However, when it is a key priority, it can strengthen people's connection to the Masig Statement and bring new people 'into the boat'. It is strongly recommended that the TSIRC website has a new	Governance and Leadership Committee, Community Services Executive Director, CEO and council media team work together to identify the most appropriate channels for sharing stories that TSIRC allies can understand and want to be part of. Share stories of small

	section dedicated to communicating any actions taken to achieve Masig Statement outcomes. For example, celebrations involving the Masig Statement, stories about Ailan Way pilot projects, historical timeline of actions since 1937, stories of ancestral connection to the 100 year journey, existing videos by elders/councilors about the Masig Statement can be consolidated into one place on the council's website. *"It's like a story - invite everyone to be part of it. Be open, be transparent, don't leave the community out." Wayne Green, TSIRC Executive Director, Building Services housing pilot case study*	successes or insights frequently. Share stories of hope to keep people engaged and strong until 2037. Engage creative people to share the stories - musicians, story tellers (traditional and digital), artists, social media creatives - of the new system of self governance and regional autonomy growing in the Torres Strait.
6. Stakeholders are curious about, and committed to, collaborating for impact	If the people leading the strategies outlined above aren't willing to open up to the views and challenges of others and to incorporate some of these into what they're doing, then there's not going to be any success. If collaborators accept different perspectives, opportunities, constraints and powers, then conflict and insights will come out in a constructive way. *"What really helped is a sense of mutuality, equality, and win-win - and an absence of dictating. The biggest lesson for me was how to dissolve boundaries of power relationships when we're working in collaboration, because if the organisations we work with had felt that we were trying to teach them something, then nothing would have worked. I've come to see that impactful shifts often start with a change in mindset - from an "us vs them" mentality to a more collaborative "all of us" approach."* (Radical Collaboration Guidebook) Achieving the Masig Statement outcomes of self determination and regions sovereignty will feel like radical change for some stakeholders. Working towards 2037 will require deep collaboration and honest reflection. Differences between stakeholders will produce disagreements and discomfort.	Governance and Leadership Committee tracks collaboration processes. What enables deep collaboration? What disables it? How can collaborators get the assistance they need to build their capacity for collaboration that will produce long lasting outcomes?

	People will enter a collaboration convinced that they are right and others are wrong. You can't erase these differences and you don't have to: usually it is possible and necessary to advance together in spite of, even because of, such continued differences. If you insist on complete agreement and alignment, you will not be able to advance.	

"The way forward to self determination and regional sovereignty will rarely be clear or straightforward. It is not a highway: you can't clear away the obstacles and make a straight road before you start. The only way to advance with speed, scale, and justice is through rapid, disciplined, iterative experimentation.

The August 2037 timeline creates pressure for decisive and definitive action, but advances will not always be linear or predictable. Take small steps quickly to learn through trial and error what works, and to build your confidence, capacity, and momentum." Adapted from the Radical Collaboration Guidebook (https://radicalclimatecollaboration.reospartners.com)

Charting a path to Masig Statement goals by 2037
November 2022 Workshop report
Prepared for TSIRC by Democracy Matters

Background

Mayor Mosby invited Sandy Killick, Democracy Matters CEO to facilitate a workshop focusing on the Masig Statement for TSIRC councillors and senior staff in Cairns in November 2022. Two workshops followed in May and November 2023.

Democracy Matters is a non partisan leadership training organisation committed to growing democracy between elections. We work with local, state and federal representatives to build their skills and confidence to respond to the challenges in their term of office.

Purpose of this confidential report

This report records the discussion of the TSIRC Councillors and Executive Directors present at a workshop facilitated by Sandy Killick in Cairns on November 10th, 2023. By using a future scenarios exercise, participants started considering 'What steps could this and successive TSIRC councillors take to realise the Masig statement by 2037?'

Group discussion 1: Personal connection to the Masig statement

Councillors and Executive Directors were asked *'How do you feel about the Voice from the Deep?'*

- *The past and present are coming together to create our future.*
- *Empowered, privileged and challenged.*
- *It's a voice for the community. A statement of unity. We are working together.*
- *The statement has been a long time coming. Moving forward feels good.*
- *Ancestors are awakening.*

- *Pride in the region. Connected across the region. Aspiration for our region.*
- *It's a cry from our region - we have been talking about the same issues for 85 years.*
- *I think of a trumpet shell from the deep, calling to others.*
- *We were at the front of the boat with a bow but no arrow. Now we have the arrow.*
- *Sovereignty needs to be realised to overcome poverty, bring resources to communities and give a future to young people.*
- *We have had a voice to listen to since 1937.*
- *Frustration about neglect of region - same issues for 85 years.*
- *Masig statement is useful for knocking on the door.*
- *It's a powerful statement.*

There is a very strong sense of connection to the Masig statement and a high degree of alignment between the council members present. The language and images in the responses from Councillors and Executive Directors could be used to communicate with island communities and external stakeholders.

Councillors and Executive Directors were asked to *'What concerns do you have about realising the Masig statement?'*

- How might we involve younger generations?
- What can we do when stakeholders are not listening?
- Adequate resourcing for this work.
- How do we take the Voice from the Deep to others?
- How can we make the Masig statement practical in the regions?
- How can we bring others along?
- How might we hold the attention of TSI people for 15 years? How do we handle times when the community is losing focus?

These concerns are noted in Section 2: Principles & possible action plan framework

Group discussion 2: 2037 Future scenarios exercise

Participants formed three teams - Eastern, Central, Western - and were asked to imagine two future scenarios. (Responses shown in Diagram A)

- Scenario A: Imagine it's 2037 and the Masig statement is fully operational. This is the start of self determination and regional autonomy. What do you see?
- Scenario B: Imagine it's 2037. Little progress has been made and the region is unlikely to realise the elements of the Masig statement. What do you see?

A note about working with scenarios:

Scenarios are not predictions, preferences or projections - they are intended to trigger new possibilities. They help participants better adapt to the emerging future/futures. They are a preparatory process that underpins strategic planning. The value of scenarios is they can show you what can go wrong & helps to identify early warning signs, allowing timely intervention.

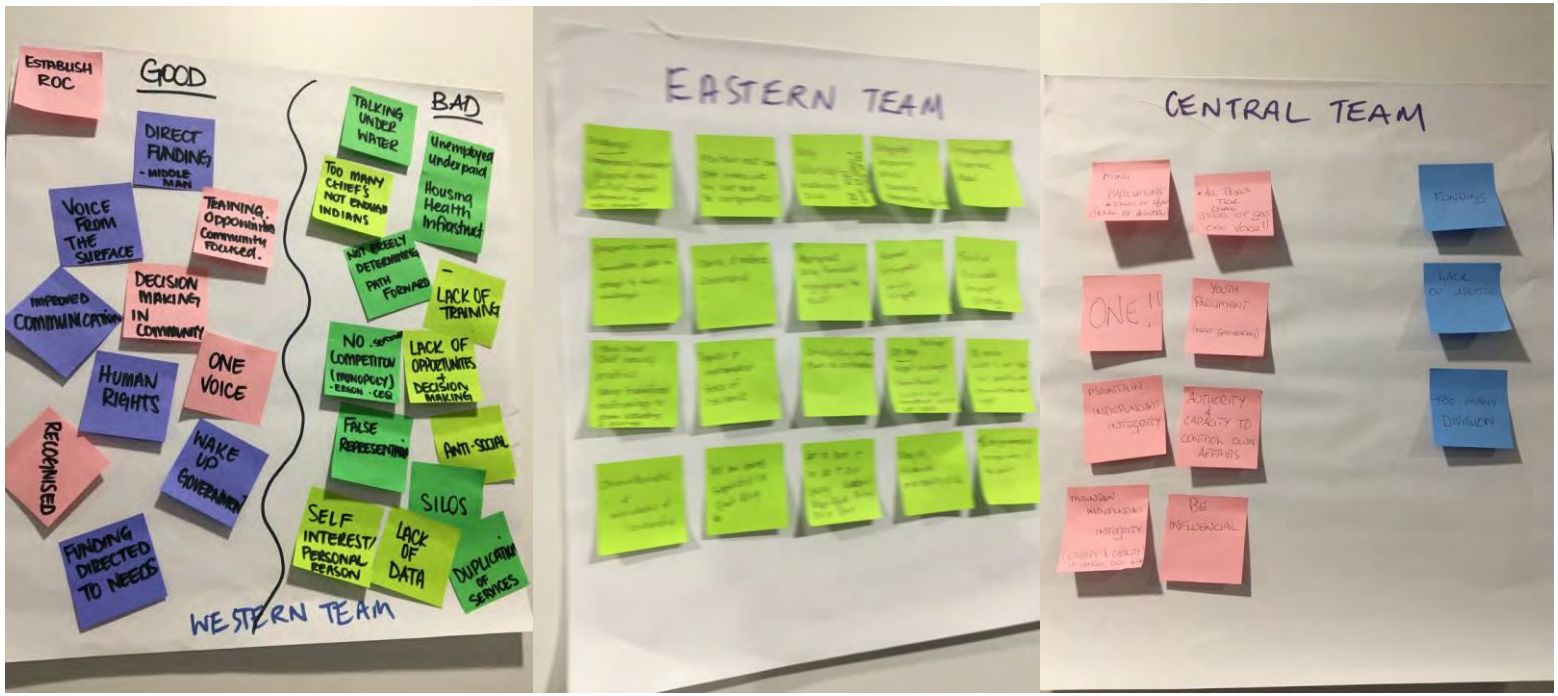


Diagram A: Eastern, Central and Western responses to two scenarios

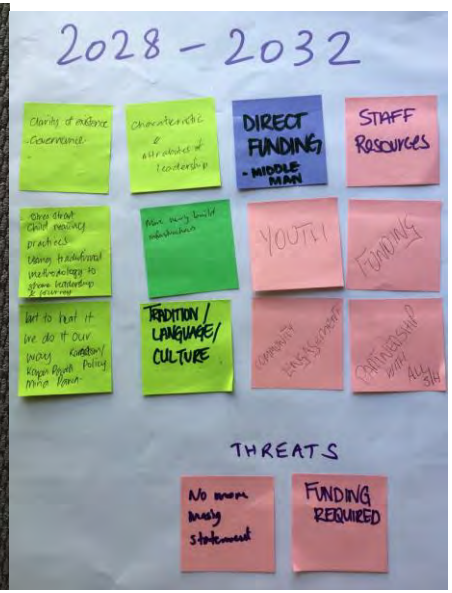
Group discussion 3: Taking action in each Council term

Between now and 2037 there are 5 cycles of council: 2022 - 2024, 2024 - 2028, 2028 - 2032 and 2037 falls in the 2036 - 2040 council term. When looking at the sheets on the wall for each council term, one councillor commented “There’s not many councils to 2037.”

Eastern, Central and Western team members were invited to move their post it note comments to the most appropriate part of the timeline (based on Council terms) and to add new post it note comments if they wished. The timeline posters are found in Diagram B (below). .

2022 - 2024
HUMAN RIGHTS
ONE VOICE
TRADITION/ LANGUAGE/ CULTURE
Est. House of Review
ONE !!
ROC
Est. ROC.
VOICE FROM THE SURFACE
WAKE UP GOVERNMENT
LTC Paths to Treaty
Partnership with Government
bipartisan Support
Inter departmental Committee
IMPROVED COMMUNICATION
FUNDING
THREATS
Unemployed Underpaid
Housing Health Infrastruct
TOO MANY CHIEF'S NOT ENOUGH INDIANS
No more musig Statement

THREATS
FINANCIAL CONSTRAINT. -BELOW LIVEDITY 2024
FUNDING REQUIRED
FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS -NO $ 2030
2024 - 2028
DECISION MAKING IN COMMUNITY
TRADITION/ LANGUAGE/ CULTURE
RECOGNISED
FUNDING DIRECTED TO NEEDS
Established Council of Elders
STAFF RESOURCES
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
TRAINING. Opportunities Community Focused.
Consistent Message. Comms


2028 - 2032
DIRECT FUNDING - MIDDLE MAN
STAFF RESOURCES
YOUTH
FUNDING
TRADITION / LANGUAGE/ CULTURE
THREATS
No more musig statement
FUNDING REQUIRED

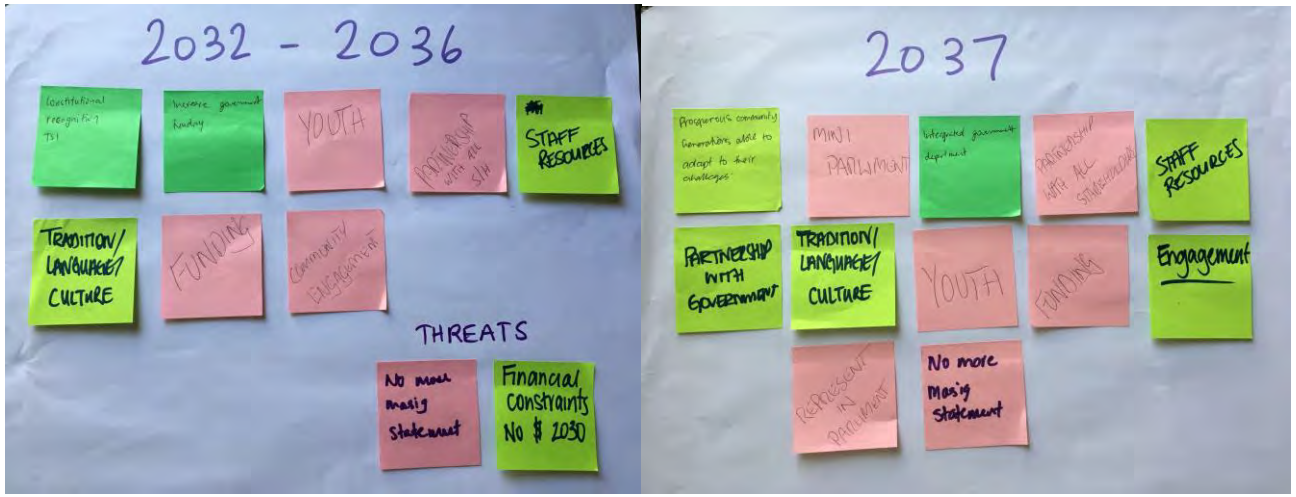
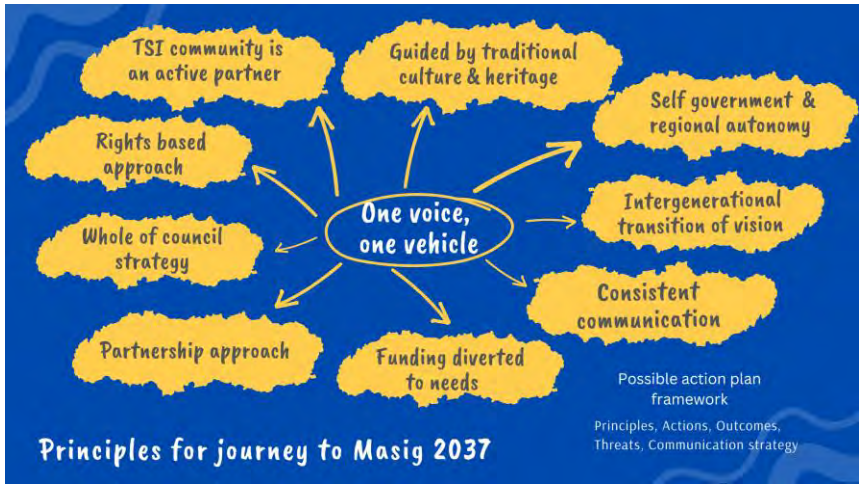


Diagram B: Timeline of actions across 5 council cycles

The timeline exercise is just a starting point for considering what is required to make the Masig statement a reality. It can be added to over time. The scenarios and timeline exercises can be carried out at community level and also with Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula council colleagues as a way of taking as many people as possible on the journey and creating ownership for the Masig process.

A number of *themes* emerged from the timeline exercise. The themes are presented as principles in Diagram C below:



Section 2, the next section of this report, combines the principles with the comments in timeline exercise to create an action planning framework for Councillors and the Executive team to consider. The comments from the 2022 - 2024 poster have been entered into an action plan framework to show how it might work.

Section 2: Draft TSIRC Action Planning Framework showing 2022 - 2024 cycle (NB all content is from TSIRC councillors/executive directors workshop input)

Principles (based on themes)	**2022 - 2024 actions to realise the principles**	**2022 - 2024 outcomes & measures**	**Risks/Threats /Challenges**	**Communication strategy**
TSI community is an active partner	House of Review set up to oversee cultural sensitivity, protocol & lore *Community & capacity building activities (LO comment) TBC*	Unity House of Review operational	Underemployed, underpaid How might we take community on the journey?	Change happens at the community level - take time to speak with community members & across the region
Rights based approach **Keep ppl at the table, engaged, common interest, invested in it**	Guided by the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	Preserve distinctive & diverse spiritual, material and economic relationship with lands, territories, waters, coastal seas and other resources - connection under Ailan Kastom & Aboriginal tradition	Push back from external stakeholders	
Guided by traditional culture, language & heritage	Respect traditional language and culture		How might we hold the attention of TSI people for 15 years? How do we handle times when the community is losing focus?	
Intergenerational transition of vision	TSI history is taught in Queensland schools Youth engagement strategy developed Investment from all levels of government to deliver Youth Strategy	Next generation understands, values & supports Masig statement Leadership skills developed by many Ensuring new councillors understand their own history, the journey to the Masig	How might we involve younger generations? What is the vehicle that will carry us to 2023? Lack of education about TSI history in schools Sustaining commitment & drive	Socialising regional message

	Youth Parliament held	statement, its significance, the challenges and the need to speak with one voice	for our Masig vision No more Masig statement	
Partnership approach	Stakeholder mapping to work out who needs to listen Reestablish state/federal interdepartmental committee as described by Councillor Lui	One voice across 3 tiers of government State/federal governments accountable to TSIRC/TSC/NPA People listen to understand, not to respond	How can we make the Masig statement practical in the regions? How might we build relationships with other stakeholders?	
Funding diverted to needs	A comment was made about conducting an audit - could be included here	Adequate/integrated regional services	How to secure funding for strategic discussions to realise the Masig goals? Financial constraints below liquidity in 2024 Inadequate housing, health & infrastructure funds	
Whole of council approach			'Too many chiefs, not enough indians' Adequate resourcing for this work	*"The work starts now - how to communicate to community."* *"Lightbulb for me - 15 islands, 15 lifestyles but we can sing one song"* *Quotes from TSIRC Councillors Nov 10th*
Self government & regional autonomy -	ROC established & learns from other ROCs that are operating well (ALGA assistance with this?) LTC Paths to Treaty Re-establish Joint Ministerial	Integrated/harmonised governance model Influential in region Maintain independence & integrity	What can we do when stakeholders are not listening? Regional misalignment	How do we take the *Voice from the Deep* to others? How can we bring others along?

Hilda Mosby: wear many hats, relationship with community most important	Advisory Committee? Clr Lui	*Keep governance structures crystal clear (not over governed) Cmwth funds LG/ROC directly and steps back (from meeting with Dr Sara) TBC*	Fragmentation of governance structures & messages Sustaining commitment & drive for our Masig vision No more Masig statement Masig is overshadowed by the other priorities	

This action plan is incomplete. For example, it doesn't consider the mechanism for TSIRC, TSC and NPARC collaboration. It is intended to be a starting point which is updated following discussions at community, regional and council levels over the next 15 years.

To increase Council's reach & impact, the action plan can link to cultural elements that are shared across the TSI region - music, community dialogues, culture & customs around ancestors, history, historical celebration days eg Aug 23rd.

Post workshop observations

- Local government is the core vehicle for driving the Masig Statement forward. The other levels of government or agencies join TSIRC, TSC and NPARC to implement your vision in the region.
- In local government, your authority comes from the decisions made at a properly constituted council meeting. Your authority with state and federal counterparts comes from your meetings, so continue to make agreements about next steps on the Masig Statement in council meetings.
- You have a united team on Council at the moment - go for it! The support of all councillors may not be consistent across 15 years. Manage the ebbs and flows by accelerating TSIRC's work when you can.
- When someone says no to Masig, listen to understand. There is always wisdom in the 'no'. In change programs, spend a lot of time listening to the 'no' - it is where the *real* story unfolds. *"There is a crack in every system that lets the light in."*
- Swap the story line from *'We need to change!'* which requires resources to *'There is an abundance of change happening all around us and people who are making the transition can help others*" to show that change is possible, people are willing to try new ways and self determination is the norm that is gaining momentum.

This confidential report was prepared for TSIRC by Sandy Killick, CEO, Democracy Matters.

Democracy Matters is a non partisan leadership training organisation committed to growing democracy between elections. We work with local, state and federal representatives to build their skills and confidence to respond to the challenges in their term of office. Democracymatters.com.au

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

COUNCIL REPORT

ORDINARY MEETING:	January 2024
DATE:	23 & 24 January 2024
ITEM:	Agenda Item for Resolution by Council
SUBJECT:	Financial Dashboard Report – December 2023
AUTHOR:	Nicola Daniels, Head of Financial Services

Recommendation:

That Council receive and endorse the monthly financial statements attached to the officer's report for the 2023-24 year to date, for the period ended 31 December 2023, as required under Section 204 *Local Government Regulation 2012.*

Purpose:

This report seeks Council endorse the monthly financial statements for the 2023-24 year to date, for the period ended 31 December 2023.

Background:

The 2023-24 budget review was adopted in December 2023 and has taken into consideration the expected impacts of the year ahead including but not limited to high inflation, persistent labour shortages due to shifting workforce dynamics, shortages in contractors due to remote operations and material shortages. Our strategic approach to budget planning demonstrates management's dedication to proactively confronting potential financial challenges and positioning the organisation for resilient financial performance, all while ensuring the continued delivery of essential services to the community.

The financial report must state the progress that has been made in relation to the local government's budget for the period of the financial year up to a day as near as practicable to the end of the month before the meeting is held.

Each month, year to date financial statements are prepared to monitor actual performance against budget.

Below is a summary of the financial performance for the period ended stated above. Actual amounts are compared against year-to-date budget review for 2023-24. (See Appendix A for Summary Financial Statements by Department and Appendix A Detailed Capital Report).

Resource implications:

The actual operating result (before depreciation) for December 2023 YTD is a $2.9M surplus, compared to the YTD forecast operating surplus of $3.4M.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE – Year to Date (YTD) 2023/2024

Key financial results	Annual budget review	YTD budget review	YTD actual	YTD variance $	YTD variance %	Status
Recurrent revenue	69,147,199	41,191,828	37,347,005	(3,844,823)	(9.3%)	
Other income	5,636,324	3,113,448	3,341,867	228,418	7.3%	
Recurrent expenditure (excl. depreciation)	(79,800,540)	(40,868,607)	(37,803,180)	3,065,427	7.5%	
Operating result (excl. depreciation)	**(5,017,017)**	**3,436,669**	**2,885,691**	**(550,978)**	**(16.0%)**	
Capital revenue	36,828,288	15,018,100	3,375,853	(11,642,247)	(77.5%)	
Capital expenses	(3,500,000)	(1,750,000)	(136,098)	1,613,902	92.2%	
Net result (excl. depreciation)	**28,311,271**	**16,704,769**	**6,125,446**	**(10,579,323)**	**(63.3%)**	
Depreciation expense	(59,570,010)	(29,698,805)	(29,868,888)	(170,083)	(0.6%)	
Net result	**(31,258,739)**	**(12,994,036)**	**(23,743,441)**	**(10,749,406)**	**(82.7%)**	

Key:
Act Vs Bud Var % is <= -10%
Act Vs Bud Var % is > -10% and <= -5%
Act Vs Bud Var % is > -5%

Operating Result to Date – Unfavourable $551K variance attributed to:

Revenue $3.6M unfavourable variance.

- Timing of receipt of Engineering grants mainly attribute to the unfavourable amount (delay in works caused by various factors)
- Partially offset by overstatement of contract and recoverable works revenue due to capital works yet to be moved to the asset register and recorded as capital income or WIP

Expenditure $3M favourable variance.

- Reduction in employee benefits due to extended vacancies.
- Material and services for some departments are currently under budget. This is due to a combination of factors, including; cost management and timing of operating works.

Net Result to Date $10.7M unfavourable variance.

- Variance a result of reduced capital grants received due to reduced Capital works completed.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

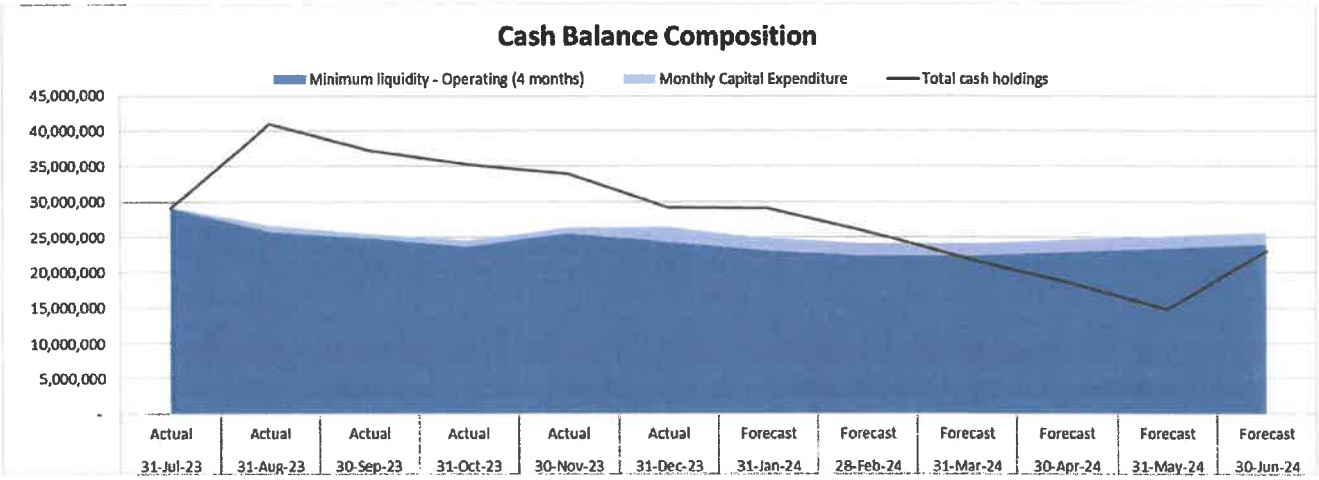
	Annual Budget Review	YTD Budget Review	YTD actual	YTD variance $	YTD variance %
Income					
Recurrent revenue					
Community levies, rates and charges	1,891,244	64,674	64,113	(562)	0.0%
Fees and charges	4,881,316	2,480,608	2,928,299	447,692	18.0%
Sales revenue	20,995,399	10,339,211	13,042,902	2,703,692	26.1%
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donatio	41,379,241	28,307,335	21,311,691	(6,995,645)	(24.7%)
	69,147,199	41,191,828	37,347,005	(3,844,823)	(9.3%)
Capital revenue					
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donatio	36,828,288	15,018,100	3,375,853	(11,642,247)	(77.5%)
	36,828,288	15,018,100	3,375,853	(11,642,247)	(77.5%)
Interest received	634,106	339,895	663,228	323,333	95.1%
Other income	195,962	370,425	327,309	(43,115)	(11.6%)
Rental income	4,806,257	2,403,128	2,351,329	(51,799)	(2.2%)
Total income	111,611,812	59,323,376	44,064,724	(15,258,652)	(25.7%)
Expenses					
Recurrent expenses					
Employee benefits	31,002,631	14,559,410	12,671,932	1,887,478	13.0%
Materials and services	48,078,751	25,948,276	24,764,952	1,183,325	4.6%
Finance costs	719,158	360,920	366,297	(5,376)	(1.5%)
Depreciation and amortisation	59,570,010	29,698,805	29,868,888	(170,083)	(0.6%)
	139,370,550	70,567,412	67,672,068	2,895,344	4.1%
Capital expenses	3,500,000	1,750,000	136,098	(1,613,902)	(92.2%)
Total expenses	142,870,550	72,317,411	67,808,165	(4,509,246)	(6.2%)
Net result	(31,258,739)	(12,994,036)	(23,743,441)	(10,749,406)	82.7%

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Current Month	Prior Month	variance $	variance %
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	26,936,151	33,622,189	(6,686,038)	(19.9%)
Short term deposits	66,774	66,774	0	0.0%
Trade and other receivables	10,709,022	11,161,796	(452,774)	(4.1%)
Inventories	411,753	411,753	0	0.0%
Contract assets	4,771,947	4,568,111	203,836	4.5%
Lease receivables	105,591	105,591	0	0.0%
Total current assets	43,001,238	49,936,214	(6,934,976)	(13.9%)
Non-current assets				
Lease receivables	11,233,246	11,233,246	(0)	(0.0%)
Property, plant and equipment	1,037,803,070	1,040,743,203	(2,940,133)	(0.3%)
Right of use assets	871,065	922,718	(51,653)	(5.6%)
Total non-current assets	**1,049,907,381**	1,052,899,167	(2,991,786)	(0.3%)
Total assets	1,092,908,619	**1,102,835,381**	(9,926,762)	0.1%
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	2,074,378	2,971,722	897,344	30.2%
Borrowings	-	-	0	
Provisions	1,418,978	1,467,998	49,020	3.3%
Contract liabilities	12,491,846	12,491,846	0	0.0%
Lease liabilities	459,526	457,947	(1,579)	(0.3%)
Total current liabilities	16,444,728	17,389,513	944,785	5.4%
Non-current liabilities				
Provisions	10,520,704	10,728,298	207,593	1.9%
Lease liabilities	621,246	621,246	(0)	
Total non-current liabilities	11,141,950	11,349,544	207,593	1.8%
Net community assets	1,065,321,940	1,074,096,324	(8,774,383)	(0.8%)
Community Equity				
Asset revaluation surplus	735,386,498	735,386,498	0	0.0%
Retained surplus/(deficiency)	353,678,883	353,678,883	0	0.0%
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)	- 23,743,441	- 14,969,057	(8,774,383)	58.6%
	1,065,321,940	1,074,096,324	(8,774,383)	(0.8%)

Cash Forecasting

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning sustainability ratios recommends that Council maintain a minimum liquidity of four months operating cashflows. Council has based the monthly cashflow projections on the 23/24 Budget Review projections. Grant revenue has been forecasted on expected timing of receipt of funds as per funding agreements. July to December figures reflect actual cash balances.



Cashflow Comments
YTD December 2023 – Actual $29.1M

- Cash holdings remain above QTC recommendations. Grant payments are initially concentrated at the start of the financial year. The majority of the surplus pertains to the complete 23/24 Financial Assistance Grant paid in advance and Indigenous Councils funding program (ICFP) paid in August.

FY June 2024 – Current forecast $23M (Budget $26M)

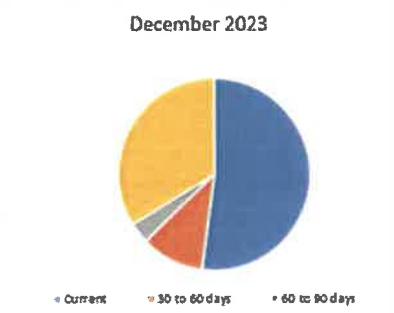
- Advance payment of half of the 24/25 Financial Assistance Grant received budgeted to be received in June 2024.
- New ICFP grant funding replaced SGFA and RRP which is approx. $7M more than budgeted. The above-budgeted component relates to a one-off increase by State due to an additional $25.8M that brought the total program funding for 23/24 financial year to $69.8M for Indigenous Councils.

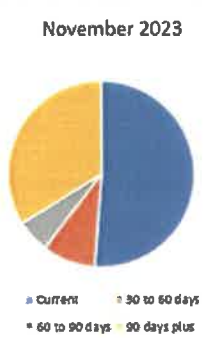
Debtor Analysis

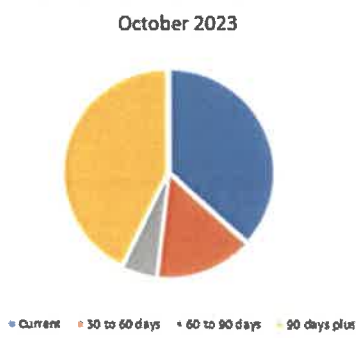
	As at 31 December 2023		As at 30 November 2023		As at 31 October 2023	
	$	%	$	%	$	%
Current	3,062,134	52%	2,860,361	51%	1,547,245	37%
30 to 60 days	624,515	11%	517,261	9%	636,097	15%
60 to 90 days	206,533	4%	320,213	6%	230,917	5%
90 days plus	1,975,907	34%	1,887,322	34%	1,799,831	43%
Total aged debtors	5,869,090	100%	5,585,156	100%	4,214,091	100%
Housing debtors (Note 1)	12,804,542		12,717,415		12,725,383	
Total Provision	- 13,194,858		- 13,238,915		- 13,282,972	
Net debtors (exc. Unapplied credits)	5,478,774		5,063,656		3,656,501	
Unapplied Credits	- 217,433		- 385,619		- 217,433	

Notes to table:

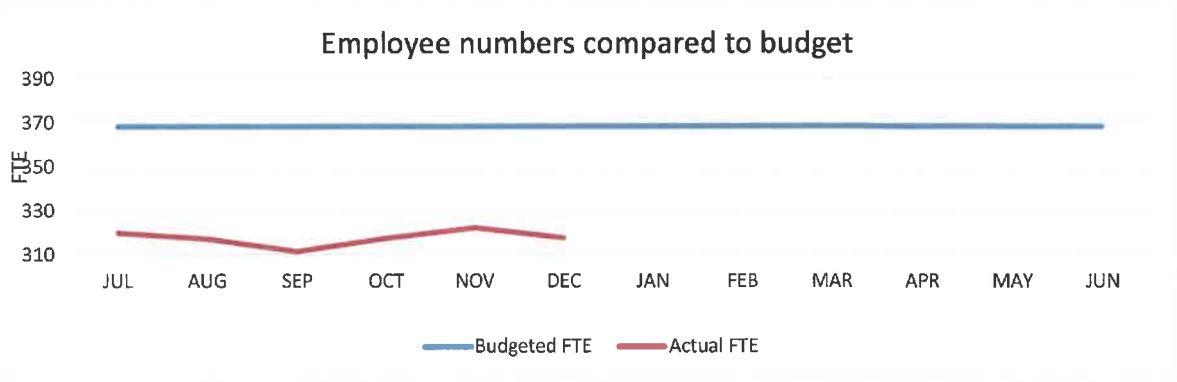
- Analysis of housing debtors and their collection rates are considered in detail.

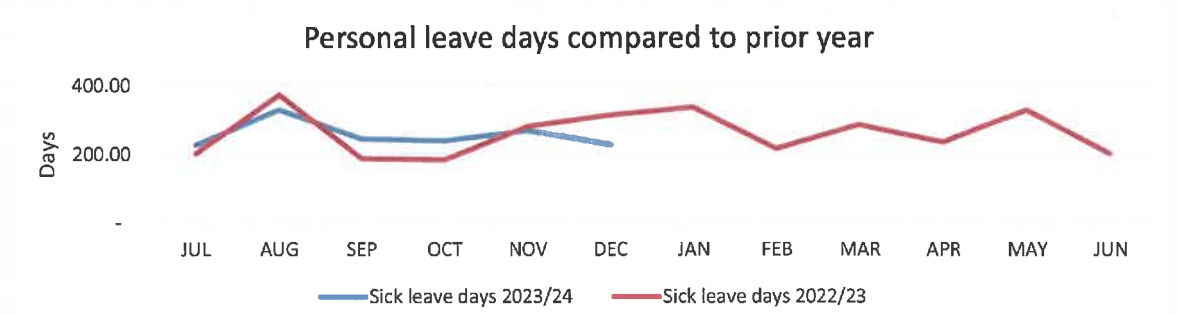


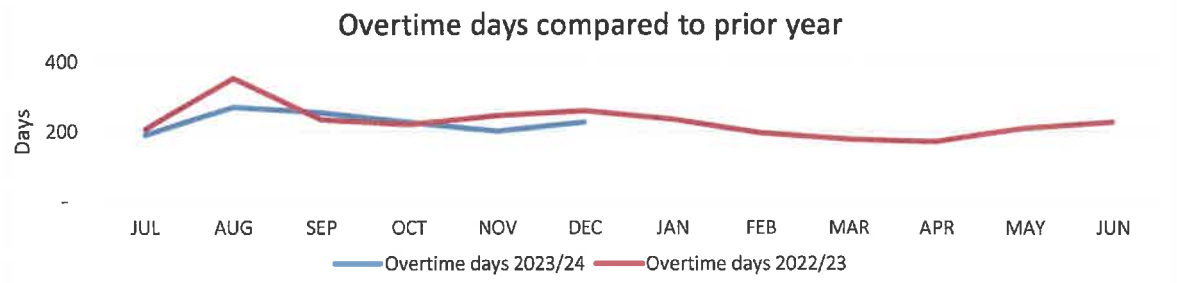


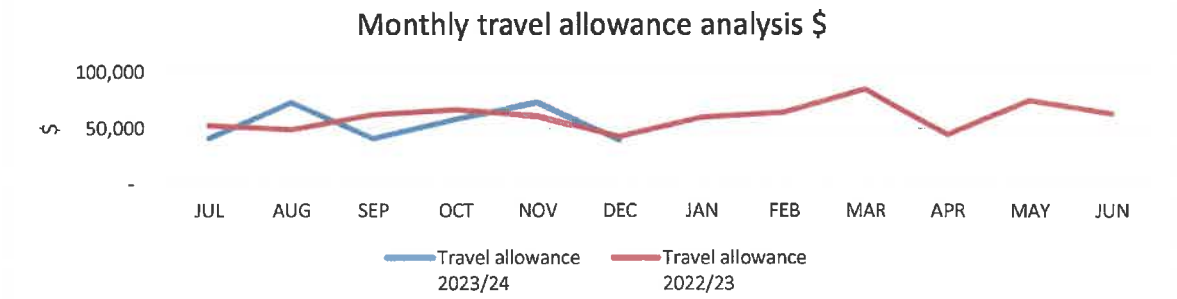


Payroll Analysis









Grant Analysis:

Refer to the 'Funding Acquisition Report' by Corporate Services.

Corporate Plan Linkage:

Outcome: We manage Council affairs responsibly to the benefit of our communities: evolve Council's cost management and analysis reporting.

Consultation and communication:

Senior Executive Team
Department Heads / Managers
Finance Department

Risk Management Implications:

Risk Management emerges from Council's intent to effectively and efficiently manage risks that may have an impact on the achievement of strategic priorities, operational goals and project objectives as defined in the Corporate and Operational Plans.

Significant Risks:

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Treatment	Financial Impact
Increase in material prices	High	Increased cost to deliver contract and recoverable works	Consider revising service agreements with funding partners to account for material increases	Negative impact to gross margins and ultimately net profits
Poor weather conditions	Low	Delay in operational and capital works resulting in reduced community service delivery	Consider works schedule	Negative impact to net profits and service delivery
Lack of available resources	High	Delays and inability to complete contract and recoverable works and capital programs	Consider methods for engaging skilled resources	Negative impact on gross margins and risk of returning grant funds if not able to deliver works

Final Considerations:

Risk Management

In terms of financial performance and risk, the approach taken sees the Finance Team working with the various business departments to understand and report on financial outcomes whilst also considering what those outcomes indicate for the future, particularly the requirement to deliver within budget. It is expected this forward-looking approach will allow the management team to implement timely rectification actions to emerging trends.

There are numerous drivers which have affected Council operations during the financial year. Inflationary pressures are impacting not only Council but the whole of Australia (rising energy prices, global supply chain disruptions and labour shortages) sending the cost of goods and services higher. Along with the spate of natural disasters, sharp rise in cash rates and high state wage increases.

While inflation now appears to be stabilising, it remains to be seen what the cumulative effect will be on Council operations in the next couple of months to year end, and years beyond based on the unpredictability of domestic and global events. Management will continue to progressively adapt, monitor, and plan into the future as the situation and its impact evolves. With continuing uncertainty in the economic climate and changes in market factors, it makes future forecasting challenging.

Recommended:

Nicola Daniels
Head of Financial Services

Endorsed:

Hollie Faithfull
Executive Director Financial Services

Approved:

James William
Chief Executive Officer

Appendix A

Executive Department

Key Financial Results	Annual Budget Review	YTD Budget Review	YTD Actual	YTD Variance	YTD Variance %	Status
Recurrent revenue	123	123	0	(123)	-100.0%	
Other income	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Recurrent expenditure (excl. depreciation)	(3,645,255)	(1,881,932)	(1,888,077)	(6,145)	-0.3%	
Operating surplus (exc. Depreciation)	**(3,645,132)**	**(1,881,809)**	**(1,888,077)**	**(6,268)**	**-0.3%**	
Capital revenue	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Capital expenses	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Net result (excl. depreciation)	**(3,645,132)**	**(1,881,809)**	**(1,888,077)**	**(6,268)**	**-0.3%**	
Depreciation Expense	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Net result	**(3,645,132)**	**(1,881,809)**	**(1,888,077)**	**(6,268)**	**-0.3%**	

Comments:

Unfavourable Operating result:

Expenditure is slightly over budget for December 2023

Unfavourable Net result:

The above reason has caused a overall unfavorable variance in December 2023

Building Services Department

Key Financial Results	Annual Budget Review	YTD Budget Review	YTD Actual	YTD Variance	YTD Variance %	Status
Recurrent revenue	18,000,000	8,817,998	11,461,965	2,643,967	30.0%	
Other income	100,000	74,200	70,116	(4,084)	-5.5%	
Recurrent expenditure (excl. depreciation)	(14,184,021)	(6,820,069)	(9,541,825)	(2,721,756)	-39.9%	
Operating surplus (exc. Depreciation)	**3,915,979**	**2,072,129**	**1,990,256**	**(81,873)**	**-4.0%**	
Capital revenue	1,800,000	0	0	0	0.0%	
Capital expenses	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Net result (excl. depreciation)	**5,715,979**	**2,072,129**	**1,990,256**	**(81,873)**	**-4.0%**	
Depreciation Expense	(20,697)	(11,020)	(17,741)	(6,721)	-61.0%	
Net result	**5,695,282**	**2,061,109**	**1,972,515**	**(88,594)**	**-4.3%**	

Comments:

Favourable Operating result:

Contract and recoverable works and operating expenditure are overstated due to capital works yet to be moved to capital revenue and the asset register

Favourable Net result:

Minimal variance between budget and actuals at the end of December 2023

Corporate Services Department

Key Financial Results	Annual Budget Review	YTD Budget Review	YTD Actual	YTD Variance	YTD Variance %	Status
Recurrent revenue	22,108	11,560	4,768	(6,792)	-58.8%	
Other income	39,000	19,536	17,096	(2,440)	-12.5%	
Recurrent expenditure (excl. depreciation)	(6,135,526)	(2,856,553)	(2,489,344)	367,209	12.9%	
Operating surplus (exc. Depreciation)	**(6,074,418)**	**(2,825,457)**	**(2,467,480)**	**357,977**	**12.7%**	
Capital revenue	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Capital expenses	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Net result (excl. depreciation)	**(6,074,418)**	**(2,825,457)**	**(2,467,480)**	**357,977**	**12.7%**	
Depreciation Expense	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Net result	**(6,074,418)**	**(2,825,457)**	**(2,467,480)**	**357,977**	**12.7%**	

Comments:

Favourable Operating/Net Result

Recurring Revenue - Other income lower than expected and admin fees not yet received.

Recurrent Expenditure - The key driver for favourable operating expenses are employee benefits due to a number of vacancies as well as lower total travel expenses and reduced total IT hardware and software expenditure

Health and Community Services Department

Key Financial Results	Annual Budget Review	YTD Budget Review	YTD Actual	YTD Variance	YTD Variance %	Status
Recurrent revenue	13,666,013	7,273,931	6,820,522	(453,409)	-6.2%	
Other income	531,961	265,325	229,889	(35,436)	-13.4%	
Recurrent expenditure (excl. depreciation)	(16,434,522)	(8,248,671)	(7,519,901)	728,770	8.8%	
Operating surplus (exc. Depreciation)	**(2,236,548)**	**(709,415)**	**(469,490)**	**239,925**	**33.8%**	
Capital revenue	17,425,000	8,912,500	95,100	(8,817,400)	-98.9%	
Capital expenses	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Net result (excl. depreciation)	**15,188,452**	**8,203,085**	**(374,390)**	**(8,577,475)**	**-104.6%**	
Depreciation Expense	(31,560,097)	(15,809,684)	(15,940,731)	(131,047)	-0.8%	
Net result	**(16,371,645)**	**(7,606,599)**	**(16,315,121)**	**(8,708,522)**	**-114.5%**	

Comments:

Favourable Operating Result:

Recurrent Revenue - reduced due to timing of receipt of grant funding ~$658K State & Federal across multiple programs, Accommodation & Housing Rental & Commission income also underbudget YTD, partially offset by Commercial Property Rental Income being ~$336K higher than budgeted YTD (due to timing of invoicing)

Recurrent Expenditure - continuing high level of staff vacancies across Community Services has seen reduced salaries expenditure $605K (13%) lower and expenditure on materials & services less than budgeted

Unfavourable Net result:

Capital Revenue - underbudget due to timing of receipt of Housing's grant funding

Appendix A

Financial Services Department

Key Financial Results	Annual Budget Review	YTD Budget Review	YTD Actual	YTD Variance	YTD Variance %	Status
Recurrent revenue	25,177,851	16,559,004	16,951,519	392,515	2.4%	
Other income	(500,000)	0	0	0	0.0%	
Recurrent expenditure (excl. depreciation)	(6,284,998)	(3,580,536)	(2,661,218)	919,318	25.7%	
Operating surplus (exc. Depreciation)	**18,392,853**	**12,978,468**	**14,290,301**	**1,311,833**	**10.1%**	
Capital revenue	1,235,474	411,822	560,388	148,566	36.1%	
Capital expenses	(3,500,000)	(1,750,000)	(136,098)	1,613,902	92.2%	
Net result (excl. depreciation)	**16,128,327**	**11,640,290**	**14,714,591**	**3,074,301**	**26.4%**	
Depreciation Expense	(964,935)	(402,056)	(433,838)	(31,782)	-7.9%	
Net result	**15,163,392**	**11,238,234**	**14,280,753**	**3,042,519**	**27.1%**	

Comments:

Favourable Operating result:

Recurrent Revenue - slightly higher due to increasing interest rates

Recurrent expenditure - overall expenditure was lower then projected.

Favourable Net result:

Depreciation expenses slightly higher than budgeted and hence does not effect the overall budget.

Engineering Services Department

Key Financial Results	Annual Budget Review	YTD Budget Review	YTD Actual	YTD Variance	YTD Variance %	Status
Recurrent revenue	16,146,465	10,469,373	4,199,131	(6,270,242)	-59.9%	
Other income	0	0	633	633	0.0%	
Recurrent expenditure (excl. depreciation)	(31,033,965)	(16,562,829)	(12,996,551)	3,566,278	21.5%	
Operating surplus (exc. Depreciation)	**(14,887,500)**	**(6,093,456)**	**(8,796,787)**	**(2,703,331)**	**-44.4%**	
Capital revenue	14,151,687	4,955,068	2,650,088	(2,304,980)	-46.5%	
Capital expenses	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Net result (excl. depreciation)	**(735,813)**	**(1,138,388)**	**(6,146,699)**	**(5,008,311)**	**439.9%**	
Depreciation Expense	(26,351,867)	(13,063,773)	(13,151,189)	(87,416)	-0.7%	
Net result	**(27,087,680)**	**(14,202,161)**	**(19,297,888)**	**(5,095,727)**	**-35.9%**	

Comments:

Unfavourable Operating result:

- Recurrent Revenue - unfavourable revenue result is due to delay in works associated with recurrent grants, mainly QRA works.
- Recurrent Expenditure - favourable result is combination of unfilled employee positions and work delays associated with QRA works.

Unfavourable Net result:

- Capital grants received lower than budget forecast (budget timing)
- Depreciation expense slightly higher than forecast in the 23/24 budget review

Fuel and Fleet Services Department

Key Financial Results	Annual Budget Review	YTD Budget Review	YTD Actual	YTD Variance	YTD Variance %	Status
Recurrent revenue	1,575,001	802,862	925,536	122,674	15.3%	
Other income	25,000	11,364	7,697	(3,667)	-32.3%	
Recurrent expenditure (excl. depreciation)	(2,082,004)	(917,766)	(706,264)	211,502	23.0%	
Operating surplus (exc. Depreciation)	**(482,003)**	**(103,540)**	**226,969**	**330,509**	**319.2%**	
Capital revenue	2,216,128	738,710	70,276	(668,434)	-90.5%	
Capital expenses	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Net result (excl. depreciation)	**1,734,125**	**635,170**	**297,245**	**(337,925)**	**-53.2%**	
Depreciation Expense	(597,024)	(293,850)	(238,118)	55,732	19.0%	
Net result	**1,137,101**	**341,320**	**59,127**	**(282,193)**	**-82.7%**	

Comments:

Favourable Operating Result

Recurrent revenue - Higher sale of fuel and gas.

Recurrent expenditure - Employee benefits underbudget due to vacancies, Fuel invoices delayed.

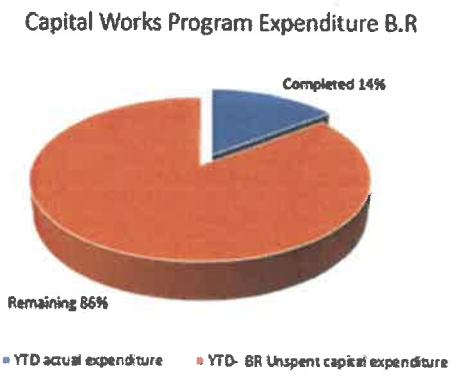
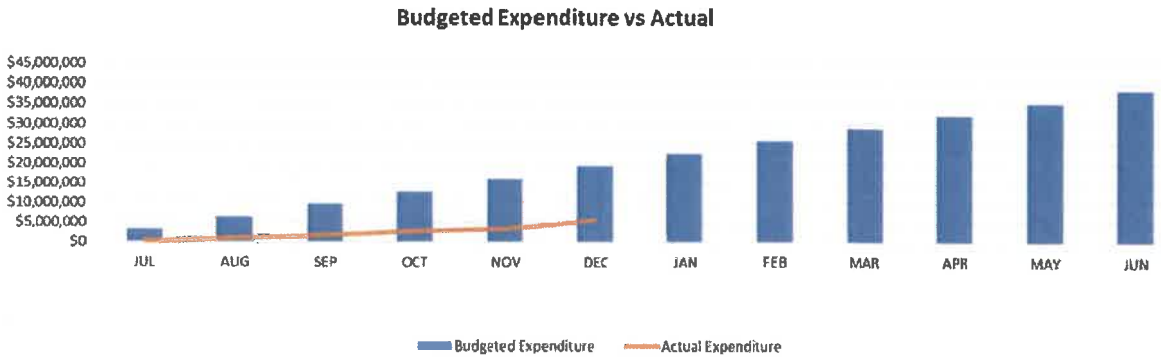
Unfavourable Net Result

Capital Revenue - Contract Implementation Delayed

Appendix A

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

YTD actual expenditure	$	5,589,286
YTD- BR Unspent capital expenditure	$	33,056,317
Full year BR budget capital expenditure	$	38,645,603



MONTHLY PROGRESS – CAPITAL EXPENDITURE