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Message from the Mayor

Kapu goeyga nithamunka mura, kulay kidh ngay koeyma eso and apapudhi ngoelmun koey Awgad inab kayne goeyga gasaman, ngay lak gudwoeydhika mura Zenadth Kes baradhawraw mabaygal, kuyku mabaygal, a koey mabaygal, sena kaypayda knlay, kayb gcoga a senapa ngapabungal.

I acknowledge Papa God, Traditional Owners, Elders, and Community Leaders throughout our region. I also acknowledge all community members of the five Nations we serve throughout Zenadth Kes - from where the sun rises on Mer in the East to where it sets on Boigu in the West. I acknowledge all First Nations people throughout Australia and recognise our shared connection to culture, kastom, and belief systems that span thousands of years.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome the return of Strait Talk, the Torres Strait Island Regional Council newsletter. Strait Talk is an important opportunity for us to share information and ensure it is genuinely available to our communities. Each edition will be released on our website, social media, and a print friendly copy will be provided to our Divisional Council offices for printing and distribution. The reinstatement of Strait Talk provides an

opportunity for communities to receive information and to ensure we provide transparency, and all share the same messaging for important matters. Strait Talk will be part of an important range of communication tools for Council, including our social media channels and website.

In this, our first edition back, we reflect on the events of August 23 this year, where we celebrated the 85th Anniversary of the First Councillors Conference. This celebration saw regional leaders reconfirm the desire and commitment to greater autonomy and self-determination, as voiced by our forefathers in 1937, by signing the Masig Statement – the Voice from the Deep. We urge all Community Members to attend local events to gain a better understanding of the Masig Statement, to ask questions, and to sign for a greater say in our future.

We welcome your feedback on our new Strait Talk. Your input and readership will ensure we keep the newsletter and content relevant.

Koeyma eso, au esoau nithamunka mura A Awgadhaw woenab nithamun raymel.

Mayor Mosby





Message from the CEO – James William

I acknowledge community members across the length and breadth of Zenadth Kes. I pay respect to Elders past and present and acknowledge the deep attachment and relationship to land and sea – and I acknowledge the traditions and cultural beliefs upheld to this day.

The leadership of any organisation is a serious role and there is perhaps none more important than the leadership of an organisation which is responsible for provision of services to its community, as Council is. For that reason – and many others – I am humbled and proud to introduce myself to you as the Chief Executive Officer of Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

In July Council endorsed the 2022/23 Operational Plan which outlines the projects Council will focus on for the coming year. I urge you to review our Operational Plan on Council's website to see what is planned for our communities this financial year.

It is apparent that there is a lot of work to do – but also that much has already been achieved – from seawalls to staff development, from water treatment to financial strategy and community development – it's all remarkable work and tell a story of cooperation, commitment and continuous hard work.

In October Council adopted the 2022 Annual Report. The Annual Report is an important publication for communicating our work and achievements to our constituents as well as providing transparency and accountability for the spending of public money. Council takes great pride in the Annual Report and strives to meet best practice in reporting to ensure our community and other stakeholders are well informed of Council's goals, work and performance. This report can be viewed on our website.

Council's future is bright – but it's up to us to keep the light shining on it and ensure we maintain a focus on moving forward, to continue to improve the liveability of our communities and to grow and explore new opportunities. We have the benefit of a visionary Mayor and a deeply invested, supportive Council. We have the support of our communities, and we have the deep-seated belief that we can do anything we turn our minds to. I believe Council is in position to make significant change and it is my intention to lead us to and through that change, towards a future of enhanced self-sufficiency, accelerated growth, and new opportunities.

James William
CEO



Out & About

Junior Rugby League Luncheon Mabuiag



Halloween on Hammond





Prime Minister Visit



Early August saw the exciting arrival of Australian Prime Minister, Hon. Anthony Albanese, to the Torres Strait.

Indigenous Australians Minister, Hon. Linda Burney and Queensland Senator Nita Green accompanied the Prime Minister for the two-day visit. Torres Strait Island Regional Council Mayor Phillemon Mosby, Torres Shire Council Mayor Yen Norman Loban, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council Mayor Patricia Yusia, Torres Strait Regional Authority Chair Pedro Stephen, along with Kaurareg Traditional Owners PBC Chair Mr Milton Savage warmly welcomed the Prime Minister and his companions at Horn Island Airport.

The two-day visit saw round-table sessions with community groups, elders and leading women within the Torres Strait discussing the Prime Minister's plan to develop an Indigenous Voice to Parliament and advance the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

The Prime Minister's presence within our community was especially significant being within the first six months of the Prime Minister's first term and leading up to the 85th Anniversary of the First Councillors Conference on August 23 2022.



eCOVID update

The COVID infection has grown to be more prominent within communities across the state once again. Presently we are facing moderate rates of community transmission as the potential for entering a new wave increases.

The health and safety of our communities is fundamental to Council, which is why we would like to take a moment to reiterate the significance of keeping up to date with Queensland Health's COVID-19 medical advice.

To prevent the spread and contraction of COVID this holiday season ensure you:

- Keep up to date with your vaccinations.
- Maintain healthy hygiene.
- Wear a mask indoors if you can't socially distance
- Get tested if you show symptoms

... and remember.



Feeling sick?



Close contact?



Stay home.



Get tested!

STAY SAFE. STAY INFORMED



85th Anniversary of the First Councillors Conference

one people, one region, one voice



In 1937, Councillors from Torres Strait communities came together demanding that the Queensland Government improve service, end the unpopular regulations, and transfer power from superintendent-teachers back to local councils. Calling for greater autonomy and self-determination for Torres Strait Islanders.

Flash forward 85 years and it is August 23 on Island where the next steps in linking the past to our future took place. In recognition of the 85th Anniversary of the First Councillors Conference held on Masig in 1937, Council, along with community members, our neighbouring Councils and other organisations celebrated a significant time in history that fostered the strong foundations we see in our region today.

The days surrounding this significant milestone united the community through reflection of the region's past to embrace and plan for the future.

The Masig community played a central role in the week long celebration and the event would not have been possible without the community's support.

From Monday 22 August to Thursday 25 August Community Members from across the region, Councillors, visitors and guests enjoyed activities and entertainment. The iconic dinghy

race, Thugal Makarr Sagul, certainly kicked things off on a high. There was no shortage of food, entertainment, and laughter. Fireworks lit up the night sky Tuesday evening as everyone came together one last time and celebrations of the 85th Anniversary concluded for 2023. A few highlights spanning across consecutive days included the community assembly, reading of the minutes from the 1937 conference, and signing of the Masig Statement.





THE MASIG STATEMENT

23 August 2022

MALUNGU YANGU WAKAY

The Voice from the deep

PURPOSE

To establish principles and parameters on behalf of the peoples of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area to act together in unity, in order to pursue and achieve self-determination and regional autonomy and, in so doing, preserve our distinctive and diverse spiritual, material and economic relationship with the lands, territories, waters, coastal seas and other resources with which we have a connection under Ailan Kastom and Aboriginal tradition.

AIMS

- 1. In accordance with Article 3 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 13th September 2007 and supported by the Australian Government on 3rd April 2009 and the Preamble of the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld), we seek to achieve our right to self-determination as the peoples of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.*
- 2. By virtue of our sovereign right, we have the right to freely determine our political status and to freely pursue our economic, social and cultural development.*
- 3. In keeping with Article 4 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in exercising our right to self-determination, we have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to our internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.*
- 4. Therefore, we will create partnerships with Key Regional Stakeholders, the Queensland and Australian governments together with other relevant organisations to better equip us to work together to achieve our regional goals and aspirations; and in working together as representatives of the peoples of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area obtain and safeguard our human rights enshrined in international, national and Queensland law.*

PAST	23 August 1937 was the beginning of regional autonomy – The Torres Strait Island Councillors Conference.
PRESENT	23 August 2022 is the beginning of a new beginning, a culturally united path to regional sovereignty - The MASIG Statement.
FUTURE	23 August 2037 will be the beginning of regional sovereignty.





Christmas Well Wishes

With Christmas and New year celebrations just around the corner, Council would like to offer their warmest regards this festive season. This time of year is always a busy and exciting period for everyone across the Torres Strait.

take extra care of your loved ones and prioritise practicing balanced, fulfilling lifestyles this festive season.

2022 has been a year of many new experiences, relationships, and

of love and generosity for everyone. Christmas is the birth of Christ.

The new year, the birth of new hope. May your end of the year celebrations come full of affection and gratitude.



**Merri Krismas ene God Bless youpla pamele
wer laughter, good health ene happiness in
the New Year**

The children and young adults of our communities have returned home to enjoy their school holidays on island and everyday routines are calming down.

Council is serious about ensuring the health and wellbeing of our people is maintained. We encourage you to

achievements that we hope will only flourish further into the new year and beyond.

From everyone at the Torres Strait Island Regional Council we pray you cherish this time shared with those closest to you and hope it creates an atmosphere

Merry Christmas and God bless your family with laughter, good health, and happiness in the New Year.

God bless.





wok clostoon wer council

Get involved with Council



Joineh mepla **Facebook** page
Follow us on **Facebook**



Joineh mepla wer **LinkedIn** page
Connect with us on **LinkedIn**



Ask mepla all question yah **yarn@tsirc.qld.gov.au**
Ask us **yarn@tsirc.qld.gov.au**



Come **Council meeting** blo mepla
Attend a **Council meeting**



Yarn with ume **Councillor**
Chat to a **Councillor**



Visit mepla website **tsirc.qld.gov.au**
Visit us **tsirc.qld.gov.au**



Sane youpla request kum
Make a **submission**