



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

20 May 2025

**MINUTES OF TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THURSDAY ISLAND ON TUESDAY 20 MAY 2025**

1 AGENDA CONTENTS

2 ATTENDANCE

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

3 MEETING OPENED

The meeting opened with a prayer by Cr Gabriel Bani at 9:15am.

4 APOLOGIES

Nil

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.

Mr Percy Maitie

Mr Koeygab Pabai

Mrs Beatrice Pablo (nee Eseli)

Mr Kieren Pearson

Mrs Mona Adams

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 14.8 - Horn Island Quarry and Sand Mining Trust, (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 14.8 – Horn Island Quarry and Sand Mining Trust 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 – 15 APRIL 2025

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/1

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 April 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 15 April 2025 Council Meeting.

10 NOTIFIED MOTIONS

10.1 STANDING ORDER 3.1

Standing Order 3.1 provides as follows: The order of business may be altered for a particular meeting where the councillors at that meeting pass a procedural motion to that effect. A motion to alter the order of business may be moved without notice.
Resolution

I move that the order of business for this Ordinary Council meeting of 20 May 2025 be altered to include consideration of an Employment Matter.

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/2

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

Then move the procedural motion when that item comes up to go into committee consistent with Reg 254J (a).

CARRIED

11 COUNCILLORS REPORTS**11.1 COUNCILLOR'S MONTHLY REPORTS****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/3**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

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

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned for Department of Transport and Main Roads Maritime Safety Queensland Deputation at 10.07am.

DEPUTATION – TMR - MARITIME SAFETY QUEENSLAND

ATTENDANCE: Peter Wood and Barnaby Littlewood from Department of Transport and Main Roads Maritime Safety Queensland joined the Council Meeting at 10.07am and departed at 10.56am.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned for Morning Tea at 10.56am and resumed at 11.25am.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS - MARITIME SAFETY QUEENSLAND**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/4**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

1. That Council support the design of Quarantine Boat Ramp facility as presented by Department of Transport and Main Roads - Maritime Safety Queensland.
2. That Council make representation to Port North in relation to the Horn Island Boat Ramp and Wharf Facility.
3. That Council write to Minister for Transport and Main Roads regarding the upgrade of the Rosehill Boat Ramp Facility.
4. That Council consider alternative solution for any future Boat Ramp Facility by the State Government.
5. That Council ensure the preservation of the Copper Boiler at the Quarantine Boat Ramp.

CARRIED

DEPARTURE: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata departed the meeting at 12.01pm.

12 EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORTS**12.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/5**

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

ATTENDANCE: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata returned to the meeting at 12.04pm

12.2 IPOLA AND REGS – INFORMATION ITEM**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/6**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

It is resolved that Council notes the report.

CARRIED**12.4 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM REPORT****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/7**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

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

CARRIED**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/8**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council make representation to State Government and other stakeholders in relation to the current transportation issues in the Shire.

CARRIED

12.5 MINOR CHANGE TO DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION – IDAS 23/19 – ERGON ENERGY 5 & 7 APLIN STREET, THURSDAY ISLAND**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/9**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Torres Shire Council approve the Change Application (Minor) for a Development Permit for Material Change of Use – Office on land located at 5 & 7 Aplin Road, Thursday Island, formally described as Lot 1 & 2 on RP748738, subject to the following conditions:

- a. The approved development must be completed and maintained generally in accordance with the approved plans and documents, except were amended by the conditions of this permit.
- b. All other conditions remain as per decision notice dated 26 April 2024.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned for Lunch at 12.37pm and resumed 1.29pm.

ATTENDANCE: Claire Alexander (Finance Consultant) joined the meeting at 1.30pm (via Teleconference), to present the Item 12.3 - Corporate and Community Services Financial Report, In Committee Items 14.2 – Civica/PCS Implementation Status Report and 14.9 – Audit Committee Re-Establishment.

DEPARTURE: Cr Gabriel Bani departed the meeting at 1.31pm and returned at 1.34pm.

12.3 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – FINANCIAL REPORT**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/10**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council:

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

14.2 – Civica/PCS Implementation Status Report

14.9 – Audit Committee Re-Establishment

Time: 1.40pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/11

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

Time: 1.53pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/12

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

12.6 OPERATIONAL WORKS PROGRAM REORT**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/13**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

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

CARRIED

12.7 REMOVAL OF TELSTRA PAYPHONE REMOVAL DECISION 57237 (CABINET ID 07406914X2) OUTSIDE 50 DOUGLAS STREET, THURSDAY ISLAND QLD 4875**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/14**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council supports the retention of the existing Telstra Pay Phone service and delegates the CEO to advise Telstra accordingly.

CARRIED

13 LATE ITEMS**13.1 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MOTION****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/15**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council endorses the following motion at the ALGA General Assembly

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work in partnership with First Nations councils and communities to increase long-term investment in transport infrastructure, prioritising all-weather road connectivity, to improve year-round access and resilience to remote First Nations communities. The Assembly urges a comprehensive review and expansion of Federal funding provided by sea and air transport subsidies also, particularly in remote areas where communities face disproportionate freight costs and chronic social equity issues.

CARRIED**13.2 TORRES STRAIT AND NORTHERN PENINSULA AREA REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (TS&NPAROC)****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/16**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Recommendation 1

That the TS&NPAROC make representation to the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and Member for Leichhardt Matt Smith MP to fund a 2 x Day Regional Leaders Gathering for (TSC, TSIRC, NPARC, TSRA) to attend.

(Action item:1) Include GBK and IIAC

Recommendation 2

That the TS&NPAROC make representation to Member for Leichhardt in relation to the top priorities for the region (Housing NPARI Package, Freight Equalisation Scheme, Federal Assistance Grant (FAGs) methodology review and increase in funding, Safe-Accessible-Affordable Transportation).

(Action item: 1) to add Safe & Healthy Communities to capture in the recommendation

(Action Item: 2) Include Member for Cook, David Kempton, and TSRA

Recommendation 3

Safe-Accessible-Affordable Transportation - That the TS&NPAROC supports the National General Assembly Motion which will be passed by Torres Shire Council OCM on 20 May 2025;

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work in partnership with First Nations councils and communities in increase long-term investment in transport infrastructure prioritising all-weather road connectivity, to improve year-round access and resilience in remote First Nations communities. The Assembly urges a comprehensive review and expansion of Federal funding provided for sea and air transport subsidy also, particularly in remote areas where communities face disproportionate freight costs and chronic social equity issues.

Recommendation 4

That the TS&NPAROC seek funding to develop a documentary of the political historical account of the Torres Strait region (from 1936 Maritime Strike, 1937 First Councillors Conference, The New Deal, The Bamaga Accord, The MASIG Statement etc) to assist with preserving history and capturing the past reforms in a documentary format.

Recommendation 5

That the TSNPAROC commits to undertake a community engagement and dialogue in the NPA Region in relation to the Masig Statement and ROC.

CARRIED

13.3 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES OPERATIONAL REPORT - DEFER

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned for at 2.12pm and resumed 2.15pm.

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 – Assets Disposal and Write-Off
- 14.3 – Budget 2025/2026 Policies
- 14.4 – Capital Works Program Financial Report
- 14.5 – Horn Island Outdoor Fitness Station Report
- 14.6 – Skytrans Departure Report
- 14.7 – Planning and Environment Court Appeal No. D31/25.
- 14.8 – Horn Island Quarry and Sand Minig Leases
- 14.10 – Use of Lot 5 on SP 292844
- 14.11 – Tamwoy Development Association – Rates Arrears and Tenure Resolution
- 14.12 – Private Works Report

Time: 2.16pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/17

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

DEPARTURE:

Mayor Elsie Seriat departed the meeting at 2.54pm whilst Item 14.8 - Horn Island Sand Mining Leases is discussed and Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata took the Chair.

Time: 3.13pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/18

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

14.8 HORN ISLAND QUARRY AND SAND MINING LEASES

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/19

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

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

CARRIED

Time: 3.14pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/20

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Elsie Seriat returned to the meeting at 3.14pm and took the Chair.

Time: 3.16pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/21

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned for Afternoon Tea at 3.16pm and resumed 3.34pm.

ATTENDANCE: Julian Bodenmann from Preston Law joined the meeting at 3.34pm to discuss In Committee Item 14.7 – Planning and Environment Court Appeal No. D31/25 and DC 41/25, Item 14.10 – Use of Lot 5 on SP 292844 and Item 14.11 – Tamwoy Development Association – Rates Arrears and Tenure Resolution.

Time: 3.35pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/22

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

DEPARTURE: Cr Gabriel Bani departed the meeting at 4.46pm.

DEPARTURE: Julian Bodenmann departed the meeting at 4.48pm.

DEPARTURE: Mayor Elsie Seriat departed the meeting at 4.48pm and returned at 4.50pm.

ATTENDANCE: Cr Gabriel Bani returned to the meeting at 4.51pm.

Time: 5.00pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/23

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

14.1 ASSETS DISPOSAL AND WRITE-OFF**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/24**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii
Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

- That Council note the provided list of plant items for write-off/disposal.
- That Council approve the write-off of the plant items as presented.

CARRIED**14.2 CIVICA/PCS IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/25**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council

- Note the Civica/PCS Plus status update report as of 12 May 2025.

CARRIED**14.3 BUDGET 2025/2026 POLICES****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/26**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council resolves to:

1. Approve the Advertising Expenditure Policy 2025/2026
2. Approve the Debt Policy 2025/2026
3. Approve the Entertainment and Hospitality Policy 2025/2026
4. Approve the Grants to Community Organisations Policy 2025/2026
5. Approve the Investment Policy 2025/2026
6. Approve the Procurement Policy 2025/2026
7. Approve the Travel Expenditure Policy 2025/2026

CARRIED**14.4 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM FINANCIAL REPORT****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/27**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

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

CARRIED

14.5 HORN ISLAND OUTDOOR FITNESS STATION REPORT**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/28**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

It is recommended that Council:

- a) Accept the provided quotation from Big Splash for the Horn Island Outdoor Fitness Station supply and installation for **\$314,860.00 excluding GST**, and
- b) 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.

CARRIED

14.6 SKYTRANS DEPARTURE REPORT**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/29**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

It is recommended that:

a) Council being satisfied that it is appropriate in the public interest to:

1. Accept a surrender of the Lease to West Wing Aviation Pty Ltd of part of the old screening shed.
2. Lease the part of the old screening shed currently leased to West Wing Pty Ltd to Hinterland Aviation Pty Ltd.
3. Consent to the assignment of the Licence for Counter Area I and Office Area J from Skytrans Pty Ltd to Hinterland Aviation Pty Ltd.
4. Consent to the assignment of the Licence for Counter Area G from Hinterland Aviation Pty Ltd to Sutcliffe Pty Ltd.
5. Lease the old storage shed to Hinterland Aviation Pty Ltd.
6. Licence the site for Donga 6 to Sutcliffe Pty Ltd.

b) Council hereby delegates power to the Chief Executive Officer under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2009* to take all necessary steps to give effect to this Council resolution including negotiation of final terms for surrender of lease, assignments of Licences and the grant of the new Leases and Licence specified above.

CARRIED

14.7 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COURT APPEAL NO. D31/25 AND DC41/25**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/30**

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council resolves:

1. to offer to grant a licence of land at Horn Island Airport to the business operator at Lot 124 on Crown Plan TS155, for the purpose of taking off, landing and parking helicopters (**the Licence**);
2. to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the power to negotiate, finalise and execute the Licence on behalf of Council, on commercial terms considered suitable by the Chief Executive Officer (including to determinate an appropriate location for the Licence area, having regard to the operational requirements of Horn Island Airport).

CARRIED**14.9 AUDIT COMMITTEE RE-ESTABLISHMENT****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/31**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

- That Council notes the audit and risk committee update as presented.
- That Council endorse the proposed interview panel members (Mayor, CEO, Finance Consultant, Cr Thomas Fujii as recommended.

CARRIED**14.10 USE OF LOT 5 ON SP 292844****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/32**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council resolves:

1. not to grant any third-party interests over Lot 5 on SP 292844 (**the Land**);
2. to apply to be appointed as trustee of the Land under the *Land Act* 1994;
3. to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the power to take all necessary steps, including to sign any relevant notices and applications, to give effect to paragraphs 1 and 2 of this resolution.

CARRIED

14.11 TAMWOY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION – RATES ARREARS AND TENURE RESOLUTION**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/33**

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to engage with Tamwoy Development Association (**TDA**) and negotiate and finalise, on behalf of Council, a suitable arrangement for the resolution of the arrears of rates and charges owed by TDA to Council.

CARRIED**14.12 PRIVATE WORKS REPORT****RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/34**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council:

1. Notes the report regarding the potential for Council to undertake private mechanical works;
2. Acknowledges that, based on current operational, financial, workforce, infrastructure, and governance considerations, it is not recommended that Council proceeds with private mechanical works at this time;
3. Endorses the continued focus on strengthening internal fleet management capability, operational systems, and workforce development to support core Council services;
4. Requests that opportunities for private mechanical works be revisited in the future, should material changes occur to improve workforce availability, infrastructure readiness, market conditions, or external funding opportunities; and
5. Notes that a further progress report will be provided to Council following the full implementation of the *Practical Plus* finance system and *Vendor Panel* procurement system, including any updated advice on private works feasibility, should conditions become more favourable.

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*:

- Employment Matter

Time: 5.05pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/35

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

10.1 EMPLOYMENT MATTER

DEPARTURE: The CEO, EMCCS, EMEIS, EMPD and Minute Secretary departed the meeting at 5.06pm whilst Employment Matters was discussed.

Time: 5.35pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/36

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

EMPLOYMENT MATTER**RECOMMENDATION Min. 25/5/37**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

a) Council is recommending the appointment of Peak Services for the recruitment of the Chief Executive Officer position.

b) Council will advise Peak Services of the need of an Interim CEO.

CARRIED

DEPARTURE: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata departed the meeting at 5.42pm.

ATTENDANCE: The CEO returned to the meeting at 5.42pm.

