

CONFIDENTIAL

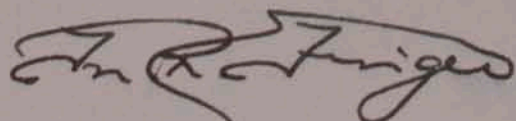
CABINET DECISION

NO. 1596

Submission No.: 1365

Title: COBOURG PENINSULA ABORIGINAL LAND AND SANCTUARY BILL

Cabinet approved the Bill as drafted and its introduction in the February/March Sitzings of the Legislative Assembly.



(M.R. FINGER),
Secretary to Cabinet.

2 March, 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR CABINET

SUBMISSION No: 1365

<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>Acting required before announcement:</p> <p>Staffing implications, numbers and costs, etc:</p> <p>Total cost:</p>	<p>COBOURG PENINSULA ABORIGINAL LAND AND SANCTUARY BILL</p> <p>THE HON. P.A.E. EVERINGHAM, M.L.A., CHIEF MINISTER</p> <p>Cabinet to approve the adoption of the Draft Bill, Committee Notes and Draft Second Reading Speech.</p> <p>To accord with existing policy.</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>
--	--

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
COBOURG PENINSULA ABORIGINAL LAND
AND SANCTUARY

TABLE OF PROVISIONS

Clause

PART I - PRELIMINARY

1. Short title
2. Commencement
3. Definitions
4. Land Council to consult with traditional Aboriginal owners
5. Vesting of land in trustees
6. Additional areas
7. Trustees
8. Members of Land Trust
9. Resignation of Trustees
10. Appointment of new Trustees
11. Entitlement to use and occupation
12. Establishment of national park
13. Deed of grant
14. Registrar-General to register deed
15. Annual fee for use of sanctuary as national park
16. Title inalienable
17. Acquisition

PART II - ADMINISTRATION

18. Establishment of Board
19. Membership of Board
20. Resignation of member
21. Appointment of new members
22. Chairman and Deputy Chairman
23. Calling of meetings, procedure, &c.

PART III - FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF A BOARD
AND THE COMMISSION

24. Functions of Board
25. Functions of Commission
26. Powers

PART IV - PLANS OF MANAGEMENT

27. Plans of management
28. Consideration of plan by Assembly
29. Amendment, &c., of plan of management
30. Access to areas
31. Actions not to be taken except in accordance with plan of management

PART V - MINING

32. Effect of Part
33. Mining activities
34. Fees or compensation amounts for right to explore and mine

PART VI - BY-LAWS

35. By-laws
36. Inconsistent by-laws

PART VII - MISCELLANEOUS

37. Territory Parks Act provisions to apply
38. Audit, &c., provisions
39. Lease to be granted to company
40. Land ceasing to be part of the sanctuary
41. Reservations revoked
42. No repeal by implication

SCHEDULE

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To acknowledge and secure the right of Aboriginals to occupy and use certain land on the Cobourg Peninsula in the Northern Territory of Australia, to vest that land in trustees for Aboriginals, to declare that land to be a national park, and for related purposes

WHEREAS by the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978 of the Commonwealth the area of land described in the Schedule is vested in the Crown in right of the Northern Territory of Australia;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly acknowledges that there are and will be Aboriginals entitled by Aboriginal tradition to the use, control and occupation of the land or part thereof whether by reason of spiritual affiliation to that land or part or for whatever other reason may be recognized by Aboriginal tradition;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly considers it desirable to secure in perpetuity the right of such Aboriginals to use and occupy the land, to participate in the management of the national park declared in respect of the land and to vest the title to the land in trustees for such Aboriginals;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly considers it desirable to declare the land a national park to be held in perpetuity for the benefit and enjoyment of all people.

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory of Australia, with the assent as provided by the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978 of the Commonwealth, as follows:

PART I - PRELIMINARY

1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land and Sanctuary Act 1981.

2. COMMENCEMENT

This Act shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the Administrator by notice in the Gazette.

3. DEFINITIONS

In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears -

"Aboriginal" means a person who is a member of the Aboriginal race of Australia;

Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land and Sanctuary

"Aboriginal tradition" means the body of traditions, observances, customs and beliefs of Aboriginals or of a community or group of Aboriginals, and includes traditions, observances, customs and beliefs as applied in relation to particular persons, sites, areas of land, things or relationships;

"Aboriginals entitled to use or occupy the sanctuary" means the Aboriginals who are not traditional Aboriginal owners but who are entitled by Aboriginal tradition to use or occupy the sanctuary or part thereof whether by reason of spiritual affiliation to the land or part or for whatever other reason may be recognized by Aboriginal tradition;

"Board" means the Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary Board established by section 18;

"Commission" means the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory established by the Conservation Commission Act;

"group" means all the traditional Aboriginal owners and the Aboriginals entitled to use or occupy the sanctuary;

"Land Council" means the Northern Land Council established under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 of the Commonwealth;

"Land Trust" means the Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary Land Trust established by section 7;

"minerals" includes -

- (a) gold, silver, copper, tin and other metals;
- (b) coal, shale, petroleum and valuable earths and substances;
- (c) mineral substances;
- (d) gems and precious stones; and
- (e) ores and other substances containing minerals,

whether suspended in water or not, and includes water;

"mining interest" means any lease or other interest in land (including an exploration licence) granted under a law of the Territory relating to mining for minerals;

"plan of management" means the plan of management for the sanctuary prepared under section 27 by or on behalf of the Board;

Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land and Sanctuary

"sanctuary" means -

- (a) the area described in the Schedule as the Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary; and
- (b) the additional areas, if any, the estate or interest of the Crown in which is granted and vested by section 6 in the Land Trust,

and includes the waters on the sanctuary;

"traditional Aboriginal owners" means a local descent group of Aboriginals who -

- (a) have common spiritual affiliations to a site on the sanctuary, being affiliations that place the group under a primary spiritual responsibility for that site and for the land on which it is situated; and
- (b) are entitled by Aboriginal tradition to forage as of right over land referred to in paragraph (a).

4. LAND COUNCIL TO CONSULT WITH TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL OWNERS

Where, under this Act, the Land Council is required to take or consent to the taking of any action in relation to the Land Trust, the Board or the sanctuary, it shall not take or consent to the taking of that action unless it has first consulted all, or the relevant, traditional Aboriginal owners and is satisfied that -

- (a) the traditional Aboriginal owners understand the nature and purpose of;
- (b) the traditional Aboriginal owners have had a reasonable opportunity to take advice and express their views on; and
- (c) a majority of the traditional Aboriginal owners have consented to,

the proposed action.

5. VESTING OF LAND IN TRUSTEES

(1) Subject to this Act, all the estate and interest held immediately before the commencement of this Act by the Crown in the sanctuary is hereby granted to, and vested in perpetuity in, the Land Trust in trust for the group.

(2) Subject to sub-section (3), the Land Council shall, after due enquiry and consultation, decide who are the members of the group.

Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land and Sanctuary

(3) Where any dispute arises between the Land Council and an Aboriginal concerning the Aboriginal's membership of the group, the Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction to make orders and declarations concerning the Aboriginal's membership of the group.

6. ADDITIONAL AREAS

(1) Where, at any time after the commencement of this Act -

(a) the land described in paragraph (d) in the Schedule as being excluded from the area of the sanctuary is granted to or otherwise becomes vested in the Territory; or

(b) the land described in paragraph (e) in the Schedule as being excluded from the area of the sanctuary ceases to be the subject of a lease from the Crown,

all the estate or interest of the Crown in the land being so granted or vested or ceasing to be the subject of a lease from the Crown, as the case may be, shall thereupon, by force of this section, be granted to, and vested in perpetuity in, the Land Trust in trust for the group.

(2) Sections 13 and 14 shall, with the necessary changes, apply to and in relation to an estate or interest vested under sub-section (1) in the Land Trust.

(3) Where, immediately before an estate or interest in land was vested under sub-section (1) in the Land Trust, there was in force a plan of management or By-laws for or in relation to the sanctuary as then constituted, that plan of management and those By-laws shall, to the extent possible, apply to and in relation to the sanctuary as though the relevant land referred to in sub-section (1) formed part of the sanctuary at the time that the plan of management or By-laws, as the case may be, came into force.

7. TRUSTEES

(1) There is hereby established a Land Trust for the sanctuary to be known as the Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary Land Trust.

(2) The Land Trust -

(a) is a body corporate with perpetual succession;

(b) shall have a common seal; and

(c) is capable, in its corporate name, of suing and being sued.

(3) The common seal of the Land Trust shall be kept by a member of the staff of the Land Council authorized by the Land Council for that purpose.

(4) The common seal of the Land Trust shall be affixed to a document only with a written authority signed by the Chairman and at least 2 other members of the Land Trust.

(5) All courts, judges and persons acting judicially shall take judicial notice of the common seal of the Land Trust affixed to a document and shall assume that it was duly affixed.

(6) The Land Trust shall have such functions and duties as are given to or imposed on it by or under this Act and shall have such powers as are reasonably necessary to enable it to carry out its functions and duties.

(7) The Land Trust -

(a) shall not perform its functions except in accordance with a direction given to it by the Board; and

(b) where such a direction is given to it, shall take action in accordance with the direction.

8. MEMBERS OF LAND TRUST

(1) In this section and sections 9 and 10, "member of the Land Trust" includes the Chairman.

(2) The Land Trust shall consist of a Chairman and 3 other members.

(3) The Chairman and members of the Land Trust shall be appointed by the Land Council from amongst the members of the group.

(4) Subject to sections 9 and 10, a member of the Land Trust holds office for a period of 3 years but is eligible for reappointment.

(5) Where a member of the Land Trust is, or is about to be, unable, whether on account of illness or otherwise, to perform the duties of his office, the Land Council may appoint a member of the group to act in the place of that member during the period during which that member is unable to perform the duties of his office.

(6) A person appointed to act in the place of a member of the Land Trust has all the functions, powers and duties of that member.

(7) The exercise or performance of a power or function by the Land Trust is not affected by reason only of there being a vacancy in the office of a member of the Land Trust.

9. RESIGNATION OF TRUSTEE

A member of the Land Trust may resign his office by writing signed by him, or with his authority, and delivered to the Land Council.

10. APPOINTMENT OF NEW TRUSTEES

- (1) The Land Council shall, as soon as practicable after -
 - (a) it receives the resignation of a member of the Land Trust;
 - (b) it forms the opinion that a member has failed properly to perform the duties of his office; or
 - (c) it becomes aware of a member's inability to continue as a member because of his illness or for any other reason,

terminate the appointment of the person as a member of the Land Trust.

(2) The Land Council shall, as soon as practicable after it becomes aware of the death of a member of the Land Trust or it terminates under sub-section (1) the appointment of a person as a member of the Land Trust, appoint another person to be a member in his stead.

11. ENTITLEMENT TO USE AND OCCUPATION

Subject to this Act, the Aboriginals who are, from time to time, members of the group shall be, at all times, entitled to use and occupy the sanctuary.

12. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL PARK

(1) The sanctuary is hereby established in perpetuity as a national park for the benefit and enjoyment of all people.

(2) The sanctuary shall be used in such manner and upon such conditions as are provided by or under this Act and, when a plan of management is in force, in such manner and upon such conditions as are provided by that plan of management.

13. DEED OF GRANT

(1) The Administrator shall execute in duplicate a deed of grant of the estate and interest in the sanctuary conferred by this Act and shall forthwith deliver the deed to the Land Trust.

(2) The deed of grant referred to in sub-section (1) shall exclude all roads over which the public had a right of way immediately before the commencement of this Act.

(3) The deed of grant referred to in sub-section (1) shall be expressed to be subject to the reservation, in favour of the Crown, of the right to all minerals in their natural condition or in a deposit of waste material obtained from any surface or underground working on or below the surface of the sanctuary, and the grant of the land is, accordingly, subject to that reservation.

Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land and Sanctuary

(4) Where, immediately before the commencement of this Act, the land that constitutes the sanctuary was occupied or used by the Crown or an Authority or agent of the Crown for a particular purpose, the Crown or that Authority or agent, as the case may be, is entitled to continue that occupation or use for that purpose for such period as the land is so required by the Crown or the Authority or agent.

(5) Without limiting the generality of sub-section (4), the Crown or an Authority or agent of the Crown may continue to occupy and use the houses, buildings, wharf and other structures, and the airstrip, existing immediately before the commencement of this Act on that part of the sanctuary known as Smith-Point.

14. REGISTRAR-GENERAL TO REGISTER DEED

(1) The Registrar-General shall establish and maintain a public register of titles for the registration of the deed of grant delivered to him in pursuance of this section.

(2) The Land Trust shall, on receiving the deed of grant delivered to it under section 13(1), deliver the deed and the duplicate copy of the deed to the Registrar-General who shall place the deed in the register book referred to in sub-section (1) and return the duplicate copy to the Land Trust with a notation thereon that it has been duly registered.

(3) The Registrar-General may, from time to time, require the Land Trust to deliver to him the duplicate copy of the deed of grant registered under this section to enable him to note thereon any necessary amendment or any lease or other dealing in respect of the sanctuary.

15. ANNUAL FEE FOR USE OF SANCTUARY AS NATIONAL PARK

(1) Subject to sub-section (4), the Territory shall pay annually to the Land Council \$20,000 for the use of the sanctuary as a national park.

(2) An amount paid pursuant to sub-section (1) shall, after due inquiry, be paid by the Land Council to or for the benefit of the group.

(3) A payment under this section shall -

(a) in the case of an amount to be paid under sub-section (1) by the Territory - be made as soon as practicable, but not later than one month, after -

(i) the date of commencement of this Act; and

(ii) each anniversary of that date; and

Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land and Sanctuary

- (b) in the case of an amount to be paid under sub-section (2) by the Land Council - as soon as practicable after the relevant amount referred to in sub-section (1) is received by it.
- (4) The annual amount to be paid under sub-section (1), other than the first, shall be \$20,000 increased by -
- (a) the percentage by which the estimated seasonally adjusted average weekly wage per employed male unit for Darwin published by the Statistician, within the meaning of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975 of the Commonwealth, in respect of the September quarter immediately before the payment is to be made exceeds the estimated seasonally adjusted average weekly wage per employed male unit for Darwin published by the Statistician in respect of the September quarter of the year 1980; or
- (b) where no estimated seasonally adjusted average weekly wage referred to in paragraph (a) has been published in respect of the relevant September quarter, the percentage that the Chief Justice, after consultation with the Statistician, considers would have been the appropriate increase had that average weekly wage been published.

16. TITLE INALIENABLE

Subject to this Act, the title to the sanctuary vested in the Land Trust is inalienable and cannot be sold, transferred, mortgaged or otherwise dealt with, either at law or in equity, except by way of lease or licence in pursuance of the plan of management.

17. ACQUISITION

(1) Subject to this section, nothing in this Act derogates from the right of the Crown to acquire for a public purpose any part of, or an interest in, the sanctuary in accordance with the provisions of the Lands Acquisition Act.

(2) Subject to sub-section (3), no procedure required by the Lands Acquisition Act for the acquisition of part of, or an interest in, the sanctuary shall be commenced unless the Minister for the time being responsible for the administration of that Act has first consulted with, and given due consideration to the views of, the Board.

(3) The Minister referred to in sub-section (2) shall, at the request of the Board, refer a proposed acquisition of part of, or an interest in, the sanctuary to the Legislative Assembly and thereafter no procedure for the acquisition shall commence except upon a resolution of the Legislative Assembly -

- (a) in the case of a proposed acquisition of part of an area - passed by a two-thirds majority of all members of Assembly (excluding the Speaker); and

- (b) in the case of a proposed acquisition of any easement or right of way on or over, or other interest in, the sanctuary - passed by a majority of all members of the Assembly (excluding the Speaker),

approving of the proposed acquisition.

(4) For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this section or the Lands Acquisition Act shall be construed as authorizing, for the purposes of mining, the acquisition of part of, or an interest in, the sanctuary.

PART II - ADMINISTRATION

18. ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD

(1) There is hereby established a Board to be known as the Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary Board.

(2) The Board -

(a) is a body corporate with perpetual succession;

(b) shall have a common seal; and

(c) subject to this Act, is capable, in its corporate name, of holding and disposing of real and personal property and of suing and being sued.

(3) All courts, judges and persons acting judicially shall take judicial notice of the common seal of the Board affixed to a document and shall assume that it was duly affixed.

19. MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD

(1) The Board shall consist of 8 members appointed by the Minister, 4 of whom shall be members of the group and be appointed on the nomination of the Land Council.

(2) As soon as practicable after an appointment under subsection (1) has been made, the Minister shall cause notice of that appointment to be published in the Gazette.

(3) Subject to sections 20 and 21, a member of the Board holds office for a period of 3 years but is eligible for reappointment.

(4) Where a member of the Board is, or is about to be, unable, whether on account of illness or otherwise, to perform the duties of his office, the Land Council may appoint a member of the group to act in the place of that member during the period during which that member is unable to perform the duties of his office, unless the first-mentioned member has, under section 23(4), given to another member a general authority to vote for him at meetings of the Board during the first mentioned member's inability to perform the duties of his office.

(5) A person appointed to act in the place of a member of the Board has all the functions, powers and duties of that member.

(6) The performance or exercise of a function or power of the Board is not affected by reason only of there being a vacancy in the office of a member of the Board.

20. RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

A member of the Board may resign his office by writing signed by him, or with his authority, and delivered to the Minister.

21. APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

(1) The Minister shall, as soon as practicable after -

(a) he receives the resignation of a member of the Board;

(b) being advised in writing by the Land Council that, in its opinion, a member appointed on the nomination of the Land Council has failed properly to perform the duties of his office; or

(c) he becomes aware of a member's inability to continue as a member because of the member's illness or for any other reason,

terminate the appointment of the person as a member of the Board.

(2) The Minister shall, as soon as practicable after he becomes aware of the death of a member of the Board or he terminates under sub-section (1) the appointment of a person as a member of the Board, appoint another person, with the same qualification for membership as the person in whose stead he is appointed, to be a member of the Board.

22. CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

(1) The Minister shall, as soon as practicable after the establishment of the Board or at any time when the office of Chairman of the Board is vacant, convene a meeting of the Board for the purpose of electing a member of the Board as the Chairman of the Board.

(2) The Minister shall appoint one of the members appointed under section 19(1) on the nomination of the Land Council to preside at a meeting referred to in sub-section (1).

(3) The Chairman of the Board shall be elected by the Board from amongst the members appointed under section 19(1) on the nomination of the Land Council.

(4) Where a Chairman is elected at a meeting referred to in sub-section (1), he shall preside at that meeting in place of the person appointed under sub-section (2) by the Minister.

(5) The Board shall, as soon as practicable after its establishment, elect one of its members appointed under section 19(1) on the nomination of the Land Council to be the Deputy Chairman and shall thereafter, whenever the position of Deputy Chairman is vacant, elect a member, with the same qualification, to be the Deputy Chairman.

(6) Subject to sub-section (7), a person elected under this section as the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman, while he remains a member of the Board, holds office for 3 years and is eligible for re-election.

(7) The Board may, at any time, by resolution, elect a new Chairman or Deputy Chairman having the qualification referred to in sub-sections (3) and (5) and, on the passing of such a resolution, the person who held that office immediately before that resolution was passed ceases to hold that office.

23. CALLING OF MEETINGS, PROCEDURE, &c.

(1) The Chairman or Deputy Chairman shall call such meetings of the Board as are necessary for the performance of its functions and the exercise of its powers.

(2) The Minister may, at any time, direct the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman to call a meeting of the Board and the Chairman or Deputy Chairman shall call a meeting accordingly.

(3) At a meeting of the Board -

(a) the Chairman shall preside if he is present or, if he is not present, the Deputy Chairman shall preside or, if neither the Chairman or Deputy Chairman are present, the members of the Board present shall elect one of their number to preside;

(b) subject to sub-section (4), 6 members, of whom 4 shall be members appointed under section 19(1) on the nomination of the Land Council, constitute a quorum;

(c) questions arising shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members and, in the event of an equality of votes, the person presiding shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote; and

(d) subject to this Act, the Board shall determine the procedures to be followed at or in connection with the meeting.

(4) A member of the Board may, in writing under his hand or with his authority, give to another member a general authority to vote for him at a meeting of the Board and the member given that authority may vote for the first-mentioned member at that meeting and shall, for the purposes of sub-section (3)(b), be counted towards a quorum as though he were also the first-mentioned member.

(5) The Board shall cause records of its meetings to be kept and, as soon as practicable after each meeting, shall cause a copy of the minutes of the meeting to be given to each member of the Board and to the Land Council.

(6) A member of the Board may require the Board to admit to a meeting of the Board such persons as he considers necessary to advise him on matters being considered at the meeting and may require the Board to allow such persons or any of them to address the meeting on his behalf, and the Board shall admit those persons and allow them to address the meeting accordingly.

(7) A person admitted to a meeting of the Board pursuant to sub-section (6) shall not vote on any matter at that meeting.

PART III - FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE
BOARD AND THE COMMISSION

24. FUNCTIONS OF BOARD

The functions of the Board are -

- (a) to prepare plans of management for the control and management of the sanctuary;
- (b) to protect and enforce the right of the group to use and occupy the sanctuary;
- (c) to determine, in accordance with the plan of management, the rights of access to parts of the sanctuary of persons who are not members of the group;
- (d) to ensure adequate protection of sites on the sanctuary of spiritual or other importance in Aboriginal tradition; and
- (e) such other functions in and in relation to the sanctuary as are imposed on it by or under the plan of management.

25. FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSION

(1) The functions of the Commission in relation to the sanctuary include, on behalf of and subject to the directions of the Board -

- (a) the preparation of plans of management; and
- (b) the control and management of the sanctuary.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, where in the preparation of the plan of management, or in the control and management of the sanctuary, a difference of opinion between the Commission and the Board arises, the difference shall be resolved by a resolution of the Board and the Commission shall prepare the plan of management or control and manage the sanctuary, as the case may be, in accordance with that resolution.

26. POWERS

(1) Subject to this Act and the plan of management, the Board and the Commission shall have, in relation to the sanctuary, the power to do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with, or incidental to the performance of, their respective functions and the exercise of their respective powers.

(2) Without limiting the generality of sub-section (1), the Board may -

- (a) employ staff;
- (b) obtain the advice and assistance of persons who are expert in any matter with which the Board is concerned; and
- (c) give lawful directions to the Land Trust concerning the performance of its functions.

PART IV - PLANS OF MANAGEMENT

27. PLANS OF MANAGEMENT

(1) As soon as practicable after the commencement of this Act, the Board shall cause to be prepared a plan of management for the sanctuary.

(2) The plan of management prepared in pursuance of sub-section (1) shall set out a detailed description of the manner in which it is proposed that the sanctuary shall be managed and shall include -

- (a) a general description of all existing or proposed buildings, structures, facilities or other developments on the sanctuary; and
- (b) a detailed description of the operations for the exploration for or recovery of minerals, or excavation, works or other operations, that may be carried out on the sanctuary.

(3) Where the plan of management provides for operations for the exploration for or recovery of minerals, or for excavation or other works, the plan shall set out the conditions, if any, that are to be applicable to those activities.

(4) In the preparation of the plan of management, regard shall be had to -

- (a) the protection of areas and things of significance to Aborigines;
- (b) the limitations, if any, imposed by Aboriginal tradition on the use of any part of the sanctuary;

Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land and Sanctuary

- (c) existing, proposed and desirable living, commercial and recreational areas for the group or members of the group;
- (d) the regulation of the appropriate use, appreciation and enjoyment of the sanctuary;
- (e) the preservation of the sanctuary in its natural condition and the protection of its special features, including objects and sites of spiritual, biological, historical, palaeontological, archaeological, geological and geographical interest, whether or not of importance in Aboriginal tradition;
- (f) the protection, conservation and management of native flora and fauna within the sanctuary and the natural environment generally;
- (g) the protection of the sanctuary against damage;
- (h) the employment and training of Aboriginals; and
- (j) the functions of the Commission under other laws of the Territory.

(5) When the Board has prepared the plan of management for the sanctuary it shall, with the consent of the Land Council, forward the plan to the Minister for tabling in the Legislative Assembly.

(6) The Minister shall, on the first sitting day of the Legislative Assembly after a plan of management forwarded under sub-section (5) has been received by him, cause it to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

28. CONSIDERATION OF PLAN BY ASSEMBLY

(1) For the purposes of this section and section 29, "plan of management" includes part of the plan of management, and where under this section a part only of the plan of management is disallowed, the plan of management with that part omitted shall come into operation as provided by sub-section (3) and the part disallowed shall be dealt with in accordance with this section as a separate amending plan of management.

(2) Subject to sub-section (3), the Legislative Assembly may, in pursuance of a motion notice of which is given within 5 sitting days after the plan of management has been tabled in the Assembly, pass a resolution disallowing the plan of management.

(3) Subject to sub-section (4), if no notice of a motion to disallow a plan of management is given within the time referred to in sub-section (1) or the Legislative Assembly does not pass a resolution in accordance with that sub-section disallowing a plan of management, the plan of management comes into operation on the day immediately following the fifth sitting day referred to or on the day immediately following the last day on which such a resolution could have been passed, as the case may be.

Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land and Sanctuary

(4) If, before the expiration of 5 sitting days after a plan of management has been tabled in the Legislative Assembly -

(a) the Assembly expires or is prorogued; and

(b) notice of motion for the disallowance of the plan of management has not been given,

the plan of management shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to have been laid before the Legislative Assembly on the first sitting day of the Assembly after the expiration or prorogation.

(5) If the Legislative Assembly passes a resolution, in accordance with sub-section (2), disallowing a plan of management, the Minister shall direct the Board to prepare a fresh plan of management and the Board shall thereupon reconsider the matter and prepare a fresh plan of management or again forward to the Minister the same plan of management, and in relation to the preparation of or dealing with the fresh plan of management, or with the same plan of management again forwarded to the Minister, as the case may be, section 27 and sub-sections (2), (3) and (4) of this section apply as though the plan of management were the first plan of management prepared for the sanctuary.

(6) Where a plan of management disallowed by the Legislative Assembly is again forwarded under sub-section (5) to the Minister and is again disallowed by the Legislative Assembly, the Minister shall forward it to the Chief Justice who shall consider it and make recommendations to the Minister and the Board on possible ways of resolving the differences between the Legislative Assembly and the Board in relation to the plan of management and suggested amendments, if any, to the plan of management.

(7) The Chief Justice, in carrying out his function under sub-section (6), may inform himself in whatever manner he thinks fit about any fact he considers relevant to his consideration of the plan of management.

(8) The Minister shall, at the request of the Board, table in the Legislative Assembly the recommendations under sub-section (6) of the Chief Justice, and the tabling of those recommendations shall be deemed to be the tabling under section 27 of the plan of management to which the recommendations relate, amended in accordance with those recommendations, and this section applies as though it were the first plan of management prepared for the sanctuary.

(9) As soon as practicable after a plan of management has come into operation, the Minister shall publish a notice in the Gazette, and in such newspapers as he thinks fit, stating that the plan of management has come into operation and giving an address where copies of the plan of management may be inspected or purchased.

29. AMENDMENT, &c., OF PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

(1) The Board may, at any time, amend a plan of management, and sections 27(2), (3), (4), (5), (6) and 28 apply in relation to such amendment in the same manner as they apply in relation to the plan of management.

(2) A plan of management may be revoked by a new plan of management, but the revocation shall not take effect until the new plan of management comes into operation.

30. ACCESS TO AREAS

(1) Except as prohibited, restricted or regulated by or under this Act, the plan of management or any other law in force in the Territory, any person may enter and remain on the sanctuary.

(2) Subject to sub-section (3), the Board may, by a notice displayed in the relevant part of the sanctuary, designate that part of the sanctuary as land to which access by persons, other than members of the group, is prohibited or restricted, according to the terms of the notice.

(3) Except in the performance of a function under this Act, or otherwise in accordance with this Act or a law in force in the Territory, a person who is not a member of the group shall not enter or remain on that part of the sanctuary designated in a notice referred to in sub-section (2) otherwise than in accordance with the terms of the notice.

Penalty: \$1,000.

(4) Where a plan of management is in force, the prohibition or restriction of access to part of the sanctuary designated by a notice referred to in sub-section (2) shall be deemed to be included in, and form part of, the plan of management.

(5) The plan of management shall make provision for -

(a) access by fishermen to the shore of those parts of the sanctuary known as Curlew Bay and Barrow Bay and at Port Essington (in the vicinity of Victoria Settlement); and

(b) access to air strips by the public,

and other reasonable access by the public to the sanctuary commensurate with the status of the area as a national park.

31. ACTIONS NOT TO BE TAKEN EXCEPT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

(1) Without limiting the generality of Part III, but subject to sub-section (2) -

- (a) no excavation shall be carried on;
- (b) no building or other structure shall be erected;
- (c) no work shall be carried on; and
- (d) no timber shall be felled or taken,

on or from the sanctuary, except in accordance with the plan of management.

(2) At a time when no plan of management is in force, the Board and the Commission may perform their respective functions on the sanctuary for the purpose of preserving, protecting and managing it.

PART V - MINING

32. EFFECT OF PART

This Part has effect notwithstanding any other law of the Territory.

33. MINING ACTIVITIES

No operations for the exploration for or recovery or processing of minerals shall be carried on on the sanctuary, other than operations that are carried on with the approval of the Board in accordance with the plan of management, and no mining interest shall be granted in respect of the sanctuary except with the prior written approval of the Board.

34. FEES OR COMPENSATION AMOUNTS FOR RIGHT TO EXPLORE AND MINE

(1) The plan of management shall not provide for operations for the exploration for or recovery or processing of minerals unless the Board has agreed with the applicant for a mining interest on the sanctuary for the payment of fees or amounts by the applicant to the Land Council for the right to carry out those operations.

(2) All fees or amounts paid to the Land Council pursuant to an agreement under sub-section (1) shall be dealt with and paid out by the Land Council as though they were royalty payments in respect of mining on Aboriginal land, and the sanctuary was Aboriginal land, under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 of the Commonwealth.

(3) Where the Board has determined that the plan of management should provide for operations for the exploration for or recovery or processing of minerals by an applicant for a mining interest or by a holder of a mining interest granted with the approval in writing of the Board in pursuance of section 33, but the Board and the applicant or holder are unable to agree on the amount of the fee referred to in sub-section (1), the question shall be referred to the Chief

Justice to determine the amount which, in his opinion, should be paid and, upon his so determining, the Board and the applicant for or holder of the mining interest, as the case may be, shall be deemed to have agreed to the payment of the amount accordingly.

PART VI - BY-LAWS

35. BY-LAWS

(1) The Board may make by-laws for the sanctuary, not inconsistent with this Act, any other law of the Territory or the plan of management, prescribing all matters required or permitted by this Act or the plan of management to be prescribed by by-laws or necessary or convenient to be so prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to the functions and powers of the Board and the Commission.

(2) Without limiting the generality of sub-section (1), but subject to sub-section (3), by-laws may be made -

- (a) providing for the prohibition or the regulation of fishing;
- (b) providing for the prohibition of the use of firearms;
- (c) providing for the prohibition of the setting of traps;
- (d) providing for the requiring of persons, upon entering the sanctuary, to declare all items of fishing equipment, firearms, ammunition and traps in their possession;
- (e) providing for the prohibition or the regulation of the carrying of fishing equipment, firearms, ammunition and traps;
- (f) providing for the seizure of fishing equipment, firearms, ammunition and traps reasonably suspected of being carried or used in contravention of a by-law or the plan of management;
- (g) regulating or prohibiting the pollution of water;
- (h) providing for the protection and preservation of the sanctuary and property and things thereon;
- (j) providing opening times and closing times for access to the sanctuary by persons who are not members of the group;
- (k) regulating or prohibiting access to the sanctuary by persons or classes of persons;
- (m) providing for the removal from the sanctuary of persons who are believed, on reasonable grounds, to be trespassers or to have contravened or failed to comply with a provision of this Act, a by-law or the plan of management;

- (n) regulating or prohibiting camping;
- (p) providing for the safety of persons;
- (q) regulating or prohibiting the use of fire;
- (r) regulating the conduct of persons;
- (s) providing for the prevention or control of nuisances;
- (t) regulating or prohibiting the carrying on of any trade or commerce;
- (u) providing for fees and charges to be imposed on persons, who are not members of the group, entering, camping on or using the sanctuary or using services or facilities provided by or on behalf of the Board;
- (w) regulating or prohibiting the use of vehicles and providing for signs and road markings for those purposes;
- (y) regulating or prohibiting, and providing for the imposition and collection of charges for -
 - (i) the parking or stopping of vehicles;
 - (ii) the mooring of vessels;
 - (iii) the landing of aircraft; and
 - (iv) the use of vehicles and vessels;
- (z) providing for the removal of vehicles, aircraft or vessels from places where they have been left in contravention of the by-laws or have been abandoned and for the impounding of such vehicles, aircraft or vessels;
- (za) making provision to the effect that, where a contravention of a provision of the by-laws relating to the parking or stopping of vehicles occurs in respect of a motor vehicle, the person who is to be regarded as the owner of the motor vehicle for the purposes of the by-laws (who may, in accordance with the by-laws, be or include a person in whose name the motor vehicle is registered under a law of the Territory) is to be deemed to have committed an offence against the provision so contravened, whether or not he in fact contravened that provision;
- (zb) enabling a person who is alleged to have contravened a provision of the by-laws relating to -
 - (i) littering;

Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land and Sanctuary

- (ii) the use of vehicles or vessels;
- (iii) the parking or stopping of vehicles;
- (iv) the mooring or landing of vessels; or
- (v) the landing, use or flying of aircraft,
to pay to the Board; as an alternative to prosecution, a specified sum in lieu of the penalty by which a contravention of that provision is otherwise punishable;
- (zc) regulating or prohibiting the use of vessels on, and the passage of vessels through, the sanctuary and the landing and use of aircraft in, and the flying of aircraft over, the sanctuary;
- (zd) regulating or prohibiting the taking of animals or plants into or out of the sanctuary and providing for the control of animals on the sanctuary;
- (ze) providing for the impounding, removal, destruction or disposal of animals found straying on the sanctuary;
- (zf) regulating or prohibiting the laying of baits and the use of explosives and poisons on the sanctuary;
- (zg) providing for the collection of specimens and the pursuit of research for scientific purposes on the sanctuary; and
- (zh) providing for any matter incidental to or connected with any of the foregoing.

(3) A by-law shall not regulate the use by a member of the group or prohibit him from having in his possession or using any firearm, ammunition, trap, net or fishing equipment used or intended to be used by him in connection with the exercise of his right, as a member of the group, to use and occupy the sanctuary or a part of the sanctuary.

(4) A provision of the by-laws regulating or prohibiting the flying of aircraft over the sanctuary does not have any force or effect to the extent to which it is inconsistent with a law of the Commonwealth or the Territory, but such a provision shall not be taken for the purposes of this sub-section to be inconsistent with such a law if it can be complied with without contravention of that law.

(5) The power to make by-laws conferred by this Act may be exercised -

- (a) in relation to all cases to which the power extends, or in relation to all those cases subject to specified exceptions, or in relation to any specified cases or classes of cases; and

(b) so as to make, in respect of cases in relation to which it is exercised, the same provision for all those cases or different provisions for different cases or classes of cases.

(6) The power to make by-laws conferred by this Act shall not be taken, by implication, to exclude the power to make provision for or in relation to a matter by reason only of the fact that -

(a) a provision is made by or under this Act in relation to that matter or another matter; or

(b) power is expressly conferred by or under this Act to make provision by by-laws for or in relation to another matter.

(7) The by-laws may provide, in respect of an offence against or under this Act or the by-laws, for the imposition of -

(a) a fine not exceeding \$5,000; or

(b) a fine not exceeding \$1,000 for each day during which the offence continues.

(8) In proceedings for an offence against a by-law, an averment of the prosecutor, contained in the information or complaint, that, at a specified time a person was on the sanctuary or a particular part of the sanctuary to which the by-law relates, is prima facie evidence of that fact.

(9) A prosecution for an offence against a by-law shall not be commenced except with the written authority of the Board or its Chairman, or the Director of the Commission.

36. INCONSISTENT BY-LAWS

Where a by-law made under this Act is inconsistent with an Act of the Territory, the latter shall prevail and the by-law shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be invalid.

PART VII - MISCELLANEOUS

37. TERRITORY PARKS ACT PROVISIONS TO APPLY

(1) Parts IV and VIII and sections 112, 113, 115, 118 and 119 of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act apply to and in relation to the sanctuary as though it were a park within the meaning of that Act.

(2) Regulations and by-laws made under the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act apply to and in relation to the sanctuary, as though it were a park within the meaning of that Act, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the plan of management or a by-law made under this Act.

38. AUDIT, &c., PROVISIONS

The Board is a prescribed statutory corporation within the meaning, and for the purposes, of the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

39. LEASE TO BE GRANTED TO COMPANY

(1) Subject to sub-section (2), but notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Land Trust shall grant to Paspaley Pearling Company Pty. Limited a lease for a term of not less than 25 years of the land situated at that part of the area known as East Station Point, Port Bremer which, immediately before the commencement of this Act, was occupied or used by or on behalf of that company, having an area of not more than 50 acres and on which are erected buildings and other improvements, including 2 wharves and a well, being land adjacent to the land registered under The Real Property Act as Northern Territory Portions 1723 and 1724.

(2) If the Land Trust and the company referred to in sub-section (1) cannot, within 6 months after the commencement of this Act, agree upon the identity, area or boundaries of the land referred to in that sub-section or a term, covenant or condition to which the lease is to be subject, the Chief Justice may determine the identity, area and boundaries of the land and the terms, covenants and conditions to apply and, on the Chief Justice so determining, the lease shall be deemed to have been executed by the Land Trust and the company and have effect accordingly.

40. LAND CEASING TO BE PART OF THE SANCTUARY

Where the sanctuary or any part of it ceases for any reason to be the sanctuary or part of the sanctuary, the title to the land comprising the sanctuary or that part, as the case may be, vested by this Act in the Land Trust shall continue to be so vested notwithstanding that cessation, and the Land Trust -

(a) shall remain in existence; and

(b) shall have, in relation to the land, the functions, powers and duties as though it were a Land Trust under and within the meaning of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 of the Commonwealth and a reference to "the Minister" in that Act were a reference to the Minister for the time being administering this Act.

41. RESERVATIONS REVOKED

(1) All reservations under the Crown Lands Act relating to the sanctuary or part of the sanctuary and in force immediately before the commencement of this Act are hereby revoked.

(2) Where a reservation referred to in sub-section (1) was for historic interest or historic purposes, all buildings, structures, foundations, walls, excavations, objects or things on the land the

subject of the reservation shall be protected and preserved as though the land continued to be subject to a reservation for historic interest or historic purposes, and the plan of management shall, accordingly, provide for such protection and preservation.

42. NO REPEAL BY IMPLICATION

The effect of a provision of this Act shall not be amended, modified or varied except by express provision in an Act.

SCHEDULE

Section 3

COBOURG PENINSULA SANCTUARY

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land known as Cobourg Peninsula containing an area of about 740 square miles above low-water mark and lying to the west of a line on a true bearing of 231 degrees from a point on the sea coast at low-water mark distance about 10 miles on a true bearing of 245 degrees from Coombe Point, Mount Norris Bay, including -

- (a) the islands adjacent to the coast of that land and known as Sandy Island No. 2, Sandy Island No. 1, Allaru Island, Burford Island, Greenhill Island, Wangoindjung Island, Warldagawaji Island, Warla Island, Wunmiyi Island, Morse Island and Mogogout Island;
- (b) the 2 unnamed islands in Raffles Bay; and
- (c) the unnamed high back rock approximately 2.5 kilometres in a westerly direction from the most westerly point between Shamrock Bay and Silvia Bay,

but excluding -

- (d) all that parcel of land containing an area of 259 hectares more or less bounded by an imaginary line commencing at a point on the sea coast at low-water mark 60.35 metres east of the Cape Don Lighthouse jetty; thence on a true bearing of 215 degrees 10 minutes for a distance of approximately 3,540.5 metres to meet the sea coast at low-water mark; thence generally northwesterly, northeasterly, southeasterly and southwesterly along the said low-water mark to the point of commencement; and
- (e) all that piece of land known as Northern Territory Portion 900 being the whole of the land comprised in Special Purposes Lease 153 situated on the eastern shore of Knocker Bay, Port Essington and being the land more particularly described in the Register of Crown Leases Volume 56 Folio 75.

COBOURG PENINSULA ABORIGINAL LAND AND SANCTUARY BILL
EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

THIS BILL IS THE PRODUCT OF DISCUSSIONS HELD BETWEEN THE NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL, TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND THE N.T. GOVERNMENT. IT PROVIDES A MEANS WHEREBY THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND ALL PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY CAN BE MET.

THIS BILL PROVIDES FOR THE VESTING OF THE LAND IN TRUSTEES FOR THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS IN PERPETUITY, AT THE SAME TIME PRESERVING THE STATUS OF A SANCTUARY. IT PLACES THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE AREA AS A NATIONAL PARK IN THE HANDS OF A BOARD CONSISTING OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND OTHERS WHO WILL NO DOUBT BE CONSERVATION COMMISSION OFFICERS, WHILE RETAINING THE LAND WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

AS THE LAND IS THE SUBJECT OF A CLAIM UNDER THE ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS ACT (N.T.) IT REMOVES THE NECESSITY OF HAVING TO PROCEED TO A FORMAL HEARING BEFORE THE ABORIGINAL LAND COMMISSIONER.

COBOURG PENINSULA ABORIGINAL LAND AND SANCTUARY BILL 1981

COMMITTEE NOTES

- Clause 1 Short Title
- 2 Commencement
- 3 Definitions
- 4 Provides for the Northern Land Council to consult with all or the relevant traditional owners before consenting to any action in relation to the Land Trust.
- 5 Provides for the vesting of the land in perpetuity in a land trust for the group, with the Land Council deciding who are members of the group. The Supreme Court will have jurisdiction to resolve disputes as to identity.
- 6 Provides that any land not currently in the area, but adjacent to the area, that may become vacant in the future, becomes part of the area subject to the same plan of management and By-Laws as the remainder of the sanctuary.
- 7 Provides for the establishment of a Land Trust for the area, subject to the normal provisions of the law, to carry out the functions and duties imposed by this Act, save that it shall not exercise its functions except in accordance with a direction given to it by the Board.
- 8 Covers the appointment of members of the Land Trust by the Land Council from the group. It also covers the period of appointment and the powers and duties of a member.
- 9 Covers the resignation of a trustee.
- 10 Provides for the appointment of new Trustees.

- 11 Entitles members of the group to the use and occupation of the Sanctuary at all times.
- 12 Provides for the Sanctuary to be established as a National Park.
- 13 Provides for a deed of grant to be executed and delivered to the Land Trust. The deed of grant will exclude all roads over which the public has a right of way as well as providing savings sections regarding minerals and land presently occupied by the Crown:
- 14 Provides for the Deed to be registered.
- 15 Provides for an annual fee of \$20,000 to be paid and gives a formulae for review of the fee and the actions to be taken by the Land Council on receipt of the fee.
- 16 Provides that the title is inalienable but a lease or licence may be granted in pursuance of the plan of management.
- 17 Provides the procedure to be followed should it be necessary for any of the land to be acquired in the future.
- 18 Covers the establishment of a Board for the management of the sanctuary.
- 19 Provides the conditions of membership of the Board. This consists of 8 members to be appointed by the Minister, 4 of whom will come from members of the group. The Minister shall have the appointments gazetted. It also provides for a 3 year term and the procedure to be adopted should any member fail to perform his duties.
- 20 Covers the resignation of members.
- 21 Covers the procedure for the appointment of new members.

- 22 Provides for the appointment of a Chairman and Deputy Chairman, both of whom shall be members of the group nominated by the Land Council. It ensures that the same provisions apply, should one or both not be available or the position falls vacant. Both appointments are for 3 years, and holders are eligible for re-election. The Board may by resolution elect a new Chairman or Deputy Chairman and on passing that resolution the previous occupier of the position ceases to hold that office.
- 23 Outlines the procedure to be used for the calling of meetings and the procedure to be adopted at the meetings. It allows for records to be kept and the appointment of proxies. There is availability for members to admit to meetings, advisers and allow these advisers to address the meeting. The advisers do not have the right to vote.
- 24 Outlines the functions of the Board.
- 25 Outlines the functions of the Conservation Commission, and makes the Commission subject to the directions of the Board.
- 26 This provides the Board and the Commission with the powers to carry out their functions as prescribed in the Act and the plan of management.
- 27 Provides the procedure for the preparation of the plan of management, including areas of significance to Aborigines, limitation on use of sanctuary, recovery of minerals, living, commercial and recreation areas and the regulation of the appropriate use and enjoyment of the sanctuary etc. The plan of management is to be forwarded to the Minister for tabling in the Legislative Assembly.
- 28 Provides for the Legislative Assembly to consider the plan of management. The Legislative Assembly can disallow the whole or part of the plan of management and prescribes the action to be taken. It also allows for the Chief Justice to resolve any differences between the Legislative Assembly and the Board should there be no other way. As soon as all differences, if any, are

resolved the Minister shall publish the fact that the plan is operational and give an address where copies are available.

- 29 Any subsequent amendments to the plan must go through the same procedure as the original plan before they become operative. A new plan of management may revoke an old plan but again not before the procedure outlined in 28 has been followed.
- 30 Provides the penalty clause for any infringement of the Act or Plan of Management. The penalty being \$1,000. It also has a saving clause covering access to certain areas by fishermen, and access to airstrips.
- 31 Provides that no development will be carried out except in accordance with the plan of management.
- 32 Provides that in regard to Mining, this Act takes precedence over any other Northern Territory Law.
- 33 Requires written approval of the Board before any mining activities are commenced.
- 34 Prescribes the conditions that must be met before mining is commenced, and includes fees and compensation for any rights given for exploration and mining.
- 35 Is the regulating clause enabling the Board to make By-Laws for the administration of the Sanctuary. The By-Laws will be extensive covering regulations required by the Board.
- 36 Provides that the By-Laws must not be inconsistent with any Act of the Northern Territory and also provides that should a By-Law be inconsistent the Act would take precedence over the By-Laws.

- 37 Provides for certain Territory Parks provisions to apply in particular:

Part IV covering protected animals, unprotected animals, pests and prohibited entrants, penalties for trading, killing or otherwise interfering with certain animals.

Part VII covers the appointment and duties of Conservation Officers.

Section 112 is the power to enter land
 113 authorised destruction of feral animals
 115 averment in relation to Parks and Reserves
 118 Offender to pay for damages
 119 destruction of trespassing animals.

Again they are not to be inconsistent with the plan of management or by-laws under this Act.

- 38 Brings the Board under the Financial Administration and Audit Act for accounting and audit purposes.
- 39 Covers the existing leases held by Paspaley Pearling Co. Pty Ltd, and provides for a lease to be granted to the company under this Act, with the procedure to be adopted should the Land Trust and the Company be unable to agree on the extent of the lease.
- 40 Is a saving clause covering the land should it cease to be a sanctuary, ensuring that it remains vested in the Land Trust.
- 41 This revokes reserves set aside by the Northern Territory for historical purposes, but ensures that the plan of management must provide for the protection and preservation of these places (eg Victoria Settlement).

42

Provides that this Act shall not be amended or modified except by the express provision of an Act.

The Schedule defines the area of the Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary by description.

MR SPEAKER: I HOPE THAT THE BILL IS READ A SECOND TIME.

FOLLOWING LONG AND DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVE BODIES OF THE COBourg PENINSULA AREA REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL, AND A.I. EMPLOYMENT OFFICERS FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, DEPARTMENT OF LAW, AND THE OFFICE OF ACQUISITION, LINDSEY AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A JOINT PLAN TO ALLOW FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THIS IMPORTANT AREA OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY. IT IS IMPORTANT TO THE TERRITORIAL OWNERS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY AND THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA, THE NORTHERN TERRITORY HAS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THE REST OF AUSTRALIA WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED BY CO-OPERATION, BY GOODWILL AND BY THE CITIZENS OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL PEOPLE.

THE AREA SUPPORTS A RICH AND VARIED FLORA AND FAUNA TYPICAL OF THE TOP END OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY. ITS VALUE DOES NOT DEPEND UPON THE INCORPORATION OF UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS OR RARE SPECIES. THERE IS NO ONLY LARGE COASTAL RESERVE SET ASIDE FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION. DESPITE SOME FRYING-CENTRAL DAMAGE TO LOCAL ANIMALS, IT HAS BEEN LITTLE AFFECTED BY EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT.

SECOND READING SPEECH: COBOURG ABORIGINAL LAND AND SANCTUARY
BILL 1981

MR SPEAKER, I MOVE THAT THE BILL BE READ A SECOND TIME.

FOLLOWING LONG AND DETAILED DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE COBOURG PENINSULA AREA, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL, AND N.T. GOVERNMENT OFFICERS FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, DEPARTMENT OF LAW, AND THE OFFICE OF ABORIGINAL LIAISON, AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A JOINT PLAN TO ALLOW FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THIS IMPORTANT AREA OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY. IT IS IMPORTANT TO THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY AND THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA. THE NORTHERN TERRITORY HAS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THE REST OF AUSTRALIA WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED BY CO-OPERATION, BY GOODWILL AND BY THE CITIZENS OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL PEOPLE.

THE AREA SUPPORTS A RICH AND VARIED FLORA AND FAUNA TYPICAL OF THE TOP END OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY. ITS VALUE DOES NOT DEPEND UPON THE INCORPORATION OF UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS OR RARE SPECIES, BUT IS THE ONLY LARGE COASTAL RESERVE SET ASIDE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION. DESPITE SOME ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE BY FERAL ANIMALS, IT HAS BEEN LITTLE AFFECTED BY EUROPEAN INFLUENCES.

ITS LARGE SIZE (191,659 HA), GEOGRAPHICAL ISOLATION AND STATE OF PRESERVATION GIVE IT UNIQUE VALUE IN CONSERVING SUCH A VIABLE SAMPLE OF THIS TYPE OF ENVIRONMENT. IT IS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST SIGNIFICANT SANCTUARIES IN TROPICAL AUSTRALIA AND HAS UNIQUE SCIENTIFIC VALUE DUE, IN PART, TO THE FACT THAT IT IS A TYPE 'REFERENCE AREA'. MANY OF THE TROPICAL PLANTS AND ANIMALS OF NORTHERN AUSTRALIA WERE FIRST DESCRIBED FROM SPECIES COLLECTED HERE BY SCIENTISTS AND NATURALISTS VISITING OR LIVING AT PORT ESSINGTON IN THE 1840's.

ITS CONSERVATION VALUES HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY AND CAREFULLY SAFEGUARDED BY THE PRESENCE OF A RESIDENT RANGER DURING THE LAST 20 YEARS. IT ALSO HAS INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION STATUS, BEING AN AREA DECLARED UNDER THE 'CONVENTION ON WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE ESPECIALLY AS WATERFOWL HABITAT'.

AFTER KAKADU NATIONAL PARK, IT IS THE LARGEST CONSERVATION PARK IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY AND ONE OF THE FINEST COASTAL PARKS IN AUSTRALIA.

THE AREA IS IMPORTANT TO THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE AREA, IT CONTAINS A NUMBER OF SACRED SITES, AND SITES OF SIGNIFICANCE. THEY HAVE A STRONG ATTACHMENT TO THE LAND, NOT ONLY SPIRITUAL, BUT AS AN AREA THAT HAS BEEN USED FOR HUNTING AND FISHING. INVOLVEMENT WITH

THE AREA HAS BEEN CONTINUOUS, AND THEY HAVE A STRONG DESIRE TO LIVE IN THE AREA. THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT IF THEIR TITLE WAS RECOGNISED, THEY WERE QUITE HAPPY FOR THE PENINSULA TO REMAIN A WILDLIFE SANCTUARY. THEY ARE QUITE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT WORKING WITH THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE LAND, AND PRESERVING IT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AUSTRALIANS.

THE BILL PROVIDES FOR A BOARD OF MANAGEMENT CONSISTING OF EIGHT (8) PEOPLE - FOUR (4) NOMINATED BY THE LAND COUNCIL FROM THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND FOUR (4) FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION. THE CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN WILL BE SELECTED FROM THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS WITH THE CHAIRMAN HAVING A DECIDING VOTE ENSURING THAT AT ALL TIMES THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS WILL HAVE THE ULTIMATE SAY IN THE POLICY FOR THE SANCTUARY.

THE DRAFT LEGISLATION HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH HELP FROM THE ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCILS. IT ALLOWS FOR LAND CLAIMS TO BE SETTLED UNDER TERRITORY LAW BY AGREEMENT. THIS OPENS THE DOOR FOR POTENTIAL CONTROVERSIAL LAND CLAIMS TO BE NEGOTIATED. WE HAVE ALWAYS RECOGNISED THE RIGHT OF ABORIGINALS TO HAVE TITLE TO LAND, AND NOW THAT WE HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT FOR COBOURG PENINSULA, I AM HOPEFUL THAT WE CAN HAVE FURTHER TALKS ON THE VITAL ISSUE OF LAND TENURE.

PART OF THE AGREEMENT COVERS 2KMS OF SEA AROUND THE AREA. HOWEVER, THE NORTHERN TERRITORY WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE COMMONWEALTH OFFSHORE LEGISLATION RECEIVES ROYAL ASSENT BEFORE IT WILL HAVE POWER TO LEGISLATE TO COVER WHAT IS ENVISAGED AS BEING A MARINE PARK. THIS WILL NECESSITATE THE INTRODUCTION OF ANOTHER BILL AT A LATER STAGE.

I COMMEND THE BILL TO THE ASSEMBLY.