



Minutes

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

16-17 November 2023

Day 1 – 16 November 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 8 – Kirirri (Hammond)	Cr Seriako Dorante
Division 9 – Iama	Cr Getano Lui (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	<i>not represented</i>

APOLOGIES:

Mayor	Cr Phillemon Mosby
Division 7 – Wug (St Pauls)	Cr John Levi

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer	Mr James William
Executive Director Building Services	Mr Wayne Green
Executive Director Community Services	Mr Dawson Sailor
Executive Director Engineering Services	Mr David Baldwin
Executive Director Financial Services	Ms Hollie Faithfull
Corporate Services Support	Ms Margaret Gatt
TSIRC Legal Advisor (Preston Law)	Mr Julian Bodenmann
Executive Support Coordinator	Ms Sharon Russell
Executive Assistant to the Mayor	Ms Trudy Lui
Secretariat Officer	Mr Darryl Brooks

- *In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor chaired the November 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting.*

1. Welcome & Quorum Confirmation

The Deputy Mayor formally opened the October 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting at 2.20pm, noting that a quorum of members was established at the preceding Trustee Council Meeting.

2. Apologies (Day 1)

The following apologies were noted:

Mayor	Cr Phillemon Mosby	Medical reasons
Division 7 – Wug (St Pauls)	Cr John Levi	Family commitments in Brisbane

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela

Second: Cr Conwell Tabuai

Council accepts the apology of the Mayor, Cr Phillemon Mosby, for the November 2023 Council Ordinary Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon

Second: Cr Torenzo Elisala

Council accepts the apology of Cr John Levi for the November 2023 Council Ordinary Meeting and approves the payment of the Councillor's Monthly Meeting Allowance.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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 - October 2023

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kabay Tamu

Second: Cr Francis Pearson

Council agrees that the Minutes for the Council Ordinary Meeting held on 24-25 September 2023 (subject to minor amendments) are confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AMENDMENTS FOR THE OCTOBER 2023 MINUTES:

1. Regarding AI 23 (BUILDING SERVICES: Contractual Matter – Forward Remote Capital Program Housing Investment Plan Strategy)
 - Confirmed minutes to note that Crs Tamu, Lui and Gela declared conflicts in relation to this agenda item and left the meeting prior to the commencement of deliberations on this item.

5. Ratification of Economic Growth Committee Meeting Minutes – 5 July 2023

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Conwell Tabuai

Second: Cr Jimmy Gela

Council ratifies the Economic Growth Committee Meeting Minutes of 5 July 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Ratification of Economic Growth Committee Meeting Draft Minutes - 27 October 2023

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen

Second: Cr Jimmy Gela

Council ratifies the Economic Growth Committee Meeting Draft Minutes of 27 October 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Action Items from Previous Council Ordinary 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.

8. Mayor Report – November 2023

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Francis Pearson

Second: Cr Lama Trinkoon

Council notes the Mayor's Report for November 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Chief Executive Officer Report – November 2023

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala

Second: Cr Rocky Stephen

Council notes the Chief Executive Officer Report for November 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela

Second: Cr Francis Pearson

Council resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to the following applicant in accordance with the Community Grants Policy:

- **Freddy David for the eligible amount of \$2,500.00, exclusive of GST.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon

Second: Cr Rocky Stephen

Council resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to the following applicant in accordance with the Community Grants Policy:

- Alice Namok for the available amount of \$1,877.86, exclusive of GST.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen

Second: Cr Seriako Dorante

Council resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to the following applicant in accordance with the Community Grants Policy:

- Andrew Passi for the eligible amount of \$2,500.00, exclusive of GST.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela

Second: Cr Francis Pearson

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *Council proceedings adjourned for afternoon tea break from 3.10pm to 3.30pm.*
- *Following afternoon tea, the Deputy Mayor/Acting Chair excused all officers for a closed session of Councillors-only to discuss AI 27 (Councillor Tamu: McInnes Wilson Lawyers).*

RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED BUSINESS FOR COUNCILLORS-ONLY

Moved: Cr Torenza Elisala

Second: Cr Jimmy Gela

Council resolves to move into Closed Business for Councillors-only to discuss the listed Agenda Item 27 (Councillor Tamu: McInnes Wilson Lawyers).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *Cr Hilda Mosby declared a conflict of interest in the matter to be discussed and excused herself from the meeting during deliberation of this matter.*

RESOLUTION TO MOVE OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS FOR COUNCILLORS-ONLY

Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon

Second: Cr Francis Pearson

Council resolves to move out of Closed Business for Councillors-only and resume into Ordinary Council business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *Ordinary Council Meeting business resumed at 4.30pm.*

11. CORPORATE SERVICES: Funding Acquisition Report

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala

Second: Cr Kabay Tamu

Council resolves to note this report and its content.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. CORPORATE SERVICES: 2022-23 Annual Report

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Keith Fell

Second: Cr Kabay Tamu

Council resolves to:

1. Adopt the Annual Report for the period of 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 for the Torres Strait Island Regional Council in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009* and associated regulation.
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to make minor administrative amendments and finalise all matters associated with publishing this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Following resolution by Council on this matter, the Chief Executive Officer made special acknowledgement of the work undertaken by TSIRC Officers Mr Brendan John and Ms Sharon Russell in the preparation of the annual report in a very short timeframe.

The Deputy Mayor further commented that the annual report reflects the hard work of Councillors and staff and will stand as a testimony to the Council's operations on behalf of the people and the region.

13. CORPORATE SERVICES: December 2023 Council Meeting – Change of Location

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon

Second: Cr Keith Fell

That the Trustee Council and Ordinary Council Meetings on 12-13 December 2023 be conducted by video conference from Council's Committee Room at Grafton Street Cairns.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. ENGINEERING SERVICES: Endorsement for Saibai Island as project site for collaboration with Engineers Without Borders

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Hilda Mosby

Second: Cr Conwell Tabuai

Council resolves:

1. To endorse Saibai Island as the nominated project site for the Engineers without Borders challenge for 2024-2025; and
2. Pursuant to Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, delegate to the Chief Executive Officer:
 - power to make, amend or discharge the collaboration agreement with Engineers Without Borders
 - power to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this project and agreement including without limitation any options and/or variations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. FINANCIAL SERVICES: Financial Dashboard Report – October 2023

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen

Second: Cr Lama Trinkoon

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 October 2023, as required under Section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. FINANCIAL SERVICES: Policy Matter – Corporate Credit Card Policy

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela

Second: Cr Hilda Mosby

Council resolves:

1. To adopt the Corporate Credit Card Policy in the form attached to the agenda paper; and
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to exercise the functions and powers assigned to the Chief Executive Officer under the amended and endorsed policy, including the power to make any further minor administrative amendments to the policy as they arise.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17. FINANCIAL SERVICES: 2022-23 Financial Statements

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala

Second: Cr Conwell Tabuai

The Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 be received and adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

18. FINANCIAL SERVICES: Auditor-General's Observation Report on the audit of the 2022-23 TSIRC Financial Statements

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen

Second: Cr Keith Fell

That Council note the Auditor-General's Observation Report on the audit of the 2022/2023 Torres Strait Island Regional Council Financial Statements.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

19. FINANCIAL SERVICES: Policy Matter and Resolution – Procurement and Ethical Sourcing Policy and QBuild

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela

Second: Cr Francis Pearson

Council resolves:

- 1. To adopt the Procurement & Ethical Sourcing Policy in the form attached;**
- 2. Pursuant to sections 236, 257 and 262 of the *Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)* and subject to the limitations provided for in the Procurement & Ethical Sourcing Policy, to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) the power to enter into, negotiate, make, sign, amend or discharge contracts for materials, goods and services required in order for Council's Building Services team to comply with any contractual obligations Council has to undertake works for QBuild, provided such contract for materials, goods or services does not exceed, \$1,000,000 excluding GST.**
- 3. The CEO may not sub-delegate its delegated powers under resolution 2 above where such sub-delegation would exceed \$500,000 excluding GST.**
- 4. To direct the CEO to provide a biannual report to Council reporting on any contracts entered into pursuant to the delegation (and sub-delegation) in resolution 2 and 3 above.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *The Deputy Mayor/Acting Chairperson closed Day 1 of the Ordinary Council Meeting at 5.00pm and Cr Rocky Stephen delivered the closing prayer.*

Day 2 – 17 November 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 8 – Kirirri (Hammond)	Cr Seriako Dorante
Division 9 – Iama	Cr Getano Lui (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	<i>not represented</i>

APOLOGIES:

Mayor	Cr Phillemon Mosby
Division 7 – Wug (St Pauls)	Cr John Levi

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer	Mr James William
Executive Director Building Services	Mr Wayne Green
Executive Director Community Services	Mr Dawson Sailor
Executive Director Engineering Services	Mr David Baldwin
Executive Director Financial Services	Ms Hollie Faithfull
Corporate Services Support	Ms Margaret Gatt
TSIRC Legal Advisor (Preston Law)	Mr Julian Bodenmann
Executive Assistant to the Mayor	Ms Trudy Lui
Secretariat Officer	Mr Darryl Brooks

- *In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor chaired the November 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting.*

➤ **Welcome & Quorum Confirmation – Day 2**

At 9.05am the Deputy Mayor/Acting Chairperson completed a roll call of Councillors. A quorum for Day 2 of the November 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting was noted and the Deputy Mayor delivered the opening prayer.

➤ **Apologies**

The following apologies were noted:

Mayor	Cr Phillemon Mosby	Medical reasons
Division 7 – Wug (St Pauls)	Cr John Levi	Family commitments in Brisbane

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kabay Tamu

Second: Cr Torenzo Elisala

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala

Second: Cr Keith Fell

Council accepts the apology of Cr John Levi for Day 2 of the November 2023 Council Ordinary Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

The Deputy Mayor requested that members 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.

20. MOVE INTO CLOSED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Francis Pearson

Second: Cr Keith Fell

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

28. MOVE OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen

Second: Cr Kabay Tamu

That Council resolves to move out of closed business and resume in open business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

29. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED BUSINESS

- *Cr Kabay Tamu declared a conflict of interest in relation to AI 21 (close family member) and excused himself from the meeting prior to deliberation commencing on this agenda item.*
- *Mr Dawson Sailor, Executive Director Community Services, excused himself from the meeting prior to deliberation commencing on AI 21.*
- *Mr Wayne Green, Executive Director Building Services, did not join the Council meeting on Day 2 until after deliberations had concluded in relation to AI 22.*

21. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Appointment of Acting Chief Executive Officer

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon

Second: Cr Conwell Tabuai

That under Section 195 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council appoints Dawson Sailor, Executive Director Community Services, to act as the Chief Executive Officer from Saturday 18 November 2023 until Monday 27 November 2023 (inclusive), while James William is on annual leave, and confirms that James William will resume his appointment as Chief Executive Officer on and from his return from leave.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *Cr Kabay Tamu and Mr Dawson Sailor rejoined the meeting following deliberation of the above agenda item.*

22. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Mobility Arrangement with Department of Energy and Public Works

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela

Second: Cr Keith Fell

Council resolves:

1. To enter into a mobility arrangement pursuant to Section 82 of the *Public Sector Act 2022 (Qld)* with the Department of Energy and Public Works; and
2. Pursuant to Sections 236 and 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)*, to delegate to the CEO the power to negotiate, make, sign, amend or discharge a mobility agreement without limitation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

23. CORPORATE SERVICES: Enterprise Divestment and Licence Fee Waivers

- *Council supported a request by Cr Rocky Stephen (Chair of the Economic Growth Committee) that this agenda item be discussed at the December 2023 Council Ordinary Meeting.*

24. ENGINEERING SERVICES: Funding Matter – Supplementary ATSI TIDS Funding – Freight Safety Funding

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Keith Fell

Second: Cr Conwell Tabuai

Council resolves to:

1. Enter into the proposed funding agreement with the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) to the amount of up to \$6,491,000.00 (excl. GST), administered through the ATSI TIDS Program for the Saibai School Road and Hospital Drive Road upgrade works, subject to formalising a funding agreement; and
2. Pursuant to Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer:
 - power to make, amend or discharge the Funding Agreement for freight safety; and
 - power to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this project and agreement including without limitation any options and/or variations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

25. ENGINEERING SERVICES: Funding Matter – TSRA MIAOP 04 22-23 Erub Island Reservoir Refurbishment Funding

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Keith Fell

Second: Cr Rocky Stephen

Council resolves to:

1. enter into the proposed funding agreement, MIAOP 04 22-23 Erub Island Reservoir Refurbishment Funding agreement administered by Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) in relation to Council's submission for the grant sum of \$1,530,000 (excl. GST); and
2. delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2009*:
 - power to make, amend or discharge the funding agreement; and
 - power to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this funding agreement including without limitation any options and/or variations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

26. ENGINEERING SERVICES: Information Report - Capital Works Projects Update

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Francis Pearson

Second: Cr Lama Trinkoon

Council notes this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

27. COUNCILLOR TAMU – McInnes Wilson Lawyers

- *Discussed on Day 1 following conclusion of deliberations on Agenda Item 10. No resolution/decision made by Council on this item.*

30. CLOSE DAY 1

N/A

31. BUSINESS ARISING (from Information Reports)

Nil.

32. STRATEGIC MATTERS

(a) Contract – TSRA

Cr Torenzo Elisala raised status of the Dauan Helicopter subsidy resuming due to passenger demands over the Festive Season to travel in/out of Dauan.

The Executive Director Community Services (Dawson Sailor) responded that the TSRA is finalizing the new Agreements for the new funding structures. The Executive Director Community Services requested Cr Rocky Stephen to raise this matter at the TSRA Board meeting on 20-24 November 2023 for both the Dauan and Ugar Divisions.

Action:

Cr Rocky Stephen to raise at the TSRA Board meeting on 20-24 November 2023 the status of the Dauan Helicopter subsidy resuming due to passengers demands over the festive season to travel in/out of Dauan.

(b) Masig Statement

Cr Rocky Stephen would like Councillors to encourage communities to sign-off on the Masig Statement, as was the aim of this year's celebrations. It is important for all communities to sign-off to demonstrate the importance of the Masig Statement as a unifying voice for the Torres Strait.

More discussion around regional governance/Masig Statement policy direction needs to occur, especially the future of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Organisation of Councils (TS&NPA ROC) which comprises the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Torres Shire Council and the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council. This discussion must also clarify the Council's current position in relation to the ROC and the funds that were allocated to the ROC.

The Deputy Mayor responded by saying that it was important to maintain the momentum of the Masig Statement. The ROC, unfortunately, appears to be governed by the interests of 'boundaries' and appears to have missed the impetus of being for 'the people' of the region. His advice is to elected and appointed representatives is to 'take off your organization hat' and think more about 'the people'. Our focus for leaders must be for a 'united Torres Strait' if we are to achieve regional governance.

(c) Caretaker Period

Cr Rocky Stephen proposed consideration of a face-to-face SARG meeting early in the new year to discuss some firm policy positions for Council to consider at its January 2024 Ordinary Meeting, particularly in relation to Enterprise Divestment Policy, the Economic Development Strategy and the CDEP proposal. This will also be of great assistance for the incoming Council in 2024.

(d) Various Regional/Local Issues (Cr Keith Fell)

- would like to continue discussions around the **TSIRC regional structure**, particularly in relation to how Divisional Managers can take more control on the ground and what that might look like.
- waiving of fees – needs to be discussed thoroughly, in light of Cr Tamu's suggestion at the July 2023 Council meeting around **revenue collections** being reabsorbed locally, one option would be for those monies to be used to support local community grants.
- supports further discussion around the **sharing of workplace resources / rotation of staff around the Divisions** to broaden their experiences and improve skill sets and to avoid any complacency attitudes setting in amongst staff. **Crs Seriako Dorante and Lama Trinkoon** indicated their strong support for this change being implemented across the region. **Cr Dorante** also added that all TSIRC staff should receive annual reminders/refresher training about their obligations and responsibilities as TSIRC employees and TSIRC managers (i.e. correct filling of timesheets, leave applications, use of facilities, workplace behaviours, succession training for staff, etc.)
- there needs to be **greater recognition of long-serving staff** and innovative staff throughout the Divisions by the Council and the Executive to validate and acknowledge their service and commitment to the Council and the community.
- discussions have been initiated with Crs Trinkoon, Levi, Wosomo and Fell around opportunities to establish **Moa as a location of a storage hub/lay down area for the Western Cluster for infrastructure projects**. This will also create local employment on Moa for those who manage the storage facility. **Cr Lama Trinkoon** indicated his strong support for this initiative and views it as a logistical improvement to advance development across the region.

(e) Saibai Church

Cr Conwell Tabuai again raised the issue of finalizing a formal position around use of the Saibai Church as a very high priority, as demands for its use during periods of Sorry Business continue and the approaching Festive Season will now place an even greater demand on its use by the community.

(f) Treaty Border Closure Arrangements

Cr Hilda Mosby sought clarification on arrangements to be followed for traditional family visits under the Torres Strait Treaty over the upcoming Christmas/New Year period when both borders will be formally closed from **18 December 2023 to 29 January 2024**. (For example, must visitors be required to arrive at the destination prior to 18 December 2023 and remain there until after 29 January 2024?).

The Deputy Mayor advised that no traditional visits into the Torres Strait should occur between 18 December 2023 to 29 January 2024 inclusive – arrivals into the Torres Strait by traditional visitors must happen prior to 18 December 2023. It is incumbent on Councillors as authorizing officers to strictly adhere to the suspension dates and to ensure that this message is clearly communicated to their respective communities. Visitors must remain only for the stated time on their Prior Approval Notice, then they must return.

For example, if an event involving traditional visitors is scheduled for 20 December 2023 on Boigu, then those traditional visitors must arrive on Boigu prior to 18 December 2023 and if their Prior Approval Notice period expires on 12 January 2024, then they must return to Papua New Guinea on 12 January 2024.

Cr Dimas Toby sought clarification as to who are the **authorizing officers** for Prior Approval Notices, as some native title holders are asserting in some instances that they also have this same authority. The Deputy Mayor stressed that 'native title' only has domestic jurisdiction, whereas the Torres Strait Treaty has international jurisdiction (i.e. Australia/Papua New Guinea). The Australian Government has already determined who is the authorizing officer in Australia for the Prior Approval Notices and the Government of Papua New Guinea has already determined who is the authorizing office in Papua New Guinea for the Prior Approval Notices on that side. No other parties can do so.

Action:

Executive Director Community Services to send out notice to all Divisions ASAP relating to the closure period for traditional visits under the Torres Strait Treaty over the upcoming Christmas and New Year period (18 December 2023 to 29 January 2024).

(g) Removal of Unwanted Persons

Cr Conwell Tabuai would like Council to receive advice on what powers are available to Councillors to remove unwanted persons from their community.

Action:

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.

(h) Replacement arrangements for Cr Lui's role as the Australian Traditional Inhabitants Meeting Co-Chair

Cr Rocky Stephen raised the need to set in train arrangements in relation to Cr Lui's role as the Australian Traditional Inhabitants Meeting Co-Chair as a priority, in lieu of Cr Lui's decision not to contest the upcoming Local Government elections in 2024.

The Deputy Mayor responded by advising Council that the arrangements for his role as the Australian Traditional Inhabitants Meeting Co-Chair is a matter for the incoming Council to decide after the 2024 Local Government elections. It is his view that this role be retained/held by TSIRC as the occupant of the Australian Co-Chair role should, for practical and cultural reasons, be a representative residing within the Torres Strait Protected Zone.

➤ *Council proceedings adjourned for morning tea break from 10.30am to 11.00am.*

33. DEPUTATION: Bureau of Meteorology

Council welcomed Mr Luke Shelley (Manager Northern Queensland) and Ms Eliza Glasson (Engagement Officer, Australian Climate Service) from the Bureau of Meteorology to present to Council on the topic of Climate Trends and Projections.

Ms Glasson addressed the Council through the delivery of a slide presentation. Following the presentation, Ms Glasson and Mr Shelley participated in a question and answer discussion with Councillors.

Council noted and accepted an offer from the Bureau of Meteorology for the two organisations to work more closely together to enhance data collection capacities which will assist in forecasting more accurate climate trends and projections into the future.

Council noted the presentation and thanked the Bureau of Meteorology delegates for their attendance and presentation.

34. Next Council Meeting Date: 12-13 December 2023 (VC)

Noted by Council (refer Agenda Item 13 of November 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting).

35. Official Close & Prayer

The Deputy Mayor thanked Councillors and staff for their attendance and contributions during the past two weeks at both the November 2023 Council Workshop and November 2023 Trustee and Ordinary Council Meetings, further adding that it was his own personal view that the past two weeks has been very productive and the program prepared for the Council during this period has been much more strategic.

The Deputy Mayor/Acting Chairperson officially closed the meeting at 12.20pm and then delivered the closing prayer.

.....
Mr James William
Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 19 December 2023

.....
Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) AM
Deputy Mayor / Acting Chairperson
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 19 December 2023