The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Proposed common use infrastructure on Christmas Island

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

August 2002 Canberra © Commonwealth of Australia 2002 ISBN [Click **here** and type ISBN Number]

Contents

Membership of the Committee	V
Extract from the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives	vi
List of recommendations	. vii

REPORT

1	Introduction	1
	Referral of Work	1
	Background	1
	Inquiry Process	2
	Inspections and Public Hearing	3
2	The Proposed Works	5
	Scope and Options	5
	The Cost	6
	Revenue Generation	6
	Purpose and Suitability	6
	Need and Public Value	
	Suitability	7
	Safety Measures	7

3	Consultations, Comments and Conclusions	11
	Consultations	
	Shire of Christmas Island	11
	Christmas Island Phosphates	
	DoTARS Response	
	Loss of Employment Opportunities	
	Heritage and Environmental Issues	15
	General Issues	
	Conclusions	

APPENDICES

Appendix A - List of submissions and exhibits	19
Submissions	
Appendix B – Submission No. 1 from the Department of Trans Services	port and Regional
Appendix C - Official transcript of evidence	45

Membership of the Committee

Chair Hon Judi Moylan M	Ρ
-------------------------	---

Deputy Chair Mr Brendan O'Connor MP

Members Mr Harry Jenkins MP

Mr Peter Lindsay MP

Mr Jim Lloyd MP

Mr Bernie Ripoll MP

Senator Paul Calvert Senator Alan Ferguson Senator Michael Forshaw

Committee Secretariat

SecretaryMrs Margaret SwieringaInquiry SecretaryMs Marie KawajaAdministrative OfficersMs Tiana GrayMrs Belinda McCannMr Daniel Miletic

Extract from the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives

Extract from the VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 14 dated Thursday, 21 March 2002

PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—CHRISTMAS ISLAND AIRPORT

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: Proposed Christmas Island common-use infrastructure—Christmas Island Airport.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

List of recommendations

2 The Proposed Works

Recommendation 1

In order to encourage international aircraft to use Christmas Island, the Committee recommends, as a matter of urgency, that the Department of Transport and Regional Services approach the Civil Aviation Safety Authority to remove its exemption on the provision of emergency services at the airport.

3 Consultations, Comments and Conclusions

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Department of Transport and Regional Services seek further consultations with the Shire of Christmas Island in order to address any concerns raised by the Shire to the mutual satisfaction of the Shire and the Commonwealth.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Department of Transport and Regional Services enter into discussions with Christmas Island Phosphates in order to reach a compromise with regard to the removal of phosphate deposits from areas affected by the airport upgrades without the company's activities impacting on the cost or time frame of the project.

Recommendation 4

The Committee strongly recommends that the Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government consider a social impact study and, if necessary, institute action to upgrade Christmas Island infrastructure and services to ensure that the local community is not disadvantaged by the anticipated increase of workers assigned to the proposed public works projects.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends the proposed common use infrastructure project on Christmas Island proceed pending approval of the draft Environmental Impact Statement and the fulfilment of the recommendations made in this report.