



New inquiry into governance in the Indian Ocean Territories

The Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories announces a new inquiry into governance arrangements in the Indian Ocean Territories.

The Committee will inquire into and report on the interaction between formal institutions and the Indian Ocean communities, reviewing:

- the role of the Administrator and the capacity (and appropriateness) of the Administrator taking on a stronger decision-making role;
- existing consultation mechanisms undertaken by government representatives, including the IOT Regional Development Organisation, and best practice for similar small remote communities' engagement with Australian and state governments;
- local government's role in supporting and representing communities in the Indian Ocean Territories; and
- opportunities to strengthen and diversify the economy, whilst maintaining and celebrating the unique cultural identity of the Indian Ocean Territories.

The Committee Chair, Mr Luke Simpkins MP said, "the inquiry is a unique opportunity to take a close look at the different forms of governance in the Indian Ocean Territories. The Committee intends to visit Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands in April 2015 and looks forward to discussions with residents about what best serves their needs into the future."

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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