

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**CABINET DECISION**

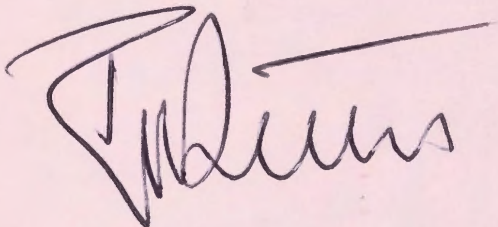
**No. 7382**

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Submission No: 6261

Title: **TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF TENNANT CREEK  
BATTERY**

Cabinet approved the allocation of an additional \$50,000 in funding to allow the site on which the Government Stamp Battery sits at Tennant Creek to be rehabilitated to an acceptable standard and be transferred to the local community.



**R.A.SETTER**  
Secretary to Cabinet

20 July 1992

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FOR CABINET

SUBMISSION No: **6261**

<p>Title:</p> <p>Minister</p> <p>Purpose:</p> <p>Relation to existing policy:</p> <p>Timing/ legislative priority:</p> <p>Announcement of decision, tabling, etc:</p> <p>Action required before announcement:</p> <p>Staffing implications, numbers and costs, etc:</p> <p>Total cost:</p>	<p>Transfer of Ownership of Tennant Creek Battery</p> <p>Minister for Mines and Energy</p> <p>To allocate additional funds to allow the transfer of the ownership of the Tennant Creek Battery to the local Tennant Creek Community.</p> <p>Conforms with existing policy of privatising functions where feasible.</p> <p>Transfer of legal title cannot be effected until the Warramungu Land Claim is finalised.</p> <p>Prior to the commencement of environmental cleanup work by the community.</p> <p>Nil</p> <p>Existing caretaker will be absorbed into the Department of Mines and Energy if a vacancy exists.</p> <p>\$300,000, of which the Department has funds of \$250,000 in its 1992/93 Budget. Additional funds of \$50,000 are required to enable transfer.</p>
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Department/Authority.....NORTHERN TERRITORY TREASURY.....

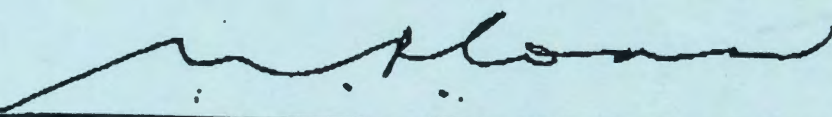
COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: .....TRANSFER..OF..OWNERSHIP..OF..TENNANT..CREEK..BATTERY.....

**COMMENTS:**

The proposal involves spending an additional \$85,000 this financial year in support of the community development of a tourist attraction within the Tennant Creek town boundaries. (i.e. An additional expenditure of \$50,000 plus the difference between the \$250,000 that was allocated to DME to rehabilitate the site and the more recent estimate of \$215,000 to actually carry out the task.)

It is understood that suitable assurances to ensure that the necessary site rehabilitation work is completed to the required standard will be incorporated in an agreement between government and the local committee.

  
SIGNED: N R CONN  
DESIGNATION: UNDER TREASURER  
DATE: 17 JULY 1992 **CONFIDENTIAL**

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Department/Authority: DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

**TITLE: TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF TENNANT CREEK  
BATTERY (Mines & Energy)**

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**COMMENTS:**

The recommendation is supported.

*Peter Conran*

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**SIGNED: PETER CONRAN**

**DESIGNATION: SECRETARY**

**DATE: 16 JUL 1992**

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Department/Authority: LAW

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION NO.

TITLE: TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF TENNANT CREEK BATTERY

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COMMENTS:

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

The proposal does not raise any consumer implications.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The Submission does not appear to raise any additional resource implications at this point in time.

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*Meredith Harrison*  
SIGNED: Meredith Harrison  
DESIGNATION: A/Secretary, Department of Law  
DATE: 16 July 1992

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Department/Authority.....CONSERVATION.COMMISSION.....

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: .....TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF TENNANT CREEK BATTERY.....

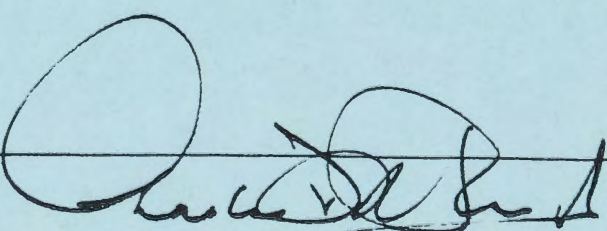
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COMMENTS:

The recommendations of the Submission are supported.

The recommendations are consistent with the proposal to develop a Northern Territory Heritage Trail which is currently being considered by Cabinet within the context of the 1992/93 budget.

The Commission would be prepared to provide continuing advice and assistance to the Tennant Creek community for the preparation of interpretive displays, for conservation works and for the promotion of the Battery site as part of an overall Northern Territory Heritage Trail.

SIGNED: 

DESIGNATION: DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DATE: 16/7/92

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Department/Authority.....DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS.....

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: .....TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF TENNANT CREEK BATTERY.....

**COMMENTS:**

The proposal to transfer the Government Stamp Battery to the local community is supported. However, this Department is not in a position to comment on the allocation of additional funding.

*B Chambers*

SIGNED: B CHAMBERS

DESIGNATION: A/SECRETARY

DATE: 16/7/92

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Department/Authority ..... MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERIES OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

**COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.**

**TITLE:** ..... TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF TENNANT CREEK BATTERY

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**COMMENTS:**

The Museums and Art Galleries Board supports the recommendations and wishes to make no comments.

SIGNED: *P Murray*  
DESIGNATION: ACTING DIRECTOR

DR PETER MURRAY

DATE: 17/7/92

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Department/Authority: LANDS AND HOUSING

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF TENNANT CREEK BATTERY

COMMENTS:

The recommendation of the Submission is supported.

It should be noted that the landholding body will need to be incorporated. It is also desirable that tenure follow normal Government policy and be a lease for the purpose of development of a tourist facility, unless the community body wishes to pay freehold value of the land.

It is also noted that the proposal for tourism uses is consistent with the proposed Tennant Creek Structure Plan and that transfer of ownership will not occur until the Warumungu Land Claim is resolved.

SIGNED: Kevin Williams

DESIGNATION: A/Secretary

DATE: 17/7/92

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RECOMMENDATION

1. That Cabinet approves the allocation of an additional \$50,000 in funding to allow the site on which the Government Stamp Battery sits at Tennant Creek to be rehabilitated to an acceptable standard and be transferred to the local community.

BACKGROUND

2. The Battery was placed on a care and maintenance basis early in 1987.
3. The Battery site covers 92 hectares. The Battery itself is of historical interest and there is a small photographic display open to visitors on a limited basis. The site contains a number of buildings, including a large workshop and core store. It also provides a recreation area for the Tennant Creek community.
4. An undercover barbecue area was constructed as part of the program to develop the site as a tourist attraction. Several improvements have been made to the site to further its potential as a mining museum.

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For example, a headframe has been erected overlooking the town. Further development of the site was halted pending the outcome of a land claim.

5. The land on which the Battery is situated became the subject of the Warrumungu land claim and the Aboriginal Land Commissioner, Mr Justice Maurice, recommended that the claim be granted. An "in principle" agreement has been reached between the Territory and the Central Land Council and a Memorandum of Understanding is currently being prepared by the Department of Law to formalise matters agreed on. The matters include withdrawal of the claim by the Central Land Council over areas negotiated for the future expansion of Tennant Creek. The Battery site is to be placed within the Tennant Creek Town Boundary. When survey work is completed and the Memorandum of Understanding is in place, the Warramungu Land Claim can be finalised.

6. Over the years, many suggestions have been put forward for the future use of the Battery site. These suggestions include: transfer to the Museums and Art Galleries Board as a mining museum of archaeological

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importance; a museum leased to the Town Council; a bird park; a tourist and travellers centre; a regional museum incorporating all cultural aspects, including mining.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE

7. A committee of interested members of the Tennant Creek Community lead by the local Operations Manager of Poseidon Gold met on 4 March 1992 and indicated that their committee could develop the site for tourism if they received freehold title and a once off payment of \$750,000 from the Government.
  
8. The Battery site has several areas which are covered by tailings, some of which contain cyanide and mercury. Under any scenario it would be the responsibility of the Department of Mines and Energy to clean up the site and rehabilitate to the standard that the Department demands of private industry. Officers of the Department have drawn up a schedule of work to be completed (Attachment A) and calculated the cost based on unit prices from local contractors.

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9. Subsequent discussions with the committee have resulted in them agreeing to carry out the rehabilitation work to the standard required by the Department of Mines and Energy and taking over responsibility for the Battery for a once-off payment of \$300,000.

PUBLIC IMPACT OF THE RECOMMENDATION

10. If the rehabilitation is completed to an acceptable standard and funds remain to further develop the facility, it should result in a positive impact on the Tennant Creek Community.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

11. Environmental rehabilitation is required regardless of who has control of the site. Departmental estimates of this cost is \$215,000 (Attachment A).
12. The committee believe that by utilising local mining equipment and volunteer labour they will complete the program for a much lower cost. If they receive a payment of \$300,000, they believe they will be able

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to complete the rehabilitation and have sufficient funds available to further develop the facility.

13. Financial controls will be put into place to ensure the rehabilitation is completed and an acceptable standard is attained.

14. Department of Mines and Energy has \$250,000 allocated for the rehabilitation of the Battery in its 1992/93 Budget. This request is for the additional \$50,000.

REGULATORY IMPACT

15. Nil.

EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

16. One staff member is employed at the Battery as a caretaker and he has indicated he wishes to stay with the public service rather than transfer across to the local community organisation.

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COMMONWEALTH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

17. It is believed that the Tennant Creek Town Council support the transfer of the site and its development by the local tourist committee.

CO-ORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

18. This submission has been circulated to the Departments of Chief Minister, Treasury, Law, Lands and Housing, Transport and Works, Museums and Art Galleries Board and the Conservation Commission.

LEGISLATION

19. Nil.

PUBLICITY

20. An announcement of the project will be made as soon as an agreement with the local tourist committee can be finalised.

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TIMING

21. The major works of the environmental rehabilitation are to be completed by 31 December 1992. Transfer of land title will occur as soon as the Warramungu Land Claim is finalised.

DATE:

BARRY COULTER

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**WASTE CONTAINMENT AND REHABILITATION  
AT TENNANT CREEK CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BATTERY**

INTRODUCTION

During April 1992 a preliminary chemical survey of the Tennant Creek Central Battery site was undertaken. Analysis of samples identified potential environmental problems associated with elevated levels of cyanide, mercury and, to a lesser extent, salts and other heavy metals. Dust was also identified as a potential problem.

As a result of these findings, a program of waste containment and rehabilitation is required for the site. Preparation of a detailed program would normally involve a detailed chemical and physical survey of the site. However, on current information available, a preliminary program of works has been developed. This program has been costed in general terms for budgetary purposes. The estimated costs have been based on extensive discussions with local contractors.

Volumes of materials involved were estimated from interpretation of aerial photography and rough on-site estimates and measurements.

A number of backhoe pits excavated for evaluation purposes, identified sources of gravel and clay for construction materials. They also revealed the extent of the variation in the subsurface depth of tailings.

The recommended program, which is illustrated by the accompanying photograph, is as follows:

AREA 1 - FRONT OF BATTERY (PEKO ROAD SIDE)

(a) Scope of Work

- Total area involved approx. 2.1 ha.
- Excavate and remove all tailings and potentially contaminated soil to the impoundment structure proposed for Area 4. The depth of tailings cover varies throughout Area 1. In some sections there are no tailings, whereas in other sections the tailings have been identified up to 45cm below surface level. Some sections show alternating layers of tailings and gravel loam.

An estimated volume of up to 3000m<sup>3</sup> is to be removed.

- After tailings removal, the surface is to be recontoured to a uniform surface for drainage control.

- A depth of 10cm (minimum) of approved topsoil or suitable seedbed material is then to be spread over the entire area.
- The entire area is then to be deep ripped along the contour. Rip lines shall be spaced no more than 3 metres apart. Rip lines shall be to a depth of 1 metre wherever possible and shall be no shallower than 0.5 metres.
- The entire area shall then be seeded with native tree, shrub and grass species. Species shall include both annuals and perennials. Seed shall be sown in such a way that it is placed within the top 5cm of soil but not left on the surface. Seed species and rate shall be approved by DME superintendent.

(b) Estimated Cost: \$34,000

## **AREA 2 - DAMS AND TAILS STOCKPILE AREA AT FRONT OF BATTERY**

### (a) Scope of Works

- Total area involved approx. 0.7 ha.
- In a manner approved by the DME superintendent, dispose of surface waters in the existing dams.
- Excavate and remove all tailings from the area. This includes the tailings-soil interface below the dams and the tailings-rock-soil mix of which the dam walls are constructed.
- An estimated volume of up to 500 cubic metres is involved.
- The tailings and contaminated soil and rock can be removed to the designated impoundment or removed from site for reprocessing.
- A depth of 10cm (minimum) of approved topsoil or suitable seedbed material is to be spread over the entire area.
- The entire area is to be deep ripped along the contour. Rip lines shall be to a depth of 1 metre wherever possible (DME superintendent's discretion) and shall be no shallower than 0.5 metres.
- The entire area shall then be seeded with native tree, shrub and grass species. Species shall include both annuals and perennials. Seed shall be sown in such a way that it is placed within the top 5cm of soil but not left on the surface. Seed species and rate shall be approved by DME superintendent.

(b) Estimated cost: \$8,500

**AREA 3 - OLD GOVERNMENT CYANIDE TAILINGS****(a) Scope of Works**

- Total area involved approx. 0.5 ha.
- The steel lined vats and associated scraper tailings dumps shall be preserved for heritage value.
- Construct a specifically designed impoundment immediately downslope of the tailings dumps, so as to trap and contain any tailings eroded by water.

This impoundment will require annual maintenance to maintain design capacity.

- Stabilize the tailings dumps in an as-is condition, or as near as possible. This is to minimise erosion of the tailings by wind and water.

Surface stabilisation could be achieved through direct application of PVA or similar binding compound.

This is likely to require an annual treatment/maintenance.

- (b) Estimate of cost: \$4,000  
+ Maintenance

**AREA 4 - LOCKTON VAT LEACH TAILINGS DAM****(a) Scope of Works**

- Total area involved approx. 1.3 ha.
- Construct new impoundment wall or reconstruct Lockton's dam wall to an appropriate design standard for long-term stability and containment of tailings.
- Construction materials for the dam wall will be obtained from clay and gravel borrow pit located within the battery reserve and approx. 500 metres from the dam site.
- The dam wall shall have adequate capacity to contain all designated tailings, contaminated materials and capping materials.
- Outer batters of dam wall to be no steeper than 3 horizontal to 1 vertical.

- Install diversion bunds to prevent run-on from up-slope areas. (i.e. minimise catchment). Diversion bunds shall terminate in an appropriate sediment trap with level silt.
- Place all tailings and contaminated soil/gravel/rock from specified areas into the completed impoundment.
- Selectively place materials in impoundment as per schedule approved by DME superintendent.
- Landscape surface for optimum containment capacity and long-term stability and drainage control.
- Cover surface and batters of impoundment with a minimum of 0.5m gravel loam.
- Reseed surface with native grass species.

(b) Estimated cost: \$62,800

#### AREA 5 - ARM VATS

(a) Scope of Work

- Total area involved approx. 0.8 ha.
- Excavate and remove all tailings in vats, vat walls and bedding material. Place in impoundment in Area 4. Estimated volume up to 7000 cubic metres.
- Plastic liners in vats to be separated from tails and earthen material and placed in rubbish dump.
- Rubbish in trenches adjacent to vats to be removed and placed in rubbish dump.
- Remaining surface to be prepared and reseeded in conjunction with area 6.
- Surface to be contour-ripped on a 3-metre parallel spacing. Ripping to be to a minimum of 0.5 metres deep and to 1 metre when possible.
- Prepared surface to be reseeded with native tree, shrub and grass species.

(b) Estimated cost: \$32,800

**AREA 6 - TAILINGS EROSION FAN**

## (a) Scope of Work

- Total area involved approx. 2.5 ha.
- Clear the limited number of trees and shrubs in the designated area.
- Pick-up and dispose of any rubbish or waste materials in this area.
- Pick-up and remove all tailings and the subsoil interface as designated in the area. Estimated volume up to 5,000 cubic metres.
- Place tails and soil in impoundment in Area 4.
- Surface to be contour ripped on a 3-metre parallel spacing. Ripping shall be to a minimum of 0.5 metre deep and to 1 metre where possible.
- Prepared surface to be reseeded with native tree, shrub and grass species.

## (b) Estimated cost:

\$29,000

**AREA 7 - RUBBISH DUMP**

## (a) Scope of Work

- Total area of dump approximately 0.8 ha.
- Approximately six carbodies are to be removed to a designated area in the Tennant Creek town dump.
- Pick up and remove all surface rubbish to the designated cut and fill waste disposal pit onsite.
- Existing trees within the dump area are not to be disturbed when collecting and removing surface rubbish.
- The waste disposal pit will be the borrow area for clay and gravel for the dam wall and surface covering for area 4.
- The borrow pit will be operated and rehabilitated to Department of Mines and Energy standards and specifications.
- After placement in the pit, rubbish shall be crushed and the pit shall be backfilled with a minimum of one metre of clay and gravel which has been stockpiled for this purpose during the operation of the borrow pit.

- The reshaped surface shall be tyned to a depth of 300 mm and reseeded with native species as directed.

(b) Estimated cost: \$5,000

#### ADDITIONAL COSTS

- (a) Fencing to exclude cattle, donkeys and horses from revegetation areas. Minimum standard of fencing will be star-picket (10m spacing) with strained three-strand wire (minimum 10 gauge). Gates will be required for access.

Estimated cost: \$6,000

- (b) Weed Control Program is required both prior to and after the earthmoving operations. The control program required approximately 4 months after completion of earthworks will also incorporate a follow-up program (4-6 weeks later).

An annual program will then be required.

Estimated cost: \$2,000

- (c) Close and rehabilitate the numerous unrequired access tracks throughout the site. Tracks to be blocked, ripped (to 300mm minimum) and provided with adequate drainage. Recommend a light reseedling with native grass seed.

Estimated cost: \$3,000

- (d) Install and maintain sediment traps (2) on drainage paths through disturbed and earthwork areas. This is intended to minimise transport of material off-site until a stabilising vegetative cover or gravel lag is established.

Estimated cost: \$1,000

- (e) Routine follow-up monitoring of the site will be required for at least two years.

Estimated cost: \$6,000

- (f) Contingencies \$20,900

**TOTAL COST** \$215,000

TENNANT CREEK  
COMMUNITY AREA  
1:4000

RUN 1  
019-026

6/8/80  
AMSL

N.T. GOVERNMENT



ATC  
1057

