



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
Wednesday March 4th 2020 commencing at 4.00pm**

1 Declaration of Opening of Meeting / Announcement of Visitors

1.1 Gordon **THOMSON** declared the meeting opened at 4.05pm.

9 members present; Joy **WICKENDON** for CIP arrived 4.11pm.

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

2.1 Record of Attendance

President-SOCI
Poon Saan Club

Shire Councillor
Shire Councillor
Islamic Council of Christmas Island
CI Phosphates
Chinese Literary Association

CI Neighbourhood Centre
CEO SOCI

Gordon **THOMSON**
Jackie **TEO** (voting member for PSC)
Suzane **CHAN**
Morgan **SOH**
Hafiz **MASLI**
Greg **MCINTOSH**
Joy **WICKENDEN** (arrived 4.11pm)
LEEMO
TAN Teik Kiang (voting member for CLA)
Oliver **LINES**
David **PRICE**

Minutes

SOCI Manager of Governance

Chris **SU**

2.2 Apologies

Malay Association of Christmas Island
CI Women's Association
Union of Christmas Island Workers

Azmi **YON**
Robyn **STEPHENSON**
Kelvin **LEE**

2.3 Declaration of Financial, Proximity or Impartially Interest

Nil.

2.4 Public Question Time

Nil.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1 Resolution:

That the Minutes of 5th December held at the George Fam Centre, Shire of Christmas Island be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: David **PRICE**
Carried 9/0

Seconded: Hafiz **MASLI**
Resolution: CCC1 / 2020

3.2 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

CCC reviewed Action Items 3.2 to 3.4 in the Agenda

Agenda Item	Item	Status
3.2	Action Item August 2019: DIRDC requested to provide CCC copy of Community Engagement Protocol from email of 15.8.2019	No response received yet. Tabled as business arising for next meeting
3.3	Action Item December 2019 Chris SU to report back to CCC the actions Council is taking to support the CCC motion on Fisheries Management Authority	Completed. Gordon THOMSON updated committee that the Fisheries Petition was given to the Minister in Canberra in person in February by himself. Chris SU to send the January 7 th 2020 letter that CCC Chairperson Gordon THOMSON wrote to the Minister on the matter to the CCC members.

4 Agenda Business

4.1 Abbott's Booby Conservation Draft Advice.

Chris **SU** presented maps on whiteboard (maps had been emailed out to CCC members 23rd Dec 2019) that displayed the version 2 Draft Abbott's Booby Conservation Advice map versus the version 1 Draft Abbott's Booby Conservation Advice map from August 2019.

CCC members agreed that the significant reduction of areas reserved for the Abbott's Booby that the Minister for Environment would have oversight on via this new version 2 Draft Conservation Advice is much more agreeable in terms of economic development.

Chris **SU** noted that none of the 2018 Minister Mc Veigh Land Release parcels are under this version 2 Conservation Advice.

Chris **SU** stated that the areas in reserve under this version 2 seemed to correlate with the Abbott's Bobby Survey 2015 and Distribution Map, also on whiteboard.

Motion: The CCC notes that the Department of Environment has called for public submissions by March 13th 2020, that the second draft is improved in terms for potential for development and note the second draft highlights actual habitat and in principle we are sympathetic to the preservation of the Abbott's Booby knowing that Christmas Island is the only place it lives and that the Union of Christmas Island Workers in 1984 took steps for its conservation.

Moved: Joy **WICKENDON**
Carried 10/10

Seconded: Morgan **SOH**
Resolution: CCC2/2020

4.2 CCC Fisheries Petition

Gordon **THOMSON** informed the meeting that the Fisheries Petition the CCC compiled in August 2019 to end of 2019 in response to the Fisheries Ordinance proposed by the Department was submitted in person by him to the Minister in a visit to Canberra February 26-28.

Gordon **THOMSON** requested Chris **SU** to send the letter of Jan 7th 2020 from himself to the Minister concerning the Fisheries Ordinance, Deloitte Tourism Consultants' non-visit and other matters be sent to the CCC. Chair had not the CCC email list whilst on vacation when he composed and sent the letter.

4.3 Deloitte Tourism Review

Chris **SU** informed the CCC that the Deloitte Tourism consultants had not made any further attempt to contact the CCC since the Wednesday 5th December non-arrival. Noted that the timeframe for release of the Review and Plan was early 2020; it has not been released yet.

4.4 COVID-19 Island Preparedness

Greg **MCINTOSH** raised the need for planning around COVID-19 preparedness and dissemination of information on management protocols should an outbreak occur on Christmas Island.

CCC members agreed that the close proximity of some neighbourhoods on island with residents in flats and the practice of Islamic faith persons in shaking hands and touching faces presented a weakness in public health.

No plans on quarantine or containment had been as yet made available; CCC members discussed whether or not island residents had to be medivacced off island or could undergo quarantine at home if taken ill?

CCC were willing to help facilitate information to their various constituencies in language and sought to communicate with IOTHS to arrange to learn of the IOTHS plan for management in order to assist where able.

Motion: *"That the IOTHS Health Manager Eddie **GACITUA** be invited to a special meeting of the CCC at 4pm Thursday 5th March, or 4pm Friday 6th March to brief the CCC on the planning for COVID-19 management on Christmas Island."*

Moved: Greg **MCINTOSH**

Seconded: David **PRICE**

Carried 10/10

Resolution: CCC 3/2020

4.5 Christmas Island Research Round Table

Gordon **THOMSON** briefed the CCC on the CI Research Round Table that took place in Canberra on February 28th. Commonwealth brief of the Research Round Table was emailed by Chris SU to CCC members on Monday 2nd March.

Shire received an invitation on February 11th from the Minister to attend the CI Research Round Table on Feb 28th. The goal of the Round Table was to generate a business case for a Research Hub to be established on Christmas Island to promote economic diversification as well as provide a centre for researchers from Australia and abroad, which are many, to operate from.

Gordon **THOMSON** summarised the **MINTOPE** years and the transition to the Indian Ocean Learning Communities (**IOLC**). **MINTOPE** had been a joint effort from the Commonwealth, CIP and Murdoch University into the sciences of agriculture on the island, performing studies and experiments to optimise plant growth and soil health. It concluded at the end of 2019 after 7 years.

The **IOLC** is an international collaboration between Temasek Polytechnic Singapore, Murdoch University and The Harry Butler Institute in WA. It centres around creating a Research Hub on Christmas Island to further learnings and economic potential for agri-businesses, aquaponics and other produce related sciences with a view to commercialise into food export to Singapore and local consumption. It plans to do this on mining land that CIP is to relinquish towards 2034, the end of their leases on Christmas Island.

Gordon **THOMSON** did not receive a delegates list but noted participants from

- University of Western Australia
- Murdoch University
- Museum of Western Australia
- University of Queensland
- University of Sydney
- University of New South Wales
- Australian National University
- La Trobe University
- Griffith University
- Federal Department of Education

It was noted that the Shire President of Cocos (Keeling) Islands Aindil **MINKOLM** and Cocos Shire CEO Andrea **SELVEY** were present with Christmas Island Councillor Farzian **ZAINAL**. The Administrator Natasha **GRIGGS** was also present.

The conclusion of the round table was for a Working Group to be called to develop a business case for a Research Hub on Christmas Island. Gordon **THOMSON** reported that John **HOWIESSON** of Murdoch spoke at the table and was adamant that the Research Hub needed to involve the islanders as stakeholders as from his experience with **MINTOPE**, local buy-in was paramount to its establishment and success.

The CCC concurred that local buy-in into initiatives such as this which commence off island is important for success. Wide discussion by members on the application of academic studies into tangible benefits for future island generations; a practical application was sought that would evolve jobs and industry on island.

Improvement in island human resources was put forward, noting the pivot away from mining into other fields in the relative near future.

5 General Business

5.1 CIDHS Performance

Greg **MCINTOSH** put forward that the Malay cohort at CIDHS consistently underperformed against their peers in the Chinese community.

Greg **MCINTOSH** wanted to explore the systemic reasons as to why this phenomena is occurring.

CCC agreed to table it as item for next CCC meeting.

6. Closure of Meeting – 5.40pm, 4th March 2020

7 Date of Next Meeting

7.1 The date of next meeting will be 4.15pm April 1st 2020.