



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 7th June 2023

1 Declaration of Opening of Meeting / Announcement of Visitors

- 1.1 Chairperson Gordon THOMSON declared the meeting opened at 4.35pm
- 1.2 Chairperson Gordon THOMSON welcomed the visitors from WA state agencies and IOTA.
- 1.3 Chair put to the committee that the Agenda items should be adjourned to maximise time for an urgent Patient Assistance Travel scheme issue raised by the public. CCC concurred.

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	Jackie TEH
Malay Association	Azmi YON
Council Representative	Hafiz MASLI
Christmas Island Phosphates	Joy WICKENDON
CI Neighbourhood Centre	Oliver LINES
Christmas Island Women's Assoc.	Regine ANDERSON / Jessica SEET
Committee Member / Minutes	Chris SU

Apologies

Christian Fellowship	Stephanie SAMBELL
Union of Christmas Island Workers	Kelvin LEE
Chinese Literary Association	Mel HAN
Christmas Island Tourism Assoc.	Simon PENN
Shire CEO	David PRICE
Council Representative	Morgan SOH

Absent

Islamic Council of CI	Farzian ZAINAL
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WA State Agency Visitors

Equal Opportunity Commission	Steve GOODALL
	Greg WATSON
Office of Information Commissioner	Allison CUBBIN
Working with Children	Jo GIBBS
Consumer Protection	Angela ACHIKIAN
Consumer Protection	Lia SCHULTZ

IOTA Visitors
Director of IOTA
Acting Manager IOTHS

Ian **MCKENDRICK**
Catherine **O'NEIL**

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

3.1 Confirmation of April 6th 2023 minutes

Item adjourned as per 1.3

CCC Resolution –

Moved:

Seconded:

Res. No: CCC

3.3 Action Items

Item adjourned as per 1.3

4. Agenda Business

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

Item adjourned as per 1.3

4.2 Public Housing Policy Changes

Item adjourned as per 1.3

4.3 Service Delivery Agreement Review – Dept of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation

Item adjourned as per 1.3

5. General Business:

5.1 PATS Feedback

Chairperson Gordon THOMSON advises that a query has been received around the delivery of PATs services on island in terms of timing of flights for medical appointments.

Resident was dissatisfied with being booked 'short-turnaround' schedules for their medical appointments. This was a Tues-Fri or a Fri-Tues schedule. It was noted the Tues-Fri route was via Cocos both ways which was a significant impost of time.

Residents had put to Shire that direct flights on the 'week-turnaround' schedule were more agreeable for travel, especially when ill, injured, in recovery or as an escort to a person especially with mobility challenges.

Gordon THOMSON noted the current PATS policy was dated November 2019, and a review was needed.

IOTA Director Ian McKENDRICK advised that a review is going to be underway. Members of the *Health Advisory Council (HAC)* were going to seek community feedback on the existing policy in June.

IOTA Director Ian McKENDRICK advised that IOTA expects feedback on matters such as accommodation allowance, flight options and escort availability.

Ian McKENDRICK advised that there was no policy change to direct flight bookings at the present. The PATs office will book direct flights at the request of the patient. Noted that with the current PATs policy, that accommodation is paid on the most direct flights possible only.

CCC concurred this was a reasonable approach.

Azmi YON asked how will the people be engaged for their feedback?

Ian McKENDRICK advised engagements will be done with the *Health Advisory Council* and that the HAC was made up of community members.

Azmi YON asked if other means outside of the HAC were to be utilized?

Ian McKENDRICK advised a number of workshops would be held around the island with HAC and IOTHS members present. '*A roadshow of workshops are planned!*'

CCC discussed the need for these engagements to be wide-reaching and that the CCC make up itself was broad. CCC noted that previously the Commonwealth had funded the CCC and held its views on state service-delivery in high regard with acknowledgement of funding. The Commonwealth might review its community engagement policy to again interface with the CCC on state service-delivery more clearly.

Joy WICKENDON noted that the HAC had not been very high profile.

Regine ANDERSON asked if there would be interpreters at the community workshops and noted prayer times had to be taken into account.

Ian McKENDRICK advised that these be taken into account and thanked the CCC for their feedback.

Catherine O'NEIL says that the Patient Assistance Travel Scheme in the WA Country Health Service is robust. The IOT version is condensed.

Catherine O'NEIL summarized some of the community health works that IOTHS has completed in the recent past –

- a) Health Service had high COVID vaccination rates uptake, with similar high booster number uptake
- b) 616 locals participated in the recent 'Flu Jab' morning at the Post Office Padang
- c) 706 hours of Health and Community Care (HACC) services provided to seniors, mostly of Chinese and Malay background.
- d) World Elder Abuse Awareness day at Recreation Centre planned in the following week
- e) Weekly 'Mums and Bubs' sessions with nurses popular

Chris SU asked if a new dentist was assigned to IOTHS?

Catherine O'NEIL advised that IOTHS were expecting a new dentist to arrive soon, with a locum in the following month.

Azmi YON says the Malay Association of Christmas Island (MACI) acknowledges the work that IOTHS has been doing for the elderly people.

Chairperson Gordon THOMSON thanked Ian McKENDRICK and Catherine O'NEIL for attending, and said they were welcome anytime back at a CCC meeting.

Oliver LINES from CI Neighbourhood Centre acknowledged the IOTHS team work involved with the seniors, Stephanie, Risky, Angela, Annie, Janet and Kim Mun.

Chairperson Gordon THOMSON summarized that IOTHS is not a service delivery agreement with the WA State Government, it is directly operated by the Commonwealth of Australia.

Thanked Ian McKENDRICK for immediately addressing that concern of direct flight booking.

Catherine O'NEIL advised that route costs CI-Perth-CI and CI-CKI-Perth-CKI-Perth are the same.

5.2 Presentation by WA State Agencies

Equal Opportunity Commission – Steven GOODALL, Greg WATSON

Advised that there were some changes in legislation to recognize a broader range of items that one may make a claim of discrimination on, reflective of changing societal views. Greg WATSON of EOC advised that 163 recommended changes are being considered to the Equal Opportunity Act (WA) (1984).

EOC provided their contacts below for CCC reference

Greg.Watson@eoc.wa.gov.au, Stephen.Goodall@eoc.wa.gov.au

Office of the Information Commissioner – Allison McCUBBIN

Advised that their SDA is newly made as of this year. The Freedom on Information Act (WA)(1992) is in effect, so therefore it applies to all state agencies operating in the IOTs, and IOT local government bodies.

Allison McCUBBIN advised that this first trip was to develop awareness and education in the IOTs of their rights under the legislation.

Chairperson Gordon THOMSON clarifies that there is a difference between the Federal FOI Act, and the WA FOI Act for different agencies on Christmas Island.

Allison McCUBBIN concurs and advises that the FOI Commissioner in WA works closely with the Federal FOI Commissioner.

Allison McCUBBIN provided contact details below for CCC reference:
Alison.McCubbin@foi.wa.gov.au

Working With Children – Jo GIBBS

Jo GIBBS provided background to changes to Working With Children checks from July 1 2023. Advised that anyone with a current WWC check will still be considered valid, but upon renewal, will have to pass the new standard of checks in the future.

There are six main changes to take effect. Jo GIBBS provided a handout to CCC members of these six changes.

Jo GIBBS provided contact details of below for CCC reference
Jo.Gibbs@communities.wa.gov.au

Consumer Protection – Angela ACHIKIAN, Lia SCHULTZ

Angela ACHIKIAN and Lia SCHULTZ provided an overview of Consumer Protection services for IOTs. Chairperson Gordon THOMSON notes that Consumer Protection has served the island well in the past.

Scamwatch and Product and Safety are the main awareness programs at the moment. Consumer Protection noted a sharp rise in scam attempts nationwide, in particular with Optus and Medicare breaches as significant data loss events.

E-Scooters was a product safety matter under present review in WA.

Lia SCHULTZ advised that submission of Information Statements, a statutory document that incorporated associations are required to fulfill, are needed from many incorporated associations on CI. There was a similar low level of compliance in WA.

Consumer Protection advised that the *Building and Energy Division* of the Department of Commerce were taking in submissions on whether or not builders should be registered in the Indian Ocean Territories.

CCC discussed the meaning of builders' license registrations and noted that currently builders on Christmas Island were not required to be licensed under WA legislation. CP confirmed that consumer protection laws do, but not building registration licensing requirements.

6. Closure of Meeting: 6.05pm, next meeting TBA