Inquiry into governance in the Indian Ocean Territories Submission 9 - Supplementary Submission

The outstanding issues regarding the casino licence application for the Christmas Island Casino are as follows,

The company was invited to apply for a casino licence by Minster the Hon Simon Crean MP - Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government in late 2012.

The Minister advised that the initial part of this process was to submit a full proposal and business plan to the Commonwealth and he detailed in writing a number of issues and asked that we address these matters in our proposal.

The Company - Soft Star Pty Ltd - submitted a full proposal and business plan - as well as addressing all the matters we were requested to do so by Minister Crean - to the Commonwealth in May 2013.

There has been no communication by Minister Crean or any subsequent minister or Department officials, with our company in relation to the casino application.

Many of our follow up letters to the Commonwealth regarding this matter have gone unanswered.

The casino application process appears to be stalled.

We are not sure what the status of the application is. We are not aware if the present minister The Hon Jamie Briggs MP has reviewed the application.

We are seeking the Commonwealth now fast tracks the approval process and grants Soft Star Pty Ltd a casino licence so operations can commence as soon as possible.

Michael Asims