

Cocos (K) Islands



SUBMISSION

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Submission to Parliament's External Territories Committee

by the

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Tourism Association

with reference to the provision of services to the tourism industry.

Local tourism operators have put into the tourism infrastructure over the last 4 years approximately \$5,000,000 dollars. For example, Accommodation: Cocos Cottages, Cocos Village Bungalows, Hermit Lodge, Cocos Lodge, Castle, Bills Place and Lloyds House plus the West Island Lodge. Other services include: car hire, bike hire, scooter hire, glass bottom boat tours, North Keeling tours, Scuba Diving School.

The government in response has provided: \$27,000 per year via a deed to help maintain a tourism office, a tourism office, ferry assistance and bus use assistance. While this assistance is appreciated by the tourism association it is miniscule in relation to private investment in the tourism industry on the islands.

Unfortunately the yearly grant of \$27,300 has to be applied for each year and is continually late, sometimes up to 6 months and is nearly impossible to run tourism development without regular on time funding.

Wages up to this time for the part time tourism officer have been funded privately but this funding is not likely to continue in the near future and the office will close.

What is needed in the short term?

Funding of wages for a full time tourism officer.

Funding for a visitors center.

Equitable funding with Christmas Island.

The association looks forward to a positive response to this submission.

Jerry Washer
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On behalf of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Tourism Association

