



**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE
NATIONAL CAPITAL AND EXTERNAL TERRITORIES**

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 11 November 2015

Chair: Luke Simpkins MP

Reviewing the role of the Administrator of the Indian Ocean Territories

Based on Christmas Island for a term of three years, the Administrator of the Indian Ocean Territories is the appointed representative of the Australian government in the Indian Ocean Territories. The Administrator is responsible for building and maintaining positive and constructive relations between the Australian Government and the communities on Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The IOT Administrator explains the rationale for government policies and initiatives and provides advice to inform the government's analysis and decisions on programs and initiatives.

Current Administrator, Mr Barry Haase and two of his predecessors will appear before the Committee to share their experiences and ideas for enhancing the effectiveness of the position.

Committee Chair, Mr Luke Simpkins MP, said territories residents have mixed views on the future of the Administrator role.

"Some submitters to the inquiry into governance in the Indian Ocean Territories have advocated for the Administrator to have a stronger role and powers, others to enhance local government responsibilities.

"We'll be testing these ideas with those who have firsthand experience of the role," he said.

PUBLIC HEARING DATE **Thursday 12 November 2015**

VENUE **Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra**

PROGRAM:	10:05 am	Chair's opening statement
	10:10 am	Mr Jon Stanhope
	10:30 am	Mr Brian Lacy
	10:50 am	Mr Barry Haase (via teleconference)
	11:10 am	Close.

All members of the public are welcome to observe proceedings.

The hearing will be webcast at www.aph.gov.au/live

For media comment: Contact Committee Chair Luke Simpkins MP on 0433 286 770

For inquiry information: Contact the secretariat for the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories on (02) 6277 4355 or jscncet@aph.gov.au or visit aph.gov.au/ncet