



SHIRE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND PUBLIC NOTICE

19/16

2 June 2016

ANTI-ISLAMIC HARASSMENT

The community of Christmas Island is advised that the Shire of Christmas Island convened a Special Meeting on Tuesday 31st of May 2016 to consider action regarding the anti-Islamic harassment the Shire staff and other community members have been subjected to during the last week. This harassment came in the form of abusive emails and phone calls to Shire staff regarding the Halal BBQ at the Flying Fish Cove Foreshore. The Special Meeting subsequently resolved the following motion to send a clear and concise message to those persons who instigated the abuse and to also send a strong message that the community of Christmas Island is a culturally harmonious and cohesive community that will not tolerate any form of anti-Islamic (or any other form) of abhorrent racism towards its community.

- 1. The Council of the Shire of Christmas Island condemns the campaign against Halal facilities and Muslim religion and traditions currently being conducted in mainland communities and on Christmas Island by people who promote hostility towards Islamic people.*
- 2. Council objects in the strongest terms to any external interference in the affairs of our community; in particular the attempt to undermine our harmonious Island community by a small group of people from outside our community with their attacks on our Islamic community and facilities. We object most strongly to the attacks on our people and our community by the external purveyors of hatred. We defend absolutely our right to have a public Halal BBQ facility at Flying Fish Cove and any other Halal facility anywhere else our community chooses.*
- 3. The Council expresses sincere and heartfelt sympathy for all people who have suffered hurt and humiliation inflicted by people in Australia who promote anti-Islam propaganda and actions.*
- 4. Council requests the CEO prepare a written procedure to be used by staff for dealing with people who make calls to the Shire or send emails using abusive or threatening language or containing messages of hostility towards our Shire staff or members of our Muslim community.*
- 5. The President is requested to present a public statement on behalf of the Council about:*

Providing facilities for the community, including erection of BBQs in several locations in our community;

Presenting the historical perspective from which our policies and actions are derived;

Stating our rejection of racism and intolerance;

Stating our commitment to multi-cultural values;

Our commitment to the democratic principles which govern our actions and determine our responsibilities in serving the needs of our community;

Our concern at the lack of leadership by mainland political leaders, when our multi-cultural values are attacked.

6. *Council authorizes the CEO to expend Shire funds to stage a Solidarity Event with our Muslim community. The event is to be organized in consultation with the community organizations that are represented on the Community Consultative Committee.*

In support of the above resolution by the Shire of Christmas Island a 'Solidarity BBQ' will be held on the Cove Foreshore this Sunday between 10am and 12 noon at the **Halal BBQ** and all community members are welcome. We encourage all community members to attend this free event and show your support for our wonderfully culturally diverse and harmonious community. A Solidarity BBQ Poster is attached to this Public Notice and will also be widely advertised. See you there!

Kelvin Matthews
Chief Executive Officer

CHRISTMAS ISLAND 聖誕島 PULAU KRISMAS
SOLIDARITY 團結 PERPADUAN
HALAL 清真 BBQ

Join us in celebrating our multicultural community



Let's makan!

At the Kampong Foreshore Halal BBQ

this Sunday 5th June

10am - 12pm

ALL WELCOME

欢迎大家来参与

SEMUA ORANG DIJEMPUT DATANG

Organised by

*Shire of Christmas Island Islamic Council of Christmas Island Malay Association of Christmas Island
Union of Christmas Island Workers Christmas Island Neighbourhood Centre Poon Saan Club
Christmas Island Women's Association Chinese Literary Association Christmas Island Phosphates*