



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Inquiry into Opportunities and Methods for Stimulating the Tourism Industry in Northern Australia

Wednesday, 22 November 2017

Promoting Tourism to the Indian Ocean Territories

The Parliament's [Northern Australia Committee](#) will visit Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands from **Saturday 27 January to Thursday 1 February 2018** to hold public hearings as part of its *Inquiry into Opportunities and Methods for Stimulating the Tourism Industry in Northern Australia*.

The Committee Chair, the Hon Warren Entsch MP said ecotourism is becoming increasingly popular with Australian and international visitors and the potential is there to develop existing tourism operations and create new experiences on the Indian Ocean Territories.

"Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands have recently been voted as having some of the best beaches in Australia, with their pristine coral reefs, and largely untouched national parks," Mr Entsch said.

"Increasing tourism to the islands has the potential to also boost jobs and create a positive impact on the local economy," he said.

Draft Public Hearing Programs:

Monday, 29 January 2018 (Christmas Island): 8.30 am to 3.30 pm, Court House

Wednesday, 31 January 2018 (Cocos (Keeling) Islands): 8.30 am to 10.30 am, Cocos Club, West Island; and 1.00 pm to 3.30 pm, Council Chamber, Shire Offices, Home Island

The Committee is interested in hearing from a range of tourism stakeholders. These times are indicative only and may be shortened or lengthened depending on community interest.

If you would like to participate in the inquiry, please contact the Committee secretariat by telephone on 02 6277 4162 or by email to jscna@aph.gov.au as soon as possible, and no later than **19 December 2017**.

For more information about the Committee's inquiry, including the hearing program, submissions and terms of reference visit: www.aph.gov.au/jscna.

Media Contacts:

Mr Entsch: Angie Trivisonno 0427 585 668

Committee secretariat: 02 6277 4162 or email: jscna@aph.gov.au