



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

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

Thursday, 25 January 2018

Examining Ecotourism in 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 and inspections 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 Details:

Monday, 29 January 2018 (Christmas Island): 8.00 am to 3.20 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 3.00 pm, Council Chamber, Shire Offices, Home Island

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

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