



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Culture and the Arts**
State Records Office of Western Australia



A Guide to the 1984 State Cabinet Records

Prepared by: The State Records Office of Western Australia

Contents

Introduction	2
Overview	3
A Description of the 1984 State Cabinet records	4
Events and Issues in WA Politics in 1984	6
Events that Made the News in 1984	8
Selected State Cabinet Deliberations: 10 January 1983 – 31 December 1984	10
State Cabinet Members: 25 February 1983 – 31 December 1984	24

Introduction

Each year the State Records Office of WA (SRO) marks Western Australia Day by publishing online a Guide to State Cabinet records which have been released from their 30-year access restriction time period. This year's Guide comprises information from Cabinet minutes and decisions from 1984, concentrating on those records documenting the second year of Brian Burke's Labor Government. Last year's Guide documented the first 10 1/2 months of the Burke Government until its last Cabinet meeting on December 1983.

Included in this Guide is an overview of the international, national and state issues and events of 1984.

State Cabinet records are historically significant documents which reveal the decisions made by the government of the day. These unique records are the primary source documents for information about the issues raised at Cabinet meetings. This Guide is provided to assist the Western Australian community access these records.

The State Cabinet records, 16 January 1984 – 10 December 1984, comprise State Cabinet Minutes and Decisions (ref: Series 1228).

The records are held by the SRO, the authority responsible for identifying, managing, preserving and providing the community with access to the State's archives. These records are available through the SRO's Search Room situated on the Ground Floor of the Alexander Library Building, James Street Mall - Perth Cultural Centre. The SRO Search Room is open Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 4.30pm.

For further details about accessing original Cabinet Minutes and Decisions, please contact the SRO on 9427 3600 or email sro@sro.wa.gov.au.

N.B. This year (2015) the Guide to the State Cabinet Records has been produced with the assistance of Ms Robin Barnes, an Arts student majoring in Professional Writing, Editing and Publishing at Curtin University. Ms Barnes researched the State Cabinet Minutes and Decisions and drafted the Guide during her placement as an intern secured through the Public Sector Commission's 2014 WA State Government Internship Program.

Overview

The primary set of records referred to in this Guide is called 'Cabinet Minutes and Decisions.' State Cabinet decisions include agendas and submissions to Cabinet and are listed chronologically.

The nature of recording Cabinet minutes and decisions has changed over time. In more recent times, the documentation associated with a Cabinet decision tends to be more extensive. In 1984, the documentation and supporting documents associated with a Cabinet deliberation was attached to the vast majority of the decisions. A pro forma 'Cabinet Decisions' sheet was attached to many of the topics discussed to enable the subject, decision (approval or otherwise) of Cabinet, and additional comments qualifying Cabinet's decisions, could be clearly and easily recorded.

Unlike the release of Cabinet papers at the Commonwealth level, where records comprising more sensitive information can be embargoed beyond the restriction access period for the remaining records, all of the State Cabinet records for Western Australia are released for public access 30 years after the records were created.

Description of the 1984 State Cabinet Records

Cabinet Minutes and Decisions

State Cabinet Minutes and Decisions are the original, primary source documents that provide a record of government decisions made at Cabinet meetings. These documents contain the names of the Ministers present and absent at each meeting, copies of submissions to Cabinet (including ministerial recommendations), supporting reports, summaries or reviews for these submissions, and a record of relevant decisions, approvals, deferrals and rejections by State Cabinet.

Location: State Records Office of Western Australia

Reference: Series 1228, Consignment 2884 (files 1984/026 V2 -1984/912 V2).

Quantity: 29 files.

Series 1228	File number	Beginning – End Dates
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/026 V2	16/01/1984 – 23/01/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/026 V3	06/02/1984 - 13/02/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/026 V4	13/02/1984 - 20/02/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/132 V1	27/02/1984 – 06/03/2014
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/132 V2	12/03/1984 – 12/03/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/132 V3	19/03/1984 -19/03/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/132 V4	26/06/1984 – 02/04/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/213 V1	09/04/1984 – 09/04/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/213 V2	16/04/1984 -16/04/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/213 V3	30/04/1984 -07/05/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/210 V4	15/05/1984 – 21/05/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/407 V1	28/05/1984 – 28/05/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/407 V2	05/06/2014 – 11/06/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/407 V3	18/06/1984 – 25/06/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/407 V4	02/07/1984 – 16/07/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/595 V1	23/07/1984 – 23/07/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/595 V2	30/07/1984 – 06/08/1984

Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/595 V3	13/08/1984 – 20/8/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/595 V4	27/08/1984 – 27/08/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/775 V1	10/09/1984 – 10/09/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	184/775 V2	17/09/1984 – 17/09/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/775 V3	24/09/1984 – 24/09/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/775 V4	08/10/1984 – 08/10/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/797 V1	08/10/1984 – 15/10/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/797 V2	22/10/1984 – 29/10/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/797 V3	05/11/1984 – 05/11/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/797 V4	12/11/1984 – 19/11/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/912 V1	26/11/1984 – 26/11/1984
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/912 V2	03/12/1984 – 10/12/1984

Events and Issues in WA Politics in 1984⁽¹⁾

On 23 January 1984 Mr Paul Seaman issued a 110 page discussion paper outlining his current position of the issues and included support for granting Aborigines a veto over mining on their land, (though not over preliminary exploration for minerals) and freehold title over land granted to them.

In January 1984 the news focus also fell on the Opposition with a leadership challenge smouldering from the previous year. Supporters of Mr Barry McKinnon MLA approached the former Premier and Leader of the Liberal Party, Hon. Ray O'Connor, to stand down, which he refused to do. The chief mover, Mr Ian Thompson MLA, then then resigned from the shadow ministry on 10 February.

In February, WA producers of iron ore agreed in principle to an 11.85 per cent cut in ore prices from April following a reduction of over 12 per cent the previous year. The government concentrated its efforts on the growing Chinese market, returning from a twelve-day mission, announcing that China would double its purchase of Pilbara iron ore.

On 22 March Parliament resumed with nine bills on the notice paper from 1983. The session ended on 30 May with a total of 157 bills being introduced during the session of which 130 passed. Significantly the Government's proposed amendments to the industrial relations legislation; originally introduced in the 1983 was discharged.

In April, the long awaited report of the Beazley inquiry was released – 450 pages with 272 recommendations. Significant changes were advised to the Achievement Certificate for lower secondary school students. Recommendations also included proposals for gifted and talented children, disabled and intellectually handicapped children to enter the wider school system. On 7 April a referendum on Daylight Saving was held, with over 54% of voters rejecting the proposal.

In May, the Metropolitan Regional Planning Authority gave its approval for the construction of Observation City hotel, by Austmark International, a subsidiary of the Bond Corporation. At a cost of \$100 million dollars, a three-towered building on the Scarborough beachfront was one of the three projects approved by the Scarborough City Council. The Scarborough Ratepayers' Association accused the government of breaking a promise over the decision.

On 1 July Professor Gordon Reid took up his post as Governor of WA, succeeding Sir Richard Trowbridge who had retired the previous November. The appointment of Professor Reid, formerly of Professor of Politics at the University of Western Australia and who had been engaged in writing a history of the Australian Parliament was generally welcomed.

In August legislation to abolish the death penalty passed both houses of Parliament. In the same month a feasibility study commenced for a new iron ore mine in the Pilbara, involving Hamersley Iron and the Chinese government.

In October a WA government working party recommended a national park for the Bungle Bungle ranges in the Kimberley. The proposal was for the park to be jointly managed by a parks agency and local Aboriginal people. Aboriginal land rights were a continuing issue throughout 1984, causing disagreement between State and Federal governments. Proposals for Aboriginal veto over mining and exploration, and the Commonwealth power to override states to give short term protection to sacred

sites caused some friction. In November the Prime Minister gave an undertaking that the Federal Government would not legislate to override a WA land rights package.

In December the Conservation and Land Management Bill which amalgamated the Forests Department, the wildlife section of Fisheries and Wildlife Department and the National Parks Authority was passed by Parliament. Also in December a peace camp was set up by women's groups at Point Peron to protest visits by nuclear warships and submarines to Fremantle and Cockburn Sound.

- (1) 'Events and issues in WA politics' was compiled from *The Australian journal of politics and history*, Volumes 30 & 31 [1984 & 1985]. Brisbane, Queensland University Press.

World Events that Made the News in 1984 ⁽²⁾

1984 was a year of the new beginnings and achievements across the world and in Australia. The AIDS virus was discovered and Stonewashed jeans first appeared. The term “cyberspace” was first coined by William Gibson in his novel “Neuromancer” and in 1984 Apple Computers released the Macintosh personal computer.

In 1984 Indira Gandhi, the 4th Prime Minister of India, was assassinated at her New Delhi residence. Brunei became a fully independent state, also becoming the sixth member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. 1984 also saw the continuation of the devastating Ethiopian famine.

In August the Space Shuttle “Discovery” was launched. That year Astronaut Kathryn D. Sullivan became the first American woman to perform a space-walk from the Space Shuttle “Challenger”.

In 1984 the Chrysler Corporation introduced the first vehicles to be officially labelled as “Minivans”. Elton John married Renate Blauel in Sydney on Valentine’s Day.

In the United States in November 1984 Ronald Reagan was re-elected in a landslide election despite his infamous speech outlawing Russia forever and stating that America would “begin bombing in five minutes”. Geraldine Ferraro becomes the first woman Vice Presidential running mate.

The United Kingdom and the People’s Republic of China sign the initial agreement to return Hong Kong to China in 1997. Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau announced his retirement. In 1984 Crack Cocaine was first introduced into Los Angeles and its use rapidly spread across the United States. English comedian Tommy Cooper suffered a massive heart attack and died while live on TV. Michael Jackson’s hair caught fire during the shooting of Pepsi commercial.

Australian Events that Made the News in 1984 ⁽²⁾

In January 1984 Aboriginal leader Lowitja (Lois) O’Donoghue became Australian of the Year. In February 1984 Medicare came into effect in Australia. On 19 April 1984 “Advance Australia Fair” was officially proclaimed as Australia’s national anthem and green and gold as the national colours. Adopted by plebiscite as the national song in 1977, ‘Advance Australia Fair’ replaced ‘God Save the Queen’.

The dollar coin and one hundred dollar note was introduced in Australia. Australian Banks were also deregulated. On 3 October Tim Macartney-Snape and Greg Mortimer became the first Australians to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

In New South Wales homosexuality between consenting adult males was decriminalized. A National Crime Authority was established following a bikie shootout in September when 7 people were shot dead and 12 more wounded in a dispute between rival gangs in the Sydney suburb of Milperra.

Lady Joan Lindsay author of “Picnic in Hanging Rock”, which was later turned into a film, died aged 88. On Channel 9 “Hey, Hey Its Saturday” moved to 9.30pm and renamed “Hey, Hey its Saturday Night” with Darryl Summers as the presenter.

Popular Films of the year were 'Star Trek III: The Search for Spock', 'Ghostbusters' and 'The Neverending Story'. Popular Songs of the year were Stevie Wonder's 'I Just called to say I Love You'; Wham's 'Wake me up before you Go Go' and Cyndi Lauper's 'Girls just want to have fun'.

In December, the Federal government led by Bob Hawke was re-elected after an early election was held to bring the House of Representatives and Senate elections back in line after the 1983 double dissolution election. It had been widely expected that the Hawke-led party would easily be re-elected but the government's majority was significantly reduced.

Western Australia became the last Australian state to abolish capital punishment in 1984.

In WA in 1984 a typist earned \$15,000 per year. In 1984 prices included a BBQ steak at \$3.87 per kg and a leg of lamb at \$4.49 each. Whitehorse Scotch cost \$14.98 for 750ml and a 4 litre cask of wine was \$4.85. Butter was \$1.42 for 500 grams, Weet-bix was 99cents per 750 grams, Carrots 39 cents per kilo and Californian Navel Oranges were \$1 per kilo.

The average house price in Perth in 1984 was \$48,000. A two bedroom flat in Mosman Park could be rented at \$48 per week. A new Mitsubishi Sigma car was \$8,774.

In 1984 bus, rail and ferry fares for increased by 10%. Vehicle licensing fees increased by 3% as did the fuel franchise level for diesel and petrol.

In 1984 a 115g jar of Vegemite was the first product in Australia to be electronically scanned at a checkout.

(2) The information for this section comes from [Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopaedia](#). *1984 in Australia*, *The West Australian* and *The Sunday Times* newspapers for 1984, and 1984 WA State Cabinet Minutes and Decisions (Series 1228, Cons 2884).

State Cabinet Deliberations in 1984 (Selected)

The subjects and dates of deliberations are stated as recorded in the 1984 Minutes and Decisions of State Cabinet.

Aboriginal Land Inquiry

16 & 23 Jan, 24 Sept

State Cabinet endorsed a discussion paper prepared by the Aboriginal Land Commissioner, Mr Paul Seaman QC regarding the implementation of State policy on Aboriginal Land Rights. Mr Seaman's paper proposed to give Aboriginal holders of freehold land and the power to veto mine development. Cabinet agreed to purchase Bow River Station at a cost of \$450,000 on behalf of the Warum Aboriginal Community. Confirmation in writing was required that the community would abide by the terms of the Pastoral Leases and the Mines and Petroleum Acts.

Clearing Agricultural Land; Rural Lands Improvements

16 Jan, 6 Feb

The Cabinet proposed to instigate a system for controlling indiscriminate clearing of agricultural land. Labor Party platform accepted the desirability to leave the land in its natural state to maintain water quality and enhance the environment. The Soil Conservation Advisory Committee recommended this approach, as did several Shire Councils, the Conservation Council and other conservation groups. Cabinet approved the application of a system of assessing land prior to approval for clearing within the Soil and Land Conservation Act. In February Cabinet acknowledged the need for improved planning for land use in rural areas. A task force was proposed to conduct an inquiry into statutory planning.

Burswood Casino; Burswood Island

23 Jan, 2 & 30 April, 19 & Nov

Cabinet discussed legislation to enable a casino being established in WA. It was planned that this casino would be located on Burswood Island, having a monopoly within 100kms of Perth. Cabinet approved the proposed introduction of the Casino Control Bill 1984 to Parliament on 30 April. In November Cabinet approved the Minister for Administrative Services, David Parker, to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Government for the construction and establishment of the casino. The proposed site was 12.5 hectares of crown land on Burswood Island. The joint venturers would pay \$30 million and spend approximately \$11.5 million to develop and beautify the remainder of the "A" Class Reserve. The first stage of the project was estimated to cost \$200 million dollars and would include an Exhibition Centre to promote tourism.

Proposed Solar Housing Estate

6 Feb

The State Government proposed stimulus for widespread development of solar housing estates to promote low energy consumption buildings. The release of land for sale would be thirty blocks per land auction. Site features would be enhanced with underground power cables and landscaping, thus creating and promoting the concept of low energy living in a uniquely attractive development.

Soccer Football Pools

6 Feb, 9 April

Cabinet approved the preparation to draft a bill to allow soccer football pools to be run in WA. Legislation was tabled in Parliament on 9 April which had amendments to the Police Act and Lotteries Act to allow soccer football pools to be conducted legally. The Minister was given the authority to issue a license for a period not in excess of ten years.

Star Swamp

13 Feb, 26 Nov

Cabinet has approved the Star Swamp Reserve, which encompassed an area of approximately 96 hectares to be reserved, in accordance with the pre-election undertakings by the newly elected Labor Government. Star Swamp was preserved as a whole system creating an "A" class reserve, vested in the City of Stirling for the conservation of flora and fauna. Initially Cabinet had re-affirmed a decision to reserve only 47.8 hectares. But on 16 January, Cabinet approved the retention of the entire Star Swamp area after reconsideration and input from all interested groups.

Amendments to the Building Society Act

20 Feb, 20 Aug, 8 Oct

Minister Wilson sought amendments to the Building Society Act to allow Western Australian Permanent Building Society and others to compete more fully "in a changing marketplace". This move was seen as providing greater service to members while remaining major housing lending institutions.

Industrial Relations Act – Amendments

27 Feb, 25 June, 6 & 13 August

Amendments to the Industrial Relations Act were reintroduced with minor modifications in April. A heated debate ensued about the provision to widen the definition of "*industrial matter*" to embrace sub-contract workers, teachers, academics, agricultural, pastoral, and domestic workers and public servants. The Industrial Commission was to be given the power to investigate contracts that were considered unfair.

Rural Adjustment Scheme Act

12 March, 9 April, 7 May, 11 June

Emergency Relief Loans for farmers in hardship had been refused under the Act on the grounds of non-viability of farms in the long term. A Special Loans Scheme was provided for assistance to be given, so long as there was equity in the property and other requirements were for carry-on loans under the Rural Adjustment Scheme Act.

Equal Opportunity Bill

12 March, 30 April, 13 & 27 Aug, 10 Sept

Further changes to the Equal Opportunity Bill on 30 April were approved by Cabinet, abolishing discrimination on the grounds of sex, marital status, pregnancy, race, religious or political conviction in all areas of facilities and services. Cabinet approval included the condemnation of discrimination within the workplace and that all employees should be treated equally regardless of their gender, race or religious convictions.

Aboriginal Deaths in Custody; Roebourne Inquest - Union Legal Costs

19 March, 23 July

The Premier received a written request to grant an ex-gratia payment from the WA Police Union for the legal costs of their members charged with manslaughter of John Pat after his death in custody. John Pat was a sixteen-year-old Aboriginal boy involved in a melee in Roebourne in 1983 and who had died. It was alleged at the Coronial enquiry into his death that he died after he was punched by a police officer, causing him to fall and hit his head on the pavement. In July, Cabinet approved the request from the Police Union to be paid an ex-gratia payment of \$135,918 for the cost of legal representation at the Coronial Enquiry into the death of John Pat of Roebourne, together with other subsequent legal cost for unrelated prosecutions of police officers.

Financial Institutions Duty (FID)

19 March, 2 April, 23 July, 20 Aug, 17 Sept, 29 Oct, 3 Dec

The FID was a charge on deposits to bank accounts, etc., and in WA this measure became effective on 1 January 1984. It received quite a hostile reception in WA. It was reported to Cabinet that the FID was expected to produce \$38 million for the State Government in a full year. The Premier gave a commitment to review all aspects of FID after it had been in operation for six months.

Acts Amendment (Bingo) Bill 1984

9 April

State Cabinet approved the printing of the Acts Amendment (Bingo) Bill 1984 to amend the Lotteries Control and Liquor Act allowing the playing of bingo on certain licensed premises. This included both a religious or charitable organisations that conducted bingo on unlicensed premises. Permits would not be granted in

conjunction with the sale of liquor on unlicensed premises without the necessary permits.

Income Support for Young People

9 April

Cabinet authorised negotiations with the Commonwealth government on income support for young people. Young people would be eligible for the allowance from the end of the calendar year in which they were legally entitled to leave school.

Local Government Projects

9 April, 17 Sept

An amount of \$1,174,566 million dollars from Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities was been allocated in the 1983/1984 programme. This included works for the Ray Owen Reserve basketball stadium in Kalamunda and the indoor sports arena at Esperance. Mount Magnet received funds for a community sporting complex and the hockey field in Boyup Brook had further improvements made to its grounds. Many other projects in outlying areas also received funding for new sporting venues or to upgrade current facilities.

Fitzroy River Floods

16 April

Due to heavy flooding State Cabinet declared a natural disaster in the Fitzroy River area of the Kimberley Region. The scope of the extent of damage to roads could not be determined until the water subsided. It was estimated that the cost to repair roads and significant parts of the area's infrastructure would cost \$1 million.

Sexist Advertising

16 April

Ministers were advised that to portray women in a sexist manner within their advertising material was not acceptable. Examples noted were: cartoons of women with large breasts and short skirts; alluding to women needing a male supervisor to achieve something, or that only men are able to operate certain kinds of machinery, such as computers, trucks or Geiger counters. Every government department was to ensure all advertising material produced by their departments was examined with a view to identifying sexist advertisements. Instructions were issued to undertake a planned programme to withdraw sexist advertising material and replace it with inoffensive material so that it would appeal to the other 50% of the market.

Clinical Trials for the TRONADO/Very High Frequency treatment

30 April

The previously controversial Tronado/VHF treatment trial had Cabinet support for funding of \$100,000 to conduct a 2.5 year clinical trial for the treatment of cancer. Some 100 patients would be involved in this trial. The cost of the trial would be recouped from the Cancer Council on its termination.

Volunteer Sea Search and Rescue - Association of WA

30 April, 2 Oct

Cabinet gave in principle support for an increase in funding support for this group. Cabinet approval on 2 October increased funding from \$30,000 to \$70,000 in 1984/85. Included was a payment subsidy of \$2 from State funds for each \$1 raised by group funding. The Minister for Police was to decide on the priority and level of annual funding to each approved sea rescue group.

Potato Industry Production and Marketing Arrangements (Report of the Working Party on the Potato Industry)

7 May, 29 Oct, 5 Nov

Cabinet endorsed, in principle, the recommendations of the report of the working party on the potato industry in WA. This committee presented their findings in April 1984 and recommended that all controls on the potato production and marketing be dropped after three years. WA potatoes were the only plant product with State production controls. Growers accepted that changes were necessary in order to expand their industry. The Minister for Agriculture recommended that a task force be appointed to examine the requirements of a marketing authority to implement the recommendations of the report.

America's Cup Defence

7 May, 5 & 18 June

Cabinet gave in principle approval to the construction of marina facilities at Fremantle and Sorrento on the basis of joint funding with the Federal Government and Royal Perth Yacht Club (RPYC). Fremantle fishing boat harbour would accommodate America's Cup craft and support vehicles. The Ocean Marina seawall at Sorrento was expected to accommodate the anticipated spectator fleet. The RPYC intended to conduct the international 12-metre world championships in March 1986, making the provision of these facilities very urgent. An unprecedented high level of interest in the America's Cup was expected. On 5 June, Cabinet directed Department of Marine and Harbours to call for tenders within the private sector for the construction of the Ocean Marina sea walls and Marina facilities at Fremantle and Sorrento.

Provision of Equal Opportunity for the Disabled

7 May, 25 June

On 13 April Cabinet resolved that Hon. Graham Edwards would convene a working party to develop draft legislation to cover equal opportunities and anti-discrimination provisions for the disabled. This strategy would be worked into the Equal Opportunity Act. The establishment of the working group was timed to coincide with the introduction of the Equal Opportunity Bill in Parliament's spring session.

Aboriginal Heritage Act

21 May

Cabinet endorsed the proposal to recommend a declaration of fourteen Aboriginal sites in the Argyle area as protected areas under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972-80. The previous government had made a promise to the relevant Aboriginal people in 1980 but it had not granted protection to these areas.

Peel, Harvey Study – Phase 3

21 May, 6 Feb, 10 Sept

Recommendations were approved for an extension on the employment of staff for a further three-year term, to continue the Peel-Harvey Estuary Study. In line with an election promise State Cabinet endorsed a fertilizer modification programme in the catchment area, as well as evaluation of methods to improve marine flushing of the estuary, estimated to cost \$1,045,000. A study was undertaken to remove the algae problem and create a healthy environment for marine life living in the estuary.

Harbour Lights Gold Mine

28 May

The Aboriginal Lands Trust and the Harbour Lights Joint Venturers agreed to a proposal for mining to proceed on the Leonora reserve with the Joint Venturers to meet the cost of a formal contract. Agreement was reached with the Leonora Aboriginal Land Trust, Esso Minerals and other Joint Venture participants. State Cabinet approved the decision of the Minister for Minerals and Energy, Hon. David Parker, to permit mining.

“X” Rated Material

5 June, 28 June, 10 Sept

Cabinet endorsed and accepted an advisory committee's recommendations to ban the sale or hire of “X” rated material in WA. It was planned that the sale or hire of any existing material classified as “X” rated would be prohibited from 1st September 1984. On the same date all “R” rated material was required to be kept separate from other material. Cabinet reconsidered their decision to phase out “X” rated material on 1 September 1984 and changed the date to 1st January 1985, after consideration

and discussion with the Video Association of WA. This new date enabled business owners to look at their investments in the industry and its future viability.

Timber Corridor Plan

25 June

Minister Julian Grills proposed a partial deregulation of timber transport to satisfy industry demands for road transport, and provide a basis for Westrail's longer term involvement in the timber transport market. It was reported that the relevant unions had indicated their support, with the exception of two, and hadn't raised any real opposition. The planned corridor would extend 20 kilometres on either side of the Pemberton-Picton railway line.

Video – “Democracy in Western Australia”

25 June

Acting Minister Jeff Carr proposed a video on electoral reform in WA. State Cabinet approved an expenditure of \$25,000 for the production of the video. It was stated that it should be truthful, reflecting the nature of the WA electoral system, and how it compares to the other Australian States.

Commonwealth/State (Western Australia) Bicentennial Commemorative Programme

25 June, 30 July, 10 & 17 Sept

Minister for the Arts, Hon. Ron Davies recommended that the State Government match the commitment by the Commonwealth Government of \$5 million for Bicentennial Commemorative Programme projects. Cabinet deferred their decision to a committee created for the purpose of examining six proposed projects reported back to Cabinet.

National Crime Authority

25 June, 2 July, 26 Nov

Cabinet approved WA participation in the National Crime Authority and drafted a Bill based on the Commonwealth State model in consideration of its appropriateness for Police purposes. In November approval was granted for the printing and introduction of the National Crime Authority (State Provisions) Bill. .

Wholesale Petrol Prices

2 July

State Cabinet agreed to the withdrawal of the State Government from the control of wholesale petrol services. Surveillance was to be maintained by the Prices Surveillance Authority on a unified national basis.

Bicycle Plan for Perth

16 July

Cabinet approved an additional allocation of \$30,000 to employ a draftsman to assist the Bicycle Plan for Perth to continue planning bicycle routes. The Minister for Transport indicated the work programme would be set back by the lack of a draftsman and it was an urgent requirement so as not to jeopardise the success of the Bicycle Plan for Perth.

Dairy Industry (Price of Milk)

16 July

Cabinet approved an increase in milk prices of one cent per litre as from the 1 July bring the metropolitan price of milk to 71 cents per litre. The rise was in part to cover the cost to supplement the cost of milk distribution in country areas. The maximum retail price in country areas would be 8 cents per litre above the metropolitan price. Under the new arrangements, Geraldton and Esperance would pay 77 cents per litre compared with the current price of 80 cents.

Forrest Place/City Station Redevelopment Project

16 July, 24 Sept

Cabinet agreed to support the Forrest Place/City Station redevelopment project and to contribute \$7.5 million towards its cost. It was felt that commitment by the State to this project would pave the way for a commitment from other parties, namely: Perth City Council, Myer Properties Ltd, Australia Post, Commonwealth Banking Corporation, City Arcade and Armstrong Jones Pty Ltd (Carillon).

Employment of women in the Mining Industry

23 July

State Cabinet amended the Mines Regulation Act and the Coal Mines Regulation Act to remove all discriminatory legislation against the employment of women in or about mines. It was stated that Mining Unions would have preferred to retain the present legislation excluding women from the Mining Industry, but they accepted the inevitability of women's rights and non-discrimination against women in the workplace. This amendment was approved by Cabinet on 23 July 1984.

Weather Watch Radar Scanning for the Pilbara

23 July

Mr Barry Jones, the Federal Minister for Science and Technology requested that WA's Minister for Regional Development and the North West request Premier Burke to expedite funding by speaking with the Prime Minister, so as to close the gap in the weather-watch radar scanning for the Pilbara area. It was recommended that negotiations with Woodside and Hamersley Iron be explored regarding the companies meeting the capital cost of the radar and for the Bureau to meet

installation and running costs. The radar to be based near to Karratha would contribute considerably to the cyclone surveillance warning system.

Financial Interests of Members of Parliament

23 July

On 10 October 1983, Cabinet approved the printing of the Member of Parliament (Financial Interests) Bill 1983 requiring Members to publicly disclose their financial interests. This Bill was refused a second reading in the Legislative Council on 1 December 1983 after a number of changes were requested.

5% duty on Beer Tickets

30 July

State Cabinet approved the recommendations from the Minister for Administrative Services to approve that “cash tickets,” dispensed by machine with cash prizes not to be permitted in any licensed premises. The Association for Licensed Clubs requested an exemption from the duty payment of 5% on beer tickets but State Cabinet rejected this exemption on 30 July.

Acceptance of Second Lowest Tenders – Main Roads Department Contracts

30 July

State Cabinet rejected the bid by Thiess Contractors to complete road works in the Pilbara and awarded the contract to the second lowest tender. The tender for the Kimberley Division was awarded to Henry & Walker after the Thiess Contractors (also the lowest tender) was rejected. Cabinet approved these second lowest bids as they were dissatisfied with the works carried out by Thiess Contractors in previous years.

Electoral Act Amendment – Security of Persons at Risk

30 July, 17 Sept

The Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Reform proposed that State Cabinet approve an amendment to the Electoral Act for the security of persons whose safety may be at risk due to the publication of their names on the Electoral roll. There had been incidents in the past when Judges and court officials had been attacked due to their private address appearing in the public arena.

Conservation and Land Management Bill

6 Aug

State Cabinet approved the repealing of the Forests Act and National Parks Act, due to the drafting of the Conservation and Land Management Bill. The Wildlife Conservation Bill was also amended to make it compatible with the new Bill. These changes allowed for a substantial reorganisation of the Forests department and

involved the creation of a Forests Commission to ensure management of State forests on a sustainable basis.

Bee Industry Compensation Act (1953-1980) and Beekeepers Act (1963-1880)

6 Aug, 17 Sept

State Cabinet considered a licence fee on hives owned by beekeepers so that compensation could be paid to beekeepers whose hives were destroyed by disease control programs. It was stated that the Beekeepers Act has been operating since 1954 quite successfully, but there was now an overdraft of \$80,000 in the Compensation Fund. The Minister for Agriculture Hon. H. Evans suggested a review of the fund to restore its viability.

The Youth, Sport & Recreation Act

6 & 20 Aug

Approval was granted by Cabinet for a draft bill to repeal the Youth, Sports and Recreation Act 1978. A working party had produced a report after consultation with sports associations and other support organisations. This report was circulated for comment to voluntary organisations, local authorities and social agencies to inspire a more practical system of involvement at all levels of sport.

Herdsman Lake - Environmental Monitoring Report

20 Aug

The Herdsman Lake environmental monitoring report was approved for release by Cabinet on 20 August 1984. This report was prepared by Herdsman Nominees Pty Ltd and released by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority (MRPA), together with a précis of the report to the Conservation Council of WA after requests by interested groups. Further monitoring programs were planned by the MRPA and Herdsman Nominees Pty Ltd.

Road Traffic Act - Amendment

20 Aug

An amendment to the Road Traffic Act compelled drivers to submit to a medical examination at prescribed intervals. For new drivers, the probation period was set at no less than 12 months for drivers aged 17 years.

Senior Citizens Week - 1985

20 Aug, 10 Dec

The Inauguration of a Senior Citizens' Week in WA was approved by State Cabinet, and scheduled for March 1985. It was planned that it would be co-ordinated by a committee chaired and funded by the Department for Youth, Sport and Recreation. This committee would comprise representatives from the Council on Ageing, the

Department for Community Welfare and the Department of Health. On 10 December Cabinet approved an allocation of up to \$25,000 for the Senior Citizens' Week in 1985.

Secondary Education Authority Bill 1984

27 Aug, 5 Nov

Cabinet approved the printing of the Secondary Education Authority Bill 1984 put forward by the Minister for Education, Hon. Mr Robert Pearce. The Government accepted the McGraw report for a secondary education authority to be established to administer secondary assessment and certification. This was required to be in place by 1 February 1985 to provide Year 11 school leavers a certificate at the end of 1985.

Perth Theatre Trust Act - Amendments

10 & 17 Sept

Approval was sought to draft a bill to amend the Perth Theatre Act. It was planned that the Trust to be enabled to act as an entrepreneur beyond its own venues as the nature of touring shows has changed. It was felt necessary to attract shows to Perth and that the Trust may acquire a share of the whole national tour.

Registration Amendments to the Births, Deaths and Marriage Act.

17 Sept, 19 Nov

Cabinet approved the drafting of legislation to allow parents to register the surname of their child by the surname they chose. This allowed children of different ethnic or religious backgrounds to be named according to their culture. Parents would be able to give the child their own surname or the surname of both parents, with or without a hyphen. This choice was available when both parents' names were recorded on the birth registration application.

New Parole System

2 Oct

Attorney General, Hon. Joe Berinson, submitted a proposal for a new parole system for the State. Cabinet approved the drafting of amendments to the Offenders Probation and Parole Act subject to the Minister for Community Welfare being consulted regarding a proposal for higher court juvenile sentences to be served in Department for Community Welfare Institutions.

In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) and Artificial Insemination by Donor (AID)

2 Oct

Cabinet approved the drafting of a bill to provide for the status of children born as a result of IVF and AID. It was to be consistent with the principles of the model bill

agreed by the standing committee of Attorneys General, and similar to Victorian and South Australian legislation. It was proposed that when a child was born to a couple by these means, if the procedure had the consent of both parties, the child was to be deemed the child of the couple.

Mickelberg Prosecutions

22 Oct

The WA Police Union sought an ex-gratia payment of \$12,738.06 for the defence of the officers charged with falsifying evidence in the Mickelberg brothers arrest over the Perth Mint Gold theft. None of the officers charged was convicted and all charges were dismissed by a Magistrate. An ex-gratia payment had previously been made to the WA Police Union for the reimbursement of the legal cost on behalf of officers stationed at Roebourne. The Minister for Police, Hon. Jeff Carr approved the payment of \$12,738.06 to the WA Police Union.

Small Boat Harbour – Geographe Bay

22 Oct, 12 Nov

Cabinet approved a small boat harbour for Geographe Bay subject to a report to Cabinet from the Minister with special responsibility for the 'Bunbury 2000' project. Site and support facilities, a construction timetable and funding proposals were to be considered before a final detailed decision was to be made. Ongoing funds were to be considered in the context of the 1985/86 Budget.

Woodman Point - Public Marine and Holiday Village

22 Oct

An approach was made by Prone Corporation to build a public marina and a holiday village at Woodman Point, with a view to providing anchorage and accommodation for the America's Cup challenge. Minister Wilson expressed concerns at the potential over-supply of berths south of the river, independent of the cup defence. The estimated cost was in the order of \$12 million and the developer had funding from Indonesia. The City of Cockburn opposed the proposal, wanting to preserve public access to the beach preserved. Cabinet rejected the proposal on 22 Oct 1984 on the basis that quarantine land wasn't available for the project.

Nurse Education transfer to Tertiary Institutions

5 Nov

Cabinet approved recommendations from the Minister for Health and the Minister for Education that nurse education be transferred from hospitals to colleges Cabinet also approved, subject to the Executive Director of Nursing being Chairperson, that a committee be established to examine specific proposals from the Commonwealth in light of the report by the Committee of Inquiry into Nursing Education in Western Australia. The appropriate size of intakes for nursing programs, both in hospitals and universities, was considered urgent due to new intakes beginning in February 1985.

Broad Area Model Farm Qinghai Province, China

12 Nov

Cabinet approved WAOPA enter into a 4 year contract for a broad area model farm project in the Hu Dong at the Province of Qinghai, China commencing 1st January 1985. The project value would be approximately \$4 million and goods and services up to 70% of the total value would be supplied from Western Australia.

Cape Le Grand National Park – Land Purchase

19 Nov

In December 1981 the then Cabinet agreed to purchase 189 hectares immediately north of Cape Le Grand at a cost of \$94,530. This offer had been accepted by the spokesman for the owners. Since then a part owner had changed his mind and had withdrawn from this agreement. The Minister for Environment, Hon. Ron Davies, considered it was futile to spend further time and money on this purchase as the negotiations over a lengthy period had continually failed. The Minister therefore recommended that the land be resumed although Cabinet asked the Minister to prepare a detailed case for resumption.

Stirling Terrace and Foreshore Development Consultancy, Albany

26 Nov

The Minister for Industrial Development, Technology and Defence Liaison recommended to Cabinet that \$19,000 was made available to the Albany Tomorrow Strategy Group so that Donaldson Smith, Architects could undertake a study of the Albany foreshore and historical precinct. This feasibility study would investigate how the precinct could be developed to its full potential. Consideration of the cost of implementation and financial returns were to be considered. Cabinet approved this expenditure on 26 November subject to further consultation between Deputy Premier, Minister for Planning and the Albany Town Council.

New Display Building – Albany Residency Museum

26 Nov

The Albany Residency Museum, a branch of the Western Australian Museum, was opened in September 1975. Since 1976, the Museum had included in its Capital Works program a proposal for a two-storey building to house enormous glass lenses and a number of historic boats. A recommendation was made to Cabinet to approve that the estimated amount of \$110,000 required for this purpose be raised from consolidated revenue funds. Cabinet advised that it was sympathetic to and supportive of the proposal but wished to elevate the importance of the Albany Tomorrow Strategy Group and ensure other decisions did not conflict with options open to this group.

Hay, Irwin and Murray Streets Site

26 Nov

Cabinet approved in principle that the Hay, Irwin and Murray Streets site be developed. This was to provide office accommodation to the maximum extent consistent with practical and aesthetic considerations. It was proposed that the Magistrates Courts be housed on another site, and that negotiations to acquire the Young Australia League building be authorised, subject to final approval by the Cabinet Budget Committee.

Home and Community Care Program

10 Dec

State Cabinet approved the agreement in principle to the Commonwealth proposal to of banding together four existing programs to develop new strategies which aimed to in support care at home by families, and carers for the frail and aged, for younger disabled people, and other special needs families. An introductory period of three years (1984-1987) was proposed with the Commonwealth providing funding to the State on a dollar for dollar basis.

Members of State Cabinet

23 December 1983 – 20 December 1984

Burke Ministry

The Hon. Brian Thomas BURKE, M.L.A
Premier; Treasurer; Minister Co-ordinating Economic and Social Development;
Minister for Forests; Tourism; Women's Interests

The Hon. Malcolm John BRYCE, B.A., M.L.A
Deputy Premier; Minister for Industrial Development, Technology and Defence
Liaison

The Hon. Desmond Keith DANS, M.L.C
Minister for Industrial Relations and Administrative Services and Leader of the
Government in the Legislative Council

Hon. Joseph Max BERINSON, LL.B., M.L.C
Attorney General; Minister for Budget Management and Minister for Prisons

The Hon. Arthur Raymond TONKIN, B.A., Dip. Ed., M.L.A
Minister for Water Resources; Parliamentary Electoral Reform; and Leader of the
House

The Hon. Jeffrey Phillip CARR, B.A., M.L.A
Minister for Police and Emergency Services; Local Government

The Hon. Ronald DAVIES, M.L.A
Minister for the Environment; Multi-Cultural and Ethnic Affairs; the Arts

The Hon. Hywel David EVANS, M.L.A
Minister for Agriculture; Fisheries and Wildlife; and Minister Assisting the Minister for
Forests

The Hon. Robert John PEARCE, B.A., Dip. Ed., M.L.A
Minister for Education

The Hon. Barry James HODGE, M.L.A
Minister for Health

The Hon. Kenneth Finlay McIver, M.L.A
Minister for Works; Lands and Surveys

The Hon. David Charles PARKER, B.A., M.L.A
Minister for Minerals and Energy and Minister Assisting the Minister Co-ordinating
Economic and Social Development

The Hon. Julian Fletcher GRILL, LL. B., M.L.A
Minister for Transport; Regional Development; the North West; Minister with special
responsibility for 'Bunbury 2000'

The Hon. Keith James WILSON, M.L.A
Minister for Housing; Youth and Community Services with special responsibility for
Aboriginal Affairs; Sport and Recreation

The Hon. Peter M' Callum DOWDING, LL.B., M.L.C
Minister for Planning; Employment and Training; Consumer Affairs

Terence Joseph BURKE Esq. M.L.A
Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet

Burke Ministry (from 20 December 1984)

The Hon. Brian Thomas BURKE, M.L.A
Premier; Treasurer; Minister Co-ordinating Economic and Social Development;
Women's Interests

The Hon. Malcolm John BRYCE, B.A., M.L.A
Deputy Premier; Minister for Industrial Development; Small Business; Technology;
Communication; Defence Liaison

The Hon. Desmond Keith DANS, M.L.C
Minister for Tourism; Racing and Gaming and the Leader of the Government in the
Legislative Council

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Minister for Housing; Youth Affairs; The Aged; Community Services; Sport and
Recreation; with special responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs.

The Hon. Peter M'Callum DOWDING, LL.B., M.L.C
Minister for Employment and Training; Industrial Relations; Consumer Affairs

Terence Joseph BURKE Esq. M.L.A
Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet