



# Minutes

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

August 2022

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022, 10:55am – 4:30pm

Division 12, Masig

**COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING**  
**Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**PRESENT:**

Cr Phillemon Mosby, Mayor  
Cr Dimas Toby, Division 1 – Boigu  
Cr Torenzo Elisala, Division 2 – Dauan  
Cr Keith Fell, Division 4 – Mabuiag  
Cr John Levi, Division 7 – Wug (St Pauls), Mua Island  
Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Deputy Mayor, Division 9 – Iama (Yam)  
Cr Kabay Tamu, Division 10 – Warraber (Sue)  
Cr Francis Pearson, Division 11 – Poruma (Coconut)  
Cr Hilda Mosby, Division 12 – Masig (Yorke)  
Cr Rocky Stephen, Division 13 – Ugar (Stephen)  
Cr Jimmy Gela, Division 14 – Erub (Darnley)

**STAFF:**

Mr James William, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)  
Ms Hollie Faithfull, Executive Director, Financial Services (EDFS)  
Mr David Baldwin, Executive Director, Engineering Services (EDES)  
Mr Dawson Sailor, Head of Community Services (HOCS)  
Mr Wayne Green, Executive Director, Building Services (EDBS)  
Mrs Ursula Nai, Senior Executive Assistant to the CEO (SEA)  
Ms May Mosby, Acting Secretariat Officer

**APOLOGIES:**

Cr Conwell Tabuai, Division 3 – Saibai  
Cr Laurie Nona, Division 5 – Badu  
Cr Lama Trinkoon, Division 6 – Kubin (Arkai), Mua Island  
Cr Seriako Dorante, Division 8 – Kirriri (Hammond)  
Cr Aven Noah, Division 15 – Mer (Murray)  
Mr Peter Krebs, Acting Executive Director, Corporate Services (A/EDCS)

**COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING**  
**Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022**  
**Agenda Items:**

1. **10:55am – 11:09am** **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Mayor Phillemon Mosby reconvened the Council Ordinary Meeting for the month of August and welcomed back Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Staff.

Mayor Mosby acknowledged the commitment and dedication of staff whom worked hard behind the scenes with the preparations of August 23 celebrations to make this a successful event. Mayor Mosby stated the feedback received from stakeholders and community members were immeasurable. Mayor Mosby also praised the A23 Catering Team, Divisional Staff of Division 12, Masig and Cr Hilda Mosby for their outstanding work preparing for the celebrations. Deputy Mayor, Cr Getano Lui spoke further on the celebrations and the importance of the Masig Statement.

Mayor Mosby asked that letters of appreciation be done to all sponsors of the August 23 celebrations and sent from Council to thank all sponsors including Torres Shire Council, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC) and TSRA (Torres Strait Regional Authority).

**ACTION:** That Chief Executive Officer send letters of appreciation to thank the following sponsors for their sponsorships: Kailag Enterprises Limited, Seawift, 51<sup>st</sup> Army Reserve, Masigal PBC, TSRA, Mirabou and GBK. Torres Shire Council and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC).

2. **11:09am – 11:11am** **Apologies**

- Cr Aven Noah, Division 15 – Mer – sorry business (bereavement leave)
- Cr Conwell Tabuai, Division 3 – Saibai – work commitment, requested to dial in
- Cr Laurie Nona, Division 5 – Badu – family personal leave (overseas)
- Cr Lama Trinkoon, Division 6 – Kubin – requested to dial in
- Cr Seriako Dorante, Division 8 – Hammond – work commitments, requested to dial in

**Cr Aven Noah**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Keith Fell; Second: Cr Torenzo Elisala*

That Council accepts the apology of Cr Aven Noah for the August 2022 Ordinary meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

**Cr Conwell Tabuai**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala; Second: Cr Keith Fell*

That Council accepts the apology of Cr Conwell Tabuai for the August 2022 Ordinary meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

**Cr Laurie Nona**

**RESOLUTION:**

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

That Council accepts the apology of Cr Laurie Nona for the August 2022 Ordinary meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

**Cr Lama Trinkoon**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala; Second: Cr Jimmy Gela*

That Council accepts the apology of Cr Lama Trinkoon for the August 2022 Ordinary meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

**Cr Seriako Dorante**

**RESOLUTION:**

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

That Council accepts the apology of Cr Seriako Dorante for the August 2022 Ordinary meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

3. **11:11am – 11:13am** **Declaration of Conflict of Interest (COI) (Prescribed and Declarable)**

Cr Keith Fell declared a Prescribed Conflict of Interest in Council Meeting Agenda Item 8 – CORPORATE – Community Grant Program as he is a team member of the Mabuiag Darts Team and therefore a related party under s150EP. Cr Keith Fell declared an interest under s150EQ(4).

Cr Keith Fell proposed to leave and stay away from the place where the meeting is being held while the matters are discussed and voted on.

Cr Keith Fell declared a Prescribed Conflict of Interest in Council Meeting Agenda Item 8 – CORPORATE – Community Grant Program as he is a Coordinator of Wug Sporting Association and therefore a related party under s150EP. Cr Keith Fell declared an interest under s150EQ(4).

Cr Keith Fell proposed to leave and stay away from the place where the meeting is being held while the matters are discussed and voted on.

Cr John Levi declared a Prescribed Conflict of Interest in Council Meeting Agenda Item 8 – CORPORATE – Community Grant Program as he is a team member of the Wug Sporting Association and therefore a related party under s150EP. Cr John Levi declared an interest under s150EQ(4).

Cr John Levi proposed to leave and stay away from the place where the meeting is being held while the matters are discussed and voted on.

Cr Francis Pearson declared a Prescribed Conflict of Interest in Council Meeting Agenda Item 8 – CORPORATE – Community Grant Program from St Andrew's Church as he is involved in the project and therefore a related party under s150EP. Cr Francis Pearson declared an interest under s150EQ(4).

Cr Francis Pearson proposed to leave and stay away from the place where the meeting is being held while this matter is discussed and voted on.

4. **11:13am – 11:18am** **Confirmation of Previous Council Ordinary Meeting Minutes – Day 1**

- 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**RESOLUTION:**

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

That Council resolves to accept the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022 to be a true and accurate account of that meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

**Day 2**

- 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**RESOLUTION:**

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

That Council resolves to accept the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 to be a true and accurate account of that meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

5. **11:18am – 11:19am** **Confirmation of Previous SARG Committee Minutes**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Keith Fell; Second: Cr Jimmy Gela*

That Council resolves to accept the minutes of the Strategic Advisory Reference Group (SARG) held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022, to be a true and accurate account of that meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

6. **11:19am – 12:03pm** **Outstanding Council Ordinary Meeting Action Items**

Chief Executive Officer, Mr James William provided an update on the current action items and gave an opportunity for Leading Executive Staff to provide updates on their actions.

**ACTION:** Chief Executive Officer to undertake an IT review.

As connectivity is still an ongoing issue, it is recommended that IT Services team member be in attendance at the next Council meeting at Poruma.

11:39am – Cr Francis Pearson left the meeting.  
11:41am – Cr Francis Pearson re-joined meeting.  
11:42am – Mrs Ursula Nai left the meeting.  
11:50am – Mrs Ursula Nai re-joined the meeting.  
11:55am – Cr Getano Lui left the meeting.  
12:00pm – Cr Getano Lui re-joined the meeting.

**ACTION:** That Head of Community Services present the asbestos report to Council.

7. **12:03pm – 12:14pm** **CORPORATE – Funding Acquisition Report**

Chief Executive Officer, Mr James William spoke to the report.

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Kabay Tamu; Second: Cr Dimas Toby*  
That Council resolves to note the report and its content.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

**ACTION:** That Acting Executive Director Corporate Services to separate recurrent funding from new grant applications.

8. **12:14pm – 12:39pm** **CORPORATE – Community Grant Program – August 2022**

Executive Director Financial Services, Ms Hollie Faithfull spoke to the report on the following Community Grants Applications for the month of August 2022.

**Argun Warriors**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen; Second: Cr John Levi*

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

- Argun Warriors for the eligible amount of \$5,000.00 exclusive of GST, as per submitted application noting that Argun Warriors applied for \$10,000.00.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

**Mulga Tigers**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr John Levi; Second: Cr Francis Pearson*

- Mulga Tigers for the eligible amount of \$2,500.00 exclusive of GST, as per submitted application.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

**Mulga Juniors**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Keith Fell; Second: Cr Jimmy Gela*

- Mulga Juniors for the eligible amount of \$2,000.00 exclusive of GST, as per submitted application.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

**Church of the Living God – Mabuyag Island**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Keith Fell; Second: Torenzo Elisala*

- Church of the Living God for the eligible amount of \$2,500.00 exclusive of GST, as per submitted application noting that Church of the Living God – Mabuyag Island applied for \$3,957.24.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

12:20pm – Cr Francis Pearson left the meeting due to a conflict of interest below.

12:22pm – Cr Francis Pearson re-joined the meeting.

**St Andrew's Church**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Keith Fell; Second: Cr Kabay Tamu*

- St Andrew's Church for the eligible amount of \$2,000.00 exclusive of GST, as per submitted application.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

**Kulpiyam Youth & Sport Inc**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Keith Fell; Second: Torenzo Elisala*

- Kulpiyam Youth & Sport Inc for the eligible amount of \$2,500.00 exclusive of GST, as per submitted application.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

**Opped Makrem Rugby League Team**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala; Second: Cr Jimmy Gela*

- Opped Makrem Rugby League Team for the eligible amount of \$10,000.00 exclusive of GST, as per submitted application.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

12:25pm – Cr Keith Fell left the meeting due to a conflict of interest below.

12:29pm – Cr Keith Fell re-joined the meeting.

**Mabuiag Darts Team**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Dimas Toby; Second: Cr Francis Pearson*

- Mabuiag Darts Team for the eligible amount of \$2,500.00 exclusive of GST, as per submitted application noting that Mabuiag Darts Team applied for \$2,848.00.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

**Mabuygiw Garkaziw Kupai TSI Corporation**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Keith Fell; Second: Cr Dimas Toby*

- Mabuygiw Garkaziw Kupai TSI Corporation for the eligible amount of \$2,000.00 exclusive of GST, as per submitted application.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

**Mabuygiw Garkaziw Kupai TSI Corporation**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Kabay Tamu; Second: Cr John Levi*

- Mabuygiw Garkaziw Kupai TSI Corporation for the eligible amount of \$2,000.00 exclusive of GST, as per submitted application.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

12:32pm – Cr John Levi left the meeting due to a conflict of interest below.

12:33pm – Cr Keith Fell left the meeting due to a conflict of interest below.

12:35pm – Cr Keith Fell re-joined the meeting.

12:38pm – Cr John Levi re-joined the meeting.

**Wug Sporting Association**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala; Second: Cr Dimas Toby*

- Wug Sporting Association for the eligible amount of \$3,000.00 exclusive of GST, as per submitted application.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

**Individual Applicant:**

**Annie David**

**RESOLUTION:**

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

- Annie David for the eligible amount of \$2,500.00 exclusive of GST, as per submitted application.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

9. **12:40pm – 12:40pm** **COUNCIL MOVES INTO CLOSED BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION:**

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

That in accordance with Section 254J of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Qld) it is resolved for the meeting to go into closed business to discuss matters of the following nature:

(c) local government budget.

(e) legal advice obtained by the local government or legal proceedings involving the local government.

(g) 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.

10. **BUILDING – BSU Update**  
11. **FINANCE – CB – Financial Dashboard Report – August 2022**

**LUNCH: 12:57PM – 1:47PM**

12. **1:47pm – 1:47pm** **COUNCIL MOVES OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS AND RESUMES IN OPEN BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr John Levi; Second: Cr Rocky Stephen*

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

**Resolutions and minutes for noting following closed business:**

10. **12:40am – 12:00pm** **BUILDING – CB – BSU Update**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr John Levi; Second: Cr Torenzo Elisala*

Council resolves to note the Building Services Report for July.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

11. **1:43pm – 1:46pm** **FINANCE – CB – Financial Dashboard Report – July 2022**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved: Cr Keith Fell; Second: Cr Francis Pearson*

That Council receive and endorse the monthly financial statements attached to the officer's report for the 2022-23 year to date, for the period ended 31 July 2022, as required under Section 204 *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

13. **1:49pm – 2:27pm** **Deputation 1 | Mr Fraser Nai, Co Founder and Mr John Palmer Business Partner – Strait Experience**

Mayor Mosby welcomed Mr Fraser Nai (Co-founder) and Mr John Palmer (Business partner) of Strait Experience Pty Ltd to the meeting. Fraser and John gave a presentation of their newly based company, Strait Experience, an online travel agent and regional tourism office.

14. **2:27pm – 2:28pm** **Business Arising from Information Reports**

Due to connectivity issues Councillors were unable to access the Information Reports on their surfaces.

15. **2:30pm – 2:35pm** **Next Council Meeting Date – 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022**  
**- Poruma**

16. **2:35pm – 3:47pm** **Strategic Matters**

**Cr Francis Pearson:**

Cr Pearson queried whether there are additional assistance with accommodation allowance whilst boarding with families privately.

**ACTION:** Acting Executive Director Corporate Services to review policy of Councillors being paid boarding allowance whilst boarding privately.

**Cr DimasToby:**

Cr Toby raised safety concerns regarding a recent incident involving the Council building on Boigu and asked whether the Council building could be fenced off as security measures for the building and staff.

Mayor Mosby advised that this matter will need the support of the full Council.

**Cr Rocky Stephen:**

Cr Stephen spoke on the State Cabinet coming to the region and the importance of having Council's representation at the cabinet meeting to put forward concerns and matters relating to the Masig Statement.

**Cr Keith Fell:**

Cr Fell spoke on the Standing Committees and papers presented at standing committee meetings and supporting departments of each portfolios of any issues or concerns.

**Deputy Mayor Cr Getano Lui:**

Cr Lui spoke on a formal resolution by council for the masig statement in adopting the masig statement so that the Masig Statement could be on the agenda when Cabinet sits.

3:05pm – Cr Torenzo Elisala left the meeting.

3:07pm – Cr Torenzo Elisala re-joined the meeting.

3:05pm – Cr John Levi left the meeting.

3:10pm – Cr John Levi re-joined the meeting.

An indepth discussions were had with regards to the resolution for the Masig Statement.

Further advice was sought from MacDonnells and Donna at Peak Services with regards to the resolution.

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved by Cr Getano Lui; Second: Cr Keith Fell*

Council resolve to adopt the Masig Statement as presented at the 85<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of the First Island Councillors Conference held on Yorke Island on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022:

**THE MASIG STATEMENT**

23 August 2022

**MALUNGU YANGU WAKAY**

The Voice from the deep

**PURPOSE**

To establish principles and parameters on behalf of the people of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area to act together in unity, in order to pursue and achieve self-determination and regional autonomy and, in so doing, preserve our distinctive and diverse spiritual, material and economic relationship 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 13<sup>th</sup> September 2007 and supported by the Australian Government on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009 and the Preamble of the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld), we seek to achieve our right to self-determination as the peoples of the Torres Strait and Norther 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 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 Stakeholderss, 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.

Council resolves to align its current and future efforts to realising the aspirations and goals of its constituents as expressed in the Masig Statement.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

**Review of Council Meeting Agenda:**

**ACTION:** Chief Executive Officer to do a review of the Agenda to reduce operational matters.

**Mayor Mosby:**

Mayor Mosby brought up the November Workshop in Cairns and whether two weeks is viable or reduce to one week?

Discussions were had on the importance of having a two week workshop rather than one week to focus on strategic matters especially the endorsement of the Masig Statement.

**Cr Keith Fell:**

Cr Fell brought to Council's attention of TSRA cutting back on the Healthy Lifestyle Officers' funding in September.

17. **3:47pm – 3:48pm** **Closing Remarks**

Mayor Mosby thanked Chief Executive Officer, Mr James William and Executive Staff for their attendance and contribution to the meeting and asked staff to leave the meeting for a closed Council session.

3:48pm - For Minutes taking purposes, staff were asked to leave the meeting.

**MEETING CLOSED – 4:30PM**



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



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Cr Phillemon Mosby  
Mayor  
Torres Strait Island Regional Council  
Date: