

Tony and Roxanne Wilson

31 March 2015

RE: Inquiry: the Governance in the Indian Ocean Territories

We have owned property on Christmas Island since 2006 and we have permanently lived and worked on Christmas Island since May 2012, having moved from Western Australia.

We are concerned at the 'hotch potch' of governance for Christmas Island.

1. The Christmas Island District High School is operated by the Western Australian Department of Education
2. Vehicles registration and driver's license falls under Christmas Island
3. Federal voting is in the electorate of Lingiari Northern Territory
4. Air freight and passenger flights only go to Perth Western Australia
5. We have a Western Australian post code '6798'.
6. Perth WA is the closest capital city to Christmas Island
7. When making any on-line purchase or on-line submissions there is a mandatory field for 'State' there is no option for Indian Ocean Territories, so we select 'WA'.

Our daughter came with us to Christmas Island after completing four months of her six months learners permit log. To obtain her driver's license she was the required to take a 30 minute computer test, which we were told was available on Christmas Island. However, when we approached the local licensing centre for her to undertake the computer test we were told that due to CI not coming under WA Dept of Transport, she had to start again with her driving test and another six month log. Needless to say we flew her back to Perth (~\$1400.00 return flight) so she could go to a licensing centre to take a 30 minute computer test.

We arrived on Christmas Island with personal number plates on our vehicle that we paid to sea freight to CI, that we had to surrender because the personalised plates are registered in WA.

Even making this submission we had to select a 'State' from a mandatory field. WA was the only logical choice due to having a WA post code.

We would like to see the Shire of Christmas Island with a Mayor under Western Australia.

No other solution to consolidate makes sense.

Another less desirable alternate is for Australia to have nine states and territories, with Indian Ocean Territories having its own Chief Minister.

Another less desirable alternative is to consolidate under Northern Territory with disruption to the school teachers at our only school with 400 students, change of post code to NT post code, with air freight and passenger flights going to Darwin rather than Perth.