



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 Monday 11th March 2024

1 Declaration of Opening of Meeting / Announcement of Visitors

1.1 Chairperson Gordon **THOMSON** declared the meeting opened at 4.45pm

Chairperson **THOMSON** welcomed the visitors from the WA Health and Disability Services Commission (HADSCO) and WA Seniors Card from WA Department of Communities.

Chairperson **THOMSON** welcomed five community members who wanted to address the CCC on cat ownership matters.

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

Attendees:

Community Consultative Committee

Shire President	Gordon THOMSON
Shire Planning, Governance and Policy	Chris SU
CI Women's Association	Jessica SEET
Shire Councillor	Kelvin LEE
Shire Councillor	Hafiz MASLI
CI Neighbourhood Centre	Oliver LINES
Chinese Literary Association	Mel HAN
Poon Saan Club	Suzane CHAN
Malay Association	Azmi YON

Apologies

Shire CEO	David PRICE
Phosphate Resources Limited	Zoe McMILLAN
Union of CI Workers	FOO Kee Heng
CI Christian Fellowship	Stephanie SAMBELL
CI Tourism Association	Sarah COOTE
Islamic Council of CI	Sultan SAYED

WA State Agencies

WA Seniors Card, Dept. of Communities	Chris FOSTER
HADSCO	Brian Dias
	Justin HOON

Community Members

Farah ZAINAL	Nazreen NASARUDDIN	Zaleha AKSAN
Norfazilah ABD ALI	Rashidi ABDOL RAHMAN	

2.2 Community Members' Presentation

- 2.2.1 With permission from the meeting, Chairperson **THOMSON** invited the community members to present first at the meeting ahead in the agenda.
- 2.2.2 Community member Norfazilah **ABD ADLI** introduced herself as an Arenga Close resident and recounted, in her opinion, a heavy handed approach by a Parks Australia officer and the council ranger in the enforcement of cat ownership rules three weeks prior at her residence on 29th February 2024.
- 2.2.3 The Parks officer and Council Ranger had reportedly said to her and her household members that the police may be called, and there could be arrests and a fine imposed as the household were keeping an unregistered, un-neutered cat on premises. The cat in her household was removed by the officer and ranger.
- 2.2.4 Rashidi **ABDOL RAHMAN** reported that a letter was presented to them on 29th February 2024 during the call by the ranger and officer that was dated 15th February 2024. Rashidi **ABDOL RAHMAN** claimed that they had not received a copy of this letter in the mail around the 15th February 2024 and that this was the first time they have seen it. The letter was a general notice to residents of the rules around cat ownership and enforcement practices.
- 2.2.5 Farah **ZAINAL** provided that she and her partner were in the vicinity of the **ABD ALI-ABDOL RAHMAN** household at the time and in her view also concurred that the handling of the enforcement process seemed heavy handed and insensitive.
- 2.2.6 There was dissatisfaction amongst the community members presenting on the use of the police as a threat to cat owners.
- 2.2.7 Zaleha **AKSAN** requested that the Council work with the community on regulating cat ownership, and assisting residents to comply with the local law. Zaleha **AKSAN** reported that the Shire Ranger claimed that non-compliant cat ownership '*was on the rise.*'
- 2.2.8 Chairperson Gordon **THOMSON** recounted for the meeting the recent history of Council investigating methods to assist in this area. In August 2023 Council at the request of the Shire Youth Advisory Council went to public consultation on the question of bringing a vet to Christmas Island to register, neuter and chip cats to assist in compliance with the standing cats local law. Council received numerous submissions on both sides, sufficient enough for officers to investigate options for different scenarios.
- 2.2.9 Chairperson Gordon **THOMSON** stated that during the research on the relevant health regulations for the required procedures, council officers discovered the necessity for vets to operate in a sterilized environment when conducting neutering surgical procedures to ensure optimal care for animals. The initial neutering and chipping conducted in 2011 were carried out at a Parks care facility in Drumsite by Parks Australia, which also organized the logistics for the vet during the implementation of the local cat law in 2012.
- 2.2.10 Chairperson Gordon **THOMSON** said that council officers noted that Shire's premises (the George Fam building, Community Hall, Waste Tip Site and Shire Depot) could not provide a sterile place for these procedures. The Commonwealth has the only facilities that could support these procedures in the Parks care facility in Drumsite, and the mortuary at IOTHS. The Commonwealth advised the Shire CEO that it could not assist in providing these facilities for these purposes in late 2023; the Shire distributed a notice early in 2024 advising residents of the outcome.

- 2.2.11 Farah **ZAINAL** advised the meeting that her and other members of the community had contacted vet offices on the mainland who advised that in the lack of a facility that could normally support a sterilised surgery in remote locations, vets could make do with a temporary site and sterilise that location to the best of their professional ability. This would satisfy their own ethical standards for providing a safe space for animals to undergo surgery and recuperate. The community members recounted that the 2011 sterilisation required the cats to rest several days under observation of the visiting vet at the Parks care facility in Drumsite.
- 2.2.12 Chairperson Gordon **THOMSON** advised that an action item would be for council officers seek further guidance on this with vets on the mainland. **THOMSON** also requested community members if they could send through a copy of the letter received by them on 29th February 2024.
- 2.2.13 Farah **ZAINAL** requested that council work with residents on a way for them to be compliant with the cat local law requirements. She advised that the community members would appreciate a moratorium on the matter.
- 2.2.14 Chairperson Gordon **THOMSON** thanked the members for their presentation. Community members left the meeting at 5.15pm.
- 2.3 Chairperson Gordon **THOMSON** welcomed the WA State Agency visitors to the meeting, and noted that they had a successful weekend of engagements that many of the CCC members attended. A presentation was provided by the state agency visitors.
- 2.3.1 Health and Disability Services Commission (HADSCO) Principle case officer Justin **HOON** and Brian **DIAS** provided an overview of HADSCO services.
- 2.3.2 Brian **DIAS** recounted a meeting with Administrator Farzian **ZAINAL** where she raised an opportunity for youth engagement around drugs and alcohol use.
- 2.3.3 Chris **SU** asked if Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) matters were an item under HADSCO jurisdiction. HADSCO Brian **DIAS** advised that it was. **DIAS** also stated that residents could approach HADSCO regarding any medical service they received in the IOTs, or on the mainland. He stated that patients could choose to discuss matters with HADSCO directly if they wished without approaching the medical practitioner or medical centre first.
- 2.3.4 Chairperson Gordon **THOMSON** asked for a summary of how the Commonwealth and WA HADSCO team operated.
- 2.3.5 HADSCO Brian **DIAS** advised that the state legislation that applies to Christmas Island and that the HADSCO agency is a self-standing entity outside the Dept. of Health. It provides an opportunity for patients to provide feedback outside of the Dept. of Health personnel. Brian **DIAS** advised that there was WA Minister for Health to Territories Minister communication as needed.
- 2.3.6 WA Seniors Card Chris **FOSTER** presented the features of the WA Senior Card, and the benefits that cardholders have access to. These included discounts on council rates, water rates, concession admission to the zoo, public transport and a range of businesses who have WA Seniors Card pricing for their goods and services. Chris **FOSTER** also reported that WA Seniors Card holders on the mainland are provided with an annual cost-of-living payment from the WA Government.
- 2.3.7 Chris **SU** asked if the Commonwealth be making this same payment in the shoes of the WA Government for IOT residents?

- 2.3.8 Chris **FOSTER** advised that to the best of her knowledge that the Commonwealth will be providing the cost-of-living payment in this respect to IOT residents.
- 2.3.9 Meeting discussed the positive turn out for the HADSCO and WA Seniors Card information sessions from 9th to 11th March, dozens of seniors signed up for the seniors card having found they were eligible. The cost-of-living payment application forms were also filled out in number.
- 2.3.10 Malay Association Azmi **YON** and Cr Hafiz **MASLI** organised a Malay Club session with WA Seniors Card for later that evening March 11th.

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

- 3.1 Confirmation of December 6th 2023 minutes

CCC Resolution –																				
Moved: Hafiz MASLI	Seconded: Azmi YON	Res. No: CCC1/2024																		
<p>That the minutes of the December 6th 2023 Community Consultative Committee be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Carried 9/0</p> <p>For:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Shire President</td> <td>Gordon THOMSON</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shire Planning, Governance and Policy</td> <td>Chris SU</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CI Women’s Association</td> <td>Jessica SEET</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shire Councillor</td> <td>Kelvin LEE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shire Councillor</td> <td>Hafiz MASLI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CI Neighbourhood Centre</td> <td>Oliver LINES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chinese Literary Association</td> <td>Mel HAN</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poon Saan Club</td> <td>Suzane CHAN</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Malay Association</td> <td>Azmi YON</td> </tr> </table> <p>Against:</p> <p>n/a</p>			Shire President	Gordon THOMSON	Shire Planning, Governance and Policy	Chris SU	CI Women’s Association	Jessica SEET	Shire Councillor	Kelvin LEE	Shire Councillor	Hafiz MASLI	CI Neighbourhood Centre	Oliver LINES	Chinese Literary Association	Mel HAN	Poon Saan Club	Suzane CHAN	Malay Association	Azmi YON
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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. SOCl made an FOI application in July 2023. Expected outcome in August 2023.	April 2022	Chris Su	See Agenda Item 4.1
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	See Agenda Item 4.2
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.
6	Scope of works with Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation being developed	July 2023	Chris Su	Seeking strategic-level contact at JTSI to liaise with to develop scope for CCC to consider

4. Agenda Business

4.1 Presentation from Community Member Interesting Group regarding cats

Addressed in 2.2

4.2 Health and Disability Services Commission (HADSCO) and WA Seniors Card Presentation

Addressed in 2.3

4.3 Continuing Luggage Challenges

CCC noted the report by members that the flight of 27th February 2024 had exceptional numbers of luggage left behind, at an estimate of 40 pieces from a CCC member onboard that flight.

CCC noted that Virgin officials had presented a year to the month ago on their new protocols to ensure that all priority bags would be loaded.

4.4 Norfolk Island Aged Care Update

CCC received the 13.12.2023 'A New Residential Aged Care Facility for Norfolk Island' and Dec 2023 Department release 'Norfolk Island Multipurpose Health Service Facility.'

CCC observes that the concentration of Residential Aged Care delivery between Cocos, Christmas and Norfolk Island is concentrated on Norfolk Island.

CCC noted that Norfolk has an existing dozen residential aged care beds at the present at their health facility, and the Commonwealth in the media release stated they will construct a purpose built 16 bed facility will be completed by 2027. The CCC note that this facility will also be able to assist the living needs of seniors with dementia according to the media release.

4.5 Virgin Contract up for Tender, March 2024

CCC received the CCC Sept 2023 correspondence to the Office of the Administrator and Administrator **ZAINAL's** response of 10th October 2023.

CCC noted the extract provided from www.tenders.gov.au of the planned estimated approach to market for the *Provision of Airline Services to the IOTs between Perth, CI and CKI* will be Quarter 3 2023/2024 (Jan-March 2024).

4.6 Dept of Commerce engages CI Community on 'Short-Term Rental Accommodation Bill 2024'

CCC received the *Proposed Short Term Rental Accommodation Regulations 2024 Consultation Document* from the WA Dept of Commerce (DMIRS).

Legal Policy officers from the WA Dept of Commerce (DMIRS) contacted SOCI to advise that they were seeking submissions from SOCI regarding the new Shorter Term Rental Accommodation (STRA) 2024 bill on 11.3.2024.

Chris **SU** reported that this is unusual that a state agency specifically writes to Christmas Island to consult on a WA bill.

A major element of this bill was the application of the advertised *Short-Term Rental Incentive Scheme* which is a WA Government \$10,000 grant initiative to providers of short-term accommodation in residential areas (like AirBnB hosts) to convert their short-term stay to long term tenancies.

SOCI had reached out in Nov 2023 to DMIRS to see if this grant program would apply to CI. DMIRS officers at that point did not know.

Other major elements of the STRA bill included the development of a state-wide registry that all short-term accommodation providers in residential areas would have to present themselves on. The bill also stated the terms under which the WA Consumer Protection Commissioner can revoke a short-term accommodation provider's registration on this registry until they rectify the specified breaches on their property.

The CCC discussed the merits of the application of the *Short-Term Rental Incentive Scheme's* \$10,000 grant to short-term accommodation providers to encourage home owners to lease their property in the general renters market instead of reserving their homes for holiday makers.

Poon Saan Club Suzane **CHAN** agreed and noted that the housing crisis on CI and WA was partially exacerbated by rentals turning into 'AirBnBs' and that should these properties return to the general renters market, it will provide some relief.

The CCC further discussed and found that this DMIRS policy rationale aiming to encourage housing supply was sound, with value to be delivered on CI.

CCC Resolution –

Moved: Hafiz MASLI

Seconded: Kelvin LEE

Res. No: CCC2/2024

The CCC welcomes the consultation request from the WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) on the proposed *Short Term Rental Accommodation 2024 Bill*.

The CCC sees this initiative to engage with Christmas Island on the matter of WA state legislation and policy formation from DMIRS to be historic.

The CCC supports the legislation based on the *Proposed Short Term Rental Accommodation Regulations 2024 Consultation Document* provided for our review. The CCC supports the application of the *Short-Term Rental Incentive Scheme* for Christmas Island and supports the rationale for this policy in helping to alleviate the housing shortage.

Carried 9/0

For:

Shire President
Shire Planning, Governance and Policy
CI Women's Association
Shire Councillor
Shire Councillor
CI Neighbourhood Centre
Chinese Literary Association
Poon Saan Club
Malay Association

Gordon **THOMSON**
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Mel **HAN**
Suzane **CHAN**
Azmi **YON**

Against:

n/a

5. General Business:

6. Closure of Meeting: 6.15pm, next meeting TBA