



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

27 January 2026

**MINUTES OF TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THURSDAY ISLAND ON TUESDAY 27 JANUARY 2026**

1 AGENDA CONTENTS

2 ATTENDANCE

Cr Elsie Seriat (Mayor), Cr Toshio Nakata (Deputy Mayor), Cr Gabriel Bani, Cr Thomas Loban, Cr Thomas Fujii (Jnr) via Teams, Mary Bani (Chief Executive Officer), Edward Kulpa (Director Project, Planning & Environment), Roger Naidoo (Director Engineering and Infrastructure Services), Karren MacClure (Director Corporate and Community Services), and Isabella Muhamad-Mosby (A/Executive Secretary).

3 MEETING OPENED

The meeting opened with a prayer by Mayor Elsie Seriat at 9:12am.

4 APOLOGIES

Cr Gabriel Bani

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/1

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council receive 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.

Mr Sig Manu Wigness

Mr Harry Awassie Lieu Thaiday (Jnr)

Miss Shanirah-Nay Quanetta Joan Kiwat

Mrs Norah Lily Bagiri

Mr Douglas Bon (Snr)

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

7.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – DEPUTY MAYOR TOSHIO NAKATA

Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata stated that he has a declarable a conflict of interest in item 12.5 – Enquiry – Proposed Buoy Mooring – Torres Strait Shipping Pty Ltd, (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 in item 12.5 – Enquiry – Proposed Buoy Mooring – Torres Strait Shipping Pty Ltd due to being a close associate to a director of the company in question.

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

7.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – CR THOMAS LOBAN

Cr Thomas Loban. stated that he has a declarable a conflict of interest in item 12.8 Development Application – IDAS 25-17 – Material Change of Use – Multiple Dwelling – Sustainable Trade Solutions Pty Ltd c/-Gilvear Planning Pty Ltd – 17 Nazeer Street, Thursday Island, (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 in item 12.8 Development Application – IDAS 25-17 – Material Change of Use – Multiple Dwelling – Sustainable Trade Solutions Pty Ltd c/-Gilvear Planning Pty Ltd – 17 Nazeer Street, Thursday Island due to residing in a neighbouring property.

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

7.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – CR THOMAS LOBAN

Cr Thomas Loban. stated that he has a declarable a conflict of interest in item 14.1 Licenced Builder Engagement, (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 in item 14.1 Licenced Builder Engagement due to being related to party.

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

Item 14.1 Licenced Builder Engagement to be left on the table as quorum is unable to be reached.

8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**8.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 9 DECEMBER 2026****RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/2**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 9 December 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 9 December 2026 Council Meeting.

10 NOTIFIED MOTIONS*Nil***11 COUNCILLORS REPORTS****11.1 COUNCILLOR'S MONTHLY REPORTS****RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/3**

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****RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/4**

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

12.2 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – FINANCIAL REPORT**RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/5**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council:

- Note the Financial Report for the period ended December 2025 as presented.
- Note the attachments for the period ended December 2025 listed as follows:
 1. Cash Position December 2025
 2. Income and Expenditure Airport December 2025
 3. Income and Expenditure all of Council December 2025
 4. Revenue Graph Actual vs Budget December 2025
 5. Expenses Graph Actual vs Budget December 2025
 6. Statement of Financial Position December 2025

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting is adjourned for Morning Tea at 10:02am and resumed 10:30am.

12.3 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT**RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/6**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

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

CARRIED**12.4 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM REPORT****RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/7**

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

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

CARRIED**SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS****RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/8**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council suspend standing orders at 10:31am to consider item 12.5 and 12.8 reports while Cr Thomas Fujii is dialled into the meeting.

CARRIED

DEPARTURE: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata departed the Council Meeting at 10:32am whilst Item 12.5 – Enquiry Buoy Mooring – Torres Strait Shipping Pty Ltd Matter is discussed.

12.5 ENQUIRY – PROPOSED BUOY MOORING – TORRES STRAIT SHIPPING PTY LTD

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/9

Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii
Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a letter of response to be provided to the customer advising Council acknowledges Maritime Safety Queensland as the authority and recommends they consider visual guides as part of the buoy siting.

CARRIED

ARRIVED: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata returned to the Council Meeting at 10:46am.

12.6 ENQUIRY – PROPOSED TWO (2) BUOY MOORING – TORRES STRAIT TOURS

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/10

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata
Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a letter of response to be provided to the customer advising Council acknowledges Maritime Safety Queensland as the authority and recommends they consider visual guides as part of the buoy siting.

CARRIED

12.7 ENQUIRY – PROPOSED BUOY MOORING – FAR NORTH LOGISTICS

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/11

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a letter of response to be provided to the customer advising Council acknowledges Maritime Safety Queensland as the authority and recommends they consider visual guides as part of the buoy siting.

CARRIED

DEPARTURE: Cr Thomas Loban departed the Council Meeting at 10:46am whilst item 12.8 Matter is discussed.

12.8 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION – IDAS25/17 – MATERIAL CHANGE OF USE – MULTIPLE DWELLING – SUSTAINABLE TRADE SOLUTIONS PTY LTD C/- GILVEAR PLANNING PTY LTD – 17 NAZEER STREET, THURSDAY ISLAND QLD 4875**RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/12**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendations for this application are:

1. That Torres Shire Council approves the application for a Development Permit for Material Change of Use for Multiple Dwelling (4 units) on land located at 17 Nazeer Street, Thursday Island formally described Lot 33 T20722, subject to the conditions of this report, and
2. That an Infrastructure Charges Notice be issued for the amount of \$92,032.95 in relation to the development application for a Development Permit for Material Change of Use – Multiple Dwelling (4 units) at 17 Nazeer Street, Thursday Island, formally described as Lot 33 T20722.

CARRIED

ARRIVED: Cr Thomas Loban returned to the Council Meeting at 10:52am

DEPARTURE: Cr Thomas Fujii departed the Council Meeting at 12:01pm whilst item 12.9 Matter is discussed.

12.9 OPERATIONAL WORKS PROGRAM REPORT**RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/13**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

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

CARRIED

12.10 VOLUNTARY SURRENDER AND DISPOSAL OF END-OF-LIFE VEHICLES**RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/14**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council:

1. Approves the once-off voluntary End-of-Life Vehicle Surrender and Disposal Project for Residents;
2. Endorses the proposed project eligibility criteria and disposal methods outlined in this Report; and

3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise operational arrangements and Community communications.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting is adjourned for Lunch at 12:24pm and resumed 1:25pm.

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 Licenced Builder Engagement
- 14.2 Variation of a Cleaning Contract
- 14.3 Purchase of a Garbage Truck

Time: 1:25pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/15

Moved: Cr Thomas Loban

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

Time: 1:35pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/ 16

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting is adjourned at 1:36pm and resumed 1:47pm.

Time: 1:51pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/17

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

Time: 2:20pm

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/18

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

14.1 LICENCED BUILDER ENGAGEMENT - DEFER

14.2 VARIATION OF A CLEANING CONTRACT

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/19

Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council:

1. Approves the implementation of option 3 –

Extend the contract until 30th June 2026, during which the following actions are carried out:

1. Meet with the Contractor to review the variation and negotiate CPI adjustment for the extended contract period until 30th June 2026
 2. Advise the current Contractor the intension for Council is to release a tender prior to the end of the financial year where Council encourages a submission from the current Contractor.
 3. Release a contract for tender prior to the end of the financial year to the market.
 4. Assess the respondents and have an arrangement in place to commence from 1st July 2026 for a period longer than 12 months with CPI adjustment annexure; and
2. Delegates authority to the CEO to inform the current contractor of the direction Council is proceeding.

CARRIED

14.3 PURCHASE OF A GARBAGE TRUCK

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/1/20

Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat

Seconded: Deputy Toshio Nakata

That Council:

1. Approves the purchase of a 2024 Isuzu FVD Garbage Truck from Uralla Shire Council for the amount of \$330,000 including GST and delivery; and
2. Delegates authority to the CEO to finalise the sale.

CARRIED

