



Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING

WEDNESDAY 20th May 2009

Please find attached Minutes of the above meeting held on 20th May 2009 at 9.25am – 5.00pm at *the Mabuia Motel*, Mabuia Island.

**Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC)
Ordinary Meeting
Held at the *Mabuiag Motel*, Mabuiag Island**

Wednesday 20th May 2009

Present: Cr. Fred Gela, Mayor
Cr. Kenny Bedford, Deputy Mayor, Division 14 - Erub *
Cr. Raymond Soki, Division 2 – Dauan
Cr. Ron Enosa, Division 3 – Saibal Island
Cr. Keith Fell, Division 4 – Mabuiag
Cr. David Bosun, Division 6 – Kubin
Cr. Nancy Pearson, Division 8- Hammond
Cr. Walter Mackie, Division 9 - Iama
Cr. Willie Lui, Division 10 - Warraber
Cr. Phillemon Mosby, Division 11 - Poruma
Cr. John Mosby, Division 12 – Yorke
Cr. Florianna Bero, Division 13 – Ugar
Cr. Ron Day – Division 15 – Mer Island
Mr. John Scarce, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Anthony Bird, Executive Manager Finance
Mr. Lloyd Sunderland, Executive Manager Community Services
Mr. Patrick McGuire, Executive Manager Engineering Services
Mr. Noel Peters, Manager Human Resources
Ms Dania Ahwang, Manager Internal Audit
Ms Elissa Shuey, Public Relations Officer
Mrs Tania Sailor, Executive Secretary.

Observers: Members of the Community

In attendance: Ms Terena Hopkins, Regional Director, State Library of Queensland, Cairns.
Ms Olivia Robinson, Senior Research Officer, State Library of Queensland, Brisbane.
Mr. Steven Keating, Department of Employment, Education Development and Innovation (DEEDI)

9.25am: Meeting opened in prayer by Cr. Day

ONE MINUTE SILENCE

There was a minute silence to pay respect for families who have lost their loved ones recently.

Apologies:

Cr. Donald Banu, Division 1 – Boigu
Cr. Wayne Guivarra, Division 5 – Badu Island
Cr. Toshie Kris, Division 7 – St. Pauls

Deputations: Ms Solemina Mareko, Kullun Youth Services.

**Part attendance*

WELCOME

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Traditional Land Owners

- Mayor Fred Gela
- Chief Dimple Bani
- Cr. Keith Fell

MAYORS OPENING REMARKS

- With the successful preparation by the Community of Mabuiag, the official opening of the new Mabuiag Motel by the Governor of Queensland Mrs Penelope Wensley and Mayor Gela went through very smoothly yesterday.
- Mayor expressed his gratitude of thanks to Cr. Fell, Island Manager Ms Sophie Luffman, staff of TSIRC- Mabuiag, and also to the Community of Mabuiag Island for their hospitality in making everyone feel at home.
- Cr. Bedford – Deputy Mayor will be joining the meeting in the later of the morning.

Cr. Fell thanked members for their attendance at this Council meeting on Mabuiag. Cr. Fell also gave members a briefing on housekeeping.

DEPUTATIONS - See Attachment A

PRESENTATIONS

1. **STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND** (*Ms Terena Hopkins, Regional Director, State Library of QLD, Cairns and Ms Olivia Robinson, Senior Research Officer, State Library of QLD, Brisbane*)

- State Library operated 100 years of library services.
- The State Library currently supports eighteen Indigenous Knowledge Centres (IKC), primarily in the Cape York Peninsula and Torres Strait Regions.
- A sustainable wage for the IKC Coordinators
- Mentoring and training for the IKC Coordinators
- Furthering the partnerships between SLQ and TSIRC
- Programs to run in partnership with SLQ and TSIRC.
- Broadening the connection between Keeping Culture Strong (KCS) and Heritage (SLQ-Brisbane).
- **Indigenous Knowledge Centres:**
 - First centres established in 2002.
 - operates in partnership with local Government Councils.
 - Councils are responsible for the physical infrastructure, staffing and day to day operations of their IKC.

- State Library of Queensland provides set-up materials (books, magazines, audiovisual materials and computers), staff training and fun literacy and recreational programs.
 - The Centres provide both traditional library services (including information and communication technologies) as well as a means and a place to capture and preserve local history and traditions.
 - Eight (8) IKC's in the Torres Strait with one opening soon at Hammond Island.
- **Heritage collection:**
 - Introduction of Ms Olivia Robinson, Senior Research Office within the Heritage Collections in Brisbane.
 - Collects old photographs, pamphlets, newspapers and old documents.
 - The Margaret Lawrie's collection of over 460 items, from photographs to artworks, pages about children's games and stories that are relevant to Torres Strait Islands (including myths, legends, languages, history, art and culture of the Torres Strait Islands).
 - Aim to digitalize old items and bring it back into the communities.
 - Funding is available and all set up waiting to reprint however, there is a process which may take a long time:
 - It needs to go back to every artist to seek permission to reprint copies.
 - Some artists may have passed on and permission will need to be sought from families or relatives of the artists.
 - If no approval is given from artists or their families some illustrations will be missing which would mean that the materials/books will not be the same as the originals.
 - Ms Robinson advised that it is a long term process but we want to make sure we go through the right process in getting things done.
 - It was noted that Intellectual rights of property is own by Community as they decides who sees what and what is allowed. There is community access only – no public access unless approved by community.

Mayor Gela advised that:

1. TSIRC write to TSRA on the establishment of a Reference Group and cultural issues as presented today by SLQ
2. Linking to PBC's etc to engage in seeking permission with TSIRC in the loop.
3. Look at setting up a Reference group in Cairns.

2. PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN (Mr. Steven Keating, Department of Employment, Education Development and Innovation(DEEDI))

- Pest Management Plan is a Legislative requirement under the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 and the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Regulation 2003
- Local Governments are required to develop, adopt and implement local area pest management plans as part of an integrated planning framework for managing pest plants and animals across the State.
- Three (3) classes of declared pests (covers both plants and animals):
 - Class 1 - Not generally found here
 - Class 2 – Generally from here, priorities are pest dogs, dingo, feral pig, weeds
 - Class 3 - They are here, big threat to other communities, places etc.
- The Draft Pest management Plan is compiled in conjunction with DPI or Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) as it is now called
- Draft Plan distributed to Councils at this meeting is only a DRAFT form to act as a guiding tool for Communities to identify what we have in our communities and implement it into the plan. It is for Councillors to see what the plan would look like, and would need a lot of consultation and input from Communities to implant the plan.
- Once it is completed it will:
 1. go back out to Communities for further consultations.
 2. presented to the Minister to see if it meets our guidelines
 3. go back out to Communities.
- In reply to Cr. Day's query Mr. Keating advised:
 - eradication and control of pests would depend on money as there is no funding for someone to go around the communities to do this.
 - they can provide training representatives to bait dogs, eradicate weeds, depends on what Councillors want to use – what type of chemicals they want to use.
- It was noted that the timeframe and work to start on this is TSIRC's responsibility.
- Executive Manager Communities advised that the Management Pest Plan should be completed by the end of the year – will take a bit longer because of the 15 communities that has to be looked at. Will be ongoing all the time.
- Environmental Workshop in Cairns will involve representatives from 15 Island Communities, including Rangers.
- It was noted that Mr. Keating agreed to attend the workshop as requested by Executive Manager Communities.
- Contact Details for Steven Keating as follows:
Ph. 4048 4731 Mobile: 0427132016
Email: steven.keating@dpi.qld.gov.au

It was resolved that Council breaks for Morning tea at 11.30pm.

It was noted that Cr. Bedford joined the meeting at 12.10pm.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Deferred till after lunch.

EXECUTIVE MANAGERS REPORT

1. FINANCE

WRITE-OFF OF MONIES

Resolution

Moved Cr. Pearson, Seconded Cr. Fell that Council write-off \$450.00 under-banked from Badu

Motion carried.

- *\$450 went missing - under banked from Badu Island*
- *In response to Cr. Lui queried it was noted that this could be taken out of untied funds.*
- *It was noted that monies over \$500 that goes missing must be reported to QPS to get a case number if any.*

2. ENGINEERING

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (MIP4 PHASE B)

Resolution

Moved Cr. Mosby, Seconded Cr. Bero that Council:

- (1) Adopt the programme for MIP 4 Phase B as outlined in this report.
- (2) Direct the Executive Manager Engineering Services to enter into negotiations with both the MIP Committee and Queensland Transport to facilitate the undertaking of Road and Drainage and the Ugar Dredging project either as a MIP Project or as high priority in another programme.

Motion carried.

- *As Regional Council is the Principal of MIP, need to include and lock in Roads & Drainage, and Ugar Dredging in the \$9.18M MIP project as well.*
- *Next MIP meeting 4th June 2009.*

LATE REPORTS

HOUSING ISSUES

Report on Housing issues as presented - *for members to note.*

- *Cr. Mosby advised if we are talking about increasing rates and rent, is there any scope of TSIRC increasing wages, as tenants are on CDEP wages etc and some are still on it from 4 -5years ago.*
- *Mayor advised that if the levy would increase when the rent increase, if the rent decreases, levy would decrease.*
- *CEO advised that as part of the Budget Council may choose to remove the Individual Rate*

ADDITIONAL CAPITAL FUNDS

- *CEO advised no addition Capital funds come next Financial Year.*
- *\$4M to \$8M – but 40% as plan maintenance.*
- *CEO will talk to Department of Housing on this issue when he meets with them on Friday 29th May.*

It was resolved that Council breaks for lunch at 1.50pm.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Newsletter will be ready by next Council Meeting
- Filming – Intellectual Property Rights.
- IBIS – provide lease arrangement on each community IBIS store.
- Australia Post - mail is now being transported by Qantas from Cairns.
- Community Forum Training by DLGPSR:
 - CEO told DLGPSR – training must be provided by an independent body.
 - DLGPSR advised that they will fund it but this has now changed.
 - Brochure for Community Forum – CEO apologised on his part that he did not direct Elissa in producing this brochure, but ensured members that Elissa will look into this.
 - CEO advised that at the end of the year when the Local Government Act is in place it will state that there will be mandatory for Community Forums.

- Mayor advised that it will be up to Communities if it is working or not with a few communities or 15 communities.
- It is at the Minister's discretion but do not know if the Minister will deal with it on individual cases – if it is working with everyone then Minister will look at that.
- Community Forum is not binding under any code of conduct that is why it is not working -need to raise the following issues with Government on Community Forum:
 - Money for Community Forum Training
 - Networking Meeting
 - Start looking at remuneration
 - Code of conduct.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Resolution

Moved Cr. Fell, Seconded Cr. P. Mosby that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 29th April 2009 be adopted as true and accurate apart from some alterations.

Motion carried.

CLOSED BUSINESS

Moved Cr. Bedford, Seconded Cr. Enosa that in accordance with Section 463 of the Local government Act 1993 it is resolved for the meeting to go into closed session to discuss section 463 (1) (a) the appointment, dismissal or discipline of employees, 463 (1) (f) starting or defending legal proceedings involving it, 463 (1) (h) other business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local Government further the public in attendance are asked to leave.

Motion carried.

ISSUES RATIFIED IN CLOSED BUSINESS

DIVESTMENT OF ENTERPRISE

Resolution

Moved Cr. Fell, Seconded Cr. Pearson that Council Award the Freezer operations on Mer, Erub, Warraber, Masig and Poruma and the rest of the Torres Strait generally to Australian Economic Consultants for the Tendered amount of \$92,200.

Motion carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Mayor will respond to media release by Minister Desley Boyle in response to Mayor regarding her visit to Thursday Island and meeting with Members.
- Cr. Mackie raised concerns that some workers will not do certain jobs eg people given jobs such as fixing toilets for churches will restrain themselves from doing the job if the church is not of their religion. Cr. Mackie advised that the money is there but who is going to assist, just need workers on the ground to do the job.
- Uniforms – HR to liaise with Elissa regarding colours of uniforms.
 - Staff Uniforms
Mens – Long Pants
Ladies – Polo Shirt, Island Dress (Friday floral).
 - Councillors Uniforms
3 types
 - Corporate wear
 - Field wear
 - Ceremonial wear
 - The designs of the uniforms have been completed already by Cr. Bosun. Cr. Soki will table the designs at the next Council Meeting at Erub.
- Canberra Conference
 - TSIRC Delegation to attend the conference on the 21st – 24th June 2009. Use Conference as piggyback to meet with 3 Ministers during that time.
 - Delegates are:
 1. Mayor Gela
 2. Deputy Mayor Bedford
 3. Cr. Day
 4. Cr. Mackie
 5. Cr. Pearson
 6. Cr. P. Mosby
 7. Cr. Bero
 8. Cr. Bosun

MEETING CLOSED

With no further discussions, Mayor thanked members and Executive Management and staff for their attendance at the meeting, with special thanks to Cr. Fell and the Community of Mabuiag Island for their hospitality and the organising a successfully Council Meeting at Mabuiag Island.

5.00pm Meeting closed with a prayer by Cr. Mackie.


Cr. Fred Gela
Mayor


Mr. John Scarce
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENT A

DEPUTATION

Ms Solemina Mareko

Kullun Youth Services

- is a unique indigenous owned and operated company that provides suitable and appropriate services to the North Queensland Region
- provides services which engage and empower socially disadvantaged youth, families enabling them to lead fulfilling and choice driven lives.
- staff is of ATSI people who have combined experiences and qualifications in Public Services, Administration Services, Alcohol and Drugs, Child Safety, etc.
- have a staff of 30 from East to West in the Torres Strait working in providing child safety services for our children in the Torres Strait.
- provides a 24hr service,
- provides residential houses for kids (only Carers change),
- monitors behaviour of kids and provide progress report on a daily basis.
- provides training for Indigenous Child Support Workers, categorises peoples skills, those who don't have the skills help is provided to them in getting their 100points for blue cards etc.

Comments:

- Mayor advised we need to support indigenous organisation.
- Mayor asked if Kullun services have been engaged with Juvenile Aid Bureau (JAB) on TI. Ms Mareko advised that services have been not been engaged with the Juvenile Aid Bureau(JAB) on TI.
- Ms Mareko advised that they are given limited background on kids when they arrive at Kullun Services eg limited medical records.
- Cr. Lui raised concerns that JAB also needs to recognise cultural awareness in communities as there are some issues where children are being brought up the right way culturally but are seen by others as not being treated properly and are taken away.
- It was noted that there needs to be a dialogue with Child Safety, JAB.
- Cr. Pearson encouraged Ms Mareko to contact Mura Kosker, Gabriel Bani, Hazel Wymarra in seeking their assistance and support.
- Cr. Pearson acknowledged what Mayor Gela said before about supporting indigenous organisation but that organisations need to be aware of cultural issues in our communities as well for our children because at the end of the day our children are still comfortable walking in our communities.
- Ms Mareko to contact Tania in providing more information, contact details etc.