



# **MINUTES**

**Ordinary Council Meeting**

**18 March 2025**

**MINUTES OF TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THURSDAY ISLAND ON TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2025**

**1 AGENDA CONTENTS**

**2 ATTENDANCE**

Cr Elsie Seriat OAM (Mayor), Cr Gabriel Bani, Cr Thomas Loban, Cr Thomas Fujii (Jnr), Dalassa Yorkston (Chief Executive Officer), Edward Kulpa (Executive Manager Projects and Design), Karren MacClure (Executive Manager Corporate and Community Services), Roger Naidoo (Executive Manager Engineering and Infrastructure Services), and Isabella Muhamad-Mosby (A/Executive Secretary).

**3 MEETING OPENED**

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

**4 APOLOGIES**

*Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata*

**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/1**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council receive the apology from Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata.

**CARRIED**

**PUBLIC GALLERY**

*Sabrina Akee – Time and Tide Transport*

*9:14am -10:48am*

*Scott Kessell – Time and Tide Transport*

*9.14am – 10:48am*

**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 Gwen Baira (nee Robin)*

*Mr Ronald Saveka*

*Mr Torres Webb*

*Mrs Ella Nona (nee Nomoa)*

*Mr Guyai Savage*  
*Mr John Gela*  
*Mr Patrick Whop*  
*Mrs Rita Esther Gabey (nee Sailor)*

**7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

*Nil*

**NOTED**

**8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**8.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 18 FEBRUARY 2025**

**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/2**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii  
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 February 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 18 February 2025 Council Meeting.

**10 NOTIFIED MOTIONS**

*Nil*

**11 COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

**11.1 COUNCILLOR'S MONTHLY REPORTS**

**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/3**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii  
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**

**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/4**

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**

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned for Morning Tea at 10:09am and resumed 10:31am.

**12.3 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM REPORT****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/5**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani  
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

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

**CARRIED**

**12.4 DETECTION OF EXOTIC FRUIT FLY ON THURSDAY ISLAND****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/6**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii  
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council,

- Receives and notes the advice on detection of exotic fruit fly on Thursday Island and provides officer support as needed in trapping and eradication of the fruit fly, and
- Assists in distribution of any information regarding the Oriental Fruit Fly and measures to reduce impacts through the community

**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*:

14.4 – Capital Works Program Report

14.5 – Ken Brown Oval Fence Replacement Tender Award

14.6 – Waibene Esplanade Sealing Tender Award

14.7 – Horn Island outdoor fitness equipment Tender Award

Time: 10:48am

**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/7**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council go into In Committee

**CARRIED**

Time: 11:37am

**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/8**

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council come out of In Committee.

**CARRIED**

**ATTENDANCE:** Claire Alexander (Finance Consultant) attended the Council Meeting at 11:38am (via Teams) to present the Item 12.2 - Corporate and Community Services Financial Report.

## **12.2 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – FINANCIAL REPORT**

**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/9**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council note the Financial Statements and attachments for the month of February 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 – Ex-Gratia Payments Policy

14.2 – Airport Fees and Charges 2025/26

14.3 – Budget Parameters and Timetable 2025/26

14.7 – Horn Island outdoor fitness equipment Tender Award

Time: 11:44am

**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/10**

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 12:13pm.

Time: 12:17pm

**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/11**

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council come out of In Committee.

**CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned for Lunch at 12:18pm and resumed 1:08pm.

**13 LATE ITEMS**

**13.1 EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

- In Committee Finance Report – Communication Towers Budget Review
- In Committee Report – Horn Island Airport (Ngurupai) International Airport

**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/12**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

**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*:

14.8 – Finance Report - Communication Towers Budget Review

14.9 – Report on Horn Island (Ngurupai) International Airport

Time: 1:09pm

**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/13**

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council go into In Committee.

**CARRIED**

Time: 2:09pm

**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/14**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council come out of In Committee.

**CARRIED**

**14.1 EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS POLICY**

**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/15**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That this agenda item lays on the table until a future Ordinary Council Meeting.

**CARRIED**

**14.2 AIRPORT FEES AND CHARGES 2025/26**

**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/16**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That the Council:

1. Adopt the recommended increase of 4% effective 1 July 2025 for landing fees, passenger fees and security screening fees.
2. Approve the inclusion of the adopted revised fees into the Budget 2025/26 documents.
3. Authorise the CEO to notify Qantas Airlines of the adopted revised fees effective 1 July 2025.

**CARRIED**

**14.3 BUDGET PARAMETERS AND TIMETABLE 2025/26**

**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/17**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council resolves to:

1. Note the Budget Parameters and Timetable 2025/26; and
2. Endorse the contents of the budget parameters document for use in the preparation of the Draft Budget 2025/26.

**CARRIED**

#### **14.4 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM**

##### **RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/18**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

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

**CARRIED**

#### **14.5 KEN BROWN OVAL FENCING REPORT**

##### **RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/19**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

It is recommended that Council;

- 1) Appoint **TI Concrete Works** as preferred tenderer to enter into a contract with Torres Shire Council for replacement of the Ken Brown Oval fence line for the sum of **\$205,000 including GST**,
- 2) delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer, under section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009 (QLD)*, the ability to execute the contract, approve payments, negotiate and finalise minor administrative or financial amendments and approve any variations, if required, and
- 3) Instruct Council officers to approach the State regarding utilisation of the remaining funds for other works within the Shire.

**CARRIED**

#### **14.6 WAIBENE ESPLANADE SEALING REPORT**

##### **RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/20**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

It is recommended that Council;

- 1) Appoint **TI Concrete Works** as preferred tenderer to enter into a contract with Torres Shire Council for sealing of the Section A shoulder area of Waiben Esplanade adjacent to Rose Hill boat ramp for the sum of **\$429,360 including GST**,

- 2) delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer, under section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009 (QLD)*, the ability to execute the contract, approve payments, negotiate and finalise minor administrative or financial amendments and approve any variations, if required, and
- 3) Instruct Council officers to negotiate with TI Concrete Works regarding a scope reduction in accordance with the available funding.

**CARRIED**

#### **14.7 HORN ISLAND OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT TENDER AWARD**

##### **RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/21**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

It is recommended that Council;

- 1) Appoint **Big Splash** as preferred tenderer to enter into a contract with Torres Shire Council for installation of outdoor fitness equipment on Horn Island,
- 2) delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer, under section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009 (QLD)*, the ability to execute the contract, approve payments, negotiate and finalise minor administrative or financial amendments and approve any variations, if required, and
- 3) Provide an update to Council at a future Ordinary Meeting regarding the fitness equipment options available for installation and Council approval.

**CARRIED**

#### **14.8 FINANCE REPORT – COMMUNICATION TOWERS BUDGET REVIEW**

##### **RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/22**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council

- (1) notes this report; and
- (2) approves the budget variance as detailed in the report

**CARRIED**

#### **14.9 REPORT ON HORN ISLAND (NGURAPAI) INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

##### **RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/3/23**

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council resolves to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the power to take all steps necessary to execute the initiatives outlined in this report.

**CARRIED**

