



Economic Growth Committee

Minutes

Date:

9 May 2023

Time:

1.00pm to 3.00pm

Venue:

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

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1. Welcome (Chair)

The Committee Chairperson (Cr Rocky Stephen) opened the meeting at 1.15pm and welcomed Committee Members and staff.

2. Opening Prayer

The Chairperson delivered the opening prayer.

3. Attendance / Apologies

There were no apologies and the following attendances were noted:

Chairperson & Committee Members	
Chairperson	Cr Rocky Stephen
Member	Cr Conwell Tabuai
Member	Cr Jimmy Gela
TSIRC Officers	
Chief Executive Officer	Mr James William
Executive Director Financial Services	Ms Hollie Faithfull
Acting Executive Director Corporate Services	Mr David Kempton
Executive Director Building Services	Mr Wayne Green
Acting Manager Enterprise Development & Delivery	Ms Melissa Wright
Senior Legal Officer	Ms Julia Mauro
TSIRC Secretariat	Darryl Brooks
Guests	
Mr Michael Campbell	Lucid Economics consulting services - (dialed in for Agenda Item 7)

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 Meeting held on 2 December 2022

The Committee noted that the Minutes of the Economic Growth Committee Meeting held on 2 December 2022 were ratified at the 6 December 2022 Council meeting.

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6. Action Items from Previous Meeting

The Executive Director Financial Services provided the Committee with a verbal update on the status of action items arising from the previous meeting held on 2 December 2022. A copy of the updated action items list is at Attachment A. Closed/Completed actions will be removed from the listing prior to the next Committee meeting.

7. Economic Development Strategy (verbal)

Mr Michael Campbell joined the meeting via VC dial-in.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Michael Campbell (Lucid Economics Consulting Services) to the meeting.

The Chairperson proposed that the Committee formally agree that the current 'Enterprise Development Strategy' be renamed and further developed as the 'Economic Development Strategy' as a long-term and effective approach to strategically address future economic growth for the Torres Strait region. Members supported this proposal and the following motion was endorsed:

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Jimmy Gela

Seconded: Cr Conwell Tabuai

That the Economic Development Committee agree that the current 'Enterprise Development Strategy' be renamed and further developed as the 'Economic Development Strategy' as a long-term strategic approach to address future economic growth for the Torres Strait region.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Economic Development Strategy will include, among other things, best practice strategies to guide the Council in key areas such as:

- supporting and nurturing the growth of external/internal businesses in the Torres Strait, including associated support around training and development of the local workforce;
- reviewing and rectifying negative legacy issues which impact either directly or indirectly on the capacity for economic growth of individuals, businesses and communities (including Council's policy on divesting Enterprises and Assets);
- identifying locally-sourced goods and suppliers and assessing their suitability around supply and demand issues;

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- undertaking a revenue analysis of the Torres Strait region, including ensuring a focus on initiatives that will create sustained and long-term economic outcomes for people on Country;
- identifying strategies to keep revenue within the local region in order for the local economy to grow and thrive.

Mr Michael Campbell advised the Committee that he proposes to undertake research work to build upon the Strategy, including an engagement project with visits to the Torres Strait in July/August 2023 to garner community input for the Strategy.

The Chief Executive Officer invited Mr Campbell to attend the upcoming May 2023 Councillors' Workshop to discuss the Strategy and his proposed visit to the Torres Strait.

The Committee requested that a draft Strategy be developed for presentation at the June 2023 meeting of the Council's Strategic Advisory Reference Group, before a presentation of the final Strategy to the full Council meeting (possibly November 2023).

The Chairperson thanked Mr Campbell for his participation at the meeting.

Action:

1. ED Financial Services to provide Mr Michael Campbell (Lucid Economics Consulting Services) with relevant details for his attendance at the upcoming May 2023 Councillors' Workshop to discuss the Economic Development Strategy.
2. ED Financial Services to coordinate the development of a draft Strategy for presentation at the June 2023 meeting of the Council's Strategic Advisory Reference Group, before a presentation of the final Strategy to the full Council meeting (possibly November 2023).

8. May 2023 Workshop Agenda (verbal)

The Committee discussed how it would present discussion on the following issues:

- Fuel & Elphistone Matter (including iOR Business Proposal submitted by the iOR deputation at the March 2023 Council Meeting);

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- Enterprise Divestment Policy (discussion as per Agenda Item 7 above);
 - Legacy Divestment Project
 - looking at the status of assets
 - plans for starting afresh
 - do we cancel what hasn't been completed from legacy divestment, etc.

The Committee agreed that it will await further clarification on ways to proceed after Council considers these matters at the May 2023 Workshop.

9. General / Other Business (on notice)

(a) [2023 First Nations National Business Enterprise Conference](#) (Cairns, 26-28 July 2023)

The Conference aims to bring together individuals and business professionals from all sectors, to share knowledge and insight necessary to build successful First Nations businesses enterprise.

This three-day conference will be organised alongside the [2023 National First Nations Employment & Training Conference](#) and the 2023 First Nations International Tourism Conference which bring together organisations, employers and government agencies to discuss and paint a bigger picture of Indigenous employment. Each of these conferences are stand-alone events; however, in some cases, the prevalence of the same topic are intertwined, where it is possible to have keynote sessions or discussion panels involving delegations from all three conferences.

Action:

ED Financial Services to advise the Committee out of session if funds are available to enable the attendance of Committee members at the 2023 First Nations National Business Enterprise Conference.

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(b) [World Aquaculture 2023](#)

Darwin will host World Aquaculture, to be held in Australia for the first time since 2014. This annual event will incorporate the Australasian Aquaculture industry and will see several thousand attendees from around the world converge on the city of Darwin from 29 May 2023 to 1 June 2023.

World Aquaculture 2023 (WA2023) will be an opportunity for the international aquaculture community - academics, industry researchers, market and industry analysts, government officials, policymakers and industry representatives to present their work and exchange ideas and develop a vision for the future of the aquaculture industry while focussing on the theme of "Supporting Strength in Aquaculture".

Action:

ED Financial Services to advise the Committee out of session if funds are available to enable the attendance of Committee members at the World Aquaculture 2023.

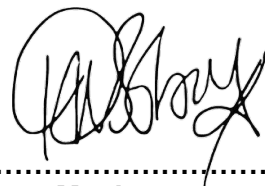
10. Next Meeting Date: Friday, 23 June 2023 (10am)

11. Closing Remarks & Prayer

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 3.40pm and Cr Conwell Tabuai delivered the closing prayer.



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Mr James William
Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 18/7/2023



.....
Cr Phillemon Mosby
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 18/7/2023

UPDATE ON ACTIONS ARISING FROM 12 DECEMBER 2022 MEETING:

Action	Responsibility	Status as at 9/5/23
AI 7 Enterprise Development Strategy – Verbal ACTION: Committee to be kept up to date with the status of the TSRA funding.	ED Financial Services	Completed/Closed.
AI 8 Enterprise Divestment Policy – Verbal ACTION: Chair of Economic Growth Committee and Executive Director Financial Services to draft email to Senior Legal Officer on topics Committee would like further advice on. ACTION: Executive Director Financial Services to arrange an out of session Committee Meeting in February to discuss way forward with Enterprise Divestment Policy.	Committee Chair ED Financial Services	Completed/Closed.
AI 9 Ugar and Dauan Community Access Business Case – Verbal ACTION: Executive Director Financial Services to keep committee updated on the status of the response from TSRA.	ED Financial Services	The TSRA did not consider this matter at its March 2023 meeting. The TSRA will now consider this matter at its June 2023 meeting.

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Action	Responsibility	Status as at 9/5/23
<p>AI 10</p> <p>Copper services solution in Torres Strait Update – Verbal</p> <p>ACTION: That Manager Information Technology be invited to the next Committee Meeting to provide a verbal update on Cooper Services Solutions for TSIRC.</p> <p>ACTION: That Manager IT in conjunction with Corporate Affairs to develop an information sheet for committee explaining the effects of removal of Cooper services from island.</p>	ED Corporate Services	<p>A briefing paper to be presented and discussed at the next Committee meeting in June 2023.</p>
<p>AI 11</p> <p>Submarine Telecommunication Cable viability for TSIRC – Verbal</p> <p>ACTION: That Executive Officer be invited to the next Committee Meeting to provide a verbal update on the discussions held with Queensland Chief Information Officer.</p>	Chief Executive Officer	<p>No follow-up action taken by former Executive Officer.</p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer advised that this matter is not a viable option for the Committee to pursue any further. Rather, the current best practice solution for the unique circumstances of the Torres Strait region is to avoid reliance on a sole service provider, but to utilise a multitude of assets/suppliers that best suits the region.</p>

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Action	Responsibility	Status as at 9/5/23
		Chief Executive Officer to brief the Committee further at a future meeting.
<p>AI 12</p> <p>Economic Policy – Verbal</p> <p>ACTION: That Chair of Economic Growth Committee and Executive Director Financial Services to have an out of session discussion to develop questions regarding Economic Policy to be distributed to Elected Councillors.</p>	<p>Committee Chair ED Financial Services</p>	<p>To be progressed further at the May 2023 Councillors' Workshop.</p> <p>To also be guided by discussion of Agenda Item 7 at the Committee meeting on 9/5/23.</p>
<p>AI 13</p> <p>COMMITTEE MOVES INTO CLOSED BUSINESS</p> <p>Elphinstone Close Business Proposal – Verbal Fuel Business Proposal – Verbal Building Services Unit (BSU) Update – Verbal CDEP Proposal Submission – Verbal</p> <p>ACTION: That an out of session meeting to be called in February to discuss Elphinstone Close Business Proposal and the Fuel Business proposal.</p> <p>ACTION:</p>	<p>ED Financial Services</p>	<p>The Chief Executive Officer advised that these matters will be discussed at the May 2023 Councillors' Workshop.</p>

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Action	Responsibility	Status as at 9/5/23
That Chief Executive Officer develop a paper on the positions of CDEP Elphinstone Close and Fuel Business Proposal.		
AI 19 General/ Other Business (on notice) (a) World Indigenous Tourism Summit ACTION: Executive Director Financial Services to send out the program and registration to Committee Members.	ED Financial Services	Completed/Closed.
AI 20 Next meeting date – to be advised once dates are confirmed in the December Council meeting. ACTION: Executive Director Financial Services to liaise with Executive Assistant to the CEO on the proposed meeting dates for Economic Growth Committee for the month of March, June, September and December 2023.	ED Financial Services	Completed/Closed.