



**Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING

WEDNESDAY 23rd JULY 2008

Please find attached Minutes of the above meeting held on 23rd July 2008 at 9.30am – 5.35pm at the Mer Island Community Hall, Mer Island.

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**Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC)
 Ordinary Meeting
 Held at the Mer Island Community, Mer Island
 Wednesday 23rd July 2008**

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19.	Meeting Closed	

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- Present:** Cr. Fred Gela, Mayor
Cr. Kenny Bedford, Deputy Mayor, Division 14 - Erub
Cr. Donald Banu, Division 1 - Boigu
Cr. Raymond Soki, Division 2 - Dauan
Cr. Keith Fell, Division 4 - Mabuag
Cr. Wayne Guivarra, Division 5 – Badu
Cr. Walter Mackie, Division 9 - Iama
Cr. Willie Lui, Division 10 - Warraber
Cr. Phillemon Mosby, Division 11 - Poruma
Cr. John Mosby, Division 12 – Yorke
Cr. Florianna Bero, Division 13 – Ugar
Cr. Ron Day, Division 15 – Mer
Mr. John Scarce, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Malcolm Flavel, Executive Manager – Housing & Ports
Mr. Tim Sheppard, Executive Manager – Engineering
Mr. Lloyd Sunderland, Executive Manager – Community
Mr. Noel Peters, Manager – Human Resources
Mr. Anthony Bird, Manager – Finance
Ms Dania Ahwang, Manager – Internal Audit
Mrs Tania Sailor, Executive Secretary.
- In attendance:** Mr. Michael Hogan, Assistant Director-General, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnership, Department of Communities.
Warrant Officer Don Bowie, Defence Recruiting, Department of Defence.
- Observers:** Members of the Public
- 9.35am:** Meeting opened in prayer by Cr. Day.
- 3. Apologies:** Cr. Toshie Kris – Division 7 – St. Pauls
Cr. David Bosun, Division 6 – Kubin

4. Deputations: Nil

WELCOME

Welcome to Country *(on and behalf of the Elders & Traditional Land Owners)*

- Mr. Jim Akee

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Welcome & Acknowledgement of Traditional Land Owners

- Mayor Fred Gela
- Cr. Ron Day

DEFENCE RECRUITING

Presentation by Warrant Officer Don Bowie regarding Defence Recruiting – Army, Navy and Air Force.

- *At the Community's request Defence Force Recruiting Team can visit the communities to talk to young people about recruiting in the Defence Force.*
- *Councillors were asked to contact Petty Officer Clinton Metcalfe in Cairns on (07) 4048 8010 or 0414 939 743 or ring their call centre 131901.*

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr. Guivarra, Seconded Cr. Mackie that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 25th June 2008 be adopted.

Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- No response from Government regarding remuneration for Community Forum Members.

**AGENDA ITEM: 6
CORPORATE CREDIT CARD**

Resolution

Moved Cr. John Mosby, Seconded Cr. Soki that the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, authorises the provision of corporate credit cards to the CEO and Executive Managers.

Motion Carried

- *Finance Manager to look into the possibility of providing Debit cards for Councillors. This could be used out of their allowance payments.*
- *Expenditure of the Credit Card is to be sighted or endorsed by Corporate & Standing Finance Committee.*
- *Discussion paper to be provided on how internal control is used for purchasing etc.*

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Resolved that Council break for Morning tea at 10.30am

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIP

Presentation by Michael Hogan, Assistant Director-General for Community.

**AGENDA ITEM: 7
MOTOR VEHICLE & VESSEL POLICY**

Resolution

Moved Cr. Soki, Seconded Cr. Bero that the Torres Strait Island Regional Council adopts the Motor Vehicle & Vessel Policy.

Motion Carried

**AGENDA ITEM: 8
MEDIA POLICY**

Resolution

Moved Cr. Soki, Seconded Cr. Banu that the Torres Strait Island Regional Council adopts the TSIRC Media Policy.

Motion Carried

- *A copy of media policy to be provided to Torres News etc for their awareness.*
- *TSIRC Newsletter will be developed and included in all editions of the Torres News – this is in process of being done.*

**AGENDA ITEM: 9
UNIFORM EXPENSE**

Moved Cr. Pearson, Seconded Cr. Mackie that uniforms be provided for Councillors.

Motion Carried

Against – Cr. Guivarra

- *Stipulate in the expense policy a clause that Councillors will be provided with 2 sets of uniforms for the time being and if Councillors requests more that 2 sets than they can purchase at their own expense.*
- *It will then be referred to the Standing Committee for discussions on designs, types of uniforms, etc.*

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**AGENDA ITEM: 10
DIVESTMENT OF ENTERPRISE**

Resolution

Moved Cr. J. Mosby, Seconded Cr. Bero that the Torres Strait Island Regional Council ratifies the actions of the Chief Executive Officer in appointing Mr Ian Jessup to assist with the divestment of Community Enterprises.

Further, Council adopts the advertisement, process, expressions of interest and timetable, authorising the CEO to proceed, reporting to Council at identified timeframes for information and resolution.

Motion Carried

Resolved that Council breaks for lunch at 1.10pm.

**AGENDA ITEM: 11
LAW & ORDER LOCAL LAW**

Resolution

Moved Cr. Soki Seconded Cr. J. Mosby that the Torres Strait Island Regional Council propose to make the Law and Order Local Law.

Motion Carried

**AGENDA ITEM: 12.1
PROPOSED ROAD EXTENSION TO PORUMA BARGE RAMP**

Resolution

Moved Cr. Pearson, Seconded Cr. Lui that Council authorises the expenditure necessary to provide 86m³ of bagged concrete premix blend from the Badu Quarry, including if necessary the relevant freight charges, to enable Queensland Transport's scope of works for Poruma Barge Ramp Upgrade to be extended to pave the section of road between the Barge Ramp and existing paved road near the IBIS store.

Motion Carried

- *Draft letter from TSIRC to Seaswift regarding contribution of costs towards this works.*
- *Engage in Endeavour discussions regarding cost benefits going into communities.*

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AGENDA ITEM: 12.2

**SUPPORT RECOMMENDATION FOR MIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO
AWARD TENDER FOR SAIBAI ACCESS ROAD PROJECT MANAGER**

Resolution

Moved Cr. Pearson, Seconded Cr. Lui that Council support recommendations of Tender Assessment carried out by the MIP Program Manager, to award the consulting services for the project management of the Saibai Island Access Road project to Connell Wagner.

Motion Carried

AGENDA ITEM: 13

SASSIE MONITORING PROJECT MOU

Moved Cr. Pearson, Seconded Cr. Lui that the Torres Strait Island Regional Council authorises the Chair of the Community & Engineering Standing Committee and Councillor for the Iama Division 9 Cr Mackie and the Chief Executive Officer Mr John Scarce to sign the MOU for the Sassie Monitoring Project.

Motion Carried

AGENDA ITEM: 14

ERUB FREEZER

Resolution

Moved Cr. P. Mosby, Seconded Cr. Pearson that the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, commences with the establishment of a Co-operative across the entire Torres Strait for the Islander Fishing Industry, that they seek the views of all stakeholders within the Communities, fishermen, community members, traditional owners and native title representatives. That Council identifies and procures funding to carryout the formation of the Co-op. Further and subject to a future resolution only if the communities agree look at the most beneficial way of transferring the infrastructure associated with the freezers to this Co-operative.

Motion Carried

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**AGENDA ITEM: LATE REPORT
REVIEW OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Resolution

Moved Cr. Day, *Seconded* Cr. Fell that the Council affirms the continuation of the Standing Committees that being three Standing Committees;

1. Housing & Economic Development,
2. Corporate and Finance,
3. Community and Engineering,

and that they continue via the teleconference with investigations to continue into video conference and web conference.

Motion Carried

**AGENDA ITEM: LATE REPORT
LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE - CAIRNS**

Resolution

Moved Cr. Bedford, *Seconded* Cr. Mackie that Council:

- Endorse the proposal as attached; and

Delegate to the Mayor and CEO the ability to sign the final lease documentation.

**Motion Carried
2 Against – Cr. Day (1)**

- *Finance Manager to provide flow charts at Budget Meeting in Cairns in August on cost savings to this proposal.*

**AGENDA ITEM: LATE REPORT
TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR CONTRIBUTION TO HAMMOND ISLAND ROAD &
DRAINAGE UPGRADE**

Resolution

Moved Cr. Pearson, *Seconded* Cr. P. Mosby that upon satisfactory completion of the Hammond Island Road works currently underway; and upon receipt of a written request from Main Roads, the Torres Strait Island Regional Council endorses the transfer to Department Main Roads of \$100,000, previously designated as Hammond Island Council's contribution to the project.

Motion Carried

- *It was requested that there be 100% local labour on this project.*

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**AGENDA ITEM: LATE REPORT
SUPPORT RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF
MABUIAG ISLAND RETICULATED SEWERAGE SCHEME**

Resolution

Moved Cr. J. Mosby, Seconded Cr. Bedford that Council support recommendations of the Tender Assessment carried out by the Project Manager Maunsell Australia Pty Ltd, to award the construction of the Mabuiag Island Sewer Reticulation and Treatment Plant to LDI Constructions.

Motion Carried

**AGENDA ITEM: LATE REPORT
SUPPORT RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF
WARRABER ISLAND RETICULATED SEWERAGE SCHEME**

Resolution

Moved Cr. Lui, Seconded Cr. Bedford that Council support recommendations of the Tender Assessment carried out by the Project Manager Connell Wagner, to award the construction of the Warraber Island Sewer Reticulation and Treatment Plant to Kenfrost (1987) Pty Ltd.

Motion Carried

- *Executive Manager for Engineering to make copies of Tender Reports to Councillors.*

**AGENDA ITEM: LATE REPORT
DISCRETIONARY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – CR. BEDFORD**

Resolution

Moved Cr. Soki, Seconded Cr. Mackie that the Council endorses Mr. Bedford's request for Council to cover his T/A and Accommodation expenses to attend a Media Training in Cairns on the 31st July, as per the TSIRC Expenses Reimbursement Policy under Discretionary Professional Development.

Motion Carried

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**AGENDA ITEM: LATE REPORT
TSRA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

For Information.

- *Write letter to TSRA Board to reverse their decision regarding TSIRC Operating Funds, if that decision is not revoked a letter be written to the Commonwealth Government (Minister Jenny Macklin) on this issue.*
- *CEO to provide Councillors with a copy of letter sent to TSRA regarding this issue.*

16. QUESTIONS ARISING FROM INFORMATION REPORTS

- Island Manager's position – It was noted that some positions have not been filled in as yet. Some Islands are experiencing Human Resource problems.
- Island Council Budgets - CEO/Finance Manager will contact Cr. Guivarra in relation to his budget.
- Yorke Island Celebrations – form a committee to look at changes. Look at having the Council meeting at Yorke Island to coincide with next year's August 23 Celebrations at Yorke. This Year's festivities will just be for the local community but whoever wants to attend can do so.
- Next Year when looking at setting dates for Council Meetings, need to give priority to those Islands who hosts cultural and significant events and have the meetings coincide with those dates. Eg. Erub – July 1, Mabou Day – June 3, Yorke – August 23 Celebrations etc.

17. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Discussion/report paper to be presented to Council after a Councillor has attended a course/training to substantiate their claim of expenses under the Discretionary Development expense policy.
- Look at reviewing information on housing as to how much people are paying rent, or are in arrears etc. It was noted that some people are not working or their centreline payment stopped and it was not known if they were actually paying rent and still residing in the house.
- IBIS – only 3 members applied and their names have gone to the Minister for appointment. It was noted that the Minister is to appoint 2 but will probably appoint the 3 members to the Board.
- Sports & Recreation – State Government is looking at changing how they would provide grant funding to operate sports & recreation, however we have a six (6) months extension on our current arrangements. From there we unsure of the framework for the continued employment of TSIRC sports &

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recreation Officers but will ensure that we look at a model to promote healthy lifestyles in our communities.

- TSIRC to write to Queensland Health about Dental Services to Island Communities due to the high cost of airfares to travel to TI to see a Dentist. Some people just can't afford it.
- TSIRC or TSRA portfolio for Health to push or lobby to Queensland Health the issue of Nurses or Doctors sending home patients who visits the A & E advising them to just take some Panadol and rest, when the illness may be of a serious nature.
- Community Forum – All information has been to be gazetted. It was noted that not 1 expression was received from Badu, but with the four received so far that will be sent to the Government to be gazetted.
- CDEP Updates – copy of work plan developed but not locked in as yet. Each Council should have one.
- Executive Manager for Engineering, Mr. Tim Sheppard advised Councillors of his intention of leaving the Council at the end of the year due to his health, thanking members for his support and assistance throughout the year.

18. ACTION ITEMS

Nil

19. MEETING CLOSED

With no further discussions, the Mayor thanked Cr. Ron Day and the Community of Mer for their hospitality in hosting the 4th Meeting of the TSIRC Ordinary meeting.

5.35pm Meeting closed with a prayer by Cr. Day.


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Cr Fred Gela
Mayor


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Mr John Scarce
Chief Executive Officer