



MINUTES

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

MARCH 2015

Date: Tuesday 17 March 2015, 9.15am – 5.36pm
Wednesday 18 March 2015, 9.16am – 11.40am

Venue: Video Conference

Tuesday 17th March 2015

Present

Cr Fred Gela, Mayor

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

Cr Dimas Toby, Division 1 – Boigu Island

Cr Joel Gaidan, Division 2 – Dauan Island

Cr Ron Enosa, Division 3 – Saibai Island

Cr Horace Baira, Division 5 – Badu Island

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

Cr Toshie Kris, Division 7 – St Pauls Community at Moa Island

Cr Mario Sabatino, Division 8 – Hammond Island

Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Division 9 – Iama Island

Cr Willie Lui, Division 10 – Warraber Island

Cr Phillemon Mosby, Division 11 – Poruma Island

Cr Ted Nai, Division 12 – Masig Island

Cr Rocky Stephen, Division 13 – Ugar Island

Cr Jimmy Gela, Division 14 – Erub Island

Cr William Akee, Division 15 – Mer Island

Ms Dania Ahwang, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Mr David Abednego, Executive Manager Community Services (EMCoS)

Mr Chris McLaughlin, Executive Manager Corporate Services (EMCS)

Mr Mathew Brodbeck, A/Executive Manager Engineering Services (A/EMES)

Ms Katherine Wiggins, Manager Performance and Advocacy (MPA)

Ms Jessica Cox, Travel and Administration Officer (TAO)

Ms Melissa Barmettler, Executive Manager Financial Services (EMFS)

Ms Daisy Ketchell, Executive Officer (EO)

Apologies

Nil

1. **9.24am** **Opening Prayer and Welcome**

Cr Lui opened the meeting in prayer. There was a minute silence to pay respect to families who have lost their loved ones recently.

Mayor's Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Mayor welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

2. **9.26am** **Apologies**

There were no apologies noted.

3.2. **9.27am** **Action Item Summary From Previous Meeting**

Previous Action Item 2 – Ugar Mail Service

Cr Stephen queried the status of the Ugar Mail Service. EMCoS advised Australia Post are currently querying insurance. EMCoS to follow up Ugar Mail Service Action Item with Cr Stephen.

Cr Toby queried status of letters of invite. CEO updated – CEO to follow up discussions with Billy Gordon and send letter of invitation for Billy Gordon to address full Council. Minister Leanne Enoch to also be invited to address full Council and visit communities to assess housing matters first hand.

Previous Action Item 15 – Loan Settlement

An update regarding the Poruma Resort loan settlement was requested. It was advised the TSRA Board were presented on loan settlement options and both CEO's to work together to resolve.

Previous Action Item 5 – MOA

Mayor advised of the presentation of the Memorandum of Agreement to the TSRA Board. Further, that the MOA is now subject to the TSRA Board making reasonable changes.

Previous Action Item 35 – Fuel Prices

Cr Sabatino request clarity on fuel pricing. CEO advised procurement currently conduct reviews of fuel prices, which are then passed along to Administration Officers to update at bowser.

It was noted Cr W Lui joined the meeting at 9:26am.

It was noted Cr Mosby joined the meeting at 9:26am.

Previous Action Item 1 – Seaport Charges

Cr Sabatino requested an update. EMCS noted letter is still currently in draft form, however nearing completion. Further, Cr Sabatino raised concerns regarding the retrospective capture of fees.

Action Item

EMCS and EMFS to investigate sample-testing to confirm self-reporting of seaport charges.

It was noted EMCS left the meeting at 9:36am

Action Item

EMCS and EMFS to organise discussions with Ergon Energy regarding sourcing fuel deliveries to outer-islands for Ergon.

It was noted EMCS entered the room at 9:38am

Action Item

CEO and EMFS to investigate fuel charging - tonnage vs. volume

Action Item

EMFS to create report in regards to seaport charges before new financial year

It was noted Cr Kris joined the meeting at 9:45am

Previous Action Item 33 – TSIPSO Update

Cr J Gela requested an update in regards to Queensland Police Force attending Council Meeting. Mayor advised CEO to invite Chief Superintendent, Paul Taylor to the next Council Meeting or Community Visit.

Action Item

MPA to invite Paul Taylor (TSIPSO) to April Council Meeting or Community visit

Previous Action Item 12 – DTV

Cr Stephen requested an update in regards to Digital TV issues. EMCS advised the tender for Corporate Buildings has been approved. EMCS also advised that Housing Officers will be providing a list of social housing digital TV defects to the contractor. Furthermore, Commonwealth Government contractors will be brought in to fix any issues the Corporate Buildings tender is unable to attend to.

Previous Action Item 39 – Uniforms

CEO noted that current uniform stock has been rolled-out to all staff. CEO advised of the possible establishment of a uniform committee to decide on new uniform designs, and further noted that the 2015/16 budget will cover funds for new uniforms.

It was noted that Cr Baira joined the meeting at 10:15am

3. 9.51am – 10.14am Minutes of Previous Meetings – February

It is noted that the statement on page 11 “It was noted that Cr Stephen joined the meeting by telephone at 4:05pm”, is incorrect and should be amended to “It was noted that Cr Stephen re-joined the meeting by telephone at 4:05pm”.

Action Item

TAO to amend February minutes to reflect Cr Stephen’s attendance.

Previous Action Item 2 – January 2015

Cr J Gela queried the current status of this Action Item. CEO noted in the previous TWG meeting discussion was raised regarding setting up a working group involving TSRA, Program Office, Council and key stakeholder to maximise Indigenous and local employment.

Action Item

MPA to liaise with SPOG in maintaining the MyPathway project list to only include current projects.

It was noted EMCoS left the meeting at 10:03am

It was noted EMCoS re-joined the meeting at 10:04am

Action Item

EMCS to have discussion with Telstra regarding quality of videoconferencing facilities.

It was noted Cr W Lui left the meeting at 10:13am

3.1. 10.14am – 10.15am Confirmation of February Minutes

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Enosa Seconded Cr Sabatino

That the minutes of Council meeting held February 2015 – be adopted as true and accurate.

MOTION CARRIED

It was noted Cr W Lui re-joined the meeting at 10:15am

3.3 **10.15am – 10.42.am** **Late Report – Communications Procedure**

EMCS presented a report on the Communications Guideline of TSIRC to facilitate effective communication between Councillors, Chief Executive Officer, Senior Executive Employees, all other Council employees and external persons and entities.

It was noted EMCoS left the meeting at 10:36am

It was noted EMCoS re-joined the meeting at 10:39am

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Baira, Seconded Cr Nai

That Council endorse the Communications Guideline, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

10.42am – 11.03am Morning Break

4. **11.03am – 11.32am** **Late Report – Badu Community Hall**

CEO presented a report on the Badu Community Hall project, pertaining particularly to the upgrade of the Badu Community Hall Roof and the associated 2014/15 capital works program.

Cr Fell joined the meeting at 11:04am

Cr W Lui joined the meeting at 11:05am

Cr Sabatino joined the meeting at 11:05am

Cr Kris joined the meeting at 11:06am

Cr Gaidan joined the meeting at 11:06am

Cr Stephen joined the meeting at 11:10am

Action Item

CEO to provide scope of works for Hammond Island Office project

Action Item

EMFS to provide report on Councils vacant positions and surplus.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Sabatino Seconded Cr Bosun

That Council endorse the variation to the approved 2014/15 Capital Works Program specifically for the Badu Community Hall Roof in the amount of an additional \$20,000 making the revised budget amount \$220,000.

MOTION CARRIED

5. 11.32am – 12.29pm Late Report - Stadiums

CEO presented a report on Warraber, Erub, St Pauls, lama, Masig and Poruma stadium upgrades.

It was noted Cr Mosby joined the meeting at 11:49am

Action Item

CEO to test market on all scope of works in regards to the stadiums project and provide report to April 2015 Council Meeting.

It was noted that Cr Nai left the meeting at 12:15pm

It was noted that Cr Nai re-joined the meeting at 12:22pm

It was noted that Cr Sabatino left the meeting at 12:24pm

It was noted that Cr Sabatino re-joined the meeting at 12:28pm

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr W Lui, Seconded Cr J Gela

That Council endorse the variation to the approved 2014/15 Capital Works Program specifically for Erub, St Pauls and Masig sporting facilities in the amount of \$760,000 and that Council test the market to obtain clear value for money for the detailed scope of works of each of those facilities and that Council commit the available TSRA funding of \$601,454 towards the Erub, St Pauls and Masig stadium works.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Mosby against

6. 12.30pm – 12:48pm Meeting of Council as Trustee of Community DOGIT

Moved Cr Bosun, Seconded Cr Baira

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

MOTION CARRIED

6.1. **12.00pm – 12.48pm** **Late Report – Hammond EPM**

EMCS presented report on the Hammond Island Exploration Permit for Minerals.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Sabatino, Seconded Cr Baira

That the Trustee endorse the draft Trustee response to the Mining Registrar, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, regarding Application for Exploration Permit for Minerals 25418, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

12.48pm – 12.50pm **Re-convene as Local Government Meeting**

Moved Cr J Gela, Seconded Cr Akee

MOTION CARRIED

12.50pm – 2.09pm Lunch Break

7. **2.09pm – 3.09pm** **Closed Business**

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Nai Seconded Cr W Lui 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
- (b) Industrial matters affecting employees; or
- (c) The local government's budget; or
- (d) Rating concessions; or
- (e) Contracts proposed to be made by it; or
- (f) Starting or defending legal proceedings involving the local government; or
- (g) Any action to be taken by the local government under the Planning Act, including deciding applications made to it under that Act; 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.

Further the public in attendance are asked to leave. All staff excluding CEO and EMCS were asked to leave the room.

MOTION CARRIED

All Councillors in attendance confirmed confidentiality on the video or teleconference link.

2.20pm Cr Kris joined and confirmed confidentiality

2.25pm Cr Sabatino joined and confirmed confidentiality.

3.04pm

Move out of closed business

Moved Cr Nai, Seconded Cr Gaidan.

MOTION CARRIED

All staff returned to the room.

8. 3.09pm – 5.36pm Business Arising from Information Reports

Community Grants Update

Discussion was raised regarding an increase in Community Grants funding.

Action Item

EMFS to prepare paper outlining advantages and disadvantages of Community Grants funding increase.

Action Item

EMFS and EMCS to investigate self-reporting strategies in regards to seaport charges.

Previous Action Item 13 – October 2014

Cr Kris queried previous Action Item 13, Recycle of old vehicles. CEO discussed creating a detailed scope of works in regards to available Regional Waste funding.

Action Item

A/EMES to provide detailed scope of work in regards to a “big red” car crusher.

Action Item

A/EMES to provide report from Torres Shire workshop held 17 February 2015.

Capital Works

Cr Sabatino noted a discrepancy in relation to Hammond Island Roads, stating the capital works project status as incorrect in saying the work is 100% complete. Also, project totals per Civil Works report do not agree to project totals of Capital Works report. CEO provided an update to Cr Sabatino.

It was noted Cr Nai left the meeting at 3.35pm

It was noted Cr Nai re-joined the meeting at 3.40pm

It was noted Cr Toby left the meeting at 3.45pm

It was noted Cr Toby re-joined the meeting at 4.05pm

Action Item

EMCS to discuss plan of action with Cr Sabatino regarding 24JAA

It was noted Cr Nai left the meeting at 4.24pm

It was noted Cr Nai re-joined the meeting at 4.25pm

It was noted Cr Stephen left the meeting at 4.25pm

It was noted Cr Stephen re-joined the meeting at 4.30pm

National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH)

Cr Baira queried the progress of the NPARIH program. EMCoS updated Council on the current housing delivery program, stating 6 of the 73 houses have been built, with the remainder to be constructed before June 2016.

It was noted Cr G Lui left the meeting at 4.30pm

It was noted Cr G Lui re-joined the meeting at 4.35pm

It was noted Cr Nai left the meeting at 4.37pm

It was noted Cr Nai re-joined the meeting at 4.39pm

It was noted Cr W Lui left the meeting at 4.45pm

It was noted Cr W Lui re-joined the meeting at 4.47pm

Discussions on Social Housing procedure allocations were raised.

Action Item

CEO and EMFS to follow up Masig Community Grants with Divisional Manager, Masig Island on behalf of Cr Nai.

It was noted Cr Toby and Cr Bosun advised they would be unable to attend the follow days General Business.

It was noted there were no leave of absence applications for the April 2015 Ordinary Meeting.

It was noted the next Council Meeting will be held at Thursday Island.

Action Item

EMCS to investigate options for broadcasting the next Council Meeting to Communities

5.36pm - Council Meeting Closed in prayer by Cr Fell

Tuesday 18th March 2015

Present

Cr Fred Gela, Mayor

Cr Ron Enosa, Division 3 – Saibai Island

Cr Horace Baira, Division 5 – Badu Island

Cr Toshie Kris, Division 7 – St Pauls Community at Moa Island

Cr Mario Sabatino, Division 8 – Hammond Island

Cr Willie Lui, Division 10 – Warraber Island

Cr Phillemon Mosby, Division 11 – Poruma Island

Cr Ted Nai, Division 12 – Masig Island

Cr Jimmy Gela, Division 14 – Erub Island

Cr William Akee, Division 15 – Mer Island

Ms Dania Ahwang, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Mr Chris McLaughlin, Executive Manager Corporate Services (EMCS)

Mr Mathew Brodbeck, A/Executive Manager Engineering Services (A/EMES)

Ms Katherine Wiggins, Manager Performance and Advocacy (MPA)

Ms Jessica Cox, Travel and Administration Officer (TAO)

Ms Melissa Barmettler, Executive Manager Financial Services (EMFS)

Mr David Abednego, Executive Manager Community Services (EMCoS)

Apologies

Cr Dimas Toby, Division 1 – Boigu Island

Cr Joel Gaidan, Division 2 – Dauan Island

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

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

Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Division 9 – Iama Island

Cr Rocky Stephen, Division 13 – Ugar Island

Ms Daisy Ketchell, Executive Officer (EO)

9.16am – 9.17am Opening Prayer and Welcome

Cr Nai opened the meeting in prayer.

Mayor's Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Mayor welcomed the Councillors to the meeting.

Action Item

A/EMES to furnish response to Daniel Takai (Torres Strait Air) updating on Badu aircraft investigations.

9.18am – 9.44am Cultural Festival – Capital Works

Discussions were raised regarding Capital Works concerning the upcoming 2015 TSIRC Cultural Festival. Mayor requested that Capital Works talks, in relation to the Cultural Festival, be delayed until the April 2015 Council Meeting.

Action Item

MPA to organise Cultural Festival Committee to visit Badu to consider scope of works and potential camp areas for the 2015 TSIRC Cultural Festival.

Matter left laying on the table.

Action Item

CEO to ensure Cultural Festival Capital Works is a standing Agenda Item.

9. 9.44am – 11.40am General Business

Mayor noted incoming correspondence from the TSRA Member for Kubin, Saila Savage in regards to water shortages at Kubin. A/EMES provided an update on the matter, advising the water supply is currently satisfactory, however last year the well wasn't charging properly.

It was noted Cr Nai left the meeting at 9:48am

It was noted EMCoS joined the meeting at 9:48am

Action Item

MPA to arrange for Mayor to send copy of letter from Member for Kubin to CEO and A/EMES.

Action Item

CEO to develop report on issues raised in Member for Kubin letter in regards to water shortages.

It was noted Cr Nai re-joined the meeting at 9:52am

Mayor raised a letter received from Mr Tommy Pau in relation to a development of traditional land at Erub (Darnley). Noted in this letter was a business plan, investigating the establishment of a Pau Corporation and Enterprise development on Traditional Land. Mayor advised Mr Pau is seeking a letter of support from Mayor for Eco Tourism and Erub. Cr J Gela noted support for the opportunity.

Action Item

MPA to arrange for Mayor to supply Council with copy of letter from Mr Pau.

Cr Akee requested an update from A/EMES regarding the cement truck for the airstrip waiting house at Mer.

Action Item

A/EMES and CEO to liaise with plant and builders department regarding Mer cement truck update for Cr Akee

Mayor requested an update regarding Moa reservoir and tank failures. A/EMES advised the equipment was sent up a couple of weeks ago, however the contractor for the project has been delayed due to cyclone activity.

Action Item

A/EMES to contact Moa reservoir contractor in regards to delays.

Mayor discussed the recent TSRA Board deputation, mentioning the following topics from the conversation:

1. Regional Waste Strategy
2. Poruma Resort Loan
3. TSRA outer island offices
4. Sewerage and Water Grant
5. Dauan and Ugar access
6. Torres Strait Local Disaster Management Group
7. RJCP
8. One Boat

Action Item

MPA to ensure HF Radio grant is re-submitted to TSRA.

Action Item

MPA to develop Political Lobbying strategy including Ministerial and Departmental contacts.

It was noted Cr Nai left the meeting at 10.35am

Cr Mosby requested an update regarding RIBS transfer funding. EMCS noted 6 communities have now been transferred, with 6 more to follow in the next 12 months.

Cr J Gela noted issues regarding Erub reservoir fencing and an unstable water truck.

Action Item

A/EMES and EMCoS to provide update on water supply, sewerage concerns, and unstable water truck at Erub.

Cr Akee queried the progress of the airstrip waiting house and building team employment at Mer.

Action Item

A/EMES to liaise with building team and provide response to Cr Akee regarding the airstrip waiting house.

Cr Sabatino queried issues affecting Hammond Island Office.

Action Item

Focus group to be setup in regards to Hammond Island Office.

Action Item

A/EMES to send roads report to Cr Sabatino and Cr Kris.

Action Item

A/EMES to update Cr Sabatino on Hammond Wharf Lighting projects.

Action Item

A/EMES to organise Hammond Island septic tank removal

Cr Enosa queried the Saibai cemetery project timeframe.

Action Item

A/EMES to advise Cr Enosa of Cemetery project start date, progress PBC communications and removal of bogged excavator.

Cr Enosa requested making the old Saibai cemetery a historical site. CEO advised discussions with PBC would be needed before progressing. Cr Enosa also requested the installation of another seawall to avoid erosion of walkways and noted a bogged excavator.

Cr Mosby requested the CEO make sure basketball courts, NPARIH Housing and dongas are attended to, noting scoping needs to be done for this project and a quote raised for the proposed work on the Poruma Resort.

Action Item

CEO to follow up Poruma Resort and Donga matters raised by Cr Mosby (Proposed scope of works quote and use of Dongas).

Action Item

CEO to request common date for a quote from Building Team in regards to the Poruma Resort and Lodge extension.

Cr J Gela noted the need for a Council parking lot roof at Darnley. CEO noted this as Capital Works activity, and would need approval from Council before progressing.

Action Item

A/EMES to check with Principal Engineer Water and Sewerage regarding St Paul's reservoir quotations.

Action Item

A/EMES to follow-up fence burnt at shed on top of hill at St Paul's and needing replacement.

Action Item

A/EMES to follow up power pole threatened by washout on reservoir road.

Action Item

A/EMES to note Road to Sewerage Plant is MIP priority.

Cr Baira raised the TSRA Road Show notification and was advised that this should be managed through the standard visitor notification procedure.

Cr Kris acknowledged that Council needs to remain informed in regards to upcoming PZJA changes.

Action Item

CEO to speak with Mayor further regarding the Indigenous Leaders Forum.

Action Item

EMCS to follow up freehold information for those Councillors who missed session in March.

Action Item

EMCS and EMCoS to liaise with Mayor and Cr Enosa regarding valid applicants for Saibai Katter Leases.

Action Item

EMCS to invite the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to present to Council in regards to Katter Leases and Freehold.

Cr Baira requested an update on Asbestos removal. EMCS advised identification in communities has taken place and distribution of information will happen soon. EMCS advised Council is looking at funding and grants for the 2015/16 budget.

Cr J Gela requested the CEO look at eligibility criteria for MIP funding for the road to Kemus Bay.

Action Item

CEO to also follow up earth works at Kemus Bay at Erub with A/EMES before celebrations on 1 July 2015.

April Ordinary Meeting – Date and Location

Thursday Island, 21st and 22nd April 2015

Action Item

April Agenda to include minimal resolutions where Cr Baira and Cr Nai attend the Health Board (21st April 1-3pm)

11.40am - Council Meeting Closed in prayer by Cr Enosa