



Australian Government

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Ms Vivienne Courto
Inquiry Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on
Public Works
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Courto

Re: Proposed Community Recreation Centre on Christmas Island - Response to the Shire of Christmas Island's submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC).

I note that in their submission, the Shire of Christmas Island has supported and been involved with various proposals and recommendations to meet the need of the recreation facilities on Christmas Island.

My reading of the Shire's submission is that the Shire has two major concerns, ie, that the Department of Transport and Regional Services did not employ a full consultation process with the community and that the Shire's request to be involved in the design/tender process was rejected by the Commonwealth.

The Department disagrees that a full consultation process was not undertaken for this project. Once the Australian Government announced that it would fund Sports and Recreation Facilities, including a Recreation Centre, an on-island advisory council was formed to assess the community's need.

The Christmas Island Administrator, through the Administrator's Advisory Council (AAC) conducted a full community consultation process prior to seeking tenders. The AAC consisted of representatives from a number of on-island organisations. These included the following organisations:

- Shire of Christmas Island (SOCI)
- Australian Federal Police (AFP)
- Union of Christmas Island Workers (UCIW)
- Christmas Island Chamber of Commerce
- Indian Ocean Group Training Association (IOGTA)
- Christmas Island Tourism Association (CITA)
- Indian Ocean Territories Health Services (IOTHS)
- Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA)
- Christmas Island Arts and Culture

- Asia Pacific Space Centre/Softstar (APSC)
- Christmas Island AustAsia Business Council
- Christmas Island Women's Association (CIWA)
- Parks Australia
- Christmas Island Phosphates (CIP).

As a result of the consultation process the AAC agreed on the construction site location and concept design of the proposed Recreation Centre.

In regard to the Shire's concern at not having direct involvement in the proposed project, it is not appropriate for the Shire to be involved in the design/tender process or to be given project management responsibility.

I hope that the department has addressed the concerns of the Shire of Christmas Island. If any further explanations are required the Department will address these at the upcoming Public Hearing.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wilson
Territories Branch
Programmes Group
22 October 2003