



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

17 March 2026

**MINUTES OF TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THURSDAY ISLAND ON TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2026**

1 AGENDA CONTENTS

2 ATTENDANCE

Cr Elsie Seriat (Mayor), Cr Thomas Loban, Cr Thomas Fujii (Jnr), Mary Bani (Chief Executive Officer), 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) and Kimberley Yorkston (Executive Secretary).

3 MEETING OPENED

The meeting opened with a prayer by Mayor Seriat at 9:10am.

4 APOLOGIES

*Deputy Mayor Toshio
Nakata Cr. Gabriel Bani*

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/ 3/1

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council receive the apology from Mayor Elsie Seriat.

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.

Mrs Betty Tekahika nee Mabo
Ms Ruth Nuggin nee Dubbins
Mrs Henrietta Haslan nee Wymarra
Mrs Marcella Levi nee Dewis

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

7.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – CR – THOMAS FUJII

Cr Thomas Fujii. stated that he has a declarable a conflict of interest in item 12.5 – 12.6, (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 family relative to the applicant, Joey Laifoo.

As a result of this declarable conflict of interest, a quorum not achieved and Items 12.5 and 12.6 will remain on the table.

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/2/2

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

CARRIED

7.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – CR – THOMAS LOBAN

Cr Thomas Loban. stated that he has a declarable a conflict of interest in item 14.4 & 14.5, (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 close family associate to the applicants.

As a result of this declarable conflict of interest, a quorum not achieved and Items 14.4 and 12.5 will remain on the table.

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/2/3

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

CARRIED

8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

8.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 17 FEBRUARY 2026

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/3/4

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 February 2026 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 March 2026 Council Meeting.

10 NOTIFIED MOTIONS

Nil

11 COUNCILLORS REPORTS**11.1 COUNCILLOR'S MONTHLY REPORTS****RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/3/5**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

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

CARRIED

DEPARTURE:

MARY BANI, CEO LEFT 9:45AM

ARRIVAL:

MARY BANI CEO ENTERED 9:46AM

NERU DOOLAH, IT SUPPORT ENTERED 9:48AM

DEPARTURE:

NERU DOOLAH departed at 9:50am

12 EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORTS**12.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT****RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/3/6**

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

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

CARRIED

SANDIE EDWARDS DEPUTATION

ADOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned for a presentation on the Regional Housing Matters at 9:45am and resumed 9:53am.

Sandie Edwards and Suzanna Edwards, CEO of Rebels Marine & Nick Hardy, Director of Hardy Town Planning (via teams) provided the presentation and departed the meeting room at 10:16am following his presentation.

DEPARTURE: Mayor Seriat 10:16am

ARRIVAL: Mayor Seriat 10:18am

ATTENTIS TECHNOLOGY DEPUTATION

ADOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned for a presentation on the Torres Strait Initiative Community Coast Watch Program at 10:21am and resumed 10:22am.

Cameron McKenna, Managing Director, J Easterby-Wood provided the presentation and departed the meeting room at 10:44am following his presentation.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting is adjourned for Morning Tea at 10:44am and resumed 11:16am.

ARRIVAL: Dorene Riley entered into room at 11:16am

12.2 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – FINANCIAL REPORT

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/3/7

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council:

- Note the Financial Report for the period ended February 2026 as presented.
- Note the attachments for the period ended February 2026 listed as follows:
 1. Cash Position February 2026
 2. Income and Expenditure Airport February 2026
 3. Income and Expenditure all of Council February 2026
 4. Revenue Graph Actual vs Budget February 2026
 5. Expenses Graph Actual vs Budget February 2026
 6. Statement of Financial Position February 2026

CARRIED

DEPARTURE: Dorene Riley (Finance Manager) departed the Council Meeting at 11:55am.

CARRIED

12.3 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/3/8

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council note the Corporate and Community Services Report for February 2026 as presented.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting is adjourned for Lunch at 12:30am and resumed 1:31am.

12.4 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM REPORT

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/3/9

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council receives and notes the Capital Works Program Report for February 2026.

CARRIED

12.5 Minor Change to Development Permit for Material Change of Use Dwelling Unit and Undefined Land Use (Cultural Activities) –IDAS24/02 – Joey Josia Laifoo & Melissa Leanne Crump c/ Urban Sync – 42 Douglas Street, Thursday Island

This agenda item is put on the table as quorum was not achieved.

12.6 Change Representations - Development Approval – IDAS 25/20 – Joey Josia Laifoo & Melissa Leanne Crump c/ Urban Sync – 42 Douglas Street, Thursday Island

This agenda item is put on the table as quorum was not achieved.

12.7 Proposed Buoy Mooring – Free Spirit (Matt Birney Builders)

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/3/10

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a letter of response to be provided to the customer advising Council has no concerns with the proposal for the new mooring as per the provided location.

CARRIED

12.8 Enquiry – Proposed Buoy Mooring – Torres Strait Shipping Pty

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/3/11

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council leaves item on the table pending further information regarding the item

CARRIED

12.4 OPERATIONAL WORKS PROGRAM REPORT**RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/3/12**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council receives and notes the Operational Works Update Report for March 2026.

CARRIED**13 LATE ITEMS***Nil***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 Request for Extended Lease Period – Babcock Helicopter, Horn Island
- 14.2 TI Stadium Floor Repair Tender Award
- 14.3 Loban Road Upgrade Tender Award
- 14.4 Consideration of Request for Road Reserve Purchase 67 Summer Street
- 14.5 Scrap Metal Project – Request to Engage a Barge Company for Cross Harbour Transport of Vehicles

Time: 2.29pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/3/11

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

Time: 3: 52pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/3/12

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED**14.1 Request for Extended Lease Period – Babcock Helicopter, Horn Island****RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/3/13**

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council:

1. Notes the request from Babcock Australasia seeking an extended Lease Term for the new Helicopter Base facility at Horn Island Airport; and
2. Declines the request for a Lease structure of ten (10) years with eight (8) additional five-year options (total term of 50 years); and
3. Confirms that Council will continue to apply the current aviation lease framework of 10 years with a 10-year extension option (10 + 10) at Horn Island Airport; and
4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to advise Babcock Australasia that Council remains supportive of its ongoing operations and is willing to negotiate lease arrangements within the existing 10 + 10 leasing framework.

CARRIED

14.2 TI Stadium Floor Repair Tender Award

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/3/14

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council leaves item on the table for next meeting for additional information to be provided.

CARRIED

14.3 Loban Road Upgrade Tender Award

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/3/15

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii

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 QRA Funded Works Loban Road Upgrade, Thursday Island for the amount of **\$397,595.00 GST inclusive**, and
- 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.

CARRIED

DEPARTURE: Mayor Elsie Seriat 3.34pm

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Elsie Seriat 3.36pm

