



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications**

Submission to the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories

**Inquiry into economic, social and environmental
sustainability in the Indian Ocean Territories**

January 2021



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1. Introduction

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (the Department) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories Inquiry into economic, social and environmental sustainability in the Indian Ocean Territories.

This submission seeks to provide information on the administrative arrangements for the Indian Ocean Territories, the current economic situation and existing infrastructure projects, to inform the Committee's consideration of the issues identified in the Inquiry's Terms of Reference. It also highlights key barriers and opportunities for the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the Indian Ocean Territories region.

The Indian Ocean Territories are a unique and strategically valuable part of Australia, comprised of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands. The region is home to a pristine environment, protected natural wonders and heritage sites, a rich cultural life and vibrant, distinct communities. The region's proximity to Asia also means it has strategic importance to Australia.

As small and geographically isolated islands, the economies of the Indian Ocean Territories are vulnerable, and the region faces a number of challenges. These include a high cost of living, a dependence on a small number of key industries and vulnerability to extreme weather events. While there are challenges, there are also opportunities to diversify and strengthen the economies of the Indian Ocean Territories. The growth and development of the tourism, education and research sectors in particular will support the economic, social and environmental sustainability of these communities into the future.

2. Governance structure of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands

The Australian Government acts as both the Commonwealth and state-level government in the Indian Ocean Territories. This responsibility extends from managing Australia's on-going strategic policy interests on Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to provision of state-type services, such as education, water, electricity generation and distribution, community services and waste water.

Under the *Christmas Island Act 1958* and the *Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act 1955*, Western Australian (WA) law is applied as Commonwealth law in the Indian Ocean Territories. The Minister for Territories holds state-level ministerial and administrative powers and functions under WA applied laws, as well as the power to make Ordinances to amend, repeal or suspend WA laws where they are not consistent with Australian Government policy. The Minister is able to delegate some of these administrative powers to government officials, the Administrator of the Territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the local Shire Councils.

The Administrator is the Minister's representative in the Indian Ocean Territories and plays an important role in building and maintaining positive working relationships within the community. In practice, the Administrator acts as a liaison between the Australian Government and the Indian Ocean Territories community. The Administrator has a unique role in both representing the Australian Government as well as advocating on behalf of the local community, communicating any key concerns back to the Department and the Minister.

The Department is responsible for the day-to-day administration of services to the Indian Ocean Territories. Many essential services, including education and wastewater operations management, are delivered through Service Delivery Arrangements (SDAs) with WA government agencies. As at 1 January 2021, there are 46 arrangements with the WA Government to provide state-like services to the Indian Ocean Territories. A complete list of SDAs is available at [Attachment C](#).

The Department also delivers a range of services itself including medical services, power and land management. Policing is provided by the Australian Federal Police.

2.1 Commonwealth funding contribution

The 2020-21 Portfolio Budget Statements for the Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications Portfolio allocated \$133.02 million to support the communities in the Indian Ocean Territories.

Table 1: Australian Government funding for the Indian Ocean Territories.

Australian Government Funding for the Indian Ocean Territories	2020-21 Budget (\$'000)	2021-22 Forward Estimate (\$'000)	2022-23 Forward Estimate (\$'000)	2023-24 Forward Estimate (\$'000)
Services to the Indian Ocean Territories	113,934	93,260	88,782	90,026
Indian Ocean Territories Special Account 2014	19,087	21,996	21,996	21,996
Total Indian Ocean Territories Services funding	133,021	115,256	110,778	112,022

3. Overview of economic status

In a remote geographical region, with a relatively small local population, the economies of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands are dependent on a small number of key industries, primarily mining and the provision of government services.

The public sector provides employment through administration, education, health and local government services. A number of agencies have a regular presence, or undertake activities, in the Indian Ocean Territories region, including the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of Defence, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications. Staffing numbers can fluctuate proportionally to changes in government activities.

Small businesses also provide a range of goods and services including accommodation, tourism, mechanical services, gardening and cleaning. For example, in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Cocos Islands Cooperative Society Ltd is one of the main employers of Cocos Malays (along with the Shire Council) and is responsible for management of the supermarkets on Home and West Islands and the current public transport service delivered on behalf of the Australian Government.

The economy of Christmas Island in particular is undergoing a period of transition, with fluctuations in the operating status of the North West Point Immigration Detention Centre and a reduction in phosphate mining expected in the medium-term. Without greater economic diversification in the region, these economies are, and will remain, highly susceptible to boom and bust cycles. A fall in employment opportunities each time a large employer leaves the Indian Ocean Territories has a flow-on effect to the local economy. These boom-bust cycles can also have a detrimental effect on the social fabric of the community.

Diversifying the economies of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands will help create more jobs and will bolster economic resilience. Opportunities for economic diversification exist, particularly in the areas of tourism, education and research which will help support these communities, their economies and the long-term sustainability of the region.

3.1 Impact of COVID-19

Although the Indian Ocean Territories remain free of COVID-19, the pandemic has had a significant impact on the Indian Ocean Territories community and economy. The initial impact of the COVID-19 restriction measures on tourism and trades was severe, and saw an immediate drop off of visitors and contractors to the Indian Ocean Territories. In

addition, at the commencement of the State of Emergency, travel restrictions to all mainland states and territories presented significant workforce challenges for both Government and commercial providers, with staff unable to leave the territories and contractors unable to travel to the territories.

In line with the Australian Government's broader economic stimulus package in response to COVID-19, Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands businesses and individuals have had access to a range of measures designed to protect the economy, maintain confidence and keep people in jobs.

On 1 July 2020, the Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories, the Hon Nola Marino MP, announced a total of \$5.15 million for Christmas Island and more than \$3 million for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to support the remote local communities and businesses in the Indian Ocean Territories. This included:

- \$5.15 million funding for Christmas Island aimed to bring forward strategic power infrastructure upgrades, airport improvements, upgrades to public housing and enhancements to Flying Fish Cove.
- More than \$3 million in funding for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands for the construction of new public housing, critical power infrastructure upgrades, community facilities improvements and biosecurity investment.
- Tourism promotion funding of \$0.45 million for the Indian Ocean Territories region to ensure the territories are visible to future travellers once travel restrictions have been lifted. The Administrator, through the Regional Development Organisation, is working with the local tourism associations to deliver this initiative and promote the region.

As part of the Government's COVID-19 response, additional funding was secured to maintain the provision of regular air passenger and freight services to the Indian Ocean Territories. Underwriting costs for these services increased significantly during the early stages of the pandemic, as COVID-19 travel restrictions led to a sharp decline in passenger numbers and associated revenue on Indian Ocean Territories' flights. In addition, the closing of international borders led to the loss of privately-chartered international freight services, with the Australian Government correctly anticipating that additional domestic freight services would be required to meet increased demand for Indian Ocean Territories' air freight.

The incremental opening of the border to WA led to an unprecedented increase in tourist numbers, and the provision of significant stimulus funding has seen local trades unable to commit to work due to workload.

4. Challenges and barriers to economic, social and environmental sustainability in the Indian Ocean Territories

As small and geographically isolated islands, there are a number of challenges and barriers to economic, social and environmental sustainability in the Indian Ocean Territories, including:

- Remote geographical location, access to the islands is limited and flight and cargo shipments are expensive and infrequent.
- Lack of critical infrastructure, including telecommunications and mobile internet infrastructure which are lacking in the region. The Department has provided a separate submission on these issues to the Committee's concurrent inquiry into *Availability and Access to Enabling Communications Infrastructure in Australia's External Territories*.
- Limited opportunities for traditional agriculture due to climate, topography and pests.
- Limited educational or career opportunities, overall shortage of professional jobs.
- High cost of living, and limited availability and variable quality of fresh food.
- Limited availability and high cost of building materials and skilled labour.
- The lack of affordable or available insurance, which impacts home buyers, start-up businesses and expansion of existing businesses in the region.
- The limited supply of skilled labour, particularly given the small and transient population.
- The vulnerability of the Islands to extreme weather events, including cyclones.
- Ineligibility for grants and assistance due to location outside of mainland Australia and the absence of a state government.

While some of these challenges can be managed or mitigated through appropriate policy responses, other challenges such as extreme weather are a part of the fabric of the Indian Ocean Territories. These challenges have the potential to impact on the economic development and economic diversification of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Most of these issues have been covered in previous inquiries and submissions, but the Department wishes to draw the Committee's attention to the ineligibility of the Indian Ocean Territories for some funding opportunities.

The Indian Ocean Territories have previously been classed as ineligible for Australian Government grants or assistance based on geographical criteria (outside of mainland Australia), or because funding programs are designed to be delivered through state governments. This has meant that Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands have been ineligible for funding opportunities, including those that have been specifically targeted towards regional communities.

The Department is continuing to work closely with other Australian Government agencies to advocate, where possible and appropriate, for the eligibility of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands for grants and assistance offered by the Australian Government. For example, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands have been listed as an identified region as part of the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation (NHFIC) and as such, are eligible regions for NHFIC's First Home Loan Deposit Scheme.

5. Opportunities for economic, social and environmental sustainability

Opportunities exist to leverage the unique natural environment and cultural diversity of the Indian Ocean Territories to diversify their economies and support their long-term sustainability. The Australian Government delivers a range of initiatives to support the objective of economic development that balances the social, environmental and economic needs and aspirations of the region.

5.1 Research and education

On 17 December 2019, the Australian Government announced that \$4.2 million would be used to support economic diversification on Christmas Island. The funding was secured to support community-led initiatives, providing infrastructure upgrades in the Christmas Island National Park (including improved walking tracks and signage) and supporting local businesses on Christmas Island.

The investment package was also targeted to projects focusing on Christmas Island's natural advantages of environment, tourism, science and research, including a Research Roundtable to identify opportunities for research and science, including through a possible Indian Ocean Territories Research Centre.

On 28 February 2020, forty-one participants from universities, non-government organisations and Australian Government agencies attended the Christmas Island Research Roundtable to discuss research and educational opportunities, technical and operational requirements for a possible Research Centre, the potential for partnerships, and implementation and funding models. Following the Research Roundtable, a Research Working Group was convened in September 2020 to develop a research prospectus to set out the long-term research needs, priorities and challenges for the Indian Ocean Territories. The prospectus is expected to be delivered in early 2021.

This aligns with the priorities highlighted in the *Our Christmas Island 2030 Strategic Plan* and the *Our Cocos (Keeling) Islands 2030 Strategic Plan* (the Strategic Plans) regarding opportunities to develop partnerships with educational and research institutions and showcase the Islands' unique cultures and environment, which is a priority for the communities.

5.2 Tourism

The Australian Government provides direct assistance to the Christmas Island Tourism Association (CITA) and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Tourism Association (CKITA). In 2020-2021 funding for CITA is \$350,000 and for CKITA is \$325,000.

A twice-weekly air service operates between Perth, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, with the Australian Government underwriting costs as the routes are not commercially viable. Charter flights from Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta service Christmas Island with tourists able to transit to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands on domestic flights, however these flights have been temporarily suspended due to State of Emergency border restrictions.

Annual tourism highlights on Christmas Island include Bird and Nature Week in August/September and the Christmas Island red crab migration season between October and December. In the peak tourism season, visitor numbers are limited by accommodation and the cost of airfares on the small number of flights available weekly.

Table 2: Number of Incoming Visitors to the Indian Ocean Territories

	Number of incoming tourists (FY 2018-19)	Number of incoming tourists (FY 2019-20)	Number of beds available (total)
Christmas Island	2,338	1,798	233
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	2,488	1,874	96

Source notes.

CITA and CKITA Quarterly Reports, Visitors to Christmas Island and Cocos Keeling Islands.

5.3 Land Management

The Department is actively looking at opportunities to encourage sustainable development in the IOT through its land management practices.

Approximately two-thirds of land on Christmas Island is designated National Park. The remaining land consists primarily of Crown land. On 7 March 2017, the Government released the Christmas Island Crown Land Management Plan. The objective of this plan was to provide a framework to guide future use of Crown land on Christmas Island. This plan will be updated following the completion of the Strategic Assessment of Christmas Island under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

A Crown Land Management Plan is currently being developed for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. The vast majority of land in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands is Trust Land held in trust by the Shire for the benefit of residents, with only 12% retained as Crown land. Crown land is also subject to the Shires of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Town Planning Schemes (TPS), with schemes signed off by the Commonwealth Minister with responsibility for territories.

The Australian Government has a SDA with the WA Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to provide expertise in land use planning and administrative support to assist the Commonwealth in realising its economic, social and cultural objectives in the Territories.

A number of freehold and leasehold sites in private hands remain undeveloped or underutilised, which suggests that the availability of land is not a significant impediment to economic development and that other factors may be impacting on proposed development in the Indian Ocean Territories, including:

- High development and service infrastructure connection costs due to:
 - Remote location accessible solely by air or sea
 - Lack of economies of scale
 - Lack of competition in the supply chain
 - Port and airport being subject to adverse weather conditions adds to risk/cost of transport
 - Difficult terrain
- Environmental approval requirements.
- Lack of available and affordable insurance in the region which is a potential barrier to both purchasing and/or developing land.

5.5 Strategic Assessment of Christmas Island

The Australian Government is completing a strategic assessment of Christmas Island under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, to protect Christmas Island's unique environment and help facilitate economic diversification of Christmas Island and the broader region.

A large-scale environmental assessment will streamline environmental approval processes and support economic activity by enabling a proactive, whole-of-island approach to development that considers future development opportunities in an

open and transparent manner. This investment by the Australian Government will provide greater certainty to the community and investors by providing clarity around environmental approval arrangements for the next 30 years, removing the need for individual, project by project assessments, and reducing upfront costs for developers.

The Strategic Assessment will include:

- A Land Use Plan identifying future land uses and development opportunities that avoid significantly impacting Matters of National Environmental Significance;
- An assessment of environmental impacts of the proposed development activities; and
- Strategies to mitigate and offset those impacts, including conservation areas, funding for threat management, development controls and reforestation of former mine sites.

A draft Land Use Plan has been prepared, supported by extensive consultation with the Christmas Island Strategic Assessment Community Reference Group and key stakeholders. It is anticipated that the Strategic Assessment will be released for a statutory public comment period in mid-2021, and submitted to the Minister for the Environment for approval in late 2021.

6. Future Opportunities

Both the Strategic Plans identify a number of future priorities and opportunities for the Indian Ocean Territories, including waste management, food security and water security.

6.1 Waste Management

The Shire of Christmas Island and the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands have the lead responsibility for waste management. The Department, however, considers that there are prospective opportunities for research and investment in innovative waste management technologies and solutions that address the unique challenges of the Indian Ocean Territories.

Effective waste management strategies can provide social, economic and environmental benefits for the community. As small and remote islands, there are a number of challenges for waste management in the Indian Ocean Territories. Waste management practices differ between Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands, but the islands are limited by similar barriers and issues.

On Christmas Island, there is currently no source separation diverting waste from landfill, and limited segregation of waste at the waste disposal site. There are also pollution and groundwater concerns resulting from open dumping at the tip. There is some recycling of plastic marine debris by local enterprises. The Cocos (Keeling) Islands have some source segregation of waste at the source between general waste and recyclables, as well as glass crushers and a can crusher.

The islands are small and there is limited space for landfill sites. The tip on Christmas Island is predicted to reach capacity in the next five to ten years. There is also limited capacity to process waste on island, with insufficient end-markets for many recycled goods on island. This means many recycled materials either need to be stored on island or exported to the mainland. However, the shipping of waste and recyclables, such as bales of aluminum, carries high transport costs due to distance from the mainland.

Informed by extensive community consultation, the Strategic Plans highlight strong community sentiment towards improved waste management practices in the IOT. Both the Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands Strategic Plans aim to promote the region as a potential leader in waste management for remote islands and prioritise the development of a Best Practice Waste strategy for the IOT. The Strategic Plans also encourage innovative waste management strategies such as educational community workshops and increased recycling capacity. Strengthening partnerships with private enterprises to deliver waste management strategies could also provide long-term economic benefits to the communities of the Indian Ocean Territories.

6.2 Food security

Supply of fresh food is a challenge for the Indian Ocean Territories, with food air freighted or shipped from the mainland being very expensive. Traditional agricultural methods are not viable on Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands due to geography, climate and pests.

There is also scope for the development of a niche agriculture industry in the Indian Ocean Territories. By building partnerships between landholders and research organisations, key crops and the most viable agricultural techniques can be identified that are appropriate for the local conditions of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Niche agriculture initiatives have the potential to support long-term food security for residents and reduce reliance on costly imports, as well as increasing local skills and creating entrepreneurial opportunities.

6.3 Water Security

Given their remote location, complex groundwater systems, climate and topography, water security is particularly important to the communities of the Indian Ocean Territories. Long-term water security measures will ensure that essential services will be maintained and household and businesses will continue to have access to a safe and reliable drinking water source. Water security will provide greater certainty for existing businesses and could support economic diversification in the IOT.

7. Conclusion

The Department thanks the Committee for the opportunity to make a submission to its Inquiry into economic, social and environmental sustainability in the Indian Ocean Territories, and hopes that this submissions assists the Committee in understanding the current situation, and future prospects to contribute to the economic, social and environmental sustainability in Australia's Indian Ocean Territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The Department looks forward to the findings of the inquiry.

Attachment A – Background information on the Indian Ocean Territories

A.1 Population and cultural diversity

A.1.2 Christmas Island

In 2016, the total population of Christmas Island was 1,843, according to the most recent census by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The most common ancestries were Chinese (21.2%), Australian (12.7%), Malay (12.0%), English (10.9%) and Irish (2.3%). More than half (50.9%) of households reported that a non-English language was spoken at home, while 27.8% of people only spoke English at home. Other languages spoken at home included Mandarin (17.2%), Malay (17.2%), Cantonese (3.7%), Min Nan (1.5%) and Tagalog (1.0%).

A.1.3 Cocos (Keeling) Islands

The total population of Cocos (Keeling) Islands was 544, with 140 people on West Island and 404 people on Home Island, according to the 2016 Australian census. In 2016, the most common ancestries were Malay (16.6%), Australian (15.5%), Indonesian (14.3%), English (9.3%) and Javanese (5.6%). Nearly two-thirds (63.6%) of households on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands reported that a non-English language was spoken at home. 69.6% of people spoke Malay at home and 22.2% of people only spoke English at home.

A.2 Environment

Christmas Island is the summit of a submarine mountain. It rises steeply to a central plateau dominated by rainforest. The plateau reaches heights of up to 360 metres and consists mainly of limestone with layers of volcanic rock. The land crabs and sea birds are the most noticeable animals on the island. To date, 20 terrestrial and intertidal crabs have been described. The diversity and abundance of land crabs is not matched by any other island. The annual red crab mass migration to the sea to spawn has been described by ecologists as one of the wonders of the natural world. This migration takes place each year after the start of the wet season synchronised with the cycle of the moon. The Island is also a focal point for sea birds of various species. Eight species or subspecies of sea birds nest on the Island.

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands atolls are classic coral atolls, the typical horseshoe shape formation is affected by the prevailing winds and oceans. Coral sand beaches are to the seaward and mudflats can be found on the lagoon side. North Keeling Island is the only seabird breeding area within a radius of 900 kilometres, and is therefore of unique importance to the Indian Ocean's seabird biota as well as the Cocos (Keeling) Islands seabird population. The Cocos Buff-banded rail is the only endemic bird to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and can be found on North Keeling Island. The Cocos (Keeling) Islands marine environment supports a wide range of corals, fish, molluscs, crustaceans and other species. Turtles, manta rays, reef sharks and common dolphins are regularly sighted.

Attachment B – Infrastructure Projects in the Indian Ocean Territories

Major infrastructure projects funded in 2020-21

Major infrastructure projects funded in the 2020-21 financial year to date include:

Recreation Centre roof and general building rectifications
Crane and Moorings upgrade
Runway surface enrichment spray treatment
Administrator’s residence maintenance
Staff housing flooring rectifications
Flying Fish Cove Landscape Master Plan Project
Christmas Island Hospital air-conditioning remediation works
Commonwealth staff housing refurbishment
Cocos (Keeling) Islands West Island drying bed roof replacement
Cocos (Keeling) Islands West Island water UV disinfection system replacement
Cocos (Keeling) Islands Home Island Oral Health Clinic refurbishment
Indian Ocean Territories Wide Area Network (WAN) Connectivity
Indian Ocean Territories Health medical equipment and health assets
Christmas Island Stormwater, Landslide and Rockfall Reduction Project

Major infrastructure projects funded in 2019-20

Major infrastructure projects funded in the 2019-20 financial year include:

Power line replacements
Power station amenities upgrade
Commonwealth staff housing refurbishment
Public housing kitchen upgrade
Recreation Centre roof and general building rectifications
IT network and equipment upgrades
Rock fall reduction measures
New ultrasound unit for each island
Light vehicle replacement

Electrical switchboard upgrade
Network Ring Main Units (RMUs) replacement
Telehealth connectivity works
Runway surface enrichment spray treatment
Roof refurbishments and replacements
Staff housing flooring rectifications
Main wharf 15 tonne forklift replacement
Flying Fish Cove Landscape Master Plan Project
Generator replacement - Cocos (Keeling) Islands Home Island
Commonwealth staff housing refurbishment
Coastal erosion mitigation works
Cocos (Keeling) Islands Home Island Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade
Gallery A3 head works and main switchboard
Oral Health Care X-ray
Airport check-in desk upgrade
Cocos (Keeling) Islands Home Island drying bed roof replacement
Franna crane replacement Cocos (Keeling) Islands West Island
Port marine office ablutions facility Cocos (Keeling) Islands West Island
Cocos (Keeling) Islands Home Island Oral Health Clinic refurbishment
Ports fire upgrades
Ports First Point of Entry (FPOE) works
Airports Aerodrome Rescue and Fire Fighting Service (ARFFS)
Indian Ocean Territories Wide Area Network Connectivity

Major infrastructure projects funded in 2018-19

Major infrastructure projects funded in the 2018-19 financial year include:

Generator replacement - Home Island
Main switchboard (MSB) replacement - West Island Quarantine Station
Commonwealth staff housing refurbishment – Cocos (Keeling) Islands
Direct brigade alarm monitoring upgrade - Home Island and West Island
School toilet facility upgrade – Cocos (Keeling) Islands Home Island and West Island
Coastal erosion mitigation works

Wastewater treatment plant upgrade - Home Island
Tank roof replacement - Home Island
Chlorinator switchboard replacement and relocation - Home Island
Replacement engines for the Cahaya Baru ferry
Replacement of the search and rescue vessel
Oral Health Care X-ray facilities
Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airport tractor & implements procurement
Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airport check-in desk refurbishment
Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airport security key system upgrade
Cocos (Keeling) Islands Home Island Water Treatment Plant drying bed roof replacement
Mine feeder power cable upgrade
Drumsite feeder relocation
Power station staff amenities upgrade
Transformer replacement
Christmas Island Commonwealth staff housing refurbishment
Public housing kitchen upgrade
Airport baggage screening equipment upgrade – Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands
Apron floodlighting – Christmas Island airport
Roof rectification and enhancement project - Recreation Centre
Christmas Island Landslide Works
Christmas Island Power HV and LV infrastructure realignment and upgrade
Christmas Island Airport electrical switchboard upgrade
Christmas Island Police Station rear courtyard hardstand rectification
Christmas Island Fibre Cable installation
Stormwater upgrades - Christmas Island

Attachment C – Service Delivery Arrangements in the Indian Ocean Territories

WA Government Agency	Services Delivered to the IOT
Office of the Auditor General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct and issue audit opinions on the State agency financial statements in relation to the Indian Ocean Territories. Conduct financial audits of the Territory local governments and their subsidiary bodies.
Department of Communities	<p>Child Protection and Family Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide child safety services. Provide assistance in administering legislation concerning Working with Children Checks. <p>Disability Services Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in partnership with service providers to provide information, and support services to people with disabilities, their families and carers, including the services of a Local Area Coordinator. <p>Housing Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide policy advice and support for the effective administration of social and employee housing, and assist in social housing management. <p>Communities (Seniors, Volunteering and Youth):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide licensing, monitoring and support services for childcare providers, including family day care. Implement programs for social inclusion, volunteering and develop partnerships with non-government organisations.
Economic Regulation Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economically efficient outcomes at the lowest practicable cost through efficient and effective independent economic regulation. Provide independent advice.
Department of Education	Operate the Christmas Island District High School and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands District High School, providing school-based education for Kindergarten to Year 10 on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and to Year 12 for Christmas Island students under the WA curriculum.
Energy Policy WA	Provide advice on energy policies and practices relating to the Territories' energy sectors.
Environmental Protection Authority	Provide environmental impact assessments of local government schemes.
Equal Opportunity Commission of Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information and advice on equal opportunity and human rights issues. Investigate complaints under the applied equal opportunity legislation.
Department of Finance	<p>Office of State Revenue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect state-type revenue in accordance with applied legislation and remit revenue to the Australian Government. <p>Building, Management and Works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-contract a Property Manager to manage commercial properties.
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the provision of community safety and prevention programs. Assess commercial and industrial building plans, inspect completed buildings for compliance with National Construction Code and test fire safety equipment. Undertake fire safety assessments. Support fire and emergency services and volunteer marine rescue groups, including: training, emergency exercises, inspect and provide advice on personal protective clothing and personal protective equipment.

WA Government Agency	Services Delivered to the IOT
Department of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice on emergency recovery plans. • Provide a Volunteer Assistance Program. • Provide regulatory, advisory and other support services and specialist advice to the Australian Government, including the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service. • Provide accessible in-hospital services and care in WA. • Provide community and public health policy advice and support, and tobacco licensing services and compliance. • Provide mammography screening and assessment services through BreastScreen WA.
Health and Disability Services Complaints Office	As an independent statutory authority, provide assessment, conciliation, negotiated settlement and investigation of complaints about health, disability services and mental health services.
Insurance Commission of WA	Provide funds management, expert advice and claims handling services in relation to the operation of a compulsory Third Party Insurance Scheme and Catastrophic Injuries Support Scheme in the Territories.
Department of Justice:	<p>Attorney General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide access to the justice system including: Judicial and Non-Judicial Court Services; Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; State Solicitor’s Office; Public Advocate and Victim Support and Child Witness Service. <p>Corrective Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide offender management and community justice services.
WA Land Information Authority (Landgate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide land information services, including registration of title, and geographic and cadastral information. • Provide valuation services including valuations, stamp duty assessments and valuation rolls.
Legal Aid Commission of WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide legal services, including information and referral, to those in need of assistance to the community in accessing justice. • Provide duty lawyer services at Courts, legal minor assistance and advocacy (legal tasks) and legal representation. • Provide community legal education services.
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	<p>Culture and the Arts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a diverse, vibrant and sustainable cultural sector. • Support the delivery of culture and arts activities through policy development, grants and funding. <p>Local Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure compliance with applied local government legislation and facilitate the development of local government. <p>Racing, Gaming and Liquor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide liquor-licensing services, including compliance audits and inspection of licensed premises. <p>Sport and Recreation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice on the sporting and recreational infrastructure needs of the Territories. • Provide advice to sporting and recreational groups.
Main Roads WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice on road funding. • Provide direct support and advice to the local government on traffic management and road networks.
Department of Mines, Industry, Regulation and Safety	<p>Commerce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Commission — oversee the regulation of building, painting, building surveying and plumbing services.

WA Government Agency	Services Delivered to the IOT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer Protection — Fair trading, consumer rights, property sale and rental laws, some occupational licences, cooperatives, and not for profit legislation. • EnergySafety — Safe use of and working with electricity and gas. • WorkSafe – Promote and secure the safety and health of people at work.
	<p>Mines and Petroleum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register mineral titles. • Environmental management. • Collect mining revenue. • Ensure worker and community safety by regulating occupational health and safety in the minerals and petroleum sectors, including the storage, transport and handling of dangerous goods.
<p>Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (State Ombudsman)</p>	<p>Review, investigate and resolve complaints about WA State Agencies and local governments, and improve public administration.</p>
<p>Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage</p>	<p>Lands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice on the administration and management of Crown Land. • Arrange surveys and prepare Deposited Plans to support disposition of Crown land. • Deliver Crown Land tenure(s). • Provide advice on the disposition of Crown land. <p>Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide planning and administrative advice to ensure the use and development of land is consistent with strategic planning, policy guidelines and planning standards. • Develop and review planning policies. • Provide professional and technical expertise, administrative services, and resources to advise the WA Planning Commission.
<p>Department of the Premier and Cabinet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate negotiations between State Agencies and the Australian Government. • Coordinate the Territories program on behalf of the State Government.
<p>Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development</p>	<p>Agriculture and Food:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver biosecurity support to minimise the impact of identified noxious weed species on the environment. • Provide policy and regulatory support to allow for the development of agricultural enterprises that support economic growth. <p>Fisheries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with the protection of the Territories marine environment through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ commercial and recreational fisheries management; ○ fisheries research and assessment; ○ fisheries community education; ○ aquatic biosecurity services; ○ fish health diagnostic and pathology services; ○ fisheries compliance services; and ○ aquaculture management and licensing. <p>Regional Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support for Community Resource Centres. • Provide analysis of costs of living known as the Regional Price Index.
<p>Public Trustee</p>	<p>Provide trustee services, including preparing wills and the provision of executor and administrator services.</p>

WA Government Agency	Services Delivered to the IOT
Salaries and Allowances Tribunal	Inquire into and report on the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remuneration and allowances, or the minimum and maximum amounts, to be paid or provided to local government chief executive officers • Fees, expenses and allowances, or the minimum and maximum amounts, to be paid or provided to local government elected members.
State Library of Western Australia	Provide local authorities and associated bodies with library materials, information and support services.
Department of Training and Workforce Development	Assist in building the Territories workforce through career development and skills acquisition, including advice on apprentice travel.
Department of Transport	Provide advice, assistance and support on transport issues including driver and vehicle licensing, vehicle safety standards, marine safety, on-demand transport, transport planning, aviation, freight and active transport.
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	<p>Environment Regulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and conserve the environment through advice and implementation of strategies, for a healthy environment in the Territories. • Protect public health, minimise environmental impact and implement environmental policy across the Indian Ocean Territories. • This includes regulation of prescribed premises, native vegetation, pollution, contamination, emissions and wastes, incident protection and response, environmental sustainability, climate change and waste policy and programs. <p>Environmental Protection Authority Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide administrative support to the Environmental Protection Authority. <p>Water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice and support on licensing and water source regulation and protection. • Measure and assess groundwater to manage the availability and quality of water for consumption.
Water Corporation of WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the administration and management of the water and wastewater services to the Territories communities. • Generate and distribute electricity to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands communities.
WA Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information and advice on the planning, development, management and operation of museums as community assets. • Provide access to specialised areas of collection management, conservation and interpretation. • Provide advice regarding the provision of interactive multimedia and online programming. • Assist community groups with making grant applications and other activities related to museum operations. • Facilitate access to sector training and mentoring programs.
WA Planning Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information, advice and recommendations on land use planning, land development and infrastructure coordination. • Prepare and review land use planning policies, schemes, strategies and plans. Regulate land use planning through statutory planning controls.
WA Police Force	Provide specialised equipment training to the Australian Federal Police.
WorkCover WA	Administer the applied Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981 (WA).