



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

15 July 2025

**MINUTES OF TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THURSDAY ISLAND ON TUESDAY 15 JULY 2025**

1 AGENDA CONTENTS

2 ATTENDANCE

Cr Elsie Seriat (Mayor), Cr Toshio Nakata (Deputy Mayor), Cr Gabriel Bani, Cr Thomas Loban, Dalassa Yorkston (Chief Executive Officer), Roger Naidoo (Executive Manager Engineering and Infrastructure Services), Karren Maclure (Executive Manager Corporate and Community Services), Edward Kulpa (Executive Manager Projects and Design), Mr Mark Crawley and Ethel Mosby (Executive Secretary).

3 MEETING OPENED

The meeting opened with a prayer by Cr Gabriel Bani at 9:10am.

4 APOLOGIES

Cr Thomas Fujii

Min. 25/7/1

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council receive the apology from Cr Thomas Fujii.

CARRIED

PUBLIC GALLERY

Mr Fraiser Nai 9.19am – 10.57am

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 CONDOLENCES

A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect in memory of a deceased person or persons of our community and/or area of the Torres Strait.

Mrs Wasa Lala Banu (nee Gibuma)

Mrs Lasika Eseli (nee Gagai)

Mrs Maia Buie

Mr Jock Pickering

Mr Richard Newie

Mrs Harriet Martin (nee Pedro)

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

7.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MAYOR ELSIE SERIAT

Mayor Elsie Seriat stated that she has a prescribed conflict of interest in item 14.11 - Horn Island Quarry and Sand Mining Leases, (as defined by *Local Government Act 2009, section 150ES (3)(a)(i)*) as Mr. Harry Seriat is an immediate family member and is an Executive Member of the Kaurareg Aboriginal Land Trust.

I, Mayor Elsie Seriat, inform the meeting that I have a prescribed conflict of interest in item 14.11 – Horn Island Quarry and Sand Mining Leases due to close family relatives being involved with this matter.

As a result of this prescribed conflict of interest, I will leave the room during the discussion of this matter.

8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

8.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 17 JUNE 2025

Min. 25/7/2

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban
Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 June 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED

8.2 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 3 JULY 2025

Min. 25/7/3

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 3 July 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED

8.3 SPECIAL BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING – 9 JULY 2025

Min. 25/7/4

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat
Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That the minutes of the Special Budget Council Meeting held on 9 July 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED

9 BUSINESS ARISING

CEO referred to the 'Matters for Action following a Council Meeting' document provided to Councillors with updated information on the 17 June 2025 Council Meeting.

10 NOTIFIED MOTIONS

Nil

11 COUNCILLORS REPORTS**11.1 COUNCILLOR'S MONTHLY REPORTS****Min. 25/7/5**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That the activities contained in the Mayoral monthly report be endorsed by Council.

CARRIED

12 EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORTS**12.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT****Min. 25/7/6**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That the activities contained in the Chief Executive Officer's monthly report be endorsed by Council.

CARRIED

12.2 TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL CEO RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND STATUS REPORT**Min. 25/7/7**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED

12.3 OPERATIONAL PLAN THIRD QUARTER REPORT**Min. 25/7/8**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Tohio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council note the Third Quarter Review of the 2024/25 Operational Plan.

CARRIED**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned for Morning Tea at 9.51am and resumed 10.25am.**DEPUTATION****ERGON ENERGY DEPUTATION****ADOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned for Ergon Energy Deputation at 10.25am and resumed 10.57am.**ATTENDANCE:** Mr Simon Greenwood
Project Manager - Works Program Optimisation, Distribution.**12.4 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM REPORT****Min. 25/7/9**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council receives and notes the Capital Works Program Report for July 2025.

CARRIED**DEPARTURE:** The Chief Executive Officer departed the Council Meeting at 11.08am.**12.5 LIONS LOOKOUT WW2 PROJECTS UPDATE****Min. 25/7/10**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED**ATTENDANCE:** The Chief Executive Officer returned to the Council Meeting at 11.11am.

12.6 OPERATIONAL WORKS PROGRAM REPORT**Min. 25/7/11**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council receives and notes the Operational Works Update Report for July 2025.

CARRIED**14 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*:

14.1 Torres Shire Council Insurance Renewal 2025-2026

14.2 Capital Works Program Financial Report

14.3 DOR Tenure Request Report

Time: 11.22am

Min. 25/7/12

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED**DEPARTURE:** Mr Mark Crawley departed the Council Meeting at 11.25am and returned at 11.29am.

Time: 12.11pm

Min. 25/7/13

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned for Lunch at 12.11pm and resumed at 1.06pm.**ATTENDANCE:** Claire Alexander (Finance Consultant) joined the Council Meeting at 1.06pm (via Teams) to present Item 13.1 - Corporate and Community Services Financial Report and 14.5 – Civica /PCS Implementation Status Report.

13 LATE ITEMS**13.1 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – FINANCIAL REPORT****Min. 25/7/14**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council:

- Note the Financial Report and attachments for the month of June 2025 as presented.

CARRIED**14 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*:

13.2 Late Item – Horn Island Airport – Helipad Extension (In Committee)

14.4 Department of Primary Industries Land Lease Request

14.5 Civica/PCS Implementation Status Report

14.6 Corporate and Community Services Report

Time: 1.12pm

Min. 25/7/15

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

DEPARTURE: Claire Alexander (Finance Consultant) departed the Council Meeting at 1.18pm.

LATE ITEMS**13.2 - HORN ISLAND AIRPORT – HELIPAD EXTENSION (IN COMMITTEE)**

ATTENDANCE: Marina Dunstan from Preston Law joined the Meeting (via Teams) at 1.38pm to discuss Late Item 13.2 – Horn Island Airport – Helipad Extension (In Committee and departed at 1.50pm.

DEPARTURE: Chief Executive Officer departed the Council Meeting at 1.55pm returned to the meeting at 1.59pm

DEPARTURE: Cr Gabriel Bani departed the Council Meeting at 1.59pm and returned to the meeting at 2.04pm.

DEPARTURE: Mayor Elsie Seriat departed the Council Meeting at 2.01pm and Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata took the Chair.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Elsie Seriat returned to the meeting at 2.03pm and took the Chair.

Time: 2.16pm

Min. 25/7/16

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned for afternoon tea at 2.17pm and resumed at 3.19pm. Councillors viewed the Court Proceedings in the Australian Climate Change Case “**Pabai Pabai and Guy Paul Kabai v. Commonwealth of Australia**” during the adjournment.

14 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*:

14.7 Muralag (Prince of Wales Island) Waste Management

14.8 Grants Report

14.9 Winds of Zenadth Cultural Festival Status Report

14.10 Tamwoy Development Association – Rates Arrears and Tenure Resolution

14.11 Horn Island Quarry and Sand Mining Leases

Time: 3.19pm

Min. 25/7/17

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

DEPARTURE: Cr Gabriel Bani departed the Council Meeting at 4.28pm and returned to the Meeting at 4.32pm.

DEPARTURE: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata departed the Council Meeting at 4.42pm and returned to the Meeting at 4.44pm.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MAYOR ELSIE SERIAT

DEPARTURE: Mayor Elsie Seriat departed the Council Meeting at 4.47pm whilst In Committee Item 14.11 – Horn Island Quarry Sand Mining Leases and Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata took the Chair.

Time: 4.54pm

Min. 25/7/18

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

14.11 HORN ISLAND QUARRY AND SAND MINING LEASES

Min. 25/7/19

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council note the executed Deed of Acknowledgement between Torres Shire Council and KALT for Lease Area Lot 7 on SP 142707.

CARRIED

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Elsie Seriat returned to the Meeting at 4.55pm and took the Chair.

14.1 TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL INSURANCE RENEWAL 2025-2026

Min. 25/7/20

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council resolves to:

1. Pursuant to the Local Government Regulation 2012, chapter 6, part 3, division 3 enters into an insurance renewal agreement with Queensland Local Government Mutual (LGM Assets) for insurance coverage relating to Property and Crime cover for 2025-26 financial year.
2. Approve the payment of \$961,028.37 (inclusive of GST) to LGM Assets for the Torres Shire Council 2025-26 Property and Crime Insurance Cover.
3. Delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to authorise the payment.

CARRIED

14.2 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM REPORT**Min. 25/7/21**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council receives and notes the Capital Works Program Report for July.

CARRIED**14.3 DOR TENURE REQUEST REPORT****Min. 25/7/22**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani
Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council lay this Item on the table.

CARRIED**14.4 DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES LAND LEASE REQUEST****Min. 25/7/23**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council:

- a) Advises the Department of Primary Industries that it is supportive of entering into a lease agreement with the Department for the use of Council controlled land to store equipment,
- b) Prepare a lease agreement document for both parties to agree too, and
- c) Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer, under section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009 (QLD)*, the ability to execute the lease, approve payments and invoices, negotiate and finalise minor administrative or financial amendments and approve any variations, if required.

CARRIED**14.5 CIVICA/PCS IMPLEMENTATION GO LIVE STATUS REPORT****Min. 25/7/24**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council note the Civica/PCS Plus status update report as of 14 July 2025.

CARRIED

14.6 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT JUNE 2025**Min. 25/7/25**

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council note the Corporate and Community Services Report for June 2025 as presented.

CARRIED**14.7 MURALAG (PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND) WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/7/26**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council:

1. Endorses the Report as presented; and
2. Supports the continued investigation into the skip bin transfer station model; and
3. Endorses the establishment of partnerships with Sea Swift or an alternative supplier to maintain regular monthly waste transport; and
4. Supports the engagement with traditional owners to negotiate land access, agree on site footprint and collaborate on clean-up and transfer station implementation; and
5. Receives a further report outlining final logistics, costings, and implementation timelines once all site and transport details are confirmed; and
6. Consider a Rebate for the Waste Collection Fees and Charges for Prince of Wales Residents, at the conclusion of each 6-monthly interval of the 2025-2026 financial year based on Council ability to provide a regular collection service.

CARRIED**14.8 GRANTS REPORT****Min. 25/7/27**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council receives and notes the Grants Status Update as at 4 July 2025.

CARRIED

14.9 WINDS OF ZENADTH CULTURAL FESTIVAL REPORT**Min. 25/7/28**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata
Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council receives and note the tabled report on the Winds of Zenadth Cultural Festival.

CARRIED**14.10 TAMWOY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION – RATES ARREARS AND TENURE RESOLUTION****25/7/29**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council resolves:

- (a) pursuant to section 122(1)(a) and 121(c) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012 (LG Reg)*, to grant a concession of rates and charges to Tamwoy Development Association by entering into an agreement to accept a transfer of unencumbered land described as Lot 31 on Crown Plan T20722, located at 21 Nazeer Street, Thursday Island (**the Land**) in full payment of outstanding rates and charges against the following properties:

Address (Lot on Plan Description)

21 Nazeer Street, Thursday Island (Lot 31 on T 20722)
1 Sailor Crescent, Thursday Island (Lot 21 on T20733)
3 Sailor Crescent, Thursday Island (Lot 22 on T20733)
6 Sailor Crescent, Thursday Island (Lot 6 on T20733)
17 Sailor Crescent, Thursday Island (Lot 9 on T20736)
19 Sailor Crescent, Thursday Island (Lot 10 on T20736)

- (b) delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the power to negotiate and finalise, on behalf of Council, all things necessary to effect the transfer of the Land from TDA to Council, including to sign an agreement for the purposes of section 121(c) of the LG Reg.

CARRIED

Mayor and Councillors acknowledged the service of Dalassa Yorkston CEO for her service and leadership over the past 17 years at the Torres Shire Council, Mayor provided a gift, and other Councillors shared their experiences with Dalassa.

