

## **Cabinet Minutes 1977 – Highlights**

**An overview of some of the major decisions of the 1977 Cabinet**

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These appear to be the most important/relevant decisions taken by the Queensland Cabinet during 1977, taking into account both the circumstances of the time and the advantages of historical hindsight now extending over 30 years.

It should be noted that often Cabinet may have assessed the merits of a decision on the basis of material that was not included in the written submission before it: the relevant background might be political (in a partisan way) and/or the circumstances may have been very familiar to Ministers, and did not need to be spelt out.

Most of the decisions that have been selected for note are arranged by subject matter, and then listed chronologically. The first group deals with the State election, the second with Federal issues and the third with economic issues.

There is a small group under the heading industry and mining, followed by groups dealing with infrastructure, urban transport, police and criminal law matters, the Public Service, tourism and then property issues.

Finally there is a miscellany of other interesting issues and problems the Cabinet had to face during the year, not all of which were resolved.

The relevant Cabinet decision(s) are noted for each matter listed below. If there was a relevant written submission, it has also been noted. In some cases submissions have been mentioned even though Cabinet merely noted the submission or the submission was formally withdrawn.

### **State election 1977**

The State election was held on November 12 1977. The 1974 election had resulted in the Labor Opposition being reduced to a “cricket team” of just 11 MPs, with the Nationals holding 39 seats and the Liberals 30. Much of the 1977 election was seen by the media as a contest between the Coalition parties.

On 7 April Cabinet, following an oral submission by the Premier, approved the appointment of members of an Electoral Commission to carry out a redistribution of electoral boundaries because many electorates in the South-eastern Zone were above or below the 20 per cent allowable variation from the quota. [Dec. 26218]

The parties had earlier clashed over the nature of the redistribution, the Liberals fearing they would be disadvantaged (for example, *The Courier-Mail*, 16 and 17 March). The redistribution resulted in an improved position for the Government parties, particularly the Nationals, according to *The Courier-Mail* (20 July, p.1)

On 31 October Cabinet agreed to security arrangements for the Executive Building and Tally Room for the election. [Sub. 24310, Dec. 27261].

The election resulted in both Coalition parties losing seats. The Nationals finished with 35, the Liberals with 24 and the ALP more than doubled its representation to 23.

Following the election there was a dispute between the Coalition parties over representation in Cabinet which was finally resolved with the numbers remaining the same – 10 Nationals and eight Liberals – but the Liberals surrendered some of the more important portfolios. (*Courier-Mail*, 15 December, p.1) Cabinet continued to meet throughout the election period and the post-election dispute over Cabinet posts.

### **Federal/State issues**

**Aboriginal issues:** Cabinet on a number of occasions agreed that the Premier should write to the Prime Minister explaining Queensland's objections to various policies adopted by the Federal Government concerning Aboriginal people.

Two concerned the purchase of land in Queensland by the Federally funded Aboriginal Land Fund Commission [Sub. 23391, Dec. 26232, 12 April and Sub. 23500, Dec. 26364, 10 May]. This last submission included a draft letter from the Premier to the Prime Minister stating: "The permanent development of areas by Aborigines or Aboriginal Groups in isolation does nothing to foster the assimilation of these people into the community and therefore my Government has a firm opposition to these principles ..."

Another objected to a Federal grant to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service, claiming the service was "wholly discriminatory in its operation and is regarded as radical and militant in its philosophy". [Sub. 24540, Dec. 27525, 19 December]

Another concerned a long-standing dispute over the ratification by Australia of International Labour Organisation Convention 107, concerning Indigenous and Tribal Populations and their rights of ownership over land, pointing out the

Government's policy was "firmly opposed to conferring rights of a proprietary nature on Aborigines or Islanders, either individually or collectively..." [Sub. 23501, Dec. 26365, 10 May]

Cabinet made a decision adopting formal State Aboriginal Welfare Policies [Sub. 23174, Dec. 25977, 1 March].

The Minister, Claude Wharton, reported opposition in other States, sometimes unanimous, to Federal policies in this area. [Subs. 24183, 29 September and 23098, 3 February] Following an oral submission by the Premier, Cabinet decided on a process to involve the Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement in any Commonwealth/State discussions or negotiations concerning Aborigines. [Dec. 26409, 17 May]

**Fraser Island:** Following the Commonwealth's decision in December 1976 to ban mining on Fraser Island, the Commonwealth offered \$10 million over four years in compensation to stimulate economic activity in the region – Queensland had asked for \$77.8 million over 10 years.

Cabinet considered a number of submissions following discussions with Commonwealth Ministers and officials. It refused to withdraw its threat to challenge the validity of the Commonwealth's ban. [Sub. 22959, Dec. 25726, 11 January; Sub. 23059, Dec. 25843, 1 February; Sub. 23093, Dec. 25884, 8 February].

It adopted a management plan for the island, having decided not to seek Commonwealth financial assistance in developing that plan, because it feared the Commonwealth would want to be part of the planning group. [Sub. 24330, Dec. 27284, 7 November]

It also agreed to extend logging contracts, effectively in perpetuity. [Sub. 23820, Dec. 26722, 5 July]

**Environment:** Cabinet was concerned at the continued intervention by the Commonwealth under the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act in major developments in the State following the decision to ban mining on Fraser Island.

Cabinet was informed: "Indications are that the Commonwealth Government intends to remain involved in environmental matters to an increasing extent. The State policy maintains that environmental matters should be the concern of the State, which policy will not be accepted by the Commonwealth Government."

Cabinet was told of nine major projects involving export licences or foreign investment where "duplication and conflict" could arise. It decided to proceed to deal with the companies concerned on environmental issues and to provide the Commonwealth, for information only, the results of any State-company discussions, decisions or studies, and to inform the Commonwealth of its decision. [Sub. 24125, Dec. 27061, 19 September]

**Australian National Line:** In 1976 Cabinet agreed to a request from the Commonwealth Minister for Transport that the Australian National Line should be allowed to engage in intra-state trading in Queensland on a non-restricted basis.

The ANL had been transporting bauxite between Weipa and Gladstone following an agreement made in 1971. The main issue was the way in which the ANL's operations in Queensland could be legalised.

Cabinet was concerned not to enhance the Commonwealth's powers and eventually agreed to pass a special Act to deem the ANL to be a corporation for the purposes of Queensland law entitled to engage in intra-state trade.

The Commonwealth initially proposed that Queensland should pass legislation to refer legislative powers to the Commonwealth to permit the Commonwealth to empower the ANL to engage in intra-state trading. [Sub. 23252, Dec. 26066, 14 March; Dec. 26313, 26 April; Sub. 23992, Dec. 26914, 15 August; Sub. 24089, Dec. 27021, 5 September; Dec. 27084, 19 September]

**Corporations:** In response to moves initiated the previous year by the Federal Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs, Mr Howard, to introduce national companies and securities legislation, the Queensland Minister for Justice, Mr Lickliss, proposed he negotiate a scheme that would maximise State involvement.

He pointed out that the Commonwealth had increasingly encroached Constitutionally on what had been regarded as the preserve of the States. He said the only thing that had deterred Mr Howard from introducing national companies and securities legislation had been his desire to placate, as far as possible, the non-Labor states.

He also said: "One cause of profound concern is the effect on private enterprise if the socialists ever decide to utilise the corporations power for political as distinct from commercial purposes." Cabinet agreed with his proposals. [Sub. 23280, Dec. 26101, 21 March]

**Casinos at airports:** Cabinet agreed the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General should investigate possible ways by which the Government could prevent the establishment of casinos at airports in Queensland. He obtained advice from the Solicitor-General who said he would not be optimistic about the prospects of a successful challenge.

Further advice was sought from Sir Arnold Bennett QC who agreed with the Solicitor-General. The submission told Cabinet there did not appear to be any action presently necessary. Cabinet noted the submission. [Sub. 22999, Dec. 25769, 18 January and Sub. 23073, Dec. 25865, 6 February]

**Family Court:** In January 1976 Prime Minister Fraser wrote to the States inviting them to negotiate with the Commonwealth to create State Family Courts under the provisions of the Commonwealth Family Law Act. Queensland declined at that stage.

A year later the Prime Minister raised the issue again as a result of some Constitutional difficulties that had emerged in the (Federal) Family Court. As a result of these problems, and Western Australia's experience in operating its State Family Court, the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General recommended that he should begin negotiations with the Commonwealth to establish a State Family Court in Queensland.

Cabinet agreed to enter preliminary negotiations but required the Minister to report back prior to any final commitment. [Sub. 23659, Dec. 26544, 7 June]

**Referendums:** The Fraser Government proposed four referendums to change the Constitution. One allowed voters in the Territories to have their votes counted in determining the outcome of Constitutional referendums; a second changed the terms of appointment of Federal judges from "life" to age 70; a third required States to fill casual vacancies in the Senate with persons who were members of the political party of the Senator who died or retired; the fourth provided for simultaneous elections of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Cabinet decided not to adopt a recommendation from the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General that it decide its attitude towards the four proposed amendments, deciding instead that it would do so at "an appropriate time". [Sub. 23199, Dec. 26000, 1 March]. No such decision was made.

Premier Bjelke-Petersen personally campaigned hard against the third and fourth proposals. The first three were approved in the referendums. Cabinet later decided it would oppose a further proposed amendment on interchange of powers. [Sub. 24180, Dec. 27124, 3 October]

### **Economic issues**

**Queensland Permanent Building Society:** On 28 September the Queensland Permanent Building Society collapsed. It had 143,000 investors and funds of \$165 million were frozen. Cabinet, after canvassing a number of possibilities, agreed to a takeover of the society by the SGIO, as had occurred the previous year when five smaller building societies had collapsed.

The takeover was announced on 14 October. Cabinet agreed to legislation providing the necessary backing and guarantees for loans and to waive stamp duties. [Sub. 24197, Dec. 27142, 6 October; Sub. 24243, Dec. 27190, 13 October; Sub. 24419, Dec. 27392, 29 November] (See also, *From SGIO to SUNCORP*, M. I. Thomis & M. Wales, 1986, Suncorp Insurance and Finance, p.229 and *The Courier-Mail*, 29 September)

**State Trading Bank:** On 3 February *The Courier-Mail* reported that the State Government might bid for a controlling interest in the privately owned Bank of Queensland. It reported that establishment of a bank was National Party policy and was being supported by Liberal Party parliamentarians.

Two days later Cabinet considered a Treasury submission on the ramifications of creating a trading bank. It decided to refer the issue to the Premier “for further consideration and subsequent discussion” with the Treasurer. [Sub. 23102, Dec. 25892, 6 February]

**Prices and Wages Freeze:** At the Premiers Conference on 13 April the Prime Minister and all Premiers committed all governments to a three-month Prices and Wages Freeze, though the attempt to halt price increases was subsequently abandoned by the Federal Government.

Cabinet decided Ministers responsible for Statutory Authorities should ensure that no prices were increased by their authorities during the period. It also decided to intervene in the national wages case to support the policy, and to argue that any increase would frustrate the acceptance of the voluntary price freeze.

Cabinet considered ways of ensuring that Local Authorities did not increase rates for a further period of another year and indicated it was prepared to delay new valuations to assist this process. [Sub. 23425, Dec. 26270, 19 April; Sub. 23475, Dec. 26332, 3 May; Sub. 23591, Dec. 26464, 23 May]

**Commonwealth financial decisions:** At the Premiers Conference and Loan Council meeting on 1 July, the Commonwealth announced increases in capital works programs that were less than increased building costs.

It also announced a reduction by 50 per cent in Section 96 grants for the hospital capital program, elimination of grants for the national sewerage program and cuts in the school dental program.

Cabinet decided it would not put added financial resources into programs where the Commonwealth was cutting back on its Section 96 grants to the States. This would impact on hospitals, sewerage and school dental schemes. [Sub. 23838, Dec. 26740, 5 July]

### **Industry and mining**

**Coal:** Cabinet agreed on 5 July to release land under an Authority to Prospect to Queensland Coal Mining Co. Ltd, a subsidiary of BHP, in the Central Queensland Coal areas that could materially assist the economic viability of the adjacent Gregory deposit.

On 29 July BHP announced it would proceed with a \$300 million development of the Gregory deposit. Cabinet later agreed to construct spur rail lines for the Gregory Coal Mine.

Cabinet also approved offering an Authority to Prospect in the Oakey Creek coal area to a consortium of which Houston Oil and Minerals of Australia was the major partner. [Sub. 23806, Dec. 26710, 5 July; Sub. 23308, Dec. 26129, 21 March; Sub. 23310, Dec. 26131, 21 March]

**Nickel:** Cabinet agreed to legislation to provide financial backing for the Greenvale nickel project which was facing a liquidity problem following a fall in demand for nickel. [Sub. 23134, Dec. 25927, 15 February; Sub. 23171, Dec. 25974, 1 March; Sub. 23303, Dec. 26124, 21 March]

**Shipyard:** Cabinet rejected a proposal by Evans Deakin Industries that it should be given a developmental lease at its Kangaroo Point site when it closed its shipyard.

The company wanted to surrender its special lease over the shipyard site in return for the Government wiping off deferred rental of about \$300,000, dismantling two Government-owned buildings on the site and re-erecting them at its new Metropolitan Abattoir Board site, at no cost to the company.

Cabinet agreed to somewhat different terms, noting that it would be foregoing an investment in the shipyard site of no less than \$2 million. It called for a report on the development of the Kangaroo Point site. [Sub. 23420, Dec. 26265, 19 April]

## **Infrastructure**

**Water:** In September 1975, following a submission by the Premier, Cabinet decided to establish a new authority, to be known as the Moreton Water Authority, to control urban water supply in the region, including the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of new and future water supply facilities including dams, treatment works and trunk mains. It would also take over the operation and maintenance of existing facilities.

The scheme was supposed to take effect in July 1976. In November 1976 Cabinet agreed to defer the legislation until March 1977. In February 1977, Local Government Minister Russ Hinze reported to Cabinet that at a meeting of local authority representatives that month, 10 local authorities declared their opposition to the scheme while the remainder gave only qualified support. Brisbane City Council strongly opposed it.

Mr Hinze said he had formed the view it would be advisable not to introduce the proposed legislation. Cabinet decided no further action should be taken in relation to the concept of the proposed Moreton Water Authority.

It also decided the new Wivenhoe Dam should be handed over to the Brisbane City Council. [Sub. 23185, Dec. 25987, 1 March; Sub. 23241, Dec. 26089, 21 March]

**Sewerage:** Cabinet agreed to a five-year plan to help fund the Gold Coast Region Sewage Disposal scheme. The decision required the Gold Coast City and Albert Shire Councils to complete the ocean outfall by 1985, and to undertake various works in relation to the disposal of effluent. [Sub. 23164, Dec. 25967, 1 March; Sub. 23993, Dec. 26915, 15 August]

### **Urban transport**

**Trains:** Cabinet agreed to legislation concerning the use of land associated with the duplication of railway tunnels between Roma St and Brunswick St [Sub. 23109, Dec. 25931 and 25956, 22 February and 1 March] and for preparation of tunnels for electrification. [Sub. 23533, Dec. 26397, 17 May].

It accepted a \$19.481 million tender for the construction of 39 electric passenger cars for Brisbane's suburban rail electrification.

It decided that "constant pressure" be applied to the Federal Government with the objective of having the project included in future Commonwealth funding programs. [Sub. 23368, Dec. 26203, 4 April; Sub. 23532, Dec. 26396, 17 May]

**Buses:** Cabinet agreed to provide \$5.5 million to subsidise urban bus services in Brisbane, Rockhampton and elsewhere. Brisbane City Council was "resentful" at the amount it should get in comparison with other major states.

Cabinet also approved a scheme to help subsidise concessional fares for pensioners living outside urban areas travelling to and from urban areas. [Sub. 23594, Dec. 26467, 23 May; Sub. 24172, Dec. 27115, 26 September]

### **Police and criminal law matters**

**Criminal Law Inquiry:** Cabinet released the report of the committee established in November the previous year to inquire into enforcement of the criminal law. This inquiry was a substitute for an inquiry into police corruption.

The committee complained in a covering letter to the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General at the absence of helpful submissions in relation to a large number of matters with which it was concerned. The committee said: "We felt it was partly the result of scepticism that anything useful would grow out of our efforts."

Among the committee's recommendations was a proposal requiring police to tape record admissions made by suspects. Cabinet established a committee to report back on the recommendations that should be adopted. [Sub. 23537, Dec. 26412, 23 May; Dec. 26507, 31 May]



**Gold Coast prostitution:** The Minister for Justice and Attorney-General presented a short submission on “prostitution on the Gold Coast” for “the information of Ministers”. He included advice from the Solicitor-General that prostitution itself was not illegal, though prostitution in certain situations (such as operating brothels) had been made illegal, and that being a call girl as such was not presently illegal, and the same applied to escort services. Cabinet noted the contents of the submission. [Sub. 24257, Dec. 27207, 17 October]

**Police Arts and Sciences Course:** Cabinet in January 1976 decided that in relation to the Police Arts and Sciences Course, no alteration be made to the existing practice of granting study leave or permitting police to attend lectures in departmental time.

Cabinet received a submission from the Police Minister in July 1977 recommending this be changed. It deferred a decision until December when it decided that the practice of granting police study leave in relation to the Police Arts and Sciences Course and permitting police to attend lectures in departmental time be discontinued. This was the recommendation of the new Police Commissioner, Terry Lewis. [Sub. 23924, Dec. 26840, 20 July, Dec. 27467, 13 December]

### **Public Service**

**Flexible working hours:** In July 1975 Cabinet authorised the Public Service Board to confer with Public Service unions concerning the introduction of flexible working hours. In June 1976 Cabinet noted that various trials of flexible working hours were about to begin.

In March 1977 the board reported the success of the trials and recommended adoption of a new scheme. Cabinet approved its proposals, including its recommendation that a variation to allow a full day off each fortnight be deferred until after the new scheme was in operation. [Sub. 23289, Dec. 26110, 21 March, Dec. 26137, 28 March] This was extended to Railways employees the following month. [Sub. 23398, Dec. 26243, 19 April]

**Employment of women:** Cabinet endorsed the Public Service Board’s policy of giving preference to college leavers over married women in the Public Service generally, including the teaching service. The board noted that prior to 1969 women who married were required to resign.

However after 1973 discrimination against women in employment was removed and male and female school/college leavers competed on an equal basis for appointment to vacant positions in the Public Service. [Sub. 24516, Dec. 27502, 13 December]

**Union membership:** Cabinet decided not to change its policy of requiring government employees to become members of registered Industrial Unions. The policy dated from 1932 and was continued by the Coalition Government in 1958.

The Public Service Board recommended the policy should continue and apply throughout the Public Service except where Cabinet specifically decided otherwise. Cabinet agreed. [Sub. 23042, Dec. 25827, 1 February]

## **Tourism**

**Hamilton Island:** Cabinet agreed to a request by the leaseholder, Hamilton Island Enterprises Pty Ltd, for the establishment of a tourist resort on Hamilton Island. The existing lease, over the whole island, was for grazing purposes only and prohibited the establishment of a tourist resort. The lease was for 30 years, beginning in 1969, for which the company shareholders, Keith Williams and Bryan Byrt, paid \$200,000.

The Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service, told Cabinet it was not practical to call for tenders and follow the normal course when a new resort on Crown land was to be established.

Cabinet asked the Minister to discuss the matter with the Deputy Premier and Treasurer and present a further submission. The Treasurer was concerned about the process, and lack of any tenders. However Cabinet approved the proposal. [Sub. 23784, Dec. 26677, 28 June, and 26853, 26 July; Sub. 24035, Dec. 26960, 22 August]

**Iwasaki resort:** Following an oral submission by the Premier, Cabinet agreed to approve the preparation of a franchise agreement for the establishment of the Iwasaki resort at Yeppoon. Details of the project are contained in earlier submissions considered by Cabinet in November.

Cabinet also endorsed the transfer and sale of 100 hectares of freehold land in the area owned by the Livingston Shire Council to the Iwasaki development, for \$400,000 in cash and a further \$400,000 towards the cost of services. [Sub. 24447, Dec. 27420, 29 November; Dec. 27552, 19 December]

**Bridge toll:** Cabinet refused to allow a toll to be reimposed on use of the Bribie Island Bridge. The toll had been abolished by Cabinet in 1975.

However the Caboolture Shire Council wanted to impose a 40 cent toll on visitors and day trippers to defray the cost of cleaning beaches and maintaining facilities for visitors.

The Minister for Local Government and Main Roads pointed out this would create a precedent for similar action in other areas and he said a proposal had been received concerning access roads to the Capricorn coastal resorts. [Sub. 23723, Dec. 26614, 21 June]

## **Property issues**

**Littoral or foreshore reserves:** Cabinet adopted a recommendation by the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads that Local Authorities be not permitted by bylaw to require subdividers of land abutting foreshores, rivers or creeks to provide part of the foreshore or littoral land free of cost for public garden and recreation purposes. This was contrary to a proposal by an inter-departmental committee.

Mr Hinze said while there was a case for lands abutting foreshores, rivers and creeks to be acquired by the Crown or a Local Authority so the areas could be used for park or recreation purposes or for beach erosion or flood mitigation purposes, the question whether a Local Authority should be empowered by bylaw to require such lands to be provided free of cost was one of Government policy. [Sub. 24216, Dec. 27161, 10 October]

**Foreign Ownership of land:** In 1974 Cabinet decided to investigate whether overseas ownership of land in Queensland could be identified and controlled. In April 1977 the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service reported that a departmental committee had concluded there was no legislative provision that made that possible.

However the Minister suggested legislation should be prepared to ensure that overseas ownership was identifiable and controllable. Cabinet decided to take no action but asked the Minister to make a further report in 1980. [Sub. 23358, Dec. 26193, 4 April].

Cabinet later decided the Commonwealth should be informed there was nothing in Queensland law to prevent a private person, including an alien, from seeking to develop freehold land on Barrier Reef islands, subject to Local Authority requirements. [Sub. 23490, Dec. 26354, 10 May]

**Transferable Development Rights:** Cabinet rejected a suggestion by the Brisbane Lord Mayor that several senior public servants should go to the United States with him to study the use of Transferable Development Rights. Instead it decided to send its own delegation, headed by a Minister, once it received the Lord Mayor's report on his trip.

Cabinet was told the concept of Transferable Development Rights was likely to be of fundamental importance in town planning in the future. [Sub. 23592, Dec. 26465, 23 May]

### **Miscellaneous**

**Commonwealth Games:** A poll conducted by *The Courier-Mail* found that 84 per cent of respondents were opposed to Brisbane hosting the 1982 Commonwealth Games. (2 March, p.1) On March 24 the Premier informed Cabinet an interdepartmental committee believed the facilities for the Games could be provided for a cost of \$30 million.

Cabinet agreed the Government would contribute one-third of the cost of the sporting facilities for the 1982 Commonwealth Games, to a maximum of \$10 million, and suggested the Commonwealth and Brisbane City Council should contribute similar amounts.

However it reserved its right to review its position if the 1978 Games at Edmonton should be unsuccessful because of racial or terrorist activities. [Sub. 23311, Dec. 26139, 28 March]

It proposed that there be discussions about the provision of accommodation facilities after considering a number of options and financing possibilities. [Sub. 23956, Dec. 26874, 1 August]

In September the Federal Government announced it would contribute \$10 million towards the cost of the Games. (*Courier-Mail*, 21 September, p.3)

**Car number plates:** Cabinet decided to adopt new, reflectorised number plates for Queensland vehicles, dark green on white, with the words, "Queensland – Sunshine State". Cabinet also gave approval in principle for the issue of personalised number plates. [Sub. 23016, Dec. 25817, 1 February, and 25851, 8 February].

After indication of strong demand, Cabinet decided to increase the charge for replacing old number plates from \$5 to \$10. [Sub. 23693, Dec. 26577, 14 June]

**Queensland Film Corporation:** Cabinet agreed to establish a Queensland Film Corporation. It decided the legislation should be administered by the Premier.

The Minister for Industrial Development had proposed that he should be responsible for the legislation, but Cabinet decided otherwise. [Sub. 23209, Dec. 26174, 4 April; Sub. 23426, Dec. 26238, 19 April; Sub. 23440, Dec. 26295, 26 April]

**Traders exploiting the public:** Cabinet was asked by the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs for authority to prepare three lists of traders: complete rogues; traders from whom it was extremely difficult or impossible to obtain redress; and traders who were uncooperative in resolving complaints but might do so eventually.

The Solicitor-General advised that the Commissioner could prepare and use such lists (to provide information to individual consumers) but could not publish them. Cabinet rejected a recommendation that Consumer Affairs be authorised to prepare lists of traders exploiting the public and to make the information available to the public. [Sub. 24250, Dec. 27200, 17 October]

**UQ Vice-Chancellor:** Following Sir Zelman Cowen's retirement to become Governor-General, Cabinet considered the conditions of employment of his

replacement, rejecting a proposal that a salary higher than \$41,820 should be offered if necessary to attract an outstanding applicant.

This salary was the amount paid to the secretaries of larger Commonwealth Public Service departments and was less than the \$46,179 paid to Sir Zelman – who received 50 per cent above professorial salary. [Sub. 24102, Dec. 27036, 12 September; Dec. 27188, 10 October]

**Lat-night shopping:** Cabinet was presented, following a request by the Joint Government Parties, with a paper outlining the pros and cons of late-night shopping. It decided the matter should be held over till a later date. [Sub. 23978, Dec. 26899, 8 August]

The Premier had frequently supported extending shopping hours but the State Industrial Commission had rejected every application for late-night trading. (*Courier-Mail*, 28 December; *Sunday Mail*, 13 January; *Courier-Mail*, 12 May)