



Strategic Advisory Reference Group Meeting

Minutes

Date: 4 April 2023

Time: 1.00pm to 4.00pm

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

1. Welcome (Chair)

Mayor Mosby opened the meeting at 1.15pm and welcomed Committee Members and TSIRC staff.

The Mayor advised the meeting that he had made a last-minute change to the scheduled agenda to accommodate the participation of Ms Sandy Killick from Democracy Matters, who would be providing the Committee with an update on progress made to date in preparing the report “Advancing the Masig Statement.” The Mayor also reminded the Committee that this discussion was scheduled to take place at the March 2023 SARG meeting, but had to be postponed at the time.

The Mayor therefore indicated that the Committee attend to items 1-9 on the agenda and that Ms Killick will address the Committee prior to the commencement of ‘Closed Business.’

2. Opening Prayer

The Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Governance & Leadership Committee, Cr Getano Lui (Jnr), provided the opening prayer.

The Committee then observed a minute’s silence.

3. Attendance

The following attendances were noted:

Mayor & Committee Chairpersons

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| Mayor | Cr Phillemon Mosby |
| Climate Change Adaption & Environment Committee | Cr Hilda Mosby |
| Economic Growth Committee | Cr Rocky Stephen |
| Governance & Leadership Committee | Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) – Deputy Mayor |

TSIRC Officers

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| Chief Executive Officer | Mr James William |
| Executive Director - Building Services | Mr Wayne Green |
| Acting Executive Director – Engineering Services | Mr Terrence Jeppesen |
| Executive Director – Financial Services | Ms Hollie Faithfull |
| Head of Community Services | Mr Dawson Sailor |
| Manager Legal Services | Mr David Kempton |
| Legal Services | Ms Julia Mauro |
| Senior Executive Assistant to the CEO | Ms Julie Marino |
| Executive Assistant to the Mayor | Ms Trudy Lui |
| TSIRC Secretariat | Mr Darryl Brooks |

Visitors

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| Democracy Matters Consultant | Ms Sandy Killick |
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4. Apologies

The following apologies were noted and accepted by the Committee:

- Cr Keith Fell, Chairperson, Housing & Safe and Healthy Communities Committee due to inclement weather affecting internet and telephone capacity; and
- Cr Laurie Nona, Acting Chairperson, Cultural, Arts, Land & Heritage Committee due to Sorry Business on Badu.

MOVED: Cr Rocky Stephen
SECONDED: Cr Hilda Mosby

THOSE IN FAVOUR: Unanimous
THOSE AGAINST: N/A
STATUS: Carried

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

Mayor Mosby requested that Councillors 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.

6. Noting of Ratified Minutes of the SARG Meeting held on 7 February 2023

The Committee noted that the Minutes of the SARG Meeting held on 7 February 2023 were ratified at the March 2023 Council meeting.

MOVED: Cr Hilda Mosby
SECONDED: Cr Rocky Stephen

THOSE IN FAVOUR: Unanimous
THOSE AGAINST: N/A
STATUS: Carried

7. Confirmation of Draft Minutes of the SARG Meeting held on 7 March 2023

The Committee confirmed the draft Minutes of the SARG Meeting held on 7 March 2023, with minor amendments.

MOVED: Cr Rocky Stephen
SECONDED: Cr Hilda Mosby

THOSE IN FAVOUR: Unanimous
THOSE AGAINST: N/A
STATUS: Carried

8. Action Items from Previous Meeting

The Chief Executive Officer spoke to the Committee outlining the current status on the action items arising from the previous SARG meeting held on 7 March 2023.

The issues in relation to the inadequate air services to Erub, Mer and Mabuiag Islands are now gaining momentum towards reaching a suitable resolution. The CEO advised that a letter is being prepared to be sent to the TSRA requesting them to explore subsidising air services to Erub and Mabuiag either by charter or helicopter flights and that this letter will be sent by cob 5 April 2023. The deputation by Skytrans to the March Council meeting was very helpful and the impending meeting with the CASA Board in Cairns (with the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and the CEO on 19 April 2023) will also assist in helping to resolve these issues. The Torres News has also been contacted in order to raise the profile of these issues.

The CEO further advised the Committee that follow-up action on letters to various agencies as outlined under Agenda Item 8 of the March 2023 meeting have been more complex to finalise as the matters to be resolved will require legislative changes, not just policy changes, by the agencies involved. The TSIRC currently is not resourced with high level policy writing capacity and such skills are required to advocate these and other complex issues to governments and agencies for effective outcomes.

ACTION:

The Chief Executive Officer to send (by cob 5 April 2023) a letter to the TSRA requesting them to explore subsidising air services to Erub and Mabuiag either by charter or helicopter flights.

9. Mayor (verbal)

10. MOVE INTO CLOSED BUSINESS

In accordance with section 254J of the *Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld)* it is resolved for the meeting to go into closed session to discuss Agenda Item 11.

Moved:

Cr Hilda Mosby

Seconded:

Cr Getano Lui (Jnr)

THOSE IN FAVOUR:

Unanimous

THOSE AGAINST:

N/A

STATUS:

Carried

11. CLOSED BUSINESS ITEM: Trustee Policy Review

Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) stated that any review of Trustee Policy is a matter for the Trustee itself to consider and recommended that the proposed brief be redirected to the agenda of the next Trustee meeting. The Committee supported this recommendation.

ACTION:

The closed business agenda item "Trustee Policy Review" to be redirected to the next Trustee Meeting.

12. MOVE OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS

In accordance with section 254J of the *Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld)* it is resolved for the meeting to move out of closed session.

MOVED:

Cr Hilda Mosby

SECONDED:

Cr Rocky Stephen

THOSE IN FAVOUR:

Unanimous

THOSE AGAINST:

N/A

STATUS:

Carried

13. General / Other Business (on notice)

13.1 Masig Statement Update

The Mayor welcomed Ms Sandy Killick from Democracy Matters. Ms Killick provided the Committee with an update on progress made to date in preparing the report “Advancing the Masig Statement.” Ms Killick advised the Committee that the 1st version of the report was prepared with the TSIRC as the audience for consultation. Following that consultation and the feedback received, the current version has now been prepared for wider audience consultation.

The meeting made the following comments for incorporation into the current version:

- Important to include any commitments given recently or in the past by Federal/State Governments and Parliaments e.g. a letter written by the former Queensland Premier (Anna Bligh) to the former Prime Minister (Julia Gillard).
- Document any support given by previous governments, agencies, peak organisations and communities and community organisations for the outcomes in the original Masig Statement.
- Document ‘lessons learned’ that Torres Strait Islander people have experienced since 1937, so that future Councillors are guided in their work up to the Year 2037 (Centenary of the Masig Statement).
- Document key points raised in the Boyer Lecture delivered by the Deputy Mayor (Cr Getano Lui) in the 1980s
- Document key milestones and events to help maintain momentum to realise autonomy by the Year 2037. For example, this year marks the 86th Anniversary of the Councillors’ Conference and it is important that any strong leadership should look back to the past, in order to regain momentum for the future. Often when there is a change of leadership in structures, momentum tends to wane, so it is imperative to maintain mechanisms to stay the focus for future leaders.

- The establishment of elected representative bodies such as the Island Coordinating Council, the Torres Strait Regional Authority and more recently the Torres Strait & Northern Peninsula Area Regional Organisation of Councils (TS&NPA ROC) are key milestones in advancing the principles of the Masig Statement.
- Continue the momentum of promoting a yearly theme in the lead-up to the Year 2037.
- Identify common ground (using the theme “we are all in the same boat” which is a saying immediately familiar to Torres Strait Islander people) in order to rally a focus for the collective of Torres Strait Islander leadership.

At the conclusion of discussions, the Chief Executive Officer invited Ms Killick to consider the TSIRC Workshop in May 2023 as an ideal opportunity to progress the latest version of her report, along with the comments made today by the SARG Committee.

13.2 Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee

Councillor Hilda Mosby confirmed that the next meeting of the Council’s Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee is on 27 April 2023.

13.3 Hammond Island Ferry Service Matter

CEO to discuss off-line with Cr Seriako Dorante.

13.4 Business case for Ugar

CEO to discuss off-line with Cr Rocky Stephen.

14. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, 2 May 2023 (1pm to 4pm)

The Committee noted the next meeting date of 2 May 2023.

15. Closing Remarks & Prayer

The Mayor closed the meeting at 3.30pm and Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) delivered the closing prayer.



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Mr James William
Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 27/6/2023



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Cr. Phillemon Mosby
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 27/6/2023