



*Farzian Zainal*

Administrator of Christmas Island  
Administrator of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands



## Community Bulletin

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### Improving freight services for Indian Ocean Territories

I am pleased to inform the community that there will be additional freight capacity to meet the needs of the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT) communities going forward, through the use of a larger aircraft for the regular air freighter service.

Commencing in June 2024, the Australian Government's commercial partners will be using a Boeing B737-800 freighter aircraft for the service to Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The new freight payload capacity is some 19 tonnes, which is an approximate increase of four to five tonnes per fortnight, when compared to the existing freighter aircraft. Freight services will continue on a fortnightly basis.

I know the community will welcome the increased capacity for this essential service.

The final service using the existing plane is scheduled to take place on 24 May 2024, with the larger capacity new freighter coming into service for the scheduled 14 June 2024 circuit. Due to the change in the aircraft and operational requirements, adjustments were required to the freighter schedules as per Virgin Australia's notice dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

IOT freight and passenger air services are underwritten by the Australian Government, which provides significant investment in air services to CI and CKI, supporting efficient and regular supply chains to our remote region.

I am committed to better outcomes for the IOT air services, and will continue to monitor and engage with the community, stakeholders and Virgin Australia.

My thanks to our commercial partners who continue to work with Government to provide these services across the IOT.

The freighter capacity is subject to variation depending on operational conditions.

Additional details regarding freighter services to the IOT are available at <https://www.freightshop.com.au/>

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