

Selected Highlights

1987 Cabinet Minutes, Queensland State Archives

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Table of Contents

Fitzgerald Inquiry	3
Property development.....	4
Government	8
Industry Assistance, Agricultural Development, Bailouts and Disasters	12
Agrarian Socialism and other good causes	14
Cape York International Space Port	15
Law and Order.....	16
Environment	18
Health.....	20
Indigenous Affairs	23
Education	26
Commonwealth/State relations.....	26
Local Government.....	28
Public sector.....	28
Industrial disputes.....	31
Expo '88.....	33
Demise of Bjelke-Petersen.....	34
Cabinet under Ahern.....	34
Curiosities.....	35
Griffith University Team.....	40

Fitzgerald Inquiry

At the 25 May Cabinet meeting, the Police Minister and Deputy Premier Bill Gunn, who was Acting Premier at the time, took a secret submission to Cabinet (Dec 51516) to appoint Gerald Edward “Tony” Fitzgerald QC as a ‘Commissioner to Inquire into Allegations Relating to the Queensland Police Force’. Responding to the Four Corners episode *The Moonlight State*, which aired on 11 May, Fitzgerald’s appointment would have far-reaching implications for the state of Queensland.

During the year, Cabinet considered a number of submissions relating to the Fitzgerald Inquiry. In June, they responded to a request from Police Commissioner Terry Lewis for the government to meet the costs for legal representation of the Commissioners, the Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners, as well as retired officers from those ranks, when they appeared before the Commission (Dec 51581). A later decision (Dec 52005) agreed that Cedric Hampson QC and a junior counsel should be retained to represent members of the Queensland Police Force at the Inquiry. In June, Ian Callinan QC was appointed the State Government legal representative at the Commission of Inquiry (Dec 51646).

On 22 June, Police Minister Bill Gunn presented an oral submission to backdate the Terms of Reference for the Fitzgerald Inquiry to 1 January 1977 (Dec 51825), in order to look at retrospective allegations and to extend the scope of the Inquiry beyond the issues raised in *The Moonlight State*. At the next Cabinet meeting a decision was made to set the remuneration for Tony Fitzgerald at \$3,000 a day (Dec 51888).

In August, Cabinet agreed to a request to provide a number of secret and restricted Cabinet documents to the Fitzgerald Inquiry on ‘attempts made to reform the laws on gaming, betting, prostitution and related matters’ (Dec 52165). In October, Cabinet agreed to an amendment of the *Police Complaints Tribunal Act* to allow information regarding police complaints to be surrendered to the Commission of Inquiry (Dec 52666).

In early October, Cabinet responded to an approach by Tony Fitzgerald to widen the powers available to a Commission of Inquiry (Dec 52667). The *Commission of Inquiry Acts 1950–1954 Amendment Bill* responded to concerns that two witnesses, Jack Herbert and Ann Marie Tilley, had failed to appear before the Commission. The amendments, drafted by Fitzgerald, empowered the Chair of a Commission of Inquiry to issue a summons for a person to appear and a warrant for the search of premises and vehicles, as well as allowing the Commissioner to apply to the Supreme Court for approval to use listening devices and freeze assets. Cabinet was unsure of the validity of the amendments, but agreed to them in ‘view of the expectations raised by media comment, not to react favourably to his proposals and introduce legislation along the lines he has suggested’.

In November, Police Minister Bill Gunn submitted to Cabinet that the government’s legal representative Ian Callinan QC also represent Judge Eric Pratt at government expense (Dec 52903).

By 21 December, the writing was on the wall for a number of serving police officers, and Cabinet considered whether superannuation could be withheld from officers who are found to be corrupt (Dec 53235), but did not reach a decision.

Property development

Ministerial rezonings

During 1987, the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Racing Russ Hinze used his power to rezone land and usage on multiple occasions. This was done to overcome opposition from local councils or community concerns, and many of the decisions directly benefited developers and members of the 'white shoe' brigade. For example, the *Sanctuary Cove Resort Act* was changed to add in 210 hectares of adjoining land for 500 more residential developments and an 18 hole golf course (Dec 52094) .

Objection from local councils were overcome through ministerial rezonings. For example, Hinze proposed to override both the Mulgrave Shire Council and the Local Government and Supreme Court processes to rezone land at Trinity Beach for a tourist resort, despite the 4,000 objections received by the Council about the proposal (Dec 51799).

In April, Cabinet agreement to ministerial rezoning of the land bound by Queen, Albert and Elizabeth Streets, which was to become the Myer Centre. Hinze's rationale was that the developer was concerned it would inevitably face 'commercial objections' if due process was followed, and ministerial rezoning would avoid the jurisdiction of the Local Government Court (Dec 51278). Cabinet also approved Hinze's proposal for a ministerial rezoning of the Police Barracks on Petrie Terrace in Brisbane. There had been disagreement with the Brisbane City Council, so approval was given to an exemption from the *City of Brisbane Act*. The historic value of the buildings did not seem to be an issue and whether the Barracks building was retained would be at the discretion of the developer (Dec 50845).

Beach and tourism development

Government-facilitated tourism development had long been a hallmark of the Bjelke-Petersen government, and in 1987 this trend continued. In March, the process of managing large resort developments was brought firmly under the hand of the government with Cabinet approving the introduction into Parliament of the *Integrated Resort Development Bill*. It was decided that the Premier's Department would be responsible for granting approval for projects to proceed under the Act (Dec 51096).

Also in March, Cabinet began consideration of a proposal from the Kern Corporation Ltd to develop the Mooloolaba Spit, including a proposal to build a five-star Hilton Hotel (Dec 51026). After consideration by the Coordinator-General, it was concluded that the development of a hotel on the

site would not be appropriate. After multiple deferrals by Cabinet, it was decided on 13 July that invitation documents to develop the vacant Crown Land on the Spit be prepared and advertised (Dec 51948).

The redevelopment of the Cairns foreshore was also the subject of a number of submissions (Dec 51573, Dec 51588). In June, the McKellar Corporation was seeking security of tenure to develop the Trinity Point Hotel so they could negotiate with overseas partners Daikyo Kanko Pty Ltd, while at the same time the government wanted to undertake more work to assess the impact on wading birds and the potential for increased costs for dredging (Dec 51642). In June, Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen, in an oral submission to Cabinet, decided that his Department be the contact and administering agency for this project (Dec 51718).

Government support for Christopher Skase's Sheraton Mirage at Port Douglas continued when Cabinet decided to waive the normal circumstances of a developer paying the purchase price for a road to be permanently closed for the resort development. The road was transferred to freehold title at no cost (Dec 51772).

Redevelopment of the Port Office site

Throughout 1987, Cabinet continued to hear submissions regarding the redevelopment of the Port Office site. This particular development would be one raised during the trial of Joh Bjelke-Petersen when the developer Robert Sng Swee Lee admitted to handing over brown envelopes containing \$200,000 to Bjelke-Petersen and former National Party president Sir Robert Sparkes. As noted by Matthew Condon, (2015:455-6) Fitzgerald investigator John Huey drew Sng into admitting he'd been approached by Ann Garms, who told him he would win the tender if he complied with these terms. When Huey questioned Garms later on, he she agreed that was what had happened.

The Cabinet records indicate that this was a problematic submission. Carried over from 1986, by 19 January 1987 (Dec 50529) Cabinet had agreed that Historic Holdings would be their chosen developer for the Redevelopment of the Brisbane Port Office Building and Site, as long as certain conditions were met. These included information on equity participation, placement of shares and evidence of debt finance being provided to the government. It seems Historic Holdings provided an incomplete submission but qualified on the basis that its representative, Mr Zecha, was meeting with the Premier. In the submission, Minister Ivan Gibbs notes 'however in the Cabinet recess and in the absence of the Premier, I am unable to ascertain the details of the discussion with Mr Zecha...' Verbal advice from Cleary & Hoare, solicitors on behalf of Historic Holdings is that David Bryce and not Mr Zecha is proposed as a partner of Mr Sng.' The Port Office redevelopment was subsequently raised numerous times in Cabinet, and was also deferred three times (Dec 50552, Dec 50599, Dec 50636). On 16 February, Cabinet rescinded its decision of 17 November 1986 (Dec 50201) and agreed that Historic Holdings would be nominated as the selected developer for the Port Office site in accordance with the submission requirements and 'the submission dated 12 February 1987, from Cleary and Hoare'. This document is not attached to the submission (Dec 50636).

Brisbane development

Cabinet considered many development plans for the Brisbane and the Gold Coast. In January (Dec 50587), a Hamilton Wharves Strategic Plan was considered by Cabinet. While a 15-year lease was offered to Bretts Wharves and the redevelopment of a Hamilton cold store was considered urgent, future development plans remained dependent on further reports being considered. Most of the land was either owned by the Crown or the Port of Brisbane and was subject to leases. On August 10 (Dec 52208), the Bretts/Essington proposal was approved, which included plans for the redevelopment of the Hamilton cold stores for the development of a tourist attraction with 'an old world seaport atmosphere with restaurants, amusement arcades and tavern with provision for a future cruise ship terminal'.

One of the most controversial projects was that of the Central Place Suite Development – Mainsel Investments' 'world's largest building' proposal. On 31 August, Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Racing Russ Hinze introduced a proposal noting special legislation would be required for this complex (Dec 52371). In this submission, Hinze notes the public interest surrounding this development and states that he doubts adequate knowledge exists to build this complex – thus the requirement of special legislation. Cabinet decided that special legislation should be prepared during the current session of Parliament. Later, Mike Ahern would attribute this Cabinet discussion as the beginning of the end for the Bjelke-Petersen premiership. The controversy was also taken up in Parliament when, on 27 October, Liberal Party member Denver Beanland produced a petition with 20 signatories praying that Brisbane City Council town-planning process would prevail in relation to the Central Place Suite Development. On 12 November, Beanland produced another petition with a few more signatories (Queensland Parliamentary Debates, 1987: vol 307: pp 3421, 4063). Sensing weakness, Beanland asked the Premier to table the legal advice the latter claimed had warned heavy damages would be liable if the government attempted to stall the project. Bjelke-Petersen obfuscated, providing Tom Burns from the ALP with the opportunity to state: 'I refer to the continuing saga of the world's tallest building, and the twice daily meetings that have been held to resolve the differences between the Premier and his party on this issue.' On the 10 November, Bjelke-Petersen brought a restricted submission to Cabinet regarding a *Special Developments Bill* to facilitate the now 110-storey building (Dec 52956). The intention of the Bill was to override the Brisbane City Council planning process because of the 'limitations' of its building approval procedures and standards in dealing with this project. Cabinet added in the amendment that it would only deal with projects of more than \$2 million.

On the removal of Bjelke-Petersen from office, Russ Hinze told Parliament: 'I have grave doubts that the Opposition will see in Brisbane the tallest building in Queensland' (QPD, 1987: vol 307: p 4765).

On 2 February (Dec 50607), the Minister for Lands, Forestry, Mapping and Surveying Bill Glasson brought a submission on a proposed development of land below Queen Street – from Creek Street, past Post Office Square to the northern end of Queen Street Mall – by Reliant Investments. It was deferred to 9 February. In the submission (Sub 45679; Dec 50638), which was deferred again to 16 February, Glasson's approach seems somewhat contradictory: he is almost quizzical about why the proposal by Reliant Investments is being considered, acknowledging that their status as preferred developer is because they came up with the idea and initiated discussions with the government. He states, 'Neither I nor the Land Administration Commission have any objection to a public tender,

expressions of interest or other public competition course of action being adopted.’ The principals of Reliant Industries were Ted Sinnathamby and Robert Sharpless. Documentation from them is attached to the submission and provides a useful insight into doing business: they nominate their intended use of Thiess Watkins as the builder, earlier referring to them as respectable Queensland builders, along with FA Pidgeon & Son, the developers of the Roma Street and Waterfront place sites. On 16 February, Cabinet again considered this proposed development, and grants a permit for Reliant Investments to occupy, subject to conditions (Dec 50761). Cabinet also adds the rider that the development of the Suncorp Post Office Square extension proceeds as originally envisaged, independently or in partnership with Reliant Investments.

Development plans for the Queen Street precinct were brought to Cabinet throughout the year, and on 16 March Cabinet approved a Bill for the construction and further development of the Queen Street Mall (including a busway) (Dec 50950). Traders were concerned about the effect on business during this period, and Russ Hinze flagged his intention to speak with the Lord Mayor regarding payment by the Brisbane City Council of some compensation. It was decided that if Council agreed then these provisions would be included in the Bill. On 21 April, Cabinet considered an oral submission by Russ Hinze regarding a Queen Street Underground Mall between Edward and Queen Street (Dec 51269). Details are lacking as there was no written submission, but Cabinet ‘noted and endorsed’ the outcome of discussions as detailed by Hinze.

Cabinet also approved the Premier’s submission regarding development of Waterfront Place by FA Pidgeon & Son (Dec 50872). This involved extinguishing a Deed of Grant in Trust to Brisbane City Council, and the reversion to crown land (and then, presumably, freeholding of the crown land to Pidgeon). The Council had not responded formally to this proposal but the developer expressed some urgency in finalising the decision.

In April (Dec 51267), a submission by Bill Glasson regarded the former naval stores at Kangaroo point cliffs requesting rezoning from parks and recreation for the purposes of car parking was brought to Cabinet. The site had been purchased from the Commonwealth by the Brisbane City Council on the condition that the site would preserve National Trust status. It was deferred to 27 April (Dec 51270), when the submission was withdrawn. However, submissions continued to be taken to Cabinet (see Dec 51300). Proposals included a restaurant development, which was first considered in February but subsequently withdrawn (Dec 50713). According to the 27 April submission, Cabinet sought its reconsideration on 21 April when the submission relating to the car park for the naval stores was first considered. Cabinet noted the proposal and agreed that road closures as sought by the developer would not be allowed to proceed (see also Dec 52400).

Seymour Developments were granted a special lease to develop Admiralty Wharf ‘Australian Colonial Wharf Style’ (Dec 53206). The plan included ‘an aquarium of a size to make it unique in Australia’ as well as restaurants, retail, boardwalks and a plaza. Another submission (Sub 47803; Dec 53008) granted permission to demolish the Maritime Building and McCafferty’s building to start work on the site.

Fortitude Valley was another area ripe for development. Decision 51703 discussed the redevelopment of the land above the Valley train station. Brought forward by Transport Minister Don Lane, and with no public tender process undertaken, Cabinet approved developer Barry Williams and Associates Pty Ltd to be granted a 99-year lease. Included in the deal was the provision of an off-street bus station.

Other developments

At the start of 1987, approval was given for a Bill to limit the number of residential lots at Sanctuary Cove to 900 and to strengthen the powers and authority of the Principal Body Corporate in relation to secondary body corporates and residents generally (Dec 50589). The Bill's introduction was approved by Cabinet on 30 March (Dec 51098).

Cabinet also approved a submission from Russ Hinze that proposed his taking direct action to rezone a parcel of land in West Burleigh, owned by Sanfam Pty Ltd, from Light Industry to Commercial Zone (Dec 50596). The rationale seemed to be that the company had faced protracted appeals to a proposed development, resulting in delays to its plans and financial losses. Representations had been made to both Hinze and the Premier during this period, and it was agreed that Hinze would facilitate the development – thus avoiding a 'normal' application with the Gold Coast City Council with its 'inevitable appeals' – and issue a ministerial direction. While the process still required public notification and was subject to appeals to the Director of Local Government, there would be no provision for objections to be lodged with the Local Government Court.

Decisions made in haste have a habit of unfolding – as was the case with Decision 52322 involving Leda Holdings, who were building a large shopping centre at Logan. It appears that the developers had met with Bjelke-Petersen and Hinze seeking government support to have road access built from the Pacific Highway. At the meeting, the Premier committed to funding for the work to be made available. The submission is an attempt to reverse this commitment. While it was brought forward by the Premier, it is likely that the submission was the result of departmental advice highlighting a lack of funds available and concern that this would be a terrible precedent for other developments. The submission was held over to 7 September.

Government

Budget

The 24 May Premiers Conference had been disastrous for Queensland, with substantial and permanent cuts made to both the revenue and capital expenditure allocation for Queensland (Dec 51517). After its May Economic Statement, the Federal Government followed up with a \$1 billion cut to the budget of States and Territories. The Queensland Treasury identified a projected deficit for 1987–88 of \$289 million and clearly identified to Cabinet the need for a 'substantial' and 'permanent' reduction to the budget expenditure base. Treasury pointed out that Cabinet 'must bite the bullet'. Adverse public reaction cannot be avoided. However, it must be minimised.' The decision was for all Ministers and Departments to 'urgently review programs, functions and practices to provide for an overall permanent reduction in budget demands, such reviews to look at the relative priority of programs, with the reduction to be effected in a way that causes minimum public reaction' (Dec 51644).

In July, Treasury identified that the deficit had blown out to an estimated \$411.8 million, and that all Departments needed to reduce staff costs by 2% and to review programs and activities to see what could be reduced or eliminated 'without public reaction'. Treasury however, used the crisis to point

out that such savings wouldn't fix the underlying structural problem of the budget and 'macro' savings were required by moving to a 'smaller government'. A review was to run concurrently with the above work for 1987–88, aiming to come up with a smaller number of government programs and to be completed by 31 December (Dec 52077).

For the rest of the year, a number of submissions struggled with the cuts needed to bring the budget out of deficit (Dec 52120, Dec 52226, Dec 52119, Dec 52262, Dec 52267, Dec 52333). Proposals included a secret plan to reduce retirement age under the State Service Superannuation Scheme from 60 to 55 as a way to meet the government's need to cut expenditure and have zero staff growth. Even with a freeze on additional public servants in the Education, Health and Police Departments, as well as others, the deficit would remain.

Poor economy

In 1987, Queensland's economy struggled with sustained high rates of unemployment. In April, unemployment in Queensland remained at 11% – the highest in Australia (Dec 51204). In March, for the first time, Queensland's premise as a low-tax State was questioned and the need to boost investment in training and industrial development to the levels of other States was proposed. For example, numbers for public-sector trainee support programs were: NSW, 1,008; Victoria, 727; WA, 453; and Queensland, 21 (Dec 50955).

As well, Cabinet approved the fast-tracking of the \$400 million Special Capital Works Program announced in the Premier's election policy speech as a way of generating employment. The program was to use non-traditional methods of fast-tracking design and construction for new prisons, the new police headquarters and the first stage of the new Scientific Services complex at Nathan. Among the other funded projects was a toll road between Goodna and Loganholme (Dec 50594).

However, the economy was sound enough that when the State Government approached ratings agencies to seek a credit rating for borrowings by statutory bodies guaranteed by government, it was offered an A1 rating by Standard and Poor, and a P1 by Moody (the highest rating for each). For a long-term rating they were offered AA+ (second highest), which reflected the recent downgrading of the Commonwealth's rating because of an account deficit (Dec 51715).

Trade

For a State where wealth had long been dependent on agriculture, 1987 was a watershed year. After unprecedented growth, for the first time mining outstripped the agricultural sector as the State's largest export industry. To consolidate that growth, Cabinet decided to invest in research to develop new products and processes based on coal, oil shale and natural gas (Dec 51866).

A major crisis hit Queensland's cattle exports in 1987, when the United States threatened to ban the import of beef from Queensland because of unacceptable levels of chemical residue. Cabinet moved

quickly to prohibit sale of DDT and other organochlorines for primary production with the ban to be immediate (Dec 51881). This was quickly followed up with amendments to the *Stock Regulations Act 1935* to restrict chemicals that can be used near livestock or on feed. All known source properties of contamination were to be placed in quarantine (Dec 51886). Cabinet worked hard to save the beef export industry to the US (Dec 51943). As well, the US Department of Agriculture registered their dissatisfaction with the levels of antibiotic residue in the meat, and Cabinet again amended the *Stock Regulations Act 1935* to meet the stringent standards adopted in the countries that imported local meat (Dec 51944).

Queensland was expanding its relationships with existing and new trade partners. The Queensland Government Office in Los Angeles was formally approved by Cabinet in January, with Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen flying over to officially open it in May (Dec 50463).

Cabinet approved a draft Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen Queensland's trade and technology links with the Fujian Province of China, and it was anticipated a joint trade cooperation council might be formed in the near future (Dec 50924, Dec 50679). On the other side of the ledger, Cabinet decided to close the Queensland Government Office in Bahrain because, although there had been considerable investment, there had been no measurable benefits (Dec 51063).

Romania

In August, the Premier, along with Departmental heads Sir Sydney Schubert and Sir Leo Hielscher, undertook a trip to Romania, London and Geneva with the trip reflecting the many byways the Premier was willing to travel. In Romania, the Premier met with Nicolae Ceausescu, the country's Communist leader (who was executed by firing squad in 1989), and invited the dictator and his wife to visit Queensland during Expo 88

(see <http://www.couriermail.com.au/ipad/guess-whos-coming-to-dinner/news-story/de1560903f5fd5eaf5ebc312ff2261d4?sv=f31ce6f6dc3536b328848a9e73b2bced> for a description of the visit).

The real purpose of the visit was to sell 2 million tonnes of coking coal to the Romanians, who did not have enough money to pay but suggested a barter in which mining companies selling coal would take oil, fertiliser, steel, machines and locomotives instead. The challenge was to find local coal producers interested in the deal (Dec 52326).

In London, the Queensland Government officials met with Margaret Thatcher's Policy Office on their privatisation agenda, and the Premier met with Dr Finniss, who advised he did not think the Commonwealth Government had the constitutional power 'to close up North Queensland to the detriment of the Queensland economy and the people of North Queensland by placing the rain forests on the World Heritage List'. In Geneva, the delegation met with Swiss Banks to discuss Queensland borrowing from them, but decided not to go ahead for the time being.

Defamations

As pointed out in the report of the Fitzgerald Inquiry, the government's use of defamation actions was directed at political opponents of the government or media organisations and 'the subject matter in every case concerned allegations which had been made of corruption' (FIR, p. 119). In 1986, Cabinet gave approval for the costs of certain defamation actions connected with their official duties to be paid by the Government, and this decision set off a flood of actions that continued unabated throughout 1987. Defamation actions included Bjelke-Petersen vs Bob Gibbs and the ABC, vs Warburton and the ABC, vs Beattie and Queensland newspapers, and vs Burns and the ABC (Dec 51519). Expenses were also paid for Minister Leisha Harvey in defamation against Turbo Industrial Developments (Dec 51523).

In February, Cabinet approved – on the basis of an oral submission – legal costs incurred by Bjelke-Petersen in his defamation action against Keith De Lacy and the Cairns Post (Dec 50808).

In March, Cabinet approved the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Racing Russ Hinze's submission that the Crown Solicitor be instructed to act for and on behalf of his personal staff (specifically his private secretary). This action was related to media reports following evidence given by an accountant that he had been instructed by lawyers to give \$20,000 in cash to Hinze's secretary so that charges would not be laid against the directors of a company to which he was linked. The evidence was given at the Corporate Affairs Commission's Jojoba Company Inquiry before Judge P Shanahan of the District Court (Dec 51092).

The list continues, with actions by the Premier against David Syme & Co, Publishing and Media Services and Max Jessop (Dec 51358); Deputy Premier Bill Gunn was given approval to commence a defamation action against G Carey of radio Station 4BC (Dec 51359); Peter McKechnie, the Minister for Industry and Technology sought permission to commence a defamation action against the Daily Sun newspaper due to comments contained in a recent editorial (Dec. 52388).

The government's many defamation actions were prosecuted by the legal firm Morris, Fletcher and Cross, and in March the Premier informed Cabinet that future accounts submitted for payment of fees associated with defamation actions be paid upon certification by the firm that the fees were reasonable, and that the Solicitor-General's certification was no longer required (Dec 51116).

In October, Cabinet largesse was temporarily turned off when permission was not given to the Premier to pursue an appeal to the Supreme Court for a decision he had lost regarding defamation against Tom Burns and the ABC (Dec 52843).

Industry Assistance, Agricultural Development, Bailouts and Disasters

Commercialisation of State-owned assets

As canvassed previously, the government was concerned about the state of the Queensland economy as unemployment levels rose and economic conditions became more uncertain. The Bjelke-Petersen Government began a program of privatisation, and in 1987 put both the Queensland Fish Board and Q-Net to the market, as well as privatising the Gateway Bridge and Loganholme toll road. The Queensland Fish Board had been a government monopoly, and in May the Government advertised for expressions of interest to buy the enterprise (Dec 51404).

In August, legislation was introduced to privatise the Fish Marketing Board with the intention of updating regulations to allow marketing boards to have improved commercial operations and increased accountability (Dec 52325, Dec 52324). A Raptis & Sons fishing company was awarded the sale of the Board, but this decision was accompanied by controversy. Allegations were aired in the Federal Parliament accusing Mr George Raptis of A Raptis & Sons of making a donation of \$250,000 to the Bjelke-Petersen Foundation, but this was strongly denied at the time (Fed Parl Hansard 4 November 1988).

The sale of Q-Net to private firm Parry/Icom was approved in September by secret submission. Other tenderers included Bond Media, British Aerospace and Telecom. It was decided that Parry/Icom, though a late bidder, was the best financial offer (Dec 52501).

Coal

Negotiations with Mining Companies

Sir Leo Hielscher, the Under Treasurer during the time of Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen, cites the former Premier as a major influence in the transformation of the Queensland coal industry. Most coal in Queensland was mined underground until 1968, and the most productive minefields were in West Moreton. By 1970, the quantity of coal mined by open cut was nearly 70%, and Central Queensland was the pre-eminent area of coal production. Bjelke-Petersen's negotiations with mining companies focused on infrastructure development (accommodation for workers, roads and services) and the expectation companies would meet the cost of building railways by way of security deposit. The deposit (with interest) would be refunded if companies met targets for quantity of coal railed to port.

On 19 January, Cabinet noted Brian Austin's submission on coal royalty calculations and the notional capital deduction. It concluded the government had been 'clearly far too generous' in the past with the Central Queensland Coal Association and new arrangements for Utah would no longer include a notional capital deduction and would only have regard to the operating contribution to the Hay Point facility (Dec 50473). On the same day, Cabinet approved the introduction of the *Hay Point (Ratification of Agreements) Bill*. The proposed Bill ratified agreements from 1985 between Harbours Corporation of Queensland and members of the Central Queensland Coal Association regarding operation of tug boats. Martin Tenni was the introducing Minister. The companies included Utah Development, Utah Queensland Coal, Mitsubishi, AMP Society, Umal Consolidated Company, Pan-Continental, General Electric Minerals, Bell Coal, UB Minerals (including Bowen Basin minerals), QCT Minerals and QCT Investment (Dec 50474). A week later, Cabinet approved an adjustment to the Central Queensland Coal Associates Agreement on Mining, providing Utah with approval to export high-ash coking coal as steaming coal. They noted the downturn in the coal market (Dec 50561).

On 13 April, on the basis of an oral submission from Deputy Premier Bill Gunn, Cabinet approved a specific rate for freighting low-value coal from Oakey Creek to Gladstone. In May, the Premier brought an oral submission on transport of coal from the West Moreton coalfield, noting that the West Moreton mines increasingly had an export focus. Costs of rail freight were an issue, and Cabinet approved new arrangements. Cabinet later agreed to open up 217.7 hectares in the Clermont region to extend the Central Queensland Coal Area (Dec 51655). Earlier in the year, Brian Austin provided Cabinet with a submission outlining the negative impact of a downturn in the Japanese steel market on Queensland's coal export income (Dec 50628). Cabinet acknowledged the fewer number of submissions on coal developments and ruminated on the opportunities in the Minyango area of Central Queensland (Dec 52363).

On 2 March, Cabinet approved a new Coal Stockpile Policy. Austin identified that savings could be made by strategically reducing coal stockpiles at power stations. Electricity tariffs were affected by the Queensland Electricity Commission's commitment to always having eight weeks' supply on hand, thereby committing to full supply. The new policy would make savings by focusing on essential services and placing some barriers to triggering 'out of merit' supply. The previous policy seems to have been a buffer against industrial action (Dec 50817).

On 28 September, on the basis of an oral submission from the Premier, Cabinet endorsed provision of a letter of assurance to Lang Hancock regarding the availability of coal (Dec 52604).

Overseas Power Stations

On 27 January, Cabinet considered a report from the Premier on his recent trip to Turkey to progress the Gazi Project, a proposal for a power station fuelled by Queensland coal. There was a separate proposal for a port and coal-handling terminal. He reports his trip as generally positive but inconclusive. There are currency issues, tensions between the project proponents and the Turkish Government, and the Turkish Government's reluctance to 'share commercial risks'. He and the Turkish Energy Minister signed a Heads of Agreement on 19 January (Dec 50593). *The Courier-Mail* reported on 17 January that the Premier was confident he could secure a deal with Turkey. On 2 February, Cabinet approved Queensland Government support to a consortia registering interest in managing a Turkish railway project. It also endorsed the participation of Queensland Railways staff as consultants (Dec 50631). However, late in the year, Cabinet noted a secret submission on the Gazi

project. It was going downhill quickly, though the Turkish Government was apparently pushing for Bjelke-Petersen to go over and sign the deal (Dec 52900).

On 31 August, Cabinet considered Queensland's potential role in the construction of a major coal-fired power station and port in Egypt. It was presented as an opportunity to secure a long-term market for Queensland coal. There was an expectation for the Government to provide \$200,000 to meet the World Bank requirements for a scoping study. It was decided to hold off on this until decisions were made regarding the Turkey project (Dec 52362). Cabinet subsequently agreed to participation in a Phase 1 study at a cost of \$200,000, with additional funds to be provided by the Department of Mines (Dec 52515). On 19 October, Cabinet agreed to set up an Institute of Energy and Earth Resources through CSIRO, with \$200,000 to be funded from Department of Mines (Dec 52729).

Gas

Natural gas was becoming a significant industry in Queensland. To catch up with this increased activity the *Gas Act 1965-1985* was amended (Dec 52366). The main concern was to establish a competitive environment in Queensland for the expansion of the industry but the government was also concerned that there would be a reliable and safe supply of gas for Queensland consumers.

To facilitate the industry, the government decided to own, operate and construct Stage 1 of the natural gas pipeline linking Surat and the Denison Basin to Gladstone. The submission acknowledges the advantages of government ownership including to increase the competitiveness of Queensland industries by reducing fuel costs (Dec 51932).

In February, Cabinet approved negotiating position regarding the sale of Cooper Basin Natural Gas Interstate, in particular to South Australia. Cabinet were clear that this could only go ahead if supply to Queensland was not affected and that gas be conserved to meet Queensland's longer-term needs (Dec 50804).

In May, Cabinet supported granting petroleum leases on the Brumby Gas Field in the Cooper Basin to Santos and a number of other companies. Again, Cabinet was concerned that the gas would be directly sent to other jurisdictions and that the current legislation did not allow for the government to impose conditions on the lessees that controlled the destination of the oil and gas. The Solicitor-General advised that the Act did not provide this authority. Cabinet reiterated that they wanted the resources of the Cooper Basin to support future large-scale energy needs within Queensland (Dec 51342).

Agrarian Socialism and other good causes

Sugar

Despite the declining economic conditions in 1987, some industries continued to receive favourable government attention. Sugar had long been an important product for Queensland, and during the

year several submissions came to Cabinet regarding the Commonwealth State Agreement on Adjustment Assistance to Sugar Cane Growers (Dec 50543); individual levies on particular mills (50775); and the drafting of a Bill to rationalise Far North Queensland Sugar Milling (Dec 50812). Other discussions that occurred include drafting a Bill to ensure the Sugar Board's role continued beyond 30 June, when it would have ceased as a result of a sunset clause in existing legislation (Dec 50894). In September, Cabinet agreed to grant \$102,162 for tramworks for the Babinda Cooperative Sugar Mill, provided the Commonwealth grant of \$204,235 was met (Dec 52548).

Peanuts

Other industries were also given significant assistance by the National Party government. For example, on 19 October the Premier presented Cabinet with a submission regarding financial assistance to the Peanut Marketing Board. The background for this issue began in 1983 when Cabinet agreed to provide financial assistance to the board through two loans – the first for \$1.8 million and the second for \$1.77 million – on the grounds that the industry was suffering due to long-standing drought. The loans were supposed to be over 10 years, but this submission (Dec 52787) saw Cabinet agree to wipe out the outstanding balance of \$1,727,875.06 in its entirety.

Cape York International Space Port

In February, the Coordinator-General was put in charge of undertaking the feasibility process for the creation of a Cape York International Space Port, with Cabinet approving \$300,000 for the preparation of the next stage of the feasibility study. The first-stage report prepared by the Institution of Engineers recommended a launch site on the Western side of Cape York (Dec 50752).

With the scoping studies completed in July, it was proposed those reports be published and distributed to organisations that had expressed an interest in the construction and operation of the space port. As well, the government would commence drafting legislation to cover the activity of the space port (Dec 52117 Dec 51353 Dec 52429 Dec 53105).

On 7 September, the issue of the space port was raised again, to extend the time of the proposal. The five technical reports to be published by the Institute of Engineers Australia on the project were delayed.

There was both national and international interest in the space port, and by December the government had received 58 registrations of interest. Cabinet agreed to ensure the names of all interested participants were released publicly, and that there was the closest possible cooperation with the Federal Government on the matter (Dec 53105).

Law and Order

In a year when revelations regarding police corruption and organised crime dominated the news in Queensland, Cabinet considered comparatively few matters relating to law and order.

Police and Crime

On 19 January Cabinet approved the preparation of proposed amendments to the *National Crime Authority (State Provisions) Act* to reflect changes made by the Premier to Ministerial responsibility. (Dec 50498). On 27 January Cabinet approved the introduction of a Bill shifting responsibility for the NCA from the Attorney General to the Minister for Police (Dec 50579). Wayne Goss, then shadow Police Minister raised substantial concerns regarding this shift in the parliamentary debate on this legislation. He questioned the lack of any reason given for the change and questioned Minister Gunn's commitment to fighting organised crime, citing his lack of action on the findings of the Sturgess Report (31 March 1987). He had good reason to be concerned – given that Graeme Parker, the most senior officer to 'roll over' at the Fitzgerald Inquiry, was the Queensland Police Force's liaison officer with the AFP and the NCA. He attended and received minutes of NCA meetings.

This cautious, even hostile, approach to the Commonwealth's role in policing was reflected in Bjelke-Petersen's submission on 2 February on Queensland's approach to international mutual assistance in criminal matters. It noted the Commonwealth's intention to establish treaties with other countries re criminal matters (alongside extradition arrangements). Consequently he proposed maximum cooperation to prevent the Commonwealth using external affairs powers in the criminal justice area (Dec 50621).

The Cabinet failed to seriously address public concerns regarding organised crime and systematic police corruption. Bob Gordon, the Courier Mail's Chief of Staff had recently returned to live in Brisbane following a 13 year stint in Canberra. He could not believe how decadent the Valley had become and wanted to know who owned Brisbane's brothels. He assigned the task to Phil Dickie. Dickie's first article on 12 January identified two groups as responsible for illegal gambling and prostitution. It also referenced the Sturgess Report and the lack of action by the Licensing Branch since its release in November 1985. A month after Dickie's article appeared, Vince Lester, the Minister for Employment and Industrial Affairs brought a submission to Cabinet recommending a committee be formed to look at problems in the Valley. Chinatown was opening and in this context, he recalls when the Valley was a place to 'take one's children for the glittering Christmas carnivals' and wants the Committee to find ways to return to those halcyon days (Dec 50706).

On 5 May Cabinet agreed to seek an Executive Council Order that the *Parliamentary Commissioner Act* did not apply to the Police Complaints Tribunal (Dec 51350). Solicitor-General's advice had been received indicating there was no exemption from the Ombudsman's scrutiny. Chris Master's Four Corners episode, *The Moonlight State*, specifically called into question the impartiality of the Police Complaints Tribunal. Judge Eric Pratt who headed the Tribunal was a friend of Terry Lewis.

Cabinet became more responsive to concerns about organised crime over the year – as more Dickie articles appeared, *The Moonlight State* was aired and the prospect of the Fitzgerald Inquiry loomed. On 20 July (Dec 52058) Cabinet approved the preparation of major amendments to the Criminal Code in response to the findings of the Sturgess Report. It also looked at acknowledging rape within marriage as an offence but decided to keep the exemption of rape by husbands within a marriage and only acknowledge it as rape if the marriage has broken down and the woman has taken steps to bring her marriage to an end.

Road Safety

The information considered by Cabinet regarding the road toll in 1986 provides striking evidence of the value of regulation and prohibition on our roads:

The efficacy of wearing of seat belts was evaluated: 14 children under 10 were killed in car crashes in 1986. Only one of these children was definitely wearing a restraint at the time (5 cases could not be determined) (Dec 50591).

Cabinet considered an evaluation of the Reduced Impaired Driving (RID) Campaign, Queensland's first attempt at random alcohol breath testing. The trial was for six months and ended on 21 February. The evaluation dramatically demonstrated its effectiveness as a road safety measure. Compared with the same period in the previous three years, road fatalities decreased by 19.8% and in the Brisbane Statistical Division by 24.6%. Cabinet agreed to RID continuing indefinitely (Dec 50925).

Prison Reform

On 2 March, Cabinet approved the extension of the home detention program to become a permanent government initiative (Dec 50867). Cabinet approved a trial in March 1986 and at this stage 210 prisoners had successfully completed the program. Evaluation undertaken by UQ Psychology Department. It was economically attractive (\$1 for every \$7 in prison).

Courts Administration

Dec 51022 – On 23/3 Clouston gained Cabinet's approval to introduce a *Supreme Court Judges Appointment Bill*, increasing the number of Supreme Court Judges from 20 to 22. He flagged that this Bill is a precursor to further re-structuring of the courts and moots the establishment of a permanent Court of Appeal; and significant changes to the jurisdictions of District court, Magistrates Court, Court of Small Debts and Small Claims Tribunal.

Gun Control

On 9 August 1987, a mass shooting by a lone shooter occurred in Hoddle St, Clifton Hill, a suburb of Melbourne. Seven people died and he caused serious injury to 19 others. The Premier was to attend a meeting on 22 December, called by the Prime Minister, to discuss tightening gun control. It was agreed there was a need to reduce the risk of criminals and unbalanced people accessing guns BUT Queensland would not agree to the NSW approach – which was characterised as almost a ban on private ownership. Qld would agree to ban the sale of .22 calibre semi-automatics, except to primary producers, professional shooters and members of recognised gun clubs (Dec 53190).

Environment

Northern rainforests

The management of the environment in Queensland remained a flashpoint issue between the Bjelke-Petersen Government and the Federal Labor Government of Bob Hawke. The Hawke government was re-elected in July, and they moved quickly to nominate Queensland's northern rainforests for World Heritage listing. In July a copy of Hawke's letter to the Premier outlining his intention to list the northern rainforests as a world heritage site was submitted to Cabinet. The Queensland Government was concerned they didn't know what the boundaries would be and the impact on existing industries within those boundaries. Hawke expressed his disappointment that he wasn't able to come to a 'cooperative arrangement' with the State (Dec 52064).

In August, in a secret submission Cabinet decided to fund a Northern Rainforest Ministerial Council with \$500,000 a year to fight the proposed nomination to the World Heritage. The main concerns by the government were that the nomination would see the end of the logging industry in the area, as well as any future development, and the loss of State sovereignty over 10,000 square metres of land. Tactics to be undertaken included waging a PR war to steal the thunder of the Commonwealth; to convince authorities that world heritage listing isn't required; to discredit information around the Commonwealth proposal making it go on the 'defensive' (Dec 52385).

In September work is underway by the Ministerial Committee on the socio-economic impact of the nomination and the Premier reminded Ministers that 'our principal tactical weapon is access to detailed information on land use and management. Our most immediate need is to ensure that this information is used to best advantage by the Government. It is also essential that the Commonwealth Government be denied access to any information which may assist in progressing their nomination' (Dec 52551).

Cabinet considered strategy on a number of occasions (Dec 52718, 52726, 52772) and all departments were asked to prepare details on possible effects on department' activities of the inclusion of North Queensland areas on World Heritage listings. Many concerns about the 'unilateral' nature of the listing and the lack of consultation with stakeholders who would be affected. In October, this material had been collected and Queensland's Statement of Objection to the listing was forwarded to the Commonwealth (Dec 52782).

Guerrilla warfare between the State and the Commonwealth continued with the Federal Minister for Resources and Energy Gareth Evans rejecting the Shelburne Bay Silica Project under the foreign investment approval because he thought 'the economic and commercial advantages flowing from the proposal were insufficient to offset the overall adverse impact on the conservation of the Cape York Peninsula' (Dec 52827).

On 11 December, Federal Environment Minister Graham Richardson unilaterally announced the boundaries for the Northern Rainforest listing and demanded immediate cessation of logging in the nominated area. New Premier, Mike Ahern wrote to Prime Minister Hawke outlining his objections to the listing without consultation and the Queensland Cabinet agreed to prioritise the development of a legal challenge to the Federal Government's listing (Dec 53189).

Great Barrier Reef

Along with the northern rainforests, the Great Barrier Reef was also a flashpoint issue with the Hawke Government. Early in 1987 there was concern by the Premier that the draft zoning plan by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the southern section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park would diminish Queensland's sovereignty for all areas to the landward side of the reef and that the Commonwealth Government was trying to claim jurisdiction over the surrounding reef areas of these islands (Dec 50736).

The issue of the use of the reef had been controversial and the Premier's support of a floating hotel once more brought the Commonwealth into play with their intention to proceed with *Sea Installations Act* which would override the existing state legislation and give Commonwealth control to installations on the reef (Dec 50975). Despite two letters to the Prime Minister with no response it appears the Commonwealth is determined to go ahead with their bill despite the duplication of existing Queensland legislation (Dec 52565).

Shute Harbour

Cabinet discussed the idea to allow future developments in the Shute Harbour area that allowed the removal of a hill behind the jetties (Dec 52476). This would allow for inexpensive land fill for the much needed car parks and additional tourist attractions mooted for the area. Apparently the Proserpine Mayor was on board – but the submission does note that there is likely to be some negative reactions among locals who like the hill as a walking area and lookout.

Moreton Bay

The Government progressed the Southern Moreton Bay: Priority Need for Conservation and Recreation Strategy during 1987 (Dec 50454). In February Cabinet agreed to gazettal of environmental parks over the islands within Jumpinpin estuary and other adjoining lands. Cabinet also decides that immediate action should be taken to resume Coomera Island and Woogoompah Island (Dec 50759). In April, Cabinet was alerted to the costs of resumption and the question was raised as to whether resumption should proceed. Cabinet referred it to National Parks and Wildlife Service (Dec 51195).

By 1987, the majority of Moreton Island had become national park but sand mining companies still held six leases in areas not designated for conservation. In February, Cabinet noted the intention for test drilling to commence in early February and the mining to commence in June 1987 for one or two years. Special note was made of the miners' intention to sell resources on the domestic market, thereby avoiding the necessity of the Commonwealth's agreement to an export licence (Dec 50618). *The Courier-Mail* reported the Lord Mayor Sallyanne Atkinson had written to the Premier objecting to Cabinet's decision to allow sand mining on Moreton Island.

Social Policy

Many of the social issues which feature in government policy today, were also on the agenda in 1987. The Government established a Task Force on Domestic Violence to review legislation, take submissions and advance proposals 'as may assist in alleviating and curtailing the problem of Domestic Violence in Queensland'. The increase in emergency accommodation needed by women and their children 'indicates a growing problem which could make domestic violence a significant issue for the 1990s, similar to what child abuse has been to the 1980s' (Dec 52206).

Health

Public Health

On 18 May, Cabinet approved the introduction of warnings for cigarettes and other tobacco products at the bottom of the front and back of the package (Dec 51431). The four warnings were – smoking causes lung cancer; smoking causes heart disease; smoking damages your lung; smoking reduces your fitness. Prior to this, on 27 April, Cabinet prohibited smoking on buses (Dec 51277).

On 5 May, Cabinet approved *Queensland Health 2000*: public health campaigns directed at reduction of deaths by accident and heart disease (Dec 51333).

Day Surgery Centres

In 1987, free-standing day surgery centres were licensed by the state for the first time. The centres provided a more cost effective model of surgery for minor procedures (Dec 51570).

Nurse Education

The transition of nurse education from hospitals to universities was in its infancy. Financial considerations determined the government's attitude to the change. Cabinet was clear that nurse education would not be transferred in Queensland to higher education institutions unless the Commonwealth agreed to fully fund it (Dec 51584 and 52727).

HIV/AIDS

The Hawke Labor Government was pragmatic and secular in its policies to respond to the HIV-AIDS epidemic. Neil Blewett, the federal health minister was focused on providing the public with reliable information on preventing HIV and AIDS. There was a commitment to engaging with at risk communities in a non-judgmental way.

In May the Queensland Cabinet considered the outcomes of an Australian Health Ministers' Conference, solely focused on dealing with the AIDS epidemic. State and Territories agreed to a cost sharing arrangement with the Commonwealth for a pilot program to supply AZT (Azidothymidine) to people suffering from AIDS. There was also concern about AIDS transmission through intravenous drug use and the States were asked to consider introducing needle and syringe exchange programs (Dec 51433). Queensland Health subsequently estimated that funding of \$2,260,000 was needed for the financial year to fund AIDS treatment and prevention programs in Queensland. On 13 July, Cabinet determined it was not prepared to fund at this level. Because of 'financial difficulties' facing the government, Queensland requested a cost sharing arrangement with the Commonwealth contributing \$500,000 (Dec 51971). At the same meeting, Cabinet approved an education package for IV drug users (Dec 51972). In October Cabinet noted the Commonwealth's agreement to provide further funding, subject to the state's agreement to cost sharing on a 50/50 basis for salaries of health practitioners (Dec 52689).

One of the key preventative strategies was the promotion of safer sexual practices, especially the use of condoms. Making condoms more available was a simple, high impact public health measure to reduce levels of HIV infection. On 28 April, Cabinet noted the outcomes of a recent Corrective Services Ministerial Council where it was recommended condoms be available in prisons to prevent the spread of HIV-AIDS. Queensland was the only state not prepared to agree (Dec 51546).

The government's intransigence to widening the distribution of condoms extended to university students. The *Health Act* prohibited the sale of condoms through condom vending machines and in September 1987, police raided student unions at the University of Queensland and Griffith University to remove machines. By December when Ahern became Premier, Cabinet noted advice from the Solicitor-General there was insufficient evidence to prosecute and the machines had been returned to both campuses. A submission from the new Health Minister, Leisha Harvey, referenced the National AIDS Strategy and proposed lifting the prohibition on the sale of condoms. The submission was withdrawn (Dec 53222).

Mike Ahern was Health Minister for most of 1987. There were tensions between him and Bjelke-Petersen about how to respond to the HIV-AIDS epidemic. There are reports of Bjelke-Petersen shaking with rage as he yelled at Ahern for his reluctance to take action against student unions with condom vending machines. The Cabinet record provides some insight into how these tensions were 'managed' in regard to AIDS education in schools. In early March, Cabinet endorsed the after-hours sex education program provided in Queensland schools BUT also requested the development of a joint submission from both the Education Minister (the conservative Lin Powell) and the Health Minister (Ahern) (Dec 50854). This latter action was not recommended in the submission and presumably arose from discussion within the Cabinet room.

On 27 April, Ahern and Powell brought a joint submission and Cabinet approved an AIDS Prevention Program to be delivered to all state high school students, by teachers, through existing curriculum arrangements (an evaluation was to be undertaken after 6 months). Non-government schools would be encouraged to participate (Dec 51285). The following week, on the basis of an oral submission from Bjelke-Petersen, Cabinet approved representatives from Education and Health to develop the AIDS education program for schools (Dec 51357). A submission on the program was brought to Cabinet by Powell on 3 August but deferred (Dec 52158) until 10 August when Cabinet could consider it in tandem with a submission from Ahern – the commitment to a joint submission seemed to have disappeared. Powell's submission noted the program would be 'unique in Australia in that while recognition has been given to the significance of this health problem, the approach has sought to maintain a balanced perspective, giving due regard to community sensitivities and the deeply moral issues'. Cabinet agreed to this submission and Ahern's submission which included the script for a video which included the stark claim 'you won't survive if you get AIDS (Dec 52185). The claim appears contradictory to the Government's agreement in May to contribute to the AZT trial.

There was some pragmatism in Queensland's response. A meeting of senior police and health officials proposed an amendment to the *Drugs Misuse Act* to allow medical practitioners, pharmacists and nurses to issue needles and syringes to drug dependent people. On 21 April, Cabinet approved preparation of such an amendment (Dec 51224) but limited the provision to doctors. Cabinet's authority to introduce the amendment (Dec 52264) included a provision for pharmacists to supply, on the authority of medical practitioners.

Methadone Treatment

On 23 February, Cabinet approved Ahern's submission to the Commonwealth for funding for Queensland as part of the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse. There was a matched funding arrangement with the Commonwealth. Queensland's proposal included further development of the existing Methadone Program and the introduction of methadone treatment at some regional centres (Dec 50781).

Indigenous Affairs

Deaths in custody

In the months of March and April 1987, four young Aboriginal men died in custody in North Queensland. On 13 April, the federal minister, Clyde Holding referred the matter of Aboriginal deaths in police custody to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs. Progress was limited when the federal election was called and consequently Holding referred the matter to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission for its consideration. The Queensland Government initiated its own inquiry with Minister Katter appointing Eric Law and Pearce Powder, both Aboriginal Coordinating Council officials. Their report was publicly released on 3 August. Cabinet recommended the adoption of the report but unfortunately the Cabinet record does not include its recommendations (Dec 52162). Veteran journalist, Tony Koch covered their investigation and on 18 July in an article headlined 'Black Leaders Blame White Sly Grog' he noted the 'total apathy' of most North Queensland towns to the deaths: 'Most comments are racist'.

On 10 August Hawke announced the formation of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. On 3 September Cabinet agreed to Bjelke-Petersen's proposal that the government would respond to Hawke's request about the proposed Inquiry: the Queensland Government would cooperate with the Royal Commission; it supported Justice Muirhead as chair; but it would not cost share or bear any costs related to the Inquiry (Dec. 52391). This position was reiterated in a subsequent response to another request for cost sharing. Bjelke-Petersen was clear: the Commission was a Commonwealth initiative and Queensland wasn't consulted about the decision to establish it and therefore was not prepared to contribute to its costs (Dec 53010).

Deed of Grant in Trust communities

Under Katter's leadership, greater security of tenure was given to Indigenous people living on former reserve communities by the Deeds of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) not being able to be varied or terminated except by an act of parliament. In 1987 a number of provisions were considered to complement the new tenure arrangements and achieve Katter's vision of self-management.

Cabinet agreed to new arrangements proposed by Katter for Commonwealth Funding to Queensland for Aboriginal Rental Housing whereby funding would be provided to Councils directly (albeit with continued oversight by the Department), reflecting that ownership of the reserves as DOGIT had been transferred to the Councils. This submission related to new housing at Woorabinda (Dec 50478).

Cabinet agreed to new arrangements for the sale of surplus staff housing on Aboriginal and Islander communities. Explicitly nominated as 'Implementation of Self Management...' surplus staff housing would be offered to other departments etc. but if not required would be transferred to Councils with house and land included in the DOGIT (Dec 50480).

On 16/2 Cabinet noted progress on 'Self-Management on Aboriginal and Island Communities'. Katter acknowledged there were issues with financial management but these were being addressed with training etc. He flagged the intention for the second stage of self-management proceeding, the transfer of the Department's local government functions to Councils to be completed in 1987 (Dec 50753).

Glasson gained approval on 23 March to prepare a Bill amending the *Land Act* to streamline processes (e.g. surveying) of dealing with roads, schools etc. located within or adjacent to boundaries of DOGIT communities (Dec 51018). This would ensure they remained crown land.

On 23 March, Cabinet approved a delay in trial of Self Management and Transfer of Functions, Personnel and Property from the Department of Community Services and Aboriginal Councils. Four communities (Cherbourg, Yarrabah, Woorabinda and Palm Island) were scheduled to take on local government functions and funding from Community Services on 31 March. This was deferred to enable Katter and two representatives from Aboriginal Coordinating Council (ACC) to consult with the Commonwealth (Dec 51032). Katter consulted with the ACC and on 13 April Cabinet approved transfer of local government functions; transfer or secondment of staff; and funding from Community Services to the four 'transition' communities, to commence immediately. Katter was to report back on progress in three months (Dec 51211).

Tensions with the Commonwealth emerged regarding levels of funding of the DOGIT communities. Commonwealth general purpose payments to local government are paid 'through' the state. The Queensland Local Government Grants Commission then makes recommendations regarding the distribution of these funds to local government authorities. Bjelke-Petersen questioned the recommendations of the Commonwealth and the disparity with those of the Local Government Grants Commission. The Commission recommended Aboriginal councils be given \$168,000 whereas the Commonwealth recommended \$1.2 million (Dec 52403).

Land rights

Two claims from Torres Strait Islanders were considered by Cabinet in 1987.

On 23 March, Cabinet approved an additional \$160,000 to legally oppose Eddie Mabo's land rights claim. (*Mabo & Others v State of Queensland and Commonwealth of Australia*) \$200,000 had been allocated already (Dec 51033).

During the year, Cabinet considered land claims by the Mills Family. Initially Cabinet agreed to a proposal that they be granted a Deed of Grant in Trust to Naghir Island (51851). But on 14 September this decision was rescinded (Dec. 52466). Cabinet agreed to the granting of a priority lease to the Mills Family. The issue of excluding roads, air fields etc. from the lease was considered a fortnight later. Cabinet also noted the Mills family was not claiming Pole and Burke Islands which were apparently subject to a claim by the St Pauls Island Council (Dec 52626).

Equal pay

In September 1986, Cabinet decided award wages would be paid to Indigenous workers employed by the Department of Community Services from 31 January 1987. Cabinet decided that given reduced funding to Queensland from the Premiers' Conference, the Aboriginal Coordinating Council were to be advised that award wages could not be introduced (Dec 51969). A reading of the 1987 Cabinet record reveals these issues did not seem to have an impact on the many, many funding decisions made to assist business and other government departments. The Department of Community Services, mostly staff from Killoran's administration, originally briefed Katter that it was not possible to pay award wages without a significant injection of funds. Killoran, the former Director of Aboriginal and Islander Affairs and sometime National Party candidate was a firm ally of Bjelke-Petersen. According to Katter, his 'private research' undertaken showed the advice to be inaccurate. It is possible that Killoran acolytes influenced the ultimate backdown from a commitment to equal wages in 1987.

Federal human rights Inquiries

On 2 March, Cabinet considered how the government should respond to a request from the head of Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission EOC, Justice Marcus Einfeld to participate in a public inquiry into the social and material needs of people living in the border towns. There had been a number of incidents relating to racism in Goondiwindi – Boggabilla- Toomelah. The first response of Cabinet was to seek advice from the Solicitor-General as to whether they were obliged to cooperate. If so, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet was to coordinate responses (Dec 50858). In response to a secret submission, Cabinet decided to make a submission to the Inquiry (Dec 52153).

There was also an inquiry by HREOC into the treatment of Aborigines in the criminal justice system throughout Australia. Cabinet agreed to the preparation of a draft submission (Dec 52154).

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs conducted an inquiry into support services in Aboriginal communities. Cabinet agreed Queensland would make a submission to the inquiry (Dec 53188).

Health Program

Cabinet approved a submission to the Commonwealth of a preliminary estimate of expenditure for 1987-88 for the Aboriginal Health Program. This was a Commonwealth funded program with the state as service provider. The report includes the introduction 'following the 1967 Referendum when responsibility for Aboriginal welfare passed to the Commonwealth, it was discovered that Aboriginal people throughout Australia had a special health problem.....' It went on to outline a goal similar to 'closing the gap' in health outcomes, noting this 'involves behavioural changes in Aboriginal health concepts, a long term project' (Dec 51335).

Education

In February, Education Minister Powell brought a secret submission proposing major amendments to the *Education Act*. Its purpose was to – in the context of the Commonwealth’s ‘encroachment’ through obligations resulting from its role as funder – establish the role of the State Government in relation to non-government schools, increase the profile of TAFE within the department, establish advisory councils for non-government education and education for economic development and replace a number of boards with the Queensland Council for Accreditation of Courses in Post-Compulsory Education (Dec 50627).

The impact of budget reductions to education were being felt. The 1987-88 budget didn’t allow for any increase in teacher numbers. A reduction of 718 teachers would be necessary from January 1988 to stay within budget, despite the increase of 5,000 new pupils. As well as this, they wouldn’t be able to have an intake of young teachers graduating at the end of 1987 and a ‘rationalisation’ of teacher aide positions. These effects are ‘becoming increasingly apparent to the general community’ (Dec 52985).

In April, Cabinet approved the release of a Board of Teacher Education report *Project 21 – Teachers for the 21st Century* which was the culmination of a two year review (Dec 51167).

Commonwealth/State relations

On 11 July, the Hawke Government was re-elected and quickly moved to implement their election commitments, a number of which put them on a direct collision course with the Bjelke-Petersen government. The list of policies of concern to the Queensland government were outlined in a Cabinet submission in July (Dec 52065).

Industrial Relations

The Queensland cabinet was increasingly concerned about Federal intrusion into State industrial affairs, particularly with the encroachment of the Federal Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission seeking to replace State awards with Federal awards. The submission also identified a number of pieces Federal legislation which cover areas which were not previously subject to Federal regulation such as the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission, the *Sex Discrimination Act*, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, affirmative action legislation, superannuation and the trend of unions to seek federal award coverage (Dec 50677). This was further exacerbated with the Introduction of *Commonwealth Industrial Relations Bill* which overrode the provisions of the Queensland Act (Dec 51456).

National policies

In January, the Queensland Government responded to a request from the Commonwealth to contribute to the National Energy Policy. The Queensland Government was clear that the States had primary responsibility for energy: 'The Queensland Government's fundamental approach is that ownership of the petroleum and mineral resources of Queensland vests in the first instance totally in the crown in right of the State' (Dec 50580).

The Commonwealth was seeking to take over the companies and securities legislation. At the time this was managed through the State Corporate Affairs Office and this function made an important contribution to consolidated revenue. Queensland opposed the Commonwealth proposal to enact comprehensive legislation in the area of companies and securities (Dec 51699).

High Court challenges

Queensland had spent most of 1986 opposing the introduction of the Hawke Government's Fringe Benefits Tax. In early February, the High Court handed down their decision and ruled against the state by a margin of 5 to 1 (Dec 50689).

In June, the traffic to the High Court reversed with the Commonwealth launching a challenge in the High Court against the *Queensland Industrial Appeals (Commercial Practices) Act*. The Commonwealth wanted elements of the Queensland Act such as secondary boycotts, prohibition of some industrial action and pecuniary penalties for those seen to contravene the Act declared invalid because it was inconsistent with a number of Commonwealth acts. Queensland was to engage senior counsel to oppose (Dec 51933).

Constitutional Commission

Since 1986 the Commonwealth Government had been running a Constitutional Commission to look at revising the constitution, and in particular, the division of responsibilities and power between the Commonwealth, the States and local government. It was due to report to Government by 30 June 1988.

It is fair to say that there was not much that the Queensland Government liked about it. Cabinet was concerned that the focus of the commission was on a 'greater central government control of the economy and society and a corresponding diminution of the role, authority and power of the States'. They did support the proposal to give states the power to levy excise duties. However their greatest concern was the proposal to entrench the concept of 'one vote one value' in the Constitution as well as the attempt to impose a modified bill of rights (Dec 52546).

By November, the Government had prepared a detailed submission to the Federal Advisory Committee on Individual and Democratic Rights under the Constitution. The submission was intended to put the Commonwealth Government 'on notice' about its views and again the concept of 'one vote one value' which would bind both the Commonwealth and the states was a priority. The proposal to entrench Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land rights in the Constitution was opposed (Dec 52885, Dec 53050).

Local Government

On 23 February, Cabinet approved preparation of an amendment to pecuniary interest requirements in the *City of Brisbane Act* to mirror a similar amendment being prepared to the *Local Government Act* (Dec 49353 of 22 July 1986). This was prompted by a Supreme Court finding and the amendment would mean members were not disqualified from 'taking part in a discussion of or vote on a matter in which they have a pecuniary interest' (Dec 50789). This is directly relevant to the recent 4 Corners program on Gold Coast Council. On 16 March Cabinet approved the introduction of the Bill (Dec 50949). Clause 17 states that if an alderman has any conflict of interest in a matter before the Council, he should disclose it as soon as practicable 'and shall not take part in the consideration or discussion of , or vote on any question with respect to the contract, or proposed contract, or other matter'. This process is different from that more recently adopted by local councils and was the subject of the Crime and Corruption Commission's *Operation Belcarra Report*.

Public sector

The First Savage Report – Review of Business Regulation

The first Savage Inquiry was focused on business regulation and measures to systematically cut red tape. The *Regulatory Reform Act* was passed in March 1986 and there were reviews of subordinate legislation affecting business underway in all departments in 1987. The recommendations of the Savage Report were designed to put more rigour around legislation and regulatory processes with the introduction of a Green Paper and White Paper process where proposed changes were exposed to the public for comment and input before new legislation and regulation were adopted.

The Savage Report was subject to frequent consideration in 1987 and was frequently deferred for further consideration (Dec 50927 Dec 50934 Dec 50993). On 9 February, Cabinet approved payment to members of the Savage Committee (Review of Business Regulations). In this submission, the Premier notes the Committee's first report was received in December 1985 and the second (and final) report had now been presented to him (Dec 50680). In a separate secret submission, Bjelke-Petersen brought this report to Cabinet. He seemed to want to maintain momentum and sought feedback from Ministers by 19 February (Dec 50682).

It was finally decided that 'sunset clauses' would not be automatically included in new legislation but was within individual Minister's discretion and the circulation of Green Papers must be approved by Cabinet (Dec 51156)

The requirement for Green Papers was a new initiative for Queensland and was included in the new draft *Queensland Legislation Manual*. However, compliance was minimal with Ministers frequently seeking exemptions from the process (Dec 50475 Dec 50530; 50747 Dec 50795 – Dec 50803; 50998; 50999; 51503; 51247).

By mid-1987, Cabinet noted the appalling record of compliance: 72 requests for exemption from the regulatory reform legislation had been received (Dec 51931). Ironically this was followed by two submissions seeking exemption from the *Regulatory Reform Act* requirements for a green paper (Dec 51157 and Dec 51158).

There were some Green Papers issued. In early February, Cabinet approved a Green Paper on Retirement Village Legislation. However it was not consistent with the draft Legislation Manual and essentially was an exposure draft of a Bill with clause by clause explanation. Minister Austin seems to have taken these reforms more seriously than his colleagues. At his recommendation, Cabinet approved the release of three Green Papers on proposed amendments to *The Gas Act*; Liquid Fuel Supply (Dec 50848) and a Review of Mining legislation (Dec 51371). In contrast, Russ Hinze brought a submission (approved by Cabinet) to gazette a new Main Roads Regulation. Despite referencing the first Savage Report in the title (Regulatory Review Program – Review of Queensland Business Regulations), he chose not to issue a Green Paper (Dec 51372).

In early June, Bjelke-Petersen recommended agreement to the second program of initiatives from the Savage Report. He was under some pressure from business: attached to the submission is a letter from the Queensland Confederation of Industry querying when the second report would be released as it was originally due for release in June 1986. Cabinet deferred the decision to Cabinet meeting of 15 June (Dec 51641) and at that meeting, it finally agreed to the second suite of recommendations (Dec 51647).

Second Savage Inquiry – Reviewing the Public Sector

In December 1986 Cabinet established the Public Sector Review Committee, chaired by Sir Ernest Savage to investigate opportunities for improving the productivity of the administrative machinery of government. The focus was on public sector reform with an emphasis on strategic planning, program management and performance improvement (Dec 50301). In February 1987 Cabinet approved funding for the review (Dec 50767). The Public Service Board was also undertaking 'operational audits' of departments at the time. These were the early precursors of the Goss Labor Government's Public Sector Management Commission.

On 21 April Cabinet considered a report from the Public Sector Review Committee regarding the structure of public relations and press secretary positions. (Dec 51263) It agreed to all the recommendations. On 3 August, Bjelke-Petersen brought a secret submission with the Public Sector Review Committee's blueprint for the modernisation of the Queensland Public Service. There were recommendations for increased responsibility for Departments; establishment of a Cabinet Budget Review Committee; adoption of a Code of Conduct; development of an economic strategy and inclusion of an economic policy section in the Department of Premier and Cabinet; transfer of Public Service functions to the private sector; professionalisation and rationalisation of statutory authorities; refocusing the role of central agencies; removing the Coordinator-General from the Premier's Department and establishing it as a separate agency. All Ministers were asked to report

back to Cabinet on 31st August with their views and plans for implementation (Dec 52161). A submission was brought to Cabinet on 31 August but was deferred until 6 September (Dec 52384).

The Premier did not support all of the Report's recommendations. He did not agree with the recommendation to establish the Co-ordinator General's Department as a separate agency; nor a recommendation for a review of superannuation; and he also proposed the cancellation of flexi-time because he felt it disruptive. Perhaps the revelations of the Fitzgerald Inquiry were affecting Ministers' resolve. They did not agree with the Premier and ultimately Cabinet approved all the Review's recommendations with the exception of (a) the proposed part-time Public Service Board should not be established. Instead Mr. R. Roberts and Mr. J. Walsh would be appointed to implement the recommendations; (b) the combined Internal Operational Audit Service and the Public Service Board Consultancy Services section be rationalised and placed under the Premier's Department; c) that promotion and advancement in the Public Service should be primarily on performance and merit with some consideration given to length of service; (d) that all appointments and promotions to be made by the Governor-in-Council on the recommendation of the Ministers; and (e) that the matter of the abolition of the appeal system be the subject of further consideration (Dec 52389).

There was a subsequent 'secret' submission about changing the Public Service appeal system. The submission mooted change to the approach used and accepted by unions in organisations like Suncorp. The current appeal system was costly and, Savage is quoted as suggesting, can lead to mediocrity (Dec 52438).

Bjelke-Petersen brought a further secret submission on 28 September regarding further actions to implement the Savage Committee recommendations. There were concerns regarding the abolition of the Public Service Board. Its proposed replacement, the Office of Public Service Personnel Management would apparently require fewer staff with new technologies and less centralised control of HR systems. Remuneration of Senior Officials and Ministers was also considered. A table compared the salaries of Premiers: NSW \$89,088; Victoria \$91,130 and Queensland \$94,233. Ministers and MPs are more in line with other states. The submission discusses whether it is worth waiting for the recommendations of the Commonwealth remuneration tribunal, with an estimate that the Premier will get a 19% increase to \$112,108. Cars for all MPs are also considered. It seemed earlier drafts of legislation to replace the *Public Service Act* need changes. (Dec 52601)

Cabinet considered another secret submission from Bjelke-Petersen on 19 October related to the Savage recommendations. Cabinet approved the establishment of Office of Public Service Personnel Management and its functions and staffing. It also endorsed new salary ranges and staffing numbers; introduction of a new Government Management and Employment Act which included merit based promotion. An attachment to the submission provides further details and lists concerns of Ministers (Dec 52728).

Towards the end of the year, Cabinet again considered legislation to replace the *Public Service Act* and implement many of the recommendations of the Savage Report including merit based selection processes. The decision was deferred (Dec 53017).

Departmental Reviews

On 23 February Cabinet endorsed a review of the Department of Mines. The Public Service Board led the review and it reflected recommendations of the Savage Report. The department would be re-organised along 'Program Management' lines with greater emphasis on Human Resources and Information Management (Dec 50793).

On 23 March Cabinet noted the Strategic Plan for the State Library of Queensland. This had been led by Consultancy Services at the Public Service Board. (Dec 51000) Cabinet subsequently approved an authority to prepare a new *Libraries and Archives Act*. The new legislation would detail the functions of the State Library Board bringing it into line with other 'user bodies' of the Queensland Cultural Centre. Importantly the new legislation would include greater detail on functions of the State Archivist and include Archives in the title (Dec 51330).

On 5 May Cabinet approved consolidation and integration of a number of departments into the Department of Family and Youth Services, This followed a Public Service Board organisational review and the introduction of the *Family Services Act*. One of the drivers was the increase in child abuse notifications. (Dec 51344)

Industrial disputes

SEQEB dispute

The issue of electricity supply was vexatious and drawn out (see Wanna & Arklay 2010:562). It remains one of the bitterest industrial confrontations in Queensland history – solidifying the Premier's tough leader image and resulting in over 1000 electricity workers losing their jobs while the State suffered nightly disruptions to its power supply. While these events occurred in 1985, the year 1987 saw various decisions being brought to Cabinet for approval, many dealing with voluntary employment contracts. On the 27 January (Dec 50595) Cabinet approved preparation of a Bill to amend the *Electricity Authorities Industrial Causes Act* to address the issue of representation of power workers, following the sacking of SEQEB workers in 1985. There had been court action taken by the ETU and others challenging an earlier measure. The proposed legislation would provide for the declaration of the Queensland Power Workers Association as a trade union and direct the Industrial Registrar to register it as such under the industrial law.

In relation to how the workers would be paid, many submissions were brought to Cabinet throughout the year. For example (Dec 50980) on 16th March was one such submission that would return to Cabinet throughout the year (see also Dec 52163; 52459). Dec 50980 saw the Minister, Brian Austin seek Cabinet's approval for Executive Council's approval of a contract of employment of SEQEB with systems control staff of that board. Reference is made to how it compares with Voluntary Employment Agreements as mooted in the Green Paper released on 9th March. The contract would include a 38 hour week, 19 shifts in a 4 week period and less generous overtime provisions (to minimise opportunities for gaming the system).

Later in the year a secret submission Dec 52424 that dealt with Proposed Amendments to the *Electricity Authorities Industrial Causes Act 1985* and *Electricity (Continuity of Supply) Act 1985* was brought to Cabinet. The issue at stake was ensuring the Minister remained the prescribed authority – in cases of strikes etc., and also suggests that there is little risk in repealing the continuity of supply Act. Largely by August in 1987, most of the heat had gone out of the issue as far as the government was concerned.

Dispute at Bjelke-Petersen Dam

The Bjelke-Petersen Dam near Cherbourg started construction in 1984. In 1987 with one year left to go in the construction phase disputes started to occur with members of the Federated Engine Drivers and Fireman's Association (FEDFA) who had gone out on strike over demands for increased pay and an agreement that covered the work (Dec 51466). Cabinet started seeing submissions regarding the dispute from 20 May 1987 (Dec. 51466). Over the next few months more submissions were brought to Cabinet – one detailing the current state of the dispute (Dec 51939), others discussing the likely implications for other construction sites if these demands were met. In June (Dec 51580) it was decided that contempt of court proceedings be initiated when, despite a Supreme Court injunction, workers decided to continue their strike for another two weeks (see Dec 51939). As the dispute continued (Dec 52072) a statement of claims for damages and injunction relief was discussed with Cabinet. As no settlement was forthcoming (Dec 52121) an oral submission discussed the fact that the company – White Industries – building the dam might have to surrender the contract. On 14 December, under a new Premier, (Dec 53172) an agreement was reached between the government and the company. As a result of the extended strike between the FEDFA's Union, Queensland Branch it was agreed the Contractor for the Bjelke-Petersen Dam, White Industries (Qld) Pty Ltd 'adopt alternative measures to secure a resumption of work on the dam'. Cabinet approved that the Queensland Water Resources Commission discuss with the Contractor a compensation payment of \$1,800,000 for the additional costs incurred payable to White Industries on the condition that the settlement and agreement remain confidential. Part of the terms of settlement was that workers would not be paid rates higher than the award.

Superannuation

In 1986, the Bjelke-Petersen government vigorously opposed the Wages Accord where unions agreed to modify wage claims in exchange for a superannuation benefit of 3% of their income. This issue continued to be controversial in 1987.

In February, Cabinet considered a submission dealing with unions taking action to have superannuation included in award arrangements (this submission specifically related to the liquor trades union). Queensland had a different regime than the rest of Australia (Dec 50613). Later in February the submission was reconsidered and it was noted the Queensland government was 'vigorously opposing at every opportunity both the awarding of a 3% productivity increase and the authority of the Industrial Commission to address superannuation arrangements'. Queensland had its own superannuation legislation and had been providing informal 'approval' of trust deeds etc.

Cabinet decided to discontinue this practice, monitor super proposals, refer enquirers to gain legal advice and only invoke the legislation if it suited them (Dec 50769).

In March, Cabinet approved a Bill (secret submission) to amend superannuation schemes for public servants, police and parliamentarians and provided for improved death benefit arrangements (Dec 50979).

By September, urgent legislation was being introduced into the Parliament to provide for optional early retirement for public servants decreasing the age from 60 to 55. This was in response to the challenges facing the State budget and was to be announced in the Premier's budget speech (Dec 52433).

Expo '88

The government continued to plan for Expo '88 throughout the year. Numerous submissions were brought to Cabinet including those relating to the extension of appointment of members of the Authority scheduled for consideration which despite being deferred until 27 January saw all appointed (Dec 50551). In January Cabinet approved the inclusion of an official visitors program and a business visitors program (Dec 50540; 52259).

The appointment of a property consultant for the sale of the Expo site was considered by Cabinet in November 1986 (Dec 50206) when it was agreed the Queensland Government would be responsible for the calling of tenders for the development of the land. The Premier brought a submission to Cabinet on 19 January (Dec 50459) in which the Expo and Southbank Redevelopment Authority proposed Jones Lang Wootton as the official property consultants for the sale. It was deferred to 27 January, when consideration of the submission was again deferred 'pending receipt of a plan, recommendations on the future use of, sale and development of the Expo Site' (Dec 50550).

In early February (Dec 50681) an updated submission was brought by the Premier again recommending Jones Lang Wootton as the property consultant to manage the sale on behalf of the BESBR Committee. Attached to the submission was the plan called for at the previous meeting. This sets out the parameters of the plans for the site. It is a detailed document, highlighting the strategic significance of the site and anticipates an overall development scheme with due regard to riverfront open space with maximum public access, encouragement of active and passive public use, inclusion of a tourist attraction, architectural integrity complementary to QPAC and the historical buildings. It was certainly much more detailed than many of the developments occurring around Brisbane at the time.

On 9 February, Cabinet approved Fred Maybury's appointment as Commissioner for Queensland for World Expo – reporting directly to the Premier (Dec 50688). Maybury had also worked with Mike Evans as a National Party strategist, and then later as CEO of Dreamworld.

In April, (Dec 51303) Cabinet noted Sir Llew Edwards' report on Expo that explained how construction was ahead of schedule; Expo was on budget; a security firm had been appointed; staff training; uniform design was selected; 27 countries committed and 42 – 43 Governments expected on site; entertainment division had organised 14,000 acts over six months. All going well, arrangements were in place for the Premier to publicly purchase the first ticket on 30 April as a marketing strategy. It was also decided (Dec 51513) that the World Expo 1988 Authority would not issue Ministers with free tickets for the event so Cabinet agreed to the purchase of season passes for

Ministers and their wives, which was later rescinded in an oral submission from the Premier (Dec 51716). It seems that Ministers had to pay for their own tickets after all.

Other submissions included (Dec 51719) an oral regarding \$100,000 for the Pavilion of Promise; (Dec 51790) which floated the idea that a World Trade Centre is one of the proposals for use of the Expo site post 1988; and (Dec 52421) noting the Qld Pavilion Fitout costing \$350,000 tenders approved. Dec 52883 – lurid description of the joys to be found in the Queensland Pavilion.

Demise of Bjelke-Petersen

In the final months of 1987, the revelations from the Fitzgerald Inquiry were taking their toll on individual Ministers and the government, though the business of Cabinet continued with little reference to this turmoil. By late 1987 the Premier was increasingly isolated. By late November he had stopped speaking to most of his Ministers and had attempted to persuade the state Governor, Sir Walter Campbell to sack nearly a quarter of the Executive. Finally he was successful in removing three senior ministers, Ahern, Austin and McKechnie, replacing them with two supporters. His victory would be short lived as these replacements would have just seven days sitting on ministerial leather. As the end of his reign came closer, the Premier bunkered down in his executive building office stalling what was now the inevitable end (Wanna & Arklay 2010:583-4). Still Cabinet meetings continued throughout November.

The Premier's last Cabinet meeting was on Monday 30 November – the day before he officially resigned. The submissions to that meeting were unsurprising, giving no hint to the drama unfolding outside. While in an earlier meeting Bjelke-Petersen had presented an oral submission regarding the legal costs of his Transport Minister Don Lane appearing at the Fitzgerald Inquiry (Dec.52952), the Cabinet record doesn't show that the issue of entitlements were raised before Bjelke-Petersen left office. The submission regarding what provisions should be granted to former Premiers was left to new Premier Mike Ahern, who on 21 December in a secret submission raised what before then was a lack of general provision entitlements for long term Premiers. It was agreed that Premiers who had served three or more terms would be entitled to an office in the city, a stenographer, a phone at home, a car and 12 first class trips a year (not to be used for business of any kind) (Dec. 53254). Bjelke-Petersen's last submission (Dec. 53086) to Cabinet dealt with the mundane matter of what to do with surplus funds (\$42,615) left over from the failed Brisbane Olympic bid. The answer: a scholarship to support Queensland's aspiring athletes.

Cabinet under Ahern

On 7 December, Premier Mike Ahern chaired his first meeting of Cabinet. Though much of the material being presented to Cabinet was similar to the Bjelke-Petersen cabinets there were some marked changes of direction. Reforms to the process of managing the budget were soon apparent with the decision to establish a Budget Review Committee with an Expenditure Review Committee to sit under it (Dec 53127). The ERC was to deal with the long term structural issues of the budget as identified in the 1988-89 budget process (Dec 53261). The establishment of these committees broke the autocratic power which had accrued to Bjelke-Petersen as both Premier and Treasurer and allowed for the more deliberate consideration of the budget difficulties besetting Queensland.

The day after he was sworn in as Premier, riots broke out at the Boggo Road jail and in response Mr Justice Einfeld and Brian Burdekin of the Human Rights Commission visited Boggo Road and declared the detention unit unfit and fell short of human right standards. Cabinet decided that the detention unit no longer be used to accommodate prisoners and the construction of a new detention unit at Boggo Road be constructed as a matter of urgency, a much more humane approach than could have been expected under the previous Premier (Dec 53109).

As well, Premier Ahern had no problem in putting a hold on the long running Turkish Gazi project of the 'previous Cabinet'. Queensland officials had long been flagging the insurmountable problems with the projects which they saw as 'sub-commercial' (Dec 53163).

Curiosities

Saving 'God Save the Queen'

In early March Cabinet approved the Premier's recommendation regarding the playing of the National Anthem (Advance Australia Fair) and the Royal Anthem (God save the Queen) (see Dec 50932, 50818, 50877). It was the 'policy and desire' of the Queensland Government that preference be given to the Royal Anthem. For example, the Royal Anthem continued to be used in schools. However the Queen had indicated her preference (via the Commonwealth) that she only wanted the royal anthem played in the presence of the royal family. Cabinet discussed how this severely limited the use of Defence Force bands (who were subject to this direction) at Queensland state and ceremonial functions. So the Premier recommended that the National Anthem be played at all functions for and on behalf of the Queensland Government where Defence Force bands were used...except of course when a member of the Royal Family was present when they could revert to his 'desire'.

Queensland Unlimited

Queensland Unlimited appeared every weekend, across all commercial stations, promoting the activities of the government. On 19 January (Dec 50542) Cabinet approved the 1987 series of Queensland Unlimited to be aired for 48 weeks on Channels 0, 9 and 7 in the Brisbane Metropolitan area and all provincial commercial stations at a weekly cost of \$15,337. Later (Dec 52706) 12 October saw a refocusing of the program. It was to decrease in time significantly – a three minute spot with the estimated savings to be around \$150,000 which would be redirected to the public relations and media office.

Artist Day

In October (Dec 51840) Brian Austin brought a submission regarding the establishment of an 'Artist Day' to be held annually. Bumper stickers with the Government crest would be distributed through newspapers and schools. It was thought that Churches would dedicate a special service to artists and the Minister would send out letters to community and professional organisations asking them to celebrate the day.

Public holidays

And in a case of the more things change, the more they stay the same, Dec 51909 was deferred until a later date. It considered the option to change the date of 'Labour' day from May to October. It was acknowledged that this was likely to be 'vigorously opposed by the Labor and trade union movement'. In July (Dec 51953) Cabinet decides to publicly announce the government's intention to consider changing the date to test community reaction.

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