



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

17 JUNE 2025

**MINUTES OF TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THURSDAY ISLAND ON TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2025**

1 AGENDA CONTENTS

2 ATTENDANCE

Cr Elsie Seriat (Mayor), Cr Toshio Nakata (Deputy Mayor), Cr Thomas Loban, Cr Thomas Fujii (Jnr), Roger Naidoo (Executive Manager Engineering and Infrastructure Services) Karren MacClure (Executive Manager Corporate and Community Services), Edward Kulpa (Executive Manager Projects and Design) and Ethel Mosby (Executive Secretary).

3 MEETING OPENED

The meeting opened with a prayer by Mayor Elsie Seriat at 9:15am.

4 APOLOGIES

*Cr Gabriel Bani
Dalassa Yorkston (Chief Executive Officer)*

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/1

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council receives the apology from Mrs Dalassa Yorkston CEO who is currently unwell and unable to be present at the Ordinary Council Meeting, and Council appoints Mr Roger Naidoo Acting CEO for the Ordinary Council Meeting on 17 June 2025 until the CEO returns to duties.

CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/2

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban
Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council receives the apology from Cr Gabriel Bani.

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 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.

*Baby Quinny Love Pabai
Mrs Margaret SeeKee
Mrs Hilda (Lala) Yamashita
Ms Elva Mau
Mrs Leah Reuben*

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 14.13 - 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 14.13 – 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.

7.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – CR THOMAS LOBAN

Cr Thomas Loban stated that he has a declarable conflict of interest in item 14.15 – Financial Cost Associated with Cross-Harbour Transport of Waste as Mr Peter Fraser is a Director of Coral Sea Concrete and is related through marriage (as defined by *Local Government Act 2009, section 150ES (3)(a)(i)*) as follows:

I, Cr Thomas Loban, inform the meeting that I have a declarable conflict of interest due to being a close associate.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2009, Chapter 6, Part 2, Division 5A, Cr Thomas Loban will depart the Council Meeting and take no part in the Agenda Item.

7.3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – CR THOMAS FUJII

Cr Thomas Fujii stated that he has a declarable conflict of interest in item 14.9 – Torres Strait NAIDOC Awards, (as defined by *Local Government Act 2009, section 150ES (3)(a)(i)*) as follows:

I, Cr Thomas Fujii, inform the meeting that I have a declarable conflict of interest due to being close associate with the nominee of the Business Award category.

Although I have a declarable conflict of interest, I do believe I am able to stay in the meeting and vote on the remaining categories. Therefore, I will choose to remain in the meeting however I will respect the decision of the meeting on whether I can remain and participate in the decision.

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/3

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council resolves that Cr Thomas Fujii has no greater interest than an ordinary member of the public in this matter and accordingly will remain in this meeting.

CARRIED

7.4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – DEPUTY MAYOR TOSHIO NAKATA

Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata stated that he has a declarable conflict of interest in item 14.9 – Torres Strait NAIDOC Awards, (as defined by *Local Government Act 2009, section 150ES (3)(a)(i)*) as follows:

I, Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata, inform the meeting that I have a declarable conflict of interest due to being close associate with the nominee of the Elder of the Year Award category.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2009, Chapter 6, Part 2, Division 5A, Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata will depart the Council Meeting and take no part in the Agenda Item.

8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**8.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - 20 MAY 2025****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/4**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 May 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 20 May 2025 Council Meeting.

10 NOTIFIED MOTIONS

Nil

11 COUNCILLORS REPORTS**11.1 COUNCILLOR'S MONTHLY REPORTS****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/5**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

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

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned for Morning Tea at 10.11am and resumed 10.40am.

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

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

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**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/7**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council moves Item 12.2 - Torres Shire Council CEO Record of Achievement and Status Report into In Committee.

CARRIED

12.4 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM REPORT**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/8**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

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

CARRIED**13 LATE ITEMS****13.1 EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/9**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council receives and notes the Operational Works Update Report for June 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*:

14.6 - Corporate and Community Services Report

14.7 - Capital Works Program Financial Report

14.8 - DOR Tenure Expression of Interest Request Council Report

Time: 11.42am

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/10

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

Time: 12.39pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/11

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned for Lunch at 12.40pm and resumed 1.30pm.

ATTENDANCE: Claire Alexander (Finance Consultant) attends the Council Meeting at 1.30pm (via Teams) to present the Items 12.3 - Corporate and Community Services Financial Report, In Committee Items 14.1 – Audit Committee Update, 14.2 – Final Budget Review 2024-2025, 14.3 – General Rates Review 2025-2026, 14.4 - Water Sewerage and Waste Charges Review 2025-2026 and 14.5 - Proposed fees and Charges 2025-2026.

12.3 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – FINANCIAL REPORT

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/12

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii
Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council:

- Note the Financial Report and attachments for the month of May 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*:

- 14.1 - Audit Committee Update
- 14.2 - Final Budget Review 2024-2025
- 14.3 - General Rates Review 2025-2026
- 14.4 - Water Sewerage and Waste Charges Review 2025-2026
- 14.5 - Proposed Fees and Charges 2025/2026
- 14.9 - Torres Strait NAIDOC Awards 2025

Time: 1.38pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/13

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban
Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

DEPARTURE: Claire Alexander (Finance Consultant) departed the Council Meeting at 2.24pm.

DEPARTURE: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata departed at 3.39pm and returned at 3.41pm.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – DEPUTY MAYOR TOSHIO NAKATA

DEPARTURE: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata departed the meeting at 4.03pm whilst In Committee Item 14.9 – Torres Strait NAIDOC Awards 2025 was discussed.

Time: 4.09pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/14

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

14.9 TORRES STRAIT NAIDOC AWARDS 2025

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/15

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

1. That Council endorse the following Torres Strait NAIDOC Awards Recipients for 2025:

Torres Strait NAIDOC Elder of the Year

- Mrs Cessa Nakata

CARRIED

Time: 4.10pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/16

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

ATTENDANCE: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata returned to the meeting at 4.11pm.

Time:4.14pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/17

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned for Afternoon Tea at 4.14pm and resumed 4.22pm.

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*:

14.10 - Contractual Arrangement – The Procurers

14.11 - Contractual Arrangement – Leading Roles

14.12 - Tamwoy Development Association – Rates Arrears and Tenure Resolution

14.13 - Horn Island Quarry and Sand Mining Leases

14.14 - Report on Horn Island (Ngurapai) International Airport

Time: 4.23pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/18

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

DEPARTURE: The EMCCS, EMEIS, and Minute Secretary departed the meeting at 4.32pm whilst Item 14.11 – Contractual arrangement – Leading Roles was discussed.

Time: 4.57pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/19

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

14.11 CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT – LEADING ROLES**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/20**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council resolves:

1. pursuant to section 234 (1) of the LGR12 to extend the existing Leading Roles contract for an additional 6 months; and
2. approves Council entering the 6-month extension of the contract; and
3. delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to negotiate, finalise and execute the approved contractual extension of 6-months, including exit clauses as applicable.

CARRIED

Time: 4.59pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/21

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

ATTENDANCE: The EMCCS, EMEIS, and Minute Secretary returned to the meeting at 5.00pm.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MAYOR ELSIE SERIAT

DEPARTURE: Mayor Elsie Seriat departed the meeting at 5.07pm whilst Item 14.13 - Horn Island Quarry and Sand Mining Leases was discussed and Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata took the Chair.

Time: 5.10pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/22

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban
Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

14.13 HORN ISLAND QUARRY AND SAND MINING LEASES**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/23**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council notes the progress report on the Horn Island Quarry and Sand Mining Leases.

CARRIED

Time: 5.11PM

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/24

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Elsie Seriat returned to the meeting at 5.12pm and took the Chair.

7.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – CR THOMAS LOBAN

DEPARTURE: Cr Thomas Loban departed the Meeting at 5.18pm whilst Item 14.15 – Financial Cost Associated with Cross-Harbour Transport of Waste was discussed.

Time: 5.32pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/25

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata
Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

14.15 FINANCIAL COST ASSOCIATED WITH CROSS-HARBOUR TRANSPORT OF WASTE**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/26**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat
Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

It is moved:

That Council:

- i) Accepts the Report as presented; and
- ii) Resolves to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the power to further consider the initiatives outlined in this report.

CARRIED

ATTENDANCE: Cr Thomas Loban returned to the meeting at 5.33pm.

Time: 5.32pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/27

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

**12.2 TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL CEO RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND STATUS
REPORT – IN COMMITTEE**

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/28

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That this item is to lay on the table and be discussed at the next Ordinary Council Meeting 15 July 2025.

CARRIED

Time: 5.48pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/29

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

DEPARTURE: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata departed the Council meeting at 5.49pm.

14.1 AUDIT COMMITTEE UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/30

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

- That Council notes the Audit and Risk Committee membership update as presented.
- That Council approved the proposed recommended candidates (Stephen Coates – Chair and Kerry Phillips - Member) as suitable members of the Audit and Risk Committee.

CARRIED

14.2 FINAL BUDGET REVIEW 2024-2025**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/31**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii
Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

- 1) That Council note the budget amendments as outlined in the report
- 2) That Council adopt the following revised budget documents as shown in Schedule A:
 - Revised Budget Financial Statements 2024-2025 and the following two years;
 - Revised Long Term Financial Statements 2024-2025 and the following nine years;
 - Revised Long Term Sustainability Ratios;

CARRIED**14.3 GENERAL RATES REVIEW 2024-2025****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/32**

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban
Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council resolves to:

1. Endorse the inclusion of 4 % increase to be applied to the general rates.

CARRIED**14.4 WATER SEWERAGE AND WASTE CHARGES REVIEW 2025-2026****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/33**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council resolves to:

1. Endorse the inclusion of 4% increase to be applied to the water, sewerage and waste charges.

CARRIED**14.5 PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES 2025/2026****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/34**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat
Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council:

- Note and **endorse** the proposed weekly gym and pool fees as per the briefing note
- Note and **endorse** the proposal not to increase the gym membership fees.
- Note and **endorse** the proposed fee addition and deletion under planning fees.

- Note and **not endorse** the proposed increase as per waste management schedule presented.
- Following Council decision on each of the points above, that Council endorse the Final Fees and Charges Schedule to be included in the Budget Papers 2025/26.

CARRIED

14.6 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/35

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council:

- Note the Corporate and Community Services Report for May 2025 as presented.

CARRIED

14.7 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM FINANCIAL REPORT

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/36

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

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

CARRIED

14.8 DOR TENURE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST REQUEST COUNCIL REPORT

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/37

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban
Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That this Item is to lay on the table and discussed at a future meeting.

CARRIED

14.9 TORRES STRAIT NAIDOC AWARDS 2025

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/38

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

1. That Council endorse the following Torres Strait NAIDOC Awards Recipients for 2025:

Torres Strait NAIDOC Artist of the Year

- Mr Naseli Tamwoy

Torres Strait NAIDOC Community Event of the Year

- 2025 Battle of the Islands Touch Carnival

Torres Strait NAIDOC Sports Person of the Year

- Miss Mistee Sagigi

Torres Strait NAIDOC Person of the Year

- Mr Harold Matthew

Torres Strait NAIDOC Trainee of the Year

- Mr Lamont Rattler

Torres Strait NAIDOC Youth of the Year

- Mr Samuel Bon

Torres Strait NAIDOC Business Award

- Torres Strait Pressure Cleaning and Services

Torres Strait NAIDOC Special Recognition

- Lola Digital
- Mr Seriat Young
- Torres Strait 8

CARRIED

14.10 CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT – THE PROCURERS**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/6/39**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council resolves:

1. pursuant to section 234 (1) of the LGR12 to extend the existing The Procurers contract for 3 months; and
2. approves Council entering the 3-month extension of the contract; and
3. delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to negotiate, finalise and execute the approved contractual extension of 3-months.

CARRIED

