

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE SHIRE OFFICES, DOUGLAS STREET, THURSDAY ISLAND  
ON TUESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2015**

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**PRESENT**

Mayor Pedro Stephen (Chair), Cr. Yen Loban, Cr. Allan Ketchell, Cr. John Abednego, Dalassa Yorkston (Chief Executive Officer), Bill Cuthbertson (Director Engineering and Infrastructure Services) and Nola Ward Page (Minute Secretary)

The meeting opened with a prayer by Mayor Stephen at 9.05am.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Mayor acknowledged the traditional owners The Kaurareg People upon whose land we hold our meeting.

**APOLOGY**

**Min. 15/01/1      Moved Cr. Loban, Seconded Cr. Wigness**

“That Council accept the apology received from Cr. Allan Ketchell.”

**Carried**

**CONDOLENCES:**    As a mark of respect, Council observed a minute’s silence in memory of:

*baby Tyler Joel Ketchell-Swartz, Lance Christopher Fulwood, John Ned Dorante,  
Miss Daisy Ware, Miss Giza Wigness,  
Mrs Adele Mary Gea Gea and Mrs Loice Akee*

**Keriba Omasker "Our Children"**

*Malili Lydianna Magarita Emmakai Glorianna Warri  
Vita Angelina Glorianna Wazanna Thaiday  
Shantae Jolee Majota Warri  
La Torrence Rayden Simeon James Warri  
Azariah Ellison Reuben Willie  
Daniel Stanley Willie  
Rodney Jackson Deandre Willie  
Patrenella Frances Katalia Willie*

**DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT**

**Cr. Willie Wigness**

In Committee items:

- 1 Horn Island - Quarry and Sand Leases
- 2 Kaurareg Aboriginal and Land Trust

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Min. 15/01/2      Moved Cr. Abednego, Seconded Cr. Loban**

“That Council receive the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 9 December 2014 and confirm as a true and correct record of the proceedings.”

**Carried**

**Min. 15/01/3      Moved Mayor Stephen, Seconded Cr. Loban**

“That Council receive the Special Minutes of 9 December 2014 and confirm as a true and correct record of the proceedings.”

**Carried**

***Acknowledgement of the Zendath Kes Traditional Owners past and present*****Welcome Councillors and Staff to 2015**

I extend my warm welcome to Councillors, Management and Staff of Torres Shire Council for 2015. I trust all have enjoyed their time over the festive season with family and have had time to reflect on the achievements of 2014 and set our goals for the year ahead and in serving our constituents and community. Whilst Council has delivered essential services and a number of major capital works projects in 2014, Council is always challenged to do more with less in our current environment. I look forward to the continued support of Councillors in 2015 and to working with management and staff of Torres Shire Council.

**Department of Housing and Public Works – Eligibility Letters**

Over the festive season there has been an increase in the number of community members being issued with the standard housing eligibility letters and notices to vacate the public housing in Torres Shire. This issue has been raised in December to the Hon. Tim Mander, Minister for Housing and Public Works. Through the Office of the Mayor, assistance has been provided to over six families who have received eviction notices over their eligibility. This issue is a growing concern especially for long term residents and elderly tenants.

**Min. 15/01/4 Moved Cr. Wigness, Seconded Cr. Loban**

“That Council raise the Department of Housing and Public Works eligibility for housing policy to the media.”

**Carried**

**Keriba Omasker – ‘Dedicate to the Eight Community Vigil’, 23 December 2014**

I acknowledge the enormous support and attendance received from the local community in response to the Vigil held at ANZAC Park on 23 December 2014 in respect to the 8 children who lost their lives in Cairns on 19 December 2014. My deepest sympathy is extended to the Willie, Thaiday and Warria families who have been directly affected by this tragic event. Council provided a watchful eye over the flowers, candles and cards at ANZAC Park until the Memorial Service for the children held in Cairns on 10 January 2015. Sympathy Cards and Floral Tributes on behalf of Torres Shire Council were provided to the families.

**TSRA/TSC MOU Meeting – December 17 December 2014**

On 17 December 2014, Council's CEO, Dalassa Yorkston, and I attended the TSRA/TSC MOU Meeting at the Joey Nona Conference Room, Thursday Island. Torres Shire Council items presented included the Operational Funding Shortfall, Horn Island Affordable Housing Project (land tenure and investment), Torres Strait Regional Waste Strategy, Safe Landing Facility POW and Towards Great Governance Torres Strait. In addition, an update was provided to TSRA regarding the Deregulation of the Horn Island – Cairns Route. TSRA was invited to attend the Blessing of the Thursday Island Sports Complex Reopening on 26 January 2015. The Horn Island Affordable Housing Project was flagged as a matter of concern with TSRA as this housing initiative has come to a halt pending native title clarification and securing funding to kick start the project (displays homes concept). Minutes of the TSRA/TSC MOU Meeting will be distributed to Council as it comes to hand.

**National Broadband Network (NBN)**

Justin Jarvis of the National Broadband Network (NBN) visited Torres Shire on the 14 January 2015 to provide Council, as a key stakeholder, with information on the roll-out of the new satellite service which will essentially improve IT services throughout the region. Council's CEO and I met with Justin to discuss the new proposed service and outlined the benefits that the faster broadband can deliver to improve business operations. This new service is a satellite network investment of \$2B which will attract around 240K users. At this stage, Telstra is not a service provided with NBN however Optus, Activate Me, IR Net and SkyNet are current subscribers to NBN. The launch of this new satellite network will be in June 2015 in South America, it is hoped that the new satellite service will be available to households in Australia in 2016. Health Services are set to be the main beneficiaries to the new technology that will allow a direct network through the satellite network.

**Deputation to Minister Nigel Scullion**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has advised that the Commonwealth Minister for Indigenous Affairs Hon. Nigel Scullion will be visiting Torres Shire this week. On behalf of Council I will be meeting with Minister Scullion on Wednesday, 2.15pm, 21 January 2015 to discuss concerns and highlighting his support for the Shire's priorities, HIAHP and transfer of commonwealth properties to Torres Shire.

**QLD State Election Called for 31 January 2015**

The QLD Government has called a snap election for 31 January 2015. There are 6 candidates running for the seat of Cook. Candidates have been voicing their party's policies and election promises. Cook Electorate area extends north of Cairns to include Port Douglas, Mossman, Cooktown, the Aboriginal, Mining and Pastoral communities of the Cape as well as Torres Strait Islands.

**Moved Cr. Abednego, Seconded Cr. Loban**

**Min. 15/01/5** "That Council seek a commitment from the Cook candidates to develop and deliver services in the Torres Strait region."

**Carried**

**Torres Shire Council loses long serving employee**

Council has lost one of its longest serving and dedicated employees (Mr John Ned Dorante) on 8 January 2015. This tragic loss will be felt in the community as well as in our close knit work force community. Council's CEO and I called a special meeting with the workforce on Friday 9 January 2015 to advise the staff of the sad news. Assistance has been provided where possible to the family for a special request to the Coroner's Office. As a long serving employee, Council will be providing a vehicle to assist with the transportation of our loved one. The funeral to lay Mr Dorante to rest is being held on Saturday 24 January 2015 at Hammond Island. I will be in attendance. My deepest sympathy and condolences are extended to the families and relatives in his sad passing.

*God Bless, Au Esoau and Koeyma Eso*

**Moved Cr. Abednego, Seconded Cr. Loban**

**Min. 15/01/6** "That the Mayor's report be received."

**Carried**

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned for Morning Tea at 10.20a.m and resumed at 10.50am.

## 1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### REPORT

**Min. 15/01/7 Keriba Omasker 'Our Children' Memorial (File 1-12-01)**  
**Moved Cr. Loban, Seconded Cr. Wigness**

"That (1) the Mayor on behalf of all Councillors and Staff of Torres Shire Council officially record the heartfelt sorrow felt by the Torres Strait islander families Willie, Thaiday and Warria, and their relatives and communities on the recent tragic loss of their eight children in Cairns, and  
(2) acknowledge the representatives and organisations for their attendance at the vigil held at ANZAC Park on Thursday Island on 23 December 2014 following the news of the Keriba Omasker 'Our Children' tragedy in Cairns on 19 December 2014, and  
(3) through the Mayoral Office, send a letter of appreciation to the Cairns Regional Council and the Cairns community for their support on this sad occasion.

Keriba Omasker 'Our Children' – Vigil at ANZAC Park 23 December 2014	
Representatives	Organisations
Frances Ahwang	Qld Mental Health Service
Ivy Trevallion	Qld Health Family Support
Saimo Gela	Mura Kosker Sorority
Lisa Lui	Youth Ministry Leaders
Romina Fujii	Port Kennedy Association
Gabriel, Danny & Jack Bani	Full Gospel Church
Elsie Hooper	Tribute Song – Hero
OIC Jamie Horn	Queensland Police Service
Bishop Mabo	Anglican Church
Pastor Darren Peakall	Torres Strait Seventh Day Adventist Church
Cr. John Abednego	Tribute Song – Tears in Heaven
Mayor Pedro Stephen	Torres Shire Council

**Carried**

**Min. 15/01/8 Moved Mayor Stephen, Seconded Cr. Abednego**  
"That the Chief Executive Officer's report be received."

**Carried**

## 2. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

### REPORT

#### **FINANCE REPORT (File 1-12-24)**

**Min. 15/01/9 Capital Budget**

**Moved Cr. Abednego, Seconded Cr. Wigness**

"That Council amend the Capital Budget to include the two emergency generators that have been purchased for the amount of \$55,926."

**Carried**

**Min. 15/01/10 Moved Cr. Loban, Seconded Cr. Abednego**  
"That the Report of the Finance Manager be received."

**Carried**

## 3. ENGINEERING AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

### REPORT

**Min. 15/01/11 Moved Cr. Abednego, Seconded Mayor Stephen**

"That the Report of the Director of Engineering and Infrastructures Services be received."

**Carried**

**Attendance:** The Regulatory Manager, Diana Russell attended the meeting at 11.30am to present her report.

#### **4. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

##### **REPORT**

**Min. 15/01/12 Local Government Infrastructure Program – Revised Budget Proposal**  
**Moved Cr. Loban, Seconded Mayor Stephen**  
“That Council support an amendment to the 2014/2015 Council budget to allocate \$55,000 to complete the first stage of the LGIP including asset data capture and preparation of the charges resolution.”  
**Carried**

**Min. 15/01/13 James Cook University Road Closure Proposal (File 1-30-3)**  
**Moved Cr. Abednego, Seconded Cr. Wigness**  
“That Council endorse James Cook University’s road closure boundary plan for the proposed Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine and advise DNRM of Council’s support for the plan.”  
**Carried**

**Min. 15/01/14 25 Clark Street and 5 Sailor Crescent (File 1-45-2)**  
**Moved Cr. Abednego, Seconded Cr. Wigness**  
“That Council support the issuing Notices to Leave under the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008* to Torres Strait Island Regional Council for their staff to vacate the Torres Shire Council properties at 25 Clark Street and 5 Sailor Crescent, Thursday Island.”  
**Carried**

**Departure:** The Regulatory Manager departed the meeting at 12.15pm.

**Min. 15/01/15 Moved Cr. Abednego, Seconded Mayor Stephen**  
“That the Report of the Regulatory Manager be received.”  
**Carried**

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.30pm with the presence of David Kempton MP on his visit to Thursday Island, and he departed at 1.40pm.  
The meeting resumed at 2pm.

#### **5. IN COMMITTEE**

That Council discuss ‘In Committee’, the items as listed below, under the provisions of the Local Government Regulation 2012, 275 Closed meetings;

(1) A local government or committee may resolve that a meeting be closed to the public if its councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting 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 it; 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 financial advantage.

1. Horn Island Quarry and Sand Leases (File 6-262-01)
2. Kaurareg Aboriginal Land Trust (File 1-65-14)
3. Straits Pistol Club (File 5-30-07)
4. Trusteeship of Lot 104 on SP104552 (File 1-32-12)

## 5. IN COMMITTEE (cont'd)

**Departure:** Cr. Wigness left the meeting at 2pm on declaring his interest in the following  
"In Committee' items

Horn Island Quarry and Sand Leases (File 6-262-01)

Kaurareg Aboriginal Land Trust (File 1-65-14)

**Min. 15/01/16 Moved Cr. Abednego, Seconded Cr. Loban**

"That the meeting go into Committee."

**Carried**

**Min. 15/01/17 Moved Cr. Abednego, Seconded Cr. Loban**

"That the meeting come out Committee."

**Carried**

**Horn Island Quarry and Sand Leases (File 6-262-01)**

**Min. 15/01/18 Moved Cr. Abednego, Seconded Mayor Stephen**

"That Council (1) acknowledge receipt of the objections letter from the Kaurareg Aboriginal land Trust dated 12 January 2015, and  
(2) delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary pursuant to the Local Government Act 2009 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1967 in relation to the resumption including but not limited to hearing and reporting on objections in relation to the resumption notices."

**Carried**

**Kaurareg Aboriginal Land Trust (File 1-65-14)**

**Min. 15/01/19 Moved Cr. Loban, Seconded Mayor Stephen**

"That Council defer the items pertaining to correspondence received from the Kaurareg Aboriginal Land Trust received on 18 December 2014 and 15 January 2015 to the next Council Ordinary Meeting on 17 February 2015."

**Carried**

**Attendance:** Cr. Abednego departed the meeting at 2.30pm and did not return, and Cr. Wigness returned to the meeting at 2.30pm

**Min. 15/01/20 Moved Cr. Loban, Seconded Cr. Wigness**

"That the meeting go in Committee"

**Carried**

**Min. 15/01/22 Moved Mayor Stephen, Seconded Cr. Loban**

"That the meeting come out of Committee"

**Carried**

**Straits Pistol Club (File 5-30-07)**

*For information.*

**Trusteeship of Lot 104 on SP104552 (File 1-32-12)**

**Min. 15/01/23 Moved Cr. Wigness, Seconded Cr. Loban**

"That Council defer this matter to the next Council meeting on 17 February 2015."

**Carried**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, 17 February 2015

**CLOSURE:** The meeting closed with a prayer by Mayor Stephen at 3.30pm.

Confirmed this                      day of

**MAYOR**