COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS VESSEL CODE OF CONDUCT & INFORMATION GUIDE

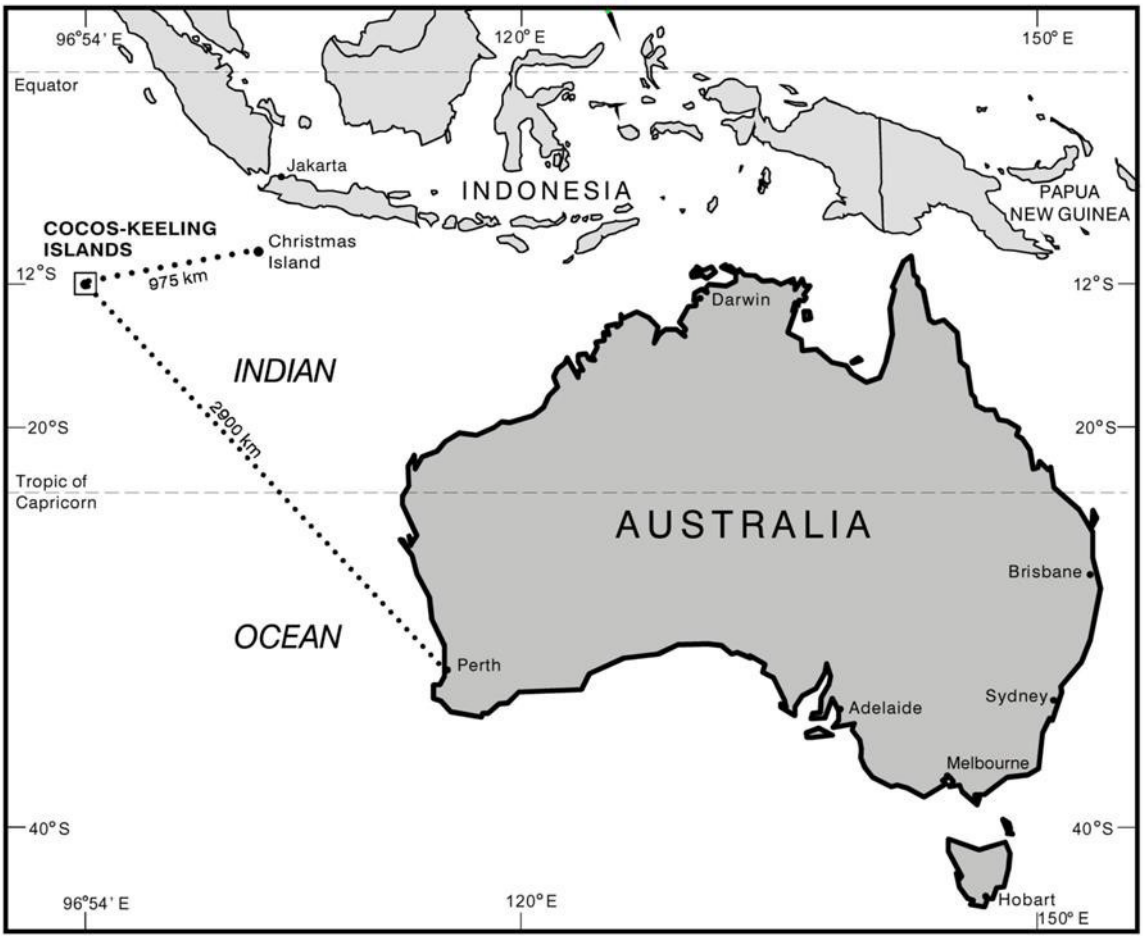
LINX

SHIRE OF COCOS KEELING ISLANDS

AFP

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands are located in the Indian Ocean at latitude 12°10' south and longitude 96°52' east. They are 2,950 km north-west of Perth, 3,700 west of Darwin, 1,270km south-west of Jakarta, Indonesia and 975 km west-south-west of Christmas Island. There are twenty-seven coral islands in the group with a total land area of approximately 14 square kilometres.

There are 26 islands in the southern atoll of which two, Home Island and West Island, are inhabited. North Keeling Island is found 24 kilometres to the north and is a single horseshoe shaped atoll of about 1.2 square kilometres.



YACHTS & PLEASURE CRAFT – STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The information contained herein applies to the non-commercial use of pleasure craft, motor sailors and motor cruisers and provides an outline of the procedures and legal requirements which apply to the Master of these vessels arriving into and departing from Australia. If you are in charge of any of the above mentioned craft, you are considered the Master of the craft, even if you are not its owner and the

owner is on board. Whether you are a returning resident, migrating to Australia or a visitor, you need to comply with entry requirements.

CUSTOMS, QUARANTINE AND IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

For the latest information please visit:
https://www.abf.gov.au/entering-and-leaving-australia/entering-and-leaving-by-sea

The Port of Cocos (Keeling) Islands is a declared port of entry for Australia. Please note that the function of the Australian Border Force (ABF) is conducted by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Arriving at Cocos (Keeling) Islands:

If you are travelling by boat, the master of a vessel arriving in Australia is required by law to give notice of impending arrival at least 96 hours before arrival.

1. Make sure each person on board has a valid passport and visa for Australia.

2. Coming from an international port, the master of a vessel is required by law to notify the Department of Home Affairs before arriving in Australia. This should be done 96 hours before arrival. Penalties may apply for failure to do so.

   - Complete the B333 Small Arrival Report form (https://www.abf.gov.au/form-listing/forms/b333.pdf)
   - Send an email to yachtreport@homeaffairs.gov.au; or
   - Phone Australian Border Force on +61 2 6246 1325

(nb: if arriving from another Australian port, skip this step as this should already be completed if Cocos was on your planned itinerary)

3. On approach to Cocos (Keeling) Islands, radio AFP on VHF Channel 20 and announce your imminent arrival. Call 'Cocos Police, Cocos Police, Cocos Police' from '(*name of your vessel*)'.

4. On arrival, drop anchor in the designated anchorage area at Direction Island and display the yellow International Pratique Q-flag.

5. Radio AFP on VHF Channel 20 to confirm your arrival. You will be advised about customs and quarantine procedures. All persons (and animals) must remain onboard.

6. AFP will attend your location to complete incoming formalities. The master will be requested to present vessel registration, details of passengers on board and last port clearance. Each person will be required to complete an Incoming Passenger Card and make relevant declarations about items subject to customs and quarantine inspection.

Clearance - Incoming

After arriving at Direction Island, please stay on board. No persons other than an AFP officer or Biosecurity officer is allowed to board your craft, nor can any person, animal or article leave the craft until you have been given full clearance.

- Depending on your arrival time, the AFP may require all persons to remain onboard overnight before clearing you in the following day.

- Do not throw anything overboard while you are in Australian waters or whilst you are moored. All food and waste must be kept onboard. There is no provision for any food or waste to be disposed of at Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Everything you bring in, you must depart with.

- Do not trade foodstuffs with other vessels.

- Keep your vessel free of insects.

To go ashore without prior clearance is an offence. Physical contact with other vessels in port prior to clearance is also prohibited.

Clearance – Outgoing

The AFP will only issue an outgoing Certificate of Clearance upon proof (receipt) that anchorage fees have been paid. It is recommended that you pay online prior to or on arrival at Cocos (Keeling) Islands. If you pay in person (at Home Island), you may need to travel to West Island to present your receipt in person at the West Island Police

Station. Travel to West Island from Direction Island or Home Island is subject to the ferry timetable. See below for details on how to pay and the anchorage form. Clearance certificate will be returned via email unless otherwise requested.

Charges

The AFP do not levy any charges for clearances at the Port of Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Customs

Please note that Australia has strict laws to protect its citizens and natural environment. Penalties may be imposed if you breach those laws by illegally importing:

- Drugs;
- Animal or plant material;
- Firearms, weapons or ammunition;
- Protected wildlife and/or products made from them;
- Some food items; and
- Some medicinal products including Performance Enhancing Drugs.

Biosecurity

You must declare all personal food, plant and animal items on your Incoming Passenger Card. AFP or Biosecurity may inspect your galley stores and other biosecurity items to ensure that they do not include prohibited goods or items infested with insects or disease. These could harm Australia's unique environment or introduce plant, animal or human, pests or diseases. Treatable goods may be treated and returned to you. Prohibited goods will be confiscated, bonded on the vessel for the duration of your stay, or re-exported at the owner's expense.

Pre-arrival reports must only be provided in writing (electronically). Reports must be lodged into the non-commercial vessel pre-arrival report (PAR) web portal by non-commercial vessel operators.

Please click on this link for the Pre-arrival Report (PAR)
https://online.agriculture.gov.au/MARSWeb/faces/public/NCVPARRegistration.jsf

Vessels with an animal subject to biosecurity must remain at a mid-water mooring and keep the animal secure for the duration of your stay in Australia. Domestic pets

are the responsibility of the owners and MUST be kept on the vessel at all times. Animals found onshore will be destroyed.

If you declare prohibited items, you may be given the option of re-exporting them. **If you do not declare items of biosecurity concern, a substantial on-the-spot fine could be imposed or you could be prosecuted.**

For further details on biosecurity issues visit the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/avm/vessels/non-commercial-vessels

Human health

If you have travelled through or landed in Africa, South/Central America or the Caribbean within the previous six days before arriving in Australia, you will need a valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate for each person who is over twelve months old.
This applies even if there was no outbreak of Yellow Fever in the infected area at the time of your visit. You do not need any other health certificates to enter Australia.

Drugs

You must report any drugs on board your craft to the AFP on arrival. This includes medications containing narcotics, hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates and tranquillisers in your medical kit. If you use any of these drugs while in Australia you must record this in the craft's logbook. A doctor's prescription may validate certain registered drugs.

WARNING: Penalties for drug offences in Australia are severe and could result in imprisonment.

Firearms and other weapons

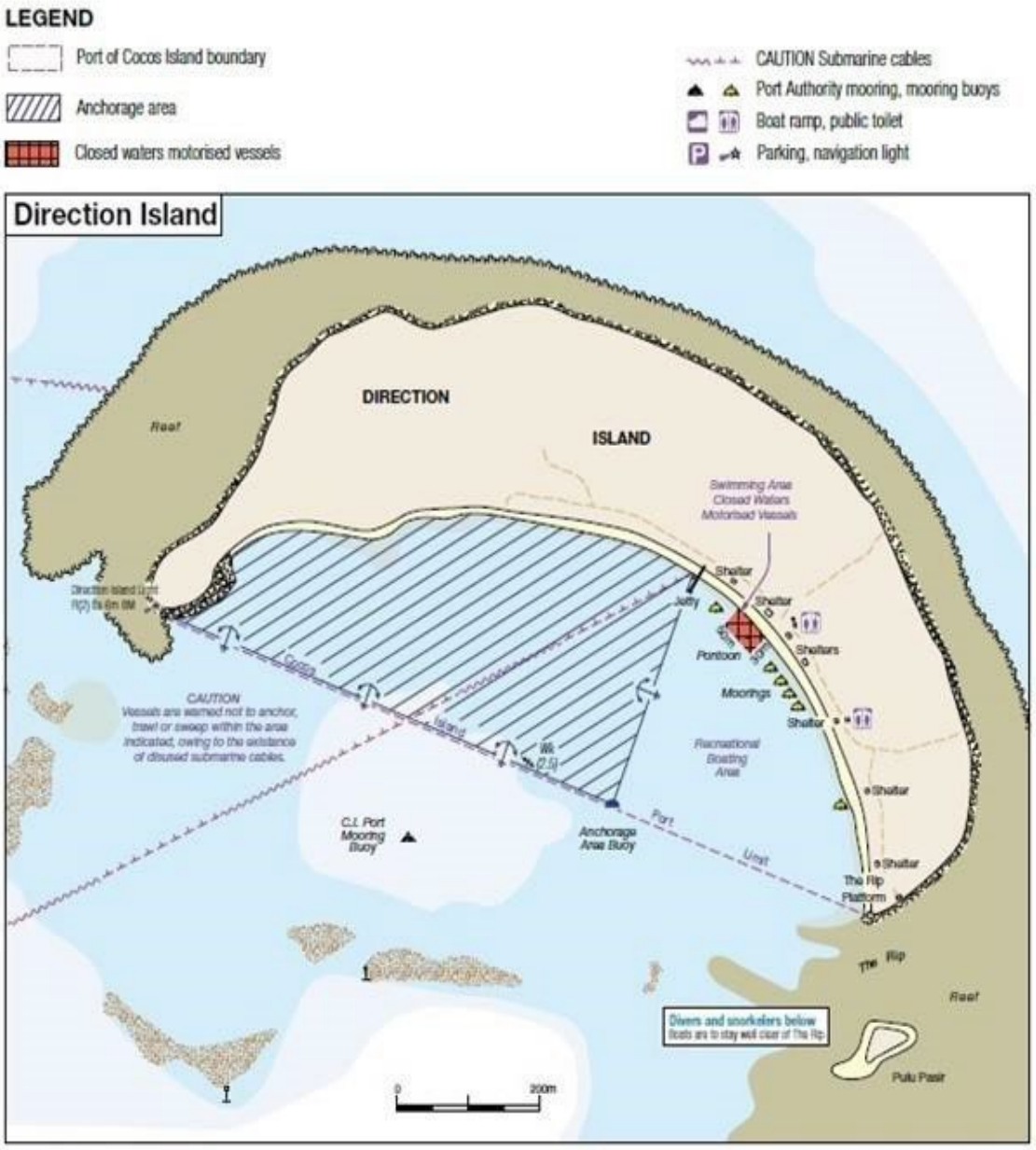
All firearms/weapons on your craft must be reported to the AFP. Certain firearms/weapons may be detained in safe storage until your intended departure. In cases where a firearm/weapon has been detained the Master will be required to contact the AFP at least one week prior to departure so that the weapon can be returned.

Currency

There is no limit on the amount of Australian or foreign cash that may be brought into or taken out of Australia, but travellers carrying AUD$10,000 or more, or the equivalent in foreign currency, must declare this on arrival and departure.

Currency includes notes and coins but does not include traveller's cheques. Reporting is required by law and failure to do so is an offence.

Map of Anchorage Area at Direction Island



YACHTS & PLEASURE CRAFT – PORT CONDITIONS

General

- Vessels entering the Port will be directed to anchor in the area designated for visiting vessels. See above map or the Dept. Transport Boating Guide for Cocos (https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/mediaFiles/marine/MAC_G_Boating_CocosIsland.pdf)

- Vessels with a draft greater than three meters are prohibited from entering the inner anchorage at Direction Island and must remain in the blue hole anchorage. You must not impede the arrival of other pleasure and commercial vessels.

- It is the master's responsibility to ensure that any actions or activities undertaken do not pollute or pose a risk to the environment; or create a nuisance for others.

- Vessels are not to be left unattended for periods exceeding 48 hours. If owners or occupiers wish to leave their vessel for extended periods they must obtain prior approval from the Port Manager.

- Vessel Anchorage Registration Form (see last page) must be completed and returned to the Cocos Island Shire office, on Home Island, within 24 hour of arrival weekdays (Monday – Thursday) or on the first working day after arrival weekends (Friday – Sunday).

- Visiting vessels are required to enter and depart the anchorage at Direction only, and are prohibited from transiting the lagoon, to the Home Island or West Island wharf facilities.

- Dinghies, rafts etc. associated with a vessel must be stored on-board or made secure so as to not interfere with other vessels or the general public.

Fees and Charges

Fees and charges will apply to all vessels entering the Port of Cocos (Keeling) Islands. The cost to private vessels using a yacht mooring are:

- AUD$10.00 per day; or
- AUD$50.00 per week

• Nb: Private vessels in excess of 150 GRT will require pilotage.

How to Pay

- Online banking - direct deposit only:

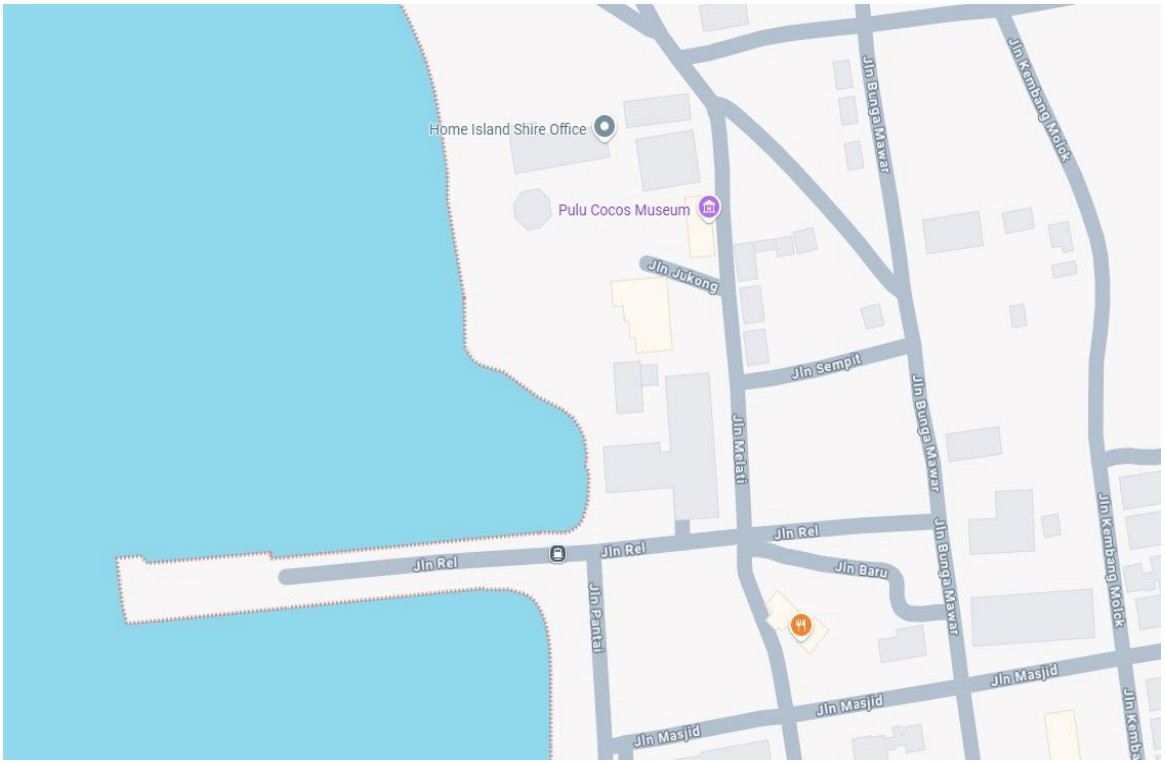
  BSB: 066-001
  Account: 10097340
  Account Name: Sire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands

  (proof of remittance plus anchorage form (see last page) to be sent to: debtors@cocos.wa.gov.au)

- In person (cash or major credit cards) at the Home Island Shire Office:

  Office hours:

Monday to Thursday	0700 - 1600
Friday	0700 - 1200
Saturday and Sunday	Closed



A receipt for fees and charges paid will be issued and must be presented to the AFP in order to obtain Port clearance prior to departure. Port clearance will not be provided unless proof of payment (receipt) is produced.

Vessels intending to stay for periods longer than one month are required to pay their fees monthly.

Vessel Maintenance

- The Port Manager is to be contacted prior to any major repairs or maintenance works being commenced on vessels within the Port area.

- Any work on vessels within the Port must not pollute the environment or cause any nuisance or inconvenience to the public or other users.

- Cleaning of hulls is **PROHIBITED**.

- Beaching of vessels is **PROHIBITED**.

Bilges, Sullage, Rubbish, Waste Oil

- Manual bilge pumps are not to be operated within the Port boundaries or within 3 nautical miles of the atoll.

- Automatic bilge pumps should be set to operate for use in an emergency only; where the volume of water may severely affect the stability or safety of the vessel.

- Flow through sullage/toilet systems are not to be used within the Port boundaries or within 3 nautical miles of the atoll.

- Sullage tanks are not to be pumped out within the Port boundaries or surrounding waters. Vessels fitted with holding tanks shall ensure that their waste is discharged 3 Nautical Miles from the entrance of the lagoon prior to entry into the Port. Vessels must periodically depart the Port and transit at least 3 nautical miles from the coast in order to discharge their waste.

- Vessels that are not fitted with sullage tanks will be required to make other appropriate arrangements for the disposal of sullage, with the approval of the

Port Manager: or may be directed to depart the Port within 72hrs or at the discretion of the Port Manager.

- There are no facilities for the discharge of solid waste provided onshore.
- Fuels, oils and lubricants are not to be discharged.
- Grey water (sinks, shower) discharge should be avoided where possible.
- Unauthorised discharge of waste from a vessel could result in the vessel being required to leave Port within 24 hours.
- Persons responsible for the unauthorised discharge of waste from a vessel may be prosecuted under the provisions of the relevant legislation.
- There are NO waste disposal facilities available to manage the biosecurity risks associated with organic and non-organic waste generated by visiting yachts. All waste must be securely contained on board the yacht for the duration of the visit. The Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands is not authorised to receive Quarantine waste for burial/disposal. **It is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 for the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands to receive Quarantine waste and, for any persons or Vessel/s to leave any rubbish/waste on Direction Island or transfer any waste to Home Island, West Island or any other islands in the atoll, without specific written authorisation from the Shire. Maximum Penalty under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 is a fine not exceeding AUD$125,000 for a corporate and/or AUD$62,500 for individuals.**
- For further information please contact the Shire Office on +61 8 9162 6649.
- Waste generated from purchases from local vendors may be disposed locally as long as the goods have not been taken back to your vessel. Cocos Islands utilises a three bin separation practice. Green bins are for general waste; Red for glass; and Yellow for aluminium cans.

Living on Board Vessels

Subject to the following conditions, bona fide travellers visiting the Cocos (Keeling) Islands will be permitted to live on board their vessels, within the Port area, for a period of up to one month.

1. Persons intending to live aboard their vessel within the Port area for a period longer than one month are required to obtain written approval from the Port Manager.

2. The person in charge of a vessel must agree to observe the conditions of this Code of Conduct.

3. The person in charge of a vessel must agree to pay the applicable fees and charges as gazetted by the Commonwealth.

4. Persons that live on-board for more than six consecutive days or more than ten days in any given month shall be deemed to have lived on-board for the whole month.

5. The Cocos (Keeling) Islands do not provide dedicated facilities within the Port for persons living permanently on-board their vessels. However, persons wishing to live on board their vessels for a period in excess of six months will be accommodated on a monthly live on-board tenancy. This will be in circumstances where the Port Manager can provide sufficient space, without disadvantaging bona fide travellers, and where live on-board tenants have agreed to the conduct and payment conditions.

6. Live on-board tenancies may be varied at short notice to comply with health, safety or environmental requirements; and other operational exigencies and may be withdrawn for non-compliance with the conditions imposed in this Code of Conduct.

Cyclones

The Australian Warning System (https://www.australianwarningsystem.com.au/) is a nationally consistent information system used during emergencies like cyclones, storms, severe weather etc. It uses three alert levels.

Advice (Yellow): An incident has started but there is no immediate danger. Stay up to date.
Watch and Act (Orange): There is a heightened level of threat. *See below.*
Emergency Warning (Red): The highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take acon immediately.

Updates will be posted to the Indian Ocean Territories Facebook page (IOT News) and may be broadcast on 6CKI radio – 96FM or 102.7FM.

If a Cyclone Watch and Act (orange) alert for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands is issued by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, the Port Manager will issue a *Securite* on VHF Channel 20. Vessel Masters will be advised to depart the Port Refuge immediately and sail away from the threat.

Emergency information is communicated in CKI via the Emergency WA App. Which can be accessed and downloaded from your app store or online:

https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au/

YACHTS & PLEASURE CRAFT – LOCAL CONDITIONS

Fuel

- Unleaded fuel can be obtained from Home Island. For small quantities you must provide your own suitable containers. Subject to change, the fuel station is open:

Monday	0700-0830
Wednesday	0700-0830
Friday	0700-0930
Saturday	0700-0800

  The cartage of fuel containers empty or full is prohibited on the local ferry. So you must provide your own transport between the Direction Island anchorage and Home Island. Local charters *may* be available, however, this is expensive and subject to availability.

- Diesel is only available from West Island. WARNING: The transport of diesel from West Island to the Direction Island anchorage is expensive and logistically problematic. It is strongly recommended that you have sufficient diesel onboard your vessel for your entire journey and do not rely on a resupply at Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

- If you require large quantities of fuel and / or transport of fuel, please contact the Cocos Cooperative Society on marine@cocoscoop.cc . They will liaise with Viva Energy in relation to larger quantities (COCOS-OperationsF@vivaenergy.com.au)

Water

- Potable water is available from the Home Island wharf. The rainwater tanks on Direction Island contain untreated water. The water is not recommended for drinking without prior treatment.

General

- When visiting Home Island please respect the Malay culture and dress modestly.

- For a full list of services and businesses in Cocos (Keeling) Islands, please consult the Tourism website for the latest information. https://cocoskeelingislands.com.au/things-to-do/eat-drink/

- Supermarket (Shamroks) – Home Island: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 0730-1600
  Wednesday 0730-1730
  Saturday 0800-1530
  Sunday 0800-1300

- Hardware Store – Home Island:
  Monday – Friday 0700-1200 and 1300-1500
  Saturday 0700-1100
  Sunday closed

- Please note that alcohol is only available from the Cocos Club on West Island. It is open from 1700 every day with an additional opening between approximately 1130 and 1330 on Friday's only.

Internet and Mobile Service

- Cocos (Keeling) Islands does not have a mobile network so your mobile telephones will not work here even with global roaming.

- Internet is slow and very limited. Do not rely on internet availability to plan the next leg of your trip. Try to do this before you arrive if you do not have your own satellite internet onboard your vessel.

- There are no free wifi hotspots on Direction Island or Home Island.

- There is limited free wifi at Cocos Airport on West Island during flight times (Tuesday approximately 1500 – 1830; Friday approximately 1030 – 1330)

Ferry

- An inter-island ferry service runs between Home Island and West Island Monday to Saturday. Ferries between Direction Island and Home and West Islands only operate on Thursdays and Saturdays. There is no ferry at all on Sundays.

- See end of document for a copy of the ferry timetable or go: https://cocoskeelingislands.com.au/what-to-know-before-you-come/ferrytimetable/

- The cost of the ferry is AUD$2.50 each way. Cash only – Australian currency. A bus at West Island Jetty will transport you into the settlement where the Airport, Cocos Club, Visitors Centre, Health Clinic and Police Station are located. The bus costs AUD$0.50 each way.

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park

- The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park covers an area of 467,054 square kilometres and extends from most of the islands' shoreline to the limit of Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone (AEEZ), approximately 200 nautical miles from shore.

- The marine park's offshore waters from approximately 3 nautical miles from shore to the limit of the AEEZ are a green zone (National Park Zone) where extractive activities like fishing and mining are not allowed. There are also two

small inshore green zones, at The Rip at Direction Island and at Trannies Beach on West Island.

- Spearfishing, netting, rod fishing, kitesurfing or boating in “The Rip” and at Trannies Beach are strictly prohibited. Penalties apply.

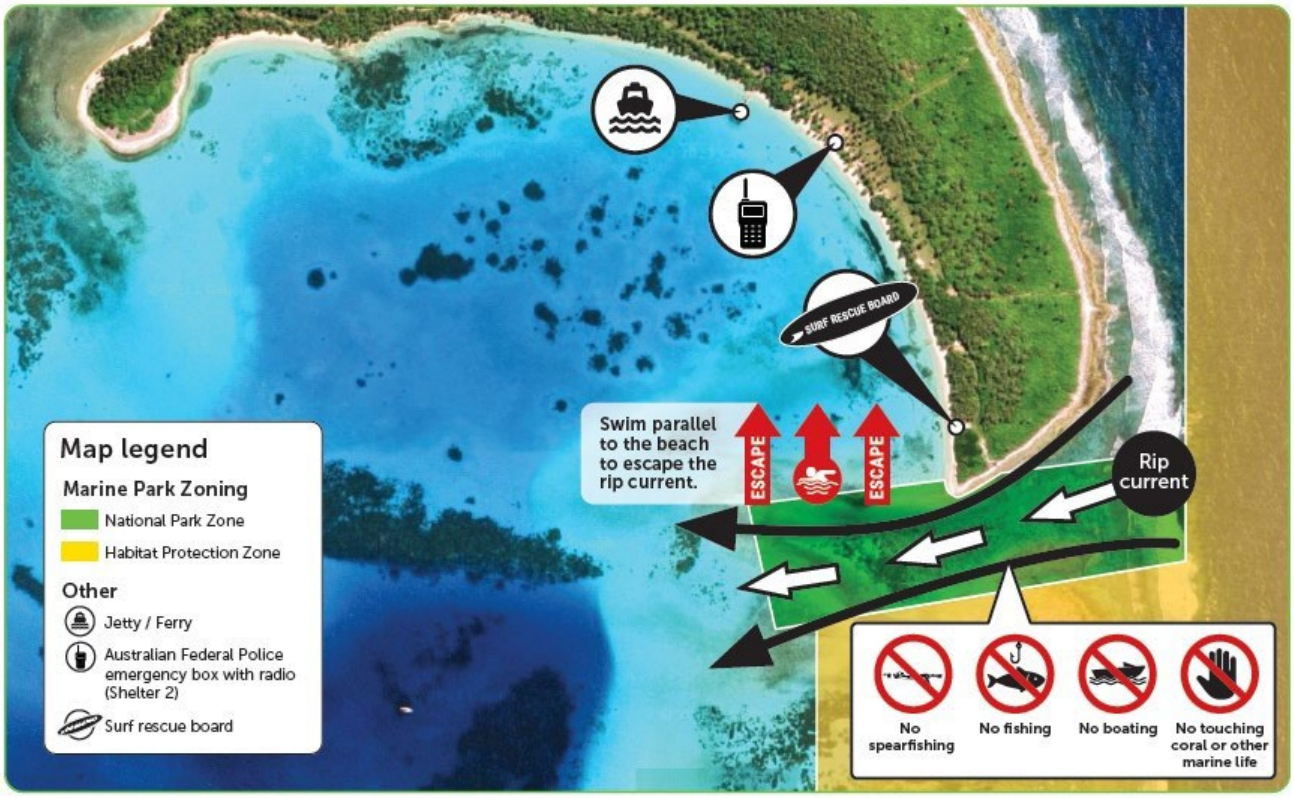
- For more information about the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park please see https://australianmarineparks.gov.au/parks/indian-ocean-territories-marineparks/cocos-keeling-islands-marine-park/. Maps are also available through this site

Direction Island

- Fires on Direction Island can only be lit in the designated fire pits and are not to be left unattended.

- **‘The Rip’ is a protected National Park Zone** immediately adjacent to the south-eastern end of Direction Island. It is a snorkeling only spot. **There is strictly no fishing or watercraft of any kind in this area. Penalties apply.**

- The boundaries of the Rip are marked by the edge of Direction Island, the rocky area to the south and two yellow buoys on the westward side of the Rip.



- The Rip area may be dangerous. It is unpatrolled. Always assess your swimming ability to get back to the beach. The current is strongest during high tides and strong winds so avoid entering at these times. If caught, do NOT swim against current but across to the shallower water near the beach.

- An emergency surf rescue board is located nearby.

- In the event of an emergency, use your own VHF marine radio or the emergency radio in Shelter 2 to contact authorities.

- AFP – Channel 20

- Health Clinic / Medical Assistance – Channel 24

CONTACT LIST

Port Manager
☏ +61 8 9162 6501
✉ ckiport@kampong.cc
Marine VHF Channel 20

Australian Federal Police (Cocos Police)
☏ +61 8 9162 6600
✉cocospolice@afp.gov.au Marine
VHF Channel 20

Cocos Co-Op
☏ +61 8 9162 6708
✉ administration@cocoscoop.cc
✉ marine@cocoscoop.cc

Indian Ocean Territories Health Service
☏ +61 8 9162 6655 (West Island)
☏ +61 8 9162 7609 (Home Island)
☏ +61 8 61028655 (After Hours Emergency Only)
Marine VHF Channel 24

Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Island
☏ +61 8 9162 6649
✉ debtors@cocos.wa.gov.au
✉ info@cocos.wa.gov.au

Parks Australia/Australian Marine Parks
☏ +61 8 9162 7602
✉ pulukeelingnationalpark@dcceew.gov.au

Harbour Master
Cocos (Keeling) Islands
July 2025

COCOS IS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD
INTER ISLAND FERRY SERVICES

EFFECTIVE AS OF 4th May 2026

Departures	Arrivals	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Home Island		6.00 am	6.00 am	6.00 am	6.00 am	6.00 am	
	West Island	6.30 am	6.30 am	6.30 am	6.30 am	6.30 am	
West Island		6.30 am	6.30 am	6.30 am	6.30 am	6.30 am	
	Home Island	7.00 am	7.00 am	7.00 am	7.00 am	7.00 am	
Home Island		7.00 am	7.00 am	7.00 am	7.00 am	7.00 am	9.00 am
	West Island	7.30 am	7.30 am	7.30 am	7.30 am	7.30 am	9.30 am
West Island		7.30 am	7.30 am	7.30 am	7.30 am	7.30 am	9.30 am
	Home Island	8.00 am	8.00 am	8.00 am	8.00 am	8.00 am	
Home Island					8.00 am		
	Direction Is.				8.30 am		10.00 am
Direction Is.					8.30 am		10.00 am
	Home Island				9.00 am		10.30 am
Home Island		10.30 am		10.30 am		10.30 am	
	West Island	11.00 am		11.00 am		11.00 am	
		REFUELLING		REFUELLING		REFUELLING	
West Island		11.15 am		11.15 am		11.15 am	
	Home Island	11.45 am		11.45 am		11.45 am	
Home Island					1.30 pm		3.00 pm
	Direction Is.				2.00 pm		3.30 pm
Direction Is.					2.00 pm		3.30 pm
Home Island		1.00 pm					
	West Island	1.30 pm					
West Island		1.30 pm					
	Home Island	2.00 pm					
Home Island		2.30 pm	2.30 pm	2.30 pm	2.30 pm	2.30 pm	
	West Island	3.00 pm	3.00 pm	3.00 pm	3.00 pm	3.00 pm	4.00 pm
			REFUELLING		REFUELLING		REFUELLING
West Island		3.00 pm	3.00 pm	3.00 pm	3.00 pm	3.00 pm	4.00 pm
	Home Island	3.30 pm	3.30 pm	3.30 pm	3.30 pm	3.30 pm	4.30 pm
Home Island		3.30 pm	3.30 pm	3.30 pm	3.30 pm	3.30 pm	
	West Island	4.00 pm	4.00 pm	4.00 pm	4.00 pm	4.00 pm	
West Island		4.00 pm	4.00 pm	4.00 pm	4.00 pm	4.00 pm	
	Home Island	4.30 pm	4.30 pm	4.30 pm	4.30 pm	4.30 pm	
Home Island				5.30 pm			
	West Island			6.00 pm			
West Island				6.00 pm			
	Home Island			6.30 pm			
Home Island		6.00 pm		8.00 pm			
	West Island	6.30 pm		8.30 pm			
West Island		6.30 pm		8.30 pm			
	Home Island	7.00pm		9.00 pm			

Australian Government

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

The Australian Government, through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts, provides funding to the Cocos Islands Cooperative Society Ltd to undertake the ferry services for CKI.

SHIRE OF COCOS KEELING ISLANDS

MAJU PULU KITA | ADVANCE OUR ISLANDS

PORT – DIRECTION ISLAND
Vessel Anchorage Registration Form

Vessel Name:			
Length:		Type:	
Colour:		Beam:	
Draft:			
Owner/Occupier Name			
Home Address:			
Phone #:		# of Crew	
Intended length of stay at Direction Island (nights)			
Vessel fitted with Sullage Tank?	Yes No	Capacity:	

Vessel anchorage at Direction Island is within the Port boundary and is a controlled anchorage area. All vessel owner/occupiers must comply with the Code of Conduct for the Cocos Islands.

Signed (Owner/Occupier)	

Date:	

Anchorage fees are payable in accordance with the *Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Traffic and Harbour Facilities Determination 2015.*

Private vessel rates (nb: private vessels in excess of 150 GRT will require pilotage).	
Daily	$10.00
Weekly	$50.00

Fees can be paid at the Shire office on Home Island or by direct deposit to the Shires account:
BSB: 066-001
Account: 1009 7340
Please send a remittance along with a signed copy of this form to **debtors@cocos.wa.gov.au**