



Selected highlights

1984 Cabinet Minutes

Queensland State Archives

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Grants totalling \$1.5m for religious organisations running Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities were approved by Cabinet members, with \$1m allocated to the Lutheran Church (for Hopevale and Wujal Wujal) and \$115,000 for the Brethren Church at Doomadgee (Dec. 42170, Dec. 42302, Dec. 44383). New community services legislation, to provide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, was approved (Dec. 42644, Dec. 42821, Dec. 44013). Provisions for liquor sales and other administrative functions were included.

Members considered the issue of award wages for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees at several meetings (Dec. 43963, Dec. 44014). The Premier advised that increasing wages would be 'contrary to existing Cabinet policy', and if award wages were to be paid 'the number of employed would have to be reduced'.

Parliament approved Deeds of Grant in Trust for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in 1982. Secret Decisions in two meetings in October 1984 considered 'Aboriginal Land Arrangements' (Dec. 44293, 44302). Minister Katter told Cabinet that new legislation for services in Indigenous communities was now in place, and clauses now needed to be approved that would regulate and control land holdings. Members approved an amending Bill which would give residents lease-like titles 'with no provision for freeholding'.

The adoption and fostering of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were considered in February, with members of Cabinet accepting Minister Muntz's recommendation to oppose Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legislation while seeking Commonwealth funds for adoption and fostering services (Dec. 42298). Families who 'shared the child's ethnic, indigenous or cultural background' were preferred, but adoption by people living in defacto relationships or customary law marriages was not supported. Members approved the collection and publishing of statistics by the Department of Children's Services 'because of the special circumstances involved'. The Commonwealth would be informed that 'Queensland is opposed to naming Aboriginals and Islanders in its child welfare legislation'.

The Premier presented a submission to Cabinet in February, which was endorsed, for a Queensland proposal with regard to a Commonwealth Inquiry into the Aboriginal Development Commission (Dec. 42416, Dec. 43300). He said the activities of the Aboriginal Development Corporation 'had been of concern to the Queensland Government for some time' and 'drew attention to the "separatist" philosophy of the Commission'. Aboriginal Development Corporation acquisitions also drew Cabinet's attention (Dec. 43980, Dec. 44015).

Members noted a submission about a register of archaeologists and anthropologists from National Parks Minister McKechnie in February (Dec. 42449). The Minister said there were less than 30 professional anthropologists in the state and legislating would 'give unwarranted publicity to the whole question', and provoke academic and international protest.

Cabinet felt they had to control 'certain members of these professions'. Cabinet asked McKechnie to 'investigate the possibility of establishing a register with a view to exercising

some control over the activities of certain members of those professions, particularly in relation to Aboriginal Reserves and Aborigines in general'. Ministers seemed to believe that these scholars were unduly influencing Aboriginal people and undermining state authority. Evidence of this attitude can be seen in the Queensland response to a proposed *Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage (Interim Protection) Bill 1984* (Dec. 43080). See also *Courier-Mail* story (2/6/1984:8) 'Aboriginal remains now locked away'.

Cabinet members also decided in March to send a submission to a Commonwealth Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs (Dec. 42508). In his submission, Education Minister Powell explained that Queensland 'had not been receiving a fair share of funding for Aboriginal education', probably (he thought) because of the state's 'willingness to spend its own funds'. A second decision in March covered the appointment of an additional member to the Aboriginal and Islander Health Advisory Council, bringing the total number of Ministerially-appointed Board members to eight (Dec. 42529).

Cabinet agreed in April to participate in the Commonwealth Grants Programme for Aboriginal schools (Dec. 42944). In April, the Minister for Health, Brian Austin, presented a submission to Cabinet, noting that \$9.3m of Commonwealth funding was needed for the transfer of health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities from Department of Aboriginal and Islander Affairs to the Health Department (Dec. 42904).

Members of Cabinet approved Queensland's 'total opposition' to the proposed Commonwealth legislation for a new Aboriginal and Islander Heritage Bill at a meeting in May (Dec. 43080). Minister Katter said the legislation, intended to protect sacred sites and other places of significance, was 'socially divisive', 'simplistic', would 'freeze development' and gave too much power to the Commonwealth. Detailed responses from each government department were shown to support this view.

A submission to repeal the Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act was withdrawn in October (Dec. 44456). The proposed Bill was designed, 'unlike the Commonwealth Heritage Act which was discriminatory and divisive', to unite all Queenslanders in a shared relationship with the land. If approved, overall authority with regard to Aboriginal cultural heritage would rest with the Minister, and not with public servants.

Bicentenary

Cabinet members decided in March to ask the Queensland Museum if they would take responsibility for a proposed Aboriginal Museum at Carnarvon Gorge National Park in Central Queensland (Dec. 42684). In April, members of Cabinet approved a Bicentennial Programme which granted \$1m to seventeen projects across Queensland, and gave limited money to each local government authority for capital works and celebrations in 1988 (Dec. 42779). St Helena Island later replaced the Coomera Museum (Dec. 43354, Dec. 44370; *Courier-Mail*, 13/6/1984:20, 16/10/1984:13). There were further discussions about Bicentennial projects and events in July (Dec. 43663, Dec. 43694). The Dreamtime Aboriginal Cultural centre at Rockhampton was approved as a replacement for the Carnarvon Museum in August (Dec. 43947).

Brisbane

Cabinet members endorsed the recommendations of the Moreton Island Planning Advisory Committee in January, including control over recreational land use and tenure, the acquisition of land for public purposes, management options for the Lighthouse Reserve, a review of fishing and boat club leases, and the establishment of a Queensland Institute of Technology field studies centre (Dec. 42208).

The sale of the old Trades Hall – the headquarters of the Trades and Labour Council (TLC) – and the construction of a new building in Ann Street, between the Peoples' Palace and Salvation Army buildings, was approved in January (Dec. 42219). However, in November a shift to a South Brisbane site was discussed and authorised (Dec. 44769).

The entered into an agreement with developers to exchange the Trades Hall site for a new building at 173 Ann St, between the Peoples Palace and Salvation Army buildings. The developers, who proposed to replace the old building with an office complex, medical rooms or a tourism complex, were limited by height restrictions. Eventually the IBM Centre was constructed on the site. The TLC later changed their minds about Ann St and instead moved to Peel St. Their new offices were named the TLC Centre rather than Trades Hall.

Funding of the Queensland Cultural Centre, under construction at Southbank, was determined at a meeting in February (Dec. 42290). Members agreed that proceeds from mid-week Lotto and an "Instant Casket" game would probably cover the anticipated shortfall of \$90m, although they noted the amount would not cover the proposed Library building, which needed a further \$24m. Final approval for the introduction of "Instant Casket", from 1 July 1984, was given in April (Dec. 42918).

In February, office requirements in the Brisbane inner city were discussed, and Cabinet decided not to move the Local Government Department from the Treasury Building to the Administration Building in George Street (Dec. 42435). Government office space was also considered in November, when Cabinet approved accommodation for the Department of Mapping and Surveying at Woolloongabba, the Government Printer's site and a proposed Government Chemical Laboratory in the Mt Gravatt Business Technology Park (Dec. 44408). Members decided that Queen's Park would not, as the Premier recommended, be redeveloped as part of the Government Precinct, and approved work on a Department of Health building in Mary Street and new buildings in George Street.

Restoration by the Works Department of the old Museum building at Bowen Hills was approved in March (Dec. 42562). Future use of the building as a rehearsal centre for the performing arts was also approved at the same time. Plans to use land at Kangaroo Point, recently purchased from shipbuilders Evans Deakin, for an expanded Queensland Institute of Technology were rejected by Cabinet in August (Dec. 43981; *Courier-Mail*, 13/10/1984:3, 16/10/1984:12).

Cabinet approved the proclamation of a road to the Fisherman Islands port in January (Dec. 42183). In March, the Cabinet decided to amend the Brisbane Town Plan so a Marina could be constructed at the mouth of the river (Dec. 42533). A 32 hectare Special Lease had already been granted to Prospect Marine Pty. Ltd. for the development proposal, which also potentially included tourist, recreational and residential facilities.

Elimination of the Fairfield Road railway level crossing, mainly so coal and grain trains could travel through the southern suburbs, was decided at three Cabinet meetings (Dec. 43376, Dec. 43384, Dec. 44210). A proposed standard gauge rail link (via Eight Mile Plains) with the new port (discussed by Cabinet in June) was never built because coal and grain exporters would not contribute funds towards the project (Dec. 43290; *Courier-Mail*, 15/10/1984:3). Eventually a standard gauge line was built from Park Road (in Brisbane's southside), on an existing rail corridor, to the port.

Amendments to the *City of Brisbane Act*, to provide for the Mayor to be elected by voters, and to divide the city into 13 electoral wards, were authorised in March (Dec. 42633). Land rezoning and legislation to deal with the possibility of noise complaints at Fig Tree Pocket in the western suburbs were raised at a number of meetings in 1984 (Dec. 42662, Dec. 42759, Dec. 42809, Dec. 42873; *Courier-Mail*, 20/3/1984:15).

Land previously used by a sawmill, next to Toowong Railway Station, was added to the office tower and shopping centre under construction (*Courier Mail*, 1/6/1984:23). Chinatown Mall legislation was passed by Cabinet in November (Dec. 44616). Seven high-rise townhouses were planned for the site of the old wool stores at Teneriffe, but a fire at the end of the year destroyed the historic building (Dec. 43441; *Courier-Mail*, 6/11/1984:3; *Sunday Mail*, 30/12/1984:1).

Budget

Cabinet considered the State Budget in March and April, approving an additional \$13.6m in expenditure and informing all departments to 'contain expenditures' (Dec. 42645, Dec. 42874). Members agreed that 'any improvement in the Budget position', including the 'expected \$70m cost of coal freight concessions', should be 'set aside towards next year's Commitments'. Major areas of concern were education (\$0.6m extra), hospitals (\$4m needed), Justice Department (\$1.4m extra recommended), Police (\$0.8 shortfall) and Railways (\$1m needed).

Fees payable under Department of Primary Industries regulations were increased in January, with Main Roads Department charge rises of 25 per cent approved in February (Dec. 42205, Dec. 42319; *Courier-Mail*, 7/2/1984:3). Approvals for increases in all government fees and charges began in May (Dec. 43057, Dec. 43077, Dec. 43973). Cabinet meetings on 3 September and 1 October authorised increases in fees and charges relating to Main Roads, food, poisons, analysts, nursing homes, private and public hospitals, pest control, Justice Department searches and cremation (Dec. 44038, Dec. 44048, Dec. 44049, Dec. 44050, Dec. 44052, Dec. 44053, Dec. 44054, Dec. 44055, Dec. 44056, Dec. 44058, Dec. 44143, Dec. 44281; *Courier-Mail*, 22/9/1984:1, 25/9/1984:13, 26/9/1984:8). Marina fees and charges, along with canal and harbour fees, were lifted in November, and the cost of fishery fees and permits was also raised in December (Dec. 44589, Dec. 44590, Dec. 44909).

The Premier drew members' attention to two critical Budget areas at a meeting held in August (Dec. 43963). These were major capital works, with a \$500m shortfall, and hospital capital works, where the expected expenditure of \$130m in the next year could not be 'sustained in the future'. Increased borrowings, with an annual interest cost of \$50m, could provide funds for essential services, including schools, dams, police and government

buildings. The Health Department would be asked to reduce expenditure to 'the lowest practicable level'.

The Premier told Cabinet members that 'insufficient Loan Council allocations' meant other means of funding were needed for 'the more exciting capital developments'. These included the Casket (funds for the Cultural Centre), mining companies (money for coal railways and port leases), 'off budget' arrangements (railways), self-funding (Expo 88) and special 'tax' arrangements with State Government Insurance Office (government buildings) (Dec. 43534, Dec. 43621). According to the *Courier-Mail's* Peter Morley, the budget was the Premier's 'supreme test' as Treasurer (*Courier Mail*, 8/9/1984:4).

Capital works

Electrification of the main coal export railway lines was discussed and approved at meetings in January, June and July (Dec. 42168, Dec. 43438, Dec. 43742). A combined Somerset and Wivenhoe dams flood operational manual, liability protection and 'discretionary powers in the event of unusual flood occurrences' were passed, as amendments to the *Wivenhoe Dam Act*, in January (Dec. 42220). Special grants to local government in the Gulf of Carpentaria region, as capital work subsidies, were approved in April (Dec. 42882).

Training walls (groynes) at the mouth of the Nerang River and proposed tourist developments on The Spit were considered and approved at a number of Cabinet meetings (Dec. 42741, Dec. 42869, Dec. 43607, Dec. 44814; *Sunday Mail*, 26/8/1984:8). The training walls are still in place, named 'Porpoise Head' on the northern side of the Gold Coast Seaway (South Stradbroke Island), and 'Nerang Head' on the southern side (The Spit).

A bridge to North Stradbroke Island was discussed at several meetings throughout the year (Dec. 42761, Dec. 42963, Dec. 43836, Dec. 43852, Dec. 44247, Dec. 44577). Possible routes via Macleay Island or Redland Bay were announced and debated (Dec. 44692, Dec. 44915; *Courier-Mail*, 23/4/1984:8, 25/4/1984:1, 11/5/1984:15, 12/5/1984:3, 18/5/1984:1, 25/9/1984:3). A related study, the North Stradbroke Island Development Strategy was also considered by Cabinet (Dec. 43013, Dec. 43021, Dec. 43372).

Lease financing with the ANZ Bank of the Dalrymple Bay and Abbot Point coal terminals, costing \$250m, was passed by Cabinet in a Secret Minute from April (Dec. 42871). Dumping of spoil and toxic waste from coal terminal construction and expansion was discussed at three meetings (Dec. 43658, Dec. 44005, Dec. 44853).

In July, an oral submission from the Premier about a list of approved hospital tenderers was approved (Dec. 43594). In September, Cabinet members gave their approval, in a Secret Minute, for capital works projects worth \$200m (Dec. 44197; *Courier-Mail*, 21/9/1984:8). Six government buildings and four high schools were approved for 'fast track' construction using selected contractors rather than open tender methods. Major companies would design and construct within cost and time constraints.

Planning studies for the new Gold Coast rail link were noted by Cabinet members in May (Dec. 43035). Transport Minister Lane 'promised' approval for the Gold Coast railway in October, but a final decision on design and construction was deferred until 1985 (Dec.

44978; *Courier-Mail*, 26/10/1984:11). Legislative requirements for the construction of the new railway to Cleveland were approved in October (Dec. 44316). Investigations of a tunnel through the Great Dividing Range at Toowoomba were approved in October (Dec. 44403; *Courier-Mail* 9/10/1984:2). Further studies of the Bradfield Scheme, considered in 1983, were authorised in December (Dec. 44923).

Casinos

In May, the Premier secured the approval of members of Cabinet for the granting of freehold title to the Townsville Casino 'in consideration for their dredging of an area suitable for the establishment of a future Marina basin' (Dec. 43083). At the same time, the tax payable by the Casino operators was reduced from 15 per cent to 10 per cent. A formal agreement on the Casino was passed by Cabinet in May, and agreement over related harbour issues was reached in August (Dec. 43133, Dec. 43847).

Advertising for Gold Coast real estate promised investors that 'exciting developments' would flow from 'the expected increase in tourist traffic' to be delivered by Jupiter's Casino (*Courier-Mail*, 14/1/1984:17). In November, the members of Cabinet approved the *Casino Control Act*, providing for Jupiter's opening in 1985 (Dec 44598). Each casino would, as agreed, pay the government a licence fee of \$100,000 per quarter. However, Local Government Minister Hinze publicly stated in December that he thought the Gold Coast Casino 'should have been built at Surfers Paradise', not Broadbeach, and the casino licence 'should have been granted to local businessman Eddie Kornhauser' (*Courier Mail*, 5/12/1984:2).

Commonwealth Government

A report from Attorney-General Harper on the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General was considered in January (Dec. 42143). He told members residual constitutional links, especially those allowing the states to appoint Governors, were 'areas of disagreement'.

Members of Cabinet decided in January that Queensland's Auditor-General and Deputy Auditor-General would not be available to participate in a Commonwealth electoral redistribution (Dec. 42225). Queensland's decision not to participate in a Senate inquiry into the National Crime Authority Bill was discussed in January (Dec. 42227).

Cabinet members decided, in January, not to sign the Medicare Agreement 'under the present circumstances' (Dec. 42230; *Courier-Mail*, 24/1/1984:1). 'The present circumstances' were financial ('Joh won't sign for Medicare', *Courier-Mail* 24/1/1984:1, claiming Queensland 'will lose \$6m a month'). According to Health Minister Lane, 'the Federal Government has introduced a national health scheme based mainly on the Queensland system of free hospitals', but 'have not compensated Queensland because we already had it'. Commonwealth Health Minister Blewett said Queensland was being offered 'an additional \$73m a year to run the same free public hospital system they are administering now'. The Premier claimed Queensland was only being offered \$29 per head, while other states were offered \$50 per head. Three days later the Premier announced he would sign ('Medicare switch: Joh says he'll sign', *Courier-Mail* 27/1/1984:1).

The Medicare health insurance scheme began on 1 February 1984 (*Courier Mail*, 1/2/1984:7). Funding for Community Health Services was also authorised by Cabinet (Dec. 42375).

In February, the Premier presented a submission on the 'Commonwealth manipulation of Ministerial Councils' (Dec. 42450). The state's autonomy, he said, was being rapidly diminished by successive Commonwealth Governments, which was using Ministerial Councils to 'gain political endorsement for the implementation of their policies and the establishment of new centralized bureaucracies. The objections of individual states are being effectively over-ridden and submerged by the Commonwealth's "consensus" rhetoric'.

Cabinet decided, in February, to tell the Commonwealth that Queensland opposed proposed changes in Australian citizenship eligibility, especially the deletion of reference to the Queen (Dec. 42482). Queensland also opposed the establishment of a Review Committee of the Institute of Multicultural Affairs and Community Relations, describing it as 'a further attempt by the Commonwealth to undermine states' rights' (Dec. 42526). 'The Institute', said Minister Muntz, 'could well foster divisions within a relatively harmonious and cohesive society'.

In March, Cabinet members endorsed a submission from the Premier to the Commonwealth government on occupational superannuation, which stated 'The Queensland Government is greatly concerned at the prospect of further regulatory requirements being imposed upon occupational superannuation and certainly would oppose any such requirements being imposed upon schemes operated within the area of Queensland Government Crown employment' (Dec. 42579).

Cabinet members decided in March that Queensland would stop supporting Women's Refuge Shelters if Commonwealth funding was withdrawn (Dec. 42679). Minister Muntz was particularly upset when the Commonwealth announced that expenditure would, in future, depend on the states contributing \$1 for every \$1 of Commonwealth money, meaning Queensland would need to find an extra \$400,000 at 'a time when the budget had been all but finalised'.

The benefits of Queensland compiling statistics independently of the Australian Bureau of Statistics were considered in July (Dec. 43548). All government departments were ordered, in October, not to work with the Commonwealth government with regard to Queensland statistics, and the appointment of a Queensland Government Statistician was approved in December (Dec. 44311, Dec 44827). The Government Statistician's Office was re-established as a separate entity under the *Statistical Returns Act 1896* (Dec 44828; Queensland Treasury website, 2009).

Education

Employment conditions, especially lump sum termination payments and Queensland's opposition to an application from the Assoc. of Professional Engineers to cover certain academic staff at Colleges of Advanced Education, were discussed in January (Dec. 42119). Queensland opposition to a Teachers Association, planned under Commonwealth legislation, was expressed in February (Dec. 42377). A Secret Minute noted Cabinet's rejection of an application for an award to cover academic staff in Colleges of Advanced

Education (Dec. 42391).

Overseas travel by Queensland Institute of Technology staff was considered in February, with Minister Powell saying he was 'disturbed' by college staff members accepting invitations without first gaining Cabinet's approval (Dec. 42366). Members decided to approve this particular request but 'expressed displeasure with the manner in which the matter has progressed' (Dec. 42385).

In February, members of Cabinet discussed 'the Aboriginal aspect' of a kit designed to teach students about a multicultural society. Queensland would inform the Commonwealth government that the books on offer were 'unsuitable' for students (Dec. 42337; *Courier-Mail*, 2/2/1984:3, 21/2/1984:2, 22/2/1984:16). 'Aborigines', said Minister Katter, 'had been considered separately' because 'they did not make a conscious decision to come to Australia'. He particularly objected to the kit's presentation of history: 'Many of the texts suggest that conflict was solely at the instigation of European settlers'. Five texts were classed as 'not suitable', with a further 11 able to be used 'with due consideration of bias'.

Cabinet approved the use of Commonwealth funds for school computer education programs at the same meeting (Dec. 42341). Education Minister Powell told members that the program, aimed at secondary schools, would have to be approved by the Commonwealth Education Minister. This, he said, was 'a further, unwarranted intrusion by the Commonwealth and its authorities into the administration and direction of education in state schools'.

The transfer of education on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities from the Department of Aboriginal and Islander Affairs to the Education Department was discussed in May, with Cabinet agreeing that full Education Department control would be achieved in January 1987 (Dec. 43079, Dec. 43849). This move, which had been announced during the 1983 election campaign, was still subject to discussions regarding financial arrangements between the two departments. Minister Katter, interviewed by the media, said the government 'had begun investigating teacher staffing and accommodation needs' (*Courier Mail*, 9/5/1984:12).

In September, Cabinet approved the abolition of the Student Allowance Scheme from the end of 1984, preventing 'embarrassment and public criticisms' about the 'unrealistic' means test, the low value of the scheme and the means of payment (Dec. 44087). Sex education classes for secondary school students were given the 'go-ahead' in October, but the low number attending was 'blamed on the media' (Dec 44327; *Courier-Mail*, 9/10/1984:1, 12/10/1984:13). Advertising in December encouraged families to purchase Commodore 64 computers, as 'contracted by the State Education Department' (*Courier Mail*, 15/12/1984:17).

Elections

Every state election day in Queensland since 1920 had been declared a public holiday to allow government employees to vote without losing work time. Cabinet decided in August that 'in future a holiday will not be declared on the occasion of an election' (Dec. 43979). No publicity would be given to this secret decision, which would save the government over \$1m in penalty rates. In October, members of Cabinet considered a submission on Election Act changes relating to identity cards for 18 year olds (Dec. 44352).

Electricity

In January, Cabinet rejected an application from the Nanango Shire Council for the rezoning of a 29 hectare block, deciding that the land's close proximity to 'substantial coal reserves' meant residential development could 'lead to the alienation of this important natural resource' (Dec. 42123). Electricity tariff changes were discussed in May, with restructuring and equalising to be carried out over the next two years (Dec. 43081). Tariffs for bulk customers would increase 12.5 per cent, and retail consumers would pay an extra 9.7 per cent (*Courier Mail*, 9/5/1984:1).

A meeting in March considered union proposals for the Queensland Electricity Supply Industry Employees' Superannuation Scheme, and rejected them as 'inconsistent with government policy' or more generous than other Queensland government superannuation schemes (Dec. 42739). In October, the members of Cabinet decided they had no objections to the Queensland Electricity Supply Industry Superannuation Board accepting an invitation to become a founding shareholder in Macquarie Bank, holding just under 10 per cent of the shares worth \$5.4m (Dec. 44406).

Ministers considered the permissible emission levels at the Stanwell power station in June and July (Dec. 43489, Dec. 43532). A potential coal surplus in Central Queensland was discussed by Cabinet in August and December, with members agreeing to vary the delivery of coal to the Callide power station to accommodate the over-supply (Dec. 43886, Dec. 44904).

Employment

Cabinet adopted recommendations on the role of the Public Service Board at meetings in February and November (Dec. 42430, Dec. 44699). The accompanying submission explained that 'an apolitical public service' was a central component of a Westminster System of government.

Details of the Community Employment Programme scheme were discussed by Cabinet at a number of meetings (Dec. 42688, Dec. 42875, Dec. 43741). Youth unemployment was considered in March and August (Dec. 42733, Dec. 43817).

Additional public service employees, as a result of new legislation, government initiatives and new facilities, were considered in November (Dec. 44775). Salaries of senior public servants were discussed in December (Dec. 44780). A submission on part-time employment, first discussed in February, was withdrawn in December (Dec. 42314, Dec. 44837, Dec. 44847).

Expo 88

An inter-departmental committee to publicise Expo 88 at New Orleans Expo 84 was discussed and approved in January and March (Dec. 42261, Dec. 42719). Minister McKechnie's visit to the US, which included New Orleans, was approved in March (Dec. 42582). A book promoting Expo 88 was also authorised in March (Dec. 42646).

Cabinet authorised the Premier to write to the Prime Minister in April, expressing Queensland's displeasure over 'the current lack of resolution of Commonwealth financial

involvement in Expo 88' (Dec. 42862). In June, Cabinet authorised a letter from the Premier to the Prime Minister, complaining that Commonwealth funding priorities threatened to delay the construction of a new international terminal at Brisbane Airport, needed for Expo 88 (Dec. 43292). Architects and managers for the Expo 88 site were also approved in June (Dec. 43301).

In January, members approved initial studies on the planned relocation of the Interstate Railway Station from South Brisbane to make way for Expo 88 (Dec. 42175, Dec. 42190). Roma Street was chosen as the new site in April (Dec. 42968). Minister Lane announced the decision in August (*Courier Mail*, 15/8/1984:1). Compensation for Queensland Railways was approved in September, and work on the new station began in October (Dec. 44080; *Courier-Mail*, 12/10/1984:13). Amendments to the Brisbane Town Plan, allowing the construction of the Roma Street Transit Centre to proceed, were approved in December (Dec. 44829).

Minister Katter, who reported on Musgrave Park (marked for inclusion in the Expo 88 site during 1983) presented several submissions about proposed replacement facilities (Dec. 42178, Dec. 42638). In principle approval for a new unemployed drop-in centre, housing and substance abuse programs was given.

Health

Industrial action by nurses and the shift in nursing education from hospitals to tertiary institutions were discussed by Cabinet at several meetings (Dec. 42158, Dec. 44081, Dec. 44510, Dec. 44929; *Courier-Mail*, 4/1/1984:3, 11/1/1984:13). Election promises regarding health were discussed at a meeting held in March, where Minister Austin spoke about progress in implementing policy commitments (Dec. 42528). These included the establishment of Child Guidance Clinics; breast, cervix and skin cancer screening programs; cancer prevention in general; home nursing subsidies; school dental and health services; and a new Vector Control Unit, to control dengue mosquitoes and other disease carriers (Dec. 42354). Cancer rates in Queensland were noted by Cabinet in May (Dec. 43166; *Courier-Mail*, 23/5/1984:1).

Amendments to the Dental Act, including a clause prohibiting unqualified individuals from advertising dental services, were approved in February (Dec. 42327). Cabinet members decided in April to release, for public discussion, the report of a Special Committee into IVF and artificial insemination laws (Dec. 42819, Dec. 43400). Health Act amendments, covering AIDS and blood donations, were approved in November (Dec. 44706). Newspaper reports said three Brisbane babies had died after being given blood containing AIDS (*Courier-Mail*, 16/11/1984:1).

Industrial relations

Union action resulted in blackouts hitting parts of the state in September (*Courier-Mail*, 6/9/1984:1, 7/9/1984:8). Further unrest led to an official electricity rationing order being announced on 30 October (*Courier-Mail*, 30/10/1984:16). Members of Cabinet were briefed on industrial issues in the electricity supply industry at every cabinet meeting held in 1984, as they had been in previous years.

Cabinet decided, in January, to block all union access to new employees for the purpose of running 'induction or training courses on the concepts of unionism' (Dec. 42188). In March, Cabinet endorsed new legislation to amend the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act and the Criminal Code (Dec. 42610). The preparation of a new Bill 'covering boycotts by trade unions and trade unionists' was also approved. This legislation, the Industrial (Commercial Practices) Act, was a crucial element of the electricity dispute ('the SEQEB strike') that affected Queensland in 1984 and 1985. A union ban on asbestos building products was discussed in April, and the substitution of alternative material to avoid delays and extra costs was approved (Dec. 42912).

In May, Minister Lester presented a submission on union membership in the public service (Dec. 43060). Cabinet had decided in November 1983 that union membership should not be a requirement for appointment or continued employment as a government employee (Dec. 41812). A meeting in March 1984 considered the removal of legislation covering employment preference and legislation banning compulsory unionism (Dec. 42610).

Four unions lodged applications for preference clauses and the new policy meant 'strong opposition' by the government was seen as necessary. Members decided, at a May meeting, to order the Public Service Board to 'take all necessary action to seek to have the claims for preference under the Public Service Award removed from hearing by a single Commissioner to a Full Bench of the Industrial Commission', and for Minister Lester to report further after discussions with employer organisations.

On 20 August 1984 the Full Bench of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission granted the union applications for the insertion of clauses giving preference to union members. In September, Cabinet agreed that new legislation would be prepared to 'prevent the insertion of preference clauses' (Dec. 44258). This action would 'have the advantage of covering all employees' and 'would apply in the future as well as negate existing clauses'.

A submission by the Premier for amendments to the *Essential Services Act* (introduced in 1979 to stop industrial disputes), that would force unions to prove they had complied with the Act rather than the government having to 'prove the negative', was rejected in October (Dec. 44291).

Cabinet decided, in November, that de-registration proceedings against the Australian Workers Union (AWU) and the Plumbers and Gas Fitters Employees Union would be suspended if the unions gave undertakings 'to comply with State Industrial Commission orders' and to not disrupt essential services (Dec. 44585). At the next meeting, Minister Lester reported that the AWU had only offered to comply 'where there has been a proclamation of emergency under the Essential Services Act' and was given permission to continue de-registration proceedings (Dec. 44639).

Education Minister Powell told Cabinet in November that teachers and other Education Department staff should be required to give undertakings (if they were not already union members) that they would join the union within two weeks, and his recommendation was accepted (Dec. 44709). Powell said without this decision he and the Director-General would be 'placed in a most difficult situation, while the credibility of the government could be at challenge'.

This subject was further considered at meetings in November and December. A submission on 'union preference and action against employees taking industrial action in public employment' was withdrawn after discussion in December (Dec. 44785). The Premier informed Cabinet members the Public Service Board would comply with the preference clause 'as it is law' but would reject union requests for information on new employees (Dec. 44836).

Industry assistance

A proposal to use the former GMH site at Acacia Ridge to assemble light commercial vehicles was rejected in February (Dec. 42424). Government vehicle purchases, against the backdrop of the closure of Holden manufacturing in Queensland, were discussed and authorised in May (Dec. 43162). In December, the purchase of 4359 new vehicles for the Public Service was approved, with a large increase in the number of Ford cars and utilities and a corresponding decrease in the number of Holden vehicles (Dec. 44807).

Cabinet approved Queensland's support of a secondary mortgage market (Dec. 43747, Dec. 44251, Dec. 44462, Dec. 44711; *Courier-Mail*, 20/9/1984:1). The Premier travelled to Europe with an Enterprise Queensland contingent in September, promoting investment and business opportunities (Dec. 42428). The subject of a mini steel mill was discussed at several Cabinet meetings in 1984, with a decision to encourage proposals from Quest Corporation and BHP reached in November (Dec. 44704).

Mining

A trial coal export to Hong Kong was approved in January (Dec. 42246). However, Mines and Energy Minister Gibbs advised Cabinet 'previous discussions have indicated that unless Chinese policies change, the prospects for the export of Queensland coal cannot be said to be optimistic'. The Premier and an Enterprise Queensland delegation visited China in March (*Courier-Mail*, 17/3/1984:1, 19/3/1984:1, 23/3/1984:1, 26/3/1984:2).

In February, members of Cabinet decided there was no need, at present, for a new oil pipeline from Moonie to Brisbane (Dec. 42405). They noted proposals from Prime Minister Hawke for co-operation between the iron and steel industries of Australia and China (Dec. 42476).

Cabinet discussed the election promises made with regard to mining at a meeting in March (Dec. 42574). BHP's purchase of Utah's coal mines, including the transfer of facilities at Gladstone and Hay Point, was covered by a new Bill amending the *Central Queensland Coal Areas Agreement Act* (Dec. 42764). The Lady Loretta mining development was considered at a number of meetings in 1984, with infrastructure contribution and rail freight rates decided in May (Dec. 43087).

Problems related to the export of coal from the West Moreton field, near Ipswich, were discussed at a number of Cabinet meetings (Dec. 43037, Dec. 43760, Dec. 43848). In October, one mining company's proposal to construct a 'people mover' at Expo 88 in exchange for coal purchases by the government was rejected (Dec. 44295).

Coal export freight rates were discussed and approved in April and May, but a dispute with coal mining companies over freight rates hit the news in the middle of the year (Dec.

42863, Dec. 43038; *Courier-Mail*, 13/5/1984:38, 22/5/1984:2, 1/6/1984:1, 19/6/1984:12; *Sunday Mail*, 19/5/1984:1). Coal exports reached new record levels during 1984, with Japan taking over 60 per cent of the state's production (*Sunday Mail*, 7/10/1984:10). A trial coal export to Spain was discussed in April and authorised in August, with another to Germany approved in October (Dec. 42897, Dec. 43986, Dec. 44482).

Miscellaneous

In 1984, Queensland celebrated the Year of the Family and the United Nations declared an International Year of Peace (Dec. 42193, Dec. 42599, Dec. 43024; *Courier-Mail*, 2/1/1984:2). Changes to the *Fauna Conservation Act*, allowing the killing of saltwater crocodiles if a person was 'in imminent danger of unprovoked attack' or removal of the animal was not 'practicable' were approved in January (Dec. 42145). Funds and support for box jellyfish research were approved in January and February (Dec. 42169, Dec. 42313).

Negotiations for redevelopment of Queensland House, in London, were approved in January (Dec. 42238). A request for a senior agronomist to give evidence at the Agent Orange Royal Commission was rejected in February (Dec. 42272). Legislation covering the establishment and operations of the Queensland Transport and Technology Museum at Coomera was approved in February, as was the temporary rental of an aircraft hangar in Victoria (Dec. 42325, Dec. 42496, Dec. 42810). However, the Coomera Museum was replaced by St Helena Island as a Bicentennial project (Dec. 43554, Dec. 44370). The new tropical branch of Queensland Museum, at Townsville, was authorised in August (Dec. 43998).

The Queensland government granted \$240,000 to the Douglas Shire Council, for construction of the Bloomfield-Cape Tribulation Road (Dec. 42136, Dec. 43842, Dec. 43897; *Courier-Mail*, 22/2/1984:3). According to one newspaper story, Cabinet called for 'tougher action' under existing laws to 'stop hordes of people on the dole' travelling to the road and joining the protest (*Courier-Mail*, 13/8/1984:1, 14/8/1984:10).

In March, members of Cabinet rejected moves to implement an Australian Fire Brigades Medal, preferring to retain the Imperial Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal or the Australian National Medal (Dec. 42554). Legislation, to 'provide that certain Imperial enactments continue in force in Queensland', was authorised in April (Dec. 42800).

Cabinet decided not to participate in Heritage Week during 1984, because of 'what appears a deliberate move' to 'duplicate Queensland Day' (Dec. 42583). Members also rejected any involvement with the Brisbane Conservation Atlas (Dec. 42583; *Courier-Mail*, 14/12/1984:18). 'There is a danger of Heritage Week becoming a vehicle for pressure on the Queensland Government', and both the atlas and the week had 'strong links through the participation of conservation groups'.

Legislation related to the "Save the Steam Car Fund" was discussed in March (Dec. 42689; *Courier-Mail*, 20/3/1984:1, 21/3/1984:13). 'Dubious' financial arrangements and suspicions about those involved, including several parliamentarians, were mentioned (*Courier-Mail*, 21/3/1984:13).

The selection of the Australia Day public holiday was mentioned in April and held over until the next Premiers' Conference (Dec. 42814). Minister Lester noted 'Patriotism appears to be running at a high' and thought the public holiday should be observed on 26 January, 'no matter what day of the week it falls'. Censorship of videotapes by amendments to the *Censorship of Films Act* was approved in April (Dec. 42835; *Courier-Mail*, 3/4/1984:1).

The gift of koalas to Japanese zoos was considered at several meetings (Dec. 42909, Dec. 43894, Dec. 44787). The Premier accompanied the first koalas to Japan in October [*Courier-Mail*, 26/10/1984:3]. Amending legislation, to prohibit the sale of motor vehicles on Sundays, was passed in April (Dec. 42804). Government opposition to convenience stores at service stations was also confirmed in April, but fuel companies won court battles and began building combined food and petrol outlets (Dec. 42925; *Courier-Mail*, 29/4/1984:3, 1/6/1984:23, 5/11/1984:3).

Police use of Government Air Wing planes, when not needed by politicians, was approved in April (Dec. 42774). The purchase of a HS 125-800 jet for the Government Air Wing, at a cost of \$7.5m, was approved in April (Dec. 42928; *Courier-Mail*, 17/4/1984:1). According to one parliamentarian, the Air Wing's chief pilot Beryl Young was the Premier's 'real minder' (*Sunday Mail*, 28/10/1984:3). Purchase of a new State Emergency Service helicopter, to be based in Cairns, was authorised in September (Dec. 44219; *Courier-Mail*, 12/10/1984:13, 24/12/1984:3).

Cabinet decided, in April, that the Royal Anthem ('God Save the Queen') would be played at all official events, including daily flag-raising ceremonies at schools, rather than the 'Australian National Anthem' (Dec. 42974; *Courier-Mail*, 30/4/1984:11). The Premier was knighted in June and awarded an honorary law degree by the University of Queensland in October (*Courier Mail*, 2/6/1984:2; *Sunday Mail*, 25/11/1984:14).

New funding arrangements for fire services were considered in September, with Cabinet deciding to announce 'at an appropriate moment' that Fire Service Levies in 1984 would not be increased on residential land (Dec. 44152). Levies on commercial and industrial land would 'remain confidential' until May 1985.

A Government Advertising Officer, under the Premier's control, was approved in January (Dec. 42234, Dec 42956). Objections from tertiary education institutions to standardised forms of government advertising were overruled but grammar schools were permitted to retain their own logos (Dec. 44418, Dec. 44912). The government withdrew all advertising from the *Courier-Mail* and the *Sunday Mail* from the beginning of November, preferring cheaper advertising in the Murdoch owned *Daily Sun* and the *Sunday Sun* instead (Dec. 42956, Dec. 44457; *Courier-Mail*, 23/10/1984:2, 8/11/1984:2, 16/11/1984:13, 5/12/1984:2).

The Aspley hypermarket, first discussed by Cabinet in 1983, opened for business (Dec. 41005; *Courier-Mail*, 5/11/1984:16, 8/11/1984:3). A 'bread price war' erupted across Brisbane late in the year, when supermarkets temporarily reduced the price of a loaf of bread from 85 cents to 64 cents (*Courier-Mail*, 8/12/1984:1, 11/12/1984:11). Minister Turner subsequently obtained approval for new legislation to control bread industry sales (Dec. 44911).

In November, Cabinet members decided not to support a proposed America's Cup Challenge scheme, involving an Art Union with a luxury cruiser as first prize (Dec 44691;

Sunday Mail, 8/7/1984:1). Queensland's new Middle East office opened at Bahrain in December (Dec. 43061, Dec. 44413, Dec. 44630; *Courier-Mail*, 19/12/1984:11).

Parliament

The Premier described the Australian Labor Party in February as 'ten little nigger boys' (*Courier-Mail*, 21/2/1984:8). Cabinet decided, in February, to take no further action over a *Courier-Mail* article on Parliamentary questions 'relating to allegations of corruption' (Dec. 42434; *Courier-Mail*, 9/2/1984:1-2, 10/2/1984:1-2).

In a Secret Minute, Cabinet members decided in June to seek advice on the tax status of Members' Electorate Allowances (Dec. 43422). A meeting of the Parliamentary National Party, earlier in the year, had voted to establish a Tribunal to investigate Parliamentary salaries and allowances, 'to relieve the present situation where considerable sums of money go from especially country Members of Parliament in Queensland to the Federal coffers'. The Tribunal was further discussed at two meetings in September (Dec. 44194 and Dec. 44208). The subject was eventually withdrawn in October (Dec. 44301).

The Premier threatened to ban journalists from 'loitering' near the Cabinet Room in the Executive Building (*Courier-Mail*, 17/7/1984:2). An alleged security breach of Parliament House, 'during the last session of Parliament', was revealed one week after the 'threat': a person with a tape recorder and microphone was seen outside the Premier's office 'Bug scare: Joh's security tightened', *Courier-Mail* 21/7/1984:3). 'Sir Joh said he had not recognised the person as being a member of the Queensland Parliamentary Press Gallery. Later, as attendants approached, the person left the building in haste'.

The reasons for the switch of state government advertising from Queensland Newspapers to the Murdoch press, in October, was supposedly leaked to the media: 'a most senior Minister told his Cabinet colleagues: "That'll teach them a lesson"' ('A commercial decision, but "That'll teach them a lesson"', *Sunday Mail*, 28/10/1984:24).

Members agreed, in July, to fund the response to a defamation action launched against Minister McKechnie (Dec. 43617). A similar decision was reached in September, when Opposition Leader Wright began defamation proceedings against the Premier (Dec. 44163).

Computerisation of the Parliamentary Library's catalogue was authorised in September (Dec. 44257).

Police and crime

Amendments to the Criminal Code, related to the substitution of 'mentally handicapped Person' in place of the terms 'idiot' and 'imbecile' were approved in January (Dec. 42116).

A feasibility study on repairs to riot damage at the Brisbane Prison was approved in January (Dec. 42164). Cabinet decided in November that Sir David Longland would conduct an inquiry into allegations of corruption and poor administration at Brisbane prison (Dec. 44774). Minister Muntz said he was 'determined' to find out if there was corruption occurring, and wanted to see those identified as being corrupt 'dealt with according to law'.

A Bill to repeal the Weekend Detention Act was passed in January (Dec. 42235). A Bill to provide 'adequate' penalties for extortion was discussed in January and February, after a threat was made to release foot-and-mouth virus in Australia (Dec. 42261, Dec. 42374, Dec. 42387; *Courier-Mail*, 201/1984:1). The 'example' of 'terrorism' given was a threat to 'blow up a shopping centre unless all sand mining on Moreton Island was stopped'. A reward of \$50,000 was offered for any information (Dec. 42239; *Courier-Mail*, 21/1/1984:1, 24/01/1984:1). The new Bill was approved in April (Dec. 42780; *Courier-Mail*, 13/4/1984:4). A prisoner was later charged with threatening to release the virus, although a second threat was received late in the year (*Courier-Mail*, 19/6/1984:9, 5/12/1984:1).

A Police Union campaign over forced transfers and related allegations of defamation were discussed by Cabinet in January and July (Dec. 42229, Dec. 43646; *Courier-Mail*, 29/5/1984:9, 7/6/1984:19). Members of Cabinet considered the provision of police housing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and locality allowances in February and July (Dec. 42357, Dec. 42401, Dec. 42440, Dec. 43677). Queensland's opposition to a proposed Australian Confederation of Police was confirmed in July (Dec. 43567). Following an oral submission from the Premier, members agreed that the deduction of union fees on behalf of the Queensland Police Union should cease (Dec. 43748).

Funding requirements were 'to be considered in terms of relative priorities' as previously decided in 1983 (Dec. 40868, Dec. 43315). However, extra funds were approved in June and July (Dec. 43519, Dec. 43543). A defamation case against a serving police officer was discussed in July, with Cabinet agreeing to reimburse legal costs (Dec. 43532). Further legal costs incurred by the Police Union defending police in court cases were approved for payment in November (Dec. 44613, Dec. 44614).

A submission on 'Road Accidents and Alcohol' was discussed in February, with Ministers agreeing to all recommendations except one (random breath testing): 'A comprehensive set of formal and informal controls be introduced to foster reduction of drink driving, along with a measuring system to monitor its effectiveness' (Dec. 42311, Dec. 42382; *Courier-Mail*, 21/2/1984:3). In May, Cabinet members decided to defer random breath testing for another year, instead passing amending legislation for increased roadside testing (Dec. 42311). Traffic Act amendments covering drink-driving offences were also passed in May (Dec. 43194). Special driver's licences were approved in June, allowing convicted drink-drivers to continue travelling to and from work (Dec. 43303).

Cabinet considered National Crime Authority operations in October, deciding to order all departments to not cooperate with the Commonwealth (Dec. 44387). A meeting in December decided that Senior Protective Security Officers would not be provided with firearms as part of their duties at the Law Courts Complex (Dec 44896).

In November, an opposition parliamentarian criticised Police Commissioner Lewis in connection with a child pornography scandal unveiled by the *Courier-Mail* (*Courier-Mail*, 26/11/1984:1, 11/12/1984:1, 18/12/1984:1). Cabinet considered the allegations of male prostitution and child pornography in December, authorising a Justice Department investigation (Dec. 45001). Lewis denied he was 'inactive' and claimed that 'a small group of incompetent and disloyal police was trying to undermine him' (*Sunday Mail*, 15/12/1984:3, 16/12/1984:3).

Conclusion

In 1984, koalas were given to Japanese zoos and service stations in Brisbane began selling food. A new Queensland Government Air Wing jet arrived. Cabinet decided that 'God Save the Queen' would be played at all official events and places, including schools, rather than the National Anthem. The Premier was knighted in June and awarded an honorary law degree by the University of Queensland in October. The Government withdrew all advertising from the *Courier-Mail* and the *Sunday Mail*. The Premier called the ALP 'ten little nigger boys' and threatened to remove journalists from the vicinity of the Cabinet Room.

New Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community services legislation and award wages for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees were signs of policy movement. The transfer of health services in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities from the Department of Aboriginal and Islander Affairs to the Health Department was an important change, as was the transfer of education on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities from the Department of Aboriginal and Islander Affairs to the Education Department.

Traffic Act amendments covering drink-driving offences were passed. A scandal involving police, child pornography and prostitution erupted in Brisbane at the year's end.

Amendments to the *City of Brisbane Act*, providing for the election of the Mayor by popular vote, were also important changes. The implementation of a combined Somerset and Wivenhoe dams flood operational manual would have important implications in later years. The North Stradbroke Island bridge proposal caused ongoing debate.

Cabinet approved a bid to encourage a secondary mortgage market in Queensland. The decision to hold taxes, but increase all government fees, charges, fares and freights was controversial. Financing of coal terminals allowed coal exports to increase. Premier Bjelke-Petersen visited China in March. A dispute with coal mining companies over freight rates flared mid-year, but coal exports reached new record levels, with Japan as the state's biggest customer.

Queensland expressed displeasure over the Commonwealth's hesitation in funding Expo 88, but pressed ahead regardless. The relocation of the Interstate Railway Station from South Brisbane to Roma Street began. The new Gold Coast rail link edged closer. Increases in electricity charges were not welcomed.

1984 was an important year with regard to industrial relations. A new Bill blocking union boycotts was approved. Compulsory unionism was condemned, but unions won the battle to insert clauses giving preference to union members. Cabinet responded with new legislation to prevent the insertion of preference clauses. The Premier persuaded Cabinet to stop the deduction of union fees on behalf of the Queensland Police Union.