



CONFIRMED MINUTES

**Meeting of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) of the Shire of Christmas Island
held at the George Fam Centre Training Room on Wednesday
29 May 2019 commencing at 3.00 pm**

1 Declaration of Opening of Meeting / Announcement of Visitors

1.1 Gordon **THOMSON** declared the meeting opened at 3.10 pm.

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

2.1 Record of Attendance

President-SOCI	Gordon THOMSON
CEO-SOCI	David PRICE
Council Representative	Kelvin LEE
Council Representative	Hafiz Masli
CI Phosphates	Joy WICKENDEN
Union of Christmas Island Workers	Chris SU
CI Women's Association	Nora KOH
Christmas Island Neighbourhood Centre	Oliver LINES

2.2 Apologies

2.2.1 Poon Saan Club Patrick **CHAN**

2.3 Declaration of Financial, Proximity or Impartially Interest

2.3.1 Nil.

2.4 Public Question Time

Nil.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1

That the Minutes of 7 November 2018 held at the George Fam Centre, Shire of Christmas Island be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved:	Kelvin LEE	Seconded:	Hafiz MASLI
Carried	8/0	Resolution:	CCC1/2019

4 Agenda Business

4.1 Schedule of CCC Meetings for 2019

That the CCC Meetings will be held at 3.30pm on the first Wednesday of every month.

Moved:	Kelvin LEE	Seconded:	Joy WICKENDON
Carried:	8/0	Resolution:	CCC2/2019

4.2 Review of CCC Charter

Chris SU submitted an updated CCC Charter. **CHEW** Boon Beng, former Manager of Community Services was removed from the membership due to his retirement and an introduction blurb describing the history and goals of the CCC added.

Motion: That the updated CCC Charter be adopted.

Moved:	Hafiz MASLI	Seconded:	Nora KOH
Carried:	8/0	Resolution:	CCC3/2019

4.3 Shire Response to Price Waterhouse Coopers Health Service Report

Chairperson Gordon **THOMSON** briefed the CCC members on the meeting Council had with Claire **HOWLETTE**, IOTHS **Tess** and assistant **ALEX** earlier in May.

Shire's position was that it supported Option 4 in the Report, which gave the option of a 24x7 facility with reduced acute bed capacity, introduction of an aged care facility for patients with high care needs on the IOTHS site, and expand the IOTHS HACC service.

Service model options and evaluation

Four service model options were developed for the Christmas Island hospital facility and potential aged care services, which all broadly align with the 2016-17 budget.

The service changes associated with each option, and the budget and staffing implications, are discussed in the sections below. The four options that have been developed and evaluated in this section are as follows:

- **Option 1:** Maintain the 24x7 hospital facility with reduced acute bed capacity, and introduce an aged care facility for patients with high care needs on the IOTHS site.
- **Option 2:** Transition to an after-hours on-call model and introduce a 24x7 aged care facility for patients with high care needs on the IOTHS site.
- **Option 3:** Maintain the 24x7 hospital facility with reduced acute bed capacity, and expand the IOTHS Home and Community Care (HACC) service.
- **Option 4:** Maintain the 24x7 hospital facility with reduced acute bed capacity, introduce an aged care facility for patients with high care needs on the IOTHS site, and expand the IOTHS HACC service.

IOTHS 5 Year Strategic Plan 2019

Shire also provided that the medical scientist providing pathology services (blood, urine, etc) should be kept on island.

Shire had also put forward at the meeting that the Operating Room should be re-opened so day surgeries can be had on island; Gordon **THOMSON** cited that a colonoscopy exam for example required a person to fly to Perth which impacted on workplaces and productivity. It also presents an out of pocket expense for people even though the flight itself was covered by PATs.

Shire noted that the advancement of Telehealth services might enable doctors on island to liaise with medical specialists on the mainland together with their patients. Saw this as a potential cost saving that would help to offset day surgeries on the island.

Chris **SU** reminded the CCC members that “*The underlying principle of policy development, service delivery, and capital works is to ensure that the Territories communities are provided with services and infrastructure comparable with those provided to equivalent WA mainland communities.*”

Chris **SU** stated that previous Administrator Jon **STANHOPE** released a bulletin that stating the towns in WA that were used to benchmark services to the IOTs, such as Healthcare. Chris SU recounted that this included towns such as Pannawonica, Wyndham and Derby from memory, but included a great deal more.

Chris **SU** concluded that whatever the IOTHS 5 Year Strategic Health Plan had in store for the island, that it had to meet the principle around ‘*equivalent mainland communities*’ in terms of service delivery to the IOTs as a minimum.

Chris **SU** recounted that he had called every health service in the ‘comparable towns’ list that the Commonwealth utilised to ask if they were 24/7 or not in 2016 during a previous ‘future of healthcare’ discussion on Christmas Island. Every single health service was 24/7 with the exception of one in Exmouth.

Chris **SU** stated that the Commonwealth Grants Commission is the oversight agency that examines how well DIRDC is making good on its underlying principle of equalisation with ‘comparable WA communities’ and that the CCC should keep this in mind during healthcare discussions.

Nora **KOH** expressed concern at sections in the IOTHS 5 Year Strategic Plan that discussed privatisation of the hospital as an option and research provided from private medical providers such as Ramsay Health Care. The CCC were unanimous in their position that the IOTHS should never be privatised.

Chris **SU** remarked that if the hospital was privatised, as discussed in the mid-2000s, then the Government would have seen an enormous bill for health services IOTHS provided during the peak immigration years. If various Governments of the day had no visibility of the potential return of high usage of the IDC, then any option to privatise the health service could potentially run an extremely high bill for the Government if numbers returned to the early 2010 levels.

Nora **KOH** drew the CCC members’ attention to 4.3.2 ‘Cost Recovery’ in the document and scenario planning within therein around a \$7 co-payment expense to see a GP. It was noted the strategic plan recommended against co-payments but did recommend ‘cancellation fee’ to be considered to penalise patients who missed appointments. The CCC’s position was that neither should be applied to any future costing structure at the IOTHS.

CCC Members viewed the PATs service offered by IOTHS as a chance to improve service delivery for the communities.

Current practice at IOTHS has the patient return to the island on the next available flight after their medical appointments/procedures are completed. CCC members provided input that there should be a window of possible return times soon after the medical appointment (and not the first return appointment) that the patients could return on.

Gordon **THOMSON**’s position on PATs services regarding the decision on when someone should be sent to the mainland for treatment should completely rest on the doctors. He put forward that any future iteration of IOTHS put hospital administrators in a position to influence when the PATs service was used for cost reasons should be opposed.

The CCC agreed with this principle.

The Chairperson summarised the agreed points in the discussion as follows:

1. No negative change to staffing levels, especially concerning the pathology service.
2. No privatisation of the IOTHS, or any part thereof
3. No co-payments or cancellation fees
4. Greater flexibility on PATs return dates
5. A system be implemented where doctors make the decision about a PATs case
6. That the CCC consider services available in 'comparable WA towns' in the discussion around what services the IOTHS delivers on island

4.4 Report on changes to governance in the IOT Regional Development Organisation

Gordon **THOMSON** provided the CCC with an update to governance changes in the IOTRDO.

Gordon **THOMSON** provided a historical overview of how the IOTRDO came about; that it was the amalgamation of two separate 'Economic Development Consultative Groups' on CKI and Christmas Island and that these EDCG groups themselves were initiatives of the 2007 Labor Government that sought to give Islanders a measure of democratic input into economic development in the territories.

Gordon **THOMSON** noted that the Shires of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Shire of Christmas Island were written into the original 2012 IOTRDO Constitution as having a permanent seat on the IOTRDO, alongside the Administrator who was the perpetual Chair.

A Special General Meeting was called for December 8th 2018 to change the Constitution; this SGM was eventually struck out by the WA Department of Commerce in April 2019 after a complaint from Gordon **THOMSON** and Chris **SU** to the Department of Commerce complaining that the Act had not been followed properly.

Gordon **THOMSON** reported that a new SGM was called for May 6th 2019 to bring to the committee the same constitution for adoption; this time the Act was followed to the letter and it was before the Department of Commerce Commissioner for registration.

Chris **SU** provides that the new Constitution provides a series of powers not had in the original constitution and significant deviations from the model constitution provided by the WA Department of Commerce

1. That any meeting of the members shall not be in quorum unless the Administrator as Chairperson is present.
2. That the position of Deputy Chair is removed.
3. That members cannot elect a member to preside the meeting in the event that the Chair and Deputy Chair are not present.
4. That the Chairperson can make a person a member of the Association directly; that no longer will the normal procedure of having a method of voting by the members be able to make a person a member of the Association. That this is the only way a person can be a member of the Association under the new Constitution.

5. That the Shires of Cocos (Keeling) Island and Shire of Christmas Island no longer had their permanent seats in the IOTRDO.

Gordon **THOMSON** said that these changes were directly opposed to the spirit of the original constituting of the IOTRDO which gave island residents direct input into decision making via their elected local government bodies.

Chris **SU** also stated that these changes with a Chairperson having the sole power to give membership is extremely unusual and not democratic.

Motion:

The CCC is alarmed at reports to changes of the IOTRDO Constitution, the fact that the Shires of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Shire of Christmas Island can no longer nominate their representatives to the IOTRDO and at the changes that allow the Chair alone to appoint new members of the IOTRDO over the usual method of having the new applications for membership elected by the membership.

The CCC opposes these changes and demand the rescission of the constitution and that this motion is sent to the IOTRDO and cc'd to the Minister for Territories, Member for Lingiari, the Northern Territory Senators, the Shires of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Shire of Christmas Island.

Moved: Nora **KOH**

Seconded: David **PRICE**

Carried: 8/0

Resolution: CCC4/2019

5 General Business

6. Closure of Meeting

- 6.1 The Meeting closed at 17.30

7 Date of Next Meeting

- 7.1 The date of next meeting is Wednesday 03 July 2019 at 3.30 pm.