

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL CAPITAL  
AND THE EXTERNAL TERRITORIES  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Question No. 1**

**Senator Lundy asked the following question at the hearing on 19 August 2009:**

What is the security standard that you require that private providers are not able to deliver?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

Australian Government agencies are required by the Australian Government Protective Security Manual to comply with the Information Communication and Technology Security Manual for the protection of official government information when it is processed, stored or communicated by Australian Government systems.

The Attorney-General's Department runs a secure system which requires a reliable and stable network. The system currently uses the services of Telstra, Optus and Christmas Island Internet Association to provide the IT network. This network connects the Attorney-General's Department's facilities in Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Perth and Canberra. These arrangements are based on a value for money assessment, including internet capability, technical skills and security standards.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL CAPITAL  
AND THE EXTERNAL TERRITORIES  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Question No. 2**

**Senator Ferguson asked the following question at the hearing on 19 August 2009:**

**Senator FERGUSON**—So the assistance is only in the form of technical assistance?

**Mr Yates**—That is correct.

**Senator FERGUSON**—No financial assistance?

**Mr Yates**—I do not believe there is direct financial assistance to the shire on that, but I would like to check that and if that is not correct I will let you know. Our assistance is primarily technical, helping them with how you do a large approach to market like that.

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

The Attorney-General's Department has provided technical support to assist the Shire of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to approach the market to seek a suitably qualified applicant to finance, develop, manage and operate a small sustainable tourism development at Trannies North on West Island.

This assistance included access to expertise in procurement processes, environmental, economic and social sustainability and legal matters.

The Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands did not receive direct financial assistance.

The process failed to attract a suitable proponent. The next steps are being considered by the Shire.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL CAPITAL  
AND THE EXTERNAL TERRITORIES  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Question No. 3**

**Senator Crossin asked the following question at the hearing on 19 August 2009:**

Firstly, given that the climate change risk has now been done by the consultants, Maunsell AECOM, in respect of the AIOTA, what does the department now do with this report? Where do you take this report and its findings—into any sort of translated action, policy change or operational change?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

The Attorney-General's Department will ensure that the figures in the report are based on the latest projections for sea level rise. The Department will use the report to inform its community consultation on, and planning for, climate change adaptation measures in the Indian Ocean Territories.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL CAPITAL  
AND THE EXTERNAL TERRITORIES  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Question No. 4**

**Senator Crossin asked the following question at the hearing on 19 August 2009:**

Secondly, I know that the Cocos Islands had a Vision 2010 document that was developed by the shire council. I also know from the submissions we have received and from my contact with people that that Vision 2010 document has not been updated by a new document. What impact does that have on your forward planning with regard to works, assistance and support if the shire does not replace that strategic plan with another one?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

The Attorney-General's Departments understands that the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands is preparing *Vision 2020*. The strong working relationship the Department holds with the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands facilitates discussions between the parties on the Shire's future strategic development and needs.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL CAPITAL  
AND THE EXTERNAL TERRITORIES  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Question No. 5**

**Senator Lundy asked the following question at the hearing on 19 August 2009:**

As to the broad sweep of Commonwealth services provided on Cocos and Christmas Islands, are you able to attribute a cost across Commonwealth agencies and departments to the services provided, and, to go a step further, a breakdown in those costs? Do you have any analysis that shows the changes to those costs on an annualised basis?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

The Attorney-General's Department is requesting, from the relevant Commonwealth agencies and departments, details of the cost of delivering Commonwealth services on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island. When available, details of these costs will be provided to the Committee.