



1994 Northern Territory Cabinet Records

Public release of the Cabinet Records



Back Row (L-R): Hon. Eric Poole MLA, Hon. Mick Palmer MLA, Hon. Mike Reed MLA, Hon. Daryl Manzie MLA, Hon. Fred Finch MLA

Front Row (L-R): Hon. Steve Hatton MLA, Hon. Marshall Perron MLA, Hon. Barry Coulter MLA, Hon. Shane Stone MLA

Image courtesy of Library & Archives NT, Department of the Chief Minister, NTRS 3813 P1, Box 7, Item 13, Eighth Perron Ministry (20 July 1994 to 26 May 1995).

Strictly embargoed NOT for release until 1 January 2025

This document contains images of Aboriginal people who have died, which may cause sadness and distress to their relatives. No offence has been intended by making these images available. Care and discretion should be used when viewing these images. Some records include terms and views that are not appropriate today. They reflect the period in which they were created.

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Public release of the Cabinet records

Under the Northern Territory *Information Act*, public sector organisations are required to transfer their records to Library & Archives NT not later than 30 years after the record was created.

Most archived records enter an “open access period”, whereby they are available for public perusal 30 years after the record was created. This includes the Cabinet records. The original copies of all Northern Territory Cabinet submissions and decisions are filed by meeting date, and bound into books. These books are then transferred to Library & Archives NT for safekeeping and preservation.

Those Cabinet records created in 1994 will reach 30 years of age on 31 December 2024 and will be made available for public access on 1 January 2025.

The Cabinet

The Northern Territory Cabinet consists of those elected members of the Legislative Assembly who have been appointed as Ministers by the Northern Territory Administrator.

The Cabinet generally meets on a weekly basis to make decisions on matters such as major policy issues, proposals with significant expenditure or employment implications, matters which involve important initiatives or departures from previous arrangements, proposals with implications for Australian, state and local government relations, legislation, and high level government appointments.

Cabinet submissions

Most business comes before Cabinet by way of formal Cabinet submissions, each of which is allocated a consecutive number. Cabinet submissions generally follow a set format. Submissions are usually prepared by Government agencies at the direction of, or with the agreement of, the Minister responsible for that agency. Submissions may also include comments from other Northern Territory Government agencies which were consulted during the development of the submission.

Cabinet decisions

Each decision made by Cabinet is formally recorded in a separate document known as a Cabinet decision. Like Cabinet submissions, each Cabinet decision is given its own consecutive number. Most Cabinet decisions will have a corresponding Cabinet submission, but Cabinet may also issue a Cabinet decision without a submission.

Other Cabinet papers

Ministers may from time to time present memoranda to Cabinet, or table a document at a Cabinet meeting. These documents will generally be incorporated in the formal records of the Cabinet meeting. Such documents will usually result in a Cabinet decision, but not in every case.

Composition of the Cabinet in 1994

SIXTH PERRON MINISTRY (16 September 1993 to 14 June 1994)

Hon MB Perron MLA	Chief Minister Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services
Hon BF Coulter MLA	Treasurer Minister for Tourism Minister for Conservation
Hon SL Stone MLA	Minister for Asian Relations and Trade Minister for Industries and Development Minister for Mines and Energy Minister for Ethnic Affairs Minister for the Arts
Hon SP Hatton MLA	Minister for Aboriginal Development Minister for Lands, Housing and Local Government
Hon FA Finch MLA	Minister for Education and Training Minister for Public Employment
Hon DW Manzie MLA	Attorney-General Minister for Transport and Works
Hon MA Reed MLA	Minister for Health and Community Services Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries
Hon EH Poole MLA	Minister for Correctional Services Minister for Sport and Recreation Minister for Work Health and Territory Insurance Minister Assisting the Chief Minister on Central Australian Matters

SEVENTH PERRON MINISTRY (15 June to 17 July 1994)

Hon MB Perron MLA	Chief Minister
Hon BF Coulter MLA	Treasurer Minister for Tourism Minister for Conservation
Hon SL Stone MLA	Minister for Asian Relations and Trade Minister for Industries and Development Minister for Ethnic Affairs Minister for the Arts
Hon SP Hatton MLA	Minister for Aboriginal Development Minister for Lands, Housing and Local Government Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Constitutional Development Matters
Hon FA Finch MLA	Minister for Education and Training
Hon DW Manzie MLA	*Attorney-General Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services Minister for Transport and Works
Hon MA Reed MLA	Minister for Health and Community Services Minister for Mines and Energy Minister Assisting the Treasurer
Hon EH Poole MLA	Minister for Public Employment Minister for Correctional Services Minister for Sport and Recreation Minister for Work Health and Territory Insurance and the Liquor Commission Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Central Australian Matters
Hon M J Palmer MLA	Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries Minister Assisting the Minister for Lands, Housing and Local Government on Lands Matters

**Hon D W Manzie replaced as Attorney-General on 29 July 1994 by Hon FA Finch.*

The year was 1994

Local

The estimated population of the Northern Territory is 167,091 with 77,634 residing in the Darwin region.

“You’ll never never know if you never never go!” became the catch cry for the Northern Territory when the tourism campaign fronted by TV personality Daryl Somers from 1994-1998 puts the Northern Territory on the tourism destination map. The advertising campaign includes television and print, going on the win national and international awards and creating a substantial boost in visitors to the NT.

26 January – In the Australia Day honours list, The Honourable Austin Asche QC is appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for service to the law, to tertiary education and to the community, particularly the people of the Northern Territory.

24 May – In a tragic accident during the inaugural Cannonball Run, high speed motor race down the Stuart Highway, two Japanese competitors crash into two race officials, killing all four people.

1 June – The Deckchair Cinema opens on Stokes Hill Wharf, Darwin. The first film shown was *The Castanet Club*, an Australian production about a Newcastle dance troupe.

4 June – The Country Liberal Party wins the general election in the Northern Territory. Marshall Perron remains Chief Minister.

6 July – Window on the Wetlands Visitor Centre opens at Beatrice Hill, 60 km south of Darwin on the Adelaide River floodplain. The Centre provides a comprehensive and spectacular interpretative display of the wetlands.



Windows on the Wetlands, 2002

Image courtesy of Library & Archives NT, NT Tourist Commission, NTRS 4967/P1, Box 7, Item [77] unnumbered.



Windows on the Wetlands, 2002

Image courtesy of Library & Archives NT, NT Tourist Commission, NTRS 4967/P1, Box 7, Item [102] unnumbered.

18 August – Governor-General of Australia Bill Hayden officially opens Parliament House, Darwin.

18-28 August – At the Commonwealth Games held in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Alice Springs shooter Christine Trefry wins three gold medals in pistol events and boxer James Swan wins a bronze medal. Australia wins 87 gold, 52 silver and 43 bronze in total.

15 November - The Cyclone Tracy exhibit opens at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory in time for the 20th anniversary commemorations.



Jacqueline Healy, Museum Director, Cyclone Tracy exhibit opening MAGNT, 15 November 1994
Image courtesy of Library & Archives NT, NT Archives Service Photographic collection, Accession 2025/15, unit 3, [Item 63] Image 16.

22 November - A small fishing boat carrying 13 Vietnamese refugees runs ashore at a boat ramp in Nightcliff in the early hours of the morning. In the ensuing weeks, authorities estimate that a total of 393 refugees, mainly Chinese, arrive in northern Australia.

26 December - Alice Springs Yacht Club's entry, The Alice, sails in the Sydney/Hobart yacht race but retires before the finish of the race.

National

The Hon. Paul Keating is Prime Minister of Australia, and Dr John Hewson AM is the Leader of the Opposition, followed by Alexander Downer AC after a leadership challenge in May 1994.

27 February - Federal Sport and Environment Minister Ros Kelly resigns over the "sports rorts" affair where decisions were

made on submissions for funding solely based on verbal advice from staff, and the short-listing of applications was done using a "great big whiteboard" in her office, which were erased without permanent record once the decisions were made.

The investigation into the administration of the \$30 million grant allocation, found the actions were "not illegal", but her administration was deficient.

2 March - A bomb explodes in the Adelaide headquarters of the National Crime Authority (NCA killing Detective-Sergeant Geoff Bowen and severely wounding NCA lawyer Peter Wallis. The man responsible, Dominic Perre, was arrested within weeks but charges were not laid at the time due to lack of evidence. In 2018, Perre was charged with murder and attempted murder, and found guilty in 2022.

15 July - Former Western Australian Premier Brian Burke is sentenced to eight months jail for fraud.

25 July - Telephone numbers in Australia begin transitioning from six to eight digits. Mona Vale in Sydney is the first suburb to change to the new numbers.

September 5 - New South Wales State MP for Cabramatta John Newman is shot and killed outside his home, in Australia's first political assassination since 1977.

4 November - Sydney Airport's third runway opens, amidst protests about noise levels.

2 December - The Australian government agrees to pay reparations to the Indigenous people of Maralinga, South Australia, who were displaced during British Nuclear Testing in the 1950's and 1960s.

International

6 January – Figure skater Nancy Kerrigan is assaulted at the US Figure Skating Championships in Detroit. It is later discovered that the assault was planned by rival Tonya Harding's ex-husband with the goal to prevent Kerrigan competing in the championships and Olympics. Harding denied her involvement but later pleaded guilty to conspiring to hinder the prosecution. Kerrigan recovered quickly and went on to win a silver medal at the Olympics in Lillehammer in February.

1 February – Australian businessman Christopher Skase is arrested in Spain. Skase avoided extradition and remained in Majorca until his death in 2001. The "Chase for Skase" became a media headline after he fled Australia.

February 24 – In Gloucester, England, local police begin excavations at 25 Cromwell Street, the home of Fred and Rosemary West, suspects in the disappearance and murder of multiple victims. Both are arrested on February 28.

20 April – The People's Republic of China gets its first permanent connection to the internet.

May 1 – Three-time Formula One world champion Ayrton Senna is killed in an accident during the San Marino Grand Prix in Imola, Italy.

May 6 – The Channel Tunnel, which took 15,000 workers more than seven years to complete, officially opens between England and France; it enabled passengers to travel by rail between the two countries in 35 minutes.

May 10 – Nelson Mandela is inaugurated as South Africa's first black President.

17 June – Former professional NFL player and Hollywood star OJ Simpson flees from police in a low-speed pursuit in Los Angeles Southern California in a white Ford Bronco before surrendering to police. Simpson is charged with the murder of his wife Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman. Simpson is later acquitted on criminal charges but found liable for the wrongful death and battery of Goldman.

28 June – Members of the Aum Shinrikyo cult execute the first sarin gas attack at Matsumoto, Japan, killing 8 people and injuring 20.

5 July – Jeff Bezos founds Amazon online book shop.

16 August – The release of the IBM Simon smartphone. It is the first ever commercially available smartphone.

28 September – The car ferry MS Estonia sinks in the Baltic Sea, killing 852 people.

1 October – The World Wide Web Consortium is founded by Tim Berners-Lee, becoming the main international standards organisation for the World Wide Web.

15 December – The initial release of Netscape Navigator, a web browser that will go on to control the majority of the usage share for web browsers for the rest of the 1990s.

Popular culture, arts, sport, and entertainment

18 January – Blue Heelers, Australian police drama TV series, debuts on Channel 7.

12 to 27 February – the XVII Winter Olympics are held in Lillehammer, Norway. Australia wins one bronze medal in short track speed skating.

21 March – Schindler’s List, historical drama film, wins 7 Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Director for Steven Spielberg.

5 May – Australian film, The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, is screened at the 1994 Cannes Film Festival. The film written and directed by Stephan Elliot, showcases Central Australia and the Northern Territory. The film wins the 1995 Academy Award for Best Costume Design.

15 June – Disney’s The Lion King is released, becoming the highest grossing movie of 1994 with a worldwide box office gross of \$763 million.

20 June to 3 July – Pete Sampras defeats Goran Ivanisevic in the Men’s Singles at Wimbledon. Conchita Martinez defeats Martina Navratilova in the Women’s Singles.

21 July – Australian TV sitcom Mother and Son finale airs. The ABC series ran from 1984 to 1994.

14 September – The 1994 World Series in baseball is officially cancelled due to the ongoing work stoppage. It is the first time since 1904 that a World Series would not be played.

19 September – American medical TV drama ER debuts in America and runs for 15 seasons.

22 September – the TV sitcom Friends debuts starring Jennifer Aniston, Courtney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry and David Schwimmer. The series runs for 10 years becoming one of the most popular television shows of all time, being nominated for 62 Primetime Emmy Awards winning the award for Outstanding Comedy Series in 2002.

24 September – West Coast Eagles (20.20.143) defeats Geelong (8.15.63) to win the 98th AFL premiership.

25 September – In the NRL Grandfinal Canberra Raiders (36) defeat Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs (12 in Sydney).

29 September – Muriel’s Wedding, written and directed by PJ Hogan and starring Toni Collette and Rachel Griffiths is released. The film wins awards including Australian Film Institute Best Film and Best Actress and Supporting Actress. The film leads to a revival in the popularity of ABBA’s music.

1 November – British horse Jeune wins the Melbourne Cup with odds of 16 to one. The horse is trained by David Hayes, with Wayne Harris as jockey. Wayne Harris dedicates the win to a 12-year-old boy from Victoria, Andrew Read, who was suffering from a brain tumour.

17 November – American film Forrest Gump opens in Australia, starring Tom Hanks, Sally Field, Garry Sinese and Robin Wright. The film wins 6 Academy Awards the following year, including Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Director and 3 Golden Globe awards. The soundtrack reaches number 2 on the Billboard album chart.

24 November – Quentin Tarantino’s Pulp Fiction opens in Australia, starring John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson, and Uma Thurman. The film wins the Palme d’Or at the 1994 Cannes Film festival and its success reinvigorates Travolta’s acting career.

“Love is All Around” by Wet Wet Wet from the “Soundtrack to Four Weddings and a Funeral” was the highest selling Australian single of the 1994 according to the ARIA charts.

Fashion trends of 1994 included denim, velvet and animal print.

Mighty Morphin Power Ranger action figure are the most popular toy for children.

Justin Bieber, Harry Styles, Dakota Fanning, Tom Daley, Emma McKeon, Jessica Fox are all born in 1994.

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<https://www.warc.com/fulltext/afa/13868.htm> "You'll Never Never Know, If You Never Never Go" Simon Burgess and Colin Wilson-Brown

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ABS 1994 Statistics for the Northern Territory

Issues of interest from 1994

Below is a summary of selected Cabinet records from 1994 that may be of interest to the community. The summary and a scanned copy of the Cabinet record will be publicly available on the NT Cabinet records website.

To allow for the preparation of media stories, the Media will be provided with copies of the Cabinet records (on an embargoed basis) prior to their opening on 1 January 2025.

TOURISM

Northern Territory Tourism Development Masterplan

Submission No. 6957/Decision No. 8277 of 13th May 1994/Volume 440C

Following on from the Kennedy Report (1992), and the release of "Directions for Tourism Development – A Discussion Paper" released in 1993, Cabinet endorsed the release of the draft Northern Territory Tourism Development Masterplan.

The Masterplan was "designed to guide both Government and the industry in setting directions for tourism development of the Northern Territory over the next five years, to 1999".

The plan provided statistics relating to international and national tourism trends, including the countries of origin of visitors, with the NT recording most visitors from the UK, followed by the rest of Europe, Japan and the United States. Growth markets were expected to be Japan and Asia. While domestic travel figures had been static for most states, the NT had seen the highest average annual growth of 17% between 1988 and 1993.

There were approximately 917,000 visitors to the Northern Territory in 1992/93, with interstate visitors making up 46% of the total, 24% were from overseas and 30% from the NT.

The plan recommended the implementation of a Park Development Strategy to establish a framework for sustainable use and enjoyment of the Territory's natural features.

Niche markets such as fishing, fossicking, bird watching, gambling, sporting events, nature-based tourism, conventions, cattle stations and farm stays and backpackers were identified.



Henley on Todd, 1994

Image courtesy of Library & Archives NT, NT Tourist Commission, NTRS 4967/P1, Box 2, Item [15] unnumbered

A separate discussion paper on Aboriginal Cultural Tourism was to be tabled (Submission no. 6958). One of the recommendations was to ensure that Aboriginal Cultural Tourism occurred at a pace and in a manner dictated by the aspirations of Aboriginal people themselves.

The strategy included a heritage trail and heritage attractions, four-wheel drive tracks, passport to Territory parks, air links and investor packages.

A separate strategy was submitted for the "Northern Territory Tourism Aviation Strategy" (Submission no. 6959).

Aboriginal Tourism Discussion Paper

Submission No. 6958/Decision No. 8278 of 13th May 1994/Volume 440C

Cabinet endorsed the tabling of the "Aboriginal Tourism - Discussion Paper" and circulation of the paper to generate discussion and comment from Aboriginal organisations and authorities involved in the delivery of tourism related services to Aboriginal groups.

The draft discussion paper was jointly prepared by the NT Tourist Commission and the Office of Aboriginal Development.

The discussion paper drew on deliberations of the June 1993 Indigenous Australians and Tourism Conference in Darwin, and work on Aboriginal tourism undertaken in conjunction with the Tourism Development Masterplan.

"Government's role in the development of Aboriginal cultural tourism is one of support. Recommendations which follow in this document reflect that position, addressing infrastructure development, assistance with business planning and education and training."

The 17 recommendations related to marketing, research, joint ventures, parks, land, cultural centres, festivals, service infrastructure, aboriginal awareness, education and training, new enterprises and ongoing liaison.

Northern Territory Tourism Aviation Strategy

Submission No. 6959/Decision No. 8279 of 13th May 1994/Volume 440C (deferred, contains submission)

Submission No. 6959/Decision No. 8295 of 1st July 1994/Volume 442

Cabinet endorsed the tabling of the Northern Territory Tourism Aviation Strategy and its public release.

The Tourism Aviation Strategy was jointly collated by the Northern Territory Tourist Commission and the Department of Transport and Works, with comments sought from pertinent industry and key stakeholders.

The objectives of the strategy were:

- The establishment of Darwin as a significant domestic/international hub for Northern Australia
- The expansion of frequency and capacity of existing international, interstate and intra-territory air services
- The development of new air routes to and within the Northern Territory, including International Services to Central Australia
- The development of regional services linking key tourist destinations.

CONSERVATION

National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity

Submission No. 6843/Decision No. 8125 of 4th March 1994/Volume 434

Cabinet endorsed the National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity.

The strategy was prepared by the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council in consultation with key industry stakeholders. The goal of the Strategy was to "protect biological diversity and maintain ecological processes and systems".

The 9 principles of the strategy included that the close, traditional association of Australia's Indigenous peoples with components of biological diversity should be recognised, as should the desirability of sharing equitably benefits arising from the innovative use of traditional knowledge of biological diversity.

The strategy also supported research into the potential impacts of climate change on biological diversity. The final strategy was published in 1996.

Development of the Desert Wildlife Park and Botanic Gardens

Submission No. 6869/Decision No. 8156 of 15th March 1994/Volume 435B

Submission No. 7120/Decision No. 8492 of 2nd December 1994/Volume 454

Cabinet approved the provision of Capital Works funding for the development of the Desert Wildlife Park and released the Masterplan and Executive Report for public comment.

The submission consisted of the Appendices to the Desert Wildlife Park and Botanic Gardens Alice Springs Masterplan (January 1994) which described the habitat characteristics and display potential; building schedule of accommodation; goals and objectives; site analysis; site selection, alternative concept plans, staged cost estimates; exhibition capacity and duration; project development structure and costs; representative plants and animals; environmental construction and stormwater design guidelines; infrastructure and service requirements; and broad site selection.

The concept drawings included a nocturnal exhibit, restaurant, woodland trail, wetlands exhibit and show venue. Representative species consisted of thorny devils, red kangaroos, dingoes, bilbies, princess parrots, wedge-tailed eagles, malas, red tailed phascogale, pygmy mulga monitor and western quoll.

In the December decision, Cabinet approved further funding for the establishment and ongoing operations of the Park.

The Alice Springs Desert Park opened in March 1997.



Desert Wildlife Park, handlers with wedge-tailed eagle, 1997

Image courtesy of Library & Archives NT, NT Tourist Commission, NTRS 4967/P1, Box 2, Item [17] no 975574

Bushfire Management in the Northern Territory

Submission No. 6852/Decision No. 8139 of 15th March 1994/Volume 435A

Cabinet noted the document "Bushfire Management in the Northern Territory" and approved it for distribution.

The primary purposes of the strategy document were to prevent and control wildfires; to manage fire in non-urban areas in order to maintain diversity of species and ecosystems, and to manage fire so as to improve future rural productivity. The actions identified were fire management and control; fire suppression; smoke management; monitoring and research; promotion; training, and education.

A discussion paper aimed at identifying and considering community concern regarding the prevention and control measures used to effect fire management in the Territory was circulated for public comment during 1993. The responses were considered by

the Committee of Bushfires Council in the development of the strategy document submitted. The Committee included representatives from the CSIRO, NT Fire Service, NT Cattlemen's Association, Conservation Commission, and the Bushfires Council.

Issues raised included the use of fire as a bona fide tool of land management; a method of not only protecting life and property, but reducing the risk of economic loss as a consequence of uncontrolled bushfires. Concerns had been raised about smoke pollution and "burning off" as "aesthetically unpleasing and therefore damaging to a rapidly growing tourism industry".

Low intensity prescribed burning was recognised as being one of the most important tools available to land managers for the safe and effective control of wildfires.

The Strategy was to be released to the public in conjunction with the annual Bushfire Awareness Campaign conducted by the Bushfires Council early in the dry season.

The primary considerations of the strategy were the fire management objectives of the Bush Fires Council – the protection of life, assets and the environment from the effects of uncontrolled fire and the maintenance of ecosystems and associated resources through the use of appropriate fire regimes.

The strategy stressed the need for public acceptance of fuel reduction taking place at a time of the year when fires are safer and easier to control, and the daily cycle of weather conditions presents greater opportunities for control and self-extinguishment.

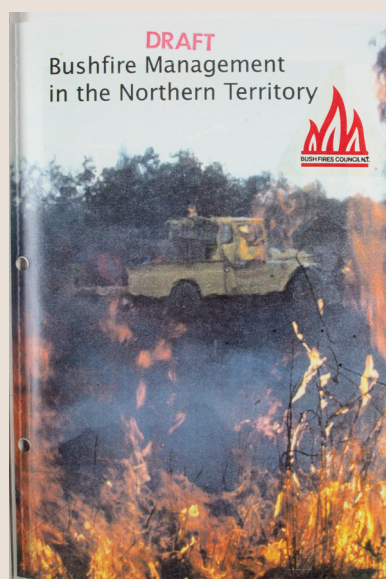


Image courtesy of Library & Archives NT, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, NTRS 2575/P1, Unit 236, volume 435A, Submission no. 6852/Decision no 8139 [page 19]

Draft Conservation Strategy for the Northern Territory

Submission No. 6886/Decision No. 8187 of 29th March 1994/Volume 437

Cabinet approved the Conservation Strategy for the Northern Territory, noting the key actions identified in the document to be undertaken as funding becomes available.

The strategy recommended a new government initiative for State of Environment (SOE) reporting. The strategy was underpinned by a range of programs including the Crocodile Management Plan, Bushfire Management, Waste Minimisation and Recycling and the Decade of Landcare Plan.

The strategy had four major goals:

- The conservation of existing biological diversity
- The conservation of natural and cultural heritage
- The sustainable utilisation of natural resources
- The maintenance of a clean, healthy environment.

LAW

Evidence Amendment Act 1994 – Evidence of Vulnerable Witnesses

Submission No. 6802/Decision No. 8071 of 1st February 1994/Volume 431 [Evidence Act]

Submission No. 6977/Decision No. 8309 of 7th July 1994/Volume 442 [CCTV]

In February 1994, Cabinet approved the drafting of amendments to the *Evidence Act* to enable evidence of vulnerable persons to be given by closed-circuit television. Vulnerable witnesses would be relieved of the threat of intimidation of being in the same room as the accused. The decision was based on recommendations of the Working Party on Sexual Abuse: the Giving of Evidence. The Evidence Amendment Bill 1994 (Serial 309) was passed on 3 March 1994.

In July, Cabinet approved leasing arrangements and funding for the installation of closed-circuit television facilities for court buildings in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine to allow witnesses to give evidence via closed circuit television, and sought further information regarding the requirement for similar equipment in other centres.

GENDER EQUITY

Northern Territory Government Women's Plan of Action

Submission No. 6899/Decision No. 8204 of 12th April 1994/Volume 437 (Deferred)

Submission No. 6899/Decision No. 8210 of 19th April 1994/Volume 438A

Submission No. 7090/Decision No. 8450 of 15th November 1994/Volume 45

Cabinet approved the tabling of "Looking Ahead, A Plan of Action for Women in the Northern Territory 2000" in the Legislative Assembly. The plan was tabled in Parliament on 1 December 1994.

The plan built on the work of the draft "Northern Territory Women's Strategy" and followed the "Initiatives for Women in the Northern Territory 1983-1993".

The NT Government's plan had four key goals:

- To improve women's status in society
- To increase women's economic security and independence
- To eliminate violence against women
- To improve the health and well-being of Territory women.

Northern Territory Women in Sport and Recreation Draft Policy

Submission No. 7132/Decision No. 8507 of 13th December 1994/Volume 455

In March 1994, the Chief Minister launched the policy for community consultation. Cabinet endorsed the Northern Territory Women in Sport and Recreation draft policy that aimed to enhance the participation of women in sport and recreation. The policy reflected the intent of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1992*. At the time of the submission, women made up 47.9% of the Northern Territory population with three quarters of the female population being under the age of 40. Participation in physical activity for females was 17.4% lower than that by males (according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics).

The policy focused on the areas of education, funding, sponsorship and promotion, media, program development and evaluation, access, and leadership and administration.

IMMIGRATION

Northern Territory Integrated Settlement Plan

Submission No. 6850/Decision No. 8133 of 8th March 1994/Volume 434

Cabinet endorsed the Northern Territory Integrated Settlement Plan (1994-1998) to enable it to be tabled at the Conference of Ministers for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

The plan aligned with the National Integrated Settlement Strategy developed in 1991.

The background to the plan states that the NT comprised only 1% of Australia's population, as at the 1991 Census. The top five countries of origin for the NT were the Philippines, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Vietnam. This differed from the general Australian population total which was led by the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Vietnam, New Zealand and then the Philippines.

At the time, 18.6% of the Northern Territory population were born overseas and 50% were from non-English speaking backgrounds. Migrant components were 48% family migrants, 39% skilled migrants, 8.3% special eligibility (primarily New Zealand migrants) and 4% humanitarian migrants.

Hong Kong and the United Kingdom were the biggest source countries of skilled migrants.

The plan focused on issues such as access and equity, English language and literacy, housing, health, isolation, employment and overseas qualifications, refugee needs, legal issues, and police.

The plan involved the three tiers of government as well as community organisations.

ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT

Aboriginal Employment and Career Development Strategy

Submission No. 6944/Decision No. 8264 of 13th May 1994/Volume 440A

Cabinet endorsed the Aboriginal Employment and Career Development Strategy for the Northern Territory Public Sector.

The strategy sought to increase the employment rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the mainstream NT Public Sector by providing a range of appropriate recruitment and career development programs.

The strategy was developed within the framework of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993* which required the development of equal opportunity programs. The strategy was developed in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation and individuals.