



## Report tabled: reinvigorating the Indian Ocean Territories economy

The Joint Standing Committee of National Capital and External Territories tabled its *Interim report: Economic Development* today. The report presents initial findings of the Committee's inquiry into governance in the Indian Ocean Territories, with a focus on measures that strengthen the region's economy.

Committee Chair, Mr Luke Simpkins MP says, "While the Committee recognises that the Indian Ocean Territories face complex governance challenges that require attention, further evidence on these matters is required and kick-starting the economy is a priority."

He said, "Christmas Island has long- relied on phosphate mining and immigration detention as economic drivers. As immigration detention activities wind down it is important to diversify the economy. This first report recommends initiatives with broad community support that can reinvigorate the economy and have a multiplier effect."

The Committee makes recommendations to:

- Reopen a casino on Christmas Island and establish the necessary policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks to allow for this, without delay;
- Address any legislative and administrative deficiencies that prevent educational institutions in the Indian Ocean Territories from providing educational services to international fee-paying students; and
- Test the market by calling for expressions of interest, to be followed if need be, by a full tender process for a shipping service to the Indian Ocean Territories that offers better value for money.

The report is available to download from the Committee website:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/National\\_Capital\\_and\\_External\\_Territories/Indian\\_Ocean\\_Territories](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/National_Capital_and_External_Territories/Indian_Ocean_Territories)

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