



**Torres Strait Island**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MINUTES**

**ORDINARY MEETING**

**Tuesday 25 October 2016-Wednesday Wednesday 26 October 2016**

Please find attached Minutes of the above meeting held on Tuesday 25 October 2016 from 9:10am-4:10pm and Wednesday 26 October from 9:10am-4:46pm in the Conference Room at The Grand Hotel, Thursday Island

## **TUESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2016**

### **Present**

Cr Fred Gela, Mayor  
Cr Keith Fell, Deputy Mayor, Division 4 – Mabuiag Island  
Cr Dimas Toby, Division 1 – Boigu  
Cr Torenzo Elisala, Division 2 – Dauan Island  
Cr Keri Akiba, Division 3 – Saibai Island  
Cr Laurie Nona, Division 5 – Badu Island  
Cr David Bosun, Division 6 – Kubin Community at Moa Island  
Cr John Levi, Division 7 – St Pauls Community at Moa Island  
Cr Mario Sabatino, Division 8 – Kirriri Island  
Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Division 9 – Iama Island  
Cr Clara Tamu, Division 10 – Warraber Island  
Cr Ted Nai, Division 12 – Masig Island  
Cr Rocky Stephen, Division 13 – Ugar Island  
Cr Patrick Thaiday, Division 14 – Erub Island  
Cr Bob Kaigey, Division 15 – Mer Island  
Mr Chris McLaughlin, Acting Chief Executive Officer (ACEO)  
Mr Rob Dwyer, Acting Executive Manager Corporate Services (AEMCS)  
Ms Melissa Barmettler, Executive Manager Financial Services (EMFS)  
Mr David Baldwin, Executive Manager Engineering Services (EMES)  
Mr David Abednego, Executive Manager Community Services (EMCoS)  
Ms Daisy Ketchell, Executive Officer (EO)  
Ms Helen Tarrant, Executive Assistant (EA)

### **Apologies**

Cr Francis Pearson, Division 11 – Poruma Island

1. **9:10am-9:12am**                      **Opening Prayer and Welcome**

Cr Levi opened the meeting in prayer.

**Mayor's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The Mayor acknowledged Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and elders both past and present and welcomed all to the meeting. The Mayor acknowledged staff present and thanked them for maintaining 'business as usual'.

**One Minute's Silence**

There was a minute's silence to pay respect to families who have lost their loved ones recently. The Mayor in particular acknowledged the recent passing of old man Wasagaia.

2. **9:12am-9:14am**                      **Apologies**

Cr Pearson – Approved Leave

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Nai, Seconded Cr Fell*

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

3. **9:14am-9:15am**                      **Declaration of Conflict of Interest (COI) or Material Personal Interest (MPI)**

Nil at this time but the Mayor noted Councillors can make a declaration later in the agenda, as appropriate.

4. **9:15am-9:18am**                      **Confirmation of September 2016 Ordinary Meeting Minutes**

The Mayor acknowledged EA to the EMES for her work whilst Acting EA to the Mayor and CEO and thanked Cr Tamu and the Warraber community for their recent hospitality.

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Tamu, Seconded Cr Levi*

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in September 2016 be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED**

5. **9:18am-9:26am**                      **Action Item Summary from September 2016 Meeting**

Previous Action Item 14 – Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT) Deputation

The Mayor clarified that DFAT would be invited twice per year to present to Council, agenda permitting.

The Mayor discussed a forthcoming DFAT meeting where some Councillors have been invited to attend. Cr Toby asked whether other Councillors could also attend. The Mayor had no issue with this but it may cause problems as equal representation is required. The Mayor would raise the matter with DFAT and advise Cr Toby out of session.

**ACTION**

**EMFS/EMES to quantify impact (financial) on Council infrastructure of Treaty movements.**

6. **9:26am-9:34am**                      **Confirmation of September 2016 Special Meeting Minutes**

Cr Thaiday noted Cr Kaigey was not recorded as voting against the motion at Clause 4 CEO Performance Review and requested that this be amended in the minutes.

## **RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Nona, Seconded Cr Thaiday*

*That the minutes of the Special Meeting held in September 2016 be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting, subject to the amendment of Clause 4 to reflect Cr Kaigey as voting against.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **7. 9:34am-9:52am Regional Grants Request Round Two Funding 1 October to 31 December 2016**

EMFS spoke to the report and took Councillors through the applications. It was noted that Cr Pearson's application was not received in time to be considered as part of Round Two. AEMCS would follow up with Cr Pearson. EMFS spoke to the criteria for the applications.

Cr Fell declared a perceived conflict of interest as his daughter is involved with the first applicant. The meeting agreed that Cr Fell could remain in the room but would abstain from voting.

The Mayor noted he had previously donated \$3K to this Club and would also abstain from voting. Cr Elisala advised that it was another Club. However, the report specified that it was the same organisation and noted the earlier donation.

Cr Sabatino noted that this Club asked for in kind support too and queried whether this would come from the Community Fund budget. EMFS noted their in kind request was for use of equipment with no hard costs to Council.

EMFS noted the proposed revisions to the Grant Policy had not yet been adopted and the proposed amended Policy was due to come back to Council for adoption.

The Mayor requested that this Policy be tabled for Council consideration at the November meeting.

## **RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Elisala, Seconded Cr Nona*

That Council resolves to provide Regional Grants support to the following applicants in accordance with the Community Grants policy:

1. *Northern Giants Sporting Association for the eligible amount of \$2,000 GST Exclusive*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**With the Mayor and Cr Fell recorded as voting against due to declared COI**

EMFS spoke to the second application and the eligibility criteria.

Cr Nona noted that where they may note within the application that attendees are from our LGA and from Badu specifically, those boys do not live on Badu. The Mayor noted that the competition is on Thursday Island and it would take several weeks for jerseys to be manufactured.

## **RESOLUTION**

2. *Roos Club Bamaga for the eligible amount of \$2,000 GST Exclusive*

**There being no mover for this motion, the motion was lost.**

**MOTION LOST**

## **ACTION**

**EMFS to retain 'In kind' support in Community Grant budgets. Revised Policy to be tabled at the November Ordinary meeting.**

8. **9:52am-10:21am**                      **Development Application – Saibai – DATSIP – Reconfiguration of a Lot**

AEMCS spoke to the report.

Cr Akiba queried which area was being discussed. ACEO responded that it was the entire survey plan area. Cr Akiba felt it needed to go back to consultation again. ACEO noted the consultation was undertaken during the term of the previous Council. The Mayor discussed further. Cr Akiba suggested that the matter be left lying on the table until the Department liaise directly with Cr Akiba and the PBC. ACEO noted the survey plan was approved by Council in December 2015 and leases granted. If an error is discovered now, Council would be required to rescind those leases and Survey Plan. Cr Akiba noted his concern related to traditional boundaries.

The Mayor noted, and would reiterate to DATSIP, that the same exercise needs to be conducted on every community as on Ugar (traditional boundary resolution).

The Mayor felt the resolution needed to be in two parts: the first regarding how the survey needs to be carried out; and the second in line with the Development Application.

The Mayor advised caution to the Councillors as they would be asked to approve many such motions. He understood the concerns expressed and that Councillors were trying to progress matters in the right, culturally appropriate way.

Cr Bosun noted the Survey was required to enable building of much needed houses in the communities.

Cr Akiba agreed that the application was consistent with Surveying and that the only issue was with traditional boundary resolution. The Development Application can proceed.

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Akiba, Seconded Cr Nona*

*That Council issue a Development Permit for 'Reconfiguration of a Lot' with the inclusion of the following conditions:*

1. *The proposed development is to be undertaken in accordance with the following approved drawings SP248421 & SP267944 subject to any alterations:*
  - a) *found necessary by Chief Executive Officer at the time of examination of drawings or during construction of the works because of particular engineering or cultural requirements and to ensure the works comply in all respects with the requirements of FNQROC Development Manual and good engineering practice; and*
  - b) *to comply with project specific conditions*
2. *All works must be carried out in accordance with the approved plans, conditions and specifications, to the requirements and satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer.*
3. *This approval is valid for four (4) years. A plan of survey must be lodged with Council for endorsement within this time, otherwise the approval will lapse.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ACTION**

**All EMs to note that reports concerning Divisions should specifically consult with the Divisional Councillor prior to being included on the agenda.**

**RESOLUTION***Moved Cr Nona, Seconded Cr Fell***'Re configuration of a Lot' Component**

*That Council issue a Development Permit for 'Reconfiguration of a Lot' with the inclusion of the following conditions:*

1. *The proposed development is to be undertaken in accordance with the following approved drawings*

<b>Plan/Document Number</b>	<b>Plan/Document Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
10358-39-1.pdf	RPS Proposed ROL Plan	7/9/2016

*subject to any alterations:*

  - a) *found necessary by Chief Executive Officer at the time of examination of drawings or during construction of the works because of particular engineering or cultural requirements and to ensure the works comply in all respects with the requirements of FNQROC Development Manual and good engineering practice; and*
  - b) *to comply with project specific conditions*
2. *All works must be carried out in accordance with the approved plans, conditions and specifications, to the requirements and satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer.*
3. *This approval is valid for four (4) years. A plan of survey must be lodged with Council for endorsement within this time, otherwise the approval will lapse.*
4. *The applicant is responsible for the cost of providing any necessary services to the proposed Lots.*

**'Operational Works' Component****General**

1. *The approved operational works are permitted subject to any alterations:*
  - a. *found necessary by Chief Executive Officer at the time of examination of Engineering drawings or during construction of the works because of particular engineering or cultural requirements and*
  - b. *to ensure the works comply in all respects with the requirements of FNQROC Development Manual and good engineering practice and*
  - c. *to comply with project specific conditions and the following standard conditions of approval. All works must be carried out in accordance with the approved plans, conditions and specifications, to the requirements and satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer.*
  - d. *Approved drawings are listed in the table below.*

**Drawing Index – Chapman Street Subdivision**

<b>Drawing Number</b>	<b>Rev</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
60340155-00D1-01	1	23.08.2016	Drawing Index and Locality Plan
60340155-00-SN-01	0	05.05.2015	Standard Notes – Sheet 1 of 2
60340155-00-SN-02	0	05.05.2015	Standard Notes – Sheet 2 of 2

### Drawing Index – Lot 140 Subdivision (Donga Town) – Stage 1

Drawing Number	Rev	Date	Description
60340155-03-ES-01	0	23.08.2016	Site Demolition, Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
60340155-03-EW-01	0	23.08.2016	Earthworks Plan
60340155-03-PU-01	0	23.08.2016	Public Utilities Plan
60340155-03-WS-01	0	23.08.2016	Water and Sewerage Layout Plan
60340155-03-SL-01	0	23.08.2016	Sewerage and Stormwater Longitudinal Sections

### Drawing Index – Lot 140 Subdivision (Donga Town) – Stage 2

Drawing Number	Rev	Date	Description
60340155-04-TC-01	1	23.08.2016	Typical Cross Sections
60340155-04-CL-01	0	23.08.2016	Control Line Setout Plan
60340155-04-ES-01	0	23.08.2016	Site Demolition, Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
60340155-04-EW-01	0	23.08.2016	Earthworks Plan
60340155-04-PU-01	0	23.08.2016	Public Utilities Plan
60340155-04-RD-01	0	23.08.2016	Roads and Drainage Layout Plan
60340155-04-WS-01	0	23.08.2016	Water and Sewerage Layout Plan
60340155-04-RL-01	0	23.08.2016	Road and Drainage Longitudinal and Cross Sections
60340155-04-SL-01	0	23.08.2016	Sewerage and Stormwater Longitudinal Sections
60340155-04-KS-01	0	23.08.2016	Kerb Setout Plan

2. Conditions 2 to 21 set out in the Agenda Report.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Toby blessed Morning Tea  
**10:30am-11:06am Morning Tea**

10. **11:06am-11:08am**      **Development Application – Badu – Yalla St – DATSIP – Operational Works Application**

Cr Nona questioned this report as he believed the buildings were moved to Lots 39 and 40. ACEO clarified that this was to approve the Development Application.

**RESOLUTION**

Moved Cr Nona Seconded Cr Elisala

That Council issue a Development Permit for operational works (roadworks and services for 2 lots (Lots 593 & 594 SP274784)) with the inclusion of the conditions set out in Part 4 of the Agenda Report.

**MOTION CARRIED**

11. **11:08am-11:21am**

**Annual Report 2015-2016 LATE REPORT**

The Mayor noted numerous typographic errors and duplicated text in the Annual Report and advised these issues will be resolved before going to print.

The Mayor noted he would amend the text of his biography and supply an alternative photograph.

ACEO spoke to the report and commended Finance for getting accounts prepared earlier than usual. The Annual Report focuses on what is being delivered to the community and its intent is to speak directly to the community and will be used to support funding applications, etc.

The Mayor queried why there are no photographs of the new Councillors in the section where the previous Councillors are detailed as the report covers both terms.

Cr Tamu requested amendments to pp14 to recognise Indigenous Health workers on the ground.

The Mayor noted that each Councillor would receive a hard copy and copies would also be sent to the Divisions and to stakeholders.

Cr Bosun noted a typographic error on pp19 – Kubin is repeated twice and St Pauls omitted.

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Sabatino, Seconded Cr Fell*

*That Council endorse the 2015-2016 Annual Report, subject to resolving typographic errors.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

12. **11:21am-11:45am**

**Information Technology Policy (PO13)**

AEMCS spoke to the report and highlighted the main areas of the Policy. AEMCS noted that Councillors' Surface books and Smart phones were excluded as they are the property of the Councillors. However, using Council's network to access items on your Surface or phone evokes this Policy. If an external network or WiFi is used, this is then exempt.

Cr Sabatino queried who owned and polices this policy. ACEO responded that the AEMCS was the owner but the CEO ultimately. Reviews are made on an exception basis, that is, reports are given to IT of those contravening this Policy and Councillors rarely on this list.

ACEO reassured Councillors that no Council officer has access to their communications. Council does not review emails but rather websites visited. Calls are reviewed only via the phone bill where excessive charges would be followed up.

Cr Toby queried circumstances where Councillors are travelling overseas and whether this Policy covers this activity. AEMCS responded that all Council mobile phones have global roaming deactivated. However, Councillors can request, via the ACEO, that this be activated when on Council business. The example of a recent DFAT trip to Port Moresby was noted where Cr Toby was unable to use his Council mobile even though he was representing Council.

Cr Sabatino requested budget and figures for Councillors' data usage. Cr Sabatino noted he uses his own phone and has Council's mobile redirected to his personal phone. Cr Sabatino queried what his budget is for communications. EMFS suggested Cr Sabatino forward, via the ACEO, a request for reimbursement of his Council related phone expenses.

AEMCS explained how data is allocated across Council. Council has a combined allowance – some users use less, some use more and it evens out across the board. This year Council has identified a number of high data users due to the fact that more staff have Smart phone access and one or two were allowing their family to use their data which caused problems and has now been resolved.

Cr Sabatino suggested that each Councillor is given an allocation of data, that is, a communication budget, to use as they see fit.



ACEO clarified that all Councillors (and each staff member) are given a data allocation currently and if used for Council business purposes there are no problems but if used to stream Netflix, music, U-tube and other similar applications, Council will be alerted to the higher usage.

Cr Nona noted he does not use his Council phone and queried how his data usage could be so high. ACEO suggested IT review Cr Nona's phone.

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Levi, Seconded Cr Fell*

*That Council adopt the Information Technology Policy (PO 13).*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**13. 11:45am-3:35pm Closed Business**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Elisala, Seconded Cr Stephen*

That in accordance with s275 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 it is resolved for the meeting to go into closed session to discuss:

(a) The appointment, dismissal or discipline of employees; or

(c) The local government's budget; or

(e) Contracts proposed to be made by it; or

(h) Other business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government or someone else, or enable a person to gain a financial advantage.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**13.1 Fiscal Governance Policy (PO4)**

Staff were asked to leave the room at 11:50am.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:30pm.

**12:30PM-1:30pm Lunch**

Councillors and staff resumed the meeting at 1:30pm but continued the Closed Business Councillors' In Camera session and staff left the room.

Staff were asked to rejoin the meeting at 2:49pm.

**13.2 Debtor Write-Off**

**13.3 Enterprise divestment**

**13.4 Mer Break of Head Tank and Chlorine Shed Replacement**

**13.5 Tender Report for 2015 NDRRA Unsealed Roads Package – TSIRC2016-94 LATE REPORT**

**14. 3:35pm-Xxam Out of Closed Business**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Levi, Seconded Cr Stephen*

That Council move out of closed business.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**14.1 3:35pm-3:36pm Fiscal Governance Policy (PO4)**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Akiba, Seconded Cr Nona*

*That Council adopt Fiscal Governance Policy (PO4) subject to the inclusion of deceased debtors and CEO's delegation to write off deceased debts of up to and including \$200K.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**14.2    3:36pm-3:37pm            Appointment of Acting CEO**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Nai, Seconded Cr Tamu*

*That Council resolve to appoint Chris McLaughlin as Acting CEO until such time as a permanent appointment is made and delegates authority to the Mayor and Deputy to negotiate, including approval of Higher Duties.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**14.2    3:37pm-3:38pm            Debtor Write-Off**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Sabatino, Seconded Cr Fell*

*That Council endorse write-off of \$1,463.00 of commercial debt for HRG Australia.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**14.3    3:38pm-3:38pm            Enterprise divestment**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Lui, Seconded Cr Fell*

*That in accordance with sections 227, 228 and 236 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld), Council enter into negotiations with the following entities (or related parties) with a view to those entities acquiring the following businesses and associated valuable non-current assets and staff on terms acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer of Council, and recommend to the Trustee, the grant of trustee leases to each entity over relevant land as presented:*

**Enterprise**

*Iama Coffee Shop at Cultural Centre*

**Entity**

*Kerai Kepa*

**14.4    3:38pm-3:40pm            Mer Break of Head Tank and Chlorine Shed Replacement**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Kaigey, Seconded Cr Levi*

*That pursuant to section 235(b) and (c) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld), TSIRC unit appoint Northern Water as Sole Supplier due to genuine emergency and/or specialised services for the total sum of \$303,812.15 (GST excl.) to undertake the Mer break of head tank replacement and chlorine dosing shed roof replacement and delegates authority to the A/CEO in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 (Qld) to finalise and execute the contract with Northern Water for \$303,812.15 (excl. GST).*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**14.5    3:40pm-3:42pm            Tender Report for 2015 NDRRA Unsealed Roads Package –  
TSIRC2016-94 LATE REPORT**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Fell, Seconded Cr Kaigey*

*That Council resolve to:*

- 1. Pursuant to the Local Government Act 2009 and Local Government Regulation 2012, award contract TSIRC2016-94 for Road Works – Badu and Various Islands to LDI Constructions Civil Pty Ltd for \$2,519,374.00 (excl. GST) subject to confirmation from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) of full external funding being made available for the contract value of works.*
- 2. Subject to confirmation of the fully funded budget being made available from QRA, a subsequent Council budget variation is adopted to reflect the fully externally funded NDRRA works.*
- 3. Delegate authority to the Acting Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 to finalise and execute Contract TSIRC 2016-94 to LDI Constructions Civil Pty Ltd for \$2,519,374.00.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Bosun declared a Material Personal Interest as his brother works for one of the tenderers (Koppens) and abstained from voting.

**ACTION**

**EMES to ensure Assets are included in Capital Budget Review 1.**

**EMES/ACEO to prepare a report to the November Ordinary meeting re Yellow Plant Civil Crew**

**EMES to request QRA include IEOP within these works.**

Cr Fell blessed the Afternoon Tea

**3:42pm-4:00pm Afternoon Tea**

**15. 4:00pm-4:02pm**

**Meeting as Trustee**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Levi, Seconded Cr Thaiday*

*That in accordance with Section 83 of Local Government Act 2009 (QLD) Management of Community Development of Grants in Trust, the meeting of the Trustee of Community DOGIT be convened and conducted as separate meetings from the Indigenous Regional Council.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**15.1 4:00pm-4:01pm**

**Ugar Social Housing Lease**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Stephen, Seconded Cr Thaiday*

*'That pursuant to the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 (Qld), the Trustee grant a standard lease to the State of Queensland (as represented by the Department of Housing and Public Works) over the below Lease areas on SP282706, for Social Housing Purposes and other Government Services Use of and incidental to that purpose, namely: -*

<b>Plan/Document number</b>	<b>Lot Number</b>	<b>Date</b>
SP282706	Lot 6 (Lease E)	16 November 2015
SP282706	Lot 13 (Lease D)	16 November 2015

**MOTION CARRIED**

**15.2 4:01pm-4:01pm**

**Hammond Social Housing Lease**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Sabatino, Seconded Cr Nona*

*'That pursuant to the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 (Qld), the Trustee grant a standard lease to the State of Queensland (as represented by the Department of Housing and Public Works) over the Hammond subdivision area for Social Housing Purposes and other Government Services, in accordance with the following approved drawings':*

<b>Plan/Document number</b>	<b>Plan Document Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
60343433-GD-01	AECOM Lot setout plan	3/3/2016

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION**

*Moved Cr Nai, Seconded Cr Nona*

*That in accordance with Section 83 of Local Government Act 2009 (QLD) Management of Community Development of Grants in Trust, the meeting of the Trustee of Community DOGIT be concluded and the separate meeting of the Indigenous Regional Council resumed.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Sabatino tabled his apologies for tomorrow and noted he would forward matters of General Business to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to table on his behalf.

Cr Bosun tabled apologies for tomorrow too.

**16. 4:02pm-4:08pm Leave In Advance**

Cr Sabatino, Cr Stephen, Cr Nona, Cr Tamu, Cr Kaigey and Cr Bosun applied for leave in advance of the November Ordinary meeting.

**4:10pm Meeting Closed in Prayer by Cr Nai**

## **WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2016**

### **Present**

Cr Fred Gela, Mayor

Cr Keith Fell, Deputy Mayor, Division 4 – Mabuiag Island

Cr Dimas Toby, Division 1 – Boigu

Cr Keri Akiba, Division 3 – Saibai Island

Cr Laurie Nona, Division 5 – Badu Island

Cr John Levi, Division 7 – St Pauls Community at Moa Island

Cr David Bosun, Division 6 – Kubin Community at Moa Island

Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Division 9 – Iama Island (*from 9:36am*)

Cr Clara Tamu, Division 10 – Warraber Island

Cr Ted Nai, Division 12 – Masig Island (*from 11:08am-12:40pm*)

Cr Rocky Stephen, Division 13 – Ugar Island

Cr Patrick Thaiday, Division 14 – Erub Island

Cr Bob Kaigey, Division 15 – Mer Island

Mr Chris McLaughlin, Acting Chief Executive Officer (ACEO)

Mr David Baldwin, Executive Manager Engineering Services (EMES)

Mr David Abednego, Executive Manager Community Services (EMCoS)

Mr Rob Dwyer, Acting Executive Manager Corporate Services (AEMCS) (*from 11:06am-11:52am*)

Ms Daisy Ketchell, Executive Officer (EO)

Ms Helen Tarrant, Executive Assistant (EA)

### **Apologies**

Cr Mario Sabatino, Division 8 – Kirriri Island

Cr Francis Pearson, Division 11 – Poruma Island

Ms Melissa Barmettler, Executive Manager Financial Services (EMFS)

17. 9:10am-9:13am **Opening Prayer and Welcome**

**Mayor's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The Mayor welcomed all to the meeting and invited Cr Levi to open the meeting in prayer.

The Mayor welcomed our first guest presenters.

18. 9:13am-10:36am **PRESENTATION: Anne-Marie Delanie, Acting Nursing Director, Tuberculosis Control Unit, TCHHS, Yancy Laifoo, Acting Director of Primary Health Care and Dr Tony Brown, Director of Medical Services Department of Health (from 9:45am) – Management of PNG Nationals Presenting to Torres Strait for Health Care**

Annie acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and elders past and present. Annie explained they are reviewing policy about how PNG Nationals presenting to Qld Health are managed.

Annie explained her background and that she has been in the Torres Strait since 2007 and currently lives on Saibai.

Annie circulated their current draft policies and procedures and invited the Councillors to comment. Councillors' feedback would be provided via EA to Annie.

Yancey introduced herself to the meeting and thanked all present for the opportunity to talk to them today.

Cr Toby noted he would be very interested to see the statistics of the numbers coming into the Torres Strait. Annie noted she had included some statistics in her presentation but would prefer to clean up that data before releasing. The current policy, which is under review, needs to be tightened up.

Yancey noted these statistics could be requested from the Health Centre Manager and these could be provided on a monthly basis for each community.

Cr Toby noted he had requested this information previously for Boigu but had not received it.

Cr Tamu noted the software Qld Health use is not the most user friendly but Qld Health are trying to improve this.

The Mayor noted the Treaty was only for trading and bartering. The only exception is emergency, life threatening situations. Annie concurred and clarified that emergency treatment would only be provided and non emergency events referred to PNG.

Cr Lui reiterated the Mayor's comments and noted the spirit of the Treaty was for trade only and any health care is provided on humanitarian grounds only, that is, in life threatening situations.

The Mayor thanked Annie, Yancey & Dr Tony and brought the discussions to a close.

Cr Thaiday blessed Morning Tea  
**10:36am-11:06am Morning Tea**

19. 11:06am-11:52am **General Business**

**19.1 Dauan – Cr Elisala**

- EMES to follow up on lights on power poles at the Wharf, as raised at Poruma meeting.
- ACEO to write to Hammond Ferry requesting community visit to Dauan to explain proposal
- Seek investment from Department of Communities for bus for school on Dauan. Mayor would look at MIPEC freighting it in. School would then be responsible for fuel and maintenance.
- Year round helicopter subsidy for Dauan and Ugar.
- Repairs to Wharf.
- Water crisis.
- Guesthouse.

**ACTION**

**EMES to follow up on lights on power poles at the Wharf**

**ACEO to write to Hammond Ferry requesting community visit to Dauan to explain proposal**

**ACEO to write to Michael Hogan requesting Department of Communities funding for school bus**

**ACEO to consider provision of year round helicopter subsidy for Dauan and Ugar as part of budget review**

**EMCoS to table a report at the November Ordinary meeting re year round helicopter subsidy for Dauan and Ugar**

**EMES to consider repairs required to Dauan Wharf**

**EMES to advise re water at Dauan and whether it is possible to use the current wells.**

**ACEO to review guesthouse and put forward proposal to Cr Elisala.**

Cr Nai joined the meeting at 11:08am

**19.2 Iama – Cr Lui**

- Cr Lui is unhappy and is going to the press regarding recent MIP work. Work could have been carried out by local people. Cr Lui is very unhappy with the consultant's work and felt the entire project was a waste of money and local people would have done a better job. Pipework is above ground and follows the apron around to connect. Spot leaks are now being experience. EMES responded that the project was not originally funded. In April this year advice was received that money was available from MIP. Original budget was \$160K and \$500K was spent.
- Shadecloth for basketball court. The original one has been removed and another is required.

**ACTION**

**EMES to assist Cr Lui to prepare press release re: consultant's work and include a comment from the Mayor.**

**ACEO to advise ETA of shadecloth to Cr Lui.**

**19.3 Cr Bosun – Kubin**

- Lights on the jetty are not working. Jetty needs general review – falling apart.
- Family and community members using vehicles during working hours. Especially the water officer.
- Road from Kubin to St Pauls lots of trees growing on the side. EMES noted slasher had been repaired and should be working in the next couple of weeks. Starting on maintenance and focusing on safety issues

**ACTION**

**EMES/ACEO to action repairs to the jetty lights and review required maintenance for the jetty in general.**

**EMES to investigate Water officers' improper use of Council vehicles.**

**EMES to action blind corner tree clean-up.**

#### **19.4 Cr Stephen – Ugar**

- Mail service delivery for Ugar – mailed still delivered only once or twice per month.
- Update on ferry
- Feasibility study on environmental report – needs to get out the options to community surrounding the ramp
- Meeting with TSRA re: funding

#### **ACTION**

**AEMCS to advise when MIPEC are commencing mail delivery.**

**ACEO/SARG to consider subsidising ferry operations by third party.**

**EMES to consider feasibility report for ramp.**

**EMES to schedule meeting with TSRA re funding before the end of the year.**

#### **19.5 Cr Akiba – Saibai**

- Disaster management plan – is there one for health – eg an outbreak of SARS? ACEO – this can be discussed at workshop as part of Disaster Management briefing
- Fire extinguishers in social housing
- Vacation of staff housing.
- Ramp for northern side of airstrip

#### **ACTION**

**EMES to include impact on health crisis as part of Disaster Management Briefing at Councillors workshop in Cairns.**

**AEMCS to advise whether fire extinguishers in social housing are required in response to Saibai fire.**

**ACEO to ensure a request is made to Mariana Babia to remove her belongings from Council's staff house.**

**EMES to provide ramp as part of Seawall project.**

#### **19.6 Cr Nona – Badu**

- Four more houses for Badu It would be good if these could be fast forwarded and built before the contractor leaves the island. Cr Nona spoke to David Faulkner and PBC are all for it. If an ILUA can be carried out four more houses would alleviate many issues – those moved from dongas now living in shanty sheds.
- Vacant houses on family land. Kids have vandalised vacant houses. When people move out need monitoring system. Change locks, lock houses down.
- Donga town – circuit blew, moved everyone out. Affecting brick houses at the back. Cannot knock dongas down until they resolve power issues. All below ground. Project Manager doing a bypass.
- Rusted bolts – come loose – float. Found planks from the wharf on the beach. A couple of hanging planks. Wharf needs repair
- Ramp for right hand side. Non one uses the current Badu ramp as its very stiff. A couple of cars have gone under.

#### **ACTION**

**ACEO to provide advice on how many vacant leased lots are available for next round of new houses. Letter to Allen Cunneen (cc to Billy Gordon) requesting survey.**

**ACEO to address need to secure vacant houses being vandalised.**

**ACEO to ensure allocations occur**

**ACEO to ensure work-around for nearby brick houses connected to same electricity circuit.**

**EMES to action repairs to the wharf.**

**EMES to resolve issues with ramp at Badu being too steep**



### 19.7 Cr Tamu – Warraber

- Esplanade light pole.
- Men's Shed.
- Water tanks
- Vacant housing maintenance
- Wharf – bolts sticking up.
- Rental arrears on the island? Anything been done in trying to correct the rent? ACEO will respond to Cr Tamu out of session with some specific details. Some people have \$35K arrears with tenants only paying \$50 or \$20
- Airstrip fencing.

#### ACTION

**AEMCS to instruct Legal to progress Esplanade light pole**

**AEMCS to instruct Legal to finalise licensing of Men's Shed.**

**ACEO to advise when water tanks are to be installed (must be prior to Christmas).**

**ACEO to ensure vacant housing maintenance is completed prior to Christmas**

**ACEO to advise ETA for repairs to wharf.**

**ACEO to provide report re arrears to Cr Tamu (and 6 month trend) including details of the incentive program and what is being carried out to improve this situation.**

**EMES to provide an update re airstrip fencing.**

### 19.8 Cr Fell – Mabuia

- Requested a wharf at Mabuia.

#### ACTION

**ACEO to advise ETA for introduction of wharf.**

### 20. 11:52am-12:40pm

**PRESENTATION: *Shaun Skerritt, Senior Program Advisor - SAR System Engagement & Policy, Search And Rescue, Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), Tony Dorante, Marine Officer – Thursday Island, Maritime Safety Queensland, and Inspector David Lacey, Torres Patrol Group, Queensland Police Service – Torres Strait Marine Safety Programme***

Shaun thanked Mayor and Councillors for the opportunity to talk to them today and detailed his background with the Water Police. He has lived in the Torres Strait for two decades off and on. Shaun acknowledged Traditional Owners and elders past and present.

Shaun spoke to his presentation on the Torres Strait Marine Safety Programme and noted incidents have reduced dramatically since the programme began. However, there is still a lot of work to be done. Shaun noted the human cost and financial cost of maritime safety. If financial costs were reduced, more money could be used in the Torres Strait.

The Mayor discussed building capacity in the community with safety training. Tony Dorante suggested developing an on line training course but would need an accredited training assessor on the island (Certificate IV). Inspector Lacey is putting a project plan together and he has been accredited. 10-150 people are in need of boat safe training. Could become a business opportunity. Work being done on this right now.

**12:40pm-1:45pm Lunch**

21. 1:45pm-2:45pm

**PRESENTATION:** *Jonathan Benyei, Assistant Secretary, Science Services Group, People & Place Manager (North), George Nona, Assistant Director, Tina Hutchinson, First Assistant Secretary, Australian Department of Agriculture & Water Resources, Craig Jennings, Qld Agriculture, Independent Consultant, - Biosecurity Pressures on the Torres Straits*

George acknowledged Traditional Owners and elders past and present of the land on which we meet as well as Mayor and Councillors as leaders.

Ron introduced himself and explained that he was an independent consultant and that the hope is to collaborate with Council and other stakeholders to manage biosecurity in the Torres Strait.

Ron acknowledged TSIRC and TSRA for putting together the biosecurity plan in the Torres Strait. It is the only plan that acknowledges the plant pests and issues.

Councillors discussed that community members are the eyes and ears on the ground and government departments need to fund and work with the community to empower them to assist and work collaboratively on biosecurity.

Ron queried whether the interagency taskforce as detailed in the joint TSRA/TSIRC plan was operational. EMCoS noted this is currently with the TSRA and is not yet operating.

The Mayor noted that we are all Australians and Queenslanders and whilst we will protect Australia the Government needs to protect and support us, not just use the Torres Strait as a buffer. The strategy must work both ways.

Tina thanked the Mayor and Councillors for the honour of meeting with them today on her first visit to the Torres Strait.

Cr Lui noted that after 30 years in the Treaty we have proven to governments that we have protected the environment and they now need to protect us back. Need to be reminded. Not just one way street. We have done our best and it is their turn.

Cr Stephen blessed the Afternoon Tea  
**2:55pm-3:15pm Afternoon Tea**

22. 3:15pm-4:00pm

**Business Arising from Information Reports**

**22.1 Water Issues**

EMES spoke to the Water information report noting Dauan and Erub are quite critical. Cr Thaiday talked about the new pump installed at Erub and felt it was too exposed to weather. EMES would address. Cr Thaiday suggested a small shelter.

EMES: lama turned around. Hammond good but using water from TI. Horn is in its worst water situation ever.

Water desalination being hired for Erub. Mer, Dauan and Erub are the three areas being monitored closely.

Cr Toby noted complaints from his community on continued water restrictions. EMES noted water wise is important with some communities using two to three times the expected water for an average person.

**ACTION**

**EMES to consider shelter for water tank at Erub.**

**EMES to provide report on status of fencing at dam at Erub.**

**EMCoS to implement Erub host agreement ASAP.**

**AEMCS to explore possibility of divestment of Erub fuel bowser, but first see IBIS's interest in operating.**

**22.2 Mayor – deputation in Brisbane**

The Mayor discussed his recent trip to Brisbane where he met with various State Ministers.

**22.3 Cr Fell – War Memorials**

Where are we at with this? Cr Kaigey agreed and was going to raise this issue. Cr Fell suggested we should seek funds from Warren Entsch.

EO noted officer working on this was waiting on some information from Councillors but this was some time ago. Would follow up and provide a further update.

Mayor need to fast track this and ensure it is delivered before Anzac day.

**ACTION**

**EO to provide update on War Memorials project at the November Ordinary and ensure completion is prior to ANZAC Day 2017.**

**22.4 Cr Elisala**

Cr Elisala queried action on pp 5 – ‘list of completed works and works still for completion for each community from BAS’ report to be tabled for Council. ACEO believed this detail was within the Housing report. ACEO will follow up and advise.

**22.5 Mayor update on deputations & LGAQ Conference**

The Mayor continued his summary of recent deputations with State Ministers and the LGAQ conference.

**23. 4:00pm-4:44pm General Business**

**23.1 Cr Toby - Boigu**

Council office R&M.  
Lagoon signage.

**ACTION**

**ACEO to follow up R&M previously reported now urgent.**

**ACEO to follow up on Lagoon signage.**

**23.2 Capital Projects**

Letter to Warren Entsch re possible available funding for our 30 top capital projects.

**ACTION**

**ACEO to send letter to Warren Entsch.**

**23.3 Councillors’ Workshop**

Councillors to review workshop agenda. Revised draft will be circulated next week.

**23.4 Dr Parag Khanna**

Mayor recommended Councillors review world’s leading thinker who spoke at the LGAQ conference.

**23.5 December Ordinary meeting locations**

The Mayor would email Councillors to canvas their preference for the December meeting. Cr Tamu reiterated her offer of Warraber.

**24. 4:44pm-4:45pm Next Meeting**

Thursday and Friday 17 and 18 November 2016, Cairns

**25. 4:46pm**

**Meeting Close**

The Mayor thanked all for attending and thanked EA for looking after the Councillors and looks forward to working with ACEO.

The meeting closed in prayer by Cr Stephen at 4:46pm.