



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

A Guide to the 1981 State Cabinet Records

PREPARED BY:

**THE STATE RECORDS OFFICE
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

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Introduction

Each year the State Records Office of WA (SRO) marks the release of the State Cabinet records from their 30 year access restriction period by the production of an online Guide to these records on or near the first Monday in June, which is celebrated as Western Australia Day.

Each year, a Guide to a new set of State Cabinet records – from 30 years previous – is released, to facilitate access to these records by the Western Australian community.

The State Cabinet records are historically significant documents revealing 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.

The 1981 State Cabinet records are held by the State Records Office, the authority responsible for identifying, managing, preserving and providing the community with access to the State's archives.

The 1981 State Cabinet records comprise:

- **Cabinet Minutes and Decisions**

These records are available at the State Records Office Search Room. The State Records Office is situated on the Ground Floor of the Alexander Library Building, James Street Mall, Perth Cultural Centre. The State Records Office Search Room is open Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 4.30pm.

For further details about accessing original Cabinet Minutes and Decisions, please contact the State Records Office on ph. 9427 3360 or email sro@sro.wa.gov.au.

N.B. This year (2012) the Guide to the 1981 State Cabinet Records has been produced with the assistance of Ms Courtney Atkinson, a Politics and Communications Studies student from the University of Western Australia, who researched the 1981 State Cabinet minutes and decisions and wrote the Guide during her placement as an intern at the SRO. Ms Atkinson was secured as an intern through the Public Sector Commission's 2011 WA State Government Internship Program.

The 1981 State Cabinet Records

An Overview

Unlike the release of Cabinet papers at the Commonwealth level, where more sensitive documents remain embargoed beyond the 30-year period, all of the 1981 State Cabinet records for Western Australia are released for public access 30 years after the records were created.

The main set of records is called 'Cabinet Minutes and Decisions'. State Cabinet decisions include agenda 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 than that of earlier times. In 1981, Cabinet recordkeeping was quite detailed. The documentation and supporting papers associated with a Cabinet deliberation was attached to many of the decisions, although not in every case.

The 1981 State Cabinet Records

A Description

Cabinet Minutes and Decisions

- Cabinet Minutes and Decisions are the original primary source that document decisions made at Cabinet meetings.
- Cabinet Minutes and Decisions comprise the names of Ministers attending each meeting, copies of cabinet submissions, a record of Cabinet decisions and supporting reports/summaries for submissions (if applicable).

Location: *State Records Office of Western Australia*

Reference: *Series 1228, Consignment 2843, files 1980/318v2–1981/279v2*

Quantity: *17 files, 1.26 linear metres*

Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	File 1980/318 v2	05/01/1981 – 27/01/1981
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	File 1980/318 v3	02/02/1981 – 04/03/1981
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	File 1980/318 v4	09/03/1981 – 16/03/1981
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	File 1981/081 v1	23/03/1981 – 06/04/1981
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	File 1981/081 v2	08/04/1981 – 15/04/1981
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	File 1981/081 v3	27/04/1981 – 11/05/1981
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	File 1981/081 v4	18/05/1981 – 25/05/1981
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	File 1981/108 v1	01/06/1981 – 15/06/1981
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	File 1981/108 v2	22/06/1981 – 29/06/1981
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	File 1981/108 v3	06/07/1981 – 13/07/1981
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	File 1981/108 v4	20/07/1981 – 10/08/1981
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	File 1981/170 v1	17/08/1981 – 17/08/1981
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	File 1981/170 v2	07/09/1981 – 16/09/1981
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	File 1981/170 v3	21/09/1981 – 02/10/1981
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	File 1981/170 v4	12/10/1981 – 26/10/1981
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	File 1981/279 v1	02/11/1981 – 16/11/1981
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	File 1981/279 v2	23/11/1981 – 24/12/1981

Events and Issues that Made News in 1981

This historical overview has been prepared by Archivists at the State Records Office of Western Australia

In the international sphere, 1981 was the year that saw the end to the US/Iran hostage crisis. On 20 January as President Ronald Reagan was sworn in as US President, 52 American embassy staff were released after being held hostage by Iranian revolutionary students in Teheran for 444 days.

1981 was a dangerous year for world leaders, with the Presidents of Egypt, Bangladesh and Iran being assassinated. Unsuccessful assassination attempts were made on Pope John Paul II and President Reagan.

The year of 1981 saw a number of 'firsts'. Judge Sandra Day O'Connor became the first female US Supreme Court Justice, the AIDS virus was first identified, and *Columbia* lifted off on the first space shuttle trip on 12 April.

The year was an eventful year for the British royal family. An estimated 750 million people worldwide tuned in to watch the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer on 29 July. The couple later announced they were expecting their first child the following year. In October, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Perth while in Australia for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Melbourne.

1981 was a big year in sport. John McEnroe's famous outburst, "You cannot be serious," said during a match at Wimbledon, made headlines worldwide. It was also the year of Trevor Chappell's infamous underarm bowl to prevent New Zealand from tying with Australia in the cricket World Series Cup final at the MCG. *Just a Dash* won the Melbourne Cup; Claremont defeated South Fremantle in the WAFL Grand Final and Stephen Michael from South Fremantle won the 1981 Sandover medal.

The year was a successful year for Australian musicians, with Slim Dusty's *Duncan*, Olivia Newton-John's *Physical* and Men at Work's *Down Under* all reaching number 1 on the Australian charts.

In 1981 Malcolm Fraser was Australia's Prime Minister but leadership tensions with the Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr Andrew Peacock, led to his resignation in April accusing Mr Fraser of "gross disloyalty." The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting was held in Melbourne, with a major point of contention being New Zealand's allowing of the South African Springboks to play rugby in Wellington, Christchurch and Auckland.

1981 was the year of the Azaria Chamberlain coronial inquest. The Alice Springs coroner declared in February that a dingo killed Azaria, and that Michael and Lindy Chamberlain were in no way responsible for her death.

However, in November the Northern Territory Supreme Court quashed this finding and ordered a new inquest take place.

In local news, WA Week was celebrated in a unique way with the 'seed by balloon' project. Four thousand balloons were released by children in 80 schools across the state. The balloons were filled with helium and carried packets of seed. Finders of the balloons were asked to plant the tree seeds and return the attached self-addressed envelope to the child.

The State Cabinet Minutes and Decisions reveal news-making Cabinet deliberations in 1981. These include:

- The consideration by Cabinet of a confidential State Energy Commission report for a proposed aluminium smelter in the Bunbury-Worsley area, outlining proposals received from Government from the Reynolds, Shell, C.S.R. Group (Westal) and Alcoa. Cabinet eventually approved the Westal Consortium proposal.
- Cabinet rejecting a proposal from the Victorian Government to the Loan Council, for a special allocation of General Loan Funds to assist in financing the holding of the 1988 Olympic Games in Melbourne.
- Approval for education programs to encourage motorists to keep to the left
- Reluctant approval for the Australian Transport Advisory Council's resolution, that Australia adopt a nationally uniform policy requiring new vehicles to be designed to operate on unleaded petrol.
- Approval for the disbandment of the WA Government's Trade Office in Singapore.
- Approval of the release of a Metropolitan Transport Trust report that showed that people with moderate disabilities, as well as the elderly, would benefit significantly from modifications to buses.
- Approval of a proposal to the Federal Treasurer, seeking income tax incentives for the restoration of historic buildings.
- Deciding to join with the Commonwealth Government to oppose a 35-hour working week.
- Approving legislation being introduced to ensure the Anzac Day public holiday is taken on which it falls only—April 25th.
- Approval of the WA Government contributing \$1000 to the wedding gift to Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer.

At the end of 1981, Western Australian Premier Sir Charles Court announced his retirement from politics, having served in Parliament since 1953. His deputy, Raymond O'Connor took over the leadership from 25 January the following year.

In 1981, the population of Western Australia was 1.27 million people. The average price of petrol was 35.9c a litre, a packet of Tim Tams cost 79c, and a 1L carton of milk cost 58c. A four bedroom house in Hillarys cost \$54 900 and a new Ford Laser cost \$5846.¹

¹ 1981 costs sourced from 1981 State Cabinet Minutes and Decisions and *The West Australian* newspaper.

State Cabinet deliberations in 1981

Following are a selection of notable issues raised in the Western Australian State Cabinet records of 1981. The description of the issues is generally taken directly from wording used in the Cabinet Minutes and Decisions. Dates shown below are the date(s) of deliberation in the State Cabinet records.

Aboriginal Health: 07/01/1981

Cabinet approved the withdrawal of the Special Aboriginal Health Service, following the release of the Western Australian Hospital Morbidity Statistics 1979. Statistics indicated hospital usage by Aborigines in the metropolitan area now approximated the usage by non-Aboriginals.

Gordon Downs Pastoral Lease—Eviction of Aborigines: 19/01/1981, 30/11/1981

Following new ownership of the Gordon Downs Pastoral Lease, a group of 50 Aborigines including 15 children, were evicted from the land despite the community having lived there for at least 70 years. Cabinet decided to contact the new land owner and request the group be rehoused on Gordon Downs. After negotiations with the land owner failed, Cabinet approved the creation of a permanent reserve of 3500 hectares at “Ringer’s Soak.” This was to be set aside for the “use and benefit of Aborigines,” to accommodate those evicted by the lessee from the adjoining Gordon Downs Station, subject to adherence with Mines Department requirements.

W.A. Constitution—Australian Democrats: 19/01/1981:

In light of concerns over the validity of recently passed legislation, Cabinet rejected a proposal from the President of the W.A. division of the Australian Democrats, Mr J.G. Evans, that the Governor request the Queen appoint the existing State Parliament as a caretaker Parliament, and grant the present government the power to govern on an interim basis. Cabinet also rejected Mr Evans’ proposal that the government confirm the validity of all Acts passed since 1970 and for an elected people’s constitutional conference to consider a new State Constitution, on the grounds that the government had “always acted on proper legal advice in relation to all constitutional measures.”

Proposed Aluminium Smelter: 19/01/1981, 23/03/1981

The Minister for Fuel and Energy provided a confidential State Energy Commission report to Cabinet on a proposed aluminium smelter in the Bunbury-Worsley area, outlining proposals received from Government from the Reynolds, Shell, C.S.R. Group (Westal) and from Alcoa. Cabinet approved further negotiations between the Minister for Fuel and Energy through the Energy Commission and Department of Resources Development with the major power station contracting firms. Cabinet eventually approved the Westal Consortium proposal, and allowed the Consortium to proceed with final site selection, environmental assessments and other detailed studies. Cabinet confirmed it would seek a firm and final commitment no later than 30th June 1981.

Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries between Australia and Indonesia: 27/01/1981, 02/02/1981

Cabinet approved of the Solicitor-General of W.A. informing the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs, that the proposed Australian Note to Indonesia concerning the implementation of a provisional fisheries arrangement, is acceptable to W.A. Cabinet later approved the Attorney-General's recommendation that the Premier inform the Prime Minister the W.A. government was concerned over the Provisional Fisheries line becoming consolidated, affecting "the determination of the boundary in the Timor Gap affecting petroleum exploration".

The Wilsmore Case: 27/01/1981

Cabinet approved the Attorney-General's recommendation of an appeal to the High Court on the substantive issue of psychiatric patients' rights to vote in the Wilsmore Case, "that the amendment to the Electoral Act required a constitutional majority," rather than appeal against the decision of the State Full Court on the Privy Council issue.

Olympic Games 1988: 23/02/1981:

Cabinet rejected a proposal from the Victorian Government to the Loan Council, for a special allocation of General Loan Funds to assist in financing the holding of the 1988 Olympic Games in Melbourne. Cabinet advised Victoria and the Loan Council that "we would like to see the Olympic Games held in Victoria in 1988 to coincide with Australia's Bicentenary, but we cannot agree to...loan funds unless it is demonstrated that the allocations will not prejudice essential normal works programmes or the resources and energy projects to be undertaken this decade."

Dampier to Perth Natural Gas Pipeline—Progress Report: 03/03/1981

The Minister for Fuel and Energy presented a report on the progress of construction of the Dampier to Perth Gas Pipeline, which outlined several recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet approved a reduction in the diameter of the pipeline from 30" to 26," to provide the lowest gas transportation cost and a saving in initial capital cost of approximately \$80 million. Cabinet also noted a change in the total estimated capital cost from \$553 million to \$632 million.

Two Airline Agreement and the Domestic Fares Inquiry: 04/03/1981, 30/03/1981, 13/04/1981

Cabinet outlined objections to the proposed Two Airline Agreement on the basis it may infringe on State rights and may sanction Federal policies which could disadvantage the State. Cabinet referred the objection papers to the Premier and Ministers for Transport and Tourism, for any representations to the Commonwealth Government and for public statements. Cabinet later decided the Premier would contact the Prime Minister to advise him of Cabinet's concern over some items of the proposed new airline agreement. Cabinet noted the Minister for Transport's recommendation to maintain pressure on the Federal Government to reduce domestic airfares to no more than \$440 for a Perth—Sydney return trip, and that Cabinet be publicly seen to be maintaining this pressure. Cabinet noted the sending of a telex from the

Minister for Transport to the Federal Minister for Transport expressing displeasure at the perpetuation of unjust domestic airfares, and seeking details of claims relating to cost increases and fare level justifications.

Left-Hand Driving—Consideration of Introduction: 04/03/1981

Cabinet decided there would be no change to road regulations, but requested the Minister for Police and Traffic to arrange further education programmes to encourage motorists to keep to the left, where appropriate. Cabinet decided to keep the matter under review because of differing circumstances due to metropolitan as against rural roads and traffic; condition and width of roads; and marking of roads.

Abolition of the Marriage Allowance: 09/03/1981

Cabinet approved the abolition of the marriage allowance as it is “clearly discriminatory and was originally introduced to compensate for forced resignation of females on marriage.” Cabinet decided the abolition would apply in all sectors of state government employment.

Legislation: Mining Act 1904: 09/03/1981

Cabinet approved the printing and introduction of a bill outlining amendments to the Mining Act 1904, to provide for validation of past practices relating to the pegging of land within a Temporary Reserve, and that miners’ rights granted under the 1904 act will subsist for the purposes of the 1978 act.

Aboriginal Housing—Carnarvon: 09/03/1981

Following flooding the previous year, there was a shortage of housing in Carnarvon, resulting in Aboriginal families being housed in temporary tents at East Carnarvon. Cabinet approved the Minister for Housing’s recommendation that housing for the families be provided as a matter of urgency, with an acknowledgement of the problems of incompatibility of certain Aboriginal groups in need of housing. Cabinet declared to keep the problem under review.

Educational Programme for Four Year Olds: 11/03/1981

Cabinet approved the extension of (voluntary) play groups and the associated expansion of advisory and supervisory staff as the Government’s educational provision for four year olds.

Proposed Bunbury ‘C’ Power Station Development: 16/03/1981, 13/04/1981

The Minister for Fuel and Energy presented a proposal for the construction of a large coal fired power station in Bunbury. Cabinet approved the size and location of the plant, and authorised the State Energy Commission to obtain the necessary statutory clearances, with the understanding that the Commission investigate the possibility of the plant, or part of the plant, being operated by private enterprise. Cabinet advised the Minister to suggest alternative sites in the South West and explain why the present proposal was preferred. Cabinet later noted advice from the State Energy Commission, submitted by the Minister for Fuel and Energy, outlining what other sites had

been considered for the construction of a new power station, and why the approved proposal was the preferred option.

In-Shore Surveillance—the P150 Class: 16/03/1981

Cabinet decided to form a Cabinet Committee to study potential uses in Australia generally, and Western Australia in particular, of the P150 Inshore Surveillance vessel. The Committee would comprise of the Ministers for Industrial Development and Welfare, Transport, and Fisheries and Wildlife.

Local Government Act—Amendments and Review: 16/03/1981, 27/04/1981, 19/10/1981

Cabinet approved amendments to the Local Government Act to permit the inclusion in the Uniform Building By-Laws of building standards for buildings constructed within prescribed earthquake-prone zones. Cabinet approved that a council's zoning by-laws would be applicable notwithstanding any inconsistency with Uniform Building By-Laws. Cabinet also approved, subject to clarification, for the Act to authorise payment for the expenses of councillors' partners attending municipal conferences. Cabinet approved granting Councils the authority to construct cycleways, and to make by-laws regulating their use. Other amendments included extending the entitlement to vote to the spouses of occupiers of rateable property, and non-British subjects who were ordinarily residents in Western Australia; and regulating the number of votes an elector is entitled to cast. Cabinet approved, subject to the Premier checking the response of the Local Government Association.

Liquor Act: Report of the Government Committee 1980: 16/03/1981, 17/08/1981, 31/08/1981

Cabinet approved the Chief Secretary's recommendation that the Government present to Parliament provisions to lower the minimum spirits strengths in W.A. to the same level as applies in other states. Cabinet approved, subject to clarification on the issue of spirits strengths, which it was understood, came under legislation within the Health portfolio. Cabinet later approved an amendment to Section 122 of the Liquor Act, providing that a licensee has reasonable cause to refuse to receive a person on his licensed premises and to refuse any service if a person "is not dressed in conformity with the reasonable standards of dress set by the licensee for any part of the premises in question."

Electoral Act Proposed Amendments: 23/03/1981

Cabinet approved changes to the Electoral Act including the organisation of the Electoral Department, the appointment of temporary assistants, reference to "Christian" names, processing of claims for enrolment, striking-off of names from the roll, the appointment of assistant returning officers, and unified rolls.

Legislation—Workers' Compensation Supplementation Fund Bill: 23/03/1981

Cabinet approved the drafting of an amendment to the recently passed Bill, to provide for the indemnity of an employer who has paid an injured worker and not received reimbursement from an insurer.

35-hour Week Campaign: 30/03/1981

Cabinet decided to join with the Commonwealth Government in opposing the introduction of a 35-hour week. Cabinet also decided to investigate alternatives to suit varying industries if the Industrial Commission moved towards a working week of less than 40 hours.

Legislation—Amendment to the Industrial Arbitration Act 1979: 30/03/1981

Cabinet approved the printing and introduction of a Bill to amend the Industrial Arbitration Act to ensure all Public Servants would automatically be “Government Officers” and therefore outside the jurisdiction of the WA Industrial Commission. The Prison Officers’ Union would therefore be unable to provide any effective industrial coverage for prison officers, and officers would be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Public Service Arbitrator.

Rural Housing (Assistance) Act: 30/03/1981

Cabinet approved the drafting of amendments to the Rural Housing (Assistance) Act 1976 to provide for the housing of farm employees, and the continuation of the Authority’s assistance upon the transfer of proprietorship of an “Approved Farmer’s Holding.”

Cattle Industry Compensation Act—Amendment: 30/03/1981, 20/07/1981

Cabinet approved the Minister for Agriculture’s recommendation of an amendment to the Act to permit compensation for cattle deaths as a result of a proclaimed disease occurring in a declared area.

Conservation Council of WA—Class Action against Alcoa and Reynolds: 31/03/1981

A class action was undertaken in the United States by the Conservation Council of WA against Alcoa and Reynolds, over bauxite mining in WA. Cabinet opposed this class action and decided the Attorney-General should advise on the best way for Western Australia to be represented in the USA Court. Cabinet decided the Attorney-General should also advise on any legislation at State and Federal levels that could be effective in exercising some control over Western Australians taking similar class actions. Cabinet decided to make a motion in State Parliament, protesting against the action of the Conservation Council and declaring the legality and correctness of Alcoa’s and Reynolds’ operations in WA.

The Welfare of Aborigines: 31/03/1981

Cabinet approved the application of general principles to be applied by the Departments and Instrumentalities concerned with the welfare of Aborigines. These principles were concerned with the elimination of discrimination and the equality of opportunity for all Western Australians.

Elimination of Guards and Brakevans from Trains: 01/04/1981

Cabinet approved negotiations between Westrail and unions to avoid an Australian Railways Union general strike over the elimination of guards and brakevans from trains.

Motor Vehicle Emission Controls: 01/04/1981

Cabinet approved, with reluctance, support for the Australian Transport Advisory Council's resolution, that Australia adopt a nationally uniform policy requiring new vehicles to be designed to operate on unleaded petrol. Cabinet agreed to ensure 91.5 octane unleaded petrol be available at a significant number of fuel retail petrol outlets at a price no greater than that of leaded petrol.

Future of the Perth-Fremantle Railway Line: 06/04/1981

Cabinet approved the Minister for Transport's recommendation to engage R. Travers Morgan Pty. Ltd. to make a report on the desirable future mass public transport system in the Perth-Fremantle corridor, subject to attempts to receive Commonwealth funding, and earlier start/finish dates for the study.

Rationalisation of Education Department Facilities—Transfer of T.A.E. Courses from Technical Division to Schools Directorate: 06/04/1981

Cabinet approved the Minister for Education's recommendation that Bentley Senior High School and Tuart Hill Senior High School be redeveloped as Senior Colleges, and secondary students be relocated to adjacent high schools.

Compulsory Usage of Suitable Restraints in Motor Vehicles by all Child Passengers of or over the Age of One Year: 06/04/1981

Cabinet approved the necessary amendments drafted by Parliamentary Counsel, to reduce the minimum age for mandatory seatbelts to one year.

Federal State Relations: 08/04/1981, 13/04/1981

Cabinet approved the Premier's recommendation that Cabinet should, in a professional way, try to bring together all of the basic problems being experienced between the Federal Government in Canberra and the State Government in WA and, where Cabinet needed to identify at both the Parliamentary and lay organisation levels, the deterioration that has taken place. Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr K.L. Solomon, Senior Administrative Officer of Federal Affairs, to undertake a confidential survey of the problems being encountered between the Federal Government and the Government of Western Australia. Cabinet also approved the Premier's recommendation that Mr Solomon act under the direction of the Minister for Federal Affairs, with a target to report to Cabinet by the end of June 1981.

Aboriginal Affairs: 08/04/1981

Cabinet decided the Minister for Community Welfare should enter into preliminary discussions with the National Aboriginal Conference on "the concept of Makarrata" (coming together after a struggle to face the facts of wrongs, and to live again in peace). Such discussions would cover land rights, Aboriginal Parliamentary seats, a fixed share of the national product, compensation for alleged wrongs and significant other demands. Cabinet decided to proceed with discussions without any public announcement or commitment. Cabinet also decided that Treasury be requested to undertake further detailed studies in consultation with the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority as a preliminary to further discussions, and to investigate

comparative federal funding between the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

Aboriginal Affairs Council Joint Working Party on Job Training for Aboriginals—Final Report: 08/04/1981

Cabinet noted receiving the report from the Minister for Community Welfare, for consideration and approval so as to firmly put the State's view at the forthcoming Ministers conference in Darwin.

Western Australian Government Trade Office—Singapore: 13/04/1981

Cabinet approved the disbandment of the WA Government's Trade Office in Singapore, and decided the funds previously allocated to that office, be allocated to the Department of Industrial Development and Commerce to step up promotional and marketing activities in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations area.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons: 13/04/1981

In light of 1981 being the International Year of the Disabled, Cabinet noted the Commonwealth Government's endorsement of the principles outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons, and declared that the State Government also endorsed the principles in the Declaration.

ANZAC Day Holiday, 25 April: 27/04/1981, 23/11/1981

Cabinet approved the Minister for Labour and Industry's recommendation that legislation be introduced similar to that applying in other states, honouring Anzac Day on the day on which it falls only—April 25th. Cabinet later amended this decision by deciding no action would be taken to amend the Public Bank Holidays Act to abolish the Monday holiday where Anzac Day falls on a Saturday or Sunday.

West Pilbara Amplification of Water Supply System: 27/04/1981, 06/07/1981

Cabinet approved the construction of the Harding Dam, and that a submission for Commonwealth assistance for the financing of the proposal be prepared and submitted, as would be requested by the Commonwealth Minister. The Public Works Department prepared a report as part of the submission to the Commonwealth for financial assistance under the "National Water Resources Programme." Cabinet approved the release of the report to the public.

Amendment to Hospitals Act, 1927-1980: 01/06/1981

Cabinet approved an amendment to the Hospitals Act 1927-1980 to provide that the Minister for Health be the employer of all staff in public hospitals.

West Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society: 09/06/1981

Cabinet noted the formation of this Society, and its expressed object of the elimination of a situation whereby persons fear maintenance of life under undesirable circumstances by modern medical and surgical techniques. Cabinet noted the Society's wishes that euthanasia be administered in

accordance with the society's aims and objectives but not against the person's wishes. Cabinet decided to take no action against the Society.

Legislative Council—150th Anniversary Celebrations: 15/06/1981, 03/08/1981

Cabinet discussed various options for celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Legislative Council, including a formal opening with an abridged Governor's speech and a Message from the Queen. Cabinet later approved financial support for the commemoration of the anniversary to a level the Premier was to negotiate with the Committee, and the provision of something appropriate to mark the occasion. The Premier was to discuss options with the organising Committee.

Royal Show—Public Service Holiday: 22/06/1981

Cabinet decided the Queen's Birthday holiday would fall regularly on the first Monday of the Royal Agricultural Society Annual Show, regardless of whether it is late September or early October, and that action be taken to permanently eliminate the Public Service Holiday in Show Week.

Local Courts—Retention of Records: 22/06/1981, 27/07/1981

Cabinet approved the recommendation of the Law Reform Commission that the Local Courts Act be amended to allow the power to destroy records of Local Courts after 15 years, but subject then to concurrence of State Archives, and the power to microfilm records as an alternative method to retention of the records in their original form.

Wedding Gift for HRH Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer: 20/07/1981

Cabinet approved the proposed wedding gift to H.R.H. Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer, on the basis of the Western Australian Government contributing \$1000 and the balance being contributed by private citizens and/or firms.

Legislation—Western Australian Marine Act: 03/08/1981

Cabinet approved the Minister for Transport's recommendation that the Western Australian Marine Act be amended to enable an authorised person to stop, detain and inspect and search any vessel in the performance of his duty.

Electoral Re-Distribution—Re-evaluation of Northern Electorates: 17/08/1981 (no papers)

Cabinet decided there would be no change in the Northern Electoral Boundaries.

Australian Bicentenary 1988: 17/08/1981

Cabinet decided it could not, at this stage, contribute to the costs of the run-up to the 1988 Bicentenary celebrations. Cabinet suggested to the Prime Minister that a massive programme to identify, plan and develop water resources and overcome salinity problems could be appropriate as a Bicentenary National Project.

Redistribution of Seats: 01/09/1981 (no papers)

Amendment—Bush Fires Act, 1954-79: 07/09/1981

Cabinet approved the printing of a Bill amending the Bush Fires Act, 1954-79, to extend the discretionary powers of local authorities to approve the use of tractors and self-propelled harvesters which do not have vertical exhausts, during prohibited or restricted burning times.

Legislation—Fremantle Gas & Coke Co. Ltd.: 07/09/1981

Cabinet approved the drafting of a Bill to amend the Fremantle Gas & Coke Co. Ltd. legislation and the State Energy Commission Act, 1979, to ensure the continuity of the supply of gas to consumers covered by the Fremantle Gas & Coke Co. franchise.

Mineral Royalties: 16/09/1981 (no papers)

Coonana Pastoral Lease—Cundalee Aboriginal Community: 21/09/1981

The Public Works Department undertook water drilling at Cundalee, which indicated an extremely poor likelihood of obtaining ground water of suitable quality. The Minister for Community Welfare recommended the re-location of the Cundalee community to a secure land base in the area of the present Aboriginal Lands Trust Reserve No 22100, which would lend itself to the development of the community in a useful and positive direction. Cabinet authorised the Minister to continue negotiations with the appropriate Commonwealth and Aboriginal authorities to determine if an acceptable proposal could be developed. The proposal was to include satisfactory water supplies, surveys and assurances about sacred sites, and operation as a conventional pastoral lease. The Minister was to report findings back to Cabinet.

Transport and the Disabled—Report: 29/09/1981

Cabinet received a report from the Metropolitan Transport Trust which found that people with severe disabilities would not benefit from making conventional public transport accessible to them, but that people with moderate disabilities as well as the elderly could benefit significantly from small modifications to buses. Cabinet approved releasing the report to the public, and decided the Metropolitan Transport Trust should proceed rapidly to modify a bus for testing, and provide Cabinet with a report on the results. Cabinet also advised the Trust and the Chairman of the Taxi Control Board to report quickly on the practicalities of catering for the severely disabled, as well as approving the need for further work to identify an acceptable way of coordinating voluntary services to cater for the severely disabled.

Computerised Legal Data Retrieval: 30/09/1981

The Attorney-General informed Cabinet that Victoria and New South Wales had each been working independently on producing a scheme for computerising legal information, in relation to their Acts of Parliament, Regulations and case law. The scheme would make this information available to the legal profession. The issue had been discussed at the previous two meetings of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General. Cabinet was

advised a feasibility study in the future could reveal that WA would need to provide personnel to establish its own database, or if a private group established the database, WA would need to provide Parliamentary Counsels' services for checking, resulting in additional staffing arrangements. Cabinet noted this information.

Education Act: 02/10/1981

Responding to recent strikes and industrial action undertaken by the State School Teachers' Union, Cabinet approved an amendment to the Education Act 1928-1979 to "provide that State School teachers who refuse to perform their duties as directed or allocated to them by or on behalf of the Director-General of Education, disentitle themselves to payment of salary for the period for which such refusal subsists and the duties (or particular duty) remain unperformed."

Argyle Diamond Project: 12/10/1981 (no papers)

Cabinet requested the Minister to expedite the presentation of a draft agreement.

Land for Australian Labor Party in Stirling: 12/10/1981

On 13 July 1980, Cabinet had declined a proposal by Mr B. Burke, M.L.A., acting on behalf of the Australian Labor Party in the Federal Electorate of Stirling, to purchase two residential lots from the State Housing Commission. Cabinet had declined primarily because of re-zoning provisions which would require residential lots being changed for a commercial and/or business purpose. Mr Burke had since written to the Premier and Honorary Minister for Housing seeking a review of the decision. Mr Burke advised that the City of Stirling would permit the proposed use on the current zoning, and provided written evidence from the only affected neighbours who outlined their support for the proposal. Cabinet decided to seek clarification of the exact use proposed by the ALP for the land in question before making a final decision.

Censorship of Films: 12/10/1981

Following concerns from the film industry that the Chief Secretary was "effectively re-introducing a continuing system of State censorship of films," the Chief Secretary informed Cabinet of his view that this was not the case, nor his intention. The Chief Secretary informed Cabinet that the power to prohibit the exhibition of the two films ("The Exterminator" and "Caligula") was only exercised "after careful consideration of the particular circumstances" and after receiving unanimous advice "that the films in question add nothing to the artistic or cultural life of the State."

Proposed Amendment to the Health Act—Power to Close Public Swimming Pools: 19/10/1981

Cabinet approved a proposed amendment to the Health Act, to allow the Public Health Department to close public swimming pools when the water is unsafe for use, and added this to the proposed amendments to the Health Act being prepared by the Crown Law Department.

Coordination of Government Policy on Industrial Relations Matters: 26/10/1981

Following the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust's appearance before a Commissioner of the Federal Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, Cabinet approved a policy that no industrial relations matter should be dealt with either directly or indirectly with any industrial tribunal, union or staff without first consulting with the Public Service Board at the earliest possible time.

Nuclear Energy—City of Stirling Referendum Proposal: 09/11/1981 (no papers), 30/11/1981

Cabinet decided to request the Minister for Local Government to obtain a report for Cabinet on the legal position in respect to the City of Stirling referendum proposal under the Local Government Act (or any other appropriate Act). Cabinet was eventually informed of Crown Law opinion that the City of Stirling would not be empowered to conduct a referendum "to give ratepayers a chance to decide if they want a nuclear power station in Perth." However, Cabinet was also informed it "would require little ingenuity on the Council's part to pose a specific question, worded as to indicate a nexus of power conferred on the Council" bringing the referendum within the authority of the Local Government Act.

Tax Incentives for Conservation of Historic Buildings—Proposal by Minister for Planning, Victoria: 23/11/1981

Cabinet approved a joint proposal with the Victorian Minister for Planning to the Federal Treasurer, seeking income tax incentives for the restoration of historic buildings.

Electoral Matters: 24/12/1981

Cabinet decided not to accept the recommendation to close polling places at the earlier time of 6:00pm.

The 1981 State Cabinet Members

Sir Charles Court's fourth Ministry had been elected on 23 February 1980. There was a Cabinet reshuffle on 12 February 1981 "in order to achieve a better balance in the work load and to obtain a greater involvement by Hon. I.J. Laurance, M.L.A." This saw the portfolios of Housing, Regional Administration and the North-West and Tourism being re-allocated under Hon. P.V. Jones, M.L.A.

Court Ministry

The Hon. Sir Charles Walter Michael COURT, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.L.A.
Premier; Treasurer; Minister Co-coordinating Economic and Regional Development

The Hon. Raymond James O'CONNOR, M.L.A.
Deputy Premier; Minister for Labour and Industry; Consumer Affairs; Immigration; Regional Administration and the North-West and Tourism (5 March 1980-12 Feb 1981).
Deputy Premier; Minister for Labour and Industry; Consumer Affairs; Immigration (12 Feb 1981-25 Jan 1982).

The Hon. Richard Charles OLD, M.L.A.
Minister for Agriculture

The Hon. Ian George MEDCALF, E.D., Q.C., M.L.C.
Attorney-General and Minister for Federal Affairs; Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

The Hon. Andrew MENSAROS, M.L.A.
Minister for Works; Water Resources; Minister Assisting the Minister Coordinating Economic and Regional Development; Housing (5 Mar 1980-12 Feb 1981).
Minister for Works; Water Resources; Minister Assisting the Minister Coordinating Economic and Regional Development (12 Feb 1981-25 Jan 1982).

The Hon. Peter Vernon JONES, M.L.A.
Minister for Resources Development; Mines, Fuel and Energy; Industrial Development and Commerce (5 Mar 1980-12 Feb 1981).
Minister for Resources Development; Mines, Fuel and Energy; Housing; Regional Administration and the North-West; Tourism; Industrial Development and Commerce (12 Feb 1981-25 Jan 1982)).

The Hon. Edgar Cyril RUSHTON, M.L.A.
Minister for Transport

The Hon. Raymond Laurence YOUNG, F.C.A., M.L.A.
Minister for Health

The Hon. William Leonard GRAYDEN, M.L.A.
Minister for Education; Cultural Affairs and Recreation

The Hon. David John WORDSWORTH, M.L.C.
Minister for Lands; Forests

The Hon. Margaret June CRAIG, M.L.A.
Minister for Local Government; Urban Development and Town Planning

The Hon. William Ralph HASSELL, LL.B, M.A., M.L.A.
Chief Secretary; Minister for Police and Traffic; Community Welfare

The Hon. Gordon Edgar MASTERS, M.L.C.
Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife; Conservation and the Environment

The Hon. Ian James LAURANCE, B.A., M.L.A.
Honorary Minister Assisting the Ministers of Housing; Regional Administration and the North West; Tourism

The Hon. Barry John MacKINNON, B.Ec., A.A.S.A., M.L.A.
Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister of Industrial Development and Commerce

The Hon. Norman Frederick MOORE, B.A., Dip. Ed., M.L.C.
Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet