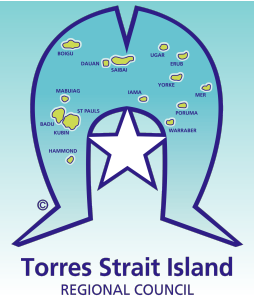


Public Statement – 19 May 2016



The Department of Public Prosecutions has confirmed to the Torres Strait Island Regional Council today that incumbent Councillor for Division 2 – Saibai Island, Mr Ron Maxwell Enosa, has today been found guilty by the District Court of Queensland of fraud and sentenced to 4 years imprisonment, suspended after 6 months.

Council's Chief Executive Officer first reported suspicious circumstances resulting in the charges laid by the Queensland Police Service following comprehensive internal forensic analysis of Council's records following the 2008 local government amalgamation.

The reported suspicious circumstances arose prior to the inception of Council in 2008 during the days of the former Saibai Island Community Council.

Detection of the fraud is testament to Council's effective internal and external financial audit and management processes. Council shall now begin to work with the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and the community of Saibai Island to move the region forward with a continued focus on transparency, accountability and probity in the public interest.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fred Gela", is positioned above the name and title of the signatory.

Cr Fred Gela
Mayor