



**Torres Strait Island**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MARCH 2020**

**MINUTES**

**ORDINARY MEETING**

Wednesday 11 March 2020 09:14am – 1:15pm

Videoconference – VMR #8 – 02 9916 5402

## **Wednesday 11 March 2020**

### **Present**

Cr Fred Gela, Mayor - Kirirri (Cairns Office)  
Cr Dimas Toby, Division 1 – Boigu (Cairns Office)  
Cr Keri Akiba, Division 3 – Saibai (Saibai Office)  
Cr David Bosun, Division 6 – Kubin, Mua Island (Kubin Office)  
Cr John Levi, Division 7 – St Pauls, Mua Island (St Pauls Office)  
Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Division 9 – Iama (Cairns Office)  
Cr Francis Pearson, Division 11 – Poruma (Poruma Office)  
Cr Ted Nai, Division 12 – Masig (Cairns Office)  
Cr Rocky Stephen, Division 13 – Ugar (Cairns Office)  
Cr Patrick Thaiday, Division 14 – Erub (Erub Office)  
Cr Bob Kaigey, Division 15 – Mer (Mer Office - phone)  
Mr Bruce Ranga, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (TI Office)  
Mr Peter Krebs, Manager Legal Services (MLS) (Cairns Office)  
Mr Luke Ranga, Head of Corporate Affairs and Engagement (HCAE) (Cairns Office)  
Ms Ursula Nai, Senior Executive Assistant (SEA) (Cairns Office)  
Mrs Kathy Cochran – Secretariat Officer (SO) (Cairns Office)  
Ms Naila Nomoa – Travel Officer (Badu Office)  
Ms Mette Nordling – Contracts Manager (Cairns Office)

### **Apologies**

Cr Torenzo Elisala, Division 2 – Dauan  
Cr Keith Fell, Division 4 – Mabuig  
Cr Laurie Nona, Division 5 – Badu  
Cr Clara Tamu, Division 10 – Warraber  
Ms Hollie Faithfull, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

1. **9:14am – 9:17am** **Opening Prayer and Welcome**

Mayor Gela welcomed Councillors and Staff to the Ordinary Meeting and thanked them for their attendance. Mayor Gela invited Cr Nai to open the meeting in prayer. Councillors and Staff observed a minute silence in respect of family's grieving during this period.

Mayor acknowledged and paid respect to:

- The traditional owners and elders past and present for the land on which we meet throughout the Zenadth Kes Region and Cairns Region.
- Councillors
- CEO and staff

2. **9:17am – 9:19am** **Apologies**

- Cr Clara Tamu, Division 10 – Warraber  
Cr Tamu applied for leave of absence in advance at the February 2020 Ordinary Meeting.

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved:* Cr Nai; *Second:* Cr Stephen

**That Council accepts the apology from Cr Tamu for her absence at this meeting.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

- Cr Torenzo Elisala, Division 2 – Dauan  
Cr Elisala applied for leave of absence in advance at the February 2020 Ordinary Meeting.

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved:* Cr Toby; *Second:* Cr Bosun

**That Council accepts the apology from Cr Elisala for his absence at this meeting.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

- Cr Laurie Nona, Division 5 – Badu  
Cr Nona applied for leave of absence in advance at the February 2020 Ordinary Meeting.

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved:* Cr Stephen; *Second:* Cr Bosun

**That Council accepts the apology from Cr Nona for his absence at this meeting.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

- Cr Keith Fell, Division 4 – Mabuiag through the Mayor gives his apology for today's meeting due to being unwell. Cr Fell did not apply for leave in advance.

3. **9:19m – 9:19am** **Declaration of Conflict of Interest (COI) or Material Personal Interest (MPI)**

No declaration.

Mayor Gela informed Council, the Closed Business item on the Agenda is only to provide Council with an update at this stage.

4. **9:20am – 9:36am** **Outstanding Strategic Ordinary Meeting Action Item**

CEO provided an update on the following items.

1. Possibility of using generator on Thursday Island at Engineering shed as backup for pump stations. Remain a watching brief. Update to be provide at the April OM.
2. Waste Metal Strategy Workshop with Councillors in June/July 2020.
3. Manager Legal Services to draft resolution on boarder closure - Close
4. Provide Matt Brodbeck – Engineering with a copy of the resolution for the boarder closure to provide to Local Disaster Management Group for actioning. - Close
5. Team to write to Boigu PBC re: boarder closure. Staff to action.
6. Delete – duplicate
7. Manager Legal Services to provide feedback from State and Commonwealth regarding 24JAA – Ongoing, update will be provided to the April 2020 Ordinary Meeting.
8. TAP Update – will be provide at April 2020 Ordinary Meeting.

9:29am – Cr Kaigey joins the meeting via telephone from Mer. Mayor welcomes Cr Kaigey to the meeting and informs him of everyone who is in attendance either via video or telephone conference.

Mayor Gela informs Council, Matt Brodbeck from our Engineering department and the Local Disaster Management Group will be providing Council with an update on Corona virus later in the day.

9:38am - Cr Elisala joins the meeting via telephone from Dauan. Mayor welcomes Cr Elisala to the meeting and informs him of everyone who is in attendance either via video or telephone conference.

6. **9:38am – 9:39am** **Confirmation of February 2020 Ordinary Meeting Minutes**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved:* Cr Pearson, *Second:* Cr Nai

**That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in February 2020, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

7. **9:39am – 9:40am** **Standing Agenda Items: (verbal update)**

- TRUSTEE - Undocumented Commercial Land occupation project - No update provided.
- SARG Update – No SARG meeting in March 2020.

8. **9:40am – 11:04am** **COUNCIL MOVE INTO CLOSED BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION:**

*Moved:* Cr Nai; *Second:* Cr Elisala

**That in accordance with section 275 (1) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld) it is resolved for the meeting to go into closed session to discuss matters of the following nature:**

- e) contracts proposed to be made by it; or**
- f) starting or defending legal proceedings involving Council.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Gela confirmed with all Councillors and staff they are alone in the room. All Councillors and staff confirmed.

## 9. CORPORATE – Contract – Project Tagai

Chief Executive Officer spoke to the report.

### 10:45am – 10:51am – Morning Tea Break

10:51 am - Manager Legal Service provided update on recently attended Court proceedings.

## 10. 11:04am – 11:04am                      COUNCIL MOVE OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS

### RESOLUTION:

*Moved:* Cr Nai; *Second:* Cr Stephen

**That Council move out of Closed Business.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 11. 11:04am – 12:16pm                      PRESENTATION 1: Development of the South Fly Borderland - Professor Mark MORAN – Group Leader Development Effectiveness| Institute of Social Science Research, University Of Queensland, Australia.

## 12. 12:16pm – 12:20pm                      Business Arising from Information Reports

No business arising.

## 13. 12:20pm – 12:22pm                      Next Meeting Date

Date:                      21 and 22 April 2020  
Venue:                      Hammond Island – To be confirmed.

## 14. 12:22pm – :17pm                      General Business

Change the General Business item on the Agenda to Strategic Matters. Chief Executive Officer asked for all Councillors to email their issues or concerns via email through the Mayor, so they may be distributed to the appropriate Lead Officer for further actioning. All issues will be addressed within designated timeframes and responses sent back to Councillors as required.

Cr Stephen thanked Mayor Gela and his fellow Councillors for their leadership and working with them over the last term. Cr Stephen wished everyone well if they are contesting the election and if they weren't in their future endeavours.

Cr Nai thanked Mayor Gela for his leadership. Informed Council he will not be contesting his seat and wished everyone all the best.

Cr Elisala thanked Mayor Gela, Cr Lui as an elder and the Chief Executive Officer and the Administration for their work and support throughout the Term.

12:32pm - Mayor Gela welcomed Matt Brodbeck from our Engineering department, also our representative on the Local Disaster Management Group to provide Council with an update on Corona virus.

12:43pm – Chief Executive Officer provided Council with an update on the Business Continuity Plan

**ACTION:** Head of Corporate affairs and Engagement to video link with the Divisional and Regional Managers to discuss the distribution of the key pieces of information to the public that were distributed to date.

**15. 5:17pm – 5:21pm Closing Remarks**

Mayor Gela thanked Councillors for their attendance and their valued contribution over the last term. He thanked Chief Executive Officer, the management team and staff sincerely for their work and support. Mayor reminded Council of the Electoral Commission Queensland Guidelines.

Mayor provided Cr Lui with an opportunity to speak as our Elder. Cr Lui acknowledge Mayor Gela and advised every one of the importance of continuity for the organisation. Cr Lui encouraged everyone to keep the faith and be strong.

Chief Executive Officer thanked everyone and echoed the sentiments of everyone else. He thanked the Mayor for his ongoing advocacy for our region and thanked Cr Lui as our senior elder and all Councillors for their leadership in their communities. Chief Executive Officer thanked those Councillors who are contesting their seats and wish them well.

Cr Kaigey thanked Mayor, Chief Executive Officer, Cr Lui and fellow Councillors

Cr Toby also thanked everyone and wish them well.

Mayor Gela invited Cr Levi to close the meeting in prayer.

**Meeting Closed at 1:15pm - Prayer by Cr Levi**

  
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**Bruce Ranga**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Torres Strait Island Regional Council**

  
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**Fredrick Gela**  
**Mayor**  
**Torres Strait Island Regional Council**