



# Minutes

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

24-25 October 2023

## Day 1 – 24 October 2023

### PRESENT:

#### Mayor

Division 1 - Boigu  
Division 2 – Dauan  
Division 3 – Saibai  
Division 4 – Mabuiag  
Division 5 – Badu  
Division 6 – Arkai  
Division 7 – Wug (St Pauls)  
Division 9 – Iama  
Division 10 – Warraber  
Division 11 – Poruma  
Division 12 – Masig  
Division 14 - Erub  
Division 15 – Mer

Cr Phillemon Mosby  
Cr Dimas Toby  
Cr Torenzo Elisala  
Cr Conwell Tabuai  
Cr Keith Fell  
Cr Ranetta Wosomo  
Cr Lama Trinkoon  
Cr John Levi  
Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) AM – **Deputy Mayor**  
Cr Kabay Tamu  
Cr Francis Pearson  
Cr Hilda Mosby  
Cr Jimmy Gela  
*not represented*

### OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer  
Executive Director Building Services  
Executive Director Community Services  
Acting Executive Director Corporate Services  
Executive Director Engineering Services  
Executive Director Financial Services  
TSIRC Legal Advisor (Preston Law)  
Executive Support Coordinator  
Executive Assistant to the Mayor  
Secretariat Officer

Mr James William  
Mr Wayne Green  
Mr Dawson Sailor  
Mr Gary Stevenson PSM  
Mr David Baldwin  
Ms Hollie Faithfull  
Mr Julian Bodenmann  
Ms Sharon Russell  
Ms Trudi Lui  
Mr Darryl Brooks

### APOLOGIES:

Division 8 – Kirirri (Hammond)      Cr Seriako Dorante  
Division 13 – Ugar                      Cr Rocky Stephen

**1. Welcome & Quorum Confirmation**

The Mayor formally opened the October 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting at 11.20am, noting that a quorum of members was established at the preceding Trustee Council Meeting.

**2. Apologies (Day 1)**

The following apologies were tabled:

Division 5 – Badu	Cr Ranetta Wosomo	<i>From 12pm onwards (Day 1) to attend urgent community forum with PBC and Elders on Badu</i>
Division 8 – Kirirri (Hammond)	Cr Seriako Dorante	<i>Work commitments (Day 1) and TSRA commitments (Day 2)</i>
Division 13 – Ugar	Cr Rocky Stephen	<i>Border Force matters involving illegal arrivals on Ugar (Day 1)</i>

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon

Second: Cr Keith Fell

**Council accepts the apology of Cr Ranetta Wosomo for the October 2023 Council Ordinary Meeting (12pm onwards on Day 1) and approves the payment of the Councillor's Monthly Meeting Allowance.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Keith Fell

Second: Cr Francis Pearson

**Council accepts the apology of Cr Seriako Dorante for the October 2023 Council Ordinary Meeting and approves the payment of the Councillor's Monthly Meeting Allowance.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Hilda Mosby

Second: Cr Francis Pearson

**Council accepts the apology of Cr Rocky Stephen for the October 2023 Council Ordinary Meeting (Day 1) and approves the payment of the Councillor's Monthly Meeting Allowance.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

Mayor Mosby 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.

Cr Francis Pearson advised in relation to AI 16 (Community Grants Program Allocation – October 2023) that his daughter was an applicant.

No other declarations were made.

4. Confirmation of Council Ordinary Meeting Minutes - September 2023

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela

Second: Cr Francis Pearson

Council agrees that the Minutes for Day 1 of the Council Ordinary Meeting held on 19 September 2023 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Hilda Mosby

Second: Cr Jimmy Gela

Council agrees that the Minutes for Day 2 of the Council Ordinary Meeting held on 20 September 2023 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ACTION FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2023 MINUTES:**

1. Regarding AI 9 (CORPORATE SERVICES: TSIRC Special Holidays 2024)
  - Cr Jimmy Gela requested the removal of the Annual Daisy Mye Sports Carnival (Erub, 24 September 2024) as this is no longer observed.
2. Regarding AI 35 (DEPUTATION: PNG Treaty Village Councillors)
  - Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) AM requested that the names of deputation participants be included in the Minutes.

5. Ratification of Housing and Safe and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting Minutes of 8 June 2023

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Keith Fell

Second: Cr John Levi

Council ratifies the Housing and Safe and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting Minutes of 8 June 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Ratification of Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee Meeting Minutes of 14 September 2023

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Hilda Mosby

Second: Cr Francis Pearson

Council ratifies the Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee Meeting Minutes of 14 September 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Ratification of Housing and Safe and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting Minutes of 10 October 2023

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon

Second: Cr Francis Pearson

Council ratifies the Housing and Safe and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting Minutes of 10 October 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**8. Ratification of Governance and Leadership Committee Meeting Minutes of 18 October 2023**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr John Levi

Second: Cr Jimmy Gela

**Council ratifies the Governance and Leadership Committee Meeting Minutes of 18 October 2023.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9. 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.

- *Council meeting adjourned for lunch from 12.30pm to 1.30pm.*
- *Cr Ranetta Wosomo not in attendance for the remainder of Day 1 (pre-approved absence).*
- *Quorum of members noted for meeting to proceed.*

**10. Mayor Report – September 2023**

Council noted this report.

- *Cr Rocky Stephen joined the meeting at 1.35pm*

**11. Chief Executive Officer Report – October 2023**

Council noted this report.

Council also noted that Mr Gary Stevenson PSM has now commenced in the position of Acting Executive Director Corporate Services following the departure of Mr Martin Leech.

- *Cr Dimas Toby dialled out of the meeting at 1.55pm*

**12. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: 2024 Ordinary Council & Committee Meeting Dates**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela

Second: Cr Francis Pearson

**That Council:**

- (a) accept the schedule of Ordinary Council Meetings for the first quarter of 2024 prior to the Local Government Elections on 16 March 2024;
- (b) accept the schedule of Council Standing Committee Meetings for the first quarter of 2024 prior to the Local Government Elections on 16 March 2024; and
- (c) agree to consider a decision of all TORs for Council Standing Committees to occur prior to the Local Government Election on 16 March 2024 in preparation for the incoming Council and further agree that this decision be taken by Council at its March 2024 meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council Ordinary Meetings for the first quarter of 2024 prior to the Local Government Election on 16 March 2024:

- 23-24 January 2024 (9am) – VC
- 20-21 February 2024 (9am) – VC
- 5-6 March 2024 – F2F

*A post-election meeting will be held within 14 days of the conclusion of the election. The arrangements for all meetings post the election will be decided by the incoming Council.*

Meeting Dates for Council's Standing Committees for the first quarter of 2024 prior to the Local Government Election on 16 March 2024:

- SARG Committee – 9 Jan 2024 | 6 Feb 2024 | 29 Feb 2024
- Culture, Arts, Land & Heritage Committee – 11 Jan 2024
- Housing and Safe & Healthy Communities Committee – 30 Jan 2024
- Economic Growth Committee – 8 Feb 2024
- Governance & Leadership Committee – 13 Feb 2024
- Climate Change Adaptation & Environment Committee – 27 Feb 2024

**13. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Nominations for Audit Committee**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved: Cr John Levi*

*Second: Cr Jimmy Gela*

**That Council resolve to appoint by nomination and resolution Cr Keith Fell as a Councillor Member of the Audit Committee until the end of their current term on Council.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved: Cr Keith Fell*

*Second: Cr Conwell Tabuai*

**That Council resolve to appoint by nomination and resolution Cr Rocky Stephen as a Councillor Member of the Audit Committee until the end of their current term on Council.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved: Cr John Levi*

*Second: Cr Conwell Tabuai*

**That Council resolve to appoint by nomination and resolution Cr Lama Trinkoon as a Proxy Councillor Member of the Audit Committee until the end of their current term on Council**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved: Cr Keith Fell*

*Second: Cr Francis Pearson*

**That Council resolve to appoint by nomination and resolution Cr Kabay Tamu as a Proxy Councillor Member of the Audit Committee until the end of their current term on Council**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Mayor extended his best wishes to the Audit Committee members.

The Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Director Financial Services also advised the Council that the Mayor will be welcome to participate on the Committee in a non-voting capacity.

**14. BUILDING SERVICES: Building Services Report (September 2023)**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved: Cr Francis Pearson*

*Second: Cr Rocky Stephen*

**Council resolves to note the Building Services Report for September 2023.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**15. CORPORATE SERVICES: Culture, Arts, Land & Heritage (CALH) Committee – Update Membership & Terms of Reference (TOR)**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala

Second: Cr Jimmy Gela

That Council resolves to:

- appoint Cr Ranetta Wosomo as a member of the Culture, Arts, Land & Heritage (CALH) Committee to replace Cr Laurie Nona who has resigned from Council;
- reaffirm the appointment of Cr Torenzo Elisala as a member of the CALH Committee;
- appoint Cr Ranetta Wosomo as Acting Chairperson for the term of Cr Aven Noah's suspension from Council;
- endorse an updated Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Committee to reflect these and other changes which have taken place since November 2021.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- *Cr Francis Pearson declared a Conflict of Interest in relation to agenda item 16 (his daughter was an applicant) and left the meeting (3.20pm) prior to deliberation on this item.*

**16. CORPORATE SERVICES: Community Grants Program Allocation – September 2023**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon

Second: Cr John Levi

Council resolves to:

- (a) note this report of grant applications processed out-of-cycle, funeral donations and in-kind assistance provided in September 2023 in accordance with the Community Grants policy; and
- (b) notes that no in-cycle applications requiring Council approval were received since the last report to Council.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- *Cr Francis Pearson returned to the meeting at the conclusion of the above recommendation.*

**17. CORPORATE SERVICES: Funding Acquisition Report**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Francis Pearson

Second: Cr Keith Fell

Council resolves to note this report and its content.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



**18. CORPORATE SERVICES: Policy Updates and Complaints Annual Report**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela

Second: Cr Francis Pearson

1. That Council endorse the updated Complaint Management Policy, as presented.
2. That Council endorse the updated Complaint (Public Official) Policy, as presented, under section 48A of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.
3. That Council endorse the updated Public Interest Disclosure Policy and Management Program, as presented.
4. That Council endorse the updated Privacy Policy, as presented.
5. That Council note the Complaints Annual Report.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**19. CORPORATE SERVICES: Policy Matter: Risk Management Policy**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Francis Pearson

Second: Cr Hilda Mosby

That Council resolves to:

1. endorse the Torres Strait Island Regional Council's Risk Management Policy, in the terms presented to Council; 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.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- *At 4.00pm the Mayor called for a Closed Session for Councillors only. All staff were requested to leave the meeting for the day.*

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Hilda Mosby

Second: Cr Jimmy Gela

Council resolves to close the meeting to the public pursuant to section 254J of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* for a confidential discussion for Councillors only.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr John Levi

Second: Cr Lama Trinkoon

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Mayor closed Day 1 of the meeting at 5.00pm.

## Day 2 – 25 October 2023

### PRESENT:

#### Mayor

Division 2 – Dauan

Division 3 – Saibai

Division 4 – Mabuia

Division 5 – Badu

Division 6 – Arkai

Division 7 – Wug (St Pauls)

Division 9 – Iama

Division 10 – Warraber

Division 11 – Poruma

Division 13 – Ugar

Division 14 – Erub

Division 15 – Mer

Cr Phillemon Mosby

Cr Torenzo Elisala

Cr Conwell Tabuai

Cr Keith Fell

Cr Ranetta Wosomo

Cr Lama Trinkoon

Cr John Levi

Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) AM – **Deputy Mayor**

Cr Kabay Tamu

Cr Francis Pearson

Cr Rocky Stephen

Cr Jimmy Gela

*not represented*

*joined meeting at 9.05am*

*joined meeting at 9.20am*

### OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Director Building Services

Executive Director Community Services

Acting Executive Director Corporate Services

Executive Director Engineering Services

Executive Director Financial Services

TSIRC Legal Advisor (Preston Law)

Executive Support Coordinator

Executive Assistant to the Mayor

Secretariat Officer

Mr James William

Mr Wayne Green

Mr Dawson Sailor

Mr Gary Stevenson PSM

Mr David Baldwin

Ms Hollie Faithfull

Mr Julian Bodenmann

Ms Sharon Russell

Ms Trudi Lui

Mr Darryl Brooks

### APOLOGIES (DAY 2):

Division 1 – Boigu

Cr Dimas Toby

*Medical reasons*

Division 12 – Masig

Cr Hilda Mosby

*Technology issues (Seisia)*

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

At 9.00am the Mayor completed a roll call of Councillors. A quorum for Day 2 of the October 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting was noted.

Cr John Levi delivered the opening prayer.

➤ **Apologies**

The following apologies were tabled:

Division 1 – Boigu	Cr Dimas Toby	Medical reasons
Division 12 – Masig	Cr Hilda Mosby	Technology issues (Seisia)

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Conwell Tabuai

Second: Cr Keith Fell

**Council accepts the apology of Cr Dimas Toby for Day 2 of the October 2023 Council Ordinary Meeting and approves the payment of the Councillor's Monthly Meeting Allowance.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela

Second: Cr Keith Fell

**Council accepts the apology of Cr Hilda Mosby for Day 2 of the October 2023 Council Ordinary Meeting and approves the payment of the Councillor's Monthly Meeting Allowance.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

Mayor Mosby 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.

Cr Jimmy Gela advised in relation to AI 23 (Contractual Matter – Forward Remote Capital Program Housing Investment Plan Strategy) that he is a relative of the tenant.

No other declarations were made.

- *Cr Ranetta Wosomo advised that she will have to leave the Council meeting from 12pm onwards (Day 2) to attend a follow-up community forum with PBC and Elders on Badu arising from the previous day.*

**20. FINANCIAL SERVICES: Financial Dashboard Report – September 2023**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon

Second: Cr Rocky Stephen

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**21. DEPUTATION: Productivity Commission**

The deputation from the Productivity Commission did not proceed due to technology issues they were experiencing with their IT system.

**ACTION:**

Secretariat to explore another opportunity for the deputation from the Productivity Commission to take place.

**22. MOVE INTO CLOSED BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Keith Fell

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

**29. MOVE OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen

Second: Cr Hilda Mosby

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**30. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED BUSINESS**

- *Crs Tamu, Lui and Gela declared conflicts of interest in relation to AI 23 and left the meeting during deliberations.*

**23. BUILDING SERVICES: Contractual Matter – Forward Remote Capital Program Housing Investment Plan Strategy**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen

Second: Cr John Levi

That the Council resolves to:

- Verify, finalise, endorse and execute the identified lots below for each community as identified in the Housing Investment Plan and discussed with each of the respective Divisional Councillors;
- Pursuant to section 257 of the Local Government Act 2009, to delegate to the Chief Executive Delegate power to the Chief Executive Officer, 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; and
- Executive Director BSU to provide financial reporting to Council for transparency and accountability.

**Erub Island**

Priority	Site Address	Construction Type	Tenant
1	Lot 36 Erub Island Road	2 Bedroom Plug-In	Mary Waigana & Apia Gela

**Iama Island**

Priority	Site Address	Construction Type	Tenant
1	Lot 37 O'Leary Street	Demolition (funded elsewhere), 3/4 Bedroom New Build New Build	Mareko
1	Lot 75 Gej Street	2 Bedroom Plug-In with OT Dismods	Getano Lui (Jnr)

**Mabuiag Island**

Priority	Site Address	Construction Type	Tenant
1	Lot 89 School St	3/4 Bedroom New Build Lowset	Vacant
1	Lot 66 New Village St	2 Bedroom Plug-In, kitchen and bathroom with OT Dismods.	Kinau Akiba

**Saibai Island**

Priority	Site Address	Construction Type	Tenant
1	Lot 116 Main Road Saibai	2 Bedroom Plug-In, kitchen and bathroom with OT Dismods.	Aba Dau

**Warraber Island**

Priority	Site Address	Construction Type	Tenant
1	Lot 121 SP270859 Garnier Street	Subdivision, 3/4 Bedroom New Build New Build	Vacant Site

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- *Cr Tamu, Lui and Gela returned to the meeting following deliberation of the above matter.*

**24. CORPORATE SERVICES: Enterprise Divestment and Licence Fee Waivers  
RESOLUTION**

- *To be discussed at the November 2023 Council Workshop and the November 2023 Council Ordinary Meeting.*

**25. ENGINEERING SERVICES: Award Tender No.TSIRC 2022-362 Marine Initiatives – Separable Portion B – Badu Island Barge Ramp Remedial Works  
RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr John Levi

Second: Cr Keith Fell

That Council resolves to:

- Upon finalisation of funding agreement, award the Tender No. TSIRC2022-362 Marine Initiatives – Separable Portion B – Badu Island Barge Ramp Remedial Works to Koppens Developments Pty Ltd for an amount of up to \$1,850,412.02 excl. GST; and
- Delegate power to the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* 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

**26. ENGINEERING SERVICES: Capital Works Information Report (*verbal report*)  
RESOLUTION**

Council noted the verbal report from the Executive Director Engineering Services.

**27. ENGINEERING SERVICES: Marine Infrastructure Projects  
RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon

Second: Cr Kabay Tamu

Council resolves:

- To submit as proponent projects the St Pauls and Kubin Marine Infrastructure Upgrades to the State Department of Transport and Main Roads for consideration for allocation of funding;
- To submit as an additional proponent project, subject to funding, the Boigu Jetty replacement works as part of an additional or as part of the current joint Commonwealth/State funding investment; and
- Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2009* to prepare, submit, and manage the submission process to enable the Department to assess the projects and commence program administration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- *All staff were requested to exit the meeting prior to discussion of AI 28. The Chief Executive Officer and the Acting Executive Director Corporate Services remained in attendance.*
- *Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) AM, was also requested to exit the meeting prior to discussion of AI 28 as he had declared a conflict of interest (close familial relationship) in the matter when it was discussed in a previous meeting.*

**28. CORPORATE SERVICES: (\*\* Restricted Discussion \*\*) Debt Recovery Matter**

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr John Levi

Second: Cr Keith Fell

**Council resolves to:**

- 1. Request reimbursement of the sum of \$6,543.76 for travel allowances received by the relevant Councillor; and**
- 2. Otherwise, not to request or pursue reimbursement of travel allowances received by the relevant Councillor for a trip in May 2022.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- *Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) AM and staff were recalled to attend the meeting at the conclusion of discussions on the above agenda item.*
- *Cr Ranetta Wosomo concluded her attendance at the meeting at 12.05pm to attend to urgent community business on Badu.*

**31. BUSINESS ARISING (from Information Reports)**

**(a) Water Supply Matters (Mayor)**

The Mayor enquired about the status of water security measures across the TSIRC footprint. The Executive Director Engineering Services assured the Council that all measures are being taken with available resources to ensure that regular monitoring is being undertaken.

**(b) Fuel Bowser for Ugar (Cr Rocky Stephen)**

Requested the Chief Executive Officer to convene an urgent meeting to address legacy issues in relation to the bowser. Meeting to be organized by the Chief Executive Officer's office. In the meantime, the matter will be followed-up out of session by the Executive Director Engineering Services and the Acting Executive Director Corporate Services to determine options available.

**ACTION:**

Chief Executive's Office to organise a meeting with Cr Rocky Stephen and the Executive Directors for Engineering Services and Corporate Services to address options available to address fuel bowser options for Ugar.

**(c) Ugar Dredging Matters (Cr Rocky Stephen)**

Chief Executive Officer advised that further discussion on this matter will occur in November 2023 at the Council Workshop.

**ACTION:**

November 2023 Council Workshop to consider options to address issues in relation to dredging matters for standard Ugar access.

**32. STRATEGIC MATTERS**

**(a) Referendum Results / Masig Statement – Way Forward**

Cr Rocky Stephen suggested that discussion should take place at the November 2023 Council Workshop in relation to focus on a way forward following the outcomes of the recent Referendum and the focus of the Masig Statement, particularly for those individual community representatives who were nominated to champion the Masig Statement at this year's observances.

The Deputy Mayor supported Cr Stephen's comments and reinforced to Council the imperative now to take the lead to advance the interests of Torres Strait Islander people in the spirit of the Masig Statement.

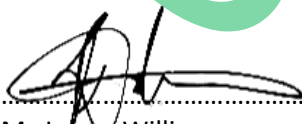
The Mayor responded by referring to a joint media release issued by himself, the Mayor of the Torres Shire Council and the Chairperson of the TSRA on 14 October 2023 (and provided in the Mayor's Report to the October 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting) where they were clear in reiterating their resolve in terms of the long-standing aspirations for greater control and greater autonomy for the Torres Strait. In terms of the Masig Statement and having a firmer position from Council on this issue, the consultant engaged for developing a way forward for the Masig Statement, this matter will be considered further at the November 2023 Council Workshop.

**33. Next Council Meeting Date: 16-17 November 2023 (Cairns)**

Noted by Council.

**34. Official Close & Prayer**

The Mayor officially closed the meeting at 12.40pm and invited the Deputy Mayor, Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) AM to deliver the closing prayer.



Mr James William  
Chief Executive Officer  
Torres Strait Island Regional Council  
Date: 16 November 2023



Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) AM  
Deputy Mayor / Acting Chairperson  
Torres Strait Island Regional Council  
Date: 16 November 2023