



## CONFIRMED MINUTES

### Meeting of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) of the Shire of Christmas Island held at the George Fam Centre at 4.15pm Monday 7th June 2021

#### 1 Declaration of Opening of Meeting / Announcement of Visitors

- 1.1 Gordon THOMSON declared the meeting opened at 4.25pm
- 1.2 Welcomed Mike MISSO and Alleyn WHYTE from National Parks Australia
- 1.3 Welcomed marine consultants engaged by the Australian Marine Conservation Society Harriet DAVIES and Rebecca WEEKES

Fisheries Management Committee members also present

#### 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 <b>THOMSON</b>
Council Representative	Hafiz <b>MASLI</b>
CI Neighbourhood Centre	Oliver <b>LINES</b>
Union of Christmas Island Workers	Kelvin <b>LEE</b>
Poon Saan Club	Suzane <b>CHAN</b>
Chinese Literary Association	<b>GEE</b> Foo
Christmas Island Women's Association	Nora <b>KOH</b>
Islamic Council of Christmas Island	Greg <b>MCINTOSH</b>
Malay Association of CI	Azmi <b>YON</b>

Manager of Policy	Chris <b>SU</b>
-------------------	-----------------

##### Fisheries Management Committee

Member	Mark <b>ROCHFORD</b>
Member	Kelana <b>ARSHAD</b>

##### National Parks

Mike <b>MISSO</b>
Alleyn <b>WHYTE</b>

##### Marine Park Consultants

Harriet <b>DAVIES</b>
Rebecca <b>WEEKS</b>

## 2.2 Apologies

Councillor Representative  
Shire CEO  
CI Phosphates

Morgan **SOH**  
David **PRICE**  
Joy **WICKENDEN**

## 3. Agenda Business

### 3.1 Visit from National Parks Australia, on proposed CI Marine Park

Gordon THOMSON summarised that the CCC and FMC discussion to date for zoning of the proposed Marine Park is yellow zone for the inner 12nm and then green from there to the edge of the EEZ.

### 3.2 Mike MISSO and Alleyn WHYTE recapped the three zones of a Marine Park. Summarised that Marine Parks are Commonwealth creations and not concerned with rules around fish take such as size, amount caught, season of catch or export of fish.

A Marine Park zoned areas for usage and concentrates of preserving habitat.

### 3.3 CCC queried on the planned visit of the CSIRO scientific vessel '*The Investigator*.' Alleyn WHYTE updates that COVID has caused a delay to the planned mid-year visit and in addition the planned school student visit onboard *The Investigator* and other educational aspects of the visit onshore by the scientists will be paused for COVID restriction reasons.

Summarised the scientific mission of *The Investigator* to be mapping the deep sea areas off Christmas Island where there was a large gap in knowledge.

### 3.4 CCC discussed the 50m exclusion zone from spearfishing of water adjacent to a National Park. Mike MISSO advised that the proposed National Park will likely push up against the 50m in its establishment *Proclamation*.

### 3.5 The CCC asked if any other information regarding the \$5.4m announcement by the Minister for the funding of CKI and CI Marine Parks was available.

Mike MISSO said that \$5.4m was for both CKI and CI over four years. This money is to develop usage of the marine parks, with Tourism being a possible use that could tap into the funding.

It is an allocation in the 2021 Federal Budget to National Parks and a portion will be towards grants. The scope of the grants program is still to be written. Mike MISSO provided some examples of what the grant funding could possible by used for:

- Coastal Walks
- Training for monitoring
- Rangers
- Citizen Science
- Tourism usage of the marine park
- Moorings

Summarised that the grant funding would be towards economic development for the marine environment.

- 3.6 The CCC put forward that at \$5.4m for each island over four years, it equated to about \$675,000 per year per Island. It is unknown what portion of the \$675,000 would be allocated for grant funding.

CCC expressed that an initial project that the allocation could go to is continued engagement of independent consultants as what is presently the case with the two independent persons funded by Australian Marine Conservation Society.

Action Item no.	Description	Officer
1	National Parks to continue discussion with DITRDC on how to progress and continue this process of engaging third party consultants on state fishing and federal marine park matters?	Mike MISSO

- 3.7 Chris SU asked which agency is responsible for patrolling waters in the Australian EEZ zones?

Alleyn WHYTE advised that it is the portfolio of *Maritime Border Command* which is under Border Force. Several agencies interact within it:

- Defence
- Border Force
- Australian Fisheries Authority
- National Parks Australia

The MBC is responsible for coordinating and controlling operations to protect Australia's national interests against the following maritime security threats:

- illegal exploitation of natural resources
- illegal activity in protected areas
- unauthorised maritime arrivals
- prohibited imports/exports
- maritime terrorism
- piracy
- compromise to bio-security
- marine pollution.

- 3.8 Alleyn WHYTE explained that this joint agency group whom Parks works with to request and task those agencies to do patrols along with other activities.

- 3.9 Chris SU put forward that normally requesting information from Marine Border Command on how many patrol hours they did in an EEZ (Norfolk Island for example) and how many unauthorised fishing vessels they intercepted would be an ordinary supply of information from a federal agency to a member of the public. In the Christmas Island context however, 'on the water' matters surrounding fishing vessel activities have historically been redacted.

- 3.10 Chris SU put forward that being able to document the number of hours patrolling the CI EEZ in combination with collection of fishing vessel number turnarounds /

intercepts would be an important variable to understand in the eventual formula to calculate the efficacy of the Marine Park.

Broadly, if “X” hours of patrol on the water per year turned away “Y” vessels per year and the data count for fish population was “Z”, then after taking into account mitigating factors A,B,C regarding weather, IOT dipole, el nino, etc for margin of error, we should be able to see over time the impact of patrol activity on population health quantified numerically.

The CCC noted that there was a lack of fish population data from the WA Dept of Fisheries historically and this was one of the points of contention the community had with the proposed Draft Fisheries Ordinances 19/20. The CCC were keen to document the health of the populations with a base line study first so that future population counts could be compared against it.

3.11 National Parks noted the feedback on the CCC wish to be able to know the patrol hours spent in the Marine Park and vessels intercepted / turned around.

3.12 Mike MISSO presented a draft map of the Marine Park. The inner 12nm is yellow and runs along latitude and longitude lines for simplicity. The balance is green zone to the edge of the allowable EEZ.

Advises that National Parks plans to return in late July with a Draft Proposal for Marine Park design. This will start the ‘informal consultation.’

The formal legislative mandated consultation will follow, which will be for 60 days minimum.

3.13 National Parks said the accompanying Management Plan following the Proclamation will align with the communities wishes for the Marine Park.

The CCC reaffirmed that it would be useful if the \$5.4m went to ongoing consultation to be resourced; and for it to be auspiced to the people of the Island and not the Department. Gordon THOMSON put forward that the local government is a logical place to auspice the money as the Fisheries Management Committee and Community Consultative Committee operate from there with the Councillors being democratically elected.

3.14 CCC put forward concerns that the follow through on the completion of the Management Plan and the Marine Park zone design might not be aligned with the communities’ input as put forward earlier by National Parks.

The CCC is optimistic, but cautious in this respect. Recounted the ‘community consultation’ between Draft Fisheries Regulations 2019 and 2020 versions where nothing changed except the date and the name of the Governor General on the documents.

3.15 Mike MISSO said that he was supportive of the process that has been happening presently on CI and CKI, and hoped that the final plans measured up to the vision of the communities.

3.16 Harriet DAVIES reiterates that the orange box at the end of the “*How a Marine Park is Established*” handout National Parks provided shows the ‘rule making’ section and the stage which the FMC and CCC and community could provide input to.

#### 4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

##### 4.1 October 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 Minutes

**CCC Resolution****Moved: Hafiz MASLI****Seconded: Kelvin LEE****Res. No: CCC4/21**

That the Community Consultative Committee accept the Minutes of the CCC meeting on 20 October 2020 as a true and accurate record.

**Carried: 10/0**

##### 4.2 February 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 Minutes

**CCC Resolution****Moved: Hafiz MASLI | Seconded: Kelvin LEE  
LEE****Res. No: CCC5/21**

That the Community Consultative Committee accept the Minutes of the CCC meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 as a true and accurate record.

**Carried: 10/0**

##### 4.3 April 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 Minutes

**CCC Resolution****Moved: Hafiz MASLI****Seconded: Kelvin LEE****Res. No: CCC6/21**

That the Community Consultative Committee accept the Minutes of the CCC meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 as a true and accurate record.

**Carried: 10/0**

##### 4.4 April 19<sup>th</sup> 2021 Minutes

**CCC Resolution****Moved: Hafiz MASLI****Seconded: Kelvin LEE****Res. No: CCC7/21**

That the Community Consultative Committee accept the Minutes of the CCC meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 as a true and accurate record.

**Carried: 10/0**

#### 4.5 April 29<sup>th</sup> 2021 Minutes

**CCC Resolution**

**Moved: Hafiz MASLI**

**Seconded: Kelvin LEE**

**Res. No: CCC8/21**

That the Community Consultative Committee accept the Minutes of the CCC meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 as a true and accurate record.

**Carried: 10/0**

#### 4.6 June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021 Minutes

**CCC Resolution**

**Moved: Hafiz MASLI**

**Seconded: Kelvin LEE**

**Res. No: CCC9/21**

That the Community Consultative Committee accept the Minutes of the CCC meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021 as a true and accurate record.

**Carried: 10/0**

#### 5 General Business

#### 6 Closure of Meeting

6.1 Meeting ended at 17:50

#### 7 Date of Next Meeting

7.1 The date of the next meeting is to 23<sup>rd</sup> June with several WA State Agencies