

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Copy No.

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CABINET DECISION

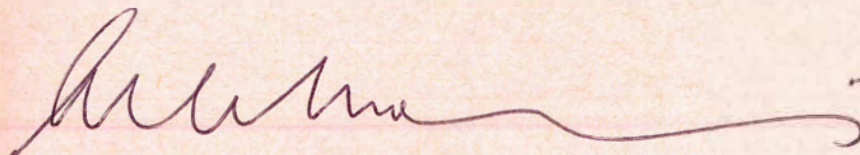
No.....5986.....

Submission No.: 5147

Title: PROPOSED PURCHASE OF THE COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC
AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION'S FACILITY
IN KATHERINE

Cabinet -

- (a) deferred further consideration until Budget Cabinet discussions in May; and
- (b) directed the Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries to assess the sub-division potential of the site and report back to Cabinet in due course.



A. G. MORRIS
Secretary to Cabinet.

28 March 1989

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THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

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FOR CABINET

SUBMISSION No: 5147

<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 re-quired before announcement:</p> <p>Staffing implications, numbers and costs, etc:</p> <p>Total cost:</p>	<p>PROPOSED PURCHASE OF THE COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION'S FACILITY IN KATHERINE.</p> <p>HONOURABLE MIKE REED, MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES.</p> <p>TO OBTAIN APPROVAL TO PURCHASE THE CSIRO FACILITY DEPENDENT UPON NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TERRITORY AND CSIRO, TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDS IN 1989-90 FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF THESE FACILITIES SO THAT DPIF STAFF CAN BE PROGRESSIVELY RELOCATED INTO THE FACILITY.</p> <p>CONSISTENT WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY TO SUPPORT THE TERRITORY RURAL INDUSTRY.</p> <p>AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ALLOW NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CSIRO AND THE GOVERNMENT TO PROCEED.</p> <p>PREFER NO PRESS RELEASE AT THIS STAGE. IF ONE IS NEEDED IT SHOULD BE LOW KEY AND MAY NEED JOINT AGREEMENT FROM CSIRO.</p> <p>NIL.</p> <p>ADDITIONAL 2 STAFF POSITIONS CREATED WHICH WILL REQUIRE PSC AND CABINET APPROVAL. TOTAL SALARY AND ON-COST COMPONENT IS \$67 000 PER ANNUM.</p> <p>- INITIAL OUTLAY \$2 347 000, INCLUDING RENOVATION AND RELOCATION COSTS.</p>
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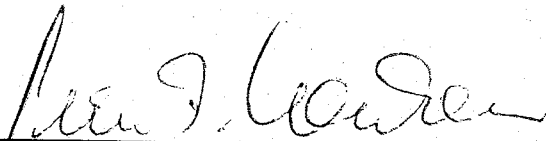
Department/Authority:LAW.....

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE:PROPOSED PURCHASE OF THE COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC
.....AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION'S FACILITY.....
.....IN KATHERINE.....

COMMENTS:

There appear to be no constitutional or legal barriers to the proposal. The Department of Law should be consulted as negotiations with the CSIRO proceed.



SIGNED: PETER CONRAN

DESIGNATION: SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF LAW

DATE: 8 March 1989

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Department/Authority NORTHERN TERRITORY TREASURY

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: PROPOSED PURCHASE OF THE COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC
AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION'S FACILITY
IN KATHERINE
.....
.....

COMMENTS:

While the purchase of the CSIRO land at a realistic market price is supported in principle (because it is an asset that can be sold, presumably for no less a price than was paid), there does appear to be a need to better demonstrate that agricultural research activities in Katherine are worth continuing or, as the submission implies, expanding. Since there are significant recurrent costs involved, this issue should be addressed in the forthcoming Budget considerations.



SIGNED: N R CONN

DESIGNATION: UNDER TREASURER

DATE: 9 MARCH 1989

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Department/~~XXXXX~~..... **OF THE CHIEF MINISTER**

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: **PURCHASE OF CSIRO RESEARCH FACILITY, KATHERINE**

COMMENTS:

Given that this proposal is a major new initiative with substantial budgetary implications, and given that there appears from the Submission no great urgency for a decision, the proposal should be considered when Cabinet considers the 1989/90 Budget.

The Submission has no arguments suggesting that the research programs being undertaken in the Katherine area have been reviewed in accordance with the Economic Development Strategy. It would seem that the research programs should be reviewed and rationalised prior to a decision being made to purchase the CSIRO facility.

Further, the implications for withdrawing from almost three quarters of the available space in the second stage of the Government Centre in Katherine, does not seem to have been fully argued in the Submission.

Margaret P. Lyons

SIGNED: MARGARET P LYONS

DESIGNATION: DEPUTY SECRETARY

DATE: 01/3/80

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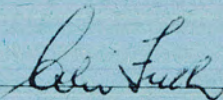
CONFIDENTIALDepartment/Authority: ~~XXXXXXXX~~ LANDS AND HOUSING**COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.**

TITLE: PROPOSED PURCHASE OF THE COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC
AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION'S FACILITY IN
KATHERINE

COMMENTS:

This proposal has significant benefits to the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries. Both efficiency and morale would be improved by such a move.

The only real question relates to the overall costs. Perhaps a much reduced offer could be made to CSIRO given that the premises are not of much use to other than research organisations.



SIGNED: C J FULLER

DESIGNATION: SECRETARY

DATE: 6 MARCH 1989

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Department/Authority DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: PURCHASE OF CSIRO RESEARCH FACILITY - KATHERINE

COMMENTS:

The Department provides the following comments:

Paragraph 11

An additional 26 Government owned vehicles at the Government Centre will result in on-street parking for a number of privately owned vehicles that currently use the Government centre carpark.

There may be some potential to provide additional carparking on a share basis with the Department of Law on the new courthouse site which is immediately adjacent to the Government Centre.

Paragraph 14

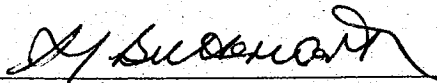
Government is committed to the cost of leasing Stage 2 of the Government Centre whether or not PIF is a major tenant. Therefore relinquishing the 750m/2 is not a legitimate offset to the cost of providing additional accommodation at the CSIRO site. It is extremely unlikely that a private sector tenant could be identified to take up the space and this would not accord with the Government Centre concept.

Paragraph 15

The possibility of other Departments being able to justify reallocation of the 750m/2 for alternative use is currently being investigated.

There may be a need for additional space to accommodate new initiatives for Health and Community Services.

I do not necessarily agree that there will be "no difficulty" in identifying alternative tenants for the Primary Industry and Fisheries area.



SIGNED: S J BUTTERWORTH
DESIGNATION: DEPUTY SECRETARY
DATE: 8 MARCH 1989

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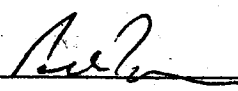
Department/Authority TRANSPORT & WORKS

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: PROPOSED PURCHASE OF THE COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND
INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION'S FACILITY IN KATHERINE

COMMENTS:

Submission supported.


SIGNED: I.D. GORDON

DESIGNATION: SECRETARY

DATE:

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - (a) Approve in principle the purchase of the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation's (CSIRO) research facility at Katherine with a ceiling for negotiation of \$2 million, consisting of the fixed assets at a cost of \$1.88 million plus essential plant and equipment.
 - (b) Authorise the Secretaries of the Departments of Primary Industry and Fisheries (DPIF) and Lands and Housing to negotiate with CSIRO a settlement early in the 1989-90 financial year. The negotiated arrangements are to be approved by the Treasurer and the Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries.
 - (c) Approve the phased relocation of all staff of the DPIF in Katherine to the facility.
 - (d) Approve in principle renovations and additions to the facility to enable the Department to be accommodated there and the inclusion of required work in the 1989-90 Capital Works Program at the preliminary cost estimate of \$120 000

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- (e) Approve an increase of two positions in the Maximum Staffing Level (MSL) for the DPIF, (viz. a Senior Technical Officer Grade 1 and a Technical Assistant Grade 1) and the associated recruitment, salary and administration costs of these positions (estimated at \$67 000).
- (f) Approve in principle the provision of funds in the 1989-90 Appropriation to cover relocation and operational programmed and unforeseen costs for the Department and maintenance costs for the facility (estimated at \$180 000).

BACKGROUND

2. CSIRO has been undertaking tropical pasture and crop research at the 4 mile farm, Katherine since 1946. In that time it has developed a high quality research facility.
3. CSIRO is now progressively closing down its operation in Katherine, due to reduced funding and its assessment that its work in crops research has reached a stage where on-going research is a matter for the Territory.
4. On 13 September 1988, Dr E.F. Henzell of CSIRO wrote to me asking if the Territory is interested in acquiring the facility. My Department has since been assessing the proposal.

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5. The Valuer-General has determined the value of the land (1262 ha) and buildings to be \$1.88 million. A portion of the existing plant and equipment (estimated value \$100 000) is essential to the operation of the facility.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES

6. The Government has a stated commitment to maintaining and developing research programs to assist the further development of the agricultural industries.
7. While research is carried out on a number of sites around the Top End, Katherine is emerging as a key centre for operations. The acquisition of this facility will enhance the opportunities for relocating or expanding research work currently being undertaken elsewhere to the Katherine area in order to address the climatic variations there.
8. CSIRO's withdrawal from Katherine will also increase the demands placed upon my Department for tropical crops research. A comparison of projects addressed by CSIRO and those expected of the Department in the Katherine Region is at Appendix B.

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9. The Department's activities in the region are based in inadequate office accommodation in the town centre and a separate laboratory. 46 of the 51 staff in the region, however, are involved in field work. Most projects are spread between an area at the Katherine Rural College, plots provided by private landholders and plots at the CSIRO facility. It had been planned for the Department to relocate into the Stage 2 of the Government Centre. Some 710m² of office accommodation has been allocated.

10. This situation would only partly solve the Department's accommodation problems, as units would still be required to operate from Mannion Street laboratory and the Katherine Rural College.

11. Staff who work from the Department's existing office in Katherine Terrace operate 26 motor vehicles. The existing carparks at the Government Centre are heavily used and the increase in this number of vehicles will cause considerable problems resulting in much on street parking.

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12. The distance between the various research sites and the office lead to inefficiencies in time management and inhibit contact between research staff. The varied ownership of the research sites leads to difficulties in project control.

13. The availability of the CSIRO facility offers the opportunity to centralise the bulk of the Department's activities at the one location. The research facilities on offer are of a very high standard and relatively minor additional work (\$120 000) is required to provide accommodation for the full Regional Office. An assessment of these accommodation requirements is at Appendix C.

14. The cost of providing the additional accommodation can be offset through the disposal of the laboratory site in Mannion Street, relinquishing the area designated for the Department in the Government Centre to other organisations, and the possible leasing of small areas within the facility to other research groups. There is also potential for workshop and storage facilities to be made available to other organisations such as the Bushfires Council and the Conservation Commission.

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15. Informal advice from the Department of Labour and Administrative Service suggests there will be no difficulty in finding alternative tenants for the area in the Government Centre.

OPTIONS

- (a) To purchase the research facility and provide resources in 1989-90 to upgrade the accommodation to house DPIF's Katherine operations in the facility.
 - (b) To purchase the facility but not provide for the additional accommodation.
 - (c) To not purchase the facility.
16. The purchase of the facility is strongly recommended as it offers an ideal opportunity to develop a major centre for agricultural research in the Territory. Option (a) is preferred to option (b) as the provision of the additional accommodation and the focusing of the Department's local operations at one centre will improve operational efficiency and the services provided to industry.

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17. The physical separation of administrative and field staff which would result from option (b) would have an adverse effect on operational efficiency.

PUBLIC IMPACT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

18. There will be little impact in the urban centres. Industry should be strongly supportive of this initiative to increase the level and quality of research being undertaken on its behalf. The purchase will reaffirm the Government's commitment of support to the rural sector, particularly in the Katherine area.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

19. The total estimated cost to be incurred in 1989-90 is \$2 347 000. Recurring expenditure is estimated at \$127 000 in 1990-91 (See Appendix D).
20. Financial benefits which may accrue in 1989-90 as a result of this action are in the order of \$593 000. This does not take into account savings in staff costs associated with reducing travelling time to research sites.

REGULATORY IMPACT

21. Nil.

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EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

22. A Farm Manager (Senior Technical Officer Grade 1) and Gardener/Maintenance Officer (Technical Assistant Grade 1) are positions additional to the Department's MSL. The purchase will have a positive effect on staff efficiency and morale.

COMMONWEALTH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

23. CSIRO has indicated its preference that the Territory be given the first option to purchase the facility. It is CSIRO's intention to allow DPIF to occupy the facility as they progressively vacate the site prior to settlement, should agreement be reached over the purchase.

CO-ORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

24. Departments of the Chief Minister, Transport and Works, Lands and Housing, Labour and Administrative Services and Law and Treasury have been consulted. Responses to concerns raised by the Departments of the Chief Minister and Treasury are contained in Appendix E.

LEGISLATION

25. Nil.

PUBLICITY

26. No publicity is intended until the purchase is settled. Early publicity may jeopardise the negotiations with the Commonwealth.

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TIMING

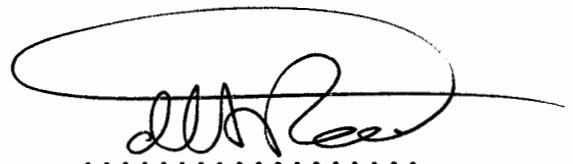
27. The Department currently leases private office accommodation in Katherine which has a contract termination date of May 1990.

CSIRO will have reduced its staff by half (ie 9) by mid 1989 and will cease operation by the end of 1990. This timetable facilitates a progressive takeover by the Department.

It is therefore desirable to purchase the facility as soon as practicable in 1989-90; so that Departmental officers may commence research projects and progressively occupy the site.

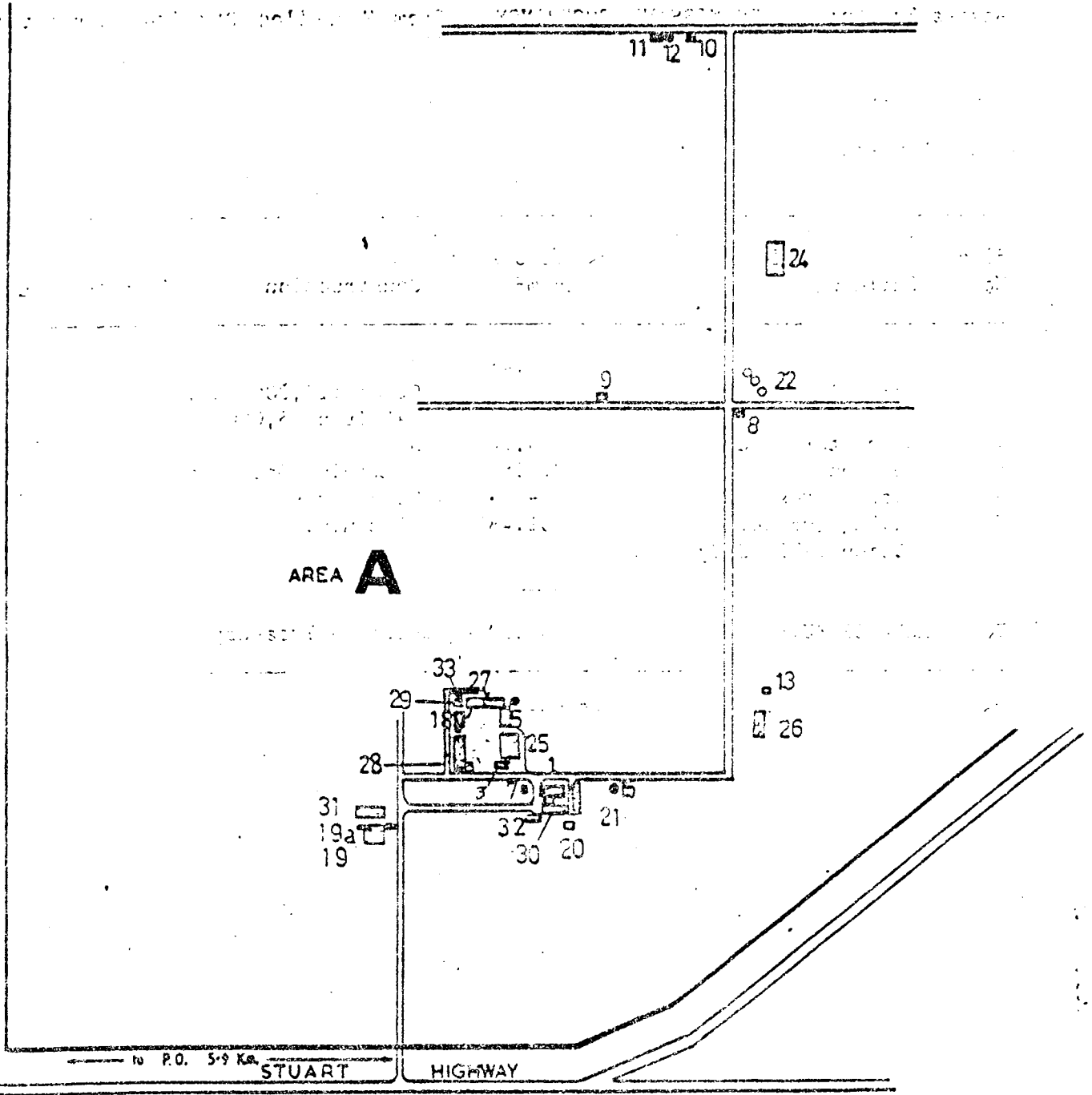
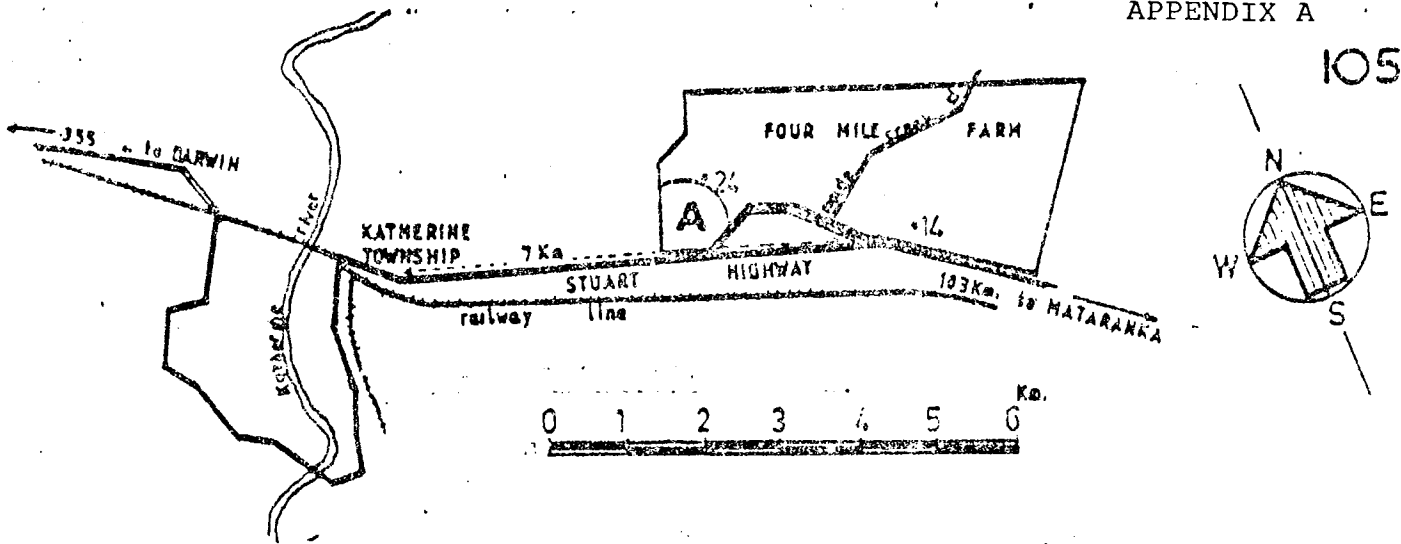
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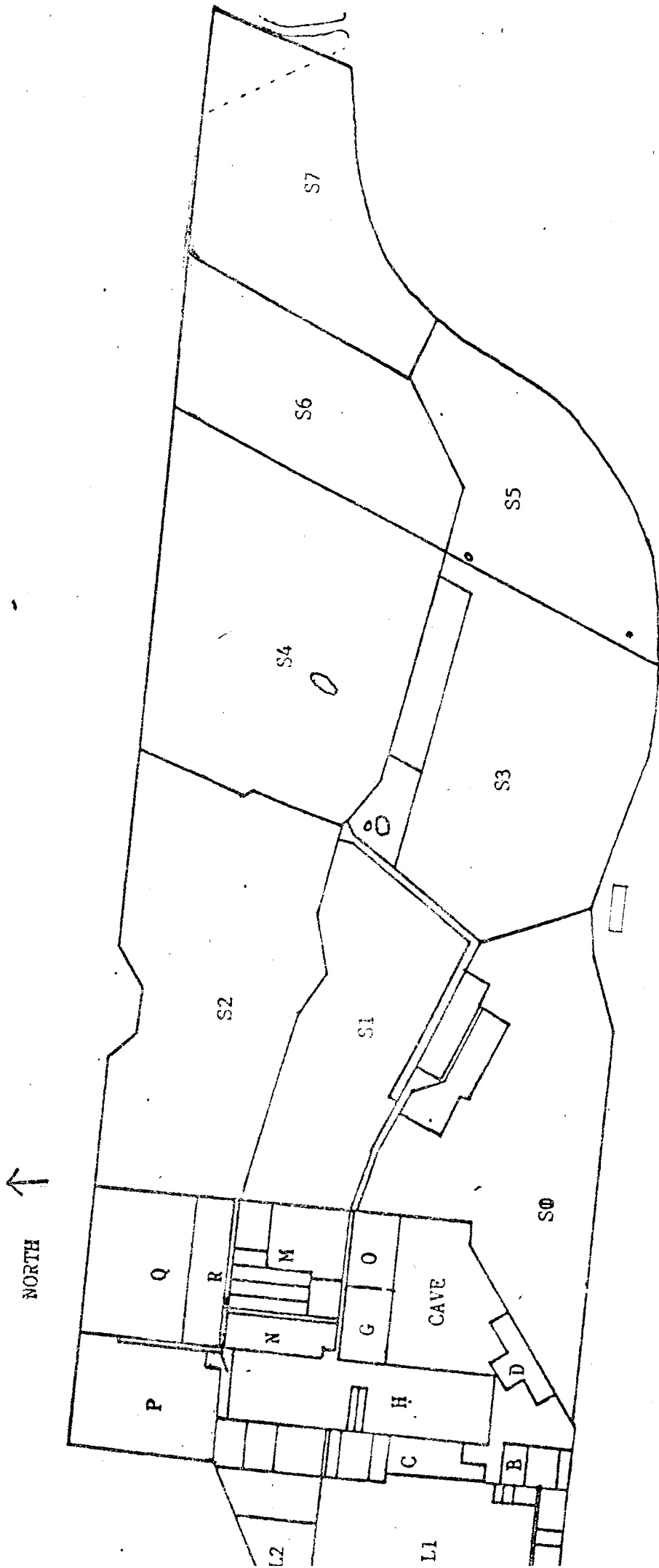
100 200 300 400 500^{m.}
 AREA OF HOME FARM 1430-37 Ha.

DIVISION OF
 TROPICAL CROPS & PASTURES
 KATHERINE RESEARCH STATION
 FOUR MILE FARM

N.T.

C.S.I.R.O FOUR MILE FARM. AREA 1262 ha PORTION 2819.

As surveyed 28-5-1986.
Scale: 40mm = 1km (approximately).



LEGEND

BUILDING NUMBER	STRUCTURE	YEAR BUILT
1	Laboratory	1960
2	Handling Floor	1961
5	Machinery Shed	1965
7	Toilet Block	1963
8	Technical Store	1965
9	Isotope Shed	1959
10	Cattle Shed Over Scales	1955
11	Stock Feed Shed	1960
12	Grain Silo	-
13	Root Washing Shed	1962
14	Bore Shed	1970
15	Squatter Tank, 25,00 gal	1977
18	Forage & Seed Store	1979
19	Residence	1979
19d	Ext. to Residence (portable)	1980
20	Shadehouse	1978
21	Carport	1978
22	Water Tower & tanks	1983
24	Rainwater Shelter	1985
25	Grain Handling Building	1986
26	Hayshed	1985
27	Mechanical Workshop	1986
28	Fertiliser Store/Machinery shed	1985
29	Bulk Store	1986
30	Administrative Building	1986
31	Accommodation Units	1986
32	Administrative Carport	1986
33	Demountable Building	1985

APPENDIX B

PAST AND FUTURE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AT CSIRO
KATHERINE RESEARCH STATION AND ITS BENEFITS TO
INDUSTRY.

Katherine Research Station (CSIRO) was established in 1946. The period 1946-1956 was one of transition from an experimental army farm to a CSIRO research station. Initially, the Station worked on plant introduction and tobacco. Plant introduction work included assessment of various crops for this area, viz guar, cowpea, green gram (mungbean), black gram, peanuts, sunflowers, bulrush millet, broom millet, fibre crops of kenaf, safflower and sorghum.

The research identified that sorghum, peanuts and cotton were the most appropriate crops. The CSIRO program concentrated on basic data collection aimed at understanding the climatic and agronomic limitations to crop production in the semi-arid environment.

Crops such as sorghum and mungbean now form the basis of crop production in the Katherine district. CSIRO's early work also helped develop improved pastures for the semi-arid tropics. Significant advances were made in understanding the ecophysiology of improved

pastures. The early work concentrated on the pasture legume, Townsville stylo. This pasture was thought to be the saviour of the pastoral industry until beef prices dropped to a point where fertilizer could no longer be applied economically to the pastures. Also the disease anthracnose caused severe damage to the legume component of the pasture.

More recent work has concentrated on ley farming (ie using a legume to provide nutrients (particularly nitrogen to following crops), reduced tillage systems in crop production, and crop modelling. Tillage systems work is necessary to improve crop establishment and reduce erosion. Crop modelling is a system of determining in a relatively short period if a crop will produce under various climatic conditions. All of this work has been aimed at farming systems. Pasture work has included studies on native pastures as well as improved pastures.

It has always been recognized that CSIRO conducts basic research in agricultural problems, with the aim of understanding the mechanics of the various systems that operate within the complexity of a crop or pasture.

The DPIF, on the other hand, is involved in applied research often on a larger, more commercially orientated scale.

The DPIF's research program at Katherine and in the Douglas-Daly area mirrors the CSIRO program. The difference is that CSIRO's program endeavours to understand the crop or pasture production system, while DPIF's program undertakes more commercially based research and extends the findings of this and other (eg CSIRO's) research into commercial production systems (see Table 1).

The DPIF's program reflects the stated policies of the Government and is addressing most of the deficiencies in research that were identified in the Northern Territory Submission to the Commonwealth Grants Commission in Relation to the Review of the States' Per Capita Relativities for Distribution of General Revenue Grants: Volume 2 (December 1986).

TABLE 1

CSIRO AND DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES
RESEARCH AREAS IN THE KATHERINE DISTRICT

CSIRODPIFPasturesPastures

. Development of improved pastures

. Development of improved pastures and introduction commercially.

New Pasture species development

. New pasture species development and testing under various animal regimes.

. Management techniques for native pastures.

. Management techniques for native pastures - range management

. Supplementation requirements of animals on a range of pastures

. Supplementation requirements of animals on a range of pastures

. Integrated production with cropping

Crops

- . Development of no-till system
- . Breeding of new crop varieties - soys, mungbeans, sorghum, millet cowpeas, peanuts
- . Crop nutrition - requirements and modelling of the nitrogen in the system
- . Herbicide technology
- . Development of sustainable system of cropping including establishing nutrition, leys, integrated with beef
- . Development of crop models for prediction of feasibility of cropping - includes sorghum, soys, maize, kenaf, peanuts and Verano

Crops

- . Development of no-till system, including farm machinery, herbicide technology
- . Field testing of new crops varieties - soys, mungbeans, sorghum, millet cowpeas, peanuts, sesame, guar
- . Crop nutrition - requirements modelling of the nitrogen in the system, and optimum use from commercial perspective
- . Herbicide technology
- . Development of sustainable system of cropping including establishing nutrition requirements.
- . New crop research on sesame and guar

Horticulture

- . Mango physiology

Horticulture

- . Introduction of asparagus to the Katherine region
- . Varietal assessment and viticulture techniques of table grapes
- . Multi faceted research of cashews
- . Regulatory and nutritional research on mangoes
- . Cultivar evaluation of pawpaws
- . Assessment of suitability of sapodilla, citrus lichee, carambola and logans for the region
- . Development of more economical growth methods for melons, pumpkins, lettuce and tomatoes

COMPARISON IN ACCOMMODATION

EXISTING

Randazzo Office including conference room	671m ² *	40 staff
Katherine Rural College		
Workshop Shed	216m ²	1 staff
Machinery Store	420m ²	
Office	54m ² *	6 staff
Chemical Store	45m ²	
Bulk Store/Coolroom	51m ²	
Weeds Store	54m ²	
Mannion St Laboratory	187m ² *	3 staff
OFFICE AREA TOTAL*	912m ² *	
SHED AREA TOTAL	786m ²	

CSIRO

Administration Bldg. (No. 30) including conference room and compactus storage room	230m ² *	5 staff
Laboratory Bldg. (No. 1)	325m ²	27 staff
Plant Industry transportable office	109m ²	10 staff
Farm staff demountable office	73m ²	9 staff
OFFICE AREA TOTAL (including amenities)	737m ²	
Workshop shed (No. 27)	510m ²	1 staff
Machinery shed (No. 28)	432m ²	
Bulk store (No. 29)	124m ²	
Chemical store and washdown area (No. 5)	280m ²	
Grain handling shed, coolroom and dehydrator (No. 25)	214m ²	
Handling floor (No. 3)	167m ²	
SHED AREA TOTAL	1217m ²	

APPENDIX D

**IDENTIFIED COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PURCHASE OF CSIRO
RESEARCH FACILITY, KATHERINE**

1. Estimated costs incurred through purchase of CSIRO:

(a)	Market value of land and building	\$1 880 000
(b)	Miscellaneous essential, specialised plant and equipment	100 000
(c)	Salaries of Farm Manager ST01 and full-time TA1 plus on-costs	67 000
(d)	Alterations to existing buildings to accommodate departmental requirements	120 000
(e)	Operational costs of Farm (Derived from CSIRO's Budget. Represents extra over existing charges)	10 000
(f)	Programmed and unforeseen maintenance costs of equipment, plant, building for 1989-90	150 000
(g)	Relocation expenses	20 000
	TOTAL	<hr/> \$2 347 000 =====

(NOTE: Programmed maintenance costs for 2nd and 3rd years are estimated at \$50 000 per annum)

2. Items that may directly or indirectly offset the costs incurred to DPIF through the purchase of the facility.

(a)	Leasing costs of 710m ² of floor in the Government centre (per annum)	\$140 000
(b)	Revoting of 1988-89 Minor New Works Program items (viz Reroof Mannion Street Laboratory, Chemical Storage Shed at KRC)	41 000
(c)	Sale of Mannion Street Laboratory (Valuation by Valuer General)	75 000
(d)	Transfer of assets at KRC to College	325 000
(c)	Sale or use of shed already purchased	<u>12 000</u>
	TOTAL	<hr/> \$593 000 =====

APPENDIX E - RESPONSES TO COMMENTS ON CABINET
SUBMISSION ON PURCHASE OF KATHERINE CSIRO
RESEARCH FACILITY

DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Department of the Chief Minister commented that:

1. The proposal should be considered when Cabinet considers the 1988/89 Budget.
2. The Submission does not indicate that the research programs have been reviewed in accordance with the Economic Development Strategy. The comments also state that research programs should be reviewed and rationalised before a decision to purchase the facility is made.
3. The Department of the Chief Minister questioned the implications of withdrawing from Stage 2 of the Government Centre.

The DPIF's responses to these comments are as follows:

1. An early decision will allow the DPIF and the Department of Lands and Housing to commence negotiations with CSIRO. If these are successful and purchase occurs early in 1989/90, departmental staff may commence progressively occupying the facilities in July, 1989. Should CSIRO not get an early commitment, the facility may be placed on the open market, and the Department may lose an opportunity to centralise its operations at the facility.
2. In response, the DPIF's research and development programs do, in fact, reflect the Economic Development Strategy.

For example, in the animal industry area, the programs focus our research and development efforts on more intensive production systems involving crops and pastures. A greater emphasis is placed on range management and maintenance of the land and pasture resources. The animal health aspects of the industry will continue to be improved. The establishment of Advisory Services in the Southern Region will enhance information transfer to the pastoral industry.

The plant industry research programs have been developed through input from individual producers and from the industries as a whole through the advisory committee system. The programs also take into account the CLP Policy Statement and the Economic Development Strategy. For example, the thrust of crops and animal production research and extension in the Douglas-Daly, Upper Adelaide River and Katherine areas is toward sustainable integrated farming systems or as stated in the Economic Development Strategy, towards mixed farming.

Contrary to the comments by the Department of the Chief Minister, the research programs are revised annually in the July-September period. The review process takes into account changes in Government policy, industry needs and peer assessment on the progress and quality of research conducted. The possible relocation of research programs to Katherine will be assessed at that time.

The principle of relocation of resources and programs to Katherine has been in place for some years. During the last 2 years, staff conducting programs on the weed control and on the development of agricultural machinery for reduced tillage systems have moved from Darwin and Douglas-Daly to Katherine. This will continue as programs require it.

As part of the technical review of research programs, the DPIF will reintroduce technical annual reports in 1989. These will provide progress reports on every research, development and advisory project being done by the Department. This document will also be a valuable source of information for the primary producers, and will complement the advisory services now being provided by the DPIF.

3. The Department of Labour and Administrative Services have commenced re-assessment of future accommodation needs in Stage 2 of the Government centre for all Departments in Katherine.

NORTHERN TERRITORY TREASURY

Though the Northern Territory Treasury supported in principle the purchase, it suggested that there appeared to be a need to better demonstrate that agricultural research activities in Katherine are worth continuing or, as the submission implies, expanding".

In response, any expansion of programs in Katherine would be mirrored by a reduction in program at another location. The expansion in Katherine would be as a result of the transfer of a whole program or components of a program to Katherine from another centre. As mentioned earlier, this has already been done in the Weeds and Agricultural Engineering/Reduced Tillage areas.

Discussion at officer level indicate that the DPIF's response to comments by the Department of the Chief Minister regarding research planning and review, may answer the concerns expressed by Treasury in relation to continued or expanded agricultural research activities in Katherine.