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CABINET DECISION

No. 3433

Submission No.: 2936

Title: NORTHERN TERRITORY FUNDING FOR
1988 BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Cabinet agreed:-

- (a) to set up immediately a special trust account to receive Government contributions for future expenditure in connection with the bicentennial celebrations, with a sum of \$50,000 being allocated in 1983/84, and with further allocations of \$150,000 in each of the following four years;
- (b) to matching the \$2M Commonwealth contribution for capital projects; and
- (c) to ensure that projects to a total value of \$10M, including the \$2M Commonwealth grant and \$2M matching funds, are identified in the normal budget process, as works suitable for labelling as bicentennial commemorative projects, to be completed by 31 December 1988.



(M.R. FINGER),
Secretary to Cabinet.
2 March 1984

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FOR CABINET

SUBMISSION No: 2936

Title:	NORTHERN TERRITORY FUNDING FOR 1988 BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS
Minister	The Hon P A E Everingham, Chief Minister
Purpose:	To determine the level of the Northern Territory Government's funding commitment to the Bicentennial Celebrations.
Relation to existing policy:	Not applicable.
Timing/ legislative priority:	Not urgent.
Announcement of decision, tabling, etc:	An announcement may be desirable at any appropriate time.
Action required before announcement:	Not applicable.
Staffing implications, numbers and costs, etc:	No direct staff implications are foreseen at this stage.
Total cost:	Up to \$150,000 per annum up to and including 1987/88 for non-capital purposes and up to \$10M for capital works to be earmarked as Bicentennial projects (including a \$2M grant from the Commonwealth)

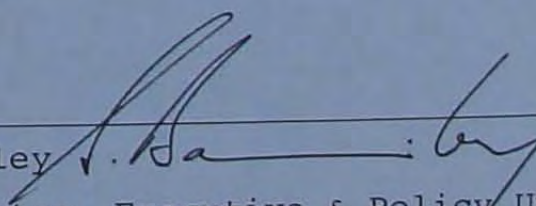
Department/Authority LAW

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: NORTHERN TERRITORY FUNDING FOR 1988 BICENTENNIAL
CELEBRATIONS

COMMENTS:

There appear to be no constitutional or legal barriers to the proposal.

SIGNED: S.R. Bailey 

DESIGNATION: Director, Executive & Policy Unit

DATE: 23 January, 1984

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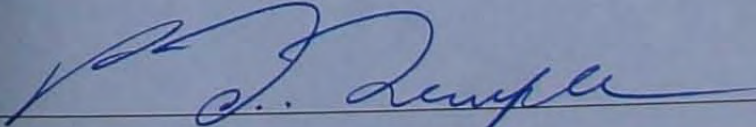
Department/Authority ~~XXXXXX~~ TREASURY

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: NORTHERN TERRITORY FUNDING FOR
1988 BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

COMMENTS:

Submission supported.



SIGNED: P F TEMPLE
DESIGNATION: Deputy Under Treasurer
DATE: 7/2/84

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Department/Authority PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

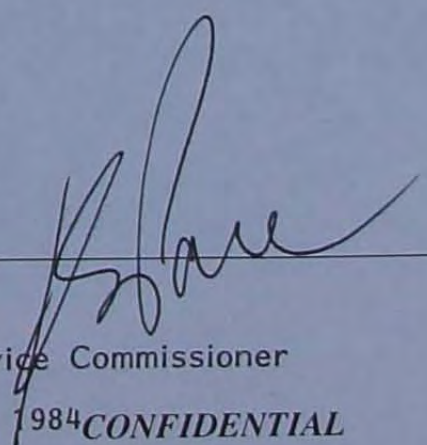
TITLE: NORTHERN TERRITORY FUNDING FOR 1988 BICENTENNIAL

..... CELEBRATIONS

..... THE TREASURY

COMMENTS:

This Office has no objection to the proposal.



SIGNED: K S POPE
DESIGNATION: Public Service Commissioner

DATE: 27 January 1984

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

OFFICE OF THE CO-ORDINATOR GENERAL

P.O. BOX 4396
DARWIN, N.T. 5794

25 January 1984

The Under Secretary Northern Territory,
Department of the Treasury
GPO Box 1974
DARWIN NT 5794

Cabinet Submission - Northern Territory Funding
For The 1988 Bicentennial Celebrations

Your letter of 19 January, 1984 to the Director General invited comments on the Submission.

The body of the Submission deals with capital and recurrent budget aspects. Additional costs in the nature of services in kind are mentioned as a further financial aspect to be taken into account (paragraph 14).

The source of these costs may require some clarification. The main point is that events mounted with Commonwealth funds in the Territory as part of the National program mentioned in the background to the issues (paragraph 3) may not be without cost to the Territory. Cabinet has previously requested that participation in specific events of this nature be brought forward for consideration as they are developed.

JOHN F. DILLON
for Co-ordinator General



1. ISSUE

To determine the level of funding to be provided by the Northern Territory Government as its contribution to the costs of celebrations and works to commemorate the 1988 Bicentennial in the Northern Territory.

2. BACKGROUND

The Prime Minister has advised that the Commonwealth will make available to the Northern Territory \$2M (at July, 1982 prices) under the Commonwealth/State Bicentennial Commemorative Program. The Northern Territory must match this sum on a dollar for dollar basis to receive the full allocation. The total sum is to be devoted to capital works of a suitable commemorative nature to be agreed between the Commonwealth and Territory Governments.

3. The Commonwealth will also spend directly in the Northern Territory, part of the \$118M it has allocated to National and International programs. This is in addition to its expenditure on the Commemorative Program referred to above. It is not expected to be known before mid-1984 how much of these Commonwealth funds will be spent in the Territory.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES

Decisions need to be taken on the level of funding to be provided by the Territory Government towards projects and events in the Territory.

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- 2 -

5. Not much expenditure, other than on major capital works, is likely to be incurred before 1987/88. However, there may be advantage in setting up a special trust account to receive Government contributions allocated on a year to year basis over the next four years. This would soften the blow to the budget in 1987/88. It would also ensure that funds were readily available to meet expenses which will occur before then. Bearing in mind that \$300,000 was allocated to the celebrations for the 5th Year of Self Government, a sum in the order of \$150,000 a year from 1984/85, together with accumulated interest, may be an appropriate order of magnitude for payments into such a special trust account. It is envisaged that funds in the trust account would be used for such purposes as special grants to local government and voluntary organizations to subsidise suitable projects or events mounted by them, plus activities arranged by Government.
6. With regard to capital works, the size of the capital works program for the bicentenary will be determined within the normal budgetary process. The bicentennial celebrations need have no net budget effect, apart from the additional \$2M made available by the Commonwealth.
7. The question is to what extent, if any, normal considerations of timing and approval in compiling the capital works program, should be modified to accommodate the special requirements of bicentennial works.

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CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

8. At the one extreme, the capital works program could be drawn up as normal without any special consideration being given to the bicentennial celebrations, with suitable works within the normal annual program being labelled as bicentennial projects as appropriate.
9. At the other extreme, a fixed amount could be set aside within the capital works program and specifically earmarked for bicentennial projects.
10. A middle ground would be to earmark a notional amount, say \$10M (which would include the \$2M Commonwealth contribution and \$2M matching Northern Territory funds) and ensure that specifically identified projects to this value, suitable for nomination as bicentennial commemorative projects, are included in the capital works program for completion by 31 December, 1988. Nomination of projects as bicentennial projects will require endorsement by the Bicentennial Authority.
11. Arrangements of this kind will not necessarily mean any reordering of priorities, because it may well be that all or most of the earmarked projects would in any event have been approved for inclusion on the Territory's annual works program. However, it will ensure that the bicentennial celebrations are not overlooked when the capital works program is approved.

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12. OPTIONS

In broad terms, the options are:

(A) In relation to non-capital expenditures:

- i) Do nothing until closer to the time when expenditure is likely to be incurred.
- ii) Decide on the magnitude of funds to be allocated but make no appropriation until closer to the time.
- iii) Set up a special trust account to receive Government contributions for recurrent expenditures associated with the bicentennial celebrations. This trust account could be established now with a nominal sum, \$50,000, and in each of the next four years Government could allocate say \$150,000 (at 1983 prices). Such provisions would ensure that funds were available to meet costs as they arose, and lessen the budget impact in 1987/88. In addition, the Territory would need to continue its annual contributions to the shared administrative costs of the Territory Council under the Memorandum of Understanding.

The preferred option is (iii).

(B) In relation to capital expenditure, the options are:

- i) Separately identify a specific amount that is independent of the Territory's normal capital works program;
- ii) Treat the bicentennial program as an integral part of the Territory's work programs, with projects having to be justified as necessary in the usual way;

- iii) Within the annual works program, ensure that works to a cumulative total value of \$10M are identified as bicentennial works, to be completed by 31 December, 1988.

The preferred option is (iii).

13. PUBLIC IMPACT

Mixed reactions can be expected, whatever the level of funds that are allocated to the bicentennial celebrations.

14. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The effect on the recurrent budget in any one year will be in the order of \$150,000, plus the contribution to administrative costs, if option A(iii) is followed. In addition to these costs, there will be the costs of services in kind provided by the Territory e.g. police escorts, assistance provided by public servants etc.

- 15. The net effect on the capital budget is likely to be favourable, because the Territory will be receiving an additional \$2M from the Commonwealth for capital works projects.

16. EMPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The Capital Works Program will be expanded by \$2M and this will generate some additional employment.

17. CONSULTATION

This paper has been prepared in consultation with the Chairman, NT Bicentennial Committee, the Co-Ordinator General and the Department of Transport and Works.

18. PUBLICITY

An announcement may be desirable at an appropriate time.

19. TIMING

Given the lead time for some capital works projects, a decision will be required fairly soon on the selection of projects suitable to be earmarked as bicentenary commemorative projects.

20. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Cabinet:


- a) Agree to set up immediately a special trust account to receive Government contributions for future expenditure in connection with the bicentennial celebrations, with a sum of \$50,000 being allocated in 1983/84, and with further allocations of \$150,000 in each of the following four years.
- b) Agree to matching the \$2M Commonwealth contribution for capital projects.
- c) Agree to ensure that projects to a total value of \$10M, including the \$2M Commonwealth grant and \$2M

CONFIDENTIAL

- 7 -

matching funds, are identified in the normal budget process, as works suitable for labelling as bicentennial commemorative projects, to be completed by 31 December, 1988.

DATE



PAUL EVERINGHAM

February, 1984

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