



Issue 55 – 11 November 2024

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Welcome Message

Welcome to the latest edition of my newsletter, as we draw closer to the end of the year.

I would like to begin by acknowledging the impacts of the recent tidal surge which affected Cocos, with swells measuring up to three metres hitting West Island.

I was on Cocos in the immediate aftermath of this extreme weather event and led an EMC meeting where we discussed not just the response to the recent tidal surge but also preparedness for the upcoming cyclone season.

Following the swell event, the department arranged for coastal engineers from the WA Department of Transport to travel to Cocos to assess the damage and the current state of the seawalls in critical areas. This will inform response options.

These are challenging events to manage and I thank the Shire, local emergency services and the community for rallying together to respond to the immediate issues.

I look forward to being back on Cocos in December. The Commonwealth Bank will also be on island and I urge Cocos residents to read more about the visit in this newsletter and register your interest.

As Administrator, my responsibilities often take me out and about in the community, including engaging with our wonderful school students.

It was fantastic to have the opportunity to help celebrate the graduating class of 2024 at Christmas Island District High School. I attended a range of events and spent time, along with several other leaders across industry and community, answering questions and sharing my experience with the next generation of leaders as they embark on the exciting path to adulthood.

I would like to personally congratulate each and every one of our year 12 graduates and wish them the very best in their upcoming exams. I've been fortunate to see first-hand the calibre of students we have here in the IOT and they certainly have the support of the entire community as they take the next steps in their journeys. I would like to also acknowledge the parents, carers, and teachers who have worked so hard

...to also acknowledge the parents, carers, and teachers who have worked so hard to support our senior students.

Territory Week is always a very special time for us here on island, and I was honoured to participate in the adventure, tradition and community that is on display during this year's annual event.

Let us know if you want us to include your upcoming community event or activity in the newsletter. Stories (including photos) about recent IOT community events are very welcome and can be emailed to IOTAdministrator@infrastructure.gov.au

Farzian Zainal
Administrator of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Latest News

Territory Week



At the beginning of October, we celebrated Territory Week on Christmas Island, and like many of you I enjoyed taking part in the variety of events on offer.

I was pleased to be able to attend the official Territory Week opening event at the CLA Foreshore and enjoyed the food market and performances from both Christmas and Cocos Island locals. Some younger members of the Cocos community travelled across with the seniors for the first time, and performed traditional music and dance.

There were many other opportunities for people to enjoy the festivities during the week, including the photo scavenger hunt and also live music at the Foreshore Padang on Saturday, Sports Day at the Cricket Club on Sunday and of course Territory Day at Flying Fish Cove. It was wonderful to see so many stalls at the Cove, with locals and visitors getting to enjoy a range of delicious foods. Congratulations to those who took part in the fishing competition and also the raft regatta.

Every year we come together to acknowledge the diverse and wonderful tapestry that is our community. This year I'd like to make special mention of Australian Border Force, as well as IOHS and Department of Communities staff on CI for assisting with housing the visiting Cocos seniors and youth group, helping with their transport needs and facilitating the senior programs during their visit which enhanced the Territory Week experience for all. Finally, I'd like to thank the Shire of Christmas Island for organising a fantastic schedule of events, and the performers, athletes and participants who turned out to make the 66th Territory Week a memorable one for all.

Celebrating the CIDHS Graduating Class of 2024



This year, the graduating class from Christmas Island District High School (CIDHS) took part in a range of celebrations to mark the end of their school journey. I was very pleased to host a lunch last month that brought together the Year 12s, their teachers, and also community members who shared their career paths and advice. It was lovely to hear from the students about their plans for the future and they were encouraged to always keep CI close and remember the island community is here to support them.

The graduation assembly and ceremony were both wonderful events that paid tribute to the students and their families, highlighting the achievements of the graduating class. This year the Administrator's Award was presented to Xianna Gibson-Khaw, a student described as thoughtful and conscientious, who consistently worked hard

during her time at CIDHS. Congratulations to Xianna and all of the other award recipients.

I had the privilege of spending time with the 2024 graduates and other CIDHS students throughout the year, including a meeting with the Student Council in September. The Council presented its proposal in support of flat fee airfares for students in the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT), with the belief it will allow greater access to educational opportunities. The presentation was informative and professional, and I commended the students on their desire to improve educational outcomes for our region.

Another event I enjoyed this year was a breakfast with senior CIDHS students and the WA Director General of Education during her visit to the island. I also took part in a session with the Year 8 students earlier this year to discuss renewable energy. The enthusiasm from the students about working towards a cleaner, greener future for Christmas Island is very encouraging and a positive sign for our future.

Graduation for students is not just a time for celebration, but also reflection. I am sure this year's graduating class will be feeling excited about their futures, as well as looking back fondly on their time at school. I wish them all the very best for whatever endeavours they choose to pursue. I am also looking forward to being able to celebrate with the Year 10 students from Cocos Keeling Islands District High School during a visit in December.



Delivery of essential rockfall and landslide infrastructure progressing

The Australian Government is progressing the next stage of the critical rockfall and landslide mitigation program for Flying Fish Cove on Christmas Island.

Palladium Group, as an experienced project manager, has been appointed to deliver the next stage of the project, which will include building a further three barrier fences to support the previously completed fence above the Boat Club car park.

Additionally, the project will deliver barrier fences and civil berms at the toe of the Flying Fish Cove escarpment, as well as undertaking important stormwater management works at Drumsite to reduce the chances of rockfalls or landslides on the escarpment.

To ensure these vital works will best meet safety and community needs, the project team visited Christmas Island in October 2024 to consult with a range of stakeholders around project scope, timeline and procurement.

The Government is taking a tailored procurement approach, with early contractor involvement to ensure the designed solution is fit-for-purpose and can be delivered on budget and on time.

An online pre-tender industry briefing will take place in the coming month to brief the construction supply chain on the project, and introduce local suppliers and contractors to the tenderers for the works head contract. Timing of this briefing will be notified through AusTender and local channels.

The program of works is scheduled to commence in the second half of 2025.

The Australian Government understands the criticality of rockfall and landslide mitigation infrastructure for Christmas Island, particularly during wet season, which is why it is investing in and prioritising the safety of the CI community.

The department also continues to undertake its regular monitoring and maintenance activities to mitigate the risk of rockfall.

It is very important that Christmas Island residents and visitors understand the risk of land slippage and rockfall, especially in Flying Fish Cove and the Kampong residential area. We ask the community to be ready to respond and evacuate the area immediately if alarms and warning systems are activated, or if asked to do so.

We are also urging all residents to review your storm preparedness safety plans, to best ensure you and your family's safety ahead of the wet season. In the event that you do need to evacuate in the event of a landslide or rockfall, the AFP or an Australian Government official will make contact, so make sure you are ready to act quickly.

In the meantime, if you see any rockfalls or landslides, report them immediately to the on-call Australian Federal Police on 9164 8444.



Commonwealth Bank to visit Cocos in December

Fantastic news for Commonwealth Bank customers on Cocos!

Commonwealth Bank will be visiting Cocos Island from 2 to 6 December to help

Commonwealth Bank will be having Cocos Island from 2 to 6 December to help community and business customers with their banking.

This includes opening new accounts, account maintenance, issues with identification, fraud enquiries, loan enquiries and support for deceased estates.

At this stage they are intending to be based on Home Island for customer engagements, however if you are a West Island Commonwealth Bank customer in need of support, please let us know.

Cocos residents are requested to email iotadministrator@infrastructure.gov.au to register your interest in the visit and to confirm whether a Home Island or West Island meeting is preferred.

Know your fishing limits!

The department has released an updated fact sheet which outlines the limits on taking fish from Christmas Island (CI) to mainland Australia.

Under the legislation, people travelling from CI to mainland Australia can bring up to 5kg of fish, per person, for personal use from CI to Australia, which includes bringing fish to share with family and friends.

The 5kg limit includes wahoo and tuna, as well as snapper, grouper and sepat.

All fish must be caught in compliance with the Christmas Island Fishing Rules, including bag limits, to protect and conserve our extraordinary marine ecosystem.

To find out more information, including the Fact Sheet to help gain a better understanding of how the limits are determined, visit: [Christmas Island fishing rules | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#)



Photo: Christmas Island Tourism website.

Flying high – extending the Runway End Safety Area at Christmas Island Airport



Works to extend the Runway End Safety Area (RESA) at the Christmas Island Airport are progressing, thanks to funding from the Australian Government.

This \$2.7 million project to extend the RESA supports reduced damage to aircraft in the event of an overrun or overshoot, meeting Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) compliance standards.

The on-airfield works commenced in August 2024, and once completed will see the RESA of 90mx90m established from the end of the runway strip. We expect the works to be finished by the end of the year, with no restriction to aircraft operations during these vital works.

Having been constructed on what was an old phosphate mine area in 1974, the CI airfield presents unique challenges to undertaking major construction works, with the design and delivery of these safety upgrades taking a great deal preparation to determine the best way of meeting safety, regulatory and budget requirements.

PRL is contracted to provide the extensive earthworks required to complete this project, and we look forward to the extended RESA soon being in operation, thanks to the efforts of everyone involved.



IOTHS successful re-accreditation!



AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION
ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE



Congratulations to the IOTHS team, following the successful re-accreditation of the health service against the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (NSQHS Standards).

The priority of everyone involved in the operation of the health service is the continuing improvement of the quality and safety of health services in the IOT, with the NSQHS Standards providing a statement that is consistent right across Australia, about the level of care you can expect from health services.

The NSQHS Standards cover a range of topics, including medicines safety, preventing and controlling infections and governance, with the successful re-accreditation showcasing quality of care available through the IOTHS.

This is a great outcome for the health service and the community and reflects the ongoing dedication and efforts of the IOTHS team to delivering the best health outcomes for the region.

Looking forward, the health service will continue focusing on safety and quality in its daily operations, supporting healthier communities across the IOT.

Public Announcements



Virgin Australia IOT Bulletin

08NOV24

Dear All,

To better support the Christmas and New Year period, the freighter schedule is being changed. The previously scheduled freight service for 27 December 2024 will be moved forward a week earlier, to 20 December 2024.

Please see the updated freight schedule for December and January below:

- 13-Dec-24 PERTH - CHRISTMAS ISLAND - COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS - PERTH (scheduled)
- 20-Dec-24 PERTH - CHRISTMAS ISLAND - COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS - PERTH (rescheduled)
- 27-Dec-24 PERTH - CHRISTMAS ISLAND - COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS - PERTH (not operating)
- 10-Jan-25 PERTH - CHRISTMAS ISLAND - COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS - PERTH (scheduled)

Please note that the cut-off time for freight lodgement of the rescheduled freighter (20 December 2024) will be as follows:

- Dangerous goods : FRI 13 DEC 2024 (By Noon WST)
- All ambient cargo : MON 16 DEC 2024 (By Noon WST)
- All other cargo : TUE 17 DEC 2024 (By Noon WST)

Additional details regarding IOT freight are available at <https://www.freightshop.com.au/>

Kind Regards



Gavin Dodd
Strategic Account Manager
Virgin Australia Regional Airlines
[Group Privacy Policy | Virgin Australia](#)

Community Bulletins



NEW TRIAL SERVICE
CHRISTMAS ISLAND AFTER-SCHOOL BUS
MONDAYS DURING TERM 4

WHAT: A school bus will take older school children from Christmas Island District High School to the recreation centre immediately after school on Mondays.

WHEN: The complimentary bus will run each Monday of Term 4 (which commences on Thursday, 10 October 2024 and finishes Wednesday, 11 December 2024), departing about 2.10pm. Families will need to arrange their own transport home.

WHO: The bus will only be available for students aged 11 and up, in line with recreation centre supervision requirements.

This trial after-school bus service is funded by the Australian Government, to support local students and their families.

Job Opportunities



Position Description – IOT RDO Director of Regional Development

Employment type: Full time contract

Location: Indian Ocean Territories

About the IOT RDO

The [Indian Ocean Territories Regional Development Organisation](#) (IOT RDO) is seeking to fill the position of Director of Regional Development for the IOT RDO. This position will focus on economic development within the IOT region.

About the Regional Development Australia Program

The Regional Development Australia (RDA) program is a national network of Committees which are critical to the delivery of the Australian Government's vision for regional Australia of regions that are strong, connected and resilient.

Committees play a role in helping to drive economic growth, innovation and entrepreneurship in regions through facilitating investment in community, industry and the environment. Committees assist to bridge the regional development gaps in regions by working with a broad range of stakeholders across sectors and supporting the delivery of identified Australian Government strategic priorities.

Committees are incorporated, not-for-profit community-based organisations. Members of Committee governing bodies are volunteers drawn from the region who bring leadership, skills and experience from the community, business, industry, local government and not-for-profit organisations. Each Committee has a broad and diverse skills base, with demonstrated networks and connections.

About the Indian Ocean Territories Regional Development Organisation

The IOT RDO Committee is part of the Regional Development Australia program and is chaired by the Australian Government's senior representative in the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT), Ms Farzian Zainal, Administrator of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. The IOT RDO works to deliver high-level outcomes for our communities and region. In the year ahead, the organisation will focus on developing opportunities to collaborate with key regional stakeholders to address the barriers to sustainable development in the region, to support economic activity and diversification, and to achieve improvements in liveability for our communities.

IOT RDO 2030 Strategic Regional Plan

In 2022, the IOT RDO developed the [IOT RDO 2030 Strategic Regional Plan](#). The plan aims to leverage the region's natural assets and community strengths to foster a more diverse economy and a stronger, more resilient, and capable region. This can be achieved through strategic coordination and collaboration to overcome barriers to investment and economic activity.

Key priorities of the IOT RDO 2030 Strategic Regional Plan:

- Support sustainable growth and development, and improve liveability, for our

communities.

- Achieve reliable, competitive, and cost-effective supply chains (freight and flights).
- Support environmental and sustainability initiatives.
- Develop regional capability.
- Maximise sustainable tourism growth potential for long-term business viability.

Implementation of the Strategic Regional Plan: short-term priorities for the IOT RDO

The IOT RDO is focussed on working with key regional stakeholders to assist Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to become investment ready. In the short-term, the priority areas for the IOT RDO are as follows:

Implementation of the IOT Supply Chain Review recommendations

In early 2023, the IOT RDO joined in partnership with the Christmas Island Business Association (CIBA) to commission an independent review of the region's supply chain. A Joint Committee of key regional stakeholders including the IOT RDO, CIBA, Shire of Christmas Island, Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and Ms Marion Scrymgour MP, was formed to oversee the review. The review was completed in 2024 and has provided a series of recommendations to sustainably improve the reliability and efficiency of the region's supply chain. The IOT RDO has a role in promoting and advocating for the implementation of these recommendations across the region and to relevant Government and other stakeholders.

Regional engagement framework for the IOT

The IOT RDO will co-design with key regional stakeholders an engagement and communications framework for the IOT. The purpose of the regional engagement framework is to bring together all levels of government, the private sector, and other key regional stakeholders, to work together to achieve improvements in local and regional priorities that impact sustainable growth and development, and liveability, that can only be influenced at the macro level.

Progress digital and telecommunications connectivity in the region

In 2023-24, the IOT RDO will develop a Digital Action Plan for Christmas Island that provides a baseline and forward plan for telecommunications on the island. For the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the IOT RDO will co-develop a Digital Action Plan with local government that provides a baseline and forward plan for telecommunications, and support local government in its efforts to achieve the best possible telecommunications outcomes for the local community.

About the role

Reporting to and working in close cooperation with the Chair of the IOT RDO, the Director will lead the implementation of the business activities in the [IOT RDO Annual Business Plan 2023-24](#), and provide secretariat and administrative support to the IOT RDO Committee.

The Director has the following responsibilities, noting the prioritisation of responsibilities will be determined by the requirements of the IOT RDO's funding agreement with DITRCA and the business activities in the Annual Business Plan:

1. Connect stakeholders and facilitate opportunities

- Facilitate investment in people, places, services, and industries and local economies
- Support regional stakeholders, including local government and the not-for-profit-sector, to seek grant opportunities that advance strategic regional priorities
- Support decarbonisation efforts and the transformation to a net zero economy and enable regional linkages between sectors to achieve these aims
- Build the evidence for economic development, including innovation and diversification strategies
- Facilitate meaningful engagement across the three levels of government, and with diverse communities to ensure investments deliver better outcomes for the region
- Collaborate with integrity, transparency, respect and accountability
- Support gender equality opportunities.

2. Advise government

- Contribute relevant data and local intelligence to support the evidence base to inform regional development strategies, program design and policy responses.

3. Committee governance

- Managing the day-to-day affairs of the IOT RDO Committee and its personnel in a manner consistent with the RDA Better Practice Guide, the Committee's Annual Business Plan and Budget, the Funding Agreement, and its constitution
- Developing the IOT RDO Committee's Annual Business Plan and Budget, Annual Report on Outcomes, Annual Audited Accounts, Communications Strategy, and associated management delivery strategies.

4. Management

- Implementing decisions and activities as determined by the RDA Committee Chair or Committee.
- Providing management advice and support to the IOT RDO Committee consistent with the Funding Agreement and the RDA Committee Program's *Better Practice Guide*, including:
 - Keeping the RDO Committee informed of the status and progress of its business
 - Undertaking the accountable and transparent management of RDO Committee funds under the oversight of the Chair
 - Ensuring that all RDO Committee reporting and compliance requirements are met
 - Ensuring that the RDO Committee operates in accordance with the Western Australia incorporation legislation
 - Ensuring that the RDO Committee meets its obligations under the Funding

Agreement;

- Implementing office policies and procedures
- Leading and developing RDO Committee personnel (where agreed by the Committee) and being involved in the recruitment of staff

Essential experience

Strategic thinking

- Experience at senior levels in business, strategic vision setting and in achieving outcomes for large or complex business enterprises in complex business environments

Analytic thinking

- Experience in developing solutions to complex business issues involving multiple competing factors

Working with all levels of government and diverse communities

- Experience in working with governments and diverse communities, and an ability to translate this into economic development opportunities

Communication and stakeholder engagement

- Experience in managing a broad range of stakeholders in a complex environment to achieve outcomes and a strong track record of collaborating with integrity, transparency, respect, accountability and confidentiality.
- Excellent communication skills written and verbal

Professional skills

- Experience in delivering successful outcomes in senior leadership roles and an ability to develop strategies which successfully facilitate investment in people, places, services, and industries and local economies.
- Experience in implementing strategic plans and managing business and operational outcomes linked to strategic plans
- Capable of preparing documents, reports and proposals to a professional standard

Desirable

Tertiary qualifications, including business, international development, community development or other related field

Application requirements

Applications can be submitted by completed the below form link

[IOT RDO Director- Online Application Form](#)

Applications must include:

1. Responses to all questions in the form
2. A current resume/CV uploaded
3. Names of two referees
4. Details of any qualifications

Closing date

Closing date for all application is 5pm (CXT time) 5 December 2024.

Community Announcements



JOIN OUR VOLUNTEERING TEAM TODAY!

- ✓ All training provided
- ✓ Regular upskilling sessions
- ✓ Flexible and collaborative

We are now recruiting new ambulance volunteers to our team and would love to hear

- ✓ Flexible on-call scheduling
- ✓ Supportive team environment
- ✓ Opportunity to support community

from YOU!

GET IN TOUCH

FACEBOOK @ST JOHN WA - CHRISTMAS ISLAND
 CHRISTMASISLAND.COMMITTEE@STJOHNWA.COM.AU
 0437 932 444

St John



Colour Run

17th November,
Cricket Club, 10 am

TICKET \$15pp

REGISTER 9:00-9:45

All proceeds go to
CI Day Care

Sausage
Sizzle \$5

Sponsored by

Christmas Island Outdoor Cinema



Late changes will be posted on the Roundabout Blackboard and Facebook.

Adults \$ 5.00
 School aged children 3 to 17 years old \$2.00



Runt (PG)

SATURDAY - 16th November, 7.30pm

Follows ten-year-old Annie and Runt, her stray dog, as they attempt to win the Agility Course Championship at the Krumpets Dog Show in London in order to save their family's farm from drought and misery.

30th November - No Movie!



Joker: Folie à Deux (MA15+)

SATURDAY - 30th November, 7.30pm

Struggling with his dual identity, failed comedian Arthur Fleck meets the love of his life, Harley Quinn, while incarcerated at Arkham State Hospital.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND CINEMA CLUB

Want to sponsor an upcoming movie?

You will receive 2 free passes, special seating, food platter with your favourite nibbles, drinks of your choice and a public announcement on the evening of the movie. We will advertise your company or individual message in the Islander, Facebook Page, on the world's most remote roundabout and one of the last remaining outdoor Cinema screens. (Your choice of movie and date will be dependent upon availability.)

To become part of this exciting club or enquire about sponsorship, please Email: [c/outdoorcinema@gmail.com](mailto:coutdoorcinema@gmail.com) or accounts@cinema.org.cx

Rating information provided by <http://www.classification.gov.au>.

The Christmas Island Cinema Club is proudly supported by: CIFI, Freightshop, Shire of Christmas Island, Metro Solar and many local sponsors and volunteers.

*** THE CHRISTMAS ISLAND CINEMA IS A SMOKE FREE AREA ***

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