



Notice is given that an Ordinary Meeting of Council of the Shire of Christmas Island is to be held at the Council Chambers on **Tuesday 8 December 2020** commencing at 7.00pm

David Price
Chief Executive Officer

AGENDA

- 1 **Declaration of Opening of Meeting/Announcement of Visitor**
- 2 **Record of Attendance/Apologies/Leave of Absence/Declaration of Financial/Proximity/Impartiality Interests**
 - 2.1 Attendance
 - 2.2 Leave of Absence
 - 2.3 Apologies
 - 2.4 Declaration of Interests
- 3 **Response to Previous Public Questions Taken on Notice**
- 4 **Public Question Time**
- 5 **Applications for Leave of Absence**
- 6 **Petitions/Deputations/Presentations**
- 7 **Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings/Business arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings**
 - 7.1 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 November 2020 (pg 1-6)
 - 7.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings
- 8 **Announcements by Presiding Member Without Discussion**
- 9 **Reports of Committees**
- 10 **Reports of Officers**
 - 10.1 **Chief Executive Officer**
 - 10.1.1 Annual Report 2020 (pg 7-8)
 - 10.1.2 The Christmas Island Fishery Management Committee (pg 9-10)
 - 10.2 **Manager Finance & Administration**
 - 10.2.1 Schedule of Accounts – November 2020 (pg 11-17)
 - 10.2.2 Financial Statements – November 2020 (pg 18-23)
 - 10.3 **Manager Community/Recreation Services & Training**
 - 10.4 **Manager Works, Services & Waste**
 - 10.5 **Manager Governance Research Policy & Grants**
 - 10.5.1 Draft SOCI JSCNCET 2020 Submission (pg 24-42)
 - 10.5.2 Ratings Consultant Engagement (pg 43-44)
- 11 **Elected Members Motions of which Previous Notice has been given**
- 12 **New Business of an Urgent Nature Introduced by Decision of the Meeting**
- 13 **Behind Closed Doors**
- 14 **Closure of Meeting**
- 15 **Date of the next Ordinary Meeting**
9 February 2021



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of the Shire of Christmas Island held at the George Fam Chambers at 7.00pm on Tuesday 17 November 2020

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

1.1 The Shire President declared the meeting open at 7.05pm.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE/DECLARATIONS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

2.1 Record of Attendance

Shire President
Councillors

Cr Gordon **THOMSON**
Cr Philip **WOO**
Cr Kelvin Kok Bin **LEE**
Cr Hafiz **MASLI**
Cr Morgan Boon Hwa **SOH**
Cr Farzian **ZAINAL**
Cr Azmi **YON**(arrives 7.15pm)
Cr Vincent Cheng-Siew **SAW**
David **PRICE**
Chris **SU**
Olivier **LINES**
Graeme **HEDDITCH**

Chief Executive Officer
Manager Research, Policy, Governance & Grants/Minute Taker
Manager Community/Recreation Services
Manager Works, Services & Waste

2.2 **Leave of Absence**

Deputy President

Cr Kee Heng **FOO**

2.3 **Apologies**

Manager Finance and Admin

So Hon **GAN**

2.4 **Declarations of Financial/Impartiality/Proximity Interest**

3 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

4.1 Cr Farzian ZAINAL requested an update on the Keep Australia Beautiful program and the island welcome pack initiative. CEO David PRICE informs meeting that he had been in contact with Department of Water and Environment officer Time FRANCIS who has been the partner in developing the Christmas Island Aluminium Water Bottle welcome pack initiative. Tim FRANCIS had been stuck in New Zealand during the pandemic and unable to cross into Australia, delaying the completion of the project. CEO David PRICE said it would likely be in 2021.

Other items for welcome back discussed including information brochure and cigarette butt containers.

MCRST Oliver LINES informed meeting that Shire had assisted in three clean up programs this year to date; Australia Day clean up, Greta Beach Clean Up and the Great Northern Clean Up. The Marine Debris Project was organised by Island Care who had informed Shire and other stakeholders that they had to delay the project because of COVID. MCRST Oliver Lines noted that Keep Australia Beautiful Committee Samantha CULBERTSON was coming to the Island on November 26th.

- 4.2 Cr Farzian ZAINAL asked for an update to the December School Holiday Program; put forward that there might be a higher than normal on-island population this holiday season than normal. MCRST Oliver LINES advised that he met with Youth Community Services Officer Suzane CHAN this week, and to expect a schedule in an Islander edition before the December school holidays.
- 4.3 Cr Farzian ZAINAL advised the meeting that the shower at the Cove Gazebos was blocked, with water backing up onto the shower area. There was an unpleasant smell associated with this. CEO David PRICE advised that this was a Commonwealth asset and that Shire would contact IOTA the following day to advise of this community feedback for their action.
- 4.4 Cr Kelvin LEE informed the meeting that a new Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories inquiry had been announced regarding telecommunications last Friday 13th. Noted that there were numerous community feedback over the years on the state of telecommunications. Cr Gordon THOMSON informed the meeting that he was aware of the inquiry and had an initial discussion with CEO on the matter.

Cr Gordon THOMSON requested that the Shire draft a submission for the review of Councillors at the December 8th Council Meeting.

Cr Azmi YON arrives at 7.15pm

- 4.5 Cr Hafiz MASLI at the request of a resident informed the meeting of their dissatisfaction at the untidiness left after a rubbish bin pick up earlier this week at their home. CEO David PRICE informed the meeting that he and MWS Graeme HEDDITCH have been informed and had resolved the matter earlier that day.

5 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

5.1 Cr Woo – Leave of Absence

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE

Seconded: Cr YON

Res. No: 109/20

That the leave of absence application submitted by Cr Philip Woo (4/12/2020 to 18/12/2020) be approved.

Carried: 8/0

6 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS/BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

7.1 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 October 2020

Members considered the unconfirmed minutes.

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr WOO

Seconded: Cr SAW

Res. No: 110/20

That Council adopt the unconfirmed minutes of the 20 October 2020 Council Meeting.

Carried: 8/0

7.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 7.2.1 Cr Gordon THOMSON advised that Dr. Kelvin MATTHEWS and Prof. Martin DRUM are coming to the Island December 1st to 4th to deliver a series of workshops on governance. The session for Councillors is 4:15pm, Wednesday 2nd December at the Shire Chambers, or possibly other venue, CEO to advise.

7.2.2 Cr Farzian ZAINAL raised item 10.5.2 from the October meeting on Dental concerns. Have IOTHS advised the community that PATS would be provided for dental needs at this time without dentists on the island? Cr Gordon THOMSON says that although Acting Director Andrew MURPHY had indicated at the October Council meeting he would put it to IOTHS, there has been no response from IOTHS yet.

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

8.1 Cr Gordon THOMSON reminds Council that the Audit Committee meeting is on Thursday 26th November at 3.00pm, Council Chambers. Teleconference with the Office of the Auditor General and their partner auditors Moore Stephens.

8.2 Cr Gordon THOMSON reports on the Shire's meeting on 2nd November on the Fisheries Ordinance at the Malay Club. Summarised that the attendees felt that it was disrespectful and offensive that the two previous petitions, the November 2019 Malay Club consultation with the Dept of Primary Industries (Fisheries), Perth Department of Territories officials and the Administrator brought zero modification to the panned 2019 version of the Draft CI Fisheries Ordinance. The 2020 version is exactly the same as the 2019 version with only the date and the name of the Governor General changed.

Cr Gordon THOMSON advised that Vanessa BENNETT of C Change Solutions had been engaged by the Commonwealth to produce a formal 'Community Consultation Protocol' in 2018/19 but that it has yet to be released to the public despite several written requests from the Shire to the Commonwealth to do so. Noted that the requirement to 'consult' was necessary in Government practice, but the outcomes have not changed since any of the feedback was collected in this case.

Cr Gordon THOMSON stated that this was a removal of local people from being able to meaningfully participate in the development of laws and governance in the community. Cr Gordon THOMSON compared it to the removal of the two Shires from the committee of the Indian Ocean Territories Regional Development Organisation which displaced elected representation from the ability to participate in economic development funding decisions.

Summarised the outcomes of the Malay Club meetings as:

- 1) Restate the objections from 2019;
- 2) That a political campaign opposing the fisheries ordinance be had and
- 3) That the People's Assembly be reconvened

And that the above be communicated in The Islander.

8.3 Cr Gordon THOMSON recounted the Saturday October 24th Shire meeting with the US Consul General, noting that it was the first time a US Consul General had visited Christmas Island. The Chinese Consul Generals had tended to visit the Island historically with every rotation of consul in Perth.

9 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

9.1 Minutes of Community Consultative Committee Meetings

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr MASLI

Seconded: Cr LEE

Res. No: 111/20

That the Confirmed Minutes of the Community Consultative Committee meeting of September 2nd 2020 be received.

Carried: 8/0

9.2 Business Arising from the CCC 2nd September 2020 Confirmed Minutes

9.3 Unconfirmed Minutes of October 21st CCC Meeting

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr MASLI

Seconded: Cr SOH

Res. No: 112/20

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Community Consultative Committee meeting of October 21st be received.

Carried: 8/0

9.4 Business Arising from the CCC 21st October 2020 Unconfirmed Minutes

10 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

10.1 Chief Executive Officer

10.1.1 Management Order

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr SAW

Seconded: Cr YON

Res. No: 113/20

Council approves the proposed conditions of the Management Order for the Proposed Gaze Road Community Recreation Area Lots 600 and 601 and accordingly the CEO is to advise IOTA.

Carried: 8/0

10.1.2 Dates for Ordinary Council Meetings 2021

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE

Seconded: Cr MASLI

Res. No: 114/20

That Council adopts the following schedule of Ordinary Meetings for 2021 in accordance with section 5.25 (1) (g) of the Local Government Act (CI) 1995 and the Local Government Administration Regulations 1996 commencing at 7.00pm at the George Fam Centre Council Chambers on the fourth Tuesday of each month with the exceptions of:

- 9 February 2021 ordinary meeting due to the long period of no meetings between December 2020 and February 2021.
- 15th June 2021 Ordinary Meeting being the 3rd Tuesday due to the ALGA National Conference in Canberra being the following week.
- 16 November 2021 Ordinary Meeting being the 3rd Tuesday 3 weeks after the October 2020 Ordinary Meeting and 3 weeks before the December 2021 Ordinary Meeting which is scheduled for the 7th December 2021 being the 2nd Tuesday due to the Christmas close down period in December 2021.

9 February 2021

23 March 2021

27 April 2021

25 May 2021

15 June 2021

27 July 2021

24 August 2021

28 September 2021

26 October 2021

16 November 2021

7 December 2021

Carried: 8/0

Arising from the President's report on the public meeting held at the Malay Club on 2nd November 2020 on the Christmas Island Applied Laws (Fish Resources Management) Ordinance 2020, that rejected the proposed Ordinance and endorsed that a public campaign be put into place to pursue a satisfactory community supported outcome, Council endorses the establishment of the Christmas Island People's Assembly and that President to convene the first meeting be held 4.30pm 19th November 2020 at the Post Office Padang.

Carried: 8/0

12.3 Shire Fishery Management Committee

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr MASLI

Res. No: 121/20

That the Shire of Christmas Island establishes the Christmas Island Fishery Management Committee, the composition of the committee to be three Councillors and community nominees to be requested from the first meeting of the People's Assembly to be held 19th November 2020 and close 4pm 2nd December 2020. The final composition of the committee to be decided at the Ordinary meeting of Council on 8th December 2020.

Carried: 8/0 Absolute Majority

13 BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

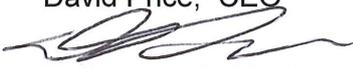
14 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Shire President closed the meeting at 8.25 pm

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 8 December 2020



SHIRE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND

SUBMISSION TO	Ordinary Meeting 8 December 2020
AGENDA REFERENCE	10.1.1
SUBJECT	Annual Report 2020
LOCATION/ADDRESS/APPLICANT	N/A
FILE REFERENCE	3.1.5
INTEREST DISCLOSURE	None
DATE OF REPORT	3 December 2020
AUTHOR	David Price, CEO
SIGNATURE OF AUTHOR	

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. The Shire of Christmas Island Annual Report for 2020 is accepted.**
- 2. An Elector's General Meeting is held on Tuesday 2 February 2021 commencing at 6.30pm for the purpose prescribed by the Local Government Act 1995 (WA) (CI).**
- 3. The Chief Executive Officer is to give notice of the Elector's Meeting and to ensure that statutory requirements regarding the acceptance of the Annual Report 2020 are met.**

BACKGROUND

Moore Australia has been engaged by the Office of the Attorney General (AGO) Western Australia to perform an audit of the Shire of Christmas Island's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Moore Australia has completed the audit of the Shire of Christmas Island's Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Attached is a copy of the Shire of Christmas Island Annual Report 2020 for Council's consideration.

COMMENT

The auditors have reported that the Shire's financial accounts for the period ending 30 June 2020 were in good order and a fair representation of Council activities.

There is a significant adverse trend in the financial position of the Shire as the Asset Sustainability Ratio, the Own Source Revenue Coverage Ratio and the Operating Surplus Ratio have been below the industry benchmark and OAG threshold for the past 3 years.

In accordance with section 5.27 (2) of the Local Government Act 1995 (WA) (CI) an elector's meeting must be held within 56 days of the acceptance of the annual report. The meeting should be held no later than Tuesday 2 February 2021. It is recommended that the elector's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 2 February 2021.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Section 5.53 (1) of the Local Government Act 1995 (WA) (CI) requires the Council to prepare an annual report for each financial year.

Section 5.54 of the Local Government Act 1995 (WA) (CI) outlines the time period for acceptance of the annual report; namely that the report must be accepted no later than 31 December after that financial year.

Section 5.55 of the Local Government Act 1995 (WA)(CI) requires the CEO to give public notice of the availability of the annual report as soon as practicable after Council has accepted the annual report.

Section 5.27 (2) of the Local Government Act 1995 (WA)(CI) requires a general electors meeting to be held within 56 days of Council receiving the annual report.

Section 7.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 (WA)(CI) requires the accounts and annual financial report of a local government for each financial year to be audited by an auditor appointed by the local government.

Section 7.9 (1) of the Local Government Act 1995 (WA)(CI) requires an auditor to examine the accounts and annual financial reports submitted for audit and, by 31 December next following the financial year to which the accounts and report relate or such date as may be prescribed, to prepare a report thereon and forward a copy of that report to:

- The Shire President;
- The CEO of the Local Government; and
- The Minister.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant policy implications arising from this matter.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this matter.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS & MILESTONES

Objective 1 of the Government environment is to "Provide good governance in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act and the culture of the Island". Objective 4 of the same Environment is to "Effectively manage the resources of the Shire in line with the objectives of the Strategic Plan".

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

An absolute majority is required.

ATTACHMENT

10.1.1.1 Annual Report 2020 provided separately.



SHIRE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND

SUBMISSION TO	Ordinary Council Meeting 8 December 2020
AGENDA REFERENCE	10.1.2
SUBJECT	The Christmas Island Fishery Management Committee
LOCATION/ADDRESS/APPLICANT	
FILE REFERENCE	2.4.13
INTEREST DISCLOSURE	Nil
DATE OF REPORT	3 December 2020
AUTHOR	David Price, CEO
SIGNATURE OF CEO	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In accordance with The Local Government Act 1995 (WA) (CI), Part 5, Subdivision 2, Sections 5.8 and 5.9 (2)(c) the Shire of Christmas Island establishes the Christmas Island Fishery Management Committee.
2. The composition of the committee is:
Cr _____, Cr _____ and Cr _____ as the Councillor representatives, the CEO and Manager for Governance, Research Policy and Grants as the employee representatives, and _____, _____, _____ as the community representatives on the Christmas Island Fishery Management Committee'.
3. The Terms of Reference of the Christmas Island Fishery Management Committee is:
"To inform and advise the Shire and the Christmas Island Community on Fishery Management issues, direction, policy and where appropriate alternative direction to the proposed CI Draft Fisheries Ordinance 2020."

BACKGROUND

Council at the Ordinary meeting held 17 November 2020 adopted the following resolution/

"That the Shire of Christmas Island establishes the Christmas Island Fishery Management Committee, the composition of the committee to be three Councillors and community nominees to be requested from the first meeting of the People's Assembly to be held 19th November 2020 and close 4pm 2nd December 2020. The final composition of the committee to be decided at the Ordinary meeting of Council on 8th December 2020."

The Local Government Act 1995 (WA) (CI) prescribes the requirements for establishing and administering Council committees

COMMENT

On the 20 November 2020 a public notice was issued calling for expressions of interest for the Fishery Management Committee and outlined the purpose of the committee as to inform and advise the Shire and the Christmas Island Community on Fishery Management issues, direction, policy and where appropriate alternative direction to the proposed CI Draft Fisheries Ordinance 2020.

The expression of interest from the community for the Shire Fishery Management Committee closed 4pm Tuesday 1st December 2020.

At the close of interest the following expression were received.

Eijas RAZAK
Jauhar JAMIL
Shazmin ROSLI

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS & MILESTONES

Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute Majority

ATTACHMENTS

Nil



SHIRE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND

SUBMISSION TO	Ordinary Council Meeting 8 December 2020
AGENDA REFERENCE	10.2.1
SUBJECT	Schedule of Accounts – November 2020
LOCATION/ADDRESS/APPLICANT	N/A
FILE REFERENCE	3.1.14
INTEREST DISCLOSURE	None
DATE OF REPORT	2 December 2020
AUTHOR	Gan So Hon, Manager Finance & Admin
SIGNATURE OF AUTHOR	
SIGNATURE OF CEO	

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the expenditure as presented in November 2020 Schedule of Accounts

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 1995 (WA)(CI) requires Council to maintain a Municipal Fund, a Reserve Fund and a Trust Fund and to manage and report on these accounts in accordance with this Act and Regulations.

Outstanding creditors as at 30 November 2020:

\$222,236.42

COMMENT

A schedule of accounts is attached to this report, setting out expenditure from the Municipal and Trust Funds. This report is provided in compliance with the Act and Regulations.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Section 6.10 of the Local Government Act 1995 (WA)(CI) authorizes payment from Municipal and Trust Funds.

Regulation 12 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 requires a local government to compile a list of Creditors each month.

Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 requires that if a Local Government has delegated to the CEO the exercise of its power to make payments from the Municipal Fund or the Trust Fund, the CEO is to compile each month a list of accounts paid since the last payment such list was prepared.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant policy implications arising from this matter. The CEO is to ensure that all expenditure incurred is in accordance with the Annual Budget and any approved variations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications arising from expenditure from the Municipal, Reserve and Trust funds are reported on a monthly/quarterly basis to Council via Financial and cash flow statements in accordance with the Act and Regulations.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS & MILESTONES

Objective 1 of the Government Environment is to "Provide good governance in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act and the culture of the Island". Objective 4 of the same Environment is to "Effectively manage the resources of the Shire in line with the objectives of the Strategic Plan".

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

A simple majority is required.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Certification of CEO and Chairperson of the Meeting.
2. Schedule of Accounts – Municipal Fund November 2020.

"Pursuant to s 5.25 (j) of the Local Government Act, and Regulation 14 (2) of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations, this attachment is not available to the public."



SHIRE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND

SUBMISSION TO	Ordinary Council Meeting 8 December 2020
AGENDA REFERENCE	10.2.2
SUBJECT	Financial Statements – November 2020
LOCATION/ADDRESS/APPLICANT	N/A
FILE REFERENCE	3.1.14
INTEREST DISCLOSURE	None
DATE OF REPORT	2 December 2020
AUTHOR	Gan So Hon, Manager Finance & Admin
SIGNATURE OF AUTHOR	
SIGNATURE OF CEO	

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the Financial Statements of November 2020 for the Municipal Fund.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 1995 (WA)(CI) requires the local government to prepare a monthly or a quarterly financial report in accordance with this Act, Financial Regulations and other relevant legislation.

COMMENT

A monthly or a quarterly financial report is attached to this report, setting out expenditure from the Municipal and Trust Funds. This report is provided in compliance with the Act and Regulations.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Section 6.4 of the Local Government Act 1995 (WA)(CI) requires a local government to prepare a financial report.

Regulation 34 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 requires a local government to prepare a monthly or a quarterly financial report.

Regulation 35 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 requires the local government to prepare the quarterly report in the form as set out.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant policy implications arising from this matter. Each Manager and the CEO are to ensure that the expenditure is incurred in accordance with the Annual Budget and or any variations as approved.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications arising from expenditure from the Municipal and Trust funds are reported on a monthly/quarterly basis to Council via Financial and cash flow statements in accordance with the Act and Regulations.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS & MILESTONES

Objective 1 of the Government environment is to “Provide good governance in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act and the culture of the Island”. Objective 4 of the same Environment is to “Effectively manage the resources of the Shire in line with the objectives of the Strategic Plan”.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

A simple majority is required.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Financial Statements - Municipal Fund 30 November 2020.

SHIRE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

FM Reg 34
FM Reg 22 (1)(d)

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2020 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2020

		NOTE	30 November 2020 Y-T-D Actual \$	30 November 2020 Y-T-D Budget \$	2020/21 Budget \$	Variences Budget to Actual Y-T-D %	>10% & >\$10,000
Operating							
Revenues/Sources							
	General Purpose Funding	3	1	3,412,108	3,208,921	7,701,410	
	Governance		2	(35,305)	2,083	5,000	
	Law, Order, Public Safety		3	227	375	900	
	Health		4	11,077	7,917	19,000	
	Welfare		5	482	833	2,000	
	Housing		6	19,650	22,500	54,000	
	Community Amenities		7	555,505	237,667	570,400	133.7%
	Recreation and Culture		8	12,247	81,292	195,100	
	Transport		9	103,884	406,127	974,704	(74.4%)
	Economic Services		10	49,031	13,333	32,000	
	Other Property and Services		11	6,385	5,833	14,000	
				4,135,289	3,986,881	9,568,514	
(Expenses)/(Applications)							
	General Purpose Funding	3	12	(42,951)	(54,835)	(131,603)	
	Governance		13	(327,650)	(333,640)	(800,735)	
	Law, Order, Public Safety		14	(87,187)	(98,842)	(237,221)	
	Health		15	(42,997)	(71,199)	(170,878)	
	Welfare		16	(205,461)	(270,550)	(649,321)	
	Housing		17	(65,364)	(65,043)	(156,103)	
	Community Amenities		18	(643,970)	(757,125)	(1,817,099)	
	Recreation & Culture		19	(815,974)	(922,764)	(2,214,634)	
	Transport		20	(1,255,411)	(2,009,627)	(4,823,105)	
	Economic Services		21	(40,480)	(85,937)	(206,249)	
	Other Property and Services		22	(208,185)	(208,333)	(500,000)	
				(3,735,630)	(4,877,895)	(11,706,948)	
Adjustments for Non-Cash (Revenue) and Expenditure							
	Profit/(Loss) on Asset Disposals	3	23	0	0	0	
	Leave Accruals		24	0	(38,965)	(93,515)	
	Movement in accrual interests			0	0	0	
FM Reg 32(d)	Depreciation on Assets		25	584,892	1,010,958	2,426,300	
Capital Revenue and (Expenditure)							
	Purchase Property, Plant & Equipment	3	26	(888,687)	(497,917)	(1,195,000)	(78.5%)
	Purchase Infrastructure Assets - Roads		27	(481,798)	(293,627)	(704,704)	(64.1%)
	Proceeds from Disposal of Assets		28	0	0	0	
	Transfers to Reserves (Restricted Assets)		29	0	(30,329)	(72,789)	100.0%
	Transfers from Reserves (Restricted Assets)		30	0	471,667	1,132,000	100.0%
	Grants		31	919,465	291,960	700,704	
ADD	Net Current Assets July 1 B/Fwd	1		388,615	146,064	350,553	
LESS	Net Current Assets Year to Date	1		2,155,004	0	0	
	Amount Raised from Rates			(1,232,858)	168,798	405,115	

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

SHIRE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2020 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2020

	30 November 2020 Actual \$	Brought Forward 1-Jul \$
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Note 1. NET CURRENT ASSETS

FM Reg 34 (2)(a) Composition of Estimated Net Current Asset Position

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash - Unrestricted	1,497,376	618,221
Cash - Restricted	5,113,659	5,113,659
Receivables	421,991	210,782
Inventories	1,035,397	385,109
Other Financial Assets	19,065	22,107
	8,087,487	6,349,877

LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES

Payables and Provisions	(818,825)	(847,604)
	7,268,663	5,502,273
Less: Cash - Reserves - Restricted	(5,113,659)	(5,113,659)
Less: Cash - Restricted/Committed	0	0
NET CURRENT ASSET POSITION	2,155,004	388,615

Note 2. CURRENT RATIO

Current Assets	8,087,487	
Current Liabilities	818,825	9.88 : 1

QUICK RATIO

Current Assets - (Restricted Assets + Inventories)		
Current Liabilities		
8,087,487 - (5,113,659 + 1,035,397)	818,825	2.37 : 1

Ratios greater than one indicates that Council has sufficient current assets to meet its short term current liabilities.

SHIRE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2020 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2020

Note 3. VARIANCES

FM Reg 34 (2)(b) Variances greater than 10% and \$ 10,000 were due to:

OPERATING REVENUE

7 Comm Ameni	133.7% above budget estimate	due to Garbage charged to June 2021
9 Transport	-74.4% below budget estimate	due to partial payment of Commonwealth Contract Services fees of unseal roads.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Property, Plar	-78.5% above budget estimate	due to purchase of various plant & machinery as budgeted.
27 Infrastructure	-64.1% above budget estimate	due to completion of Commonwealth Contract - Services works.

10.2.2.1

Report	To Council Meeting - 8 December 2020
Item Number	F/A 10/2.2.1
Subject	Projected Cash Flows - Municipal Fund
Proponent	Finance
Reporting Officer	Manager Finance & Administration
Enabling Legislation	LG (Financial Management) Regs. 1996
File Number	

Projected Cash Flow July 2020 to December 2020

Month	July	August	September	October	November	December
Opening balance	6,000	6,000	683,000	9,000	2,000	5,000
Revenue						
General Purpose Grant	2,939,000	0	0	0	0	3,191,000
Rates	8,000	900,000	422,000	45,000	20,000	30,000
Others	86,000	88,000	166,000	108,000	72,000	50,000
CRA/R2R Grant/Com Svs Obligations	0	300,000	509,000	0	467,000	0
Reserve Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer from Max-I/Fixed Term Deposit	927,000	175,000	84,000	821,000	1,369,000	0
Total Revenue	3,966,000	1,469,000	1,864,000	983,000	1,930,000	3,276,000
Expenditure						
Payroll	405,000	324,000	303,000	346,000	461,000	350,000
Payroll - ATO/Super	241,000	173,000	160,000	175,000	238,000	250,000
Purchases	371,000	289,000	355,000	460,000	943,000	400,000
Insurance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to Reserve Account	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to Fixed Term Account/Max-I	2,943,000	0	1,037,000	0	283,000	2,275,000
Total Expenditure	3,960,000	786,000	1,855,000	981,000	1,925,000	3,275,000
Closing Balance	6,000	683,000	9,000	2,000	5,000	1,000

Note:
Total Estimated Cash On Hand 30 November 2020

MUNICIPAL FUND		RESERVE & TRUST FUNDS	
Max-I Account	\$ 1,491,185	Reserve Fund Operating Account	130
FTD	0	Reserve Fund - Max-I Account	1,030,829
Petty Cash/Cash Floats	\$ 600	Reserve Fund - FTD	4,015,244
Investments Shares	\$ 22,144	Trust Fund Operating Account	0
Cash At Bank	\$ 5,000	Trust Fund - Max-I Account	0
Sub-total	\$ 1,518,929	Trust Fund - FTD - Taman Sweetland Open Space	55,541
Less		Trust Fund - FTD - Phosphate Hill Open Space	64,498
CRA/Road Funding & R2R Projects	\$ (186,348)	Welfare Reserve Fund Operating Account	91
Outstanding Creditors 30/11/20	\$ (222,236)	Welfare Reserve Fund - Max-I Account	1,493
Total	\$ 1,110,345	Welfare Reserve Fund - FTD	83,923
		Total	5,251,749



SHIRE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND

SUBMISSION TO	Ordinary Council Meeting 8 December 2020
AGENDA REFERENCE	10.5.1
SUBJECT	Draft SOCI JSCNCET 2020 Submission
LOCATION/ADDRESS/APPLICANT	Nil
FILE REFERENCE	2.8.2
INTEREST DISCLOSURE	None
DATE OF REPORT	1 December 2020
AUTHOR	Chris Su, GRPG Manager
SIGNATURE OF AUTHOR	
SIGNATURE OF CEO	

RECOMMENDATION

That Council review the Draft submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories' Inquiry into the Availability and access to enabling communications infrastructure in Australia's external territories 2020 for finalisation before 27th January 2021.

BACKGROUND

The Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories announced by Media Release on Friday 13 November 2020 the Inquiry into telecommunications infrastructure in the territories (see media release, 10.5.1.1)

Council requested at November 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting for a draft submission to be put to the December meeting for consideration.

The JSCNCET secretariat was contacted by the Shire to enquire as to when the Committee would be travelling to the Island to take in submissions from residents? The secretariat advised that this was to be in 2021 but as yet no date was finalised due to COVID. It is likely the travel date will be after the January 27th 2021 deadline for written submissions. As a matter of course, the JSCNCET Secretariat and Chairperson usually accept late submissions should a party indicate that a submission was forthcoming.

COMMENT

The Terms of Reference of the inquiry centres around local access to internet and phone communications and the context of how services could be improved in each.

After desk top research and consultation with the IT officer, the recommendations centre around:

- a) Finding a way to reticulate the VOCUS cable's signal across the Island
- b) Replacing the 2G mobile phone service with a contemporary 4G network

The Shire's submission also contains a recommendation to connecting neighbouring Cocos (Keeling) Islands to the VOCUS cable and establishment of a 4G network there also.

GRPG Manager can update the submission pending feedback from Council.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

There are no statutory environment implications under the Local Government Act WA 1995 arising from this matter.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant policy implications arising from this matter.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant financial policy implications arising from this matter.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS & MILESTONES

The CI 2021 Strategic Community Plan emphasizes taking advantage of improving technology options to better standard of living on island.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

A simple majority is required.

ATTACHMENTS

- 10.5.1.1 Media Release, JSCNCET 'Committee to Examine Communications in Territories.' 13.11.2020
- 10.5.1.2 Draft Shire JSCNCET Inquiry Submission
- 10.5.1.3 News archives on Christmas Island internet

Committee to examine communications in territories

Issue date: Friday, 13 November 2020



Parliament’s Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories has opened an inquiry into enabling communications infrastructure in Australia’s external territories of Norfolk Island, Christmas Island, and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Committee Chair, Dr Anne Webster MP, said: “The remoteness of Australia’s external territories makes providing communications infrastructure, technology and services particularly challenging, while at the same time even more important to the daily lives of residents.”

“In addition, ensuring communications infrastructure is fit for purpose is important for the ongoing social and economic development of Australia’s external territories.”

Dr Webster explained that “The Committee will examine the current communications situation in each of the territories, activity underway to enhance connectivity and services, and the options and opportunities for improving availability of and access to communications infrastructure.”

“We look forward to hearing from all interested people and organisations, including residents and businesses in the external territories.”

The Committee is accepting submissions addressing the terms of reference until **27 January 2021**. Further information on how to prepare and lodge a submission can be found [on the inquiry website](#). Public hearings are expected to be held during 2021.

Media enquiries

Office of Dr Anne Webster MP
03 5021 5987

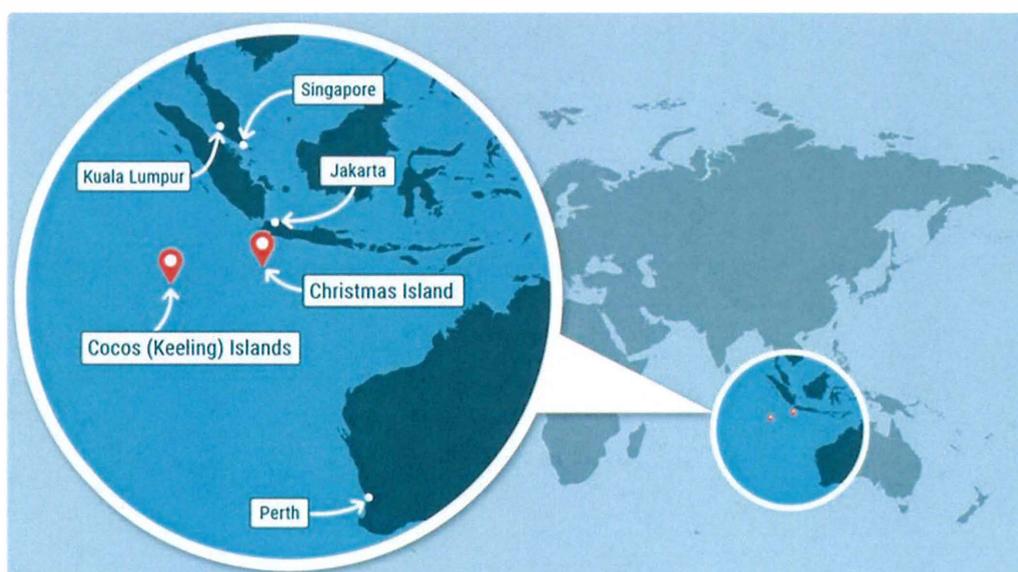
For background information

Committee Secretariat
02 6277 4355
jscncet@aph.gov.au



**Shire of Christmas Island Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the
National Capital and External Territories'**

**Availability and access to enabling
communications infrastructure in Australia's
external territories 2020**



Prepared by:
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Terms of Reference

1. The availability of, and access to communications technologies and infrastructure in each of the external territories;
2. future opportunities in enabling communications technologies and infrastructure in each of the external territories including telecommunications services, submarine cables, satellite capabilities;
3. opportunities and barriers arising from current and potential future communications infrastructure in each of the external territories;
4. examining the economic benefits of improving the availability of, and access to communications infrastructure in each of the external territories; and
5. recommendations for any future communications technologies and infrastructure for each of the external territories.

1.0 The availability of, and access to communications technologies and infrastructure in each of the external territories;

Christmas Island's current communication infrastructure is as follows:

- Speedcast O3B Satellites
- Sky Muster National Broadband Network
- VOCUS Australia-Singapore Cable connectivity
- Telstra 2G Mobile Phone network
- Telstra landline phones

Presently the VOCUS Australia-Singapore Cable is available for use only for Commonwealth agencies such as the Administrator's Office and her personal residence as a fibre-to-the-house regime was put in by the Commonwealth.

The VOCUS cable is available to independent ISPs to tap into for re-distribution and at present only Ci-Fi has been able to do so, and even then only to the lower shelf residents.

Cocos (Keeling) Island's current communication infrastructure is as follows:

- Speedcast O3B Satellites
- Sky Muster National Broadband Network
- Telstra landline phones

Notably there are no mobile phone networks on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands of any kind.

2. Future opportunities in enabling communications technologies and infrastructure in each of the external territories including telecommunications services, submarine cables, satellite capabilities;

Internet

Christmas Island lacks a reliable internet service. The NBN Satellite signal is hampered on days with cloud cover or rain. This makes it problematic to rely on during the five month wet season and even more so leading into and during cyclone events.

In a similar fashion the O3B Satellite service that Speedcast provide is also prone to fade out in the rain and on cloudy days. It is however more resistant to the weather before failing.

The VOCUS underwater cable delivers high-speed bandwidth to the island via a spur off the main trunk line that runs from Perth to Singapore. Ci-Fi are presently the sole internet service provider that offers connectivity to residents and businesses using the VOCUS cable. It does this by picking up the cable at the lower shelf and reticulating it across the Island across a series of 4G nodes on towers across the Island.

Currently, Ci-Fi are seeking funding via the *Regional Connectivity Program* grant under the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications to assist in the costs of establishing at least one new tower site to service precincts in the upper shelf. At present, only residents on the lower shelf can receive the Ci-Fi distribution of the VOCUS cable.

Other internet service providers on Island are known to be considering methods to connect to the VOCUS cable, but are all hampered by the cost of establishing, or retro-fitting their reticulation networks to be able to accept the cable's connection at the lower shelf.

Mobile Connectivity

The sole mobile phone service provider is Telstra. Telstra provide a 2G phone connection which means that only voice calls and text messaging are possible. It is the last 2G network in Australia.

The Shire of Christmas Island was contacted by its House of Representatives Member Warren Snowdon in October 2020 to ask for our input regarding a request from a Senior Specialist Government Relations officer at Telstra for a letter of support from

the member's office for the rollout of a Telstra 4G network on Christmas Island. This would bring Christmas Island in line with most of metro Australia who have a 4G mobile phone service which enables internet usage on smart phones and other smart devices. Telstra were also seeking to apply for the *Regional Connectivity Program* at the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

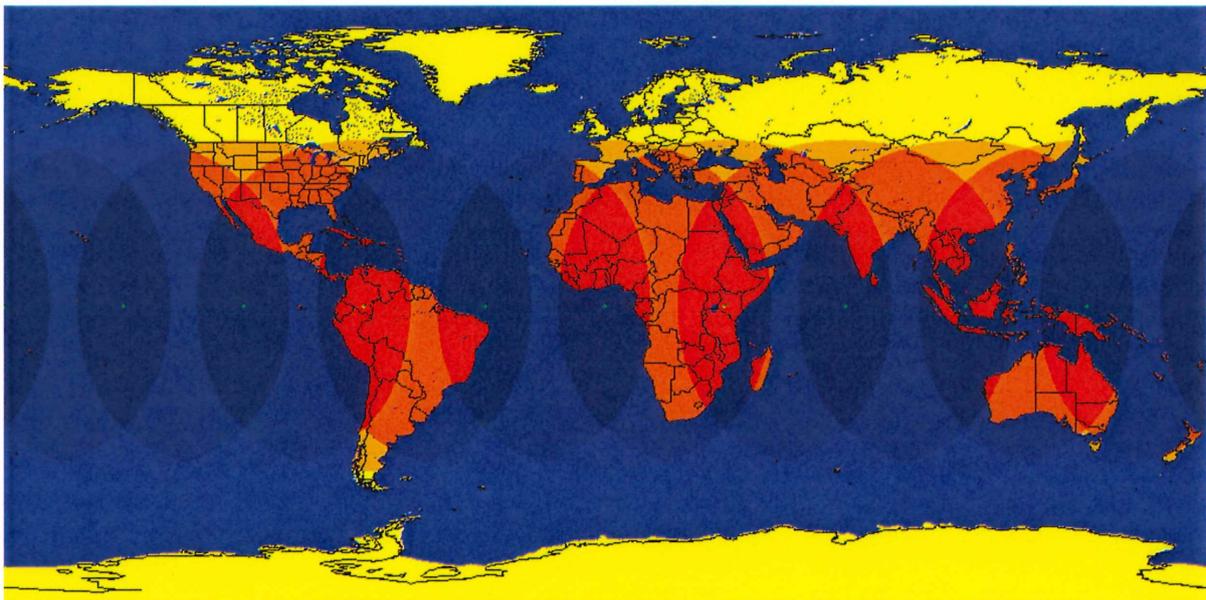
Speedcast's Christmas Island 4G network

Speedcast inherited the local 4G network created by original operators CI Internet Authority as they exited the market in 2017.

This 4G network is not related to the Telstra 4G network on the mainland in any way. It is a series of 4G nodes around the township that reticulate the signal captured at the primary O3B Satellite base station in Drumsite, which Speedcast owns.

O3B stands for 'The Other 3 Billion' and refers to the series of American satellites owned by O3B that deliver high speed connectivity around the equatorial belt through a series of mid-earth orbiting satellites.

Christmas Island falls in the footprint of this satellite network, hence an O3B receiver base station satellite in Drumsite can receive the signal from orbit to relay across the local 4G network designed especially for this service.



Footprint of O3B network satellites,

<https://www.ses.com/networks/networks-and-platforms/o3b-meo>

The bespoke 4G network allows for a battery powered 4G dongle that can tap into the 4G network around the Island and deliver a mobile-wifi-hotspot for consumers. These units are in extremely high demand as they are actually out of production. Speedcast has been unable to obtain anymore as they are no longer produced.

Residents trade these dongles amongst themselves second hand; but it is clear that they will all reach end of life within a relatively short time, less than 3 years.

3. Opportunities and barriers arising from current and potential future communications infrastructure in each of the external territories;

Speedcast 03B Satellites

The Speedcast satellites are in poor repair and in the opinion of the IT staff at the Shire, are nearing end of life. No clear maintenance program is in place, with one of the two satellites operating with visual mechanical faults at its Drumsite location.

The Shire's IT section has been contacted by Speedcast throughout 2020 to assist in ad hoc repairs and hardware reboots as their equipment failed. The Shire has assisted with this without charge.

The IT section believe that the Speedcast satellites will not last many years into the future and require replacement or major repairs.

It is concerning that the Speedcast US parent company has declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy in April 2020 the United States¹. As of October 30 2020, Speedcast has informed the market that it intends to emerge out of Chapter 11 bankruptcy in early 2021 with a \$500million investment from a US-equity firm².

NBN Satellite

The Island receives its NBN signal from Skymuster 2 which is located over Papua New Guinea to the east.

The image shows a screenshot of a satellite reception details page on the left and a map on the right. The details page includes the following information:

Reception details	
140°E — NBN-Co 1A (Sky Muster 1, SkyMuster 1)	
Ka-band 01 (Cairns) narrow spot beam	
Distance to satellite:	37140.2km
Location:	10.43°S 105.67°E
Elevation angle:	48.6°
LNB Tilt (skew):	-71.9°
True azimuth:	75.2°
Next Sun azimuth match at:	NaN:NaN:NaN (GMT)
	NaN:NaN:NaN (PC time)

Below the details is a section titled "Get Satbeams on your smartphone!" with a logo for "VSAT".

The map on the right shows the satellite's location over Papua New Guinea, with a green line indicating the signal path to the island. The map includes labels for Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea, as well as various seas and islands.

¹ 'Australia's Speedcast International Files of Bankruptcy,' Patrick Fitzgerald, The Wall Street Journal, April 23rd 2020 <https://www.wsj.com/articles/australias-speedcast-international-files-for-bankruptcy-11587678805>

² 'Speedcast restructures debt to emerge from bankruptcy,' Nico Arboleda, Connecting the Australian Channel, October 13th 2020. <https://www.crn.com.au/news/speedcast-restructures-debt-to-emerge-from-bankruptcy-554563#:~:text=Speedcast%20expects%20to%20emerge%20out,according%20to%20the%20bankruptcy%20filing.>

To access the signal one needs an NBN satellite installed on the property which has been made available to Islanders free of charge as per the NBN Act in a rollout in 2017.

Whilst visually unappealing, especially in the context of multiples of the receiver satellites on the roof of the apartment buildings across the Island, they serve as a functioning internet receiving technology for as long as the Commonwealth commits to the Sky Muster program.

Ci-Fi's 4G Network

The Ci-Fi 4G network reticulates the signal from the VOCUS underwater cable which has a spur that terminates on the lower shelf on Christmas Island. This is a separate 4G network system than the Speedcast one described earlier.

Ci-Fi is only currently able to reticulate this signal on the lower shelf, with upper shelf precincts Silver City, Poon Saan, Taman Sweetland and Drumsite unable to receive a signal from the 4G towers on the lower shelf.

Construction of future towers on the upper shelf that can cater to the distribution needs of the Ci-Fi network will address this problem and bring reliable high-speed internet that does not suffer from rainfade to the upper shelf.

Barriers to Communication:

Short Messaging Service reliance - One Time Passwords on Cocos Island

SMS services are a ubiquitous method of modern security communication in addition to a texting method of social communication.

Examples of uses for SMS communications include –

- Confirmations by Health Specialists/ Hospitals for appointments
- Confirmations by the bank to highlight suspicious activity to one's accounts
- One Time Password messages from banks, online retailers and other commercial entities to finalise or fraud check a transaction
- Centrelink authentication codes for Centrelink clients
- Emergency broadcast information

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands do not have a mobile phone network hence a series of peculiar workarounds are used by residents to overcome this challenge. This includes for example nominating a person on Christmas Island or the mainland to receive the text on their behalf and calling through to ask what it was afterwards.

This is an insecure way of organising to receive One Time Passwords which should not be shared with other persons.

4. **Examining the economic benefits of improving the availability of, and access to communications infrastructure in each of the external territories;**

Internet -

A reliable internet connection resistant to rain fade and cloud cover outages would be of significant economic benefit to the Island. The advantages to high speed connectivity in education, healthcare, defence, government and commercial applications are self-evident.

The Shire sits on the The Indian Ocean Group Training Association (IOGTA) volunteer management committee. IOGTA performs the Centrelink and Department of Human Services on Christmas Island including managing the Community Development Program for jobseekers. To do so requires them to provide clients with access to two online portals to enable them to complete their administrative filings, the *Employment and Community Services Network Portal* and the *My Gov Portal* at dedicated terminals.

These portals require a certain level of connectivity strength and ping time speeds to be able to stay connected. Should the internet connectivity strength drop below the minimum speeds, users will find the two portals unusable. This is especially problematic when users are in the middle of completing their online portal filing.

Mobile Phone network –

The addition of a 4G network to Christmas Island will also bring self-evident improvements to economic and social life. Moreover, the addition of a mobile phone network of any type on Cocos would assist also and provide an additional layer of emergency communication.

Remote Workplaces -

The pandemic has seen the rise of working from home with a very real possibility of a permanent shift in some industries to a more decentralised approach to staffing.

News sources throughout 2020 have covered stories on people relocating from especially Sydney and Melbourne into smaller towns nearby as their workplaces began to allow working from home.

With the advent of high-speed fibre internet on Christmas Island, this opens up the possibility of persons relocating to the island for a work-life balance in the tropics as some industries move into permanent remote workplaces as the norm.

Of note, CI is in the same time zones as Singapore, Shanghai, Seoul, Mumbai, Hong Kong giving an advantage over a Sydney/Melbourne based office in this aspect.

'Digital Nomads' have begun to cluster in various locales such as Bali for precisely the reasons mentioned. Although tech often doesn't require team members to be in the same place at the same time, a collection of tech talents working in the same community on different projects have led to vitalisations of local areas. Christmas Island could possibly see collections of remote workers and digital nomads in years to come as this trend expands post COVID.

5. Recommendations for any future communications technologies and infrastructure for each of the external territories.

Recommendation 1:

That the Commonwealth discuss with VOCUS the logistics of connecting the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to the Christmas Island branch of the VOCUS Singapore-Perth underwater cable with a view of facilitating its construction.

Recommendation 2:

In light of the superior technology that the VOCUS underwater cable provides, that it makes a grant program available to ISPs wishing to utilise it to service Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands should the Commonwealth extend the VOCUS cable there.

The interested ISPs should propose the methodology they wish to reticulate the signal across the respective Islands to the Commonwealth for consideration and may include establishing fibre to the house, a 4G reticulation method, island wide Wi-Fi network a combination thereof or other means.

The Commonwealth should have adequate independent IT consultants serve on the grant panel.

Recommendation 3:

That the Commonwealth jointly fund the rollout of the 4G mobile phone network to Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands through Telstra in recognition of their urgent need for such service across their Immigration Detention Centre and Defence uses of the Islands and requirement to service the community.

Christmas Island internet services cut over NBN rollout

Emily Moulton | Chris LeitchPerthNow
February 28, 2017 1:55PM

TOPICS

WA News

DELAYS over the installation of the NBN on one of Australia's most remote islands has left its residents virtually cut off from the rest of the world - digitally that is.

The company that provided mobile and broadband services, the Christmas Island Internet Administration, switched off access to the web for almost 1000 locals and small businesses at 12am on March 1.

The CIIA claims it was forced to close because it couldn't compete with the "heavily subsidised" NBN, which was estimated to take a around one year to roll out.

Garth Miller from CIIA told PerthNow despite attempts to resolve the situation the CIIA had no option but to shut down.

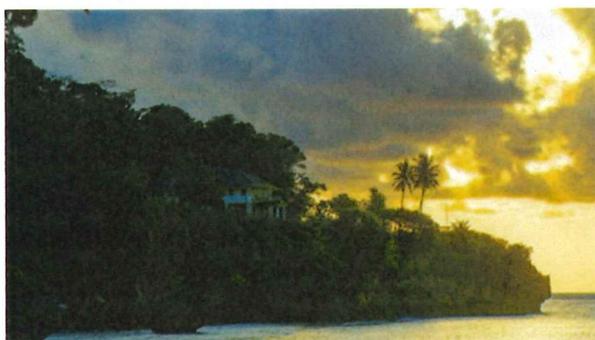
He said the CIIA was not able to compete against the NBN and was "hundreds of thousands in debts and liabilities".

Initially, the company lodged a complaint with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission in a bid to halt the NBN roll out. But that bid failed.

Mr Miller said if the CIIA continued to trade (provide services) while insolvent it would be breaking the law.

"We have asked the Commonwealth to find somebody to run an interim service while NBN build the network but so far we have had no response," he told PerthNow.

"We are not 'blackmailing' or asking for money to keep running it, just that they find somebody to take over and fund them. We can no longer absorb the losses that running an interim service on behalf of the NBN entails."



Credit: PerthNow

Mr Miller said CIIA was cancelling its US\$94,000 a month satellite contract and would move a handful of users to its emergency backup dish however that had very limited capacity.

"We have 615 fixed wireless users and 400 4G users, all have gone offline except five that we had contracts with that we need to honour until we can trigger an early termination clause.

"NBN Sky Muster had about 70 installs on Christmas Island. They can do two to three a day. It will take them months to do 700-900."

Last night, discussions between the Commonwealth and the local administration continued but as of Wednesday morning those who were signed up to CIIA no longer had internet access. Landline services, Telstra's 2G mobile service and emergency radio services were not affected by the switch off.

Christmas Island administrator Barry Hasse said vital services such as the medical centre, the detention centre, Australian Border Force and federal police buildings had been fitted with the NBN.

But he conceded the rest of the island, mostly individuals and small businesses, would have to wait until the roll out was complete which could still take months.

"They (NBN) have committed to investigate the situation," Mr Hasse said.

When pressed when the NBN roll out would be complete, Mr Hasse said he had an "aspiration" that it would be completed in two months.

PerthNow understands five technicians are currently installing dishes on the island but there are plans for another five to be sent within the next few days.

"There are also ongoing negotiations to take over the services provided by CIIA, negotiations for an ongoing interim service," Mr Hasse added.

Christmas Island shire president Gordon Thompson said while he appreciated the complexities of the situation, it was of little comfort to those locals who are without internet and 4G services.

He blamed the NBN's drawn-out installation process for the situation the island now found itself in.

"The shire is not too happy about it," he said. "This is basically affecting home users and small businesses. All the Commonwealth services and the mine are OK as well as those services who were signed up to a different contractor.

"We put time after time the argument that it's better to install all the dishes, if we must have them, which we don't particularly want," he said.

"But if we must have them, put them all in place and switch everyone over at the same time, that would be the organised well planned way to do things.

"But they ignored any plea to do that and now we have a terrible mess."

A spokeswoman from NBN said the it had been working closely with the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development to prioritise essential services on Christmas Island since becoming aware of the threat that local internet services would be withdrawn by the operator less than a week ago.

She said services for locations such as the port, airport, emergency operations centre, water corporation and pharmacy were installed over the weekend and that it would continue to work with the Department to roll out the NBN network on the island as quickly as possible.

So far, 65 satellites had been installed since the expressions of interest process began last year

"It should be noted that getting equipment to the island and finding installation partners is a very large logistical exercise," the spokeswoman added.

A Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development spokesman said the department was aware the local internet and mobile broadband provider on Christmas Island, Christmas Island Internet Administration (CiiA), had ceased providing internet services on 1 March 2017.

He said in a bid to prevent the loss of services to those that would be affected the department offered financial support to CiiA to remain operating but that CiiA refused this support.

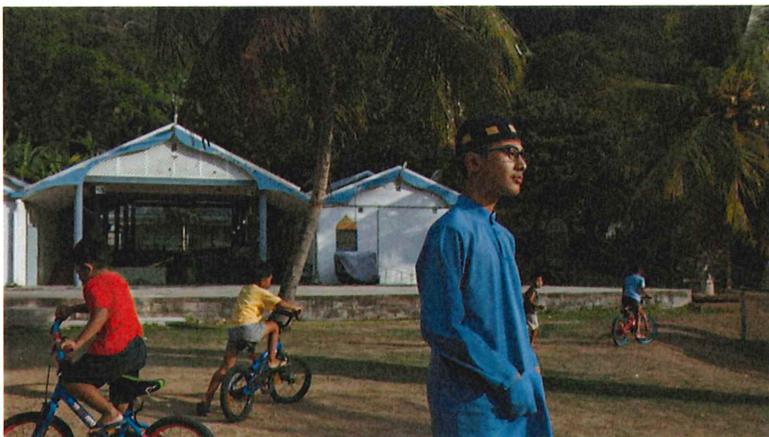
He said the Department and NBN Co Limited were actively working with agencies on the island to install NBN Sky Muster services as soon as possible.

A connection to the world, delivered by underwater cable from Singapore, promises to transform Christmas Island

[PM](#)

/ By [Tom Joyner](#)

Posted FriFriday 8 FebFebruary 2019 at 3:35am, updated FriFriday 8 FebFebruary 2019 at 5:18am



Fourteen-year-old Nazif Zainalabiden, an aspiring computer programmer, is already proficient in the Python language. *(ABC News: Tom Joyner)*

Share

While their counterparts on mainland Australia stream Netflix and share Snapchat streaks with ease, young Christmas Islanders sometimes struggle to load a YouTube video.

The island, located in the Indian Ocean 2,600 kilometres north-west of Perth, has long relied on patchy internet coverage via satellite.

A thunderstorm or even dense cloud cover can bring a household connection to a shuddering halt.

"Fast internet would be good just to keep in touch with the world. We're so isolated and we're so far behind," said Brina Lee, 27, a power station worker.

But after years of frustrations, a new underwater cable linking Singapore to Perth promises for the first time to deliver high-speed and reliable internet to the island.

A short offshoot from the cable to Christmas Island will connect it to [a global undersea cabling network](#) that makes up the sprawling, unseen infrastructure of the internet.



Until now, Christmas Islanders have relied on internet via satellite dishes installed on homes. *(ABC News: Tom Joyner)*

The company that built the new cable, which will be activated within weeks, said it would provide stability for the island's 1,800 residents.

"It'll mean much cheaper and virtually unlimited capacity for what they'll need," said Vocus Communications project director Peter Harrison.

"On top of that it'll take away the delay they have [with the current satellite connection]."

'It'll make a very big difference'

On one of Australia's most remote territories, an internet connection is a vital link to the outside world, particularly for the island's younger inhabitants.

There is no 3G mobile data available on Christmas Island, and mail can sometimes take upwards of a week to arrive from the mainland.



For young people on Christmas Island especially, the internet is a vital connection to the outside world. (ABC News: Tom Joyner)

When Chun Tan's family uses its monthly data limit on their satellite account, the 18-year-old is left in a difficult position.

Until now, islanders have had the option of NBN or Speedcast satellite services, with the latter company promising to soon offer fixed wireless internet services through the new cable.

"I go to my grandpa's house, and they also have run out of data, so I'm basically isolated from the internet for the next two weeks," Mr Tan said.

"I can't even talk to my parents and my sisters [who are] overseas right now and I have no contact with them."

In a statement, NBN Co's Jane McNamara said its satellite service is "the most appropriate technology" to deliver NBN broadband access to remote areas where homes are spread out.

"NBN Co will continue to look at ways to optimise the services available on the Sky Muster satellite to ensure we meet the needs for rural Australians," she said.



Vocus Communications says the new undersea cable will bring stable and reliable internet to the island's 1,200 residents. *(ABC News: Tom Joyner)*

Fourteen-year-old Nazif Zainalabiden, an aspiring computer engineer, is already proficient in Python — a programming language — and plans to learn C++ and JavaScript.

Pursuing a career in software engineering, which he hopes to one day study at university, would be harder without a reliable connection.

"Once we get fibre-optic, it'll be actually better since we wouldn't lose the connection," he said.

"It'll make a very big difference to the island."



Nineteen-year-old Alicia Hong (right) stays up late to watch northern hemisphere sports fixtures. *(ABC News: Tom Joyner)*

A slow and temperamental satellite connection also gets in the way of streaming sports from overseas, said 19-year-old Alicia Hong.

Ms Hong, an avid follower of AFL (she's a West Coast fan) and the English Premier League, is in the habit of setting an early alarm to watch northern hemisphere fixtures.

"I wake up at 3am and try to watch it and I can't. I can't find a livestream website, and I get really annoyed," she said.

Paying online? Think again

For the island's businesses, which range from restaurants to diving companies, a connection dropout can be more than an annoyance — it can mean a failed payment.

"If it's a perfect sunny day and clear blue sky, we have very good internet," said Jee Foo, who runs a travel agency on the island.

"But if the wind starts blowing and the weather changes, whatever we're doing, the internet always drops out."



The Christmas Island cable is an offshoot of the Australia-Singapore Cable, which was completed in September. *(ABC News: Tom Joyner)*

Even shopping online can be tricky if Wi-Fi suddenly lapses. Ms Hong has accidentally paid twice for items she was trying to buy when her connection crashed.

"It gets really annoying," she said. "I have to go through the process of asking for refunds back."

Undersea cables can from time to time be damaged by fishing activity or ships' anchors, but otherwise it is expected Christmas Island's will last at least 25 years.

Gift of consistency for Christmas Island

11 FEBRUARY 2019

<http://www.ictcareer.com.au/archived-news/gift-of-consistency-for-christmas-island>



Work is nearly complete on a transformative telecoms cable from Singapore to Christmas Island.

Christmas Island - located 2,600 kilometres north-west of Perth – relies on patchy internet coverage via satellite, which drops out in anything from a thunderstorm to heavy cloud cover.

But a new underwater cable linking Singapore to Perth will soon deliver high-speed and reliable internet to the island for the first time.

Christmas Island will receive an offshoot of the cable, which is part of [global undersea internet infrastructure](#).

The cable will be built Vocus, and is set to be activated within weeks, providing online stability for the island's 1,800 residents.

"It'll mean much cheaper and virtually unlimited capacity for what they'll need," Vocus Communications project director Peter Harrison says.

"On top of that it'll take away the delay they have [with the current satellite connection]."

Christmas Island's cable is expected to last for at least 25 years.



SHIRE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND

SUBMISSION TO	Ordinary Meeting 8 th December 2020
AGENDA REFERENCE	10.5.2
SUBJECT	Ratings Consultant Engagement
LOCATION/ADDRESS/APPLICANT	Nil
FILE REFERENCE	3.6.2
INTEREST DISCLOSURE	None
DATE OF REPORT	3 December 2020
AUTHOR	Chris Su, GRPG Manager
SIGNATURE OF AUTHOR	
SIGNATURE OF CEO	

RECOMMENDATION

That Council utilise the endorsed Council Purchasing Policy to go to market in the first quarter of 2021 for an independent Ratings Consultant to assist in the Local Planning Strategy Review.

BACKGROUND

Shire formally commenced the Local Planning Strategy Review at the October 2020 Council Meeting with Resolution 101/20 that will inform the new Town Planning Scheme and keep Council compliant with the five year statutory timeframes thereof in the WA Planning Regulations 2015.

In discussions with WA Local Government Association (WALGA) in September 2020 on the statutory steps Council needed to undertake to conduct the Local Planning Strategy Review, WALGA put to the Manager for Governance that with the new 5 Year Local Planning Strategy and moreover the assessment of Crown Land by the Commonwealth in the CI Strategic Assessment and following release of land thereof, it would be an opportune time to engage a Rating Consultant to inform Council's land management responsibilities.

COMMENT

Council has only had one rating consultancy done in the 90s when Landgate WA provided the Shire an assessment to commence the local government rating regime under the Territories Reform Act 1992 (Cth) that also created the Shire and brought in WA laws to the Island.

Shire has used this valuation as the base for its rating system since. Every Council decision to freeze or increase the local rates has been based on this early Landgate WA work. WALGA's recommendation to update this knowledge base is practical.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Division 6 'Rates and Service Charges' of the Local Government Act WA 1995 provides Council the framework to rate property in their local government area.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant policy implications arising from this matter.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Rating Consultant's work will inform Council's ratings regime moving forward.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS & MILESTONES

The CI 2021 Strategic Community Plan emphasizes governance and transparency in Federal and Local government decision making.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

A simple majority is required.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil