



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 Christmas Island Cricket and Sporting Club submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC).

I note that in their submission, the Christmas Island Cricket and Sporting Club is pleased that recreation facilities on Christmas Island will be greatly improved once the Recreation Centre and associated works have been completed. However, the Club raised a number of concerns regarding some of the items included in the proposed works.

These included modifications to the electronic equipment, reception/lobby area and the need for an eight lane swimming pool.

The Club would prefer that consideration be given to the following items at the expense of the above items. These include an upgrade of the adjoining sports ground including oval, modification of the existing Sports Hall to accommodate indoor cricket and an indoor bowling green, air conditioned storeroom for safe storage of all equipment and transport to and from the proposed Centre.

The Department of Transport and Regional Services agrees that the electronic equipment may fail in the humid climate and accordingly will consider introducing robust manual equipment where possible. The Department disagrees that the Reception/Lobby area is excessive, as this will be the central point for all of the proposed facilities. The proposed eight lane width is the required width for a standard competition swimming pool and therefore appropriate for the community facility.

The upgrade of the adjoining sports ground, via oval lighting, was considered by the Department during the planning stage. However, due to the high costs of the installation and operation, as well as the impact on the airport operations, this item was not included in the proposed works.

The modification of the existing Sports Hall, to allow indoor cricket and bowling, is included in the design of the proposed works. Provision for transport to and from the

Centre will be possible if sufficient funds are available after the tender prices are known and the procurement process is completed.

The community consultation process was managed by the Christmas Island Administrator, through the Administrator's Advisory Council (AAC). The AAC consisted of representatives from a number of on Island organisations including the Shire of Christmas Island and the Chamber of Commerce. Unfortunately the Club was not a member of the AAC.

I hope that the department has addressed the concerns of the Christmas Island Cricket and Sporting Club and 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