



CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) of the Shire of Christmas Island held at the George Fam Centre at 4.30pm 5th July 2023

1 Declaration of Opening of Meeting / Announcement of Visitors

1.1 Chairperson Gordon THOMSON declared the meeting opened at 4.35pm

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

Attendees:

Community Consultative Committee

Shire President	Gordon THOMSON
Poon Saan Club	Suzane CHAN
Malay Association	Azmi YON
Council Representative	Hafiz MASLI
Christmas Island Phosphates	Joy WICKENDON
CI Neighbourhood Centre	Oliver LINES
Christmas Island Women's Assoc.	Jessica SEET
Committee Member / Minutes	Chris SU

Apologies

Christian Fellowship	Stephanie SAMBELL
Union of Christmas Island Workers	Kelvin LEE
Chinese Literary Association	Mel HAN
Shire CEO	David PRICE
Council Representative	Vincent SAW

Absent

Islamic Council of CI	Farzian ZAINAL
Christmas Island Tourism Assoc.	Simon PENN

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

3.1 Confirmation of April 6th 2023 minutes

CCC Resolution –

Moved: Hafiz MASLI

Seconded: Oliver LINES

Res. No: CCC4/2023

That the minutes of the April 6th 2023 Community Consultative Committee be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Carried 8/0

3.2 Confirmation of June 7th 2023 draft minutes

CCC Resolution –		
Moved:	Seconded:	Res. No: /2023
That the minutes of the June 7 th Community Consultative Committee be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.		
Carried 8/0		

Item not moved as the draft minutes of the June 7th CCC meeting were not presented at the meeting.

3.3 Action Items

	Action Item	CCC Meeting	Action Officer	Status
1.	DIRDC Community Engagement Protocol-DIRDC still has not responded to August 15th 2019 request by CCC Secretariat for copy of DIRC's Community Engagement Protocol.	August 2019	Chris Su	Still awaiting from DITCRD
2	DIRD Aged Care Business Case requested by Shire in April 2022. DIRD had seemingly rejected a Detailed Business Case for an Aged Care Facility on Christmas Island that was produced by their internal projects team and APP Architects who were engaged as consultants.	April 2022	Chris Su	Update – SOCI has made an FOI on Tuesday 4th July 2023. Will advise the outcome.
3	Chris Su to develop presentation to CCC on Dept. of Jobs, Science, Tourism and Innovation funding of services proposal	April 2023	Chris Su	Complete
4	CCC resolved in April 2023 meeting to support the public housing tenants' initiative to request consultation with the Minister on a new set of public housing rules, and resolved to have Hafiz Masli, Chris Su and Oliver Lines as CCC representatives to assist in any such consultation.	April 2023	Chris Su, Oliver Lines, Hafiz Masli	No response received by the from the Minister's Office yet on the matter.
5	That the CCC requests the Shire of Christmas Island identifies each and every report the Commonwealth has created dealing with Christmas Island community matters and whether or not there were reports made available or other community follow up made.	April 2023	Chris Su	Ongoing. Two recent reports identified CI Mining to Forest Report, DMIRS,DIRD 2020 Water Environment Sustainability DEWR WA

4. Agenda Business

4.1 Standing Item – Updates from CCC members for Airline Services Contract

CCC noted that the Cocos Keeling Island Resource Centre is set to make the Minister approved Airline Services Contract survey online in the near future.

4.2 Local Government Reforms Ordinance 2023

The CCC reviewed *Public Notice 20-2023 Community Consultation Sought on Local Government Reform 2023*.

Chairperson Gordon THOMSON provided background into the WA Government initiative to make major changes to the local government sector in WA, and how these changes will impact Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands with our applied laws regime.

The Department of Infrastructure has informed Council that a Commonwealth Ordinance will be written to give effect to the changes that the WA Government seeks to institute in local governments of our size.

Chairperson Gordon THOMSON made the distinction that it was the Commonwealth level of government that could create an 'Ordinance.' CCC noted that Ordinances were very specific and overrode what legislation from WA would otherwise apply.

Local Government in the IOTs do not have this power to write Ordinances.

For local governments of 5000 or fewer, the WA Government was looking to reduce local government elected members to five or at the most seven. Christmas Island presently has nine elected members and the Shire of Cocos has seven.

The WA Government was also stipulating that for local governments of fewer than 5000 there should not be:

- Direct election of the mayor or president
- Creation of wards

The WA Government was implementing these options only for the largest of the Councils in WA, such as City of Perth and City of Stirling.

Chairperson Gordon THOMSON advised the CCC that in practice, the Shire of Christmas Island was already compliant with several of the proposed changes in the local government sector as these proposed changes were not going to affect local governments of 5000 or fewer.

The lack of ability to directly elect the mayor/president and the application of wards were not going to apply and are presently not applied.

CCC members discussed the different changes across the population tiers of local government, noting that Christmas Island belongs in the smallest band of less than 5000 persons. CCC noted that the election system was proposed to change back to Optional Preferential Voting from the present First Past the Post. CCC were advised that OPV was the election system in 2004 for one election and subsequently changed back to FPP the following election by the WA State Government.

Chairperson Gordon THOMSON put forward that local governments are required to consult their communities when major changes or plans are being made. Neither the WA Government nor the Commonwealth had any consultations with the community on these proposed local government reform changes being brought to the territory.

Chairperson Gordon THOMSON put forward that the Shire of Christmas Island has a strong history of community workshops, information sessions and advertised periods for its plans, schemes and projects. CCC members noted the many examples of public engagements on matters around fisheries, aged care, land planning, settlement sports hall refurbishment, etc.

Chairperson Gordon THOMSON put that the local council was the most transparent of all government levels in this respect as its monthly Council Meetings are open to all, and that minutes of Council Meetings are published online within 7 days to comply with the Local Government Act. Ratepayers could ask about how money is spent and the finance section will advise accordingly. This was contrasted to organisations such as the Indian Ocean Territories Regional Development Organisation (IOTRDO) who had no such obligations under the Incorporated Associations Act (WA)(2018) that they were formed under to publish meeting minutes nor be required to inform the public how it came to a decision when asked.

CCC noted that the IOTRDO's CI 2030 Plan was adopted without being put to the community for their comment. This is unlike the process that local governments are required by the Local Government Act (WA)(2015) to follow where advertised periods for public comment on many types of documents is statutory.

Chairperson Gordon THOMSON restated that it was the Shire's routine administrative task of seeking residents' feedback on proposals that would have significant impacts to life on Christmas Island.

Conversely it was noted that the Commonwealth had not engaged with residents at all on the creation of this legal instrument that once finalized, will result in a permanent alteration of the elected representation on Christmas Island.

Chairperson Gordon THOMSON restated that the Commonwealth had yet to seek input from CKI or CI residents on the very dramatic possibility of reducing elected members to as low as five. The Shire's proposed input to the Commonwealth has thus been put to the community for comment.

The Shire of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands were given two weeks from the meeting with the Department in Canberra on 16th June to provide a submission on the matter. The CCC acknowledged that this passed on June 27th but the Shire insisted that the community needed more time than this.

4.3 Service Delivery Agreement Proposal with Dept. of Jobs, Tourism, Science, and Innovation (JTSI)

Chris SU presented on Action Item from April 2023 CCC Meeting on Proposal for an SDA with JTSI.

Find attached pdf of presentation.

CCC Resolution –

Moved: Chris SU

Seconded: Oliver LINES

Res. No: CCC5/2023

That CCC endorse the proposal to have a service delivery agreement with the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation to the Shire for action.

Carried 8/0

4.4 SOCI-National Parks Rat Bait Program

CCC members were provided with copy of Public Notice 18-23, *Joint Rat Baiting Program*. Rat Bait made available to CCC members who requested; members asked to promote the free rat bait program to their constituents.

5. General Business:

6. Closure of Meeting: 5.45pm next meeting TBA