MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

18 August 2026

MINUTES OF TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THURSDAY ISLAND ON TUESDAY 18 August 2026

AGENDA CONTENTS

1 MEETING OPENED

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 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.

2 ATTENDANCES

Cr Elsie Seriat (Mayor), Cr Toshio Nakata (Deputy Mayor), Cr Gabriel Bani, Cr Thomas Loban, Ed Kulpa (A/Chief Executive Officer), Keith Yorkston (A/Director Planning, Projects and Environment), Roger Naidoo (Director Engineering and Infrastructure Services), Mary Deakin (Director Corporate and Community Services), Kimberley Yorkston (Executive Secretary) and Dorene Riley (Finance Manager).

APOLOGIES

NIL

3 CONDOLENCES / CONGRATULATIONS

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 Albert Baira
Mr Bruce McKeweon
Mr Lestar Soki

Welcome – Mary Deakin Director of Corporate and Community Services into the role.

4 DEPUTATIONS / VISITORS

NIL

5 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING FOR DEPUTATION

That the Ordinary Council Meeting be adjourned at 9:55am for the presentation, and that the meeting reconvenes immediately following the conclusion of the deputation.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting is adjourned from Deputation and followed by morning tea and Council resumed at 10:15am.

Time	DEPUTATION PRESENTER	Location
10:00AM TO 10:30AM	• Waibeni Kowd Leaders and Elders • Elder – Mr Robert Sagigi • Elder – Mr Tom Jack Baira • Elder – Mr Dane Gagai (Senior) • Leader – Mr Willie Wigness	Torres Shire Council Chambers 68 Douglas Street, Thursday Island Qld 4875

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting is adjourned for Morning Tea at 10:15am and resumed 10:46am.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN THE MATTER OF THE AGENDA

6.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – CR – MAYOR ELSIE SERIAT

I, **Mayor Elsie Seriat OAM**, declare that I have a **prescribed conflict of interest** in relation to 12.5 agenda item.

Nature of the interest:

I have an interest in this matter because **I am a traditional custodian to the Kaurareg Aboriginal Native Title Corporation that the circumstance giving rise to the conflict of interest**.

The matter concerns the proposed partial native title determination for the **Kaurareg People #2 (QUD10/2019) and Kaurareg People #3 (QUD24/2019)** claims, including areas within the Torres Shire and the proposed recognition of exclusive and non-exclusive native title rights and interests.

I acknowledge that Council is being asked to:

agree to the proposed "Other Interests" clause in the draft Determination;
agree to the draft Determination;
authorise the Deputy Mayor and A/CEO to agree to minor amendments to the Determination; and
authorise Andrew Kerr of Moray & Agnew Lawyers to sign the section 87A Agreement on behalf of Council.

Action taken by me:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009* and applicable regulations, I will **leave the meeting and not participate in the consideration and voting of the matter and Deputy Mayor Cr Toshio Nakata will chair the meeting on the agenda item 12.5.**

The declaration is to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/2
Moved: Cr Fujii
Seconded: Cr Bani

CARRIED

6.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – CR – THOMAS LOBAN

Cr Thomas Loban stated that he has a declarable a conflict of interest in item 12.1, (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 associate to the applicant.

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

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/3
Moved: Cr Fujii
Seconded: Cr Bani

CARRIED

7 MAYORAL NOTIFIED MOTIONS

NIL

8 BUSINESS ARISING

CEO referred to the 'Matters for Action following a Council Meeting' document provided to Councillors with updated information on the 26 May 2026 Council Meeting.

9 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

9.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 21 July 2026

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/4
Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata
Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 June 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED

9.2 SPECIAL BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING – 31 July 2026

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/7/5
Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 31 July 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED

9.2 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 5 August 2026

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CARRIED

10 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

10.1 COUNCILLOR'S MONTHLY REPORTS

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/6
Moved: Cr Fujii
Seconded: Cr Loban

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

CARRIED

11 EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORTS

11.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/7
Moved: Cr Nakata
Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

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

CARRIED

ATTENDANCE: Dorene Riley (Finance Manager) entered in the Council Meeting at 11:01am

10.2 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FINANCIAL REPORT

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/7/8
Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat
Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council:

- Note the Financial Report for the period ended July 2026 as presented.
- Note the attachments for the period ended July 2026 listed as follows:

    1. Cash Position July 2026
    2. Income and Expenditure Airport July 2026
    3. Income and Expenditure all of Council July 2026
    4. Revenue Graph Actual vs Budget July 2026
    5. Expenses Graph Actual vs Budget July 2026
    6. Statement of Financial Position July 2026

CARRIED

DEPARTURE: Dorene Riley departed the Council Meeting 11:09am

10.3 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/9
Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council receives and notes the Corporate and Community Services Report for July 2026.

CARRIED

10.4 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM REPORT

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/10

Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

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

CARRIED

DEPARTURE: **Cr Bani departed the Council Meeting at 11:54am**

ARRIVAL: **Cr Bani arrived at the Council Meeting at 12:01pm**

11.4 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION – IDAS 26/07 – DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FOR RECONFIGURING A LOT (1 LOT INTO 2 LOTS) – RAYMOND PHILIP COUSINS C/ RPS AAP CONSULTING PTY LTD – 14A CHESTER STREET, THURSDAY ISLAND

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/11
Moved: Cr Fujii
Seconded: Cr Bani

RECOMMENDATION A – DECISION NOTICE
That Torres Shire Council approves the application for a Development Permit for Reconfiguring a Lot – 1 Lot into 2 Lots on land located at 14A Chester Street, Thursday Island, formally described Lot 411 T2071, subject to the following conditions:

PART 1 – CONDITIONS AND ADVISORY NOTES

NO.	CONDITIONS	CONDITION TIMING
1.0	**Parameters of Approval**	
1.1	The Developer is responsible for ensuring compliance with this development approval and the conditions of the approval by an employee, agent, contractor, or invitee of the Developer at all times unless otherwise stated.	At all times.
1.2	Where these conditions refer to "TSC" in relation to requiring Torres Shire Council to approve or be satisfied as to any matter, or conferring on the TSC a function, power or discretion, that role of the TSC may be fulfilled in whole or in part by a delegate appointed for that purpose by TSC.	At all times.
1.3	The cost of all works associated with the development and construction of the development including services, facilities and/or public utility alterations required are met at no cost to the Council or relevant utility provider, unless otherwise stated in a development condition.	At all times.
1.4	The developer is required to have repaired any damage to existing infrastructure that may have occurred during any works carried out associated with the development. To the	At all times.

	extent the damage is deemed to create a hazard to the community, it must be repaired immediately.	
1.5	Unless otherwise stated, all works must be designed, constructed, and maintained in accordance with the relevant Council policies, guidelines, and standards, and the FNQROC Development Manual.	At all times.
1.6	All engineering drawings/specifications, design and construction works be approved, supervised, and certified by a Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland (RPEQ).	At all times.
1.7	All development conditions contained in this development approval about infrastructure under Chapter 4 of the Planning Act 2016 (the Act), should be read as being non-trunk infrastructure conditioned under section 145 of the Act, unless otherwise stated.	At all times.

2.0	**Approved Plans and Documents**				
2.1	The approved development must be undertaken generally in accordance with the approved plans and documents, except where amended by the conditions of this permit.				At all times
	Drawing No.	**Document Name**	**Date**	**Drawn by**	
	458780-1	Site Plan	25-06-2026	RPS AAP Consulting Pty Ltd	
2.2	Where there is any conflict between the conditions of this approval and the details shown on the approved plans and documents, the conditions of approval must prevail.				At all times

3.0	**Stormwater Drainage**	
3.1	All stormwater drainage must be discharged to an approved legal point of discharge.	At all times.
3.2	Any site works must not adversely affect flooding or drainage characteristics of properties that are upstream, downstream, or adjacent to the development site.	At all times.

4.0	**Water and Sewerage**	
4.1	Each lot must have a separate connection to Council's reticulated water and sewerage infrastructure.	Prior to Council endorsement of the Survey Plan and at all times.

5.0	**Amenity and Environmental Health**	
5.1	Undertake the approved development so there is no environmental nuisance or detrimental effect on any surrounding land uses and activities by reason of the emission	At all times.

	of noise, vibration, odour, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam soot, ash, wastewater, waste products, oil or otherwise.	

6.0	**Site Works and Erosion and Sediment control**	
6.1	Site works must be constructed such that they do not, at any time, in any way restrict, impair, or change the natural flow of runoff water, or cause a nuisance or worsening to adjoining properties or infrastructure	Prior to the commencement of any construction works required by this development.

7.0	**Compliance**	
7.1	All relevant conditions of this development permit must be complied with prior to the Plan of Survey being submitted to Council for endorsement.	Prior to Council endorsement of the Survey Plan.

8.0	**Outstanding Charges**	
8.1	All rates, service charges, interest and other charges levied on the land are to be paid prior to Council endorsement of the Plan of Survey.	Prior to Council endorsement of the Survey Plan.

ASSESSMENT MANAGER (COUNCIL) ADVISORY NOTES

1. This approval, granted under the provisions of the Planning Act 2016, shall lapse four (4) years from the day the approval takes effect in accordance with the relevant provisions of s85 of the Planning Act 2016.

2. Prior to commencing any construction activities, the applicant/developer will be required to obtain further development permits for building work, and plumbing and drainage work, as required under relevant legislation for this work.

3. This approval has considered the encroachment within the side boundary setback of the awning on the lowset dwelling fronting Jardine Street on proposed lot 411. This development approval is taken to be an early referral response in accordance with section 57 of the *Planning Act 2016*. The applicant is responsible for obtaining any necessary building approvals.

4. Infrastructure Charges must be paid to Council as indicated on the Infrastructure Charges Notice at the rate applicable at the time of payment.

5. This approval does not negate the requirement for compliance with all other relevant Local Laws and other statutory requirements,

6. No building materials or the like are to be stored on the footpath unless an appropriate approval from Council is obtained, including the payment of associated fees.

7. All building site managers must take all action necessary to ensure building materials and/or machinery on construction sites are secured immediately following the first potential cyclone warning and that relevant emergency telephone contacts are provided to Council Officers, prior to Commencement of Works.

8. The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* states a person must not carry out any activity that causes, or is likely to cause, environmental harm unless the person takes all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise the harm. Environmental harm includes environmental nuisance. In this regard, persons and entities, involved in civil, earthworks and construction phases of this development, are to adhere to their 'general environmental duty' to minimise the risk of causing environmental harm.

9. Environmental harm is defined by the Act as any adverse effect, or potential adverse effect whether temporary or permanent and of whatever magnitude, duration or frequency on an environmental value and includes environmental nuisance. Therefore, no person should cause any interference with the environment or amenity of the area by reason of the emission of noise, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, wastewater, waste products, grit, sediment, oil or otherwise, or cause hazards likely in the opinion of the Council.

10. This development approval does not authorise any activity that may harm Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage. It is also advised that any land use activities must comply with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* or the *Torres Strait Islander Heritage Act 2003*.

11. The Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* applies to action that has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance. Further information on the EPBC Act can be obtained from the Department of Agricultural, Water and the Environment website https://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/about

RECOMMENDATION B

That an Infrastructure Charges Notice be issued for the amount of $30,677.65 in relation to the Development Permit for Reconfiguring a Lot (1 lot into 2 lots) at 14A Chester Street, Thursday Island, formally described as Lot 411 T2071.

CARRIED

11.5 OPERATIONAL WORKS PROGRAM REPORT

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/12
Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat
Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council receives and notes the Operational Works Program Report for July 2026.

CARRIED

DEPARTURE: **Cr Thomas Loban departed the meeting at 12:34pm**

DEPARTURE: **Cr Toshio Nakata departed the meeting at 12:37pm**

ARRIVAL: **Cr Thomas Loban departed the meeting at 12:38pm**

ARRIVAL: **Cr Toshio Nakata departed the meeting at 12:40pm**

10.6 COUNCIL SUBMISSION FOR THE CAPE YORK REGIONAL PLAN REVISION

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/13
Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Toshio Nakata

It is recommended that Council:

- Provides suggestions for imagery to be included and endorses new imagery captured by a local photographer if required
- Reviews edited Local Government Narrative and submit the finalised statement to the State for inclusion into the Cape York Regional Plan
- Prepares a formal letter endorsing inclusion in the Cape Yor Regional Plan.

CARRIED

11.1 LATE REPORT: STRATEGIC PLANNING _QGSO 2025 POPULATION PROJECTIONS RELEASE

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/14
Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Toshio Nakata

It is recommended that Council:

That Council:

1. notes the Queensland Government Statistician's Office population, household and dwelling projections, 2025 edition;
2. notes the limitations of official usual-resident population measures in a remote, highly mobile region with substantial visitor and fly-in/fly-out populations;

3. supports using the medium or high projection as a baseline and the high projection, together with a higher local service-population and climate-mobility scenario, for strategic planning;
4. supports investigating a supplementary service-population estimate based on local administrative and infrastructure-use data; and
5. supports incorporating these population scenarios into the Horn Island Housing Growth Master Plan, Local Housing Action Plan, future planning scheme work, infrastructure planning and negotiations for a new Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting is adjourned for Lunch at 1:07pm and resumed 2:00pm

12 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*:

12.1 In Committee – In Committee – Consideration of Request for Road Reserve Purchase 67 Summer Street

12.2 In Committee – Ken Brown Oval Lighting Upgrade

12.3 In Committee – Procurement and Installation of a new HS10080EDX-2 Checked Baggage Screening (CBS) X-ray machine for Horn Island Airport

12.4 In Committee – Torres Shire Council Insurance Renewal 2026-27

12.5 In Committee – Thursday Island Stadium Flooring Decision

12.6 In Committee – Subject: Kaurareg People #2 (QUD10/2019) and Kaurareg People #3 (QUD24/2019)

12.7 In Committee – Update Strategic Planning Housing Forum outcomes

12.8 In Committee - Torres Shire Council Insurance Renewal 2026-27

DEPARTURE: **Cr Thomas Loban departed meeting under declared interest to agenda item 12.1 at 2:01pm**

Time: 2:01pm
RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/15
Moved: Cr Bani
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Nakata

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

Time: 4:12pm
RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/16
Moved: Cr Fujii
Seconded: Cr Loban

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

12.1 IN COMMITTEE – IN COMMITTEE – CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR ROAD RESERVE PURCHASE 67 SUMMER STREET

Item Left on the table

ARRIVAL: Cr Thomas Loban returned into the Council Meeting at 2:57m

12.2 IN COMMITTEE – KEN BROWN OVAL LIGHTING UPGRADE

Item left on the table

12.3 IN COMMITTEE – PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF A NEW HS10080EDX-2 CHECKED BAGGAGE SCREENING (CBS) X-RAY MACHINE FOR HORN ISLAND AIRPORT

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/17
Moved: Cr Thomas Fujii
Seconded: Cr Gabriel Bani

That Council:

1. Approves the procurement and installation of a HS10080EDX-2 Checked Baggage Screening X-ray machine for Horn Island Airport from Smiths Detection at a total cost of $546,810, in accordance with the attached information and quotation, funded from the $550,000 allocation in the 2026/27 Capital Budget; and

2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the procurement, including all necessary contractual, delivery, installation and commissioning arrangements.

CARRIED

12.4 IN COMMITTEE – THURSDAY ISLAND STADIUM FLOORING DECISION

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/18
Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani

Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

It is recommended that Council:

a) Nominates the replacement floor finish for the Thursday Island Stadium as a Helsinki 10-10 system with a variation of $65,410.00 ex GST to the original approved quotation provided by TI Concrete & Building as the successful contractor, bringing the project value to $393,865.00 ex GST.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting is adjourned for Afternoon Tea at 4.12pm and resumed 4:23pm.

Time: 4:23pm
RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/19
Moved: Cr Bani
Seconded: Cr Loban

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

Time: 5:14pm
RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/20
Moved: Cr Thomas Loban
Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

DEPARTURE: **Mayor Eslie Seriat declared interest on item 12.5 and left the room at 4:25pm, Deputy Mayor Cr Toshio Nakata chaired the meeting.**

DEPARTURE: **Kimberley Yorkston left the Council Meeting 4:29pm**

12.5 IN COMMITTEE – KAURAREG PEOPLE #2 (QUD10/2019) AND KAURAREG PEOPLE #3 (QUD24/2019)

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/21
Moved: Cr Gabriel Bani
Seconded: Cr Thomas Fujii

We recommend that Council resolves as follows:

(a) That Council agrees to the proposed “other interests clause” in Schedule 2 Item 1 of the draft Determination.

(b) That Council agrees to the draft Determination.

(c) The Mayor and CEO are authorised to agree to any minor amendments of the Determination which might be required between this resolution and the making of the Determination by the Federal Court.

(d) Andrew Kerr of Moray & Agnew Lawyers is authorised to sign the s87A Agreement on behalf of Council.

ARRIVAL: Mayor Elsie Seriat arrived at the Council Meeting at 4:51pm and chaired the meeting from 12.6

12.6 IN COMMITTEE – UPDATE STRATEGIC PLANNING HOUSING FORUM OUTCOMES

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/8/22
Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata
Seconded: Cr Thomas Nakata

That Council:

1. notes the Queensland Government Statistician's Office population, household and dwelling projections, 2025 edition;

2. notes the limitations of official usual-resident population measures in a remote, highly mobile region with substantial visitor and fly-in/fly-out populations;

3. supports using the medium or high projection as a baseline and the high projection, together with a higher local service-population and climate-mobility scenario, for strategic planning;

4. supports investigating a supplementary service-population estimate based on local administrative and infrastructure-use data; and

5. supports incorporating these population scenarios into the Horn Island Housing Growth Master Plan, Local Housing Action Plan, future planning scheme work, infrastructure planning and negotiations for a new Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

12.7 IN COMMITTEE – TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL INSURANCE RENEWAL 2026-27

Item left on the table

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 15 September 2026

CLOSURE: The meeting closed with a prayer by Cr Gabriel Bani at 5:13pm.

Confirmed this day of

MAYOR