

CONFIDENTIAL

CABINET DECISION

NC. 313

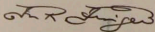
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Submission No.: 267

Title: PROPOSED KEEP RIVER NATIONAL PARK

Cabinet approved -

- (a) the acquisition of area 'A' on the attachment to the submission for the establishment of the Keep River National Park;
- (b) the provision of an amount of \$16,000 in the 1978/79 financial year to fund the acquisition of the land; and
- (c) the issue of a suitable press release.



(M.R. FINGER),  
Secretary to Cabinet.

17.5.78

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CONFIDENTIALFOR CABINETSUBMISSION NO. 267

Title:	Proposed Keep River National Park						
Cabinet Member:	IAN TUXWORTH, Cabinet Member for Resources and Health.						
Purpose:	Acquisition of Land for a proposed National Park.						
Relation to existing policy:	Development of National Parks in the N.T.						
Timing/legislative priority:	Land Acquisition scheduled for 1978/79 Development envisaged in 1981/82						
Announcement of decision, tabling, etc.:	Gazetted intention to acquire area and dedicate it for National Park purposes.						
Acting required before announcement:	Conclude acquisition of Land.						
Staffing implications, numbers and costs, etc.:	2 Rangers, Est. cost of salaries and associated expenses \$30,000 per annum. Land acquisition cost of Area 'A' \$16,000 (1978/79)						
Total cost:	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Development Capital cost</td> <td>\$ 16,000 (1978/79)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating cost p. annum</td> <td>\$ 188,000 (1980-82)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$ 60,000 from 1982 onwards</td> </tr> </table>	Development Capital cost	\$ 16,000 (1978/79)	Operating cost p. annum	\$ 188,000 (1980-82)		\$ 60,000 from 1982 onwards
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Comment by  
Director of  
Finance:

Provision was made for the acquisition of land for the proposed Keep River National Park in the Acquisition Program for 1977/78 and has been included by Department of Administrative Services in the Revote Program for finalisation in 1978/79.

The submission in itself only carries forward projection of costs from 1980/81 onwards in respect of operations and capital to the year 1981/82. I understand that there is no planned development beyond then, I also understand that there will be no additional revenue gained from the development of the park.

  
~~Approved/Not Approved~~

Signed:

W. HULL

Date:

28 April 1978

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Comment by  
Public Service  
Commissioner:

Approved/Not Approved

Signed:

Date:

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Comment by  
Director of  
Finance:

Approved/Not Approved

Signed:

Date:

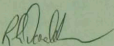
Comment by  
Public Service  
Commissioner:

It is normal for a developed Reserve of this size to be managed by a Senior Ranger and Ranger so the staffing estimates are no problem. The estimate of \$30,000 p.a. for salary and associated costs seems a little low considering these Rangers would not be needed until 1980/81 and current salary alone for these positions is \$17,000.

~~Approved/Not Approved~~

Signed:

Date:



14/4/78.

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1 THE ISSUE

Acquisition of approximately 436 sq. km. of land from Auvergne Station (P.L. 552) for the establishment of a National Park.

2 BACKGROUND

- The N.T. Reserves Board has recommended that a portion of land on Auvergne Station including a section of the Keep River adjacent to the W.A. border and north of the Victoria Highway, be developed into a National Park.
- On 14 June 1974, the then Minister of the N.T. had approved in principle the establishment of a National Park in that area.
- Further investigations were undertaken by the Department of N.T. and on 4 March 1977, the Minister of the N.T. approved the acquisition of the areas shown on the attached map. (Attachment 1.)
- Area 'A' includes an escarpment area of approximately 295 sq. km. and a corridor of land to the Victoria Highway.
- Area 'B' includes some flat country and swamp land of some 141 sq. km. which would provide suitable sites for camping and recreational uses and offer more diversity in landscape and wildlife in the National Park.
- Discussions were held between the pastoral lessees and the Department of the Northern Territory in which the lessees indicated that they were prepared to negotiate the release of area 'A', but did not wish to relinquish area 'B' as it contained some good grazing country and an important bore and natural watering point.

3 CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE

- The subject area 'A' is a ruggedly beautiful stretch of a dissected sand stone massif, well worthy of park status on scenic value alone. It is situated on the Victoria Highway, the major tourist link between Kununurra and Katherine.
- Euros, agile and nail-tail wallabies, flying foxes and crocodiles are among the major wildlife attractions of the area.
- The majority of the area is unsuitable for grazing and its acquisition would have little effect on the viability of the pastoral lease.

- Area 'B' is a desirable extension to 'A' particularly if tourist traffic increased considerably, creating demand for additional overnight camping areas. This area also includes additional river frontage and a swamp which would add to the diversity of the park.
- Initially, it is intended to commence negotiations for the acquisition of stage 1 of the Park covering area 'A'. Area 'B' would be acquired at a later date, if the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission, considered it necessary to add to the park. This however would become the subject of a separate submission to Cabinet.
- At this stage there are no aboriginal land claims or mining tenures over the subject areas.

#### 4 PUBLIC IMPACT OF THE RECOMMENDATION

- The announcement of the establishment of a national park in the Keep River area would be well received by the tourist industry, environmental protection groups, and the general public.
- Some objections could be expected from individual pastoral lessees with regard to the increased risk of fire, vandalism, etc. due to concentration of people in the area. Under proper park management however this risk could be minimized.

#### 5 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

The management of the Park would require two Ranger positions involving salary cost and associated expenditures of \$30,000 per annum.

#### 6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- The total area ('A' & 'B') has been valued by the Valuer General at \$37,000. However at this stage, only area 'A' is to be acquired, valued at \$16,000. The actual price will be subject to negotiation within that figure.

The total capital cost of the Park was estimated as follows:-

- Area 'A', acquisition cost, 1978/79 - \$16,000

• <u>Capital Improvements 1980-82</u>	
Housing, vehicles, plant & equipment etc.	\$138,000
Access roads, car parks, camp grounds, toilets	\$ 50,000
	<u>\$188,000</u>
TOTAL CAPITAL COST	

- Salaries & Allowances & other annual op. costs (from 1982 onwards) \$60.000

7 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Cabinet approve:-

- The acquisition of area 'A' for the establishment of the Keep River National Park.
- the provision of an amount of \$16.000 in the 1978/79 financial year, to fund the acquisition of the land.
- *the issue of a suitable pro release*

*Ian*  
IAN TUXWORTH  
7 April 1978





## MEMORANDUM

ATTACHMENT TO CABINET  
SUBMISSION NO. 267TO: MR M R FINGER  
SECRETARY OF CABINET

DATE:

FROM: ROGER STEELE

REF:

RE: CABINET MEETING 17 MAY 1978

I wonder if you would be kind enough to seek from the Majority Leader leave of absence for me for Wednesday 17 May 1978 Cabinet Meeting at Nhulunbuy.

I did send to the Majority Leader a copy of my movements which were dated up to and including 18 May, which allowed me some leave in the Victoria River area.

Reference the two papers I have before me, Submissions 265 and 267.

Submission 265

1. Negotiation should proceed between the Executive and the two established councils. However, traffic and transport matters need further analysis and I would want these matters left in Abeyance until such times as the departments have been formed and that the proper planning processes can be put into effect.
2. The proposal may be a bit too early because of my apprehension of the operation of the new audit legislation and I would want to see this legislation into effect over a period of months before any devolution were to proceed.

Submission 267 - Proposed Keep River National Park

I commend to Cabinet the perspicacity of the Cabinet Member for introducing such a proposal at this time. However, I am totally opposed to it on the basis that Cabinet is getting far too involved with future matters that would normally need investigation by Cabinet Members before they should proceed to a decision.

I must alert Cabinet that I will not be in favour of this type of submission between now and September of this year having far too much on my plate to administer and I think that submissions of this type are wasting my time.

*Roger Steele*  
ROGER STEELE

10 May 1978