



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

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 2 April 2015

Chair: Luke Simpkins MP

Governance hearings with residents in the Indian Ocean Territories

The Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories is visiting Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island from 7-10 April 2015 to talk to residents about:

- the role of the Administrator;
- consultation mechanisms undertaken by government representatives, and best practice for small remote communities' engagement with Australian and state governments;
- local government's role; and
- opportunities to strengthen and diversify the economy.

The Committee Chair, Mr Luke Simpkins MP said, "it has been a few years since this Committee has examined governance and economic development in the Indian Ocean Territories. We are looking forwards to talking to as many residents as we can, to hear from them directly, regarding the needs of the community. The residents of the Indian Ocean Territories face unique challenges that have changed over time and it is right that the Committee looks at developments, and with the views of the people in mind, assess the governance and economic needs of the islands."

The Committee will hold roundtable discussions with key stakeholders on island, including the Shires of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island, community groups, business and industry.

PUBLIC HEARING CYCLONE SHELTER, HOME ISLAND, COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS

Date: **Wednesday, 8 April 2015**

9: 30 am Roundtable

Theme 1: Governance

Theme 2: Economic development (from 11:30 am)

1:30 pm Community statements

3:00 pm Close

PUBLIC HEARING RECREATION CENTRE, CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Date: **Thursday, 9 April 2015**

10:00 am Community statements

11:45 am Softstar Pty Ptd

1:15 pm

Roundtable

Theme 1: Governance

Theme 2: Economic development (from 1:15 pm)

4:15 pm

Close.

For media comment: Please contact the Committee Chair Luke Simpkins on 0433 286 770.

For background information: Please contact the committee secretariat:

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