

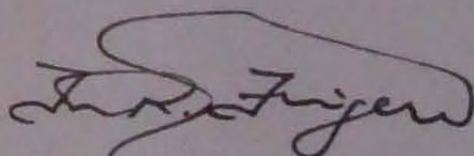
CONFIDENTIAL
CABINET DECISION

No. 3132

Submission No.: 2673

Title: INFORMATION PAPER - CASH NUT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Cabinet noted the Submission.



(M.R. FINGER).
Secretary to Cabinet.
26 August, 1983.

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THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

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FOR CABINET

SUBMISSION No. 2673

Title:	INFORMATION PAPER - CASHEW NUT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL
Cabinet Member:	MINISTER FOR PRIMARY PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
Purpose:	TO INFORM CABINET OF PRESENT POSITION IN REGARD TO THE PROPOSAL
Relation to existing policy:	CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING POLICY
Timing/ legislative priority:	N.A.
Announcement of decision, tabling, etc.:	N.A.
Action required before announcement:	N.A.
Staffing implications, numbers and costs, etc.:	N.A.
Total cost:	N.A.

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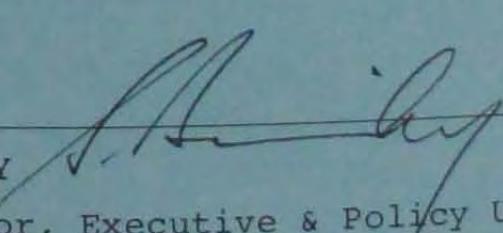
Department/AuthorityLAW.....

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE:INFORMATION PAPER - CASHEW NUT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL.....

COMMENTS:

No comment necessary.

SIGNED: S.R. BAILEY 

DESIGNATION: Director, Executive & Policy Unit for Solicitor-General.

DATE: 19 August, 1983. CONFIDENTIAL

THE ISSUES

1. To inform Cabinet of present situation in regard to the development of a possible cashew nut trial proposed by a consortium formed by C.S.R. and Twentieth Century Foods Limited of Singapore.

BACKGROUND

2. A consortium has been formed between C.S.R. and Twentieth Century Foods Limited of Singapore to investigate the feasibility of cashew nut production in Australia. Last June C.S.R. brought to Australia a Brazilian expert in cashew nut culture, Dr. Jose Ascenso of EMBRAPA which is an agricultural research institute of considerable repute in South America. Dr. Ascenso, accompanied by two executives of C.S.R. visited the Wildman River Pastoral Lease in the Northern Territory and two areas in the north-west of Western Australia. Locally, discussions were held with officers of A.D.M.A. and D.P.P.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES

3. The consultant expert's report was favourable and has formed the base for a detailed cost benefit study which is due to be presented to C.S.R. senior management on 19 August. A decision is not expected to be made quickly.
4. The details of the report are not known at this stage but the broad proposal is to establish, by the end of the coming wet season, a twenty-five hectare pilot farm, at Wildman River, to test the feasibility of cashew nut production over a period of five years.

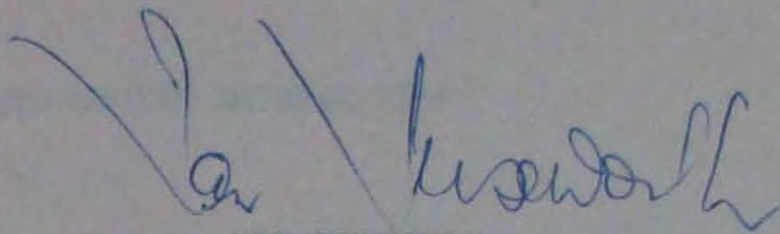
5. A major technical problem is the acquisition of suitable high-yielding planting material from new varieties developed in India. This acquisition is crucial to the success of the project. A C.S.R. executive is leaving for India shortly to investigate sources. Possible quarantine problems have been discussed with C.S.R. and are being researched by D.P.P. A formal application to Commonwealth Quarantine will be made when details are known.

6. It is anticipated that given a favourable decision for Wildman River, C.S.R. would have further discussions with the Northern Territory Government, on details of leasing of land and further investigations, including the need to confirm the availability of ground water supplies for irrigation. C.S.R. estimates that a twenty-five hectare pilot farm would require a supply rated at 100 KL per hour and would seek assistance from the Northern Territory Government to carry out a water search.

7. At this stage, C.S.R. is reluctant to indicate firmly its preference for Wildman River, given other situations which affect their relationships with the West Australian Government. However, it is known to the Department that Wildman River is favoured and could be the site for a major development which, if confirmed by the results of the pilot farm, could result in the establishment of a processing plant in the Northern Territory.

RECOMMENDATION

8. It is recommended that Cabinet note the information paper.



IAN TUXWORTH
Minister for Primary
Production and Conservation

22/8/83