

Brief Guide to Executive Council Records

Library & Archives NT is responsible for managing, preserving and providing access to government archives in accordance with the Information Act 2002. Public access to Cabinet records archives is provided at the NT Archives Centre in Millner.

Northern Territory Self-government

In 1978 the Commonwealth passed the Northern Territory (Self Government) Act 1978 establishing the Northern Territory as a distinct political entity under the Crown, with limited state-like powers, effective on 1 July 1978. The Act gave the Northern Territory self-government, extending local autonomy to the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory, and providing power to the Administrator to grant or deny assent to proposed laws. Following this, the first Ministry of the new Northern Territory Government was appointed, and the Legislative Assembly was given authority and responsibility for the finances of the government of the Northern Territory.

Executive Council

The Executive Council consisting of Ministers of the Northern Territory Government is responsible for providing advice to the Administrator of the Northern Territory in relation to matters in respect of which the Ministers have executive authority. Acting on advice from the Executive Council, the Administrator appoints statutory office holders, makes regulations, proclaims parks and reserves, and authorises administrative arrangements orders. Papers presented to the Executive Council are subject to prior endorsement by the Cabinet.

The records of the Executive Council are held in the strictest confidence until they are released 30 years after their creation.

Access to Executive Council Records

On 1 January each year the records of the Northern Territory Government's Executive Council, are released for public access, having reached 30 years since their creation.

The Cabinet Office in the Department of the Chief Minister provides secretariat services to Cabinet and the Executive Council and is the agency responsible for the records of Cabinet and Executive Council. An access agreement negotiated between the Library & Archives NT and the Department of the Chief Minister in accordance with the Information Act 2002 provides for an annual opening of Cabinet submissions and decisions and of the Executive Council meeting papers, on 1 January each year after the records become 30 years old (some items may be restricted for longer periods where sensitive information has been identified).

Executive Council Records

The Executive Council meeting papers (NTRS 3351) include an agenda for each meeting followed by business papers with the related attachments. The decision or action is usually noted on the business paper.

The table below lists the records of the Executive Council, and other significant related series. Some records are restricted for more than 30 years. For a full list of records please visit www.navigators.nt.gov.au

Main series			
Series	Title	Description	Date range
NTRS 3351	Executive Council meeting papers	Agenda and business papers with related attachments, Volumes 1978-1995 open with exceptions	1969-2021
NTRS 3352	Index to Executive Council meeting papers	An index created by the Cabinet Office to assist with accessing the meeting papers. The index lists business papers submitted to each meeting.	1977-1995
NTRS 3886	Redacted copies of Executive Council meeting papers	This series consists of copies of restricted Executive Council meeting papers which have sensitive information redacted to allow public access.	1988-1993

Related series			
Series	Title	Description	Date range
NTRS 2575	Cabinet submissions and decisions	Cabinet submissions, decisions, and associated papers including budget information Volumes 1978-1995 open with exceptions	1971-2019
NTRS 3353	Index to Cabinet submissions and decisions	Annual indexes, created by the Cabinet Office to assist with accessing the volumes. The index provides details of the meeting number, meeting date, decision number, and title of submission	1977-1995

Related series			
Series	Title	Description	Date range
NTRS 3813	Office Cabinet portraits	Official framed photographic portraits of the members of the Northern Territory Cabinets.	1974-2016
NTRS 3750	Redacted copies of Cabinet decisions	This series consists of copies of restricted cabinet decisions which have sensitive information redacted to allow public access.	1984-1991

Further information

These series can be accessed by appointment in the Reading Room of the Northern Territory Archives Centre, Darwin, open from 9.00am - 4.30pm, Tuesday - Friday.

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