



CONFIRMED MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting held on 17 June 2025



SHIRE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Shire of Christmas Island Council held at the George Fam Chambers at 7.00pm on Tuesday 17 June 2025

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CONFIRMED MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of the Shire of Christmas Island held at the George Fam Chambers at 7.00pm on Tuesday 17 June 2025

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

- 1.1 The Shire President declared the meeting open at 7.00pm.

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

- 1.2 Record of Attendance
Shire President
Deputy President
Councillors

Cr Gordon **THOMSON**
Cr Azmi **YON**
Cr Kee Heng **FOO**
Cr Philip **WOO**
Cr Hafiz **MASLI**
Cr Vincent Cheng-Siew **SAW**
Cr Kelvin Kok Bin **LEE**
Cr Swee **TUNG**
Cr Steve **PEREIRA**

Chief Executive Officer
Director Planning, Governance & Policy/Minute Taker
Director Community/Recreation Services
Director Works, Services & Waste
Assistant Director of Finance & Corporate Services

David **PRICE**
Chris **SU**
Olivier **LINES**
Troy **DAVIS**
Wei **HO**

2.2 Leave of Absence

2.3 Apologies

2.4 Declarations of Financial/Impartiality/Proximity Interest

3 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 4.1 Cr Melissa **TUNG** forwards request from Flying Fish Cove residents who are seeking clarification if the Shire has received advice from IOTA on seawall repair and traffic light reinstatement timelines.

CEO David **PRICE** provided that IOTA had yet to finalise the tender for the sea wall repair works. He advises he has a meeting with Dept. of Infrastructure senior official Adam **STANKEVICIUS** on Thursday 19 June who may be able to provide an update.

CEO David **PRICE** advised that earlier today he and the President had met with Administrator Farzian **ZAINAL** who reported that the traffic light outage was traceable to a wiring fault. The Administrator was to escalate the matter to the IOTA Director, who is responsible for operational matters such as this.

President Gordon **THOMSON** informed the meeting that he had discussions over the weekend with Administrator Farzian **ZAINAL** regarding the sea wall and the sudden closure of the Gaze

Road Warehouse located near the roundabout. President THOMSON emphasised to Administrator ZAINAL the importance of timely and clear communication with the public about major disruptions such as the warehouse closure.

President THOMSON also informed the meeting that the issue of sea wall repairs was discussed in the context of ensuring the annual Cove Day celebrations can proceed as part of the upcoming Territory Week festival. He stressed the need for timely clarity regarding the use of Flying Fish Cove for the event. President THOMSON noted that the jetty and boat ramp infrastructure remain unaffected and are currently in use.

He further advised that, during discussions with the Office of the Administrator, it was confirmed that planned crane works would require the operation of heavy machinery along Jalan Pantai, placing substantial loads on the roadway near the jetty gantry. As a result, the road may need to be closed for the duration of these works.

President THOMSON advises that the Shire CEO has a monthly meeting with Canberra and seeks advice on matters of island-wide interest.

- 4.2 Cr Steven PEREIRA highlighted the opportunity for the Shire to improve the frequency of its communications with the community, particularly regarding disruptions to municipal services and to share positive updates on works currently underway.

He requested that the Shire consider using its social media channels more actively to provide regular updates on municipal works and any associated disruptions or progress.

CEO David PRICE advised that the Shire will look into that, noting that we use the website, email distribution list and Facebook site at present.

Cr PEREIRA advised that residents in Drumsite were not aware of the disruption to waste pick up service in a recent week due to the water main repairs and associated road closure that prevented the waste tip truck from accessing Golden Bosun road / Jalan Ketam Merah in the normal way. Cr PEREIRA also considered the recent completion of the Lily Beach boardwalk project to be a shareable social media opportunity.

- 4.2 Cr Hafiz MASLI raised the same Cove Day queries from the Flying Fish Cove community in the context of the state of the sea wall.

President THOMSON stated that the Shire should actively promote Cove Day once the relevant SOCI team has finalised the adjusted planning arrangements to ensure the event can accommodate the expected attendance and proceed smoothly.

- 4.3 Cr Phillip WOO raised positive feedback from the public concerning the repair works on Murray Road in the vicinity of Dennis JONES' farm. Meeting discussed the jurisdiction complexities of Murray Road, particularly in that area with responsibilities shared between National Parks and the Council with heavy vehicle user PRL in the same vicinity.

CEO David PRICE informed the meeting that road infrastructure management had also been discussed with Administrator Farzian ZAINAL earlier that day. He reminded Council that the Department's contribution to roadworks remains the annual \$600,000 Commonwealth Roads Authority grant, which is specifically tied to maintenance and upgrades within the Commonwealth's designated road network. CEO PRICE summarised that this sum has not been indexed in twenty years and that the amount of road network this sum could repair was significantly less than twenty years ago.

- 4.4 Cr Azmi YON also raised that the community had requested Shire to assist in improving communications between the IOTA and the community. Cr YON acknowledged Cr PEREIRA’s earlier point regarding the need for timely and accurate communication regarding matters that impacted the island widely.

President THOMSON recounted that the notice issued by IOTA property managers JLL on Thursday, 12th June 2025, which gave tenants only nine hours to vacate the Gaze Road Warehouse, was issued without any prior notification to staff in the local IOTA office. He noted this was a significant communication gap in JLL’s process.

President THOMSON informed the meeting that he had discussed communication needs with the Hon. Marion SCRYMGOUR MP, IOTA Director Ian MCKENDRICK, former Lingiari member Warren SNOWDON, and Administrator Farzian ZAINAL. He received advice that the Office of the Administrator and the local IOTA team are currently unable to independently disseminate information unless it is first provided by Canberra. However, the recent series of events and their broader impacts may prompt a reconsideration of this approach.

The meeting agreed that the communication from IOTA regarding the sea wall, traffic light, and Gaze Road Warehouse was inadequate and reflected an ongoing pattern of insufficient local information-sharing from relevant authorities.

- 4.6 Cr Kelvin LEE noted that there was damage to a railing at the dual use pathway in the Poon Saan area. President THOMSON noted that there had been damage there from a recent tree fall event.
- 4.7 Cr Vincent SAW sought clarification if the Shire was responsible for the streetlights on the island. President THOMSON responded that IOTA holds that responsibility, alongside the cost for the electricity to run the lights. Noted that on the mainland, a local government authority was usually responsible for the billing with the installations typically made by State Govt.

5 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

5.1 Cr PEREIRA application for Leave of Absence

Council Resolution				
Moved: Cr YON		Seconded: Cr LEE		Res. No: 45/25
That Council accept the leave of absence application from Cr PEREIRA from the dates 18/7/25 to 15/10/25.				
Carried:	9/0			
For:	Cr THOMSON Cr MASLI Cr FOO	Cr PEREIRA Cr WOO	Cr MASLI Cr YON	Cr TUNG Cr SAW
Against:				

5.2 Cr THOMSON application for Leave of Absence

Council Resolution				
Moved: Cr YON		Seconded: Cr SAW		Res. No: 46/25
That Council accept the leave of absence application from Cr THOMSON for the 22/7/2025 Council Meeting.				
Carried: 9/0				
For:	Cr THOMSON	Cr PEREIRA	Cr MASLI	Cr TUNG

Cr MASLI Cr FOO	Cr WOO	Cr YON	Cr SAW
Against:			

- 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 27 May 2025**
Members considered the unconfirmed minutes.

Council Resolution			
Moved: Cr LEE	Seconded: Cr FOO	Res. No:	47/25
That Council adopt the unconfirmed minutes of the 27 May 2025 Council Meeting.			
Carried:	9/0		
For:	Cr THOMSON Cr MASLI Cr FOO	Cr PEREIRA Cr WOO	Cr MASLI Cr YON Cr TUNG Cr SAW
Against:			

- 7.2 **Business Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings**
- 8 **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION**
- 8.1 President Gordon THOMSON advised that the Shire has a meeting scheduled with the Minister for Territories, the Hon. Kristy McBAIN, during the upcoming Australian Local Government Association Conference in Canberra.
- He further noted that during the ‘New Business of an Urgent Nature’ portion of the Council meeting, he would be raising a proposal for Council’s consideration to activate the Settlement Sports Hall as a temporary facility for the former tenants of the Gaze Road Warehouse—namely CI Removals, IOTA, and Fire & Safety.

President THOMSON highlighted the importance of securing an alternative location for CI Removals, given the essential logistics services they provide to the community. He reported that over the weekend and into Monday and Tuesday, he had held discussions with the Commonwealth and other stakeholders regarding possible alternative sites for the displaced tenants. These discussions concluded that the Settlement Sports Hall could be a viable temporary venue, subject to passing all necessary structural, electrical, plumbing, and safety assessments.

He also advised that the Administration had committed funds to remove the disused skate park equipment currently within the facility, and as the building’s owner, would be responsible for arranging the required inspections and certifications prior to the Shire approving its temporary use.

9 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

9.1 Minutes of Fisheries Management Committee Meeting

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr LEE

Res. No: 48/25

That Council receive the Confirmed Minutes of the May 14th 2025 FMC meeting.

Carried: 9/0

For:
Cr THOMSON
Cr MASLI
Cr FOO

Cr PEREIRA
Cr WOO

Cr MASLI
Cr YON

Cr TUNG
Cr SAW

Against:

10 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

10.1 Chief Executive Officer

10.1.1 Rates, Fees & Charges 2025/26

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr SAW

Seconded: Cr PEREIRA

Res. No: 49/25

1. Council adopts the rates, fees and charges for financial year 2025/26 as listed in the attachment.
2. All rates, fees and charges to apply from 1 July 2025.
3. The Internal rate will apply to any work carried out for the Commonwealth within the Road Funding/Contract Agreement.

Carried: 9/0 ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

For:
Cr THOMSON
Cr MASLI
Cr FOO

Cr PEREIRA
Cr WOO

Cr MASLI
Cr YON

Cr TUNG
Cr SAW

Against:

10.2 Director Finance & Administration

10.2.1 Schedule of Accounts – May 2025

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr WOO

Seconded: Cr YON

Res. No: 50/25

That Council approves the expenditure as presented in May 2025 Schedule of Accounts

Carried: 9/0

For:
Cr THOMSON
Cr MASLI
Cr FOO

Cr PEREIRA
Cr WOO

Cr MASLI
Cr YON

Cr TUNG
Cr SAW

Against:

10.2.2 Financial Statements – May 2025

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr MASLI

Seconded: Cr FOO

Res. No: 51/25

That Council receives the Financial Statements of May 2025 for the Municipal Fund.

Carried: 9/0

For:	Cr THOMSON	Cr PEREIRA	Cr MASLI	Cr TUNG
	Cr MASLI	Cr WOO	Cr YON	Cr SAW
	Cr FOO			

Against:

10.3 Director Community/Recreation Services & Training

10.4 Director Works, Services & Waste

10.5 Director Planning, Governance & Policy

10.5.1 Expression of Interest for Light Industrial Area Lots 509 and 510

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr LEE

Res. No: 52/25

That Council approves the proposed call for Expression of Interest for Light Industrial Area Lots 509 and 510 LIA to be advertised according to the Elected Members 3 – Community Consultation Policy.

Carried: 9/0

For:	Cr THOMSON	Cr PEREIRA	Cr MASLI	Cr TUNG
	Cr MASLI	Cr WOO	Cr YON	Cr SAW
	Cr FOO			

Against:

10.5.2 Policy Manual Review

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr LEE

Res. No: 53/25

That Council adopts the following reviewed policies –

10.5.2.1 Land Administration 1 – Crown Land Management Policy

10.5.2.2 Waste Policy 1 – Provision of Waste Collection Services

10.5.2.3 Waste Policy 2 – Disposal of Demolition Materials

10.5.2.4 Human Resources 1 –Shire Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates

10.5.2.5 Human Resources 1.1 – Behaviour Complaint Form

10.5.2.6 Human Resources 2 – SOCI Employee Code of Conduct

10.5.2.7 Human Resources 2.1 – Code of Conduct Behaviour Complaints Management Policy for Council Members, Committee Members

and Candidates

10.5.2.8 Works and Services Policy 1 – Private Works

10.5.2.9 Works and Services Policy 1.1 – Private Works Request Form

10.5.2.10 Works and Services Policy 2 – Plant and Vehicle Replacement

Carried: 9/0 ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

For:	Cr THOMSON	Cr PEREIRA	Cr MASLI	Cr TUNG
	Cr MASLI	Cr WOO	Cr YON	Cr SAW
	Cr FOO			

Against:

11 ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

12 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE MEETING

Cr PEREIRA leaves the meeting at 7.38pm.

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON **Seconded: Cr SAW** **Res. No: 54/25**

That a new item of an urgent nature concerning the Gaze Road Warehouse be introduced to the meeting

Carried: 8/0

For:	Cr THOMSON	Cr FOO	Cr MASLI	Cr TUNG
	Cr MASLI	Cr WOO	Cr YON	Cr SAW

Against:

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE **Seconded: Cr YON** **Res. No: 55/25**

That Council approves the CEO to enter arrangements with the Administration for the temporary occupation of the Settlement Sports Hall as the alternative location for CI Removals operations should appropriate terms be agreed.

Carried: 8/0

For:	Cr THOMSON	Cr FOO	Cr MASLI	Cr TUNG
	Cr MASLI	Cr WOO	Cr YON	Cr SAW

Against:

Cr PEREIRA returns to the meeting at 7.49pm.

13 BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

14 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Shire President closed the meeting at 7.50pm.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 22 July 2025