

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 14 December 2023

ONLINE

Attendees:

Cr Keri Tamwoy	Mayor	Aurukun Shire Council
Cr Peter Scott	Mayor	Cook Shire Council
Brian Joiner	CEO	Cook Shire Council
Cr Jason Woibo	Mayor	Hopevale Aboriginal Shire Council
Steve Linnane	CEO	Hopevale Aboriginal Shire Council
Cr Robbie Sands	Mayor	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council
Cr Aileen Addo	Mayor	Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council
Cr Dawn Braun	Deputy Mayor	Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council
Tom Smith	CEO	Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council
Peter O'May	CEO	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
Cr Patricia Yusia	Mayor	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
Kate Gallaway	CEO	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
Melinda Eades	Executive Officer	TCICA
Dalassa Yorkston	CEO	Torres Shire Council
Mr Michael Rowland	Chair	Weipa Town Authority
Cr Ross Andrews	Mayor	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

Apologies

Graham King	CEO	Aurukun Shire Council
Myron Johnny	Mayor	Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council
Troy Fraser	CEO	Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council
Kevin Bell	CEO	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council
Cr Wayne Butcher	Mayor	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
Dave Clarke	CEO	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
Cr Janita Motton	Mayor	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
Cr Richard Tarpencha	Mayor	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
Edward Natera	CEO	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
Cr Yen Loban	Mayor	Torres Shire Council
Cr Phillemon Mosby	Mayor	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
James William	CEO	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Cr Bradley Creek	Mayor	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Kiley Hanslow	CEO	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Richard Wright	CEO	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

1.1 Chair's welcome and acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

TCICA Chair Mayor Robbie Sands welcomed attendees and opened the meeting at 3.10pm.

1.2 Attendance and apologies noted; proxies noted

Attendance and apologies noted above. No proxies received. A quorum was present and the meeting proceeded.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous AGM and Business Arising

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting (15 November 2022) were accepted as read, with no business arising.

Resolution: That the Minutes of Previous TCICA AGM held on Tuesday 15 November 2022 are adopted as a true and correct record.

Moved: Mayor Peter Scott

Seconded: Mayor Patricia Yusia

CARRIED

3. Chair's Report

2022-23 was another great year for TCICA as we go from strength to strength and continue to build our credibility as the real voice of our local communities and for the TCICA region.

Members participated in five meetings throughout the year, with the opportunity to meet with members of the Queensland Parliament during TCICA's May meeting which was timed alongside the Regional Sitting of Parliament in Cairns. Our meetings are always very well attended, with sometimes 35 in attendance!

We again played a key role in advocating on issues impacting our region. Individually and collectively, our members continued very strong advocacy on cost-of-living issues such as freight. This was backed up by our freight equalisation study and resulted in a \$64 million commitment to a freight funding package for the region. But we know this is not enough. Our strength is in collaboration and that is why it is so important that we work together to achieve for our region.

TCICA's work with Queensland Treasury Corporation to understand how we can address our financial sustainability issues led to the involvement of the Local Government division and their initiative to establish an Indigenous Council Sustainability Hub. If the department's Budget bid for funding is successful, we must take every opportunity to make the hub work for our benefit.

Operationally, we saw more actions identified in our Cape, Torres and Gulf Opportunities Plan progressed. The State Government and Ergon Energy are focused on a First Nations Clean Energy Strategy to help us transition away from diesel generation, the tourism department continued to invest in the development of Indigenous tourism businesses and opportunities, and the State is getting serious on addressing water security issues. We are also seeing additional investment in telecommunications infrastructure by Telstra and others, although we can't lose sight of the need to continue to advocate for more investment.

Health and Wellbeing Queensland continued to work with us on the development of a Remote Community Food Security Strategy and we should start to see this rolled out on the ground. The Strategy backed up our calls for a freight subsidy and for supply chain improvements.

TCICA's relationship with James Cook University through the Cairns Institute and the TNQ Drought Hub helped support our application for funding for the community-based water demand management project being delivered by Griffith University. Next year is expected to bring in another \$150,000 in funding for water security actions.

The TORCH health service reform project continued to progress with our guidance.

Our 2023-2026 Strategic Plan will help to guide TCICA over the next few years. A focus on local and regional leadership and governance, and ongoing activities building community resilience are some

of the key priorities, as will be our efforts to have the State and Federal government increase their financial assistance to us.

Thank you to my fellow Mayors, and all Councillors and CEOs for the support, involvement and commitment you have made to our organisation throughout the year.

Next year no doubt brings about big changes to TCICA, with some new mayors, retiring mayors, a new crop of councillors, and a new executive officer. I'd like to acknowledge retiring Mayors Aileen Addo, Peter Scott, and Michael Rowland. Your leadership will be missed however I'm sure you'll all enjoy putting your feet up for a bit and having so much more time to spend with your families and friends after such long and dedicated service to your communities.

To all of you contesting the next election, I wish you every success. In the meantime, we may still meet as a group before the election to deal with certain TCICA matters so we will probably see each other again.

Resolution: That the Chair's Report to Year Ended 30 June 2023 for TCICA is adopted.

Moved: Mayor Robbie Sands

Seconded: Mayor Aileen Addo

CARRIED

4. *Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements*

I am pleased to present this TCICA Treasurer's Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 following the initiation of the current board and membership structure, determined at the last AGM held in Cairns in November last year.

The audited financial statements were provided with the meeting papers emailed to members on 5 December, for resolution at this meeting.

Key matters to note:

- TCICA ended the year with \$225,442 in cash and cash equivalents, and \$43,144 of retained earnings after accounting for receivables and payables.
- The accounts reflect a net loss of \$131,464, much of which is deferred revenue, accrued wages and payables.

TCICA remains successful in bringing in grant funding, including \$291,000 of QRA funding over two years for regional coordination for disaster resilience, \$80,000 from DSDILGP for continuation of the eco-cultural tourism work, and \$193,000 over two years from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal for the community-based water demand management project.

While TCICA remains in a sound financial position, remaining sustainable into the long term will need ongoing focus on attracting grant funding to support operations. Several opportunities are on the horizon for 2023-2024, not least the case being made for an Indigenous Council Sustainability Hub which may bring with it the resources needed to better support TCICA's objectives.

The audit this year was undertaken by Grant Thornton, as was the case for the 2021-22 year. The special purpose financial statements were prepared by HKS Russell.

I would like to nominate and thank the following for their crucial assistance in bringing TCICA to its present sound financial and governance basis.

- Chairperson Mayor Robbie Sands
- Deputy Chair Councillor Cameron Hudson.
- Executive Officer Melinda Eades
- Northern Peninsular Area Regional Council for the provision payroll services for TCICA's Executive Officer and Regional Resilience Coordinator.

- Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council for the provision of office space.
- Following TSIRC rejoining, and with the addition of Doomadgee, the fifteen TCICA members who committed \$11k per annum (including GST) in 2022-23 to assure continuation of our alliance.

We were later joined by Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council, bringing another valuable member into TCICA.

Resolution: That the Audited Financial Statements to Year Ended 30 June 2023 for TCICA are adopted.

Moved: Mayor Peter Scott
Seconded: Mayor Patricia Yusia
CARRIED

Resolution: That members note that Grant Thornton is TCICA's appointed Auditor for the 2023-2024 Financial Year, with the financial statements to be prepared by HKS Russell Pty Ltd.

Moved: Mayor Peter Scott
Seconded: Mr Michael Rowland
CARRIED

Mayor Scott thanked everyone for their efforts over the past 12 months, noting that TCICA continues to build its credibility as a peak body for Indigenous local governments.

5. Election of Office Bearers

The Chair declared the positions of Chair, Deputy Chair and Treasurer vacant.

The Executive Officer presided over the election of office bearers.

5.1 Election of Chair

The Executive Officer called for nominations from the floor.

Mayor Woibo nominated Mayor Sands and Mayor Sands accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations, Mayor Sands was elected to Chair the TCICA.

5.2 Election of Deputy Chair

The Executive Officer called for nominations from the floor.

Mayor Addo nominated Mayor Yusia however Mayor Yusia declined the nomination.

Mayor Addo nominated Councillor Braun and Councillor Braun accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations, Councillor Braun was elected unopposed.

5.3 Election of Treasurer

The Executive Officer called for nominations from the floor.

Mayor Sands nominated Mayor Andrews however Mayor Andrews declined the nomination.

Mayor Scott nominated himself, which was seconded by Mayor Woibo.

There being no further nominations, Mayor Scott was elected unopposed.

6. *Next AGM*

Mayor Sands assumed the Chair and thanked members for returning him to the role.

Under the Rules of Association, an Annual General Meeting must be held within six months of the end of the previous financial year. This would allow the meeting to be held anytime between 1 July 2024 and 31 December 2024. According to TCICA's forward meeting dates for 2024, the AGM is currently scheduled for 5 November 2024.

Annual General Meeting closed at 3.32pm.

Mayor Robbie Sands
Chair