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CABINET DECISION

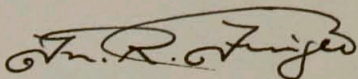
NC. 643

Submission No.: 560

Title: NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE FORCE -
COASTAL SURVEILLANCE SCHEME

Cabinet -

- a) approved in principle the setting up of the N.T. Coastal Surveillance Service using Police facilities and Aboriginal Police Aides;
- b) authorised Treasury to admit the necessary programme provision of \$200,000 in the 1979/80 Budget Submission;
- c) approved without compensatory savings an increase of 10 positions of Police Aide in the N.T. Police Force; and
- d) requested Treasury to take up with the Federal Government the matter of funding the N.T. Coastal Surveillance Service.



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

10 April, 1979.

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THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

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Copy No.1.....

FOR CABINET

SUBMISSION No. 560

Title:	Northern Territory Police Force - Coastal Surveillance Scheme.
Cabinet Member	Mr. Paul Everingham, Chief Minister and Cabinet Member for Law.
Purpose:	To obtain approval in principle to introduce a Coastal Surveillance Scheme.
Relation to existing policy:	Consistent with Government policy to prevent unauthorised intrusion of persons, animals etc, from the north.
Timing/ legislative priority:	Early consideration is requested for budgeting and planning purposes.
Announcement of decision, tabling, etc.:	If approval is given prompt announcement would be appropriate.
Action required before announcement:	Discussions and arrangements with Aboriginal Communities to be finalised.
Staffing implications, numbers and costs, etc.:	An Establishment increase without compensatory savings will be necessary to provide for the employment of 10 Police Aides.
Total cost:	\$200,000 P.A. for Salaries, training equipment etc.

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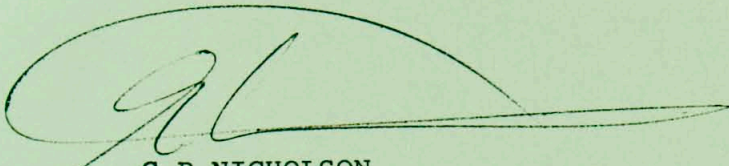
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CABINET SUBMISSION - NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE FORCE -
COASTAL SURVEILLANCE SCHEME

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

There are no constitutional barriers to this proposal.
There are no legal barriers to this proposal, however
it will not be possible to appoint Police aides until
the new Police Administration Act is brought into
operation.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'G' followed by 'R' and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

G R NICHOLSON

Crown Solicitor

26 March 1979

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE FORCE - COASTAL SURVEILLANCE SCHEME

Comment by
Under Treasurer:

Approved/Not Approved

Signed:

Date:

Comment by
Public Service
Commissioner:

No objection in principle. Cabinet to approve
staff increases without compensatory savings.

Approved/Not Approved

Signed:

Date:

R.G. Horn

R.G. HORN
for PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER

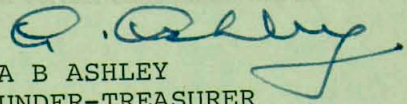
23/3/79

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE FORCE - COASTAL SURVEILLANCE SCHEME.

Comment by Under Treasurer:

While supported in principle, the function is a responsibility of the Commonwealth and should be funded by Commonwealth. A full proposal should be prepared as a basis for negotiation by Treasury for a Specific Purpose Grant.

BACKGROUND


A B ASHLEY
UNDER-TREASURER

Approved/Not Approved

29/3/79

Signed:

Date:

Comment by Public Service Commissioner:

CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES

Approved/Not Approved

Signed:

Date:

THE ISSUE

1. To seek Cabinet approval in principle for the development and introduction of Coastal Surveillance Scheme in the Northern Territory using Aboriginals in key reporting roles.

BACKGROUND

2. The Police Commissioner is developing a scheme which will provide the N.T. Government with a Coastal Surveillance Service and within certain constraints will be reliable and cost effective.

3. The proposal complements and is compatible with the activities of the Commonwealth System which will provide daily aerial surveillance of the Northern Coastline.

4. The scheme will provide more employment opportunities for Aboriginals in the remote coastal communities. The Police Force already employs over 50 Aboriginals as Trackers and Liaison Assistants.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES

5. Even though the Commonwealth has accepted a responsibility for Coastal Surveillance, the N.T. Government should also do what it can to ensure the integrity of its coastline.

6. The vulnerability of the pastoral industry is but one example of the dangers inherent in non regulated forays by persons and animals.

7. A sensible way of providing a Surveillance service is to use existing Police personnel at coastal Police Stations and supplement this by training Aboriginal people from other communities to scan the adjacent land, sea and air space on a formalised basis.

4.

8. The Police Force has the necessary infrastructure to organise, train and control this sort of dormant reporting resource.

9. Surveillance itself will not be meaningful or successful unless there is a capacity to quickly obtain and disseminate intelligence and mount swift responses to situations or intrusions as they occur. Cabinet recently approved (Decision 524) the expansion of the Task Force within the Police Organisation which would be the response mechanism. The approval also given recently by Cabinet (Decision 574) to commence an air wing in the Police Force will have spin-off benefits for surveillance service.

10. Senior members of the Police Force are currently holding discussions with Aboriginal communities on the subject and responses to date are enthusiastic. Initially 10 Aboriginals will be selected and trained and given specific tasks and areas of responsibility. They can be employed as Police Aides with terms and conditions of service to be negotiated in collaboration with the Public Service Commissioner.

OPTIONS

11. Other options have been employed but abandoned on the grounds of impracticability or high cost.

PUBLIC IMPACT OF THE RECOMMENDATION

12. No controversy is expected. The public have been aware for some time - via the press - that the coast has proved vulnerable and needs policing.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

13. The anticipated cost for 12 months operation is \$200,000. This includes salaries and allowances for 10 Police Aides, basic equipment, training of Aides and special training for Task Force Personnel.

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5.

14. The cost although substantial is not significant when related to the benefits of having a reasonably secure coastline. It is possible that some cost sharing could be negotiated with the Commonwealth.

EMPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

15. Ten Aborigines in remote communities not yet firmly identified would be employed.

CO-ORDINATION

16. The Police Commissioner will be responsible for co-ordinating detailed aspects of the proposed service with the appropriate Commonwealth Department (Department of Transport) through the Department of the Chief Minister.

LEGISLATION

17. The new Police Administration Act provides adequate legislative authority for the use of Police Aides in the N.T. Police Force.

PUBLICITY

18. Should Cabinet give approval in principle to the scheme it should be given wide publicity following the conclusion of current discussions with Aboriginal communities.

TIMING

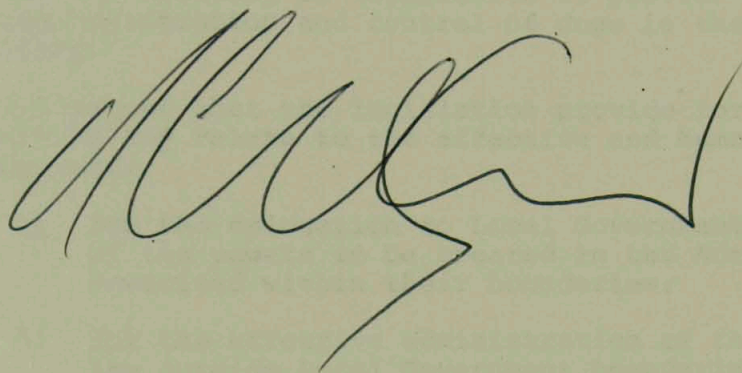
19. Early consideration is requested so that an appropriate funds provision can be made in the 1979/80 Budget Proposals. An early decision will also facilitate the approval of an appropriate staffing establishment cover.

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RECOMMENDATION

20. It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- (a) Approve in principle the setting up of the N.T. Coastal Surveillance Service using Police facilities and Aboriginal Police Aides.
- (b) Authorise Treasury to admit the necessary programme provision of \$200,000 in the 1979/80 Budget Submission.
- (c) Approve without compensatory savings on increase of 10 positions of Police Aide in the N.T. Police Force.

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