



CONFIRMED MINUTES OF INFORMATION SESSION

Information Session with Parks Australia, Fisheries Management Committee and CCC at George Fam Centre at 9.00am August 2nd 2021

1 Declaration of Opening of Meeting / Announcement of Visitors

- 1.1 Gordon THOMSON declared the meeting opened at 9.05am
- 1.2 Welcomed FMC members and Mike MISSO, Jason MUNDY and Alleyn WHYTE from National Parks

2 Record of Attendance/Apologies/Leave of Absence/Declarations of Financial, Proximity or Impartiality Interest

2.1 Record of Attendance

Community Consultative Committee

Shire President	Gordon THOMSON
CI Neighbourhood Centre	Oliver LINES
Malay Association of CI	Azmi YON
Manager of Policy	Chris SU
Shire CEO	David PRICE
CI Phosphates	Joy WICKENDEN

Fisheries Management Committee

Member	Kelana ARSHAD
Member	Mark ROCHFORD

National Parks

Director IOT Marine Parks	Mike MISSO
Assistant Director IOT Marine Parks	Alleyn WHYTE
A/G First Assistant Secretary	Jason MUNDY

2.2 Apologies

Councillor Representative	Morgan SOH
Christmas Island Women's Association	Nora KOH
Islamic Council of Christmas Island	Greg MCINTOSH
Council Representative	Hafiz MASLI
Poon Saan Club	Jackie TEH
Chinese Literary Association	Melanie HAN
Union of Christmas Island Workers	Kelvin LEE

3. Previous Minutes and Actions

	Action Item	CCC Meeting	Action Officer	Status
1.	DIRDC Community Engagement Protocol-DIRDC still has not responded to August 15th 2019 request by CCC Secretariat for copy of DIRC's Community Engagement Protocol.	August 2019	Chris Su	Still awaiting from DITCRD
2.	Awaiting response from NDIS Minister Linda Reynolds on CCC letter of 12 April 2021 on whether or not the NDIS will continue to apply on CI in the future	April 7 th 2021	Shire CEO	Still awaiting from NDIS Minister
3.	National Parks to discuss with DITRDC on a long term way forward to continue engaging with island residents with a funded independent third party consultancy	June 7 th 2021	Mike Misso	Mike Misso informed meeting of 2/8/2021 that he had been in contact with DITRDC and they are continuing dialogue.

4. Agenda Business

4.1 Updates from National Parks on proposed Marine Park

Mike MISSO and Alleyn WHYTE presented the Draft Christmas Island Marine Park map. It comprises of a yellow zone for the first 14NM offshore and then a green zone for the balance of the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Meeting noted that the 97nautical mile line to the north of Christmas Island runs parallel to the Indonesian EEZ as per the 1997 agreement with Indonesia.

National Parks summarised the process taken to get to this map. It involved educational workshops around 'what are marine parks/how do they differ from state fishing regulations' to what the zoning options for marine parks are.

National Parks said from their engagements on CKI and CI that a consensus has been reached on their respective draft designs with stakeholder input.

Kelana ARSHAD wanted to know more about what permit systems may be put in place for using the new marine park.

Mike MISSO provided that the Marine Park Management Plan will issue 'Class Approvals' to minimise disruption to community use.

Mike MISSO presented the 7 step chart for creating a Marine Park. Noted that we are at step 4 – *Informal Consultation*. This involves the Dept of Parks receiving feedback from stakeholders on a proposed draft. The following step 5 – *Formal Consultation*, is the mandatory 60 day process under the EPBC Act that allows for all interested parties to make submissions.

ACTION ITEM:

Mike MISSO reported as requested from the June 7th 2021 CCC meeting that he had been in discussions with DITRDC on a continued funded consultation assistance program to assist the Island in meeting maritime management needs.

CCC discussed the importance of the community being resourced correctly to help make its decisions. The CCC's preference was that the CCC be funded to choose which consultants it wants to engage with, rather than the consultants being chosen by the Commonwealth or otherwise externally.

Oliver LINES recounts Australian Border Force Facebook Post of July 27th reporting an intercept of a foreign vessel in Christmas Island EEZ waters. 1.5t of tuna fish on board.

Discussion on what input National Parks has with ABF via their joint Marine Border Command (MBC) for compliance management.

Chris SU raised again the challenges he sees with transparency in reporting number of hours the Navy/ABF spend patrolling the waters off Christmas Island. Noted that it would most likely be public information to request how many hours MBC spent patrolling waters in other parts of Australia – but with the dimension of asylum seeker boat patrolling performed by the MBC it may be seen as 'on water' matters and not disclosed.

Chris SU raised that the purpose for learning the patrolled hours spent on the water would be useful in creating a model to describe "X" number of patrolled hours will detect "Y" number of boats which will save "Z" tons of fish. Chris SU noted that all models have 'noise' but a baseline model would be useful to gauge impacts.

Jason MUNDY thought that the data regarding hours spent patrolling would be available once the Marine Parks are established.

CCC asked what were the punitive measures for a vessel caught? National Parks responded that forfeitures and onshore prosecutions are options for the authorities to pursue.

Mike MISSO provided more information on the \$5.4m Marine Park grants for CKI and CI in the first four years of the establishment of the park. The grant program was focused on creating opportunities for interpretation and tourism. National Parks said that CKI were considering a Marine Interpretive Centre on CKI.

Meeting discussed opportunities for the Marine Park grant program involving conservation, research and tourism.

Mark ROCHFORD raised that people needed to know more about the Step 7 - *Management Plan*. CCC and FMC noted that they are more across the marine park and fisheries matters than the normal Islander. Details regarding how the marine parks and fisheries will be managed on a user level are unclear. Confusion with fisheries regulations at the state level still exists.

Kelana ARSHAD expressed that the terrestrial park team have challenges in monitoring and managing the parks because of manpower and funding issues. Discussion in CCC that the Marine Park may go the same way if sufficient resources are not allocated.

Discussion about Ministerial commitment towards training Islanders to form the ranger division for marine park management. Joy WICKENDEN highlighted that retaining our young people is important.

Meeting agreed to make their submissions to the Step 4- *Informal Consultation* phase as well as the future Step 5 – *Formal Consultation* phase to follow.



4 General Business

5 Closure of Meeting

5.1 10.50am – Meeting Closed.

6 Date of Next Meeting

6.1 The date of the next meeting is to TBA.