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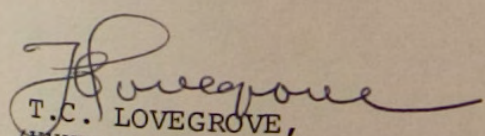
CABINET DECISION

NO. 1205

Submission No.: 1032

Title: INCLUSION OF RECREATION LAKE AT ALICE SPRINGS
IN 1979/80 DESIGN LIST.

Cabinet approved that the Alice Springs Recreation Lake be included in the 1979/80 Design List and directed that the design be given priority.



T.C. LOVEGROVE,
~~(XXXXXXXXXX)~~
Secretary to Cabinet.

21 May, 1980.

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FOR CABINET

SUBMISSION No: 1032

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|--|---|
| Title: | INCLUSION OF RECREATION LAKE AT ALICE SPRINGS IN 1979/80 DESIGN LIST |
| Minister | ROGER STEELE, Minister for Transport and Works |
| Purpose: | To obtain Cabinet's approval to include the Recreation Lake at Alice Springs in 1979/80 Design List |
| Relation to existing policy: | Consistent with Government's aim of extending recreational opportunities for Northern Territory residents |
| Timing/ legislative priority: | As soon as possible |
| Announcement of decision, tabling, etc: | A press statement will be prepared when Cabinet decision is known |
| Acting re-quired before announcement: | Nil |
| Staffing implications, numbers and costs, etc: | Nil |
| Total cost: | Approximately \$3M |

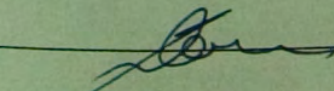
Department/Authority LAW

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: INCLUSION OF RECREATION LAKE AT ALICE SPRINGS IN
1979/80 DESIGN LIST

COMMENTS:

There are no legal or constitutional barriers
to the proposal.

SIGNED: 

DESIGNATION: LEGISLATIVE DRAFTSMAN
for SOLICITOR GENERAL

DATE: 30 April 1980

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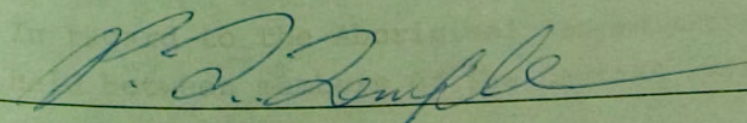
Department/Authority DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: INCLUSION OF RECREATION LAKE AT ALICE SPRINGS
..... IN 1979/80 DESIGN LIST.
.....

COMMENTS:

Treasury supports this item being added to the design list but recommends that the item be referred back to Cabinet when detailed estimates of cost are available and when more definite answers to the siltation problem are available.



SIGNED: P.F. TEMPLE
DESIGNATION: Deputy Under Treasurer
DATE: 6/5/80

THE ISSUES

1. To obtain Cabinet's endorsement to include the Recreation Lake in Alice Springs on the 1979/80 Design List.

BACKGROUND

2. Cabinet has been kept informed of the developments in regard to the construction of a Recreation Lake at Alice Springs through the Monthly Planning Initiative Reports. Initially a number of sites were investigated. Four Government reports were produced and have been submitted to Cabinet. These favoured the site on the Todd River near the Old Telegraph Station.
3. A public display was held in Alice Springs in January this year where the public were asked to offer comments. The overwhelming number of comments were in favour of the proposal and the display is still available in the Department's offices in Alice Springs. Major concerns have included environmental factors and public health aspects which will need to be addressed at the planning and management stages of the project.
4. Environmental considerations have been given full weight at all stages of investigation to date and to ensure the highest degree of objectivity, the international consultants, Dames and Moore, were commissioned to carry out an independent environmental impact review. It is proposed that Mr Harry Butler review their final report.

CONSIDERATIONS OF THE ISSUES

5. There were two main reservations in the Dames and Moore draft report concerning the selected site:-
Firstly, the sight covered Aboriginal sacred sites existing in the area and secondly, the usable life of the Lake is related to the rate of siltation.
6. In regard to the Aboriginal sacred sites, a meeting has been held between members of the Central Land Council, the traditional

owners and the Aboriginal Liaison Unit where it was agreed that the sites would not be removed but would be permitted to be flooded in situ. It was suggested at the meeting that the N.T. Government be asked to give consideration to naming the Lake 'Wolatyatarra' or "Two Breasts" Lake.

7. The draft report, which is now available, agreed that there is no insurmountable problems in constructing a Recreation Lake on the proposed site. Nevertheless, the consultants did identify siltation as a problem and suggests that further sedimentary studies should be carried out. It is considered that this study could be undertaken concurrently with the design stage of the project.

OPTIONS

8. The options available to Cabinet are:-

- (a) Await a final sedimentation study into the usable life of the Lake, and
- (b) Approve the commencement of the design stage during which sedimentation studies will be carried out concurrently. The Department has acknowledged the problem with siltation but has always considered that the construction of this Lake would require sediment control. By utilising appropriate measures the life of the Lake could be extended to 120 years.

The environmental consultants, Dames and Moore consider the usable life could be considerably less than 120 years but this appears to be based on speculation. The two types of preventative measures are extensive treatment of the catchment area and the physical trapping of sediment. It is more likely that the adoption of an appropriate combination of these measures can give an adequate life to the reservoir. This is being studied further.

9. The Department is optimistic that the sedimentation studies will support the feasibility of constructing the Lake on the site and therefore would like to commence design to avoid unnecessary delay with the Lake.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. The proposed Lake which will offer a service area of 92 hectares when full and 60 hectares for 90% of the time, will cost in the vicinity of \$3 million over a two year period.

PUBLIC IMPACT

11. Considerable effort has been employed in advising Alice Springs public of the proposal. Apart from the public display mentioned above, there have been regular advertisements in the Centralian Advocate and announcements on local radio. The public were invited to complete questionnaires on the project and 87% were in favour of the Lake and only 4% were opposed. Therefore the decision to commence detailed design would be received favourably in Alice Springs.

COMMONWEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

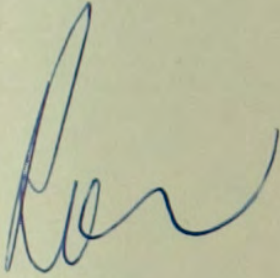
12. The Alice Springs Corporation has been provided with a number of copies of the four Government reports compiled on the Recreation Lake proposal. They will also be provided with a copy of the final environmental report from independent consultants Dames and Moore. No official reaction to the proposal has been received from the Corporation, although some Aldermen have spoken individually with officers of the Department of Transport and Works.

CO-ORDINATION

13. The report "Feasibility of a Recreation Lake on the Todd River" was prepared by the Department of Transport and Works with assistance from the then Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission, Department of Mines and Energy, Department of Health and Department of Primary Production. The Department of Mines and Energy has also prepared a geological report on the feasibility of the dam. The Department of Lands and Housing has carried out preliminary photogrammetric survey work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. It is recommended that Cabinet include the Recreation Lake for Alice Springs in the 1979/80 Design List.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Steele', written in a cursive style.

ROGER STEELE

2/4/80-