



# TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

Lot 12 Francis Road Hammond Island QLD 4875  
Phone: (07) 4034 5775 Email: corporate.affairs@tsirc.qld.gov.au

PO Box 7336 Cairns QLD 4870  
ABN 15 292 645 165

Our Ref: CAE:MM SCAF

Issued by email:  
abor g na .f ag.sen@aph.gov.au

Select Committee on the Aboriginal Flag  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

30/09/2020

## Responses to questions taken on notice during Select Committee on the Aboriginal Flag - Public Hearing (24/09/20)

Dear Chair, and Committee Members,

Please find below, the responses to questions taken on notice during my appearance before the Committee last Thursday (24/09/20);

1. Senator Dodson: "How many applications to the council would there be in a year for the use of the flag?"

Please find the table below showing actual applications received;

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Per Month	2	3	5	4	5	6	5
Total	33	46	65	58	61	76	47 (YTD)

All applications received to date have been endorsed. The applications vary in nature, however commonly fit within the following categories;

- a. Individual artists
- b. Education, incl. schools, universities, training organisations, childcare and individual students
- c. State or Commonwealth agencies
- d. Commercial businesses, incl. international entities and tourism
- e. Sporting code entities
- f. Healthcare, incl. hospitals and aged care
- g. Security firms
- h. Professional services, incl. legal and superannuation
- i. Social media entities
- j. Miscellaneous publications

2. Senator Dodson: *“Has there been any communication with your council from the Australian government on how the Torres Strait Islands flag is administered or managed?”*

Apart from this Committee’s request, there has been no formal communication or enquiry lodged that Council is aware of.

3. Senator McCarthy (Chair): *“Are you able to name those international companies to the inquiry?”*

Council is not in a position to name these entities.

4. Senator Davey: *“Would you be able to give an estimate of how many man-hours go towards granting these approvals—noting that it seems to be a very streamlined approval process?”*

A conservative estimate of Council’s resourcing requirement to this process, on a weekly basis, would be as follows;

Council Department:	Function Performed:	Weekly Resource Estimate:
Legal Services	Application receipt, processing & administration	60-120min.
Corporate Affairs	General enquiries (phone, and online channels)	35min.
Divisional Offices	General enquiries (community-based / in-person)	15-20min.

In the event of a copyright breach coming to Council’s attention, our Legal Services Department would then undertake an additional 30-60min to prepare a letter to address the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Cr. Phillemon Mosby  
**Mayor**