



## CONFIRMED MINUTES

### Meeting of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) of the Shire of Christmas Island held at the George Fam Centre at 4.15pm Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 the 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>
CI Phosphates	Joy <b>WICKENDEN</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>
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##### Fisheries Management Committee

Member	Mark <b>ROCHFORD</b>
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##### 2.2 Apologies

Councillor Representative	Morgan <b>SOH</b>
Shire CEO	David <b>PRICE</b>

### **3. Agenda Business**

#### **3.1 Visit from Marine Consultants from Australian Marine Conservation Society**

Gordon THOMSON recapped that this opportunity to help co-design the Marine Park and applicable Fisheries Regulations was a first in terms of governance on Christmas Island where local input is being meaningfully sought.

Gordon THOMSON summarised Harriet DAVIES and Rebecca WEEKES' meeting at the Malay Club the evening previous and informs meeting that the Malay Club meetings will continue throughout the week and are open to all.

Azmi YON recounted from Malay Club meeting that residents were dissatisfied that there was a lack of hard data from WA DoF in terms of population count before the draft regulations were put forward. Wa DoF had used a precautionary principle of outright protecting species from catch without providing evidence that those fish needed to be protected in totality. Science needs to inform the laws.

Harriet DAVIES put forward that they are here to meet the community, collecting views and evidence to support the proposed plan.

There are two separate things at hand; Fishing Regulations and Marine Park. One is a state type concern and the other is federal.

Marine Parks create zones within them which can be managed by its own set of rules with Rangers funded to do that. It's aims are to protect bio-diversity.

The meeting noted that preserving the IOT's bio-diversity in the Marine Park zone will protect eco-systems near and far. The impact on the preservation within the Marine Park zone will have positive impacts on places far outside it.

Meeting had present position to have the first 12 nautical miles from shore as Yellow (enabling recreational and small scale commercial fishing) and the subsequent Exclusive Economic Zone as Green (preserving it from all fish take). There was wide agreement that Islanders should not have any Blue Zones (for industrial activity).

Meeting discussed need for collecting data to make informed decisions and regulations about fisheries management in the 12 nautical miles. It may be years before the decisions may be made, with interim time collecting data.

Agreement that present planning of zones in 12 nautical mile should not lock out future generations from fishing.

Gordon THOMSON summarised that a CI Fisheries Management Authority had been put forward, that would hold the Government structurally to following its resolutions. Such an authority would have locals working in tandem with fishery scientists and legal/government experts.

GEE Foo asked for the expected timeline for a plan to be put to the Commonwealth. Harriet DAVIES shared that the Department had wished to have a finished plan put to them before the next federal election.

Mark ROCHFORD informed the meeting that an email correspondence with WA DoF confirmed to him that WA DoF would not be part of a Service Delivery Agreement

with the Commonwealth from July 1 2021. The CCC was unaware of this development.

Discussion on the annual cost of the Fisheries SDA, \$700,000, being possibly made available to a proposed new local body.

Agreement by meeting that Stock Assessments of fish populations should form an early focus in the proposed plan to best understand the present health of the stocks.

Meeting reaffirmed that to protect the IOT bio-diversity was to protect eco-systems beyond the boundary of the IOTs.

Harriet DAVIES and Rebecca WEEKES made arrangements to sit with CCC and FMC members as needed until 8/6/21 when they leave for Cocos.

Resolved to invite Harriet DAVIES and Rebecca WEEKES come to the planned CCC meeting at 4.15pm Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

**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 7<sup>th</sup> June with National Parks.