



# Minutes

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

5-6 March 2024

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors**

**Mayor**

Division 1 - Boigu  
Division 2 - Dauan  
Division 3 – Saibai  
Division 4 – Mabuiag  
Division 5 – Badu  
Division 6 – Arkai  
Division 7 – Wug (St Pauls), Mua Island  
Division 8 – Kirirri  
Division 9 - Iama  
Division 10 – Warraber  
Division 11 – Poruma  
Division 12 – Masig  
Division 13 - Ugar  
Division 14 – Erub  
Division 15 – Mer

Cr Phillemon Mosby  
Cr Dimas Toby  
Cr Torenzo Elisala  
Cr Conwell Tabuai  
Cr Keith Fell  
Cr Ranetta Wosomo  
Cr Lama Trinkoon  
Cr John Levi  
Cr Seriako Dorante  
Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) AM ( **Deputy Mayor**)  
Cr Kabay Tamu  
Cr Francis Pearson  
Cr Hilda Mosby  
Cr Rocky Stephen  
Cr Jimmy Gela – *by TEAMS*  
not represented

**Officers:**

Chief Executive Officer  
Executive Director Building Services  
Executive Director Community Services  
Executive Director Corporate Services  
Executive Director Engineering Services  
Executive Director Financial Services  
Executive Support Coordinator  
Executive Assistant to the Mayor  
Secretariat

Mr James William  
Mr Wayne Green  
Mr Dawson Sailor  
Ms Susanne Andres – *by TEAMS*  
Mr David Baldwin  
Ms Hollie Faithfull  
Ms Sharon Russell  
Ms Trudy Lui  
Darryl Brooks – *by TEAMS*

**APOLOGIES:**

Nil

**1. Welcome | Quorum Confirmation | Opening Prayer**

The Mayor formally opened the March 2024 at 11.20am, noting that a quorum of members were present.

**2. Apologies**

Nil.

**3. Conflict of Interest (COI) - Declarable/Prescribed**

The Mayor invited Councillors to make any relevant conflict of interest declarations and to also advise if they were currently involved in any legal proceedings which pertain to Ordinary Council business to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

**4. Confirmation of Council Ordinary Meeting Minutes – February 2024**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved: Cr Francis Pearson*

*Second: Cr Torenzo Elisala*

**Council confirms that the Minutes for the Council Ordinary Meeting held on 20-21 February 2024 are a true and accurate record of that meeting.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. Ratification of SARG Committee Meeting Minutes (19 & 22 January 2024)**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved: Cr John Levi*

*Second: Cr Rocky Stephen*

**Council ratifies the SARG Committee Meeting Minutes of 19 & 22 January 2024.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6. Ratification of Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee Meeting Draft Minutes (19 February 2024)**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved: Cr Hilda Mosby*

*Second: Cr Lama Trinkoon*

**Council ratifies the Draft Minutes of the Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2024.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**7. Ratification of Draft SARG Committee Meeting Minutes (29 February 2024)**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved: Cr Conwell Tabuai*

*Second: Cr Francis Pearson*

**Council ratifies the Draft SARG Committee Meeting Minutes of 29 February 2024.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8. Action Items from Previous Ordinary Council Meetings**

The Chief Executive Officer (Mr James William) suggested to Council that the present listing of action items from previous Council meetings will need to be suspended/reframed, pending a review around the subject matter, as many of the actions listed have either been superceded by events or require strategic implementation. These outstanding actions items will then be presented to the incoming Council.

**9. BUILDING SERVICES: Building Services Report (February 2024)**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

*Council resolves to note the Building Services Report for February 2024.*

The Executive Director Building Services (Mr Wayne Green) spoke to this report.

The Mayor noted that this report would be the last for this term of Council. The Mayor offered thanks to Mr Green on behalf of the entire Council and commended his innovative leadership of the Building Services portfolio, including his ability to listen, learn and adapt in order to deliver projects on ground.

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved: Cr Torenzo Elisala*

*Second: Cr Lama Trinkoon*

**Council resolves to note the Building Services Report for February 2024.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10. CORPORATE SERVICES: Committees Review**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

*That the Council recommend the incoming Council:*

- a) take note of Council term 2020-2024 committee priorities and challenges;*
- b) note the SARG performance review for the 2020/24 Council term;*
- c) determine the structure and processes for its committees for the 2024-2028 Council term.*

Ms Susanne Andres (Executive Director Corporate Services) spoke to this report. Ms Andres advised the Council that the SARG performance review for the 2020/24 Council term, as outlined in the briefing paper, was not finalized in time to be considered by Council.

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved: Cr Conwell Tabuai*

*Second: Cr Kabay Tamu*

**That the Council recommend the incoming Council:**

- a) take note of Council term 2020-2024 committee priorities and challenges; and**
- b) determine the structure and processes for its committees for the 2024-2028 Council term.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**11. CORPORATE SERVICES: Delegations (Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation)**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Updates to existing delegations:

That, pursuant to section 257 of the Local Government Act 2009, Council delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the exercise of powers under the Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2023 (Qld) and these powers must be exercised subject to Ailan Kastom and any limitations contained in Schedule 2 of the attached Instrument of Delegation.

Ms Susanne Andres (Executive Director Corporate Services) spoke to this report.

**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Keith Fell

Second: Cr Lama Trinkoon

1. Updates to existing delegations:

That, pursuant to section 257 of the Local Government Act 2009, Council delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the exercise of powers under the Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2023 (Qld) and these powers must be exercised subject to Ailan Kastom and any limitations contained in Schedule 2 of the attached Instrument of Delegation.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**12. CORPORATE SERVICES: Fuel Price Update - Gas**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council pursuant to Section 97(1) of the Local Government Act 2009 resolves to adjust the gas prices with immediate effect as follows:

Swap & Go 9kg	\$105
Swap & Go 45kg	\$380
9kg bottle	\$175
45kg bottle	\$550

Ms Susanne Andres (Executive Director Corporate Services) spoke to this report.

Council considered the brief in the context of the current high cost of living pressures in the Torres Strait. Council also noted that despite the \$64 million package announced in early 2023 at the Cost of Living Summit on Thursday Island to assist people living in the Northern Peninsula, Torres Strait and Gulf regions over the next five years, the discount (effective from March 2024) only applies to eligible essential goods including fruit and vegetables, fresh meat and dairy, frozen goods and groceries. Council also noted that there were key exceptions to this discount which included alcohol, tobacco, full sugar soft drinks, confectionary, hardware, clothing, fuel, furniture, whitegoods and other general household items.

Council also acknowledged that communities are currently experiencing issues in relation to the current gas bottles supplied, as these gas bottle connections are not compatible with some newer household appliances.

Council agreed that this item be laid on the table until the issue of price increases around essential goods (including the exceptions under the current high cost of living subsidy) can be addressed as part of Council's Economic Development Strategy.

**13. FINANCIAL SERVICES: Financial Dashboard Report – February 2024**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

*That Council receive and endorse the monthly financial statements attached to the officer's report for the 2023-24 year to date, for the period ended 29 February 2024, as required under Section 204 Local Government Regulation 2012.*

The Executive Director Financial Services (Ms Hollie Faithfull) spoke to this report.

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved: Cr Keith Fell*

*Second: Cr Francis Pearson*

**That Council receive and endorse the monthly financial statements attached to the officer's report for the 2023-24 year to date, for the period ended 29 February 2024, as required under Section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**14. MOVE INTO CLOSED BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved: Cr Kabay Tamu*

*Second: Cr Torenzo Elisala*

**Council resolves to close the meeting to the public pursuant to Section 254J of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to allow the Council to discuss items listed on the agenda under Closed Business and for the reasons outlined under those items.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**16. MOVE OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved: Cr Keith Fell*

*Second: Cr Francis Pearson*

**That Council resolve to re-open the meeting to the public pursuant to Section 254I of the Local Government Regulation 2012.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**17. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED BUSINESS**

**13. ENGINEERING SERVICES: Capital Works Projects Update**

The Executive Director Engineering Services (Mr David Baldwin) spoke to this report. The report was noted by Council.

The Mayor noted that this report would be the last for this term of Council. The Mayor thanked Mr Baldwin on behalf of the entire Council for the outstanding work his team has undertaken in such a significant part of Council's operations, noting that this Council had inherited outstanding projects from the previous term. However, during this term there have been significant levels of funding secured for important projects through the efforts of the Engineering Services team.

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved: Cr Keith Fell*

*Second: Cr Lama Trinkoon*

**Council notes this report.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**17. BUSINESS ARISING (from Information Reports)**

Nil.

**18. STRATEGIC MATTERS**

**(a) Visitors Portal**

The Mayor requested an update on the Visitors Portal on the TSIRC website. The Executive Director Community Services (Mr Dawson Sailor) advised that the TSIRC Visitor's Portal is now operational.

**(b) Landfill at Erub**

Cr Jimmy Gela advised that the landfill option on Erub will come to an end on 31 December 2024 and this will need to be considered in any forward planning.

**(c) Fuel Depot Matters -Erub & Mabuia**

Cr Jimmy Gela advised that the current fuel depot upgrade is not fully operational 24hrs. It has been connected to a generator as an interim arrangement, but will need to be connected to the powerline. The project is listed for completion by 30 June 2024 and Cr Gela would like to be advised on timelines for the changeover from generator to powerline.

Cr Keith Fell also advised that Mabuia has a similar issue, as well as requiring proper lighting around their fuel depot for security and safety reasons.

**Action:**

Executive Director Corporate Services to discuss further with Crs Gela and Fell off-line.

**(d) Cr Kabay Tamu**

Community has raised questions about the timelines on filling of Engineering positions in Divisions.

**Action:**

Executive Director Engineering Services to discuss further with Cr Tamu off-line.

**19. Next Council Meeting Date: Post-Election Meeting (TBA)**

Council noted that its next meeting will be the Post-Election Meeting some time after the upcoming local government elections.

The Mayor requested that Councillors be provided with written advice about the requirements of Councillors in relation to the return of TSIRC assets.

**Action:**

Executive Director Corporate Services to provide Councillors with written advice about the requirements of Councillors in relation to the return of TSIRC assets.

**20. Official Close & Prayer**

The Mayor concluded by acknowledging that it was an absolute honor to serve as Mayor for this term and this could not have happened without the support of Councillors.

The Mayor formally thanked the Deputy Mayor for his leadership, his immovable faith in and commitment to the Torres Strait Islander people. This current Council and previous leaderships all acknowledge the contributions of Cr Lui throughout his lifetime of service to the people of the Torres Strait. The Council extends its warmest wishes to Cr Lui well into the future. Council rose and acknowledged Cr Lui's service with a standing ovation.

The **Deputy Mayor** thanked Council for its acknowledgement and concluded with the words: "The work goes on. The cause will endure. The hope remains alive. The dream will never die. Eso."

The Mayor formally closed the meeting at 1.40pm and Cr John Levi delivered the closing prayer.

MINUTES CONFIRMED @ April 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting	
	
Cr Phillemon Mosby Mayor Torres Strait Island Regional Council Date: 16 April 2024	Mr James William Chief Executive Officer Torres Strait Island Regional Council Date: 16 April 2024