

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Copy No.

CONFIDENTIAL
CABINET DECISION

No.....5266.....

Submission No.: 4518

Title: NORTHERN TERRITORY SPACEPORT FEASIBILITY REPORT

Cabinet -

- (a) noted the detailed feasibility study undertaken by the Working Party;
- (b) decided to take no further action on this project; and
- (c) noted that the Department of Industries and Development will be investigating appropriate associated industry oppotunities.



A. G. MORRIS
Secretary to Cabinet.

8 September 1987

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THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Copy No: 1

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FOR CABINET

SUBMISSION No: 4518

Title:	NORTHERN TERRITORY SPACEPORT FEASIBILITY REPORT
Minister	HON MARSHALL PERRON, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES AND DEVELOPMENT
Purpose:	TO REPORT TO CABINET ON THE OUTCOME OF THE PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY STUDY INTO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPACE VEHICLE LAUNCHING FACILITY IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
Relation to existing policy:	RELATES TO CABINET DECISION NO. 4863
Timing/ legislative priority:	NIL
Announcement of decision, tabling, etc:	A DRAFT PRESS RELEASE IS AT ATTACHMENT A.
Action re- quired before announcement:	NIL
Staffing implications, numbers and costs, etc:	NIL
Total cost:	WITHIN EXISTING BUDGET APPROPRIATION

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Department/Authority **LAW**

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: **NORTHERN TERRITORY SPACEPORT PROPOSAL**

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COMMENTS:

In light of the recommendations, no legal comment is necessary.
The proposed course of action is supported.

C. E. Croft

SIGNED: C.E. CROFT
DESIGNATION: SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF LAW
DATE: 3 JULY 1987

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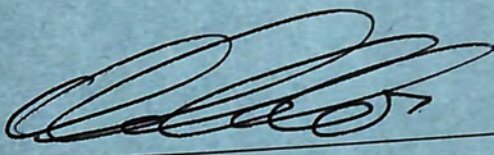
Department/Authority **NORTHERN TERRITORY TREASURY**

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: **NORTHERN TERRITORY SPACEPORT FEASIBILITY REPORT**.....

COMMENTS:

Treasury supports the Submission.



SIGNED: **O ALDER**
DESIGNATION: **ACTING UNDER TREASURER**
DATE: **7 JULY 1987** **CONFIDENTIAL**

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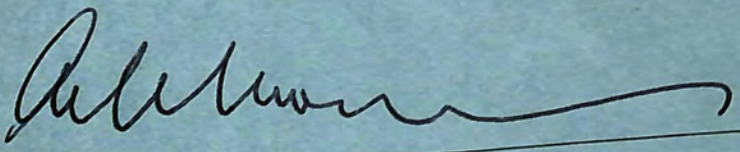
Department/Authority.....CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE.....

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE:NT SPACEPORT FEASIBILITY REPORT.....

COMMENTS:

The Co-ordination Committee supports the Submission.



SIGNED: A.G. MORRIS

DESIGNATION: Chairman

DATE: 6.7.87

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Department/~~Agency~~.....OF THE CHIEF MINISTER.....

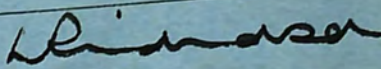
COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE:NORTHERN TERRITORY SPACEPORT PROPOSAL.....

COMMENTS:

The Submission is supported.

SIGNED: L RICHARDSON



DESIGNATION: DEPUTY SECRETARY

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DATE: 13.7.87

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Department/Authority **LANDS AND HOUSING**

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: **NORTHERN TERRITORY SPACEPORT PROPOSAL**

COMMENTS:

The Department of Lands and Housing supports the submission.

SIGNED: *R. H. Brockman*

DESIGNATION: HEAD OF SECRETARIAT

DATE: 7. 7. 87.

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Department/Authority ~~XXXXXX~~ TRANSPORT AND WORKS

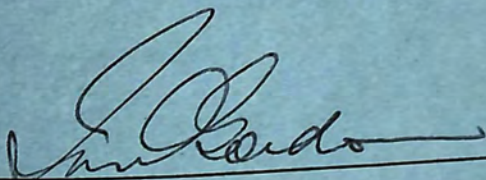
COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: NORTHERN TERRITORY SPACEPORT PROPOSAL

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COMMENTS:

The Submission is supported.



SIGNED: IAN GORDON

DESIGNATION: SECRETARY

DATE: 2 JULY 1987

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Department/Authority CONSERVATION COMMISSION

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: NORTHERN TERRITORY SPACEPORT FEASIBILITY REPORT

COMMENTS:

The Commission supports the Submission. In view of the recommendation, no action is required pursuant to the Environmental Assessment Act.

In the event that it was decided to further develop the proposal, action under that Act would need to be considered.

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SIGNED: *Anthony Thomas*

DESIGNATION: Director of Conservation

DATE: - 2 JUL 1987

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ISSUES

1. To report to Cabinet on the outcome of the preliminary feasibility study into the establishment of a space vehicle launching facility in the Northern Territory.

BACKGROUND

2. On 14 October 1986, the former Minister for Business, Technology and Communications briefed Cabinet (Submission No. 4158) on the correspondence between Dr Pardoe (General Technology Systems Ltd (UK)) and the Chief Minister about a possible Northern Territory spaceport and Cabinet noted that his Department was convening a Working Party to study and report on the feasibility of such a spaceport (Decision No. 4863).
3. The Working Party (Attachment B) has now completed its preliminary study and this submission forms its report to Cabinet on the feasibility of a spaceport. The Working Party received considerable assistance from Dr Gordon Pike (Aussat Pty Ltd).

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4. The Queensland consultancy study mentioned in the earlier submission has now been completed. The study included an in-depth investigation of a site adjacent to Weipa on Cape York Peninsula. The report recommended that this site is the most suitable for a launch site with respect to geostationary and space shuttle orbits to 54°S. The report did not adequately evaluate the risks to Central Australian communities including Alice Springs and Mt Isa arising from polar orbit launches.

5. A copy of the 1965 Department of Supply Report on An Australian Study of a Launch Site for Equatorial orbits (European Launcher Development Organisation Project Study 5.4) has been studied. The ELDO Report concluded that "the most suitable site is on the Australian mainland near Darwin and that this location has unique advantages over alternative sites".

6. The ELDO Report's conclusion has been overtaken by considerable population and socio-economic development in the Top End since 1965, and could be considered dated.

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CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES

7. The Working Party in assessing the validity of the conclusions of the ELDO Study Report and the feasibility of a Northern Territory spaceport focussed on:

- . site selection criteria and infrastructure needs;
- . range safety issues;
- . likely market requirements for launch services.

8. Darwin incorporates all of the general infrastructure requirements for a spaceport (Attachment C) and sites within 200 km would be able to make effective use of this existing infrastructure. Nhulunbuy already has some of the infrastructure necessary and like sites near Darwin, is at a low latitude. On this basis, the Working Party selected sites at:

- . Darwin
- . Point Stuart
- . Nhulunbuy

for study.

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9. Range safety and the location of the impact zones where used rocket hardware lands are critical issues. Ideally, drop zones must be in totally uninhabited areas or over ocean and it is undesirable for launch trajectories to be over populated areas. With the assistance of Dr Pike (Aussat), the Working Party commissioned a map set to allow accurate identification of the trajectories and impact zones for all common rockets for the three chosen sites and others if necessary. Details are provided in Attachment D together with sample maps for the Chinese and Japanese rockets.
10. As all of the common trajectories for geostationary, polar and space shuttle orbits traverse populated areas and most of impact zones occur in inhabited localities including cities, towns and communities, the Working Party has reluctantly drawn the inevitable conclusion that none of the studied sites is suitable for a commercial spaceport.
11. Accurate information on commercial and Governmental launch service demand has proved difficult to obtain. Best estimates (Attachment E) indicate declining demand to a level of 20 or

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less launches per annum. This may be just sufficient to justify a new facility if US policy does not change and Ariane does not expand their operations in French Guyana to capture the service demand. To be successful a facility would need to cater for a majority of launch trajectory requirements and need to secure commitments from foreign Governments e.g. China and Japan concerning usage of facilities. France has indicated that it has no interest in a Northern Territory facility and Japan has publicly turned down collaboration with Queensland.

12. The investigations have highlighted several industry development possibilities including:

- . space launch vehicle manufacturing and support services (relevant if Queensland's spaceport proceeds);
- . search and rescue satellite communications services;
- . remote telemetry, tracking and sensing services;
- . satellite high frequency communications design and expert services.

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The Department of Industries and Development will be assessing the opportunities in the usual manner.

OPTIONS

13. Cabinet might decide to:

(a) take no further action; or

(b) decide to commission a full feasibility study.

Option (a) is recommended on the basis of the Working Party's findings.

PUBLIC IMPACT

14. A decision not to proceed with further feasibility studies into the spaceport will have little direct public impact.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

15. The present study has been completed within existing resources and has cost less than \$5000.

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CO-ORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

16. This Submission has been considered by the Co-ordination Committee.

PUBLICITY


17. A draft press release is at Attachment A.

RECOMMENDATION

18. It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (a) note the detailed feasibility study undertaken by the Working Party;
- (b) decide to take no further action on this project; and
- (c) note that the Department of Industries and Development will be investigating appropriate associated industry opportunities.

DATED: 11.8.87



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MARSHALL PERRON

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ATTACHMENT ADRAFT PRESS RELEASENORTHERN TERRITORY SPACEPORT PROPOSAL

Mr Marshall Perron, Minister for Industries and Development said today that Cabinet had considered a confidential report on the Northern Territory spaceport proposal. He said the report addressed all of the key issues relating to the establishment of a spaceport, including launch infrastructure requirements, launch types and demand and the key question of range safety.

As sites close to the equator are the most suitable for commercial space launches, Top End sites near Darwin, Port Stuart and Nhulunbuy were considered. It is clear, he said, that Darwin does incorporate all of the general infrastructure requirements such as a port, airport and engineering facilities to support an adjacent launching facility.

However, it has become apparent from the detailed information gathered during the study that commercially relevant launches would involve traversing inhabited areas in the Northern Territory and elsewhere. He went on to explain that current expendable launch vehicles jettison large components such as tanks and fairings during their flight. These fall and impact the earth in "drop" zones. These drop zones for the sites studied generally occur over or near towns

and communities in the Northern Territory and elsewhere in Australia. The question of launch failures must also be considered.

From this information, Cabinet has reluctantly concluded that the establishment of a Northern Territory spaceport would involve unacceptable risks and has decided not to proceed with any further work on this proposal. Cabinet's initial caution, he added, in not proceeding with a fully funded consultancy in 1986 has been vindicated.

Mr Perron also said that his Department would continue to monitor space developments elsewhere, including the proposal being considered by the Queensland Government, and would be vigorously seeking to capitalise on any industrial or development opportunities which arise.

ENDS

ATTACHMENT B

SPACEPORT WORKING PARTY

Mr Geoff Chard (Chairman), Department of Industries
and Development
Mr Ian Prince, Department of Industries and
Development
Mr Ian Gordon, Department of Transport and Works
Ms Jane Large, Northern Territory Treasury
Ms Kate Race, Northern Territory Treasury
Mr Sam Durland, Department of Industries and
Development (representing Nortrade)
Ms Barbara Singer, Conservation Commission of the NT
Mr Ken Ward, Department of Lands and Housing
Mr Graham Bailey, Department of Lands and Housing

Assistance to Working Party

Aussat Pty Ltd (Dr Gordon Pike)

CSIRO (Office of Space Science and Applications -
Dr Ken McCracken)

Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce

Department of Science

ATTACHMENT C

SUMMARY OF SITE SELECTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

The Working Party identified the following parameters as relevant:

- equatorial site (within 12-15% of the equator)
- land available (> 500 km²)
- good communications facilities
- stable political system
- community and accommodation, housing facilities
- meteorological services
- air traffic control and radar services
- industrial support infrastructure
- power, water,
- airport (Boeing 747 capable)
- port facilities with modern transfer capabilities
- sealed roads
- recreation and education facilities
- suitable weather conditions mainly related to wind and lightning
- range and impact zone safety

ATTACHMENT D

Summary of Impact Zone Data

1. Maps 1-4 in this attachment show the four commercially relevant launch trajectories for the selected Northern Territory sites and Weipa and the approximate impact zones for Japanese H2 and Chinese Long March 2 and 3 rockets.

Impact zones are statistical probability zones (three or 99.74%) where rocket hardware is likely to land. They are normally elliptical however for ease of plotting these maps show similar size rectangles to illustrate zone location and dimensions.

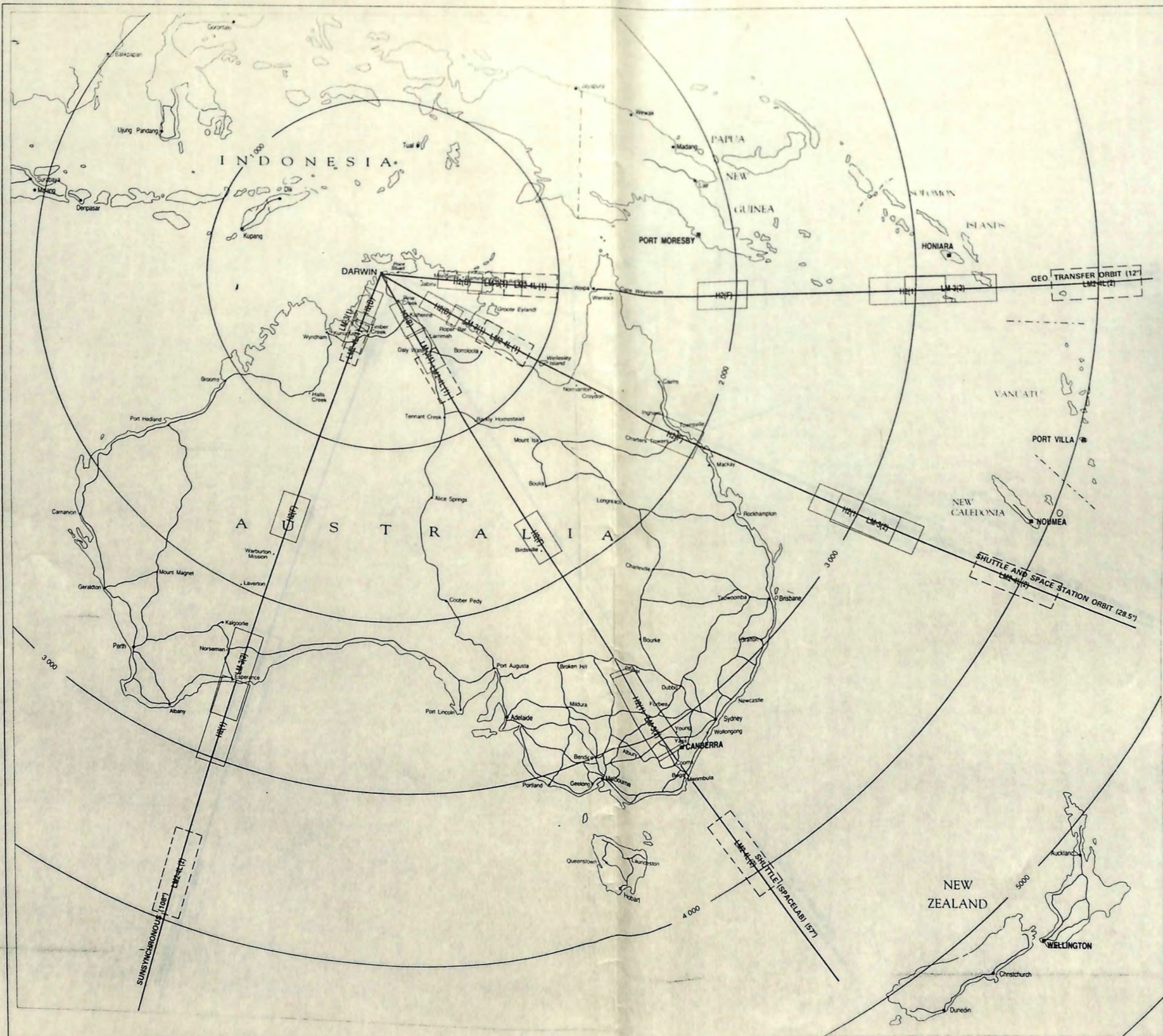
2. Full size maps with impact zones and trajectories overlays have been prepared to allow all common launching rockets and a variety of Territory sites to be studied.
3. A summary sheet which lists the impact zone locations and the communities, towns and cities likely to be affected has also been included.

ATTACHMENT D

SUMMARY SHEET

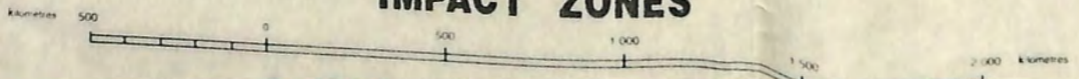
LOCATIONS IN THE IMPACT ZONES

DARWIN			PT STUART			NHULUNBUY					
H ₂	SSO	B	Port Keats, Daly River, Tipperary	H ₂	SSO	B	Pine Creek, Dorisvale, Tipperary	H ₂	SSO	B	Groote Eylandt, Numbulwar
	F		Gibson Desert, Giles Meteorological Station		F		Gibson Desert		F		Angas Downs, Curtin Springs
	1		Esperance		1		Orleans Farms		1		Great Australian Bight
GTO	B		Maningrida, Milingimbi, Elcho Island	GTO	B		Milingimbi, Ramingining, Nhulunbuy	GTO	B		Weipa
	F		Coral Sea		F		South Pacific		F		Louisiade Archipelago
	1		Santa Cruz		1		Santa Cruz		1		Solomon Islands Group
28.5°	B		Roper Bar, Mainoru	28.5	B		Numbulwar, Arnhem Land	28.5°	B		Gulf of Carpentaria
	F		Ingham, Townsville, Ayr, Charters Tower		F		Townsville, Ayr, Proserpine		F		South Pacific
	1		Pacific Ocean		1		South Pacific		1		South Pacific
57°	B		Pine Creek, Kath, Mataranka	57°	B		Mataranka, Elsey, Larrimah	57°	B		Gulf of Carpentaria
	F		Simpson Desert, Birdsville, Betoota		F		Bedourie, Betoota		F		Charleville, Blackall
	1		Cobar, Cootamundra, Wagga Wagga		1		Forbes, Young, Yass, Canberra		1		Taree, Port Macquarie
IM2-4L				LM2-4				IM2-4			
SSO	1		Timber Creek, Newry, Rosewood	SSO	1		Timber Creek	SSO	1		Borrooloola, Nathan River
	2		Southern Ocean		2		Southern Ocean		2		Southern Ocean
GTO	1		Gulf of Carpentaria	GTO	1		Gulf of Carpentaria	GTO	1		Coral Sea
	2		Solomon Island Group		2		Pacific		2		South Pacific
28.5	1		Sir Edward Pellew Group	28.5	1		Wellesley Islands	28.5	1		Laura, Hopevale
	2		South Pacific		2		South Pacific		2		South Pacific
57°	1		Daly Waters, Down Stuart Highway to Banka Banka	57°	1		Eva Downs, Brunette Downs	57°	1		Wellesley Island, Burketown
	2		Tasman Sea		2		Tasman Sea		2		Tasman Sea
IM-3				IM3				IM-3			
SSO	1		Timber Creek, Victoria River	SSO	1		Timber Creek	SSO	1		Borrooloola
	2		Esperance, Morseman, Gibson		2		Balladonia Motel		2		Eucla Motel
GTO	1		Elcho Island, Nhulunbuy	GTO	1		Nhulunbuy	GTO	1		Weipa, Iron Range
	2		Santa Cruz		2		Solomon Islands Group		2		South Pacific
28.5	1		Roper Bar, Limmen Bight	28.5	1		Numbulwar, West Island	28.5	1		Edward River, Kowanyama
	2		South Pacific		2		South Pacific		2		South Pacific
57°	1		Daly Waters, Newcastle Waters	57°	1		Larrimah, Anthony Lagoon	57°	1		Wellesley Islands
	2		Cobar, Cootamundra, Canberra		2		Forbes, Young, Yass, Canberra		2		Taree, Port Macquarie
ARIANE				ARIANE				ARIANE			
SSO	B		Daly River	SSO	B		Adelaide River, Hayes Creek, Daly River	SSO	B		Groote Eylandt, Numbulwar
1			Newry, Victoria River	1			Timber Creek	1			Sir Edward Pellew Group, Borrooloola
F			Great Sandy Desert	F			Great Sand Desert	F			Tennant Creek, Wauchope, Barrow
2			Coonana, Cundelee	2			Coonana, Cundelee	2			Alleron
GTO	B		Jabiru, Pt Stuart	GTO	B		Jabiru, Maningrida	GTO	B		Eucla Motel
1			Milingimbi, Ramingining, Nhulunbuy	1			Nhulunbuy	1			Gulf of Carpentaria
F			Weipa, Wenlock, Coen	F			Weipa, Wenlock	F			Weipa, Wenlock
2			Louisiade Archipelago	2			Louisiade Archipelago	2			Coral Sea
28.5°	B		Annaburro	28.5°	B		Jabiru	28.5°	B		Santa Cruz
1			Roper Bar, Ngukurr, Numbulwar	1			Numbulwar	1			Gulf of Carpentaria
F			Normaton, Blackbull, Karumba	F			Normaton, Karumba, Blackbull, Croydon	F			Edward River, Kowanyama
2			Mackay	2			South Pacific	2			Cairns
57°	B		Pine Creek	57°	B		UDP, Bamylli	57°	B		South Pacific
1			Larrimah, Daly Waters	1			Larrimah, Daly Waters	1			Gulf of Carpentaria
F			Barkly Homestead	F			Lake Nash, Urandangi	F			Wellesley Islands
2			Tharguindah, Bourke	2			Wanaaring, Cobar	2			Hughendon, Richmond
											Glen Innes, Inverell, Armidale



MAP 1 DARWIN

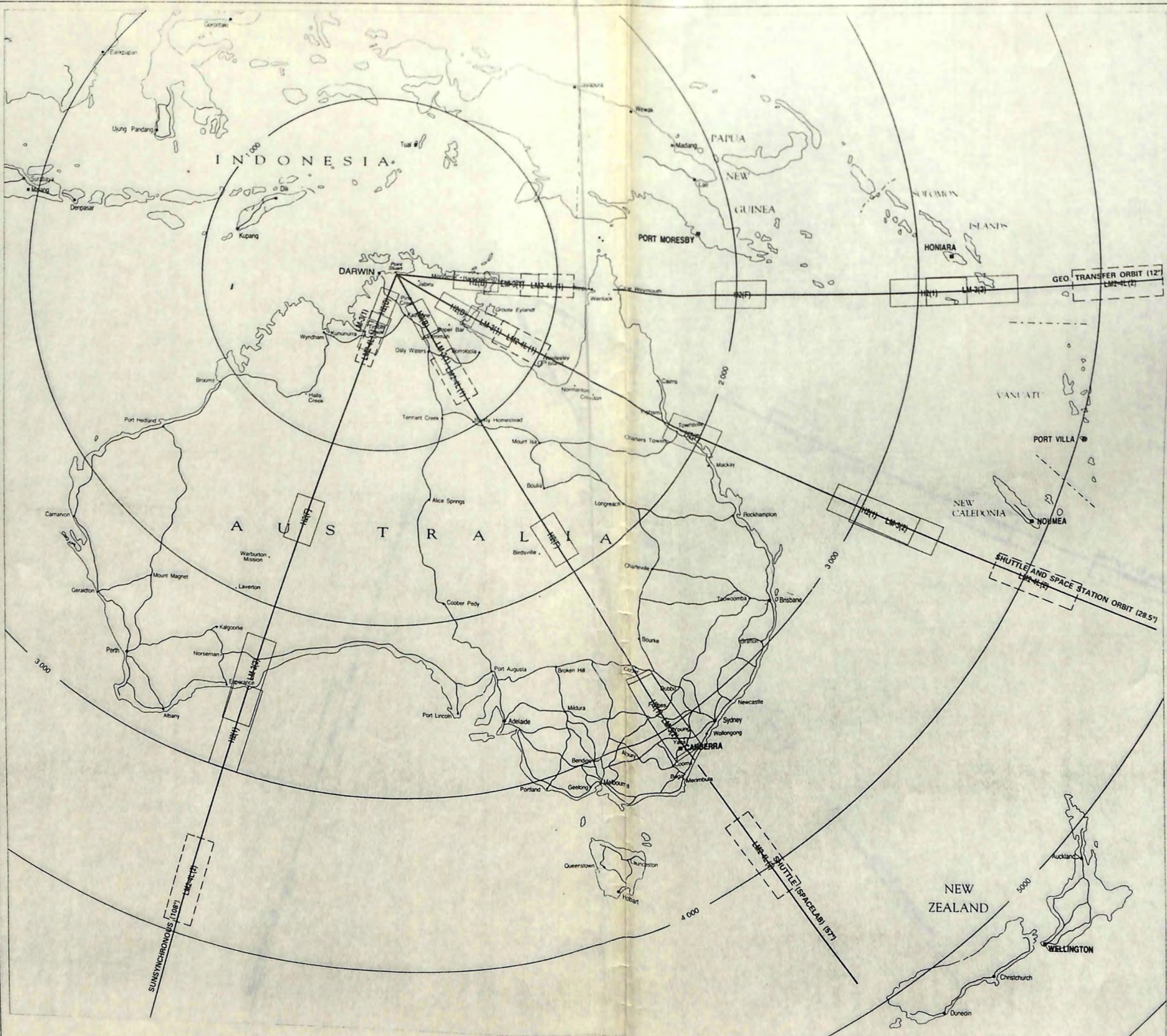
IMPACT ZONES



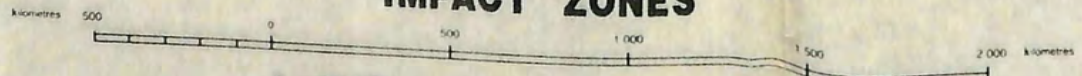
- A = ARIANE
- L = LIBERTY
- AG = ATLAS G
- AK = ATLAS K
- D = DELTA
- (1) = FIRST STAGE
- (2) = SECOND STAGE
- F = FAIRING
- (S) = SUSTAINERS
- B = BOOSTER
- P = PANEL
- LM = LONG MARCH
- H2 = JAPAN



MAP 2 PT STUART



IMPACT ZONES



- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| A = ARIANE | (2) = SECOND STAGE | H2 = JAPAN |
| L = LIBERTY | F = FAIRING | |
| AG = ATLAS G | (S) = SUSTAINERS | |
| AK = ATLAS K | B = BOOSTER | |
| D = DELTA | P = PANEL | |
| (1) = FIRST STAGE | LM = LONG MARCH | |



MAP 3 NHULUNBUY

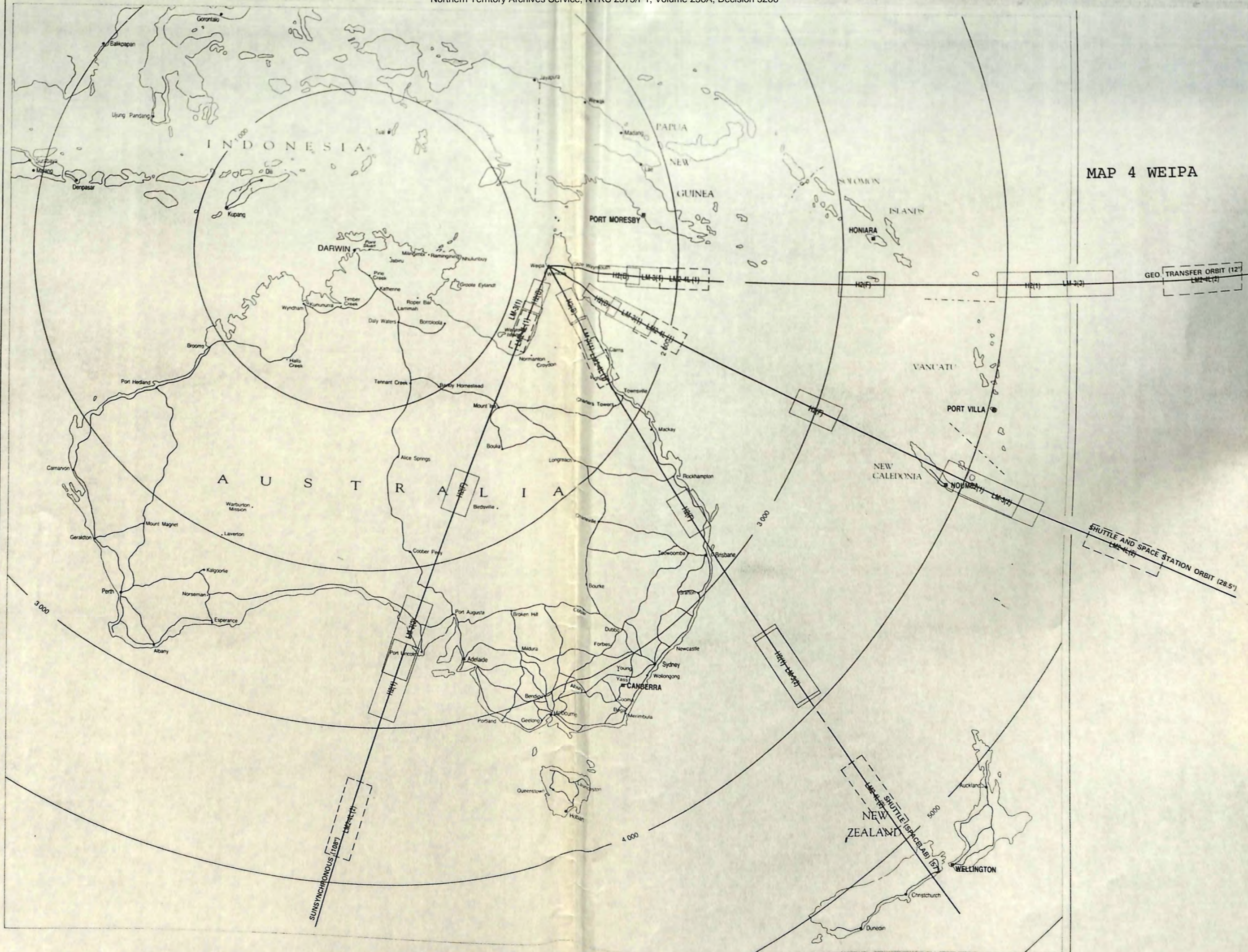


IMPACT ZONES

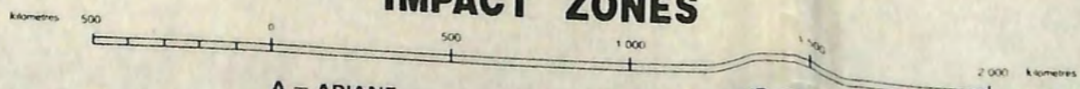
- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| A = ARIANE | (2) = SECOND STAGE | H2 = JAPAN |
| L = LIBERTY | F = FAIRING | |
| AG = ATLAS G | (S) = SUSTAINERS | |
| AK = ATLAS K | B = BOOSTER | |
| D = DELTA | P = PANEL | |
| (1) = FIRST STAGE | LM = LONG MARCH | |



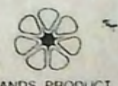
MAP 4 WEIPA



IMPACT ZONES



- A = ARIANE
- L = LIBERTY
- AG = ATLAS G
- AK = ATLAS K
- D = DELTA
- (1) = FIRST STAGE
- (2) = SECOND STAGE
- F = FAIRING
- (S) = SUSTAINERS
- B = BOOSTER
- P = PANEL
- LM = LONG MARCH
- H2 = JAPAN



ATTACHMENT ELaunch Service Market Estimates

1. Recent historical trends in launch and payload requirements have been tabulated by NASA/Battelle (Figure 4.1 and 4.2) and payload demand predications prepared (Figure 4.3).
2. Independent estimates of payload and launch demand have also been prepared by Martin Marietta/Satellite News) (Figure 4.4).

Actual Total Launches Compared to OUPM Projections

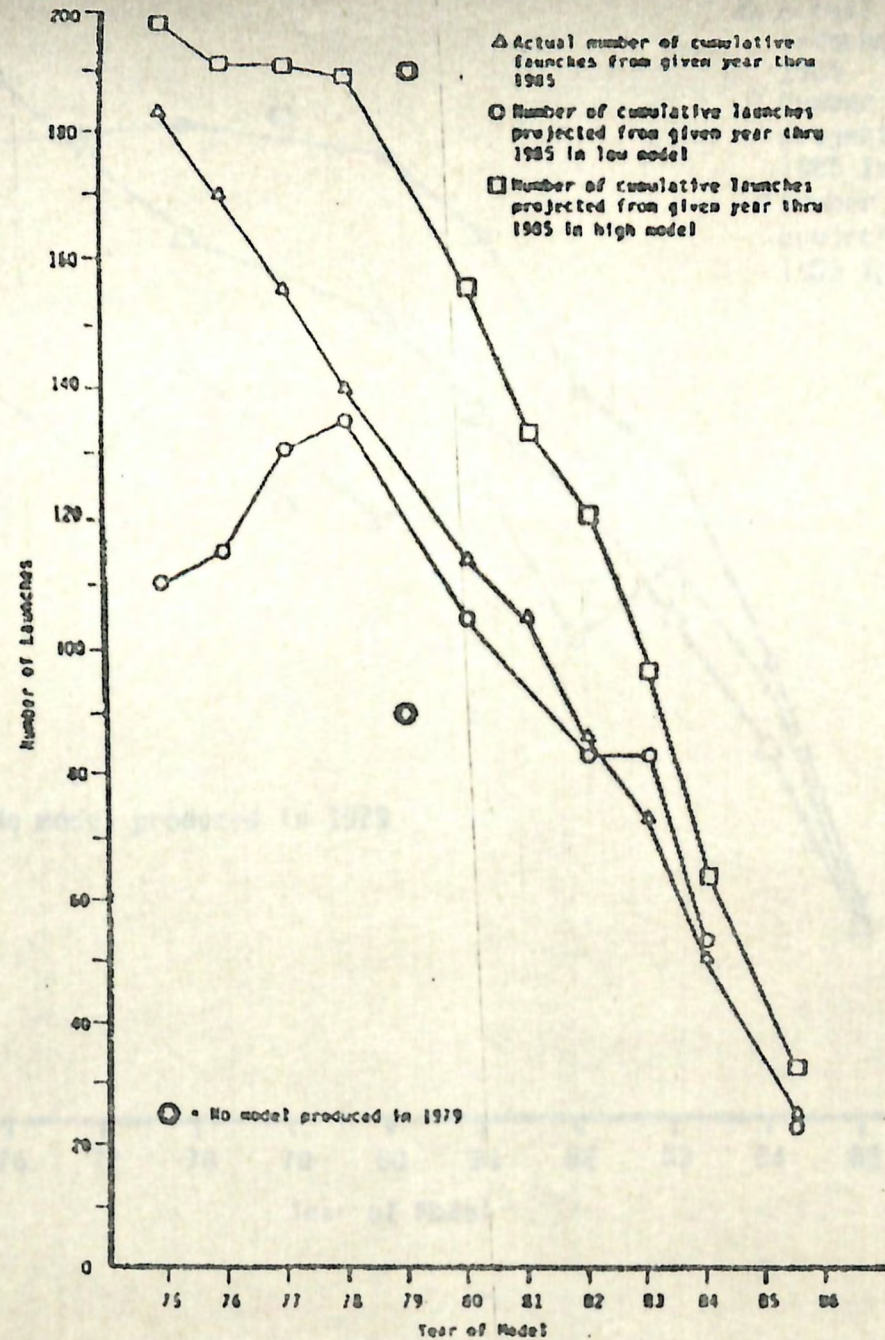


FIGURE 4.1

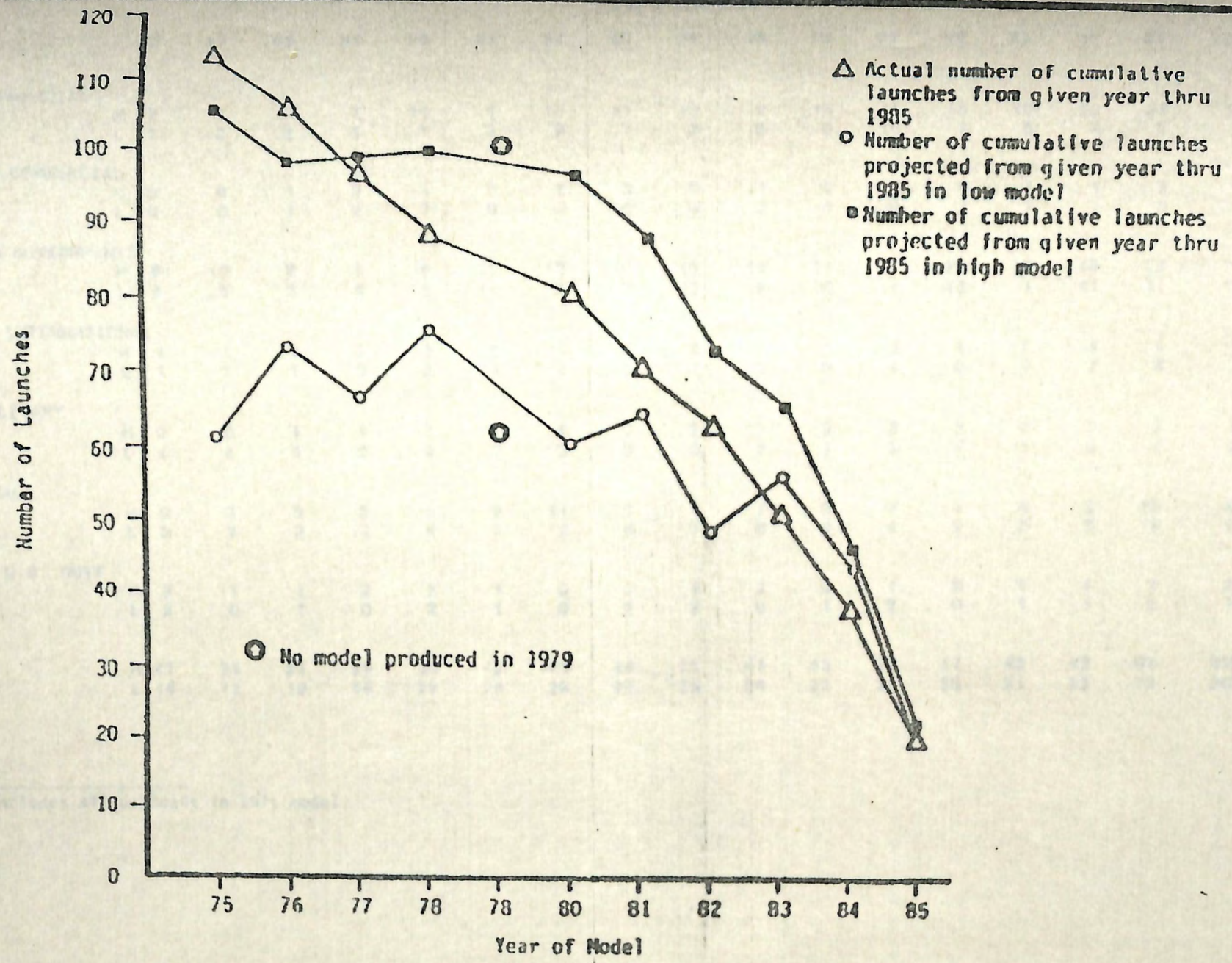


FIGURE 4.2

TABLE 5. PAYLOAD DEMAND BY SPONSOR TYPE (1)

		LAUNCH SCHEDULE															TOTAL	
		86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00		01
C	U.S. COMMERCIAL	H 2	3	3	7	11	8	10	11	13	9	15	11	10	10	20	23	174
		L 2	2	2	1	7	8	9	7	2	5	6	10	4	5	4	7	81
F	FOREIGN COMMERCIAL	H 0	0	1	2	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	2	16
		L 0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	2	1	2	15
G	FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS	H 8	10	9	9	10	10	10	10	16	19	21	17	25	18	19	22	257
		L 8	5	8	4	9	11	7	7	13	8	10	14	13	7	11	11	148
I	GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL	H 1	1	1	5	2	5	4	2	2	1	0	1	1	2	4	4	38
		L 1	1	1	3	2	3	4	2	1	1	0	1	0	3	2	3	28
M	DOD/MILITARY	H 3	6	1	1	3	1	4	3	2	2	2	3	3	0	1	2	37
		L 1	2	3	0	4	3	3	3	0	2	1	3	1	1	0	2	29
R	REGIONAL	H 0	3	5	3	4	9	11	7	4	7	5	3	5	4	3	12	85
		L 0	2	3	4	4	2	3	6	7	6	4	4	2	2	3	2	54
U	OTHER U.S. GOVT	H 3	1	1	2	2	1	0	2	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	2	20
		L 2	0	1	0	2	1	0	2	2	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	15
TOTAL		H 17	24	21	29	39	42	46	44	38	41	43	38	47	42	49	67	625
		L 14	12	19	14	29	28	28	27	25	24	23	34	23	21	22	27	368

21

(1) Includes all payloads in this model.

FIGURE 4.3

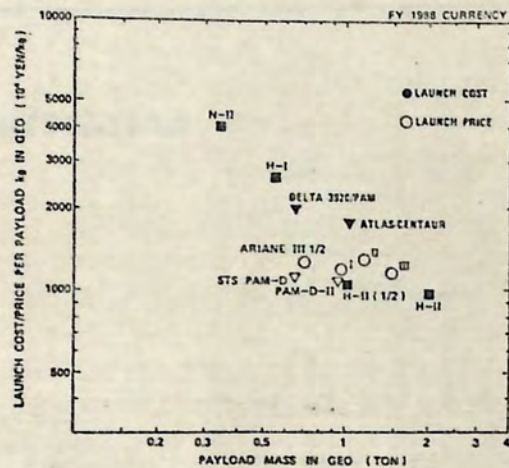
SATELLITE NEWS, November 24, 1986

PAYLOAD DEMAND BY SPONSOR TYPE

		LAUNCH SCHEDULE														TOTAL		
		88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01			
U.S. COMMERCIAL	H	2	3	3	7	11	8	10	11	13	9	15	11	10	18	20	23	174
	L	2	2	2	1	7	8	9	7	2	5	8	10	4	5	4	7	81
FOREIGN COMMERCIAL	H	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	2	18
	L	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	2	1	2	15
FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS	H	8	10	9	9	18	18	18	18	18	21	17	25	18	10	22	257	
	L	6	5	8	4	9	11	7	7	13	8	10	14	13	7	11	11	148
GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL	H	1	1	1	3	2	5	4	2	2	1	0	1	1	2	4	4	28
	L	1	1	1	2	2	2	4	2	1	1	0	1	0	3	2	3	28
GOV/MILITARY	H	3	0	1	1	3	1	4	3	2	2	3	3	0	1	2	37	
	L	1	2	3	0	4	2	3	3	0	2	1	3	1	1	0	2	29
REGIONAL	H	0	3	3	3	4	9	11	7	4	7	5	3	5	4	3	12	85
	L	0	2	3	4	4	2	3	0	7	8	4	4	2	2	3	2	54
OTHER U.S. GOVT	H	3	1	1	2	2	1	0	2	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	2	20
	L	2	0	1	0	2	1	0	2	2	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	15
ALL	H	17	24	31	29	59	42	48	44	39	41	43	38	47	42	89	87	829
	L	14	12	19	14	29	28	28	27	29	24	23	24	23	21	22	27	268

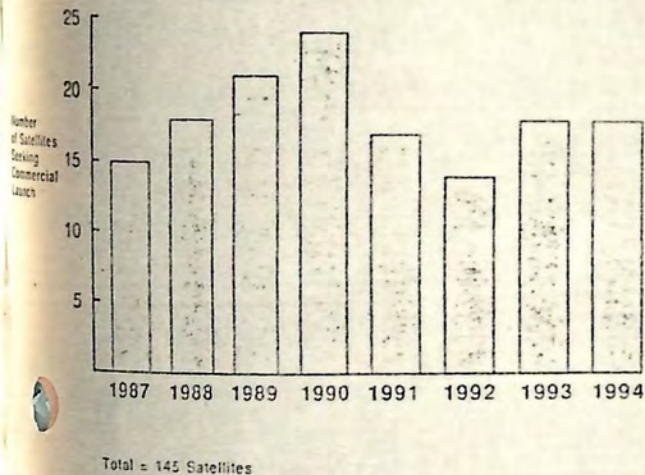
(NASA)

LAUNCH COST/PRICE COMPARISON



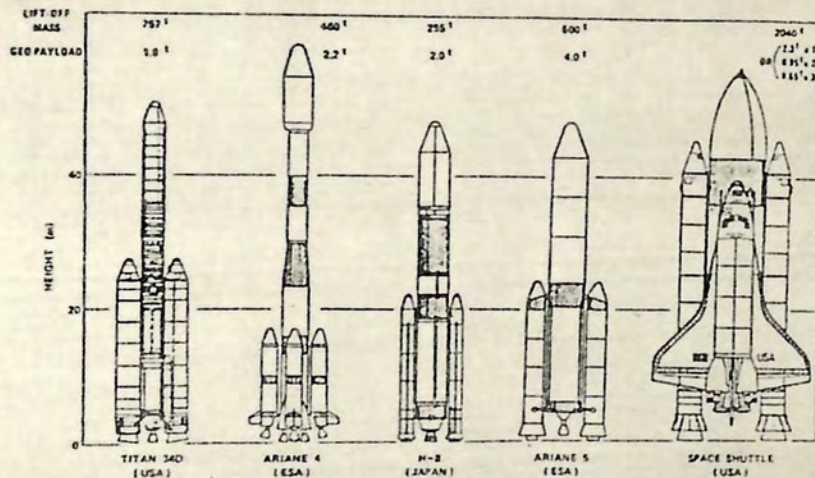
(National Space Development Agency of Japan)

COMMERCIAL LAUNCH DEMAND 1987-94



(Martin Marietta)

LAUNCH VEHICLES IN THE '90s



(National Space Development Agency of Japan)