

## **The Proposed Works**

### **Need**

#### **Inadequate Existing Facilities**

- 2.1 The existing facilities for sports and recreational activities on Christmas Island are well-used but there are a number of problems. For example:
- the sport facilities at the school are heavily prescribed;<sup>1</sup>
  - the swimming pool is too small;
  - until recently the gymnasium was used as temporary accommodation for detainees;
  - the basketball courts are run-down; and
  - the community hall was purpose-built for badminton but has to serve a number of other purposes.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Anticipated Population Increase**

- 2.2 On 12 March 2002 the then Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government announced that a new permanent IRPC was to be built on Christmas Island. In anticipation of an increase in the Island's population and added pressure on community facilities, the Government

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1 Appendix C, Submission No. 1, paragraph 11

2 ib id, paragraph 12

announced that it would also fund a new sports and recreational facility on Christmas Island.<sup>3</sup>

- 2.3 The Christmas Island Local Planning Strategy estimates that the island's population will increase from 1, 500 to 5, 000 long-term. The proposed facility allows for future expansion and has been designed to serve a population of up to 6, 000 people.<sup>4</sup>

## Scope

- 2.4 The proposed multi-use recreation centre will comprise the following work elements:

- lobby/ foyer;
- reception;
- staff administration offices;
- kitchen/ kiosk;
- public toilets, change rooms and staff toilets;
- crèche and child-minding facilities;
- a multi-purpose sports hall for netball, volleyball, basketball;
- equipment stores;
- hall viewing and seating;
- multi-purpose activity room;
- gymnasium;
- first aid room;
- 25 metre swimming pool;
- external paving;
- car parking and drop-off facilities;
- general power and site lighting;
- sewage and stormwater collection;
- fencing; and

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3 Appendix C, Submission No. 1, paragraphs 13 and 14

4 ib id, paragraphs 35 – 40

- adjacent oval reticulation.<sup>5</sup>

## Purpose and Suitability

- 2.5 The proposed facility is intended to provide improved community infrastructure for Christmas Islanders. The new recreation centre will:
- support the Government's objectives that facilities on Christmas Island should match comparable mainland standards;
  - provide an all weather recreation facility infrastructure;
  - create short and long-term job opportunities for the local community and develop the local skills base<sup>6</sup>; and
  - provide a community focus for sport and recreational activities.<sup>7</sup>
- 2.6 DoTaRs commissioned the Australian engineering consultancy, GHD Pty Ltd to examine the options for a new recreation centre on Christmas Island, in consultation with the local community.<sup>8</sup>
- 2.7 GHD assessed the various sites according to:
- location and tenure;
  - services;
  - constraints and opportunities; and
  - the views expressed by stakeholders and other groups during consultation.<sup>9</sup>

## Preferred Option

- 2.8 The Phosphate Hill site is the preferred option because:
- it is relatively flat;
  - the area is adjacent to existing power, water and sewerage infrastructure;
  - there is good road access;
  - there is sufficient space;

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5 Appendix C, Submission No. 1, paragraph 63

6 ib id, paragraph 18

7 ib id, paragraph 39

8 ib id, paragraph 22

9 ib id, paragraph 26

- the site is not in the path of a major crab migration route<sup>10</sup>; and
- the works will supplement and complement the existing facilities at the cricket club and sports oval.<sup>11</sup>

## Cost

2.9 The estimated cost of the community recreation centre is \$8 million.<sup>12</sup>

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10 Appendix C, Submission No. 1, paragraph 28

11 ib id, paragraph 39

12 ib id, paragraph 89