



# Housing and Safe & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting

## Minutes

**Date:**

8 June 2023

**Time:**

10.00am to 12.00nn

**Venue:**

(VC) VMR 8 – 0299 165 402  
#Guest PIN 6905

**1. Welcome (Chair)**

Cr Keith Fell opened the meeting at 10.10am and welcomed Committee Members and TSIRC staff. The Chairperson also gave respectful acknowledgements to honor both Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal peoples and their connection to Country.

**2. Opening Prayer**

Cr Francis Pearson provided the opening prayer.

**3. Attendance / Apologies**

The following attendances were noted:

**Committee Members**

**Chairperson**

Member

Member

Cr Keith Fell

Cr Francis Pearson

Cr John Levi\*

**TSIRC Officers**

Head of Community Services

Executive Director - Building Services

Executive Director – Engineering Services

TSIRC Secretariat

Mr Dawson Sailor

Mr Wayne Green

Mr David Baldwin (*joined the meeting at 11.45am*)

Mr Darryl Brooks

*\*Cr Levi excused himself from Committee deliberations between 10.10am to 10.25am for Sorry Business purposes.*

**4. Conflict of Interest (COI) – Declarable/Prescribed**

The Chairperson requested that members make any relevant conflict of interest declarations and advise if any relevant legal proceedings were current pertaining to Committee business to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

**5. Noting of Ratified Minutes of the HSHC Committee Meeting held on 2 February 2023**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Francis Pearson*

*Seconded: Cr Keith Fell*

**The Committee noted that the Minutes of the HSHC Committee Meeting held on 2 February 2023 were ratified at the February 2023 Council Meeting.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6. Action Items from Previous Meeting**

The Committee noted the updates provided on action items from the February 2023 meeting.

*[Ratified @ October 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting]*

## 7. COMMUNITY SERVICES: Community Services Update

Mr Dawson Sailor (Head of Community Services) provided the Committee an update on the following matters:

- Housing Team
  - Currently finalising a review of policies and procedures for the Housing Plan.
  - Housing Officers may be attending a workshop on Thursday Island during the w/b 12 June 2023.
- Environmental Health Team
  - Will be attending the annual workshop in Cherbourg.
- Health and Wellbeing Team
  - IKCs
  - Draft Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan
- 2023 Island of Origin Rugby League Carnival (16-18 June 2023 – Badu Island)
  - Council supported the event through grant funding from Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (DTIS)
- November 2023 Council Workshop
  - Confirmation that Regional Managers and Divisional Managers will be attending.

## 8. COMMUNITY SERVICES: Draft Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan (late paper)

Mr Dawson Sailor (Head of Community Services) spoke to this paper.

The Committee noted that the current statistics available may only be scratching the surface to the current levels of actual domestic and family violence incidences. The Committee also noted that responsible agencies in the Torres Strait region are neglecting the community on this issue.

### **RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr John Levi*

*Seconded: Cr Keith Fell*

**The Committee noted that the Draft Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan is due to be presented to the July 2023 Council Meeting.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 9. HOUSING MATTERS

The Executive Director Engineering Services and the Head of Community Services provided the committee with verbal updates on the following:

- \$13m Regional Rent Arrears
  - tenants to be encouraged onto payment plans
- Regional Housing Strategy
  - consultation to be finalized before the end of 2023
- Abandoned Homes
  - Identified and initial conversation for a resolution through housing consultation
- Blue Phone
  - a workshop with be held on Thursday Island in the w/b 12 June 2023 where discussion on the Blue Phone along with the Housing Investment Plan will be held with key stakeholders
- Healthy Home Program (Badu)
  - 2/3 July 2023 will be the last of the inspections to occur in the current scheduling, with 10-12 houses outstanding for auditing.
  - ED Building Services and the Head of Community Services have been meeting regularly with the Queensland Departments of Health and Housing.
  - Fence replacement requests are now coming through.
  - Final close-out is currently scheduled for December 2023, however there is scope that may happen by 30 September 2023.
  - ED Building Services and Head of Community Services supported proposal for 2 admin traineeships

## 10. HEALTH MATTERS

The Executive Director Building Services and the Head of Community Services provided the committee with verbal updates on the following:

- Hammond Health Centre
  - the delays around this issue have now been too long

### **ACTION:**

Committee Chair (Cr Keith Fell) to raise the matter with Mayor Mosby and CEO if a letter to the new Health Minister is appropriate considering update from June SARG meeting by Mayor Mosby.

- RN for Ugar
  - still operating on a part-time basis (visits on Tuesdays and Thursdays from the position located on Erub, depending on weather conditions).
- Asbestos concerns within Communities
  - This is a major issue. The ED Building Services and the Chief Executive Officer met with the Department of Environment and Science (funding providers for CHAS). The Department is keen to help fund the closure study and design for Erub and potentially an audit on asbestos across the Torres Strait Islands.
- Major Infrastructures

**ACTION:**

The following issues to remain as standing items for updates at future Committee meetings until further notice:

- Hammond Health Centre
- RN for Ugar
- Asbestos concerns within Communities
- Major Infrastructures

**11. ANIMAL MANAGEMENT MATTERS**

The Chairperson requested updates on the following:

- Major ongoing concerns within St Pauls and Badu communities in relation to feral/unfenced horses.
  - fears that people may be hurt by the animals
  - urgent need to address the number of horses - through targeted sterilization programs as a short-term solution, followed up with longer-term solutions
  - numerous attempts have been made to engage with the PBC to negotiate fencing-off arrangements on the Kubin side and the St Pauls PBC have also not responded to numerous requests made by Cr John Levi to also help resolve the issue
  - the Committee recommends the establishment of a working group of relevant community representatives and State Government representatives to advise on a way forward on this issue, including an approach to the State Government for fencing support
  - Head of Community Services and the Manager Environment and Health to discuss further and provide an update at the next Committee meeting
  - Manager Environment and Health to attend future Committee meetings, until advised further, to provide updates on progress in relation to this issue

- Regional Dogs and Cats Issues (feral)
  - TSIRC is not aware of feral cat and dog numbers in the region.
  - Head of Community Services to seek advice from the TSRA in relation to feral animal data or monitoring programs
  - Manager Environment and Health to attend future Committee meetings, until advised further, to provide updates in relation to this issue

**ACTION:**

Manager Environment and Health to attend future Committee meetings, until advised further, to provide updates on:

- progress in relation to address unfenced/feral horses in the region (Badu, St Pauls and Kubin communities); and
- updates/strategies in relation to feral cats and dogs in the region.

## **12. SPORTS & RECREATION MATTERS**

The Chairperson requested updates on the following:

- Sporting facilities not safe for communities to use
  - Community Services to conduct an audit of sporting facilities in the region, including an assessment of these facilities in relation to WHS issues
  - these facilities need to be in functioning order for communities to address obesity and other health related issues, as well as other community activities
- HLOs - Funding & Hours  
no increase to the current hours (20hrs per week), however the initial funding for the position for 12 months has now been increased to 2 years

### 13. SAFE COMMUNITIES MATTERS

The Executive Director Engineering Services (David Baldwin) joined the meeting at 11.45am to speak to this item.

The Committee was provided an update on efforts to manage and maintain the approximate \$1.5b asset management responsibilities of the TSIRC.

- Water Issues
  - ICCIP program (\$51m)
  - Mix 6 (3 ½ years since that has finished)
  - Water storage on Saibai (\$2m)
  - new water tank on Poruma
  - desalination tank on Mabuiag
  - Nest of tanks
  - Duaun \$2.9m
  - Erub reservoir - \$1.7m
  - Badu - \$700K to fix
  - Other communities (Mabuiag, Yam, Murray, Hammond and Warraber have approximately \$30m of outstanding need)
- MIP7
  - attended a meeting (observer capacity only) with the TSIRC Mayor and GBK.
- Marine
  - will meet with MSQ on 8 June 2023 and will provide an update at the next Council meeting on the outcomes of that meeting.
  - currently the Harbour Master and the District Director of TMR are due to visit Yam and have now visited Kubin, Boigu, Badu and Saibai to look at transport infrastructure. Visits to Erub, Masig and Warraber are also planned.
- Airstrips
  - \$2.9m for Masig next financial year

### 14. General / Other Business (on notice)

#### A. HF Radios

Executive Director Engineering Services to provide an update at the next Committee meeting on the operational status of HF Radios across the TSIRC footprint.

#### **ACTION:**

Executive Director Engineering Services to provide an update at the next Committee meeting on the operational status of HF Radios throughout the TSIRC footprint.

### 15. Next Meeting Date: 28 September 2023

The Committee noted the next meeting date of 28 September 2023.

*[Ratified @ October 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting]*

**16. Closing Remarks & Prayer**

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 12.05pm and Cr John Levi delivered the closing prayer.

Cr Keith Fell  
Chairperson  
Housing and Safe & Healthy Communities Committee

10 October 2023

**RATIFIED AT THE OCTOBER 2023 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING.**



.....  
**Mr James William**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Torres Strait Island Regional Council**  
**Date: 24 October 2023**



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**Cr. Phillemon Mosby**  
**Mayor**  
**Torres Strait Island Regional Council**  
**Date: 24 October 2023**