



TCICA

Torres Cape Indigenous
Council Alliance Inc.

CHARTER

As of: 30 May 2019

Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) Inc.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Charter outlines the purpose, scope and authority of the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) Inc.

ABOUT TCICA

The TCICA is a regional organisation of councils¹ which was first established in 2013 as the Cape Indigenous Mayors Alliance (CIMA) Inc. and renamed in 2017 as the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) Inc. to better recognise its growing membership base.

Centred largely in the Torres Strait, Cape and Gulf region, we operate as a collaborative partnership of councils to represent the common interests of local governing bodies within the region.

Our members are committed to working together with the State and Federal Governments to help shape place-based responses and solutions to the challenges and opportunities in front of us.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is to foster cooperation and resource sharing between member councils and effectively advocate on agreed regional positions and priorities.

VISION

Regional prosperity through interactive and collaborative planning and advocacy.

CORE VALUES

Autonomy to act within the constraints of our systems of Government;

Integrity in the performance of our functions;

Responsiveness to the needs of our local communities;

Accountability to stakeholders – electors, ratepayers, other spheres of Government;

Equity in our dealings with each other; and

Respect for the individual rights of individual councils to have their own opinions.

OBJECTIVES

1. Provide a forum for Member Councils to meet regularly in an atmosphere of goodwill and trust.
2. Support and advance the local interests of its Members and their constituencies in a regional context.

¹ A reference to councils includes a reference to Weipa Town Authority.

3. Formulate policies and strategies from which all Member Councils may act collaboratively in determining complementary plans for the co-ordination and regional growth and management of change.
4. Foster cooperation amongst Members on issues of mutual concern or to further joint interests.
5. Work together to proactively promote sustainable growth so as to retain the region's natural assets and the cultural diversity of the people.
6. Act as an advocate to State and Commonwealth Governments or public bodies on issues of concern to Members.
7. Address cross boundary issues and develop strong partnerships.
8. Take forward the collective interests of councils in the region and influence senior decision-makers within government and agencies.
9. Facilitate the sharing of resources and information between councils to achieve economies of scale and to improve the region.
10. Facilitate regional economic development and co-operation of mutual benefit to Member councils, communities and businesses.
11. Develop strategies for doing more with less.
12. Build effective partnerships with State and Federal agencies which make decisions that affect our region.
13. Facilitate cooperation with community, business and academic organisations for the benefit of the region.

PRINCIPLES

In the pursuit of these objectives the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance Inc. will observe the following principles:

Liaison and collaboration

- Maintain close liaison with the Local Government Association of Queensland Inc., other local government networks and peak regional organisations to ensure as far as possible the pursuit of common objectives and strengthening Local Government representation.
- Work in close collaboration with all departments serving the TCICA region to support implementation of regional priorities.

Engagement and Advocacy

- Build effective apolitical working relationships with key State and Federal Government Ministers, Shadow Ministers and cross-bench members based on identified regional priorities.
- Participate in coordinated advocacy visits to Brisbane and Canberra to represent the common interests and priorities of TCICA members.
- Collectively build the profile of the TCICA and reinforce at every opportunity the strength of the TCICA as a regional leader.

Decisions

- Positions adopted and decisions taken shall acknowledge minority or dissenting viewpoints at a member's request.
- Resolution of regional matters shall promote the collective interest of the members in association without adversely affecting the interest of any member Council.

Confidentiality

- Members' representatives are free to discuss items or issues in a frank and honest manner without fear or favour, and as such shall maintain the confidentiality of such discussions.

Communications

- The Chairperson is the official spokesperson for the TCICA on matters of public interest and will represent the TCICA in the media in the first instance.
- No communication on behalf of the TCICA, including media releases and communiques, will be issued to the public without the authorisation of the Chairperson.

Operations

- Identifying, planning, prioritising and lobbying for regionally significant assets.
- Seeking to secure, through forward commitments, State and Commonwealth investment in major regional assets.
- Thoroughly examining State and Commonwealth legislation and policy to ensure that the region will not be disadvantaged, and that maximum benefit is obtained.
- Developing effective networks and alliances with the key stakeholders.
- Dealing with other issues of significance as determined from time to time by the participating Councils.
- Ensuring that the Executive Officer effectively and efficiently manages the secretariat of TCICA within the budget parameters and delegations agreed to.

Regional Coordination and Co-operation in relation to but not limited to:

- Statutory Planning
- Roads
- Development
- Transport and Communications
- Water Supply
- Waste Water Treatment
- Solid and Liquid Waste Management and Disposal
- Environmental Issues and Management
- Economic Development
- Social Justice and Equity
- Non-Urban Lands
- Management of Data
- Electricity Supply and Distribution

And any other issue of a regional nature that an absolute majority of members may wish to include.

TCICA OPERATING MODEL

The TCICA operates as a not-for-profit incorporated association registered in Queensland, Australia under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*.

The TCICA is governed by the TCICA Rules of Association.

FUNDING THROUGH MEMBERSHIP

The TCICA will be primarily funded through its membership base, whereby Members will be charged an annual subscription which will support the operations of the TCICA.

The TCICA will also proactively seek State and Commonwealth grant funding opportunities as they arise for specific project-based activity and operational support.

OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

The purpose of TCICA is to facilitate regional cooperation. It is therefore expected that representatives will consider all issues from a regional perspective and decide the merits of an issue in the interests of the regional community. Members shall at all times act in good faith and deal with each other honestly and fairly.

The TCICA's members are bound by this Charter.

POLICIES

The TCICA may from time to time at any meeting make, amend or repeal policies consistent with its objectives and principles.

ALTERATION OF CHARTER

Pursuant to Rule 21 in the TCICA Rules of Association, this Charter may be rescinded, amended or added to by resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of the membership at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called for that purpose.