



**Torres Strait Island**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# MINUTES

## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021  
Time: 1:13pm to 2:23pm  
Venue: VMR #6 – 0292 970 558

## **Agenda**

1. Welcome (Chair)
2. Opening Prayer
3. Apologies
4. Conflict of Interest (COI)/ Material Personal Interest (MPI) Declaration
5. Confirmation of Minutes – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020
6. Action Items from previous meeting
7. Terms of Reference Discussion
8. Standing Agenda Items Discussion
  - Quarterly update on current and future works in the Region to address Climate change and Environmental issues – Chief Engineer
9. Meeting Dates for 2021
  - 23 June 2021
  - 25 August 2021
  - 27 October 2021
10. General/ Other Business (on notice)
11. Next meeting date – 23 June 2021
12. Closing Prayer

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**PRESENT:**

Cr Hilda Mosby, Chair  
Cr Seriako Dorante, Member

Mr David Baldwin, Chief Engineer  
Mr Peter Krebs, Senior Legal Counsel

**APOLOGY:**

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Welcome (Chair)**

Cr Hilda Mosby welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their time.

### **2. Opening Prayer**

Cr Mosby invited Cr Dorante to open the meeting in prayer.

### **3. Apologies**

Cr Tamu not in attendance as yet, Cr Mosby advised she spoke with Cr Tamu and he advised he was attending.

### **4. Conflict of Interest (COI) (Declarable / Prescribed)**

- Cr Mosby declared a declarable conflict of interest as she is a member of
  - TSRA Board and
  - CSIRO Indigenous Climate Change Group
- Cr Dorante declared a declarable conflict of interest as he is a member of
  - TSRA Board

**1:19pm** – Cr Tamu joined the meeting.

- Cr Tamu declared a declarable conflict of interest as he is a plaintiff in a United Nation court case on climate change effects on the Torres Strait Region.

### **5. Confirmation of Minutes – 2nd November 2020**

Committee wanted it noted the Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 was endorsed at the OM in December 2020 at Badu.

### **6. Action Items from previous meeting**

Action item list updated.

### **7. Terms of Reference Discussion**

No discussion.

## 8. Standing Agenda Items Discussion

- Quarterly update on current and future works in the Region to address Climate change and Environmental issues – Chief Engineer

Chief Engineer, Mr David Baldwin provided the committee with a briefing paper and spoke to the report.

Cr Mosby informs committee the TSRA climate change publication all expires this year and therefore they were not distributed.

Chief Engineer updated committee on the CHASS report, they are still ongoing, a few phases are completed, and phase 4&5 recently went to OM for endorsement.

**ACTION:** Chief Engineer to provide a briefing paper with an update on 4 & 5.

Cr Tamu raised the issue of renewable energy and that the conversation needs to start up again and he asked about Mirabou Energy and other who presented to Council. Senior Legal Counsel provided committee on an update regarding Mirabou.

Cr Tamu suggested its about educating our people on climate change and it's affects. Council needs to have a position on this. Chief Engineer informs committee on the work John Rainbird from TSRA is doing and suggest TSIRC start the conversation with him and work collaboratively in this space and build the relationship. Committee supports the idea and Cr Dorante ask if TSIRC has an MOU with TSRA. Peter Krebs informs the committee there are plans to develop a new MOU with TSRA.

**ACTION:** Senior Legal Counsel to provide an update on the MOU status between TSIRC and TSRA.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Moved: Cr Tamu; Second: Cr Dorante

**That the Committee notes and accepts the briefing paper as presented.**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

## 9. Meeting Dates for 2021

- 23 June 2021
- 25 August 2021
- 27 October 2021

Committee confirms and accepts the dates for the remaining three quarterly meeting for this year.

## 10. General/ Other Business (on notice)

Chief Engineer mentioned the Torres Strait Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan to be reviews by the Standing Committee with short term objective;

- Regional Adaptation champions
- Create more sustainable and resilient communities
- TSRA to co-fund a position – subject to TSRA funding
- Regional resilience and sustainability position

**1:59pm** – Senior Legal Counsel, Mr Peter Krebs leaves the meeting.

Can the Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Standing Committee influence TSIRC to look at the co-funded position with TSRA.

Cr Tamu stress again the point of educating our people and community and TSIRC need to take a step to show we are playing a part.

Chief Engineer informs Committee there is a concept for the old position description that he can send out to members.

**ACTION:** Chief Engineer to send to all Committee and staff a copy of the old proposed position description.

Cr Dorante supports the position.

**2:11am** – Cr Tamu leaves the meeting.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

*Moved:* Cr Dorante; *Second:* Cr Mosby

**That the Committee supports and recommends the Chief Engineer draft a report to go to SARG and then to Ordinary Meeting to seek endorsement from Council to liaise with TSRA to seek funding for position for the next three years.**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

**ACTION:** Chief Engineer to draft report with recommendation and send to Chair for review before going to SARG.

Committee requested an information report from the Manager of Environment and Health updating on Biosecurity and Waste Management quarterly.

**ACTION:** Chief Engineer to contact Manager EHW to provide Committee with a quarterly information report.

**11. Next meeting date – 23 June 2021**

Next meeting date confirmed for Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021.

**12. Closing Prayer**

Cr Mosby invited Cr Dorante to close the meeting in prayer.

**MEETING CLOSED – 2:23pm**