

Mr Stephen Mounsey
President
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The Secretary
Public Works Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

2nd October 2003

Re: Proposed Community Recreation Centre on Christmas Island

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing on behalf of the Christmas Island Cricket and Sporting Club Inc. (CICSC), wishing to comment on the proposed Recreation Centre on Christmas Island.

We welcome the opportunity for recreation facilities to be greatly improved on Christmas Island by constructing a suitable center on island. To that end, we would like to comment on the suitability of some of the facilities proposed in the Christmas Island Recreation Centre Accommodation Schedule. We believe that there are a number of unsuitable items included in this schedule that could be removed in order to accommodate some facilities that would be of greater value to the center and the Christmas Island community.

Items that could be removed or modified;

- **Electronic equipment.** Climatic conditions on the island limit the suitability of electronic equipment, too often humidity and salty air causes devices to fail after a short period of operation. The following electronic equipment could be replaced with similar manual equipment.
 - Life Fitness Treadmill
 - Life Fitness Cross Trainer
 - Life Fitness Upright Bike
 - Life Fitness Recumbent Bike
 - Concept II Model C Rowing Ergometer
 - Electronic Scoreboard/ Shot clock in sports hall
 - Automatic sliding doors in the Lobby/Reception area

- **Reception/Lobby** The size of this area (90m²) seems excessive. A saving could be made by reducing its size.

- **25m x 8 lane external swimming pool.** The need for an 8 lane pool is questionable, a saving could be made by reducing the width.

The following items could then be considered to be included:

- **Upgrade of adjoining sports ground.** Statement of Evidence to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works suggests the proposal included an upgrade of the adjoining sports ground. There is no evidence of this in the proposal. The provision of oval lighting would be a significant upgrade and would enable a range of sports to be played at night, which would allow greater community involvement and provide conditions more conducive to safer participation. Night sports could include soccer, touch and football to name a few.
- **Sports Hall.** The proposed sports hall could be modified to accommodate indoor cricket and an indoor bowling green.
- **Air-conditioned storeroom.** The complex would need to include an air-conditioned storeroom for the safe storage of all equipment otherwise corrosion due to rusting will be swift and significant.
- **Access.** With the proposed site well away from all settled areas on island, the amount of community use will be limited without an ongoing commitment to provide transport to and from the center. We believe a vast majority of island residents will not benefit from this facility if transportation is not provided.

The inclusion of these modifications could be cost neutral if our suggested modifications were made at the expense of the items mentioned previously.

Finally, we are very surprised that the CICSC was not involved in the “full consultation of the Shire of Christmas Island and the Christmas Island Community”. At present we are the main club on the island organizing a variety of sport for both adults and children. Our membership numbers represents approximately 10% of the island population. I am sure the suggested changes would have been more useful at an earlier time in the planning this center but this did not happen.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Recreation Centre. Let’s hope that the constructed facility truly meets the current and long term needs of the community of Christmas Island.

Yours truly,

Steve Mounsey
President, Christmas Island Cricket and Sporting Club Inc.