



# **MINUTES**

**Special Budget Council Meeting**

**9 July 2025**

**MINUTES OF TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL SPECIAL BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THURSDAY ISLAND ON MONDAY 9 JULY 2025**

**1 AGENDA CONTENTS**

**2 ATTENDANCE**

Cr Elsie Seriat (Mayor) (via Teams), Cr Toshio Nakata (Deputy Mayor) (via Teams), Cr Gabriel Bani, Dalassa Yorkston (Chief Executive Officer) (via Teams), Edward Kulpa (Executive Manager Projects and Design), Roger Naidoo (Executive Manager Engineering and Infrastructure Services), Karren MacClure (Executive Manager Corporate and Community Services), Dorene Riley (Finance Manager), Claire Alexander and Ethel Mosby (Executive Secretary).

**3 MEETING OPENED**

The meeting opened with a prayer by Gabriel Bani at 9:14am.

**4 APOLOGIES**

Cr Thomas Fujii  
Cr Thomas Loban

**RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/1**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani  
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council receive the apology from Cr Thomas Fujii and Cr Thomas Loban.

**CARRIED**

**5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

*On behalf of all Councillors, the Mayor acknowledged the Kaurareg people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and paid respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and the Traditional Owners of Zenadth Kes.*

**6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

**7 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council consider the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Regulation s.254J of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*:

7.1 Adoption of 2025/2026 Budget

Time: 9.27am

**RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/2**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council go into In Committee.

**CARRIED**

**DEPARTURE:** Dorene Riley (Finance Manager) departed the meeting at 9.51am and returned at 9.55am.

Time: 10.17am

**RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/3**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council come out of In Committee.

**CARRIED**

**CORPORATE PLAN 2018 TO 2026 & OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025/26**

**RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/4**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That in accordance with Section 174 (1) and Section 165 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council adopts the following Operational Plan for the year 2025/26 and the Corporate Plan 2018 to 2023 be extended to 2026.

**CARRIED**

**REVENUE POLICY 2025/2026**

**RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/5**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That in accordance with Sections 169 (2) and 193 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council adopts the following Revenue Policy for the year 2025/26.

**CARRIED**

**REVENUE STATEMENT 2025/2026**

**RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/6**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That in accordance with Sections 169 (2) and 172 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council adopts the following Revenue Statement for the year 2025/26.

**CARRIED****ADVERTISING POLICY 2025/2026****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/7**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That in accordance with Section 197 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council adopts the following Advertising Policy for the year 2025/26.

**CARRIED****DEBT POLICY 2025/2026****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/8**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That in accordance with Section 192 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council adopts the following Debt Policy for the year 2025/26.

**CARRIED****ENTERTAINMENT AND HOSPITALITY POLICY 2025/2026****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/9**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That in accordance with Section 196 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council adopts the following Entertainment and Hospitality Policy for the year 2025/26.

**CARRIED****TRAVEL POLICY 2025/2026****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/10**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That in accordance with Section 196 and 250 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council adopts the following Travel Expenditure Policy for the year 2025/26.

**CARRIED**

**GRANTS POLICY****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/11**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That in accordance with Section 195 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council adopts the following Grants to Community Organisations Policy for the year 2025/26.

**CARRIED**

**INVESTMENT POLICY 2025/2026****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/12**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That in accordance with the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements* and Section 191 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council adopts the following Investment Policy for the year 2025/26.

**CARRIED**

**PROCUREMENT POLICY 2025/2026****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/13**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That in accordance with Section 198 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* Council adopts the following Procurement Policy for the year 2025/26.

**CARRIED**

**DISCOUNT ON RATES 2025/2026****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/14**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That in accordance with Section 130 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* that Council resolves to allow a ten percent (10%) discount for payment of differential general rates only if paid on or before thirty days from the date of issue of the rates notice and provided that no other rates and charges are overdue (including any arrears of rates and charges or interest thereon).

**CARRIED**

**RATES AND CHARGES LEVIED 2025/2026****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/15**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That all Rates and Charges made, levied and imposed for the 2025/26 financial year will be issued in two (2) half-yearly rates and charges levy being for the periods ending 31 August 2025 and 28 February 2026 respectively.

**CARRIED****OVERDUE RATES – INTEREST CHARGED 2025/2026****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/16**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That in accordance with Section 133 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves that (1) Overdue rates will bear interest at the rate of 12.12 % per annum from the date that the rate becomes overdue; and (2) That the amount of interest will be calculated on daily rests, applying the interest as compound interest.

**CARRIED****PENSIONER REMISSION****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/17**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That in accordance with Chapter 4 Part 10, Section 119 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* that Council resolves to provide assistance to pensioners by way of a partial remission based on 40% of the general rates and charges (excluding excess water and fire levy) and up to a maximum of \$400 per annum.

**CARRIED****RATING CATEGORIES 2025/2026****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/18**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That the following rating categories, cents in a dollar and minimum general rates and utility charges be adopted for 2025/26 financial year.

CATEGORY	RATE Cents in a dollar	MIN RATE \$
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1 - Vacant Land	0.004271	777
3 - Residential 1 - (Owner occupied) 1 unit of use	0.003977	777
5 - Residential 3 - (Non-owner occupied) 1 unit of use <\$800,000 valuation	0.004689	836
7 - Residential 5 - (Non-owner occupied) >=\$800,000 valuation - 1 unit of use	0.006013	5,741
8 - Prince of Wales Island - 1 unit of use	0.002496	458
9 - Other Lands - 1 unit of use	0.000514	327
11 - Multi Residential - 1 unit of use	0.004881	799
12 - Multi Residential - 2 Units of Use and <\$300,000 valuation	0.005803	1,602
13 - Multi Residential - 2 Units of Use and >=\$300,000 valuation	0.005267	1,871
14 - Multi Residential - 3 Units of Use	0.005294	2,397
15 - Multi Residential - 4 Units of Use	0.005152	3,198
16 - Multi Residential - 5 Units of Use	0.006430	3,996
17 - Multi Residential - 6 Units of Use	0.004655	4,793
18 - Multi Residential - 7 Units of Use	0.005653	5,595
19 - Multi Residential - 8 Units of Use	0.008739	6,396
20 - Multi Residential - 9 Units of Use	0.011994	7,196
21 - Multi Residential - 10 to 19 (inclusive) Units of Use	0.008737	13,589
22 - Multi Residential - 20 or more Units of Use	0.020405	23,178
31 - Commercial - 1 Unit of Use and <\$500,000 valuation	0.005130	799
32 - Commercial - 1 Unit of Use and >=\$500,000 valuation	0.005366	3,545
33 - Commercial - 2 Units of Use	0.005397	1,602
34 - Commercial - 3 Units of Use	0.005869	2,397
36 - Commercial - 4 Units of Use	0.005569	3,198
37 - Other Commercial	0.005130	799
41 - Industry - 1 Unit of Use and <\$600,000 valuation	0.005882	799
42 - Industry - 1 Unit of Use and >=\$600,000 valuation	0.005439	3,826
43 - Industry - 2 Unit of Use	0.005555	1,602
45 - Industry - 3 Unit of Use	0.006116	2,397
47 - Industry - 5 Unit of Use	0.005470	3,996
51 - Extractive >5,000 Tonnes	0.9500	10,000
52 - Mining Lease < 5 FTE onsite personnel	0.9500	550
53 - Mining Lease 6-50 FTE onsite personnel	0.9500	50,000
54 - Mining Lease 51-100 FTE onsite personnel	0.9500	100,000
55 - Mining Lease 101-200 FTE onsite personnel	0.9500	200,000
56 - Mining Lease 201-300 FTE onsite personnel	0.9500	300,000
57 - Mining Lease 301-400 FTE onsite personnel	0.9500	400,000
58 - Mining Lease 401-500 FTE onsite personnel	0.9500	500,000
59 - Mining Lease 500+ FTE onsite personnel	0.9500	600,000

## Utilities Charges

Utilities charges for the year ended 30 June 2026 are shown below.

**Garbage Charges**

Domestic Garbage	\$1,134	per unit
Prince of Wales Dump	\$269	per unit
Prince of Wales Garbage collection	\$1,134	per unit
Commercial Garbage A	\$1,658	per unit
Commercial Garbage B	\$2,831	per unit
Commercial Garbage C	\$4,040	per unit

**Sewerage Charges**

Sewerage TI and HI	\$951	per annum
Vacant Land	\$552	per unit

**Water Charges**

Unit rate all classes	\$1,076	per annum
Vacant Land	\$812	per annum
Excess Water for next 350 kilolitres consumed	\$2.40	per kilolitre
Excess Water for excess over 350 kilolitres	\$4.93	per kilolitre
Water Shipping	\$6.85	per kilolitre
Hammond Island water first tier (up to and including 750 kilolitres by number of connections)	\$2.75	per kilolitre
Hammond Island Water second tier (water usage in excess of 750 kilolitres by number of connections)	\$4.93	per kilolitre

**CARRIED****BUDGET FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2026/2028****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/19**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That in accordance with Section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* Council adopt the Budget Financial Statements for the 2025/26 financial year and the following two years.

**CARRIED****LONG TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST 2026/2035****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/20**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That in accordance with Section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* Council adopt the 2026-2035 long term financial forecast.

**CARRIED****FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY RATIOS/MEASURES****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/21**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That in accordance with Section 169 (5) and (6) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* Council adopt the relevant measures of financial sustainability.

**CARRIED****EXEMPT GENERAL RATES ORGANISATIONS – 2025/2026****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/22**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council resolves to exempt the listed below Organisations from the payment of general rates under Section 93 (3)(h), (i) and (j) of the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012* Chapter 4 Part 2, Section 73

Rate Assess	Owner	Address	Land Use
000280-0000-000	Church of Jesus Christ & the Latter Day Saints	6 Stephen St Thursday Island	Church
00266-00000-000	Assemblies of God	45 Loban Road Thursday Island	Church & Manse
00382-00000-000	Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cairns	42 Outie St Wasaga	Church
00074-99000-000	Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cairns	120 Douglas St Thursday Island	Church, Manse, Hall, Monastery, School & School Accom.
00272-50000-001	Church of Torres Strait & Kaiwalagal	14A Stephen St Thursday Island	Church
00074-95000-000	Diocese of Carpentaria (Anglican)	124 Douglas St Thursday Island	Church, Manse, Hall, Bishop & Priest Residence
00336-00000-000	Diocese of Carpentaria (Anglican)	17 Wees St Wasaga	Church
00128-90000-000	Full Gospel Church	44 John St Thursday Island	Church

00302-00000-000	Jehovah's Witnesses Inc.	15 Nazeer St Thursday Island	Church & Manse
00284-00000-000	Lena Passi Shelter	10 Aubrey Parade Thursday Island	Women/Children refuge centre
00331-90000-000	Torres Strait Home for the Aged	121 Waiben Esplanade Thursday Island	Aged Home
00296-00000-000	Torres Strait Kaziw Meta Inc.	1 Nazeer St Thursday Island	Student Hostel
00076-00000-000	The Uniting Church	114 Douglas St Thursday Island	Church & Hall
00003-20000-000	Aboriginal Hostels	60 Douglas St Thursday Island	Hostel
00123-18000-000	Aboriginal Hostels	145 Douglas St Thursday Island	Student Hostel

**CARRIED****FEES AND CHARGES 2025/2026****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/23**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That in accordance with Sections 97, 98, 262 (3) and 280 (2) (d) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council adopt the Schedule of Regulatory Fees & Commercial Charges 2025/26.

**CARRIED****CHANGE IN RATES AND CHARGES 2025/2026****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/24**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That in accordance with Sections 169 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council adopt the total value of the change, expressed as a percentage, in the rates and utility charges levied for the financial year compared with the rates and utility charges levied in the previous budget. For the financial year 2025/26 the change is 4.5%.

**CARRIED****ESTIMATED FINANCIAL POSITION 2024/2025****RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/25**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That pursuant to Section 205 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the Statement of Estimated Financial Position for the previous financial year be received and its contents noted.

**CARRIED**

## SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

**RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/26**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata  
Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That in accordance with Sections 19 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and Section 43 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council adopts the result of the significant business activity assessment.

**CARRIED**

## CODE OF COMPETITIVE CONDUCT

**RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/27**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata  
Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That in accordance with Sections 39 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and Section 47 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council adopt to not apply the Code of Competitive Conduct for its business type activities for 2025/26. Given the level of expenditure in the business activities and the little or no competition for the services' provision, Council's sees no public benefit in applying the Code of Competitive Conduct at this time.

**CARRIED**

## ESTIMATED ACTIVITY STATEMENT 2025/2026

**RECOMMENDATION Min. SB25/7/28**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani  
Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That in accordance with Sections 34 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* Council adopt the estimated activity statement for its business type activities for 2025/26.

**CARRIED**

**CLOSURE:** The meeting closed with a prayer by Cr Gabriel Bani at 10.26am.

Confirmed this                      day of

**MAYOR**