



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

Service Delivery Arrangements Indian Ocean Territories 2021–22 Annual Report

May 2023



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Executive summary

On behalf of the Australian Government, I am pleased to present the Service Delivery Arrangements (SDA) Annual Report 2021–22 for services provided by Western Australian (WA) State Government agencies to the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT) of Christmas Island (CI) and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI).

During 2021–22, on-Island service delivery by state agencies continued to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions to the Islands. Some highlights from the reporting year include:

- Officers from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) made several visits to the IOT and conducted training for fire and emergency services and marine services volunteers.
- Through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC):
 - Regional Arts WA toured musicians Grace Barbe Afro Kreol to CI and CKI in June 2022.
 - Visiting coaches to support sport and recreation included Australian Football League – Parris Laurie and Nic Naitanui, West Coast Eagles, Badminton WA, Basketball WA, National Rugby League WA and Volleyball WA.
- Exchanges of library materials continued by the State Library of WA, with the three IOT libraries receiving 3,044 items, including English language and materials in languages other than English.
- The Department of Training and Workforce Development registered 16 trade apprentices (15 on CI and one on CKI), and 29 trainees (19 on CI and 10 on CKI).

Water Corporation commissioned two artists under their ‘Splash of Colour’ program to paint murals on water and wastewater infrastructure on both Islands. The program also included school and community workshops with the artists to inform the mural designs.

WA agencies whose services were not required during 2021–22 and have not submitted a report, include Energy Policy WA and the Public Trustee.

I commend the report to the CI and CKI communities as an informative summary of the services delivered to us by the WA government agencies.

Sarah Vandebroek

Deputy Administrator

Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands

May 2023

Service Delivery Arrangements

Services

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) provides funding to WA agencies to deliver state-type services to CI and CKI.

There are three ways of delivering state-type services:

- funding WA agencies to deliver services via SDA
- direct service provision (e.g health and power)
- contracts with the private sector (e.g airport and port facilities management).

Since 1992, the Australian and WA Governments have been entering into SDA for the provision of services to the IOT. Following the WA Government machinery-of-government administrative changes in 2017, as at 30 June 2022, 39 state agencies provide 55 services to the IOT.

2021–22 SDA management

DITRDCA has responsibility for negotiating and managing SDA with WA agencies.

During 2021–22:

- renegotiated SDA were executed with 16 agencies
- new Office of Multicultural Interests services were obtained through DLGSC
- new SDA were also executed with the Department of Education, Commissioner for Equal Opportunity, WA Electoral Commission and the WA Local Government Grants Commission.

SDA fact sheets

In partnership with WA agencies, DITRDCA produces SDA fact sheets for renegotiated and new SDA. Fact sheets provide information about the services available through SDA and how to gain access to these services.

The fact sheets, including versions translated to Chinese, Malay and Cocos Malay, are available on DITRDCA's website at www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/territories/indian_ocean/sda/sda-factsheets-wa.

Department of Communities

Child Protection and Family Support

Services

The Department of Communities (Child Protection and Family Support) (CPFS) provides the following services:

- support and encourage young people and families to reach their potential and promote safety in the community.
- Assistance, information and services to facilitate compliance by relevant organisations and people in the IOT with their obligations under the applied legislation concerning Working with Children (WWC) checks.

Highlights and activities

Child Protection and Family Support

The Senior Child Protection Worker (SCPW) for the IOT is based on CI and assesses concerns related to a child's wellbeing or allegations of child abuse and neglect in line with the applied *Children and Community Services Act 2004* (WA), including information-sharing and confidentiality provisions.

The SCPW provides statutory child protection assessments and investigations, targeted child protection community education and awareness activities and community capacity building in the IOT.

Currently, the SCPW represents Department of Communities in the IOT and is an active participant in local community activities. The SCPW also acts as the Deputy Chairperson of the Community Resource Centre (CRC) and the organisation provides community services initiatives like health promotion, cultural celebrations, assistance to the elders, community events such as Territory Week celebration, CI Marathon etc. The SCPW closely works and engages with cultural groups such as the Islamic Council, the Chinese Literary Association (CLA), and other religious groups. The SCPW also organises regular inter-agency meetings with key stakeholders in the IOT.

WWC

- The WWC Screening Unit continued to provide online and telephone support and fulfilled all functions in receiving and processing WWC check applications. This included the screening, assessment and card issue of 175 applications and the ongoing monitoring of a total of 699 card holders.

Location	Applications Made	WWC Cards Issued	WWC Cards active as at 30/06/22	WWC Cards Issued All Time	Negative or Interim Negative Notices Issued	Negative Notices or Interim Negative Notices Issued All Time
Christmas Island	143	129	590	2,231	0	1
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	32	35	109	512	1	2

Horizon scan

Child Protection and Family Support

- The primary focus for 2023 is to engage further with services and stakeholders to arrange training sessions to build knowledge around the process of child protection referrals, inclusive of mandatory reporting, to further develop the role of the SCPW and statutory child protection matters.
- The SCPW will continue to participate in community-based activities and be present in the community to continue to build relationships with both professionals and local community members. Inter-agency meetings will continue as part of a joint agency collaboration during which information is shared with relevant agencies and discussions around potential referrals for matters relating to child protection and family support are flagged.
- The SCPW will also be participating in training offered internally by the Department of Communities and travelling to Perth to attend relevant training as a way to continue to ensure best practice is delivered to the children and families in the IOT.

WWC

- In 2023, WWC Screening Unit will publish a range of fact sheets, videos and other online resources in plain English and translated into Chinese and Cocos Malay.
- The WWC Screening Unit plans to visit the IOT in June 2023. This will provide face-to-face opportunities to assist organisations, self-employed people and individuals to comply with the WWC Check legislation. Further, amendments to the legislation due to pass through WA Parliament in early 2023 will provide opportunities to communicate the changes to the IOT communities and answer any questions that may arise from them.
- Continued promotion of the WWC Check within the context of child safety and as a key strategy of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

Communities

Services

The Department of Communities (Communities Division) provides the following services:

- Access to the WA Seniors Card program.
- Assess education and care services against the National Quality Standard.
- Guidance and support to ensure compliance with the applied *Education and Care National Law (WA) Act 2012* and applied *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2012*.

Highlights and activities

Education and Care Regulatory Unit

- A visit was undertaken at CI Day Care Centre on 3 November 2021. During the visit, a proactive building checklist and a policies checklist was completed. At the time of the visit, the service appeared to be compliant in relation to the completed checklists. In addition to this, an officer provided a range of support and guidance to the services staff and office manager in relation to preparation for their next Assessment and Rating visit estimated to be conducted in 2022–23. Discussions were held about the current trends and concerns relative to childcare services across WA. Observations were documented and provided to the service to support their ongoing quality improvement and day-to-day practice.
- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, an additional visit to the service did not occur in the second half of the financial year.
- Outside of visits, ECRU also provided support in the form of emails and telephone calls with the centre manager, co-coordinator and nominated supervisor when required.
- The service was provided approximately 1300 Rapid Antigen Tests. During the peak of COVID-19 in 2022, regular COVID updates were provided to the sector.
- ECRU sends out regular communication to the sector such as Compliance Bulletins, In Focus bulletins, ECRU updates and Media Statements which cover a range of topics relating to compliance.

WA Seniors Card

- In 2021–22, there were 66 WA Seniors Card members living on CI and 35 members on CKI.
- In addition to standard outcomes for the WA Seniors Card program, some achievements for 2021–22 include:
 - introduction of the Safety and Security Rebate program in August 2021
 - Annual Cost of Living Rebate
 - 2022–23 Discount Directory for WA Seniors Card members.

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA | **SENIORS CARD**

AVAILABLE NOW

Hello! The WA Seniors Card Discount Directory 2022-23 is out now.

Available at selected libraries and community resource centres or by calling the WA Seniors Card Centre on **1800 671 233** or emailing info@seniorscard.wa.gov.au to request your free copy.

www.seniorscard.wa.gov.au | www.facebook.com/WASeniorsCard

Horizon scan

Education and Care Regulatory Unit

- An assessment visit to CI is planned for 27 to 28 July 2022.
- A visit to CI is planned for November 2022. This visit will also be used to provide support and advice in relation to CI Day Care's next Assessment and Rating visit, which will likely occur between January to June 2023.
- An additional visit (three in total) will be conducted from July 2022 to June 2023 due to the restrictions COVID-19 placed on travel in the 2021–22 period.

WA Seniors Card

Introduction of the annual Safety and Security Rebate was launched by the WA Government in August 2021 and allows WA Seniors Card members to claim a \$400 rebate on the purchase of an eligible home safety or security item. Discussions will be held with DITRDCA as to whether IOT communities are able to take up this program.

Housing Authority

Services

The Department of Communities (Housing) provides advice and services to the IOT Administration (IOTA) including housing and property management guidelines and support, policy structure guidelines and interpretation and contracting and construction, if requested.

Highlights and activities

- An audit of property inspections for IOT public housing confirmed that 100 per cent of annual inspections were completed for 2021–22. A full audit of annual inspections was also reviewed for employee housing dwellings.
- An audit of debtor management by the IOTA of public housing tenancies confirmed that appropriate action is being taken to manage and reduce rental arrears.
- A full audit of rent calculated on tenants' accounts confirmed that rent calculation tools and information provided by Housing continue to be utilised and rent is correctly calculated.
- A comprehensive check of property condition reports indicated that these had been correctly completed and provided a detailed description of the property at vacation and occupation.
- Housing coordinated the supply of a Valuer-General's Office review of market rental rates for public and IOTA owned assets

Horizon scan

- Work is continuing in the development of a maintenance system to digitise all property inspections and maintain one central database.
- Continue to support, educate and progress asset protection strategies, as part of the annual inspection regime to support cyclical maintenance programs and budgets.
- Continue to ensure best practice and policy updates are maintained in the IOT.
- Continue to review and support the development and implementation of IOT specific housing policies relating to occupation and eligibility.
- The next review of CKI is scheduled for June 2023 to coincide with the scheduled CI visit and audit.

Economic Regulation Authority

Services

A primary role of the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) is to licence electricity, gas and water services in the IOT. Licences issued by the ERA include conditions designed to ensure licensees provide a high quality and reliable service.

Highlights and activities

The ERA continues to liaise with the Australian Government on the content of a water licence application, with the expectation that it will be submitted in the future.

Department of Education

Services

The Department of Education (Education) provides services in line with the requirements of the applied *School Education Act 1999* (WA) to students at CI District High School (CIDHS) and Cocos (Keeling) Islands District High School (CKIDHS).

Highlights and activities

- Student and staff numbers at CIDHS and CKIDHS remained relatively stable through to 30 June 2022.

Students	Christmas Island DHS	Cocos (Keeling) Islands DHS
Kindergarten	18	12
Primary	141	78
Secondary	96	27
Total	255	117
Total Education FTE	40.1	15.8

- Education's North Metropolitan Regional Education Office provided consultation, support, advice and information to the staff at IOT schools.
- The delivery of all visiting services continued to be significantly affected by COVID-19 pandemic restrictions being in effect throughout the reporting period.
- The restrictions on travel resulting from the application of border measures as part of WA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic presented a number of challenges for staff and students residing in the IOT.
- Coordination of visiting services to the IOT to provide support to the teaching and learning needs of the staff and students in the IOT schools:
 - The provision of consulting teacher services for students with special educational need in line with agreed service proposals.
 - Visits by the Lead School Psychologist to support students and staff in accordance with relevant education plans
 - Education and external contractors providing professional learning to the whole staff group in line with whole school plans
 - Education and external contractors providing programs to staff, students and the communities in line with whole school plans and community need.
- Provision of operational advice on a daily basis to staff working in the IOT schools to ensure compliance with relevant legislation as it applies in the IOT, Education policies and arrangements for education service provision in the IOT.

- Coordination of all recruitment, selection and relocation processes for teaching staff in the IOT schools.
- Management of complaints relating to the provision of education services through Education's complaints handling processes.

Horizon scan

The ongoing management and response to the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to impact education service delivery in the IOT schools.

The increased travel of mainland residents to the IOT during the COVID-19 travel restrictions has increased pressure on available flights and accommodation and reduced the availability for use by visiting staff. If this continues in the longer term, this will have an adverse effect on service delivery to the local IOT populations.

Retention and recruitment of teaching staff is becoming more difficult with increased pressure on teacher supply on the mainland. WA is facing difficulties securing teaching staff in remote and regional areas which may impact the ability to deliver education services if teaching staff are unable to be sourced for positions in the IOT schools.

The movement of students with identified special needs onto and off the IOT presents an ongoing impact on the cost of delivering education services. The provision of facilities with access for students with special needs to ensure compliance with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth) requirements remains an active issue for consideration in future budget planning.

Equal Opportunity Commission

Services

The Equal Opportunity Commission of WA (EOC) provides information and advice regarding equal opportunity and human rights issues, and investigates complaints under the applied *Equal Opportunity Act 1984* (WA).

Highlights and activities

The EOC continues to provide access to the mainland office and a telephone enquiry service to inform IOT community members of their rights and responsibilities. The EOC also provides an avenue for complaints of discrimination and harassment to be lodged by IOT members under the applied legislation.

Regular communication with on-Island organisations and community members continued.

There were no formal complaints lodged.

Horizon scan

The EOC proposes to continue the state agency partnership program developed in recent years and conduct the next IOT visit during 2023. A planned visit for November 2022 had logistical issues but it is proposed a visit will be conducted in the first half of 2023.

The Law Reform Commission of WA undertook a review of the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984* (WA) and the Report and recommendations were tabled in the WA Parliament in August 2022. The WA Government has advised a Bill is being prepared and indicated it will be before Parliament next year.

Department of Finance

Services

The Department of Finance:

- collects state-type revenue in accordance with applied legislation and remits revenue to the Australian Government (RevenueWA)
- sub-contracts Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), through its Building Management and Works (ServiceWA) division, to manage IOT commercial properties on behalf of DITRDCA.

Highlights and activities

Building Management and Works (ServiceWA)

JLL manage a range of non-residential Australian Government buildings across the IOT. The portfolio consists of approximately 30 commercial sites, in addition to police stations, school and health campuses.

The complexity of the CI health building and the state of the maintenance has seen several challenging matters arise. These buildings and the implementation of improved project, service and maintenance requirements has seen several setbacks. To understand and implement preferred practices for a health building sees the requirement of additional resources by way of funding and JLL personnel.

The Australian Government property portfolio continues to expand the requirements for maintenance contracts and specialist facility management services to the Education and Health portfolios, in particular the Health portfolio and its integrated health systems. JLL has completed the following IOT Health portfolio related projects:

- Replacement of Vinyl Flooring and Associated works (Stages 1-4).
- Water Softener and Mechanical Rooms Waterproofing and Associated Works
- CI District Hospital and CKI Clinics—Asbestos and Indoor Air Quality surveys
- CI District Hospital Body Protected Area System upgrade.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also contributed to JLL's workload with WA state agencies having an increased requirement and awareness for indoor air quality and air ventilation. The Department of Education reached out to the Department of Finance to co-ordinate through JLL, air quality and ventilation testing at all IOT public schools. Testing was completed in early 2022, reports and data were presented to the Department of Education thereafter.

The maintenance and project management services provided through the contract continues to place heavy demand on JLL with the IOTA building requiring structural remediation works. The following major projects commenced:

- Administration Building—Suspended slab concrete repairs (Grout Injection)
- Administration Building—Steel Installation for Suspended Slab Support and Associated Works
- Old Technical College – Termite Remediation and structural remediation works.

JLL continues to increase its contractor compliance and have recently implemented SINE—a digital visitor, contractor and staff compliance management system at various buildings across both Islands. This will ensure further levels of workplace safety compliance for visitors, contractors and staff.

JLL successfully undertook a bulk asbestos removal program from CKI to the mainland, with asbestos-contaminated material removed from various sites and shipped to a purpose-built facility south of Perth.

The complexities of an ageing property portfolio continue to challenge the JLL team. To improve the level of asset information available to DITRDCA, JLL and contractors, JLL are undertaking a laser scanning program across all IOT assets defined under the Project Management Agreement (PMA). The outputs will include external and internal 3D scanned images/plans for all buildings managed by JLL.

JLL has been project managing the CI District Hospital air-conditioning upgrade – Stages 1 and 2.

Office of State Revenue (RevenueWA)

The Department of Finance undertakes visits to the IOT to complete compliance investigations and audits of taxpayers and to also assist businesses to understand and to be aware of their liability in respect to the various revenue lines.

Horizon scan

Building Management and Works (ServiceWA)

Customer Experience and Strategy Division will continue to assist the Australian Government with management of their IOT non-residential property portfolio.

DITRDCA's Strategic Asset Management Plan has been pivotal in forming a constrained works program for 2022–23 and will continue to be a baseline marker for identifying priority projects across the IOT property portfolio.

A horizon scan has identified the following major and capital works projects for inclusion in the upcoming financial years:

- CI District High School air conditioning system upgrade
- CI District Hospital Roof replacement
- IOT Car park resurfacing—various sites
- CKI WI Light Industrial Area improvements
- CKI WI Health Clinic site/slab remediation.

The existing PMA with JLL commenced on 1 January 2015 and was further extended to September 2023. A new contract will be in place by the end of June 2023.

The Department of Finance will continue to administer the PMA on behalf of DITRDCA.

Office of State Revenue (RevenueWA)

The most recent visit to the IOT was in June 2021, with the next visit planned for mid-2023. The visit will include three officers conducting a range of payroll tax and tobacco sellers license audits over a two-week period.

Illegal sales and exportation of tobacco continues to be an issue. While RevenueWA has taken steps to disrupt these activities, it may be necessary to seek legislative changes for the introduction of more effective enforcement measures.

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) works towards building the capability and capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. Also, to improve community safety practices, provide timely, quality and effective emergency services, in partnership with the local communities and emergency management partners.

Highlights and activities

During 2021–22, the DFES Wellness Chaplain, Wellness District Officer, Marine Rescue Instructors, Land Search Instructors, Storm Damage Instructor and District Officer Operational Preparedness made eight visits to the IOT, conducting the following activities:

CI, CKI WI and HI Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services (VFES) units:

- Firefighting Skills Course
- Structural Firefighting Course and Pump Operations Course
- Breathing Apparatus Course
- Land Search Course
- Thermal Imaging Camera Training
- Road Crash Rescue
- Chainsaw use and maintenance qualifications
- Storm Damage and Roof Safety Systems
- DFES Wellness and Welfare program
- Year three School visits – Fire safety program and Career week.

CI and CKI Marine Rescue groups:

- Night Navigation Course
- Rescue drills
- DFES Wellness and Welfare program.

Three IOT volunteers from CI Marine Rescue and VFES unit attended the WA Fire and Emergency Service Conference in Perth on 9-10 September 2021.

Horizon scan

- Firefighting appliances (trucks) and equipment require a high level of scheduled maintenance to ensure operational readiness and to ensure safe equipment for volunteers.
- Breathing Apparatus equipment is critical safety equipment and is required to be maintained to an Australian Standard and requires an annual scheduled maintenance program.

All volunteer workplaces require a high level of maintenance to meet work, health and safety requirements.

Department of Health

BreastScreen WA

Services

BreastScreen WA (BSWA) is part of the national breast cancer screening program that aims to reduce morbidity and mortality from breast cancer through the early detection of the disease. In WA, BSWA is under the jurisdiction of North Metropolitan Health Service. The service invites women aged between 50 and 74 years for a free mammogram every two years.

Highlights and activities

Since September 2019, BSWA visits both CI and CKI on a two-yearly cycle, the same as the Rural Mobile Services model on the WA mainland. Accordingly, visits are scheduled in September 2021, 2023, 2025 and so on. Women requiring annual screening and those who could not access on-site screening, attend mammography screening services on the mainland.

Financial year	Women screened
2018–19	25
2019–20	298
2020–21	18
2021–22	288

Mammography service aligns with BreastScreen Australia Accreditation Standards and is equivalent to the BSWA mainland mobile clinics. Where required, further images can be taken within 24 hours of a client's screening, reducing the number of women needing to travel to Perth for further work-up. Client results are sent to Island-based general practitioners utilising Health Level-7 secure messaging technology as opposed to mailing of results, allowing faster access to client screening outcomes.

Promotional activities of the BSWA service is conducted in the lead-up to visits and includes print resources (posters, mammography screening information produced in multiple languages), promotional resources, media releases and direct liaison with the Island Health Worker.

Horizon scan

The dates of future visits have been reviewed in line with the recommended two-yearly cycle of mammography screening and the Islands cyclone season. As a result, a combined visit to both Islands is expected in 2023. This means women will be screened within 18 to 22 months from their last mammogram, well within the clinical guidelines for mammography and radiation safety.

Subsequent visits will be two-yearly. Women who visit WA mainland and are due for a mammogram are welcome to attend any BSWA service.

Environmental Health and Tobacco Control

Services

The WA Health Environmental Health Directorate (EHD) currently delivers environmental health expertise to the IOT in the form of on-call advice and guidance on issues to support the local government Environmental Health Officer employed in the region. This support includes assisting with application of Public Health legislation.

WA Health is also the issuing authority for tobacco retail/wholesale licences and pest management technician licences and business licences to CI and CKI pesticide businesses. On-Island tobacco compliance inspections are routinely scheduled and performed every two years by WA Health officers.

The primary role of the EHD Tobacco Control Branch is coordinating activities to promote industry and community compliance with legislation which regulates the sale of tobacco and prevents its use in enclosed public spaces. Core to this is an active state-wide tobacco compliance program. This program visits all tobacco licence holders to assess their level of compliance for the sale of tobacco products and also includes visits to public premises to assess the level of compliance with smoking areas and enclosed spaces and eating areas.

Highlights and activities

EHD has continued to provide administrative licensing services for pest management businesses, pest management technicians and tobacco retailers.

Tobacco and pest management	CI	CK
Retail tobacco licences renewed	2	1
Pest Management Technician licence renewals	1	1
Pest Management Business registrations renewed	4	4

The EHD provides information on a wide range of regulatory responsibilities under the applied *Public Health Act 2016* (WA) that are applied by the administration and Environmental Health Officers within the jurisdictions of the IOT.

Horizon scan

While the SDA and request for services is generally limited to tobacco control matters, the opportunity to provide broad ongoing assistance on a range of technical expert areas from the EHD will continue to be offered.

Vaccine supply

Services

The Communicable Disease Control Directorate within WA Health provides services associated with the delivery of government-funded vaccines to CI and CKI, to support the IOT immunisation programs.

Highlights and activities

The immunisation teams at each IOT location place orders using the Onelink online ordering system.

The Onelink customer service team approve orders in readiness for distribution. Each order is reviewed to consider customs requirements for streamlined shipment and to reduce customs paperwork wherever practicable.

Communication of order approvals, shipment dates and additional delivery requirements are generated through both the Onelink ordering system and manually where applicable.

In 2021–22:

- a total of 113 orders were processed
- a total of 2573 vaccine doses were distributed to the IOT region for immunisation programs.

The number of orders is consistent with prior years, however, the number of vaccine doses distributed was higher than prior years' distribution, largely due to the free influenza vaccination program provided in June and July 2022.

WA Country Health Service

Services

The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) provides policy advice and intellectual property to DITRDCA and the IOT Health Service (IOTHS) on clinical and non-clinical matters.

Highlights and activities

In 2021–22, IOTHS engaged with WACHS in relation to:

- provision of policy advice, including access to WACHS clinical and non-clinical related policies and forms
- clinical advice on governance matters
- structure and delivery of WACHS telehealth programs and services, such as the Emergency Telehealth Service and Mental Health telehealth services.

Summary details on Inpatient, Emergency Department and Outpatient treatment of IOT residents in WA public hospitals are contained in the following three tables:

Public patient admission	Total
2017–18	277
2018–19	293
2019–20	221
2020–21	172
2021–22	232

Public Emergency Department administrations	Total
2017–18	85
2018–19	81
2019–20	87
2020–21	37
2021–22	96

Outpatient attendance	Total
2017–18	1,159
2018–19	1,397
2019–20	1,034
2020–21	1,132
2021–22	1,343

Horizon scan

The Australian and WA governments will continue to work together to negotiate the new SDA to support the ongoing health care for IOT residents. WA Department of Health and IOTHS are exploring a new SDA. WACHS will continue to provide emergency telehealth and Command Centre services to the IOTHS.

Health and Disability Services Complaints Office

Services

The Health and Disability Services Complaints Office (HaDSCO) manages complaints about health, disability services and mental health for the IOT communities. HaDSCO has two service areas:

- assessment, conciliation, negotiated settlement and investigation of complaints
- education and training in the prevention and resolution of complaints.

Highlights and activities

HaDSCO received and closed three complaints from the IOT. This is a reduction from the 15 complaints recorded in 2020–21, when a number of complaints were received as a result of a visit to the Islands.

As HaDSCO usually visits the Islands every 18-months, there were no visits planned during 2021–22.

Horizon scan

HaDSCO will continue to monitor emerging issues in the health, disability and mental health sectors and respond accordingly. It will also apply any efficiencies achieved or resolution process improvements to the management of complaints to the community.

HaDSCO was planning to visit CKI later in 2022, however this trip has been rescheduled to June 2023 due to lack of available accommodation. The CI visit will be undertaken with the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) Consumer Protection and EOC.

Predominately, both visits will focus on raising awareness of HaDSCO and providing information on complaint resolution pathways. HaDSCO representatives will provide an enquiry and complaint handling function on-Island as required.

HaDSCO will continue to develop multilingual communication materials and publications for use within the IOT, particularly regarding the expected implementation of the National Code of Conduct for health care workers (National Code). The National Code is a statutory code of conduct that sets minimum standards of practice for health care workers who are not registered under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. Following implementation, HaDSCO will have new responsibilities for investigating complaints about alleged code breaches; conducting director-initiated investigations; issuing interim prohibition orders to allow for an investigation to be completed; issuing prohibition orders at the conclusion of an investigation where the continued practice of a health care worker is seen to represent a serious risk to public health and safety; and issuing public health warning statements. HaDSCO will also monitor compliance with prohibition orders.

Insurance Commission of WA

Services

The Insurance Commission of WA (ICWA) provides funds management, expert advice and claims handling services in relation to the operations of the compulsory third party (CTP) and no-fault motor vehicle catastrophic injuries insurance schemes in the IOT.

Under the arrangement, ICWA manages all claims for personal injury, including nominal defendant claims, resulting from motor vehicle crashes or crashes involving unidentified or unlicensed (and hence, uninsured) vehicles in the IOT.

Highlights and activities

One CTP claim was lodged in the IOT during 2021–22 and remains open.

Another CTP notification was received, with no further action required.

Department of Justice

Attorney-General

Services

Department of Justice (Justice) (Attorney-General) provides Court services that meet the needs of the judiciary and community, including non-judicial support and other administrative support functions for the management of Courts and Tribunals.

Highlights and activities

Circuit and Other Visits

1. The Magistrates Court conducted in-person hearings twice on CI during 2021–22 and conducted a further four court sittings via audio/video link. The Magistrates Court attended CKI once in person during 2021–22 and also facilitated a further hearing by audio/video link.

Education or Training Programs

2. Justices of the Peace (JPs) have access to online training. Training in relation to other administrative JP functions will be provided on an “as required” basis.
3. Due to the unavailability of the Justice Senior Librarian during the June 2022 visit, particulars in relation to library matters will be addressed as part of the next annual inspection in 2023.

Inspections or Audits

4. A management inspection/audit was conducted by the Executive Manager Perth in June 2021, highlighting several recommendations. A further annual inspection/audit was to be conducted during the June 2022 visit, however the Court Liaison Officer could not travel due to illness and alternative travel arrangements could not be made at short notice. The next annual inspection will occur in June 2023.
5. Video link functionality has been installed on both Islands and the video link facilities have been utilised at both locations this year and throughout the COVID-19 restrictions.

Coronial Inquests

6. No coronial inquests were finalised during 2021–22.

Corrective Services

Services

Justice (Corrective Services) provides a Senior Community Corrections Officer, in conjunction with the visiting Judicial Officer, to visit the IOT to conduct Adult Community Corrections activities and, on behalf of Youth Justice Services, youth justice activities such as:

- Providing to adult offenders and young people:
 - management services that protect the community

- interventions they need to make a positive difference in their lives and become responsible citizens by adopting law-abiding lifestyles.

Corrective Services also assists with the transfer and incarceration of IOT offenders in WA prisons.

Highlights and activities

A Senior Community Corrections officer (SCCO) visited CI in September and December 2021, March 2022 and CKI in March 2022. The SCCO provided support to the Judicial Officer during Court circuits.

Seven offenders on community corrections orders were provided supervision in the community and more than 129 hours of Community Work were completed by offenders. Six offenders successfully completed their orders and no offenders were breached for non-compliance with the conditions of their order.

Three offenders were imprisoned in a WA prison during the year.

Horizon scan

The applied *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment (Change of Name) Act 2020* (WA) comes into operation on 1 October 2022. The amendments include a requirement for adult and young offenders to be deemed to be 'restricted persons' who will require approval of the relevant 'supervisory authority' before applying to the WA Registrar for a change of name. Restricted Persons include prisoners, detainees and offenders subject to supervision orders managed by Corrective Services. The supervisory authority for parolees is the Prisoner Review Board and for all other Restricted Persons it is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Department of Justice.

WA Land Information Authority (Landgate)

Services

The WA Land Information Authority (trading as Landgate) delivers land information services, including the registration of titles, location and cadastral information market services including valuations, stamp duty assessments, rating and valuation rolls and asset valuations.

Highlights and activities

Land Information

Titles registered	CK	CI
Crown Land (CLT)	82	275
Freehold	71	298
Certificate of Freehold Title – Granted to Australian Government	5	19
Strata Granted to Commonwealth	0	3
Certificate of Title under the Strata Titles Act	3	248
Reserves (including CLT data above)	72	222
Documents processed	15	55

Valuations

The Valuer-General of WA administers the applied *Valuation of Land Act 1978 (WA)* (the Act). In accordance with section 18 of the Act, the Valuer-General undertakes Gross rental value (GRV) and Unimproved value (UV) general valuation programs for rating and taxing purposes. GRVs are completed every three years in the Perth metropolitan area and every three to six-years in regional areas. UVs are completed on an annual basis for land tax purposes.

Throughout the year, on an as-needs basis, Landgate valuers' complete interim valuations for UV and GRV purposes, market valuations, stamp duty assessments and asset valuations in support of the State's land administration, development, and asset management program.

Landgate completed a State-wide UV general valuation program consisting of 1,021,167 values, including 553 UVs for CI and 265 UVs for CKI for land tax purposes.

A GRV general valuation of CI and CKI did not form part of the 2022 GRV regional general valuation program.

However, two GRV interim valuations, two stamp duty assessments and 41 market valuations were completed on CI. With four GRV interim values, two stamp duty assessments and five market valuations completed on CKI.

Government Location Information

The travel planned and booked for CI in May 2022 was cancelled, and rescheduled to May 2023. The planned travel included installation of additional Standard Survey Marks with horizontal and vertical connections and upgrades to the existing geodetic control. Tide Gauge levelling would also have been completed.

Number of Objections Allowed/Number of Values in Force—WA v IOT

There were no informal queries or formal objections lodged against UVs or GRVs for CI or CKI. There were no formal appeals lodged.

Horizon scan

Geodetic Survey Work Plan

On 13 August 2022, the State of Emergency restrictions were lifted. A review of the scope and scheduling of work requirements will be conducted.

E-Conveyancing

Landgate continues to liaise with DITRDCA regarding the introduction of electronic conveyancing in the IOT. Landgate is working with DITRDCA to confirm and put into place any arrangements required to enable Landgate, the Registrar of Titles and the Commissioner of Titles to exercise powers and functions under the applied *Electronic Conveyancing Act 2014 (WA)*. This aligns with Landgate's and the national policy to provide a national e-conveyancing system and to move from paper-based transactions to e-conveyancing.

Legal Aid Commission of WA

Services

Legal Aid WA (LAWA) provides legal services, including advice, information and referral to those requiring assistance to access justice in the community. LAWA provides duty lawyer services at the IOT Courts and WA Courts if matters are transferred, legal tasks (formerly minor assistance and advocacy), legal representation pursuant to grants of aid, and community legal education services.

Highlights and activities

- CI was visited in September and December 2021 and March, April, May and June 2022 – six visits in total. This was due to COVID-19 travel restrictions for the Solicitor/Manager up until April 2022. CKI was visited in March and June 2022. Two trips to the IOT were undertaken by the Solicitor/Manager, three visits by a LAWA officer and one by the Director of the Civil Law Division. LAWA traditionally does not visit in January.
- There was a steady demand for legal advice, information, referral and legal tasks provision during the year during and outside of visits, and duty lawyer assistance prior to and during court sittings. Many appointments were conducted by telephone.
- A LAWA Solicitor Manager appeared as duty lawyer for all four sittings of the CI Magistrates Court. A Magistrate travelled to CI in September 2021, and March and June 2022. The CI Magistrates Court was conducted from Perth Magistrates Court (PMC) by video link to CI in December 2021.
- The Solicitor/Manager acted as duty lawyer by video link for the only sitting of the CKI Magistrates Court, in September 2021. CKI Court was conducted from PMC.
- Charges were discontinued, facts were amended and sentencing submission concessions made by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP) to lessen the seriousness of the offending throughout the year. These are always pleasing results.
- One highlight included successful applications to have people re-sentenced when a Magistrate initially misinterpreted the law as it applies in the IOT, to the detriment of the accused. Another highlight was rectifying some extraordinary licence applications, to the benefit of the applicants.
- Another highlight for each year is the community legal education delivered by the Solicitor/Manager and LAWA.
- Twelve talks were given separately about:
 - Leavers' celebrations to CIDHS year 12 students
 - Consumer rights and online safety to CIDHS years 8 to 10 students, Jobseekers group on CKI, the CI Women's Association and CI Islamic community
 - Cyberbullying to CIDHS year 9 students and CKIDHS secondary students
 - Mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse to CKI Health workers
 - Wills and related matters on CKI.

- Small amounts of informal community legal education were given to a number of people including the social worker, the Registrar and Acting Court Registrar, the CDPP and members of the AFP teams on both Islands.
- Articles about legal issues were published in both The Atoll and The Islander and translated into local languages.
- The Solicitor/Manager, LAWA officer and the Director of Civil Law Division liaised or met with numerous stakeholders throughout the reporting year, including Court staff, local AFP teams, the Island's social worker, the CKI community worker, DITRDCA staff, DPC staff, the Administrator, the CDPP, members of staff and the children of the schools on both Islands including the CKIDHS Principal and CI Deputy Principal, the CKI CRC, the CKI Head Imam, officers in other state agencies and the Community Corrections Officer.

Horizon scan

- It is expected that the need for legal assistance by the Islands' residents on both Islands will continue in a similar way and at a similar level.
- A recruitment process will be conducted to replace the retiring Paralegal on CI.
- LAWA intends to continue with programs of community legal education and community talks.
- COVID-19 continues to pose a slight risk in providing face-to-face services to the IOT.
- There are no anticipated legislative amendments that will have a major impact.

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Culture and the Arts

Services

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) (Culture and the Arts) continues to support the development of a diverse arts and culture sector within the IOT through policy development and funding.

Services to the IOT include performing or visual arts tours and recurrent funding to the on-Island arts and culture peak body, Arts and Culture Christmas Island (ACCI).

Highlights and activities

Arts and Culture Christmas Island

ACCI is a vibrant and creative community group which is committed to supporting and engaging the local community through various artistic and cultural events, workshops, and programs throughout the year.

The ACCI also offers a range of equipment for hire as well as the arts room space. The ACCI is supported through Regional Arts WA's Regional Arts Sector Investment program. The program aims to deliver annual initiatives and events, local employment in arts and culture organisations, and boost jobs for professional artists and artworkers delivering creative projects within regional WA communities. ACCI receives multi-year funding through the Regional Arts Sector Investment Program.

Regional Arts WA Touring

Regional Arts WA toured the multi-award-winning musicians Grace Barbe Afro Kreol to CI and CKI, working with presenters ACCI and Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands (SoCKI), to perform a series of concerts and workshops for the local schools and community members.

One performance was held on CI attracting 235 people. Four Rhythm and Singing workshops and Segga Dance workshops were run, with 75 participants, including 61 children (0 to 14 years) and 14 young people (15 to 27 years) with 50 participants being from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background.

The band also performed on CKI at CKIDHS drawing 48 attendees and at HI, drawing 200 audience members. Two workshops were held on HI with 60 students. The first group, aged kindergarten to year four, were taught about the culture and language of the Seychelles, a Creole lullaby and dance. The second group of years nine to 10 students were taught about the island rhythms of Segga and Seggae (a Segga version of reggae) and how the band use the rhythms in their music.

A Creole Cuisine Cooking Workshop was held for the community the day after the performance on the HI southern foreshore. SoCKI arranged a market day to coincide with this event as well as a traditional sailing boat race. The majority of HI residents were in attendance, some 300 people out of the 440 population of the Island.

On CI, the school performance coincided with Harmony Day and was incorporated as part of the day's activities. This involved the wider school community, including parents and families and worked very well with the theme of the performance – particularly the cultural elements.

Horizon scan

Discussions will be held with on-Island stakeholders regarding the 2022–23 performing arts tour. There may be some audience hesitancy from COVID-19 community transmission at large events.

Local Government

Services

The DLGSC (Local Government) builds local government capacity to respond to community expectations, and improved levels of accountability and legislative compliance.

Highlights and activities

- Both IOT Shires continue to provide governance and services to their respective communities. They have achieved accountability, financial, and statutory compliance standards equivalent to local governments in rural and remote WA.
- Provided support to IOT local government elected members and officers in relation to the application of the applied *Local Government Act 1995* (WA) and Regulations.
- Reviewed local government compliance audit returns, budgets, budget reviews, annual financial reports and auditor's reports.
- Undertook regulatory functions primarily related to the administration of the applied *Local Government Act 1995* (WA) including approvals, compliance monitoring, investigations and other statutory support.
- Determined the Australian Government Financial Assistance Grants in accordance with the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cth).
- The IOT officers and elected members attended training in March 2022 for Strategic Decision Making and Planning Practices Essentials.

Horizon scan

- Undertake engagement and consultation with both IOT Shires on legislative reform to the applied *Local Government Act 1995* (WA) as part of the Act Review.
- Arrange a visit by the WA Local Government Grants Commission to the IOT in 2022–23 to discuss the methodology used to calculate the Financial Assistance Grants.

Office of Multicultural Interests

Services

Cultural diversity is one of Australia's greatest assets and DLGSC (Office of Multicultural Interests) works with CaLD communities, on both CI and CKI to promote equity and accessibility.

Highlights and activities

The DLGSC has contracted the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA) to deliver capacity-building initiatives to young people from CaLD backgrounds in the IOT to increase their leadership, communication, advocacy and organisational skills.

The impacts of COVID-19 and adverse weather conditions have impacted planned visits which have been rescheduled for mid-2023.

Horizon scan

YACWA is planning a visit for mid-2023.

Racing, Gaming and Liquor

Services

The DLGSC (Racing, Gaming and Liquor) provides liquor licensing services, including compliance audits and inspection of licensed premises.

Highlights and activities

- Annual liquor returns collection from liquor licensees.
- Quarterly calculation and collection of liquor licence fees.
- DLGSC did not receive either complaints or evidence of any liquor legislation breaches by licensees in the IOT.
- One ongoing area permit application was received and processed.
- Two applications to vary licence conditions were received and processed.
- A Calcutta permit application (to allow a charitable group, community-based organization or sporting body to raise funds for the benefit of the community) was received and processed.

Horizon scan

During 2022–23, DLGSC:

- is planning to reschedule the COVID-19 delayed Racing, Gaming and Liquor Inspector's visits to CKI in July 2022 and CI in September 2022.
- understands there is potential for existing licences at CKI to be affected by increased demand with a new fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workforce being introduced as a result of the Department of Defence airfield upgrade project. This increased demand could also result in new applications for permanent licensed premises being lodged.

Sport and Recreation

Services

The DLGSC (Sport and Recreation) coordinates sport and recreation visits, liaising with key stakeholders and working with both Islands on the strategic direction for sport and recreation.

Highlights and activities

The DLGSC officers visited the IOT from the 7 to 14 December 2021, meeting with key stakeholders on both CI and CKI. The aim of this initiative was to identify the ongoing need for participation activities to address physical and mental wellness issues.

Delivery of the coach-in-residence program was impacted by the inability to obtain flights and accommodation to the IOT, and travel restrictions implemented at times early in 2022.

National Rugby League WA – 20 August to 3 September 2021

The National Rugby League WA (NRL WA) visited CI and CKI with their game development officer, facilitating multiple community engagement initiatives and development activities including:

- 115 CIDHS students participated in an introductory Rugby League session
- two community coaching courses were delivered for CI Hunters Rugby League Club volunteers, with two new coaches becoming accredited to coach junior and senior players
- a junior “Come and Try” day was hosted by NRL WA and the CI local Robbers Rugby League Club
- NRL WA delivered an after-school hours session for the CIDHS “after school care” groups, which engaged 15 participants.

West Coast Eagles – 12 to 19 November 2021

West Coast Eagles (WCE) players Parris Laurie and Nic Naitanui delivered a series of AFL skills workshops and personal development opportunities for children and adults across both CI and CKI. This program supported:

- participation in Auskick programs, and goal setting and resilience sessions at the high schools
- students participated in a building confidence, resilience and setting goals workshops
- women and girls were invited to attend a women’s workshop at the CI Recreation Centre
- Nic Naitanui signed a copy of his newly released children’s book *Little Nic’s Big World*, addressing it to the “Kids of Christmas Island”. The book is now located at the Shire of Christmas Island (SoCI) Library.
- Nic and Parris attended a fundraiser on CI to support a local young boy who requires medical support. The WCE donated a shirt signed by WCE midfielder Luke Shuey and coach Adam Simpson. The signed shirt raised a total of \$4,600 for the cause.

Basketball WA – 19 to 25 October 2021

Basketball WA (BWA) visited CI with the BWA Kimberley Regional Development Manager, facilitating multiple basketball clinics and a coaching program.

The following outcomes were achieved:

- an Aussie Hoops program for CI students from pre-primary through to year four was successfully delivered, with seven sessions being conducted in the weeklong visit
- 3v3 Streetball was very popular at the CIDHS, with students in years five through to 11 participating
- 15 of the 3v3 sessions ran across the week and concluded with an eight-team tournament
- BWA facilitated a coach mentor program, focusing on upskilling locals to be able to deliver Aussie Hoops and 3v3 programs.

Outdoor Recreation Assessment Report by Great Southern Centre for Outdoor Recreation Excellence (Trails Futures) – 1 to 15 February 2022

Great Southern Centre for Outdoor Recreation Excellence, trading as Trails Futures, completed a critical review of outdoor recreation infrastructure, facilities and services in the IOT. The assessment provides an overview of current and future recreational opportunities and constraints in the IOT to inform the development of an effective and agreed outdoor recreation strategy for the Islands. The report identifies assets and land available to support recreation opportunities for residents and visitors. The completed report will be released to SoCI and SoCKI for their information.

Volleyball WA – 22 February to 4 March 2022

Volleyball WA visited CI and CKI and delivered school clinics, community clinics and referee education workshops. Volleyball continues to be a sport of choice in the IOT, demonstrated by:

- 224 CIDHS students participating in clinics delivered at their school
- 37 students from CKIDHS (WI Campus) participated in clinics delivered, while 42 students participated at the CKIDHS (HI Campus) clinics
- community clinics were held, at the CI Recreation Centre, CI Foreshore Recreation Pandang, and the HI Volleyball court. Across the three locations, over 30 participants were engaged in the community volleyball sessions
- seven students participated in an online Level One Referee course prior to the coach's arrival, delivering two practical workshops while on CI.

Badminton WA – 22 to 28 June 2022

A Badminton WA coach visited CI, with a focus on introducing badminton to school students and the wider community. The badminton coach also provided advice for current players to help improve their existing skills set.

Sessions were delivered at the CIDHS, engaging students from year three to year 12. Unfortunately, COVID-19 affected attendance rates of the school-based sessions, with many students either testing positive to COVID or being deemed a close contact. In total, 123 students participated in Badminton sessions throughout the week with recess and lunch tournaments held at the school.

Through Badminton WA's engagement and governance support, players are encouraged to affiliate with Badminton WA. This will provide a sustainable local competition and growth for the club into the future.

Horizon scan

- Coordinate visiting programs and coaching opportunities through organising clinics and forums for athletes, coaches, potential coaches, parents, and officials.
- Advocate for, and support planning and delivery of, opportunities identified within the IOT Outdoor Recreation Assessment, in partnership with SoCI and SoCKI.
- Facilitate access to learning and development opportunities offered remotely to support capacity-building of volunteers and connect with Clubs WA and State Sporting Associations for additional support.
- Identify sport and recreation infrastructure projects within the IOT.
- Provide advice in developing funding applications to support the construction of sport and recreation infrastructure and associated maintenance programs.
- Establish pathways to support identified athletes and coaches with funding and opportunities supported through the Regional Athlete Support Program and Regional Athlete Education Program.

Main Roads WA

Services

Main Roads WA (MRWA) provides advice on road funding and support to the local governments on road assets that may include programming, maintenance, plant and equipment, and traffic management.

Highlights and activities

- MRWA Maintenance Planning Manager (MPM) visited CI from 2 to 6 November 2021. A meeting with SoCI was undertaken which included a pavement inspection, this was followed up with a meeting with IOTA and subsequent advice has been provided on the CI speed zoning
- MRWA MPM also visited to CKI from 7 to 18 March 2022 however, due to COVID-19 protocols and isolation, the CKI visit was restricted to WI. With limited time out of isolation, a video survey of the network was conducted.
- MRWA Plant Manager (PM) visited CI from 15 to 18 February 2022, with inspections of both Plant and Depot Facilities undertaken and advice offered regarding equipment replacement with a view to improving both productivity and safety.
- MRWA PM was to follow the CI visit with a visit to CKI, however COVID-19 restrictions prevented this visit from going ahead.
- MRWA has continued to correspond with CI and CKI and local government representatives regarding providing technical advice.

Horizon scan

- MRWA will continue to provide advice and support to SoCKI for the complementary works on Sydney Highway, as part of the Department of Defence airfield upgrade project.
- Shoulder reconditioning on CKI is urgently required. If local material cannot be sourced then the work may have to be completed as part of any potential airfield upgrade. Discuss the potential for this to happen.
- MRWA MPM and PM to visit both CI and CKI to as part of ongoing support for IOT and local government.
- MRWA to work with SoCKI on the development of unsealed road technologies, including undertaking a pavement investigation.
- MRWA to work with SoCKI on the development of generic Traffic Management Plans for Temporary Roadworks.
- MRWA to work with SoCI and SoCKI on the development, approval and implementation of a consistent speed zone across the respective Islands.
- Seek blanket approval and ensure compliance to current specifications for all existing signage and report to IOT on the outcomes of the traffic signage audit.

Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Services

DMIRS delivers a wide range of services, including key regulatory programs, including regulating building, utility, property, motor vehicle and resource industries, co-operative and not-for-profit sectors; offers consumers dispute resolution and conciliation services; provides information, education and advice to consumers; and promotes and secures the safety and health of people at work.

DMIRS is also responsible for the assessment, approval and management of resource tenure for exploration and production activities, including the provision of environmental approvals and compliance activities; collects, audits and reimburses royalties to the Australian Government; and regulates resource safety issues, including storage, transportation and handling of dangerous goods.

Highlights and activities

- Plumbing and electrical safety and compliance inspections were conducted along with a number of educational presentations to industry and stakeholders.
- Building and Energy representatives assisted with the recruitment process for an IOT Power Service electrical inspector.
- A variety of articles and warning articles were made available in The Islander, The Atoll and through social media.
- Scam awareness posters were produced in a variety of languages and distributed.
- Participated in conversations contributing to statutory and administrative steps to support the CI Strategic Assessment.
- Conducted land tenure activities relating to land tenure proposals and section 91 of the applied *Land Administration Act 1997* (WA) licences.
- WorkSafe (General Industries) inspectors visited to provide information and compliance services to assist stakeholders meet their work health and safety (WHS) obligations.
- WorkSafe (Mines Safety) inspectors completed an inspection and provided information and regulatory guidance.
- A range of resources including guidance documents, videos and webinars were published on DMIRS' website to assist stakeholders with the introduction of new WHS legislation.

Horizon scan

- After discussions with key industry bodies in IOT regarding electricity, gas and plumbing, 2022–23 will include some areas of focus including solar installation approvals, stand-alone installations, safe use of bottled gas, appliance safety checks in retail outlets, and sale of unsafe (not approved) electrical appliances.

- Consultations on the operation of the applied *Commercial Tenancy (Retail Shops) Agreements Act 1985* (WA) and the applied *Associations Incorporation Act 2015* (WA) are being finalised and recommendations are being developed.
- All dangerous goods sites will be inspected during 2022–23.
- WorkSafe (General Industries and Mines Safety) inspectors are scheduled to conduct a number of inspections in 2022–23.
- WorkSafe will continue to expand and update its online resources to support stakeholders to comply with WHS legislation and make their workplaces safer.

Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman WA)

Services

The Ombudsman WA is an independent officer who investigates and resolves complaints about WA agencies and IOT local governments delivering services in the IOT.

Highlights and activities

- One complaint relating to the IOT was received by the Ombudsman.
- The Ombudsman continued to implement a number of strategies to ensure complaint and enquiry services are accessible to all IOT residents.

The Ombudsman WA has a key role in supporting lawful, reasonable, fair and accountable decision making and practices by WA state agencies in the IOT and by IOT local government authorities.

One complaint was finalised by the Ombudsman and no complaints were on hand as at 30 June 2022.

Initiatives to make services accessible included:

- Access to the Ombudsman through a toll-free number, email and online services
- Information on how to make a complaint to the Ombudsman in 18 languages, including the languages used in the IOT, in print and audio formats.
- Access to the Translating and Interpreting Service if people need an interpreter and the National Relay Service if they have a hearing or speech impairment.

Horizon scan

- Continue to provide awareness of, and access to, the services provided by the Ombudsman among the IOT communities.
- Continue to provide independent and timely complaint resolution and enquiry services and to maintain strong relationships with public authorities and communities in the IOT.

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

Land Use Planning

Services

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (Land Use Planning) provides Crown land administration services, advice on policy and the process in dealing with Crown land tenure in the IOT.

Planning also provides professional and technical expertise, administrative services and resources to advise the WA Planning Commission (WAPC).

Highlights and activities

- Administered and delivered the prescribed legislative processes to enable the WAPC determination of a Report of Review on the SoCKI Local Planning Scheme No. 1.
- Collaborated with SoCKI, and DITRDCA to commence the CKI Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning (CHRMAP) project.
- Collaborated with SoCI to scope the project tasks towards a review of its local planning strategy and local planning scheme.
- Provided planning advice in response to various enquiries from the Australian Government, state agencies and IOT communities regarding land use planning matters in the IOT.

Horizon scan

DPLH will continue to collaborate with SoCKI and DITRDCA, to progress the delivery of:

- the CHRMAP project during 2022–23
- a review of the SoCKI local planning scheme, and preparation of a new local planning strategy, during 2023–24.

DPLH will also continue to collaborate with SoCI to progress the preparation of a revised local planning strategy and local planning scheme, which is expected to be completed in 2023–24.

Land Use Management

Services

The DPLH (Land Use Management) exercises its powers and performance of functions and duties in the IOT.

Highlights and activities

- Advice and assistance in the disposition and management of Crown land in the IOT consistent with DPLH's processes, policies and procedures. This is to meet public infrastructure and development needs and administrative services to provide support to Crown land allocation decisions of the Australian Government.
- Assistance to the Australian Government to project manage a number of major projects and developments over Crown land within the IOT.
- Assistance with mapping, stakeholder referrals and land valuations.
- Preparation and amendment of updated precedent land tenure deeds to align with Australian and WA government and IOT legislation. These are being reviewed by DITRDCA.
- General advice on surveys and associated processes associated with Crown land dispositions.

Horizon scan

DPLH will continue to provide land tenure services to the IOT on behalf of the Australian Government, as required.

To support the delivery of the above, DPLH in consultation with DITRDCA is reviewing its current processes for the delivery of Crown land tenure on the IOT, with a view to optimise its service delivery.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Marine Pest Surveillance

Services

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) Aquatic Pest Biosecurity (APB) designs and implements marine biosecurity surveillance programs for marine pest species in the IOT, aligning with the WA Prevention List for Introduced Marine Pests and the National Priority Pest List. Introduced marine species surveillance is essential to preventing the introduction of marine pests to Australia, by aiming to detect new species at an early stage of invasion.

Highlights and activities

The Marine Pest surveillance biosecurity survey design of CI Port was completed in 2021–22, however due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the field work was delayed to occur in 2022–23.

Horizon scan

APB was due to conduct a marine biosecurity survey of the port CI in June 2022. The community was informed by a notice in *The Islander*. APB was also planning to engage with the community regarding introduced marine species as part of the Ocean Awareness week in June 2022. However, the survey was cancelled due to COVID-19 and re-scheduled to September 2022.

Most scheduled activities from the 2022 CI marine pest surveillance design were implemented as planned. However, some of the Remote Operated Vehicles (ROV) inspections could not be employed as the ROV was unavailable due to mechanical issues. As a result, mooring buoys were inspected by snorkel surveys and underwater video surveillance was added at Flying Fish Cove and Smith Point. Snorkel surveys at Smith Point also could not be completed due to weather conditions. APB completed an additional dive survey at Smith Point. An additional shoreline search at Waterfall Beach was also conducted as part of the survey that was not initially included in the survey design.

Changes to DPIRD diving regulations and the impact of COVID-19 in implementing marine pest surveillance in the IOT presents a major challenge to APB. DPIRD diving regulations now require a minimum of four staff to conduct all diving activities. Staff members who contract COVID-19 are banned from diving for one-month post-infection and pending clearance from a dive medical. Training requirements for DPIRD staff have also increased, putting additional pressure on staff availability and resources. As a result, APB anticipate the cost and resources required to implement future marine biosecurity surveys at IOT will increase should COVID-19 continue to affect service delivery. Field work scheduling and contingencies will have to be carefully considered regarding these issues.

Sustainability and biosecurity

DPIRD (Sustainability and biosecurity) provides biosecurity services in the IOT. Services include: policy advice, agricultural development, horticultural development, animal welfare, biosecurity including aquatic biosecurity, and a pest and disease information service.

Highlights and activities

Parthenium weed eradication program

- DPIRD conducted one survey in January 2022 which was the 43rd survey of Parthenium weed on CI.
- The survey was conducted across the known 26 infestation sites, during which 25 sites remained free from Parthenium weed, while on one site, six plants were detected and destroyed.
- At the remaining 25 sites, Parthenium weed has not been detected for over five-years, and it is considered to be eradicated at these sites. Although the detection of new plants in 2022 is troubling, the relatively small number of plants provides a high level of confidence that, with careful and ongoing monitoring, eradication is still achievable.
- DPIRD developed a communication plan and an information flyer to communicate the Parthenium weed project to CI stakeholders and community to seek assistance with plant detection and reporting. These documents will be disseminated to CI stakeholders in early 2022–23.

Siam weed control program

- DPIRD conducted three surveys for Siam weed in October 2021, and January and June 2022 on CKI.
- Siam weed numbers continue to decline on HI with 122 plants detected in 2021–22 (50 per cent decrease from 2020–21). On WI, the program removed 2,953 plants, a 68 per cent increase in detected and controlled plants from the previous year. The increase of plant numbers on WI was primarily a result of the clearing of a few tracks within dense shrubland, which allowed better access to sites which were not accessible and surveyed before. This in turn increased the detection of plants.

Macao Paper Wasp control program and research project

- The Macao Paper Wasp (MPW) control program destroyed 1,080 nests from CKI—a considerable decrease from the previous two years. This was likely due to a decreased effort, which is currently mainly focused on nest control within the settlement areas as opposed to all areas within the Islands.
- DPIRD conducted three surveys in CKI (in October 2021, and January and March 2022) during which it assessed:
 - seasonal phenology of MPW from 60 collected nests
 - natural and human induced mortality of nests in selected locations
 - seasonal foraging and nesting densities of wasps on WI and HI.
- During the three surveys in CKI, DPIRD also:
 - Undertook two water baiting experiments which assessed the repellency and effectiveness of two insecticides in three concentrations on colony mortality
 - Trialled several insecticides for efficacy in nest control and tested effectiveness of 12 commercial lures
 - Monitored the spread of wasps into the Atoll's southern Islands.

- DPIRD continued to support the employment of 1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) at SoCKI in MPW control, data acquisition and support for the research project, upkeep of stings register, and communication of the program to the community.

Exotic termites, including Drywood termites

- DPIRD drafted a proposal to DITRDCA aimed at reducing the incidence of exotic termite infestation. The proposal recommends amending the IOT building codes and practices to ensure only treated timber and other non-susceptible building materials are used for new structures and for the maintenance of existing infrastructure throughout the IOT. The proposal will be provided to CKI and CI Shires in 2022–23.

Exotic ants, including tropical fire ants

- In 2021–22, DPIRD continued to quantify species diversity and the abundance of exotic ants within two heavily infested public areas on CKI WI. They tested the efficacy of three proprietary baits (Synergy Pro, Hymenophor Ultra and Advion) and two non-commercially available ant baits (indoxacarb and IGR).
- Four baits (Synergy Pro, Hymenophor Ultra, IGR, and Indoxacarb) were effective in reducing and maintaining low populations of ant species for more than four months. The fifth bait (Advion) instantly reduced the number of ants (within one week). Further counts will be conducted to assess the long-term effectiveness of Advion.

Horizon scan

- Community and stakeholder engagement remain a key priority for DPIRD. DPIRD has employed a communication/policy officer at 0.2 FTE, who will assist with IOT stakeholder engagement in 2022–23.
- DPIRD collected two species of *Eumenidae* (mud wasps), *Protaetia sp.* (Setonid beetles), and plant hopper Psyllids for determination of possible recent exotic introductions to CKI. Collection also included banana lace bugs, and Rhinoceros beetles and larvae for an international molecular microbiome study, and various subterranean and dampwood termite species for molecular determination.
- DPIRD has identified two species of Eumenid mud wasps (family *Vespidae*), which may prove an emerging issue on CKI, with a wasp nesting occupation rate of more than 90 per cent of nesting-traps placed at the CKI airport over two months. Mud wasp nesting activity has been known to interfere with sensitive external aviation equipment in Australia and elsewhere in the world. In January 2022, Virgin Australia and Toll Aviation representatives were informed by DPIRD of the risks associated with Eumenid wasps.
- COVID-19 continued to impact all DPIRD programs in 2021–22. Although none of the planned surveys were cancelled, the timing, duration, and intensity (e.g., number of personnel) of some surveys was reduced due to travelling restrictions.

Regional Development

Services

DPIRD (Regional Development) provides the following two key activities:

- Community Resource Centre (CRC): the two CRCs are locally owned and managed organisations providing a wide array of information and community-based services and activities.
- Territories Price Index (TPI): A TPI is undertaken, as required, to analyse the cost of a basket of goods for a person living in the IOT compared to a person living in Perth.

Highlights and activities

Community Resource Centres

- The CKI CRC is funded through a community service agreement. The CRC is currently meeting or exceeding all performance indicators of this agreement. The CRC continues to provide a presence on HI to provide extended CRC services to the community and visitors. The CRC has secured Regional Traineeship Grant funding to assist in the employment of a trainee at the CRC. The CRC is well regarded by the community and visitors to the Island.
- The CI CRC is funded through a Financial Assistance Agreement. The CI CRC continues to work with DPIRD to increase its profile and services. The CI CRC operates the CI Op Shop where items are refurbished for resale to the community. This is a well-used facility on the Island.
- DPIRD provided active support to both CRCs to enable them to achieve agreed outcomes, including regular phone and email support.
- Australian Government funding was provided through DPIRD to both CRCs.
- Both CKI and CI CRCs:
 - were open a minimum of 25 hours per week
 - provided computers for community use, access to government information and referral services for local providers
 - hosted community education, social and business activities.
- The CKI CRC continues to produce The Atoll, a regular community information newsletter, and publishes a community directory.
- The CI CRC continues to maintain an online register of local service providers, businesses, and Government agencies.
- DPIRD's CRC branch has not undertaken a visit to CI and CKI CRCs since early 2021.

Territories Price Index

- Collection of prices for a basket of goods on CKI and CI, and coordination and validation of the data occurred in early 2021.

- Preparation of the “IOT Price Index 2021” (TPI) report was prepared for presentation to DITRDCA in October 2022.

Horizon scan

- DPIRD will continue to work closely with both CKI and CI CRCs to determine if additional support is required to improve and enhance services.
- The CKI CRC will celebrate 20 years of service to the CKI community in 2022.
- The next TPI is scheduled to be undertaken in February 2023 and will build on the previous surveys undertaken in 2011, 2019 and 2021.

Salaries and Allowances Tribunal

Services

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) is an independent statutory authority that, on behalf of the Australian Government, determines the remuneration to be paid to the Territories' local government CEOs and the fees, expenses and allowances provided to elected members.

On an annual basis, the SAT is required to inquire into and determine:

- the amount of remuneration, or the minimum and maximum amounts of remuneration, to be paid or provided to CEOs of local governments
- the amount of fees, or the minimum and maximum amounts of fees, to be paid or provided to elected council members for attendance at meetings
- the amount of expenses, or the minimum and maximum amounts of expenses, to be reimbursed to elected council members
- the amount of allowances, or the minimum and maximum amounts of allowances, to be paid to elected council members and CEOs of local governments.

Highlights and activities

The SAT conducted the Local Government CEO and Elected Member remuneration inquiry. The final determination was issued by the SAT on 7 April 2022 and set the remuneration to be payable to the CEOs and elected members of the SoCI and SoCKI for 2022–23.

Horizon scan

The SAT will conduct the annual inquiry for local government CEOs and Elected Member remuneration during 2022–23 and will issue a determination no later than 6 April 2023.

State Library of WA

Services

The libraries on CI and CKI operate with State Library of WA (SLWA) stock. The State Library:

- preserves the documentary heritage of the IOT
- provides a collection of books and other materials
- provision of consultancy and advisory services, and training for CI and CKI Shire Librarians
- supports the development of literacy in children, providing them with greater potential to grow, learn and develop.

Under agreements with the SoCI and SoCKI, the shires provide staff, library accommodation, equipment and other infrastructure, and pay for the return freight of book exchanges from the IOT to Perth.

Highlights and activities

- Exchanges of library materials sent to the IOT libraries regularly throughout the year, with the three IOT libraries receiving 3,044 items, including English language and materials in languages other than English.
- Free access to the State-wide electronic resources, including eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, streaming films, videos and music, and an Online Book Club.
- SLWA staff visit and the provision of face-to-face support and training to IOT library staff.
- The provision of Better Beginnings family literacy program reading packs to all parents with a baby pack, a second reading pack for toddlers, as well as a reading pack for kindergarten children.
- Library staff support through an online tool (includes a training platform), email and phone.

Horizon scan

- IOT public library members have the same level of access to online materials as for all WA public library members.
- SLWA staff will provide Better Beginnings training and advice to library staff.
- Support training and advice is provided to IOT library staff.

Department of Training and Workforce Development

Services

The Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) provides advice, assistance and support on vocational education and training (VET) matters and related training services. This includes the management of training contracts for apprentices and trainees and group training arrangements.

Highlights and activities

Vocational Education and Training Policies

- Advised Indian Ocean Group Training Association (IOGTA) management of vocational education and training policies and reforms being implemented, including application of national programs and the WA Government's incentive programs.
- Responded to requests for information from IOGTA management and other IOT stakeholders, and providing assistance in meeting the relevant agency requirements.

Training Services—Administration of Apprentices and Trainees

- Administered apprentices and trainees from the IOT employed under Training Contracts in accordance with the relevant Act and Regulations.
- Registered 16 trade apprentices (15 on CI and one on CKI) in Engineering Tradesperson Mechanical/ Fabrication/Electrical, Carpentry and Joinery, Electrical Mechanics and Plant Operations.
- 29 trainees (19 on CI and 10 on CKI) in Business, Early Childhood Education, Maritime Operations, Surface Extraction Operations, Pest Management, Food and Beverage, Catering Operations, Tourism, Telecommunications, OH&S, Customer Engagement and Correctional Practice also commenced in the 2021–22 financial year and were registered using the State Agency's training records system.
- Of the 45 commencements in 2021–22, seven were employed with IOGTA and the others directly with employers in the IOT.
- Provided monitoring and advice as requested to employers and apprentices and trainees who were in training at any one time in the 2021–22 financial year, regardless of their commencement dates.
- Provided for dispute resolution, variation, suspension and cancellation of Training Contracts as required.
- Provided for two apprenticeship completions, including the issue of Trade Certificates and nine traineeship completions (excluding those in the correctional practice traineeship).
- Assessed eligibility and processed payment claims for IOT employers under the WA Employer Incentive Scheme.

Training Services—Group Training Operations IOGTA

- Entered into contractual arrangements with IOGTA for the 2021–22 WA Group Training Program (WAGTP) funding allocation.
- Provided information and clarification on the WAGTP specifications, including the funded categories and its related requirements.
- Confirmed the level of WAGTP funding to be allocated to IOGTA for support services to be provided to IOGTA apprentices and trainees.
- Paid the achieved level of WAGTP funding to IOGTA.
- Advised and supported IOGTA in relation to its role as a registered group training organisation to assist in meeting its obligations.

IOGTA's audit against the National Standards for Group Training Organisations 2017 was undertaken in August 2021 by a DTWD-appointed external auditor. IOGTA was found to be compliant with the standards and IOGTA's registration to operate as a group training organisation has been extended to 31 August 2024.

Department of Transport

Services

The Department of Transport (Transport) provides advice, assistance and support on transport issues including driver and vehicle licensing, vehicle safety standards, marine safety, on-demand transport, transport planning, aviation, freight and active transport.

Highlights and activities

- In November 2021 and May 2022, Vehicle Compliance Officers provided training to new Vehicle Examiners on CI and conducted vehicle safety inspections on CKI.
- Driver Compliance Officers provided Practical Driving Assessment (PDA) training for motorcycles, cars and trucks to the AFP. With the AFP's local knowledge of the Islands, new PDA route maps were developed to ensure driver/rider skills for each element of an assessment are tested to the highest road safety standards.
- In March 2022, a Transport officer visited both Islands to gain local and tourist perspectives into the current and future use and need for on-demand passenger transport services.
- Maritime Officer from the Waterways Safety Management Directorate:
 - visited schools to promote the Junior Crew program, which highlighted safety on the water including identifying the difference between type 1 and type 2 lifejackets and the importance of wearing type 1 lifejackets which have greater buoyancy
 - trained staff at the Motor Vehicle Registries (MVR) on the new vessel registration process
 - provided Marine Inspector Regulatory Enforcement Policy (MIREP) training to the AFP covering all aspects of Maritime Safety education, compliance and investigation functions under the applied *Western Australian Marine Act 1982 (WA)* and the applied Navigable Waters Regulation 1958.
- Driver and vehicle licensing training was provided to new MVR and AFP staff on both Islands using remote training techniques.
- The tender process for the continued provision of vehicle inspection services on CI was completed. Phosphate Resources Limited signed a new agreement with Transport to provide the service from November 2021.

Horizon scan

A tender for the provision of vehicle inspection services on CKI closed in October 2022 and is currently under review. Should a suitable applicant be appointed, then an inspection service will be available on both WI and HI within six-months.

Water Corporation

Services

The Water Corporation supports the administration and management of water and wastewater services to the IOT community. It also generates and distributes electricity to the CKI community.

Highlights and activities

- COVID-19 response actions and management of staff and resourcing within the Water Corporation Policy Implementation Plan and Systems, including COVID-19 surveillance testing for employees.
- Management of services during the impact of COVID-19 travel restrictions.
- Replacement, installation and commissioning of the new Ultra Violet (UV) disinfection unit at WI wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).
- CI five-yearly tank cleaning program and asset condition assessment completed by Fremantle Commercial Diving.
- CKI HI WWTP modifications to balance tank floor completed, improving operability of the treatment plant and managing response to ongoing process issues.
- CKI HI water site office installation and fit-out completed.
- CKI HI power station site office and control room installation.
- CKI HI WWTP site office installation – awaiting final connection of power and services in late 2022.
- IOT community art program completed, with school and community workshops undertaken, before mural design and completion.
- School education program on CI in a joint collaboration with DWER. Education sessions and site visits to water sources, to promote the importance of protecting the CI water sources.
- New process and equipment for water service repairs (plumb guard) resulting in a good relationship when working around power domes with IOT Power Service on CI. This improved process has resulted in safer repairs for operators.
- Mental Health initiative at Water Corporation, with Mental Health Champions continuing in their roles to provide support and resources to the on-Island teams.
- Water Quality reporting to WA Department of Health, aligned with Water Corporation reporting processes.
- CI leak management ongoing for Summit to Drumsite main and other key locations on CI. Announcement by DITRDCA of funding for the main replacement project in 2022–23.
- Design completed for Summit to Drumsite main replacement. Tender completed and principal contractor awarded the works.

- Internal Health, Safety and Environmental Audit completed by Water Corporation's Safety and Wellbeing Team.
- Attendance at North West Regional Forums, including Occupational Safety and Health, and Operations Assistant Forums, to promote transfer of knowledge and processes across the North West Region and Water Corporation.
- Technical support arrangements with Water Corporation specialists in Water Quality, Wastewater Quality Treatment Technical Support to IOT.
- Additional support from Perth Civil and Mechanical teams to CI when required to backfill or specialist projects.
- Roll-out of updated Safe Job Planning process; including recruitment and selection of supporting positions for this process.
- CKI West Island water source and treatment plant funding for design and bore drilling, and WWTP capacity upgrade. Awaiting approvals to further progress the project.
- Vocus fibre connection to CI has resulted in improvement in video conferencing capability, and increased usage for meetings and workshops on the mainland without the requirement for travel.
- Improvements to pressure reducing valve pits by installing control boards above ground. This reduces safety risks and frequency of confined space entry to service the valves.

Operations snapshot	Number
Properties serviced	1,213
Drinking water produced	1,052ML
Wastewater treated	424ML
Water quality and wastewater samples taken	1,709
CKI power generation	5,106MWh

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Environmental Protection Authority Services

Services

Deliver quality advice and services to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to support the protection of the environment.

Highlights and activities

Working with DPLH on the CI Strategic Assessment (CISA) for potential scheme plan considerations.

Horizon scan

Potential requirement for CKI scheme plan amendment to facilitate industrial areas on WI. These industrial areas are necessary to support the Department of Defence runway upgrade project.

Environmental Regulation

Services

DWER (Environmental Regulation) provides services to the IOT through the administration of environmental law, including regulation of prescribed premises, emissions and wastes, incident protection, response, community engagement and education. Prescribed premises are industrial premises with the potential to cause emissions and discharges to air, land or water.

Highlights and activities

Twelve prescribed activities regulated under the provisions of the applied *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA); being nine prescribed premises licences and three registrations.

No new licence applications or amendments were undertaken for the reporting period. However, DWER received an appeal against a licence renewal during the reporting period. The appeal is being considered by the Australian Government Minister for Territories.

- The SoCKI incinerator has ceased operating. SoCKI has advised the incinerator is not fit-for-purpose and, due to its design, an occupational health and safety risk.
- SoCKI has limited public access to their landfill/transfer station areas to times and days that are open to the public but under strict supervision of SoCKI. This action by SoCKI has improved the management and assessment of waste the SoCKI is lawfully allowed to receive for final disposal.

Native Vegetation Regulation

Christmas Island

Three new fern species have been identified as indigenous to CI and are considered 'native vegetation' under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA) (CI). These are: Sword ferns: *Nephrolepis multiflora*; *Nephrolepis biserrata*; and *Macaranga tanarius*.

Photographs and a description of *Macaranga tanarius* and *Nephrolepis biserrata* are available in the publication: *Native Plants of Christmas Island* (Claussen, 2005).

A clearing permit to clear these new fern species will be required from DWER, unless an exemption applies.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands

The native coconut species *Cocos nucifera* has been identified as a native vegetation species to CKI. The species *Cocos nucifera* has been established to be native to CKI, but only within its indigenous environment, i.e., along the shoreline where seed nuts can naturally move and germinate.

In addition, and in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA) (CKI) interpretation, the known and identified native vegetation species includes their regrowth within the historical plantations, however, the coconut tree *Cocos nucifera* is excluded within this environment where it does not include a shoreline and the plantation is solely inland.

A clearing permit to clear the coconut tree *Cocos nucifera* from its indigenous environment will be required from DWER, unless an exemption applies.

Waste Policy and Programs

DWER and Keep Australia Beautiful Council officers engaged with the community, schools and local government on issues related to waste reduction/avoidance and waste management on the Islands.

Activities during the year included:

- Through the Shires and communities of both Territories, commitment to collect and audit marine debris.
- In partnership with the CIDHS, DWER continued the education program for students on plastic waste, reduction and reuse.
- The SoCKI and SoCI both launched their respective Drink Tap Water Projects in 2022. The objective of this project is to change community behaviour on CKI and CI from imported drinking water source to on-Island tap water, with a local law banning the sale of single use water bottles less than five litres.

Continued engagement with DITRDCA for the following policy programs:

- CISA
- IOT Strategic Waste Management Policy
- Coastal Hazard Risk Management Adaption Plan (CHRMAP)
- The Shire lead reviews of their Scheme Plan/s that includes consideration for alternative industrial zoned area for SoCKI – WI and the appropriate zoning for areas on CI.

Horizon scan

Environmental Regulation

Assessment for Prescribed Premises Licensing requirements and native vegetation clearing permits to facilitate the Department of Defence runway upgrade project on CKI WI.

Waste Policy and Programs

- Continued support, where necessary, to the IOT Shires for their local collection and audit of marine debris.
- Continued leadership and support for IOT environmental education programs.
- SoCKI, in consultation with DWER, is progressing a Local Law to provide SoCKI with regulatory control to assist their management of community waste streams, pick-ups, etc.
- The introduction of a Local Law will assist the community understand their responsibilities for the management of their waste streams and how the SoCKI provides the necessary services for the collection and final disposal of waste streams.
- SoCKI has initiated a native vegetation rehabilitation program for CKI. SoCKI, through their Environmental Officer, has established a propagation facility of known native vegetation species of CKI. The Shire has used the young plantings from this facility to rehabilitate areas of HI and WI with CKI known native vegetation species.
- Continued input to the development of DITRDCA's Strategic Waste Management Policy. A policy that establishes Australian Government leadership, direction, and funding for waste infrastructure/management.
- Continued input to the development of DITRDCA's CISA.

Water

Services

DWER (Water) provides advice and support on licensing and water source regulation and protection, measure and assess groundwater and allocation of consumptive use.

Highlights and activities

- Providing advice to DITRDCA on Parks Australia proposal for a potential recreational facility at Grants Well in the CI National Park.
- Continuing the water education program – “Water – Our Precious Resource” in the CIDHS.

Horizon scan

Potential requirement for CKI scheme plan amendment to facilitate industrial areas on WI. These industrial areas are necessary to support the Department of Defence runway upgrade project.

WA Electoral Commission

Services

The WA Electoral Commission (WAEC) is responsible for providing services in the following areas:

- conducting local government elections
- promoting community awareness of the electoral process.

Highlights and activities

Visit and Education Delivery

From 24 to 31 August 2021, the WAEC visited CKI and CI schools and communities to deliver education on the role of the WAEC and electoral process and voting, participation, and candidacy. Electoral education programs were delivered to school groups in alignment with the Civics and Citizenship component of the WA Humanities and Social Sciences and Australian Curriculum. Five education sessions to school students (year 6-10) were delivered regarding the electoral process.

During this visit, the WAEC met with stakeholders to determine initiatives for delivery on future visits. This visit helped the WAEC to establish positive relationships with many officials and community members in both territories.

Local Government Elections

The WAEC was requested to conduct the CKI Local Government Ordinary Election, held on 16 October 2021. The following services were provided by the WAEC:

- conducting the draws for positions on the ballot papers
- receiving and reviewing candidate profiles and photographs
- issuing replacement voting packages
- organising the count
- declaring the result of elections
- parcelling the ballot papers and election material for storage by SoCKI.

Horizon scan

The WA Government is currently considering amendments to the applied *Local Government Act 1995* (WA), which, if passed, will introduce optional preferential voting for all council elections. The WAEC will work with the Australian Government to determine what educational and operational support can be provided.

WA Museum

Services

The WA Museum provides information and expert advice on the planning, development, management and operation of museums as community assets. There is access to the specialist areas of collections management, conservation and interpretation; advice regarding the provision of interactive multimedia and online programming; assistance with making grant applications relating to museum operations; and facilitate access to sector training and mentoring programs.

Highlights and activities

Christmas Island

- WA Museum staff initiated relationship-building remotely prior to visiting for a scoping trip from 22 February to 4 March 2022 which informed next year's work plan. Stakeholder engagement occurred with IOTA, SoCI, Christmas Island Phosphates, CLA, Christmas Island Visitor Centre, Malay Association and CIDHS.
- The frozen bird specimens from Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment, (collected in 2020–21) were genetically analysed in Perth for the continued scientific study of migratory bird species.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands

- WA Museum continued to support the Emerging Curators and their engagement with the program this year. This mentoring included online mentoring and finalisation of the oral history project. The highlight of the year was hosting two of the Emerging Curators, for professional development in Perth from 7 to 17 June 2022. During this time, the Emerging Curators also attended the Australian Museums and Galleries Conference.

Horizon scan

The WA Museum would value the opportunity to work concurrently on CKI and CI to ensure the long-term sustainability of professional development, local outcomes, and to embed skills.

The 2022–23 financial year is an opportunity for WA Museum to review and evaluate services offered on CKI and continue to build relationships and networks on CI all with the aim of developing programs that meet the needs of CI and CKI communities now and into the future.

WA Planning Commission

Services

The WAPC:

- undertakes its functions as prescribed in the applied *Planning and Development Act 2005 (WA)*
- provides information, advice and recommendations to the Australian Government Minister on land use planning, land development and infrastructure coordination in the IOT.

Highlights and activities

During 2021–22, the WAPC performed its functions to determine a Report of Review on the SoCKI Local Planning Scheme No. 1.

Horizon scan

The WAPC will continue to deliver its services to the IOT on behalf of the Australian Government, as required.

WorkCover WA

Services

WorkCover WA (WorkCover) administers the applied *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981* (WA). The agency provides advice, assistance and education, dispute resolution services, and monitors and enforces compliance with the legislation.

Highlights and activities

Claims Monitoring

WorkCover monitored claim numbers and costs to inform education and enforcement activity.

The number of claims in the IOT continues to decrease with the total cost of claims reducing from \$1.08 million in 2016–17 to \$762,577 in 2021–22.

Compliance

Following desktop inspections on CI, two investigations were identified as requiring site visits for potential breaches. While on CI, a further potential breach was identified, and site visit undertaken. Two of the cases resulted in no further action and the third case is ongoing, pending the provision of requested information.

Communications and Education

WorkCover undertook proactive communication and education activities to support the SDA. This included an educational visit to CI where a WorkCover officer met with representatives from Phosphate Resources Limited, IOGTA and CI Hospital to facilitate an improved understanding of the workers' compensation and injury management scheme. WorkCover actively promoted translated publications and educational materials through targeted emails.

Dispute Resolution and Agreement Processing

WorkCover continued to provide a fair and timely dispute resolution, ensuring stakeholders have access to a high quality of service through WorkCover Conciliation and Arbitration Services.

Horizon scan

WorkCover will travel to CKI in November 2023 to:

- provide education and information to workers and employers about workers' compensation, injury management obligations and entitlements
- liaise with medical and other service providers about workers' compensation entitlements, Certificates of Capacity, injury management and return to work activities
- meet with community groups, local government and individuals to provide information and education regarding workers' compensation
- undertake compliance investigations as required.