



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES

Christmas Island Administration

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The Chair
Public Works Committee

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE ON BEHALF OF DOTARS

Dear Madam Chair

In evidence provided by DoTaRS at the public hearing of 12 June 2002 information relating to the current mining lease with PRL was not made available to the committee. In evidence provided by PRL the issue of land for land was raised. The Administrator entered into evidence that in fact negotiations were occurring with PRL and transfer of significant land assets were under discussion. The mining lease incorporates what is called a mining schedule which identifies land once mined that should be excised from the mining lease and handed to the Commonwealth for future use. The mining schedule has been suspended by the Commonwealth to allow for negotiations with Asia Pacific to proceed to allow for the construction of the space port. If the mining schedule had been in effect large tracts of land would have been returned to the Commonwealth allowing for future urban development and where appropriate incorporation in to the national park. The mining schedule does not seek to replace land with land and the assertions made by PRL that the Commonwealth is acquiring 90% of its available resources ignores the reality espoused by the mining schedule.

I would be grateful if this additional information could be incorporated in to evidence.

Yours sincerely

Bill Taylor
Administrator
Indian Ocean Territories

13 June, 2002