



## **WANTOK 2014 (MACKAY)**

### **ITEM #: DAY 1, SESSION 6: MOTION: A Pathway to an Incorporated Association**

#### **SUMMARY**

This Motion addresses the community discord that has arisen with the ‘adoption’ of a national governance model at Wantok 2013 (Brisbane).

As a way forward (which fully takes into account the findings of broad community consultation processes regarding an appropriate culturally-informed national governance structure undertaken so far) the proposed Motion:

- supports ASSI.PJ view that the governance model ‘adopted’ at Wantok 2013 does not meet various community and legal requirements identified during the community consultation process;
- declares the Wantok 2013 National Model null and void, including dissolving the existing “*Secretariat Board of Directors*” also known as “*National ASSI Board of Directors*” and “*National ASSI Secretariat*” also known as “*National ASSI Interim Secretariat*”, and thanks those involved for their work and effort;
- accepts ASSI.PJ’s apology regarding the deficiencies of the Wantok 2013 Model made to this meeting and issued via letter to ASSI communities on 22 January 2014;
- requests ASSI.PJ to further facilitate at Wantok 2014 (Mackay) the development of a truly representative and inclusive national body for the representation of Australian South Sea Islanders which will coexist with state, regional and local ASSI organisations by:
  - workshopping a national governance model along the lines of a federation of ASSI community which also includes individual membership;
  - identifying a skilled, available and committed Working Group to further develop and deliver a National ASSI governance model (“National Governance Work Group”);
  - formulating guidelines for the National Governance Work Group to undertake certain activities which will be further defined by resolution over the course of Wantok 2014 (Mackay).

## RECOMMENDATION – THE MOTION

It is resolved that this meeting:

1. acknowledges there is a need to develop a national body to represent Australian South Sea Islanders that, amongst other things, should:
  - (a) provide a coherent national voice for Australian South Sea Islanders while recognising community diversity and local interests;
  - (b) engage from across the nation as many ASSI people, organisations and community groups to participate in the decision making process;
  - (c) acknowledge, accept and share the wisdom of Elders;
  - (d) engage and nurture the involvement of established community organisations;
  - (e) develop innovative strategies to encourage direct engagement and retain involvement of ASSI youth (under 33s);
  - (f) assist with the sustainability and cohesion of state, regional and local ASSI organisations,
2. accepts and supports the Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson) Limited (“ASSI.PJ”) view that the governance model ‘adopted’ at Wantok 2013 did not meet these requirements;
3. accepts ASSI.PJ’s heart-felt apology regarding the deficiencies of the Wantok 2013 Model made to this meeting and issued via letter to ASSI communities on 22 January 2014;
4. declares the Wantok 2013 National Model null and void, including dissolving the “*Secretariat Board of Directors*” also known as “*National ASSI Board of Directors*” and “*National ASSI Secretariat*” also known as “*National ASSI Interim Secretariat*”, and thanks those involved for their work and effort;
5. requests ASSI.PJ to further facilitate at Wantok 2014 the development of a truly representative and inclusive national body for the representation of Australian South Sea Islanders (“National ASSI Association”) which will coexist with state, regional and local ASSI organisations by:
  - (a) workshopping a national governance model along the lines of a federation of ASSI community organisations which will include ordinary community members;
  - (b) formulating guidelines for appointing an available and committed Work Group to further develop and deliver a governance model for a National ASSI Association (“National ASSI Governance Work Group” or “NASSIG Work Group”),
6. requests the NASSIG Work Group to:
  - (a) further refine and develop the national governance model arising from 5(b) above;
  - (b) distribute and circulate widely within Australia’s ASSI communities a Constitution for the establishment of an incorporated National ASSI Association that will coexist with existing community organisations, together with any necessary explanatory memoranda;
  - (c) call for potential members of a National ASSI Association and nominations for election to the Association’s decision making body;
  - (d) decide who will conduct the conference at which the resulting Constitution is adopted and the first election to the association’s decision making body is held,
7. notes further meeting resolutions during the course of Wantok 2014 will provide more detailed guidance for the National Governance Work Group.