

SPECIAL ORDINARY MEETING

9 August 2023

MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Mosby opened the meeting at 2.10pm and welcomed Councillors and TSIRC staff and invited Councillor Stephen (Division 13) to guide proceedings with an opening prayer.

The following attendances were noted to confirm a quorum for the meeting to proceed:

Torres Strait Island Regional Council

Mayor	Cr Phillemon Mosby
Division 1 – Boigu	Cr Dimas Toby
Division 2 – Dauan	Cr Torenzo Elisala
Division 3 – Saibai	Cr Conwell Tabuai
Division 6 – Arkai	Cr Lama Trinkoon
Division 7 – Wug (St. Pauls), Moa Island	Cr John Levi
Division 8 – Kirirri (Hammond)	Cr Seriako Dorante
Division 9 – Iama	Cr Getano Lui (Jnr), AM (Deputy Mayor)
Division 10 – Warraber	Cr Kabay Tamu
Division 11 – Poruma	Cr Francis Pearson
Division 13 – Ugar	Cr Rocky Stephen
Division 15 – Mer	Cr Aven S. Noah

TSIRC OFFICERS

Chief Executive Officer	Mr James William
Executive Director Building Services	Mr Wayne Green
Executive Director Community Services	Mr Dawson Sailor
Acting Executive Director Corporate Services	Mr Martin Leech
Executive Director Engineering Services	Mr David Baldwin
Executive Assistant to the Mayor	Ms Trudy Lui
Senior Executive Assistant to the CEO	Ms Julie Marino
TSIRC Secretariat	Mr Darryl Brooks

Observer

Corporate Services

Ms Sharon Russell

Mayor Mosby confirmed, therefore, that the required quorum of Councillors were present for the meeting to proceed.

Mayor Mosby gave an acknowledgement of the Torres Strait Islander traditional custodians and their connection to Country within the Council's footprint. Mayor Mosby also gave an acknowledgement of the Aboriginal traditional custodians across Australia and acknowledged their connection to these lands.

AGENDA ITEM 2: APOLOGIES

The following apologies were noted:

Torres Strait Island Regional Council

Division 4 – Mabuiag

Cr Keith Fell (prior commitment)

Division 12 – Masig

Cr Hilda Mosby (medical appointment)

The Council made the following resolutions in relation to the apologies received:

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Francis Pearson ***Seconded:*** Cr Jimmy Gela

That Council accepts the apology of Cr Keith Fell for the 9 August 2023 Special Council Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala ***Seconded:*** Cr John Levi

That Council accepts the apology of Cr Keith Fell for the 9 August 2023 Special Council Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGENDA ITEM 3: DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI) (PRESCRIBED AND DECLARABLE)

Mayor Mosby requested that members make any relevant conflict of interest declarations and advise if any relevant legal proceedings were current pertaining to Council business to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

AGENDA ITEM 4: MASIG STATEMENT MOTION FOR THE 2023 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND (LGAQ) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Mayor provided an overview for the special meeting, advising Council that he has requested this urgent special meeting in order to lodge a motion for the upcoming 2023 Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Annual Conference in October 2023. To lodge a motion to be tabled at the 2023 LGAQ Conference, the motion must be formally endorsed by Council and then submitted online. Online submissions close on 9 Aug 2023 (close of business). The Mayor also advised that if the LGAQ supports the motion at its annual conference, then the LGAQ is able to formulate and adopt a policy position on the motion.

The Mayor also advised Council that during the Indigenous Leaders' Forum (ILF) in May 2023 the Masig Statement was supported by the Forum and the Forum also recommended that a motion be submitted to the LGAQ. Councils in the Torres Strait area were also encouraged to garner support for the Masig Statement with their counterparts across the region.

The Deputy Mayor requested clarification on why the Torres Shire is not mentioned in the proposed resolution. The Chief Executive Officer explained to Council that the 'Torres Strait and Northern Peninsular Area' wording in the proposed motion has been taken directly from The Masig Statement itself, referring to the region without any references to specific Councils. The Deputy Mayor then suggested that another option may be to only use the words 'Torres Strait'. The Deputy Mayor also raised concerns around whether the proposed motion had any implications in relation to the YES/NO campaigning leading up to the Referendum in 2023.

The Chief Executive Officer suggested to Council that a solution to the Deputy Mayor's concerns (or any concerns which may arise afterwards by other Councillors) in relation to the proposed motion to be submitted to the LGAQ, is for Council to add in its resolution today the additional option to authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make any further minor amendments to the proposed motion to LGAQ should any such amendments arise. The Chief Executive Officer also advised Council that the imperative today was to endorse the proposed motion to LGAQ before the close of registration for LGAQ motions and that there was capacity for registered motions to be amended in the lead-up to the LGAQ Annual Conference.

The Mayor invited the Chief Executive Officer to read the proposed resolution.

Following a reading of the proposed resolution by the Chief Executive Officer, Cr Seriako Dorante sought clarification on the extent to which the Chief Executive Officer would have capacity to 'make amendments' to the proposed motion for LGAQ. The Chief Executive Officer advised that any amendments (should they arise) would be minor and he assured Council that any such amendments would not be made without prior consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, if not the full Council.

Cr Rocky Stephen sought clarification as to whether the proposed motion to LGAQ will be altered when being considered at the LGAQ Annual Conference. The Chief Executive Officer advised that the LGAQ will not alter the Council's motion – it will either support/not support the motion.

The Mayor then called for Council endorsement.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Francis Pearson **Seconded:** Cr Jimmy Gela

That Council:

1. Endorse the following motion to be tabled at the 2023 Queensland Local Government Association Conference that:

"LGAQ support the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula areas on the MASIG statement and call on the State and Federal Governments to move swiftly on self-determination for the people of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula area; so they can freely determine political status and pursue economic, social and cultural development; self-government in matters relating to internal and local affairs, and create partnerships with regional stakeholders, and the Queensland and federal governments to achieve the region's goals and aspirations."

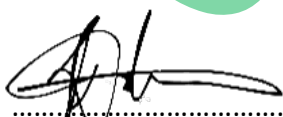
2. Give delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to make amendments if required to the motion.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action	Responsibility	Status
Secretariat to submit the resolution on the LGAQ website for formal registration.	Secretariat	Completed.

AGENDA ITEM 21: CLOSING REMARKS AND PRAYER

Mayor Mosby thanked Councillors for their attendance at this special meeting. The Mayor asked Councillors to remain online for a 'closed session' for Councillors only. Following a closing prayer delivered by Cr Francis Pearson, the Mayor formally closed the meeting at 2.35pm and asked for all staff to exit the VC.



Mr James William
Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 3 October 2023



Cr. Phillemon Mosby
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 3 October 2023