



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**



Community Bulletin

INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORIES

Number: D07/2024

Date: 8 April 2024

Relevant: Indian Ocean Territories

Topic: Air Services

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts is approaching the market to secure an air services partner to deliver regular passenger and freight transport services to Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

With Virgin Australia's current contract reaching the end of its term in late 2025, the Australian Government is required to re-approach the market for the provision of air services to the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT).

The request for tender (RFT), which is now open, was informed by consultation with the IOT community through a comprehensive survey of air services conducted in the second half of 2023.

Airfare and pricing, service reliability, seat availability, baggage limits and speed of recovery services were identified as key priorities by the community.

The RFT will seek proposals to deliver both passenger and air freight services to the IOT for a period of five years, with two possible two-year extension options.

The procurement of an air service partner is a priority for the Australian Government which provides significant investment in underwriting air services to the IOT.

The RFT closes at 12pm (EST), 14 June 2024. For more information about the RFT, visit Austender.gov.au.

Adam Stankevicius, Assistant Secretary, Indian Ocean Territories Branch