



Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee

Agenda

Date: 14 September 2023

Time: 10.00am to 12.00nn

Venue: (VC) VMR 7 – 0299 165 401
Guest PIN: 6905#

Agenda

TSIRC Climate Change Adaptation & Environment Committee Meeting – 14 September 2023 (VC)

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Time	Agenda
10.00am	1. Welcome (Chair)
10.05am	2. Opening Prayer
10.10am	3. Attendance / Apologies
10.15am	4. Conflict of Interest (COI) - Declarable/Prescribed
10.25am	5. Confirmation of Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 27 April 2023
10.35am	6. Action Items from Previous Meeting
10.40am	7. Sustainability Project and Initiative Update Report
11.00am	8. General / Other Business (on notice)
11.55am	9. Next Meeting Date: (TBC) 23 November 2023 (10am)
12.00nn	10. Closing Remarks & Prayer



Climate Change Adaptation & Environment Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: 27 April 2023

Time: 3.00pm to 4.30pm

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

Minutes

TSIRC Climate Change Adaptation & Environment Committee Meeting – 27 April 2023

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1. Welcome (Chair)

The Committee Chairperson, Cr Hilda Mosby, opened the meeting at 3.10pm and welcomed Committee Members and TSIRC staff.

2. Opening Prayer

Cr Dorante delivered the opening prayer.

3. Apologies/Attendance

There were no apologies and the following attendances were noted:

Chairperson & Committee Members

Chairperson

Cr Hilda Mosby

Member

Cr Seriako Dorante

Member

Cr Kabay Tamu

TSIRC Officers

Executive Director – Engineering Services

Mr David Baldwin

Waste & Sustainability Engineer

Mr Jarrah Doran-Smith

TSIRC Secretariat

Darryl Brooks

Guests

Alluvium Consulting (Lead Facilitator, Project Team for the CHAS Workshop)

Ms Marika Seden (*dial-in at 4.00pm*)

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

The Chairperson invited Committee Members to make any relevant conflict of interest declarations. No declarations were made.

5. Noting of Ratified Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 17 January 2023

The Committee noted that the Minutes of the CCA&E Meeting held on 17 January 2023 were ratified at the February 2023 Council meeting.

6. Action Items from Previous Meeting

The Committee noted that there were no outstanding actions from the previous meeting held on 17 January 2023.

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7. Containers for Change: Official launch on Badu (verbal update)

The Executive Director Engineering Services (Mr David Baldwin) and the Waste and Sustainability Engineer (Mr Jarrah Doran-Smith) provided the Committee with a verbal update on the official opening on 20 April 2023 of the Containers for Change depot on Badu Island.

Participants of the initiative are now eligible to claim a 10-cent refund on Badu.

The Containers for Change Badu Island depot began operating in December 2022 and has already processed more than 100,000 empty drink containers in exchange for more than \$10,000 in refunds – in a community of about 1200 residents.

Containers for Change envisage introducing similar depots throughout the Torres Strait.

The Committee noted the positive environmental benefits of the initiative, as well as the significance of caring for Country.

Further work needs to be undertaken around adequately subsidising freight and transportation costs associated with transferring the collected containers out of the Torres Strait before the Committee can recommend that Council fully support this initiative as an environmentally cost-effective project for implementation across the Torres Strait.

Cr Dorante excused himself from the meeting temporarily at 3.30pm and returned at 3.40pm.

Cr Tamu excused himself from the meeting temporarily at 3.40pm and returned at 3.50pm.

8. Ghost Nets Innovative Solutions Fund – Torres Strait Marine Debris Task Force Project

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Hilda Mosby

That the Committee note the report.

Seconded: Cr Seriako Dorante

MOTION CARRIED

TSIRC has received the largest grant possible. The Committee thanked staff for the work done in preparing and submitting the original application for this grant and looked forward to receiving further updates on the project.

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9. SOURCE Hydropanel Technology

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Seriako Dorante

Seconded: Kabay Tamu

The Committee:

- (a) notes the proposed SOURCE Hydropanel project in collaboration with Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA); and**
- (b) agrees to provide input into suitable site locations for 2 x Hydropanel arrays.**

MOTION CARRIED

The Committee notes the proposal for its innovation and the new technology and requests further information be provided in order for the Committee to make an informed decision before consideration of recommending the proposal to Council.

10. INFORMATION REPORT: CHAS Workshop Update

Ms Marika Seden (Alluvium Consulting), Lead Facilitator of the Project Team for the CHAS Workshop, joined the meeting by dial-in at 4.05pm.

Engineering Services staff and Ms Seden provided the Committee with an update on progress in relation to finalising arrangements for the upcoming CHAS Workshop in Cairns on 11-12 May 2023.

The Committee requested the following actions be finalised as soon as possible:

- Young People/Youth representation at the Workshop. The Committee recognised the importance of encouraging the participation of young people and youth living in the Torres Strait in deliberations at the Workshop. However, the short timeline leading up to the commencement of the Workshop and the logistical arrangements required to secure such representation meant that the Committee had to consider other alternatives. The Committee decided that every effort be made to canvass interest from students (Year 11 and 12) from the Torres Strait who are boarding in Cairns to participate in the Workshop. Committee members agreed to provide the Executive Director Engineering Services **feedback by 2.00pm Friday 28 April 2023** on relevant contact details.
- The Committee recommended that Pastor Colin Messa be approached to take on the role of Lead Facilitator for the Workshop.
- Explore Media opportunities for the last day of the Workshop.
- The Chairperson to seek approval from the Mayor for CCA&E Committee Members to travel to Cairns on 9 May 2023 for a pre-Workshop discussion with the Lead Facilitator and the Workshop Project Team on 10 May 2023.

ACTION:

1. Committee members to provide the Executive Director Engineering Services feedback by 2.00pm Friday 28 April 2023 on relevant contact details for students/boarding schools in Cairns to canvass Torres Strait Islander young people/youth to participate at the Workshop.

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2. Pastor Colin Messa be approached to take on the role of Lead Facilitator for the Workshop.
3. Identify Media opportunities for the last day of the Workshop.
4. Chairperson to seek approval from the Mayor for CCA&E Committee Members to travel to Cairns on 9 May 2023 for a pre-Workshop discussion with the Lead Facilitator and the Workshop Project Team on 10 May 2023.

11. General / Other Business (on notice)

11.1 Warraber Seawall Matter

Cr Kabay Tamu sought clarification from the Executive Director Engineering Services about details regarding a possible meeting on Saturday (29 April 2023) about the Warraber Seawall.

ED Engineering Services to discuss with Cr Tamu out of session.

11.2 TSIRC Metal Waste Legacy Stockpile Clean-Up Project Update

The Waste and Sustainability Engineer (Mr Jarrah Doran-Smith) advised the Committee that the project is almost to an end. Ugar and Masig have recently been completed and Erub is almost 80% complete. The clean-up was due to commence on Mer on Saturday (29 April 2023), however, the PBC cancelled accommodation arrangements at the last minute. The project is due to be completed in the first week of June 2023.

An update will be provided at the Ordinary Council meeting in June 2023.

12. Next Meeting Date: 22 June 2023

The Committee noted the next meeting date of 22 June 2023.

13. Closing Remarks & Prayer

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 5.05pm and Cr Kabay Tamu delivered the closing prayer.

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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:



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Action Items from April 2023 Meeting

Meeting Date/Agenda Item	Action	Action Area	Current Status
AI 10 (CHAS Workshop Update)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Committee members to provide the Executive Director Engineering Services feedback by 2.00pm Friday 28 April 2023 on relevant contact details for students/boarding schools in Cairns to canvass Torres Strait Islander young people/youth to participate at the Workshop.2. Pastor Colin Messa be approached to take on the role of Lead Facilitator for the Workshop.3. Identify Media opportunities for the last day of the Workshop.4. Chairperson to seek approval from the Mayor for CCA&E Committee Members to travel to Cairns on 9 May 2023 for a pre-Workshop discussion with the Lead Facilitator and the Workshop Project Team on 10 May 2023.	ED Engineering Services	Completed.

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

INFORMATION REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE: Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee

DATE: 14 September 2023

SUBJECT: Sustainability Project and Initiative Update Report

AUTHOR: Jarrah Doran-Smith – Waste & Sustainability Engineer

Recommendation:

That the Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Committee notes this report.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on various ongoing projects and initiatives, as well as discuss recent meetings and potential funding opportunities. The report aims to inform Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Committee about the progress made in different areas and highlight key actions and next steps required.

Updates:

1. Meeting with DES Regarding 'Funding Envelopes'

A meeting was held Wednesday 14th June 2023 with the Department of Environmental Science (DES) to discuss potential funding opportunities. Following this meeting Council Waste and Sustainability Engineer drafted letters to seek funding support for the following areas:

- Erub Landfill Closure: Technical and funding assistance is being explored to meet the environmental requirements for the landfill closure and develop rehabilitation plans. Additionally, a generic plan or template for other communities' landfills is being considered.
- Asbestos Audit and Management: A comprehensive audit and management plan for asbestos, including staff capacity building, is being considered.
- Equipment and infrastructure: The need for waste (solid or liquid) management equipment and infrastructure, this would include a small shed/office at each landfill to house a permanent Waste and Resource Recovery Officer and allow for chemical storage and biosecurity inspections.
- Concrete crusher, and batcher was discussed as a potential requirement in the meeting.
- Waste and Resource Recovery Officer Positions: a letter was drafted to seek funding for the appointment of permanent positions to supervise landfill operations including appropriate sorting, separating and disposal of different waste streams. These positions will require appropriate training to fulfill the roles.
- Solar Panel Disposal Management: The issue of solar panel disposal was raised during the meeting, and further discussions will be held with DES to address this concern.

2. Next Steps from CHAS Workshop

Following the CHAS workshop, the next steps and actions are as follows:

July - Council received draft CHAS for review

End August - Feedback and comments received. Addressed accordingly and passed to graphic designer.

Mid-September - Graphic designed Draft CHAS received, reviewed and revised. Provided to Council for approval.

End September - One month allowed for achieving approval for public exhibition.

End September - 28 day public exhibition period complete

End October - incorporate comments and feedback into Final CHAS.

End November - One month allowed for achieving Final CHAS approval from Council.

End December - TSIRC CHAS complete.

It is important that the final CHAS document is distributed to the communities for public exhibition to allow for community feedback and input on the document. This exercise will need Council resolution to ensure information is appropriate and correct before enabling public facing document. It is anticipated to have Council resolution for the CHAS in September 2023 COM.

3. COEX Matters

COEX has initiated Container for Change drop off point on Badu Island. Council been asked to act as the drop off point on outer Islands. However, biosecurity and logistical details are still being developed. Further updates and clarification are required for Council considerations.

4. Meeting with Ergon/QLD Energy

A meeting with Ergon/QLD Energy Senior Isolated Network Engineers took place on Friday 16th June 2023. They informed their objective is to achieve net-zero carbon emissions in their isolated networks by the year 2050 possibly as early as 2040. To accomplish this, they are developing a priority list for their 33 Isolated Networks. The prioritisation will be based on various factors, including the feasibility of projects, such as land tenure, energy consumption/ carbon emissions, and cost-benefit analysis.

In terms of overall emissions from the 33 isolated networks, as a comparison Horn and Thursday Island (combined) accounts for approximately 32% of total emissions, where as Badu accounts for 2.6%

Ergon Energy will seek advice from Council on the challenges and issues that may arise during the implementation of their net-zero carbon emissions plan. They acknowledge that each isolated network has unique characteristics and constraints, making it essential to consider localised factors in the decision-making process.

Council's input will be crucial in addressing potential issues and providing insights on the specific requirements of each network. By collaborating with the council, Ergon Energy/QLD Energy aims to ensure a comprehensive and effective approach to achieve their long-term

sustainability goals. This partnership signifies the recognition of the council's role as a valuable stakeholder and contributor to the transition toward a low-carbon future in the isolated networks.

5. Metal Waste Collection

As of 14th August 2023, all 15 island communities have been successfully completed. An estimated 980 wrecked vehicles and over 4,000 tonnes of metal waste have been collected during the project with over 11,000 hours of local employment to date. It is estimated that through the recycling of these metal wastes rather than disposal has offset up to 8,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

All materials collected during the Project were shipped off Badu Island in August/September 2023. McMahons Services made arrangements for the transportation and recycling of the collected waste materials by transferring from Sea Swift barges and loading materials onto a bulk carrier ship ultimately bound for a metal recycling facility in Vietnam (South-East Asia).

The ship arrived in the Torres Strait on 14th August 2023 and anchored in deep waters to prevent biosecurity risks. Materials were then barged with Sea Swift barges to the ship. This step ensures that the metal waste will be properly managed and disposed of, minimizing any potential negative impact on the Islands and surrounding marine environment.

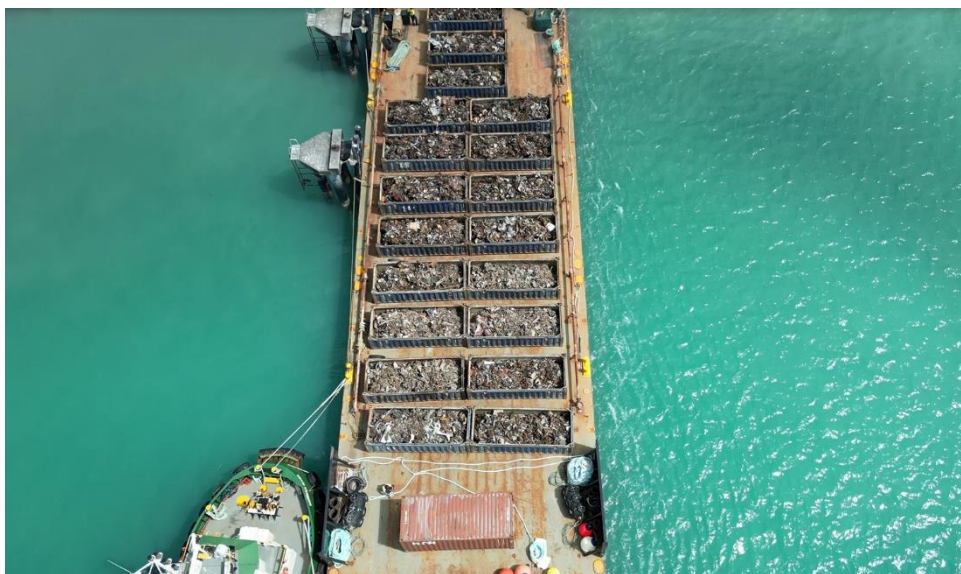


Figure 1 Barge carrying metal waste materials



Figure 2 Ship loading from barge

6. Seawalls

The following are updates regarding seawall projects:

- Iama Works: The formal award of the Iama seawall project has been entered into with the Contractor Gulf Civil.
- Masig: An in-house bid for the Masig seawall project has been submitted and accepted. Community engagement is scheduled for 18 September, and confirmation of scope/construction to be discussed with Councillor and PBC.
- Warraber: The Warraber seawall project is currently on hold pending the Geobag option being confirmed and is now a critical path risk for completion of the project – sand harvesting is required to commence asap.

7. Ghost Net Innovative Solutions Program

Formal funding agreement received by Council Monday 19th of June 2023 for Ghost Net initiative funding of \$440K (inc. GST). Council resolution has been sought to engage Salty Monkeys to lead project with Council. Project planning is underway, including detailed scope and Marine Debris Coordinator position, with project partner Salty Monkeys, and other project stakeholders. First community marine debris clean-up to be undertaken on Masig Island in early September. Quantitative and qualitative data of the marine debris materials will be collected before the materials are removed off island for recycling/disposal.

8. Griffith Universities Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Project - Collaboration Agreement

The Griffith ARC Linkage project "Co-designing a Resilient Water and Energy Toolbox for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities" program is a collaborative initiative between TSIRC, Griffith University and other organisations. It has received Council resolution to engage in a Collaboration Agreement with Griffith and other stakeholders. The agreement has now been formalised. The project has also received Council resolution for Warraber Island to host as the project.

Warraber Island has been endorsed as the program's project site, given its distinct characteristics, energy-intensive infrastructure, climate-induced vulnerabilities, and alignment with waste management innovation.

The aim is to collaboratively create a toolbox of innovative, community-based approaches for water and energy management in remote Australia. This project will combine digital and cultural approaches to create a novel set of tested and evaluated tools for engaging both community and service providers in transforming water and energy use practises in remote Indigenous communities. The key output will be an empirically tested and user friendly water-energy toolbox tailored to reduce the currently extreme cost of supplying essential services to remote communities. Application of these outputs will significantly reduce demand on local water sources and diesel generated energy use while creating a skill base for local employment opportunities.

9. Coastal Hazard Resilience Officer (CHRO) Position

Council has been advised that extension has been verbally approved to appoint a CHRO for 2 year contract. The initial grant was only stipulate for shorter contract period. Council was concerned that the shorter contract period would not allow for successful outcome deliveries and thus requested extension of time to appoint a suitable candidate that can deliver projects over 2 year period.

Once formal confirmation has been received for the extension of time request, Council will begin the recruitment process.

10. Waste and Biosecurity

Council is seeking legal advice for Contract Clauses to be updated to ensure construction waste removal clauses are relevant and enforceable. Once Clauses have been confirmed these will be shared with other departments and stakeholders to act as a template for their contracts.

Council legal team is also exploring legalities for processes and procedure for transferring ownership of construction materials and temporary storage of materials in TSIRC Divisions.

Under this same funding, Councils Waste and Biosecurity Engagement Coordinator will be leading waste and biosecurity surveys around TSIRC Divisions. The information collected in the surveys will help understand the community's current use of single-use plastic items and the barriers that exist in using reusable items. It will also help to assess community's understanding around biosecurity requirements to remove waste from the Torres Strait. The

community's views are extremely important to the success of the survey as well as the efforts being made to minimise environmental impacts of different waste streams. will be conducting Council will be providing promotional materials, such as reusable water bottles, coffee cups, hats and caps, to incentivise survey participation.

11. Source Hydropanels

Hydropanels are an innovative solar-powered technology designed to extract moisture from the air, storing it in a sanitized holding tank. They have the capacity to provide clean, safe, and reliable drinking water supply to the community. Through the power of the sun, these panels extract moisture from the air, purify it, and store it in a 30L holding tank, ensuring that the water is free from contaminants and pathogens.

Recently, a comprehensive community consultation and subsequent site suitability inspections took place on Masig Island. The primary objective of these activities was to identify suitable locations for the installation of 24 Hydropanels, generously provided by Source Global as part of a demonstration project. The Patty Mills Foundation and the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) are also supporting the funding of this demonstration project.

The community consultation and inspections were instrumental in engaging the community and seeking their input to select the most suitable and agreeable sites for the Hydropanel installation. A strong consensus from community was to locate the panel at both the school and at the aerodrome. Other suggested locations include the barge ramp and roof tops of Queensland housing.

This project is proposed as a demonstration project, showcasing the innovative technology's capabilities and potential to provide clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to the Masig Island community.

Conclusion

The information provided highlights the Council's active efforts and commitment to addressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainability in the Torres Strait region. The council is applying for additional funding for coastal hazard adaptation. Discussions with the DES explore potential funding opportunities for various initiatives, including landfill closure, asbestos management, and waste equipment requirements. Council is progressing with the CHAS and has made significant progress in collecting and processing metal waste. Updates on seawall projects, ghost net initiatives, collaboration agreements, and the extension of the CHRO position demonstrate a holistic approach for coastal management. Furthermore, Council is focusing on waste and biosecurity through legal advice, engagement surveys, and promotional materials. Overall, the council's initiatives reflect its dedication to environmental stewardship, community engagement, and sustainable development in the Torres Strait region.

It is recommended that the Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Committee supports and notes the progress of these projects.



Author:

Jarrah Doran-Smith

Waste & Sustainability Engineer



Approved:

David Baldwin

Executive Director – Engineering Services