



Issue 60 – 9 July 2025

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Welcome Message

Welcome to the latest edition of my newsletter, which also marks my two-year anniversary of commencing in the role of Administrator.

I remain honoured to be the most senior Australian Government representative on island and the conduit between the community and Government on important issues and shared priorities.

One thing that continues to drive me in my role as Administrator is making sure that your views and concerns are heard.

I acknowledge the strong interest across the community in infrastructure in the Indian Ocean Territories, particularly in projects that impact our daily lives. As these projects progress and further information becomes available, we will keep the community informed.

I would also urge anyone who doesn't already follow the IOT News Facebook page to do so – it is the most immediate and up-to-date channel for sharing the latest information on infrastructure and project updates, news and emergency management.

In this edition we have provided information on the tender for a long-term air services provider and what is happening with tourism in the IOT.

Another focus of this newsletter is the Cocos CHRMAP. The next step will be updating the draft report to acknowledge the large volume of feedback received from members of the Cocos community over the past five months. I thank you for engaging so constructively with this process. I look forward to continuing to work with Minister McBain and other Australian Government representatives on the finalisation of this important document as a first step; and then on the development of the pathway forward, informed by – of course – ongoing community consultations. Finalising the CHRMAP report will not be the end of the process, but the beginning of an ongoing process of us working together to respond to the impacts of climate change on Cocos and determining the best responses informed by further investigations.

I would also like to let the community know that I will be on leave from 5 – 22 July. During this period Kim Forbes, the First Assistant Secretary of Territories, will be Deputy Administrator in my stead.

If you would like to find out more about anything in the newsletter or you would like a hardcopy, please contact my office. Let us know if you want us to include your upcoming community event or activity in the newsletter. Stories (including photos) about recent IOT community events are very welcome and can be emailed to IOTAdministrator@infrastructure.gov.au.

Farzian Zainal

Administrator of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Latest News

CHRMAP submission period concludes - thank you for contributions

The five-month public consultation and submission period on the draft Cocos (Keeling) Islands Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP) has now concluded and I thank everyone who engaged in the consultations and contributed feedback during the process.

The CHRMAP project team visited Cocos twice during the consultation period, as well as providing technical information and support through a series of webinars, which are available here: <https://getinvolved.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/your-coastal-plan-cki#/sidebar/tab/documents>

The CHRMAP is not yet final. Although developed over a long period of time and with input from many members of the Cocos community, the documents will now be updated to include the significant amount of feedback from the community and stakeholders received during the submission period.

Your submissions and ongoing engagement are an invaluable part of this process. This is not the end of our discussions or the consultation process, but rather the beginning as we continue to work together on the pathway forward.

The Government is committed to working with the community as next steps and the response to the CHRMAP are developed. We will keep you informed as the process progresses.



The draft CHRMAP can be accessed here: [Draft CHRMAP](#)

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands
Coastal Hazard Risk Management
and Adaptation Plan
CHRMAP Summary

Peta Cocos (Keeling)
Pelan Pengurusan Risiko dan
Bahaya Keruntuhan Sisiran Laut
dan Rancangan Penyesuaian
Ringkasan CHRMAP

National priorities need local solutions – National General Assembly of Local Government 2025



Late last month, representatives from the Shires of Christmas and Cocos Islands made the long journey to chilly Canberra to take part in the 31st National General Assembly of Local Government – the largest annual gathering of local government leaders in Australia.

Alongside our Shire representatives, more than 1,300 delegates from the local government sector across Australia came together to consider the big issues for their communities, working together to build effective partnerships and consider this year's conference theme – National Priorities Need Local Solutions.

Minister McBain was at the event to address the delegates and meet one-on-one with a number of local governments, including our representatives from Christmas and Cocos Islands.

The conversation was productive, and focused on strengthening Australian and local government collaboration to find solutions to the challenges, and harness the opportunities, for our region.

As a former Mayor, and now responsible for not only the Regional Development, Local Government, and Territories portfolios, but also Emergency Management, Minister McBain is passionate about the issues that matter most to our local communities, and understands the importance of building open, strong and constructive relationships between federal and local governments.

Thank you to everyone who took part in this event, and represented our communities in the nation's capital.



Supporting tourism in the IOT – upcoming consultation

A recent survey conducted by The University of Queensland, Ecotourism Australia, and our own CI Tourism Association has found there is strong conditional support for tourism development on Christmas Island.

The 'What do Christmas Islanders want from tourism?' survey found that 84 per cent of respondents agree or strongly agree that developing tourism is important for the economic future of CI.

The Australian Government currently supports tourism in a number of ways, including through funding arrangements with the Tourism Associations on CI and on CKI to deliver visitor services, support for tourism operators and destination marketing.



Survey respondents also indicated that improvements to tourism on CI including supporting services and tourism development, won't 'just happen', and will need cooperation from a range of stakeholders.

Given these findings and my focus on economic sustainability and diversification for our region, I would like to seek stakeholder views on the best model to support this important regional industry into the future.

I aim to reach out to targeted stakeholders on both CI and CKI, during July and August to test a range of options on the best model to take the industry forward.



Update on the IOT Air Services Procurement

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts is continuing to progress the procurement process for a long-term air services partner for the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT), for the provision of air passenger and freight services.

The request for tender (RFT) was informed by feedback from the residents of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands through a survey in the second half of 2023, with key priorities like airfares and pricing, service reliability, seat availability, baggage limits, and speed of recovery services identified by the IOT community.

We will advise the community when the procurement process is finalised.

In the meantime, Virgin Australian Regional Airlines continues to provide critical air services to the IOT under existing contractual arrangements.

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





TeamAUS Olympic Schools

Unleashing the next generation of Olympians

It has been a thrilling time for young, aspiring athletes across Christmas and Cocos Islands – with the visit of Olympics Unleashed to the region.

Nick Malouf, a professional Australian Rugby Sevens player who represented Australia at the 2020 and 2024 Summer Olympics, and Elise Kellond-Knight, who represented Australia in three FIFA World Cups as well as the 2016 and 2020 Summer Olympics, made the trip to Christmas and Cocos Islands from 20-27 June to hold a series of workshops and coaching sessions with our young sportspeople.

Thank you to everyone who participated in these events – you helped make the visit one to remember for Nick and Elise, who left feeling that Australia's proud Olympic tradition is in safe hands with our local athletes.

This visit would not be possible without the support of the Australian and Western Australian Governments, who continue to support our communities through sporting and cultural visits.

Thanks also to the Shires and local sporting organisations, who helped with the logistics on the ground and ensured that facilities were available for these fabulous events.

If you're looking for additional resources to continue to support our younger generation embrace the values, and leverage the skills of Australia's best athletes, you can access resources from the Australian Olympic Committee website here:

[Australian Olympic Committee](#) | [TeamAUS Olympic Schools](#) | [Connect](#)

Community Bulletins



Fazian Zainal

Administrator of Christmas Island
Administrator of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands



Community Bulletin

Number: A07/2025. Date: 25 June 2025

Greater fish export allowance for CI

I am pleased to inform you that up to 10kg of fish can now be imported from Christmas Island to mainland Australia, under a new biosecurity permit issued for the community.

Under existing biosecurity regulations, all travellers to mainland Australia are able to import 5kg of fish. This permit now allows travellers from Christmas Island to take in the full 10kg export limit set by the Christmas Island Fisheries Management Committee under the local fishing rules. This permit is the first of its kind and will be valid for five years while we work with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry towards a potential longer-term solution through a new Australian Goods Determination.

The issuing of this permit is the result of extensive consultation and engagement with the community and responsible Government agencies. Balancing the preservation of our distinct culture and lifestyle with the sustainability of our natural environment is not possible without your input. I was pleased to be able to advocate on your behalf to find a solution on this important issue.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of officers from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts who have helped make this permit a reality. I also want to acknowledge the great work that our local Fisheries Management Committee and our Fisheries Ranger do in ensuring the

sustainability of fishing now and into the future.

I know the community will welcome this news. I thank everyone who continues to help inform fisheries management in the Indian Ocean Territories.

We have updated the supporting Fact Sheet with the most up-to-date information on taking fish from Christmas Island to mainland Australia, which you can read here: [Christmas Island fishing rules | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts](#). I suggest those taking fish travel with a copy of the fact sheet and support permit or the permit number (0010576634).

Farzian Zainal

Administrator of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands



Australian Government
Defence

*****COMMUNITY NOTICE*****



EXERCISE TALISMAN SABRE 2025

TRAINING ON CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Australian Defence Force and United States military personnel will conduct military training on Christmas Island from 16 to 17 July 2025.

Exercise Talisman Sabre is Australia's largest military exercise and this year will host a total of 19 participating nations conducting training across Australia, including Christmas Island.

On 16 July, a United States Air Force C-17A Globemaster aircraft will deploy to Christmas Island to test the logistics of deploying Australian and United States personnel and vehicles to remote locations.

You may see military vehicles and personnel moving around the airport and on formed roads around the island conducting training. Uncrewed aerial systems may also be in use.

We ask that the community be aware, but not alarmed by these activities. Please ensure to stay clear of any vehicle movements.

There is no live firing, use of weapons, ammunition or pyrotechnics planned during the training.

A community display is planned for the afternoon of 16 July at the Island's Recreational Centre.

The Australian Defence Force has been working closely with the Shire of Christmas Island, the Commonwealth Administrator of the Territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Christmas Island National Park managers and first responders to coordinate the safe conduct of this activity. This includes ensuring environmental and biosecurity measures are in place to protect the Island's unique flora and fauna.

This essential training is vital to maintain Australia's world-class military capability alongside our partners.

We thank you for your continued support.

Should you have any queries about any activity during this training exercise, please contact the Exercise control centre directly on this toll free number: 1800 ADF Exercise (1800 233 3937).



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

**Protect
Grow
Innovate**

Media release

Media release

2 July 2025

Innovative options examined to control pest wasp on Cocos (Keeling) Islands
New control innovations are being examined to help manage a pest wasp on the small Australian territory of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, more than 2700 kilometres northwest of Perth, Western Australia.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) officers are trialling new techniques to suppress the population of Macao paper wasp (*Polistes olivaceus*), an exotic pest from Asia that has become established on the islands.

The trial is part of the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts' ongoing management program for the islands, designed and delivered by DPIRD.

DPIRD biosecurity officer Cai Christian said the department was trialling a 'trojan horse' treatment method.



DPIRD biosecurity officer Cai Christian (pictured) and his colleagues have been working on a new 'trojan horse' technique to control Macao paper wasp on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

"Macao paper wasp is an aggressive, predatory pest that delivers a painful sting to humans and animals, in addition to disrupting biodiversity by competing for resources and depleting caterpillars, flies and spiders," he said.

"Controlling this pest has been difficult, as Macao paper wasps are not scavengers and do not respond well to lures, which means we are totally reliant on visual surveillance to find and destroy nests.

"To overcome this challenge, we are examining a 'trojan horse' technique, which involves coating a wasp with a fine dust of pesticide so it can return to the nest and transfer it to the entire colony.

"Developing an indirect treatment method like this negates the need to locate nests – as the wasps do that work for us – so we can focus our time and effort on capturing wasps on the wing as they forage for resources."

"Early trial findings have been promising but further investigation is required before it can be applied more widely."

If the 'trojan horse' methodology proves successful, the technique may have the potential to be applied to control other social flying pests.

Residents and visitors to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands are urged to take extra care during the wasp's active period – between November and March and to not disturb Macao paper wasps or their nests.

Report sightings to the shire rangers and, if stung, please record it on the stings register on the shire's Facebook page.



DPIRD is exploring new techniques to control the invasive pest Macao paper wasp, as part of the Australian Government's ongoing management program.

Macao paper wasp looks similar to native Christmas Island paper wasp (*Polistes balderi*) but can be distinguished by its larger body, wavy bands on its abdomen and larger nests.

The pest can grow up to 26 millimetres long and is deep yellow in colour, with yellow antennae and legs.

It constructs papery honeycomb nests in trees and on infrastructure, such as houses and shipping containers.

If stung by a Macao paper wasp, clean the area with soap and water, apply a cold pack, avoid scratching and, if necessary, take painkillers and antihistamines as per label recommendations.

Report sightings of suspect Macao paper wasp on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to the shire ranger on (08) 9162 7602 or email ranger@cocos.wa.gov.au. Report any observations on Christmas Island to DPIRD's Pest and Disease Information Service on 9368 3080 or padis@dpiird.wa.gov.au.

To find out more, visit DPIRD's new Instagram account <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DKylBQrAQ09/?igsh=ZXB4M2NmM3hw...>

Media contacts

Cai Christian, biosecurity officer, DPIRD

Megan Broad/Jodie Thomson, media liaison
+61 (0)8 9368 3937

Community Activities



INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORIES

Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2025

The Indian Ocean Territories Health Service (IOTHS) proudly hosted a special morning for all Christmas Island seniors in recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Seniors from diverse backgrounds and ethnic groups gathered at the Poon Saan Community Hall to take part in this important event.

Stevhnie Nel, Community Health Nurse, warmly opened the event, followed by AFP Officer in Charge David Blockley, who pledged the support of the Australian Federal Police and reassured seniors that the AFP is available to assist victims of elder abuse.





The seniors enjoyed a lively game of bingo as an icebreaker before Dr. Hafiz Rahim delivered an informative talk on the importance of having an Advance Health Directive (AHD). He explained that an AHD allows individuals to plan for their future healthcare and ensures their medical preferences are honoured, especially in situations where they may be unable to make or communicate decisions. Dr. Hafiz also reminded the group that these documents can be reviewed and updated at any time.

We were honoured to welcome Claire Tassone, a representative from Advocare, as our guest speaker. Claire shared eye-opening statistics around elder abuse and provided valuable education on the different types of elder abuse, including financial abuse, neglect, emotional and psychological abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and social isolation. She also shared practical strategies for reducing the risk of abuse. Special thanks to Zaleha Aksan and Suzanne Chan for translating this important message into Malay and Mandarin, ensuring the session was inclusive and accessible to all.



The morning was further brightened by wonderful vocal performances from Hafiz Masli, who also performed his new single *Butterflies*. The seniors also enjoyed a heartfelt performance by the Year 4 students from CIDHS, who sang *Die with a Smile* by Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars. Their music teacher, Mr. Greg Tenikoff, explained that the song carries a powerful message about cherishing every moment with loved ones. We are grateful for Mr. Greg's efforts in coordinating this special performance.

The seniors participated in a 'Tree of Respect' activity, where their fingerprints were added to wooden leaves, which were then displayed on a symbolic tree. This touching activity celebrated the message that all seniors deserve to be loved, respected, and treated with dignity.

Participants were treated to a beautifully presented morning tea, and some lucky attendees took home prizes kindly donated by CI Charities. The event concluded with the cutting of a cake bearing the words: *Wise up, Rise up, for Seniors*.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to Rebecca McIlroy and Olivia Lannon from the Department of Health and Aged Care for attending the event and for their ongoing advocacy and support for seniors in the Indian Ocean Territories.

A sincere thank you to all our sponsors, contributors, and supporters who made this event truly memorable:

- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
- Shire of Christmas Island, especially Oliver Lines and Suzanne Chan
- IOTHS staff
- CI Community Resource Centre
- CI Charities
- Legal Aid WA, especially Zaleha Aksan
- Advocare, including our main guest speaker Claire Tassone
- NDIS

- Christmas Island District High School, particularly Mr. Greg and the Year 4 students
- AFP Officer in Charge David Blockley
- Hafiz Masli

Together, we continue to champion the rights, dignity, and wellbeing of our seniors.



Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing



Job Opportunities



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts



Join Our Local Team – Administration Officer

Indian Ocean Territories Health Service – Christmas Island Full-Time, Ongoing
Position \$63,202 - \$73,945 per year + superannuation and allowances

The Indian Ocean Territories Administration (IOTA) is looking for a friendly, organised, and community-minded person to join the team at the Christmas Island Hospital as an Administration Officer.

In this role, you'll be based at the front desk of the hospital, helping to support patients, visitors, and staff. Your work will include answering phones, greeting people, updating records, helping with appointments and accounts, and keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes.

What we're looking for:

We welcome applications from people who:

- Enjoy helping others and can speak and write clearly in English
- Are organised and can manage several tasks at once
- Are comfortable using a computer (Microsoft Word, Excel, and email)
- Can work with private or sensitive information respectfully
- Have experience in office administration, finance or reception work

Even better if you also:

- Speak Chinese or Malay, or are confident working in a multicultural community
- Have worked in a hospital, clinic, office or government role before, or are keen to learn

Why work with us?

- You'll be part of a small, supportive team right here on Christmas Island
- Training and support will be provided – no formal qualifications are needed to apply
- Access to a range of generous employment conditions and benefits
- Your work will make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of our community

to apply:

You must be an Australian citizen and able to obtain a Baseline Security Clearance. You'll also need a valid WA Working with Children Check, and must complete a health check and police clearance before starting.

Interested?

We'd love to hear from you. To find out more, email the IOT Human Resources Team at IOTHRTeam@infrastructure.gov.au and request for an applicant information pack for position number 111635.

Applications close 4.00pm (Christmas Island local time) (CXT) (UTC+7), Friday, 18 July 2025

Community Announcements



ARE YOU OUR NEXT ST JOHN VOLUNTEER SUPPORT OFFICER?

We have the exciting opportunity for members of the community to join our team in a **non-medical capacity!**

Roles may include:

- Membership on the committee
- Clean and maintain vehicles and equipment
- Administration support
- Re-stocking ambulance and stores
- Public relations and volunteer recruitment
- Assisting with events
- Supporting clinical volunteers
- Special projects determined by sub centre



For more information,
[click here](#) or contact us on
0437 932 444



Call for Expressions of Interest – IOT RDO Committee

The IOT RDO is seeking two new Committee members for the 2025–26 term, commencing 1 October 2025. If you're passionate about the sustainable development of the Indian Ocean Territories and have experience in areas such as regional development, community engagement, or industry leadership, we encourage you to apply.

EOIs close 31 August 2025. To apply or learn more,
visit: <https://indianoceanterritories.com.au/resources/>

[IOT RDO Committee Membership 2025-26 - Information Pack \(PDF 153kb\)](#)

[IOT RDO Committee Membership 2025-26 - Application Form \(Word 1mb\)](#)

Christmas Island Outdoor Cinema





Late changes will be posted on the Roundabout Blackboard and [Facebook](#).

Movie ticket \$5.00

Want to sponsor an upcoming movie?

You will receive 2 free passes, special seating, food platter with your favourite nibbles, drinks of your choice and a public announcement on the evening of the movie. We will advertise your company or individual message in the Islander, Facebook Page, on the world's most remote roundabout and one of the last remaining outdoor Cinema screens. (Your choice of movie and date will be dependent upon availability.)

To become part of this exciting club or enquire about sponsorship, please Email: cioutdoorcinema@gmail.com or accounts@cinema.org.cx

Rating information provided by <http://www.classification.gov.au>.

The Christmas Island Cinema Club is proudly supported by: CIFI, Freightshop, Shire of Christmas Island, Metro Solar and many local sponsors and volunteers.

*** THE CHRISTMAS ISLAND CINEMA IS A SMOKE FREE AREA ***



How to train your dragon (PG)

SATURDAY - 12 July, 7.30pm

As an ancient threat endangers both Vikings and dragons alike on the isle of Berk, the friendship between Hiccup, an inventive Viking, and Toothless, a Night Fury dragon, becomes the key to both species forging a new future together.

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