



Economic Growth Committee

Minutes

Date: 29 February 2024

Time: 1.00pm to 3.00pm

Venue: **TEAMS MEETING**
Meeting ID: 438 095 909 606
Passcode: NL6jFp

1. Welcome | Quorum Confirmation | Opening Prayer

The Committee Chairperson (Cr Rocky Stephen) opened the meeting at 1.10pm, noting that all Committee Members were present.

The Chairperson welcomed Committee Members and staff and 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.

The Chairperson advised Members that Cr Hilda Mosby (Chairperson of the TSIRC Climate Change Adaptation & Environment Committee) was present mainly for discussion on Agenda Item 15 (Mirabou Energy). However, the Chairperson sought the endorsement of the Committee for Cr Mosby to attend for the duration of the Committee meeting. Committee members (Cr Conwell Tabuai and Cr Jimmy Gela) supported Cr Mosby's attendance for the entire Committee meeting.

Cr Conwell Tabuai delivered the opening prayer and the Chairperson asked that the meeting observe a minute of silence for observance and reflection purposes and for those community members who have recently passed.

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

Executive Director Financial Services	Ms Hollie Faithfull
Executive Director Building Services	Mr Wayne Green – <i>for Agenda Item 16 only</i>
Executive Director Corporate Services	Ms Susanne Andres
Corporate Services Support	Ms Margaret Gatt – <i>left meeting following conclusion of discussions on Agenda Item 7</i>
TSIRC Secretariat	Darryl Brooks

Guest

Chairperson, Climate Change Adaptation & Environment Committee	Cr Hilda Mosby
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Apologies

Chief Executive Officer	Mr James William
Executive Director Community Services	Mr Dawson Sailor

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 (My Pathway MOU) owing to his PBC/GBK role. The Committee determined that as this was a verbal discussion only, Cr Gela was able to participate in discussions.

Cr Rocky Stephen (Chairperson) advised that he had a COI and Material Personal Interest in relation to AI 8 (Enterprise Divestment Strategy – *should read 'Enterprise Divestment Policy'*) as he and his Brother (Pau Stephen) own Brother Bear Cafe and Catering Service and their business submitted a formal expression of interest to TSIRC for the Ugar Community Hall Kitchen. The Committee determined that as this was a verbal discussion only, Cr Stephen was able to participate in discussions.

4. Ratified Minutes of Meeting held on 15 December 2023

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

5. Action Items from Previous Meetings (verbal update)

The 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

The Chairperson welcomed Ms Margaret Gatt (Corporate Services Support) to the meeting to speak to this item. The Chairperson advised the Committee that he has been working closely with Ms Gatt in the preparation of her presentation material.

Ms Gatt provided and spoke to a slide presentation on this agenda item. The Committee noted the presentation and agreed to the proposed phases and timeframes outlined.

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

Ms Margaret Gatt (Corporate Services Support) provided an online document for the information of members and spoke to this agenda item.

The Chairperson requested that the Committee note that an invitation was extended to Cr Torenzo Elisala to attend this meeting, however the Councillor was unavailable due to prior commitments.

Ms Gatt advised the Committee with the following update:

- A Request for Quote (RFQ) was issued to Lucid, Emver Partners and Synergies in early January 2024;
- Feedback/clarification received from Emver Partners and Synergies;
- No feedback (verbally or in writing) from Lucid;
- Emver Partners provided the only formal response to the RFQ. The quote provided by Emver Partners came in over budget for Council's current grant for this project. A request for

further funding from the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) to cover the funding shortfall has been submitted. Additionally, the TSRA has also agreed to allow an extension to 31 December 2024 to acquit the existing grant for this project.

The Committee agreed to the methodology proposed by Emver Partners.

The Committee Members thanked Ms Gatt for her work to date with this project.

8. Enterprise Divestment Policy (verbal discussion)

The Chairperson noted that this item was incorrectly listed on the agenda as 'Enterprise Divestment Strategy'.

The Chairperson requested that the Committee note that this matter was considered at the February 2024 Council meeting and Council has agreed that the Enterprise Divestment Policy be considered by the incoming Council.

9. Hammond Island Ferry Feasibility Study (verbal discussion)

The Chairperson noted that this item was incorrectly listed on the agenda as 'Hammond Island Feasibility Study'.

The Executive Director Corporate Services (Ms Susanne Andres) advised the Committee that a letter has been sent to the TSRA in February 2024 requesting funding for the amount of \$85,000 to commence a feasibility study into the ferry service. A request has also been submitted to the TSRA to subsidise the current service and TSIRC is yet to receive a formal response to that request.

10. Enterprise Development Opportunities - Aged Care (verbal discussion)

The Chairperson noted that the Executive Director Community Services was unable to attend this Committee meeting. The Chairperson noted previous advice to the Committee that the Executive Director Community Services and the Head of Community Services were in the process of preparing further information for presentation to the Economic Growth Committee. The Chairperson requested that this remain as an action item.

11. Performance Review/Recommendations for incoming Council – Economic Growth Committee (verbal discussion)

The Executive Director Corporate Services advised the Committee that this matter will be discussed as part of an agenda paper being prepared for the March 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.

The Chairperson also suggested that the Executive Director Financial Services (as the Executive responsible for the Economic Growth Committee) may like to consider giving advice back to the incoming Committee from the administration perspective on what has worked/not worked.

12. 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 as 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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17. 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

18. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED BUSINESS

13. Elphinstone Close Matters (verbal discussion)

The Committee noted the verbal discussion.

14. My Pathway MOU (verbal discussion)

The Committee noted the verbal discussion.

15. Mirabou Energy (verbal discussion)

The Committee noted the verbal discussion.

16. BSU Performance Update (verbal discussion)

The Committee noted the verbal update

19. General / Other Business (on notice)

Nil.

20. Next Meeting Date: N/A

The Committee noted that the incoming Council will determine future meeting dates.

21. Closing Remarks & Prayer

The Chairperson thanked Committee Members and staff for their attendance and contributions and made special acknowledgement to the Executive Director Financial Services for her support to the Committee during this current term.

Cr Jimmy Gela acknowledged staff and thanked them for their support to the Committee. He thanked fellow Committee members for their drive and enthusiasm on the Committee's deliberations and noted in particular the Chairperson's leadership of the Committee. ***Au esoa.***

Cr Conwell Tabuai thanked staff for their contributions throughout the Committee's term and expressed his sincere wishes that this Committee be continued by the incoming Council.

The Executive Director Financial Services thanked the Committee for its work and for its support throughout the term and extended her best wishes for the upcoming elections.

In concluding discussion, the Chairperson also expressed thanks for the input provided by Ms Nicola Daniels for her assistance to the Committee throughout its term. He thanked all Executives and staff for their support to the Committee on many key issues.

The Chairperson made very special acknowledgement to fellow Committee members (Cr Jimmy Gela and Cr Conwell Tabuai) for the pleasure of working with them on key matters for the portfolio and valued their professional and considered input into the Committee's deliberations. Their support of him as Committee Chairperson has provided him with the strength, enthusiasm and drive to advocate strongly for the work of the Committee. He extended his best wishes for their success at the upcoming election and expressed his sincere and genuine wish that should they be the successful candidate, they will be able to work with him again on this Committee.

The Chairperson thanked Cr Hilda Mosby for her attendance at this meeting and also extended to her his sincere and best wishes for the upcoming election.

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 also thanked and acknowledged the Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) for his support and his encouragement for greater collaboration between the elected and administrative arms of TSIRC.

The Chairperson reaffirmed the Committee's support and appreciation for the work of the TSIRC Building Services Department, noting that the Committee has observed the decided improvements in the Building Services portfolio following Mr Green's commencement in TSIRC.

Cr Conwell Tabuai added that he has valued the opportunity to work with Mr Green in the Building Services portfolio and noted that Mr Green's input into getting business done effectively goes above and beyond expectations.

The Chairperson formally closed the meeting at 3.20pm, and Cr Conwell Tabuai delivered the closing prayer.

Cr Rocky Stephen
Chairperson
Economic Growth Committee

29 February 2024