



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

A Guide to the 1982 State Cabinet Records

PREPARED BY:

**THE STATE RECORDS OFFICE OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Contents

Introduction	3
Overview	4
A Description of the State Cabinet Records	5
Events and Issues that Made News in 1982	6
State Cabinet Deliberations: 11 January 1982 – 14 February 1983.	8
State Cabinet Members: 1 January 1982 – 25 February 1983.	21

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 on or near the first Monday in June, Western Australia Day, by creating an online Guide to these records. This year, the Guide includes information from all Cabinet minutes and decisions from 1982, as well as those records of the O'Connor Government, up to the 19 February 1983 State election.

The Guide aims to provide access to these records by the Western Australian community.

The 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.

The State Cabinet records, 11 January 1982 – 14 February 1983, comprise State Cabinet Minutes and Decisions (WAS 1228).

The 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. These records are available at the SRO Search Room. The SRO is 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 ph. 9427 3600 or email sro@sro.wa.gov.au.

N.B. This year (2013) the Guide to the State Cabinet Records has been produced with the assistance of Mr Benjamin Travia, a Law and Arts student from Murdoch University, who researched the State Cabinet Minutes and Decisions and wrote the Guide during his placement as an intern at the SRO. Mr Travia was secured as an intern through the Public Sector Commission's 2012 WA State Government Internship Program.

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 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 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 1982-3, the documentation and supporting papers associated with a Cabinet deliberation was attached to many of the decisions, although not in every case.

A Description of the State Cabinet Records

Cabinet Minutes and Decisions: 11 January 1982 – 14 February 1983

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 Cabinet decisions.

Location: *State Records Office of Western Australia*

Reference: *Series 1228, Consignment 2843 (files 1981/279 v3-1981/279 v4) and Consignment 2884 (files 1982/051 v1 - 1983/434 v4).*

Quantity: *19 files, 1.61 linear metres*

Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1981/279 v3	11/01/1982 - 11/01/1982
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1981/279 v4	20/01/1982 - 03/02/1982
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/051 v1	15/02/1982 - 08/03/1982
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/051 v2	15/03/1982 - 29/03/1982
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/051 v3	05/04/1982 - 05/04/1982
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/051 v4	19/04/1982 - 22/04/1982
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/129 v1	28/04/1982 - 10/05/1982
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/129 v2	17/05/1982 - 31/05/1982
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/129 v3	08/06/1982 - 28/06/1982
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/129 v4	05/07/1982 - 26/07/1982
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/129 v5	02/08/1982 - 18/08/1982
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/327 v1	23/08/1982 - 06/09/1982
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/327 v2	13/09/1982 - 05/10/1982
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/327 v3	11/10/1982 - 18/10/1982
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/327 v4	25/10/1982 - 22/11/1982
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/434 v1	29/11/1982 - 13/12/1982
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/434 v2	20/12/1982 - 05/01/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/434 v3	10/01/1983 - 17/01/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/434 v4	24/01/1983 - 14/02/1983

Events and Issues that Made News in 1982

Internationally, 1982 was a year of conflict and violence. On April 2nd Argentina sought to reclaim the Falkland Islands, a British colony for 150 years. The British, under the 'Iron Lady' Margaret Thatcher, sent in an expeditionary force to successfully retake the islands, leaving 910 military personnel and 3 civilians dead. Meanwhile, on June 6th, Israel invaded Lebanon in an attempt to eliminate the Palestine Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.) against the backdrop of a bloody civil war. Civil wars also flared in El Salvador and Guatemala, while the vicious Iran-Iraq war entered its 3rd year. The Soviet Union lost up to 2000 soldiers in Afghanistan in the 'Salang Tunnel Fire', as well as leader Leonid Brezhnev, who died after 18 years in power.

For Australia, 1982 was a year of severe drought. A world-wide recession saw the Australian economy struggling with unemployment rising, double-digit inflation, and industrial disputes increasing.

The Franklin Dam in Tasmania was a central theme throughout the year. Malcolm Fraser's Coalition government refused to intervene in a 'state affair'. Also in federal politics, Fraser defeated former Foreign Affairs Minister Andrew Peacock in a Liberal leadership contest, whilst Bob Hawke lost an ALP leadership contest to incumbent Bill Hayden. The Commonwealth Parliament also passed the *Freedom of Information Act*,¹ granting Australians an enforceable right to access government documents.

The Commonwealth Games, held in Queensland from September 30th, dominated the sporting landscape. Australia topped the medal tally and helped to 'put life back into the nation's faded reputation'.² However, the Games also brought Aboriginal land rights protests to international media attention.

The Chamberlain saga continued to captivate the Australian public. On October 29th Lindy Chamberlain was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. The birth of Prince William on June 21st was also front page news, as Australians waited to hear when the newest Royal would visit Down Under.

In local news, the Perth Mint Swindle hit headlines on June 25th as \$650 million in gold were exchanged for stolen Building Society cheques. Despite the drought, the state suffered its wettest January on record as floods hit the Great Southern. A disaster was declared and \$4 million provided in relief.

In the year in which an album, Billy Joel's '52nd Street', was released on C.D. for the first time, Time Magazine named the computer 'Machine of the Year.' Medicine took a leap as Barney Clark became the first recipient of a permanent artificial heart, living for 112 days after the procedure.

1982 was a significant year in Hollywood as 'E.T' became the highest grossing box-office hit of all time taking in \$435 million. Tinseltown also lost stars with Henry Fonda, Ingrid Bergman and Grace Kelly (Princess Grace of Monaco) all passing away. Meanwhile Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' sold 20 million copies, the most of all time.

¹ *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth).

² '1982 Battles of the Heart and Home', *The Sunday Times* (Perth), 2 January 1983, 9.

In Australia in 1982, Survivor's 'Eye of the Tiger' topped the charts, Thomas Keneally released 'Schindler's Ark' and 'The Man from Snowy River' became the biggest ever earner for an Australian produced film at the Australian box office, raking in \$17 Million.³

In state politics, long-serving Premier Sir Charles Court resigned in early January. New Premier Raymond J. O'Connor stated that his government would be 'compassionate and people oriented'.⁴ He noted the greatest challenge as industrial disruption and 'excessive' wage demands.⁵ The Premier's prediction proved accurate as industrial disruption and unemployment dominated the day to day local news. Opinion polls ahead of the February 1983 election put Brian Burke's ALP in front.

The State Cabinet Minutes and Decisions reveal several issues that made headlines, including:

- Cabinet consideration of the Hospital Linen and Laundry Services (HLLS) strike and other salary claims. Workers sought a greater pay rise than offered and refused to work for 3 weeks until the government sent in replacement staff. During the strike, hospitals only admitted emergencies whilst King Edward Memorial contacted expectant mothers asking them to bring their own linen. The government's decision to send in replacement workers was reported as 'clumsy' as predominantly female picketers were dragged away by police.
- Cabinet approval of an investigation into alleged police corruption. The opposition labelled the probe 'futile' and called for a Royal Commission to investigate relations between brothel owners and police.
- Cabinet was engaged with issues over Australia's residual ties to the UK.
- Cabinet continued to oppose reduced working hours, though softened its stance due to decisions by the State Industrial Commission.
- Cabinet rejected the introduction of a Casino in Perth and attempted to strengthen anti-gambling laws.
- Cabinet considered laws against Tobacco advertising.
- Cabinet discussed the future of Wittenoom.
- Cabinet approved and sought to enforce a 12 months wage freeze.

In 1982, WA's population was 1.276 million, milk cost 65¢ a litre and a can of Coke was 29¢ from Charlie Carters. You could buy a 5 bedroom house in Dalkeith for \$275 000, while a 3 bedroom house in Hamilton Hill was \$46 600.⁶

³ Film Victoria, *Australian Films at the Australian Box Office*, 2 <<http://www.film.vic.gov.au>>.

⁴ 'O'Connor Says People Will Come First,' *The West Australian* (Perth) 26 January 1982, 4.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ 1982 costs sourced from 1982 State Cabinet Minutes and Decisions and *The West Australian* newspaper.

State Cabinet Deliberations: 11 January 1982 - 14 February 1983

The following are a selection of notable issues raised in the Western Australian State Cabinet records from 11 January 1982 to 14 February 1983. The description of the issues is generally taken directly from wording used in the Cabinet Minutes and Decisions. The dates shown below are the date(s) of the deliberations in the State Cabinet Records.

Appointment of Queen's Counsel: 11/01/1982

Cabinet approved the appointment of Malcolm McCusker as Queen's Counsel.

Review of the State Relativities by the Commonwealth Grants Commission/Grants Commission Report: 11/01/1982, 08/06/1982

Cabinet endorsed a recommendation of the Premier and Treasurer that the government ask for a reconsideration of state relativities by the Commonwealth Grants Commission. In June, Cabinet noted that the Premier would personally take up the matter with the Prime Minister and argue for the report's complete rejection as WA had not been 'fairly treated'.

Release of Software Developed by the State: 11/01/1982

Cabinet approved a recommendation from the Premier and Treasurer that all proposals for the disposal of software developed by the state be referred to the Government Computing Policy Committee. The Committee was concerned that software had been given to government departments in other states and noted that 'in this age of computer technology it is important to recognise that software is just as important...as office equipment or motor vehicles.'

Hospital Employees Union- Wages Claim: 11/01/1982

Cabinet approved a recommendation of the Minister for Health that the government continue to oppose wage claims based on unjustified community movements. The Hospital Employees Union had had sought a 10.45% pay rise, owing to wage movements in other states, after they were handed a 5.27% rise by the Industrial Tribunal in 1981. The Minister noted that industrial confrontation, rather than conciliation, appeared to be the union's objective.

Aboriginal Housing at Pinjarra/Conflict between the Murray Shire and the Aboriginal Lands Trust: 11/01/1982, 21/06/1982, 28/06/1982

In May 1981 the Murray Shire Council reversed its approval for the State Housing Commission to replace substandard housing with four conventional State Housing Commission brick Dwellings. Cabinet supported an approach by the Aboriginal Housing Board and Advisory Council to the Shire to reconsider the decision. Cabinet was concerned that the reversal could set a precedent for other Shires which had since expressed similar opposition to Aboriginal housing. There was also concern that Aboriginal groups may attempt to bypass state and local government and obtain the support of the Commonwealth to complete the project. Later in the year, Cabinet approved the advice of the Minister for Community Welfare and Housing that the housing interests of Aborigines were best served by integration, yet this was not

always possible or desirable.

A Low Cost Suburban Rail System: 11/01/1982, 20/01/1982

Cabinet decided to initiate a study into the feasibility of a low-cost light rail system. On purely economic grounds, the Commissioner of Railways and other figures in the Transport industry believed that remaining suburban railways should be replaced by a bus system, with exclusive bus-ways where appropriate. However, they were aware of the apparent preference of part of the community for continued rail services, regardless of higher costs. Cabinet decided to defer a decision on whether to purchase new rail cars until the Minister for Transport could demonstrate that they would not prove surplus to requirements if an alternative service was decided upon.

Acquisition of Land by Overseas Interests: 11/01/1982, 20/12/1982

Cabinet approved the formation of a Committee to discuss the issues involved with the acquisition of land by overseas interests. The Committee reported that there was already sufficient protection due to the relationship between the state government and the Foreign Investment Review Board. Furthermore, they argued that due to the state of the market legislation to restrict the sale of land would be unjustified.

Sister State/Prefecture Agreement: 20/01/1982, 22/03/1982

Cabinet decided that the Honorary Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce would have primary responsibility for dealings with sister state Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. The Cabinet considered the greatest benefit to accrue from the relationship would be the development of trading relationships. In March, Cabinet approved, with Treasury agreement, spending \$220,000 on a trade and cultural display to be held in Kobe, Japan from November 17th to 22nd.

Committee for Encouraging National Pride/ Distribution of Table Flags to All WA Schools: 20/01/1982, 07/02/1983, 14/02/1983

A Committee for Encouraging National Pride had been formed in March 1981 to discuss how stronger feelings of national pride could be developed in the community, with a special focus on the school. The Committee wanted to develop a brochure which would form part of a ceremonial folder to be used in schools on special occasions. Cabinet noted and asked that the brochure clearly state that the national anthem is 'God Save the Queen' and the national song is 'Advance Australia Fair'.

In February 1983, Cabinet discussed the distribution of table Australian flags to each WA school. This would enable one flag to be displayed on each teacher's desk in the state. Cabinet decided that all state and federal members would be invited to participate in the program, which would involve school ceremonies with events such as singing and dancing.

HLLS Strike: 25/01/1982, 22/02/1982

On January 25th Cabinet decided that the Deputy Premier was to confer with the Minister for Labour and Industry on the best way to launder hospital linen during the HLLS strike. The Acting Minister for Health noted that besides one small private

laundry in Perth and two in country WA, no other metropolitan laundry wished, in any way, to be involved in the dispute. Although the laundries stated that they were already at full working capacity, the Minister believed that pressure was being brought by unions, lamenting 'so much for the often vaunted private enterprise alternative'. The Minister listed options including dismissing the workers, deregistering the Union and using laundry services at Canning Vale Prison. More radical options such as immediately leasing the HLLS to a private enterprise or continuing its operation via use of the Defence Force were deemed likely to provoke widespread industrial trouble. The Minister also recommended a publicity campaign to take the initiative away from the Union. He emphasised that although hospitals had not turned away any emergencies, they could only continue operations at current levels for 1 to 2 weeks more, before hospital closures would be required.

On February 22nd, the Minister for Labour and Industry reported that normal work had resumed at the HLLS and the backlog of soiled laundry had been dealt with. The Minister noted that it appeared that private management would provide no greater security against strikes and that the two private organisations that had been negotiating the takeover of the HLLS had lost interest. Cabinet decided that the Minister seek the advice of consultants regarding the best method of selling or leasing the laundry.

Allegations of Graft and Corruption against Police: 03/02/1982, 29/03/1982

Cabinet approved the appointment of former Crown Prosecutor Mr Oliver Dixon to lead an inquiry into allegations of corruption against WA Police. The Minister for Police noted that Ms Lidia Korab's allegations in the *Western Mail* were sensational and would likely be continued to be made as the paper attempted to increase its notoriety and circulation. Cabinet also noted that changes to the laws of prostitution were not under consideration. On March 19th, Cabinet approved the report of Mr Dixon which stated that no action could be reasonably taken (that police had not already taken) to combat corruption and graft in the police force. Cabinet also decided that a Royal Commission was not justified.

Sale of Land in Nollamara to the Australian Labor Party: 03/02/1982

Cabinet decided not to approve the sale of two residential lots from the State Housing Commission to the Australian Labor Party on the basis that political parties should purchase land on the open market and not land set aside for welfare housing.

Residual Constitutional Links: 03/02/1982, 08/03/1982, 21/06/1982

Negotiations over severing residual links with the UK were ongoing throughout 1982. On February 3rd, Cabinet approved the Attorney-General's recommendation to support a deal, in principle, which would abolish residual constitutional links. The UK parliament would adopt 'winding-up' legislation allowing state parliaments to pass laws repugnant to UK legislation. On March 8th, the Minister also noted that Cabinet would need to give consideration to its position regarding the abolition of the Privy Council, as all states other than Queensland wished to end that route of appeal. On June 21st, Cabinet approved the package suggested by the Attorney-General, in which the government would forego their proposal to extend the limits of state sovereignty and accept the abolition of the Privy Council.

Electoral Act (*Citizenship*): 15/02/1982, 19/04/1982, 12/07/1982

Cabinet approved changes to the Electoral Act. The Attorney-General recommended that Registrars be required to reject voter registrations unless they were received within 31 days after they were signed and witnessed, due to possible interference by third parties. The Minister also recommended that voting eligibility be limited to people who were Australian-born or naturalised under Commonwealth law, ending the situation where persons of British Commonwealth countries were eligible to vote. However, due to conflicting patterns of action and opinions throughout other states, Cabinet later decided not to incorporate this into the amendment. Yet in July, Cabinet re-endorsed, in principle, substituting British subject status for Australian citizenship for electoral purposes. The Chief Secretary informed Cabinet that the Commonwealth proposed the change and hoped that the states would pass complementary legislation. Cabinet agreed that a final decision would not be made until further communication with the Commonwealth and close consultation with Queensland (the only other state to operate its own electoral rolls).

Voluntary Services and Amenities Fees/ Acts Amendment (Student Guilds and Associations) Act: 15/02/1982, 05/04/1982, 09/08/1982, 13/09/1982, 05/10/1982, 18/10/1982

Throughout the year, the Minister for Education attempted to obtain Cabinet approval for an amendment to make all service and amenities fees voluntary at universities. The Minister for Education noted that the government had passed legislation in October 1977 to ensure the fees were voluntary but this had merely resulted in guilds changing the title of the payment. Although Cabinet approved the change in principle, they decided, on several occasions, to take no action on the Minister's recommendation that a Bill be approved for printing.

Wittenoom: Dumar Motel/ Primary School/ Tourist Complex: 15/02/1982, 12/07/1982, 25/10/1982, 01/11/1982

Cabinet dealt with several issues surrounding the future of Wittenoom. West Pilbara Shire had requested \$200 000 for road works to make the town more attractive and suited for tourism. Cabinet decided against granting the funds despite agreeing to continue services to the town. Cabinet did approve funds for improved lighting. Cabinet rejected a recommendation that the government purchase Dumar Motel in Wittenoom. The Minister for the North-West argued that it was extremely important for tourism through the North that sufficient accommodation remain in the town. In October, Cabinet agreed to grant the Primary School funding to cover asbestos tailings which had become evident in the school. However, Cabinet made the approval on the understanding that it was not an indication of government support for children continuing to live in Wittenoom but in the interest of protecting children already there. Finally, in November, Cabinet agreed to spend \$175,000, subject to Treasury concurrence, on a feasibility study for establishing a tourist complex in the town. There had been 29 expressions of interest for undertaking the project though none from WA. The Minister for Tourism submitted that due to the 'history of the town' the study would have to be undertaken by private consultants.

State Housing Commission Proposed Village Noonkanbah Station: 15/02/1982

Cabinet decided to seek only an informal agreement with the Yungngora community over the presence of alcohol at the State Housing Commission's proposed village at Noonkanbah Station. Negotiations over the village had reached an impasse with the community insisting the Commission sign a legal document imposing conditions on non-community members. Both parties had agreed that alcohol would only be consumed and stored within the camp, but the community wished to restrict the amount of beer allowed to one carton per person per week. Cabinet was wary of concluding a formal document due to the possible precedence set by a breach.

Reduced Working Hours: 22/02/1982, 14/06/1982, 19/07/1982, 29/10/1982

The issue of reduced working hours was prevalent in Cabinet discussions throughout 1982. Initially, Cabinet decided not to alter its policy to oppose all attempts to reduce working hours. However, Cabinet was forced to soften its stance and decided to intervene only where there were claims for less than a 38 hour working week, subject to intervention being appropriate in the individual case. The Acting Minister for Labour and Industry noted that in a recent case the Industrial Commission rejected the opposition of the government arguing it failed to appreciate the likelihood of industrial action if the application was dismissed. The Acting Minister recommended Cabinet alter its position, due to the new reality where the 'Commission is more substantially influenced by direct industrial action...than it is concerned by submissions from the government on behalf of the community.' Cabinet further defined its position by deciding that although they were opposed to reduced working hours, if there was no alternative, then reduced hours could only be achieved on the basis of no reduction in productivity. Despite these conditions being met by employees at the Metropolitan Transport Trust and Royal Perth Hospital, Cabinet did not approve the agreements, instead deferring a decision until after the Premiers' Conference.

Referendum re Nuclear Power Station – City of Stirling: 22/02/1982

Cabinet refused to give \$5,000 to the Stirling Council to be used in a referendum on the construction of a nuclear power station.

Geothermal Energy- Hugall and Hoile Proposal: 02/03/1982

Cabinet approved the Minister for Mines' recommendation that the government draft legislation regulating exploration of geothermal energy in WA, in addition to concluding an agreement with Hugall and Hoile over exploration rights. The Minister noted that although it was unlikely WA had the combination of factors necessary for the early utilisation of geothermal energy; it could be possible in the future.

Rottnest Island: 08/03/1982

Cabinet decided that the Minister for Lands should confer with Defence official Brigadier Taylor over the future of Rottnest Island and refer back to Cabinet. The Minister reported that it was essential to future holidaymakers that the Defence Department return land held on the Island back to the state.

Retirement from Age 55: 15/03/1982

Cabinet approved the Premier's recommendation that the government give in principle support for lowering the retirement age of government workers to 55. The Premier noted that past requests for such a change had been rebuffed due to fears over the impact on staffing and the economy. However, he now deemed the change 'inevitable' with several states and the Commonwealth set to introduce it in the public service. The Premier stated that there would be no extra cost to the state if early retirees took a reduced pension and the Public Service Board believed there would be no adverse impact on staffing.

Dental Fees for Aborigines in the Kimberley: 22/03/1982, 25/10/1982

The Minister for Health recommended that dental treatment be made free for all Aborigines in the Kimberley rather than only those that lived on missions. The Minister noted that the standard of living of Aborigines that lived and did not live on missions did not differ. Cabinet decided to refer the matter back to the Minister for further consideration. Cabinet later approved the Minister's proposal that where an Aboriginal person in the Kimberley presented for a single emergency treatment there would be no charge.

Human Tissue Transplant Legislation: 22/03/1982, 08/06/1982, 11/10/1982

The Minister for Health recommended that the state adopt uniform legislation concerning human tissue transplant as proposed by the Commonwealth Law Reform Commission. The Minister believed that the legislation would help overcome deficiencies in the current laws. Cabinet referred the matter back to the Minister for further consideration. On June 8th Cabinet approved the Minister for Health's recommendation that the government draft a Bill on tissue donation and that the current laws be repealed. Cabinet's approval was subject to an education programme to obtain public approval for tissue donation and that the decision to donate would remain with the individual concerned or the next of kin. The Bill was approved for printing on October 11th.

Delay in Superior Courts: 22/03/1982

Cabinet approved a recommendation of the Attorney-General that a further appointment be made to the superior courts. A report released in 1981 expressed the ratio of judges to the population of each state with WA at 96,153 people to each judge, compared to 40,625 for each person in SA. The Minister also detailed long delays in the civil jurisdiction of the Supreme and District Courts, where the observation was frequently made that cases are dealt with 'like shelling peas'.

Degradation and Erosion of the Fitzroy River Valley Frontage: 29/03/1982

Cabinet deferred a decision on rehabilitating the Fitzroy River Valley frontage until the 1982/3 financial year. The Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Lands believed that the government and pastoral industry would come under increasing attack from conservation and Aboriginal groups if no action was taken.

Small Business Government Red Tape Review Committee: 05/04/1982

Cabinet approved the formation of a committee to identify the pressures on small business to meet government requirements and make recommendations to the responsible Minister.

Laporte Effluent Disposal: 19/04/1982

Cabinet approved, subject to reference being made in the report, prior to its release, the need to acknowledge a degree of radioactivity in the Laporte Effluent Disposal. The state had responsibility for disposal of effluent from the Bunbury factory since 1963. A committee, made up of state and company personnel, prepared a report concerning methods of disposal and suggested the state attempt to revise its agreement with the company, including disposing of the effluent via a marine pipeline.

Redeployment of Staff within Mental Health Services: 19/04/1982

Cabinet approved the Minister for Health's recommendation that the government cease funding the Community Development Centre within Mental Health Services. Due to demand for in-patient oriented services and the present economic situation, the Minister believed that the need for staff would not be met in the 1982/3 budget. The role of the Community Development Centre was to educate the public about mental health and how to sustain it but its results were 'difficult to define and measure'. The 23 staff would be principally moved to the Community Psychiatric Division.

Possible Casino Development and Gaming Laws/ Acts Amendment (Betting and Gaming) Bill: 19/04/1982, 28/06/1982, 27/09/1982

Cabinet confirmed that no steps were being taken towards the construction of a purpose-built casino. The Minister for Police informed Cabinet that government supporters had adopted a resolution in opposition to a casino. Cabinet also instructed the Minister to give further consideration towards issues relating to the policy of containment of illegal gambling in response to the Police Commissioner's advice. The Commissioner had reported that the policy of containment had been successful in limiting the number of illegal establishments with few complaints from the public. The Commissioner also recommended that the government consider an increase in fines to operators of venues and to players. Later in the year, Cabinet approved recommendations of a Cabinet Sub-Committee, convened by the Minister of Police, relating to the casino and subsidiary matters. Included in the recommendations were \$10,000 mandatory fines for operators and owners of gambling houses and increased fines for gamblers. Cabinet also noted that the Minister should give consideration to confiscating equipment of gambling houses. Cabinet approved the proposed Bill with these amendments in September.

Teachers Union – Salary Claim/ Teachers' Salaries: 28/04/1982, 31/05/1982, 14/06/1982

Cabinet approved the Minister for Education's recommendation that adjustments to

teacher salaries should be made via the Teachers' Tribunal. This recommendation was in response to calls for a cost of living and salary increase by the Teachers' Union. The Minister noted that the pay of WA teachers was below all other states and to bring it in line with the national average would require a 4.7% pay rise. However, a month later the Minister was given approval to begin negotiations with the Union, subject to the Premier and Treasurer's approval. The Minister noted that WA teachers were paid 12% less than NSW teachers, whose pay was closely aligned to WA teachers for many years. In June, the Deputy Premier informed Cabinet that the Union did not accept a 10% pay rise offered by the state as they disputed the 'no claims' clause for 12 months and the matter would revert back to the Teachers' Tribunal.

Offenses Involving Drunkenness: 28/04/1982

Cabinet approved, in principle, the Attorney-General's recommendation that the Justices Act be amended to the effect that habitual offenders (as the result of drunkenness) be required to enter a 12 month bond during which they will not consume alcohol. The Minister noted that the Aboriginal Communities Act contained similar provisions and that in towns where there was only one liquor outlet it was possible to prohibit the supply of alcohol.

Salary Reduction Public Service Therapy Groups: 28/04/1982

The Public Service Board had unilaterally reduced the salary of occupational therapists, speech therapists, physiotherapists and social workers. The Minister for Health reported that this had led to a 'most severe lowering of morale and a loss of faith' by the workers affected. The Minister recommended that, as an interim measure, the salaries of the workers be restored to their previous levels. Cabinet decided that the Minister for Health and the Minister for Labour and Industry should confer before referring to the Premier to make the decision, bearing in mind the views of Cabinet.

Campaign for Achieving a Progressive Reduction in Tobacco Consumption: 10/05/1982

Cabinet referred a proposal back to the Minister for Health who had sought approval for the Health Department to launch a campaign to promote a positive non-smoking image, especially aimed at youth. The Minister would seek the support of other states and territories for a national campaign. Initiatives in the proposed campaign would include encouraging the establishment of 'smoke free zones' in public places. The Minister also wanted Cabinet to consider means to eliminate the promotion and sale of cigarettes. He estimated that the campaign would cost up to \$300,000.

Advertising of Tobacco Products - M.T.T and Westrail/ Mr Dadour's Bill: 31/05/1982, 25/10/1982

Cabinet approved the Minister for Transport's recommendation that the M.T.T and Westrail not renew advertising contracts involving cigarette companies without the permission of Cabinet. The Minister cited the 'mixed signals' from the government: it said it wished to curtail smoking, yet the public was confronted with cigarette ads on government property. Three buses, in particular, had been contracted by Australia

Posters Ltd. which was currently contracted to advertise cigarettes. The Minister noted that although public pressure was mounting to have the buses withdrawn immediately, to remove the ads prematurely would result in a loss of \$24,-750 and a possible damages claim. Due to the contractual situation, the Minister deemed it impractical to place an immediate ban on the advertising of tobacco products. Later in the year, the Minister for Health submitted to Cabinet that there is little value in concentrating sole attention on restrictions on advertising of cigarettes, as it 'grossly oversimplifies the issues'. However, he dismissed Tobacco Industry claims that their advertising does not promote smoking. This was in response to the introduction of a Bill by Dr Dadour, a Liberal MLA, which amongst other things called for a complete ban on all forms of advertising and promotion of tobacco products. Cabinet noted that the Minister would consult with the Attorney-General.

Constitutional Convention: 08/06/1982

Cabinet decided it would not support a constitutional convention within the next two years. The Attorney-General stated that, amongst other reasons, it was too costly in this time of financial stringency, particularly because many 'delegates simply regard it as...a paid holiday.' He believed that the Commonwealth wanted the convention to debate the issue of 4 year terms. The Minister suggested that the Premier contact the Prime Minister to deal with the issue separately.

Co-ordinated Approach to Youth Activities: 28/06/1982

Cabinet referred a proposal to maximise public recognition of the contribution the state makes towards youth activities back to the Minister for Recreation. The Minister had noted that Gallup Polls showed that the government received least support from the 18 to 22 age-group. As a further step to improve the government's image, he proposed that Departments identify areas in which youth could be more effectively assisted via co-ordination of services.

Aboriginal Reserves/ Aboriginal Reserve Review: 28/06/1982, 25/10/1982

Cabinet approved the formation of a fact-finding mission to prepare recommendations on the future of Aboriginal reserves. However, in October, the review was suspended as the Minister for Community Welfare informed Cabinet that the support of the Aboriginal Lands Trust would be unlikely. Consequently, the atmosphere surrounding the review would not be positive and the Committee was receiving extensive media attention.

Limitation Act – Predicament of Persons whose Injuries become Apparent after a Long Period/ Asbestosis Sufferers: 28/06/1982, 25/10/1982

Cabinet decided to obtain a Law Reform Commission report on possible changes to the Limitation Act. The cases of asbestos-related diseases at the town of Wittenoom had highlighted deficiencies in the present laws, which denied sufferers the right to seek compensation due to the lapse in time from exposure to asbestos to the development of diseases. In October, the Attorney-General informed Cabinet that the Commission had recommended making the limitation period 6 years, which could be extended where the court considered it just. The Minister believed that as this would act retrospectively, consideration must be given to the financial consequences

for employers and insurers. He submitted that legislating immediately and retrospectively would not be desirable to either defendants or sufferers. He recommended, and Cabinet agreed, that the only practical solution was to form a special sub-committee to consider establishing a fund to provide just and equitable relief on agreed terms for deserving cases.

Neighbourhood Watch Programme – Introduction of: 28/06/1982

Cabinet approved \$10,000 in expenditure for a Neighbourhood Watch pilot program.

BURKE versus Western Australia – Acts Amendment (Electoral Provinces and Districts) Act: 28/06/1982, 30/08/1982

Cabinet decided that the opposition leader, Mr Brian Burke, would not be reimbursed after being ordered to pay the state's legal costs. Mr Burke had argued that laws dealing with electoral districts in the Constitution Act required 'one man, one vote'. The WA Supreme Court had rejected this argument. Mr Burke had asked for a waiver as he had brought a matter of 'public importance' to the court. Cabinet subsequently agreed to accept \$5,000, less than the original sum awarded by the court.

International Treaties and Commonwealth/State Relations: 05/07/1982

Cabinet noted that the states needed fuller and more effective participation at future sessions of the Commission on Human Rights. The Attorney-General detailed the non-existent communications with the Department of Foreign and Affairs and Trade before and during discussions held at the 38th session of the Commission in Geneva. He noted that although many things on the agenda were of interest to states there was basically no consultation.

Delta-9-THC: 02/08/1982

Cabinet approved a request from the Commonwealth Department of Health to move Delta-9-THC, found in marihuana, to Schedule 2 of the 'Convention on Psychotropic Substances'. The substance had been in Schedule 1, meaning it was completely prohibited, but the USA had requested it be moved to 'a closely controlled' classification due to its benefit against the side effects of cancer treatment. The Minister for Health noted that despite its connotations with 'marihuana' it was difficult to reject the request given recommendations from national and world bodies of the highest repute.

Gambling – League Football Clubs/ Betting on Football: 23/08/1982, 08/11/1982

Cabinet denied a request from East Perth Football Club to introduce legislation to allow members to gamble on its premises. The Chief Secretary recommended against such a move submitting it was inconsistent with Cabinet's decision not to introduce a casino and its move to toughen penalties for illegal gambling. Cabinet also rejected a request from the WAFL to allow football betting using the T.A.B. The Chief Secretary told Cabinet that evidence in Victoria showed football betting was declining and there was nothing to suggest WA was any different.

Disruptive Students/ Education Act: 23/08/1982, 05/10/1982

Cabinet approved the Minister for Education's recommendation that he be granted the power to exclude disruptive students from a school or schools. The Minister submitted that a small number of highly defiant students were a growing problem in schools and as a last resort students could continue their education via correspondence.

Electoral Act (*Conscientious Objectors*): 27/09/1982, 18/10/1982

Cabinet decided to amend the electoral act to make religious conscientious objection a valid excuse not to vote, subject to providing proof of objection prior to an election. However, the requirement of prior proof was subsequently dropped as the Chief Secretary deemed it impractical. He noted that people change religion, no test of proof is possible and it would prove an embarrassing amount of work for the Electoral Department. He also noted that it may be seen as sectarian and that the exception was not abused by 'non-believers' in other states.

Non – Lethal Prison Perimeter Security Measures: 11/10/1982

Cabinet approved the continued use of armed guards for prisons holding high security risk prisoners. Cabinet also instructed the Prisons Department to take into account viable non-lethal options listed in a report commissioned after the shooting death of an attempted escapee at C.W Campbell Remand Centre. The Report discussed various possible security measures, including the unconventional, such as 'sticky goo' (foam used to hold prisoners down), 'moats' and 'unclimbable paint'. However, these were ultimately deemed impractical and cost-prohibitive and the report listed the use of walls, fences, dogs and vehicle patrols as more feasible.

Regulation of Tobacco Products: 08/11/1982

Cabinet decided against amending the Local Government Act to empower municipal councils to regulate cigarette ads, smoking in public places and the sale of cigarettes. The City of Fremantle and the City of Subiaco had approached the Minister for Local Government and requested the amendment. The Minister, however, argued against the amendment as she thought that any regulation should be applied state-wide and not vary according to the whims of individual councils.

Purchase of Shares in Austmark International Ltd.: 06/12/1982, 08/12/1982

Cabinet agreed to purchase \$2.5 million worth of shares in Austmark International Ltd. to prevent its imminent collapse. Alan Bond had contacted the Premier and Treasurer asking for the purchase. The Premier submitted that Cabinet should take a wider view than the expected nil return; with the economic situation worsening the collapse of Austmark would shake business confidence, could lead to the collapse of other companies and have a serious effect on employment.

12 Month Wage Freeze: 08/12/1982, 05/01/1983, 17/01/1983, 07/02/1983

Cabinet approved drawing up legislation to ensure a wages freeze throughout WA for 12 months. The government passed the Salaries and Wages Freeze Act on

December 24th which prohibited remuneration in excess of rates at December 23rd 1982. However, Cabinet approved increases to 'award free' public employees as well as increases for 'qualification allowances', shift workers and drivers of motor vehicles at hospitals.

Cabinet also approved a strong response to the Builders Labourers Federation's (BLF) plan to seek a 36 hour working week, in contravention of wage freeze policy. The Minister for Labour and Industry noted that 'unfortunately a number of companies appear to have already weakened'. Cabinet approved the Minister's recommendation that the government seek a declaration of the WA Industrial Commission stating that a reduction in hours without a proportionate reduction in pay contravenes their order of January 14th 1983. He also recommended the use of industrial inspectors and injunctions to stymie attempts to contravene the wage freeze policy.

Future of Perth Mint: 05/01/1983

Rothschild Australia Ltd. had contacted the Minister for Mines seeking to enter discussions over purchasing the Perth Mint. The company was one of the five gold trading houses in London and sought to service its interests in South East Asia and Japan via the Mint. The Minister noted that the Mint was an integral part of the mining industry and had international repute. Cabinet approved his recommendation that the government not discuss selling the Mint, but rather discuss how the Mint could play an expanded role involving the company.

Liquor Coming into Central Reserve Area: 10/01/1983

Cabinet deferred action on the Attorney-General's recommendation that the Liquor Act be amended to include provision for liquor-free 'dry areas'. The Minister had visited the central reserve area and the community had raised concern over alcohol abuse and the lack of means to prevent alcohol being brought into the region. The Minister recommended that Cabinet adopt the dry area provision, which was present in the laws of the NT.

In-Vitro Fertilisation: 10/01/1983

Cabinet approved the formation of a committee to consider the ethical, social and legal issues involved with IVF, advise the government of relevant recommendations of similar committees in other jurisdictions and supervise the practice of IVF in the state. The Attorney-General submitted that two doctors had been administering the treatment without supervision of an ethics committee as they were in private hospitals. There were public concerns over the ethics of IVF and reports from the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Victorian Government labelled IVF still a 'research project' which must be supervised.

Concessionary Fares for the Unemployed (and others) on Metropolitan Public Transport: 17/01/1983

Cabinet approved the Minister for Transport's recommendation that the unemployed and other disadvantaged groups receive concession transport fares similar to those given to pensioners. The Minister noted the increasing public concern for the unemployed and submitted that any cost would be offset by stipulating that the

concession was valid only during off-peak times.

Commonwealth Wage Pause Program: 24/01/1983

The Commonwealth had saved \$300 million from their wage pause program which they allocated to the states for employment initiatives. The federal government was adamant that \$200 million go to schemes aimed at creating jobs, specifically for the unemployed under 25, older, disabled and Aboriginal Australians. The Minister for Employment submitted that the guidelines produced by the Commonwealth were not rigid and represented a reasonable framework. WA had been allocated \$17.5 million for projects. Cabinet approved the guidelines as well as the proposed projects by the Minister, including; developing sporting and recreational facilities, Jervoise Bay Breakwater and accelerated computer data take-up.

State Cabinet Members: 1 January 1982 – 25 February 1983

Premier Sir Charles Court resigned effective from January 25. 10 of the 13 members of the fourth and final Court Ministry remained serving under new Premier Raymond O'Connor. Both Wordsworth and Grayden were excluded from O'Connor's Cabinet. Grayden's ousting was especially contentious, with his exclusion reported as 'harsh treatment',⁷ whilst the Premier maintained he wanted a 'younger man' better suited to the job.⁸ Pike, Clarko and Shalders were promoted to the Ministry from Coalition backbenches. Pike and Clarko were initially 'Honorary Ministers' before the expansion of the Cabinet from 13 to 15 members on May 14. The 'relegation' of the portfolio of Education to an Honorary Minister was criticised,⁹ as was the decision to group portfolios of conflicting nature together.¹⁰ Further changes to the Ministry were made on December 30th, including the creation of the Employment portfolio under Hassell. 1982 was the final year in power for the Liberal-National Coalition, losing power to the ALP on February 19th 1983, after nearly 9 years in office.

The Court Ministry (until 25 January 1982)

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

The Hon. Raymond James O'CONNOR, M.L.A
Deputy Premier; Minister for Labour and Industry; Consumer Affairs and Immigration

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; Minister for Federal Affairs and Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

The Hon. Andrew MENSAROS, M.L.A
Minister for Works; Water Resources and Minister Assisting the Minister Co-ordinating Economic and Regional Development

The Hon. Peter Vernon JONES, M.L.A
Minister for Resources Development; Mines; Fuel; Energy; Housing; Regional Administration and the North-West; Tourism; Industrial Development and Commerce

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

⁷ Graeme Atherton, '3 In 2 Out', *The West Australian* (Perth), 23 January 1982, 6.

⁸ *Ibid*, 8.

⁹ Graeme Atherton, 'O'Connor to Reshape Jobs in Ministry', *The West Australian* (Perth), 21 January 1982, 1.

¹⁰ Graeme Atherton, '3 In 2 Out', *The West Australian* (Perth), 23 January 1982, 6.

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 and Forests

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

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

The O'Connor Ministry (25 January 1982 – 25 February 1983)

The Hon. Raymond James O'CONNOR M.L.A
Premier; Treasurer; Minister Co-ordinating Economic and Regional Development

The Hon. Edgar Cyril RUSHTON M.L.A
Deputy Premier; Minister for Transport and Emergency Services

The Hon. Richard Charles OLD M.L.A
Minister for Primary Industry; Agriculture; Fisheries and Wildlife

The Hon. Ian George MEDCALF, E.D., Q.C., M.L.C
Attorney General; Minister for Federal Affairs; Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council (up to 30 Dec 1982)
Attorney-General; Minister for Federal Affairs; Police; Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council (from 30 Dec 1982)

The Hon. Andrew MENSAROS, M.L.A
Minister for Works; Water Resources; Education, Minister Assisting the Minister for Co-ordinating Economic and Regional Development (up to 14 May 1982)
Minister for Works; Water Resources; Minister Assisting the Minister for Co-ordinating Economic and Regional Development (from 14 May 1982)

The Hon. Peter Vernon JONES, M.L.A
Minister for Resources Development; Mines; Fuel and Energy

The Hon. Raymond Laurence YOUNG, F.C.A., M.L.A
Minister for Health; Community Welfare, Housing and Consumer Affairs (up to 14 May 1982)
Minister for Health (from 14 May 1982)

The Hon. William Ralph Boucher HASSELL L.L.B, M.A, M.L.A
Minister for Police and Prisons; Minister Assisting the Minister for Emergency Services (up to 30 Dec 1982)
Minister for Employment (from 30 Dec 1982)

The Hon. Gordon Edgar MASTERS M.L.C
Minister for Labour and Industry and Immigration

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

The Hon. Ian James LAURANCE B.A, M.L.A
Minister for Lands; Forests; Conservation and the Environment

The Hon. Barry John MACKINNON B.Ec., A.A.S.A., M.L.A
Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce; Regional Administration and the North-West and Tourism (up to 11 June 1982)
Minister for Industrial, Commercial and Regional Development and Tourism (from 11 June 1982 – 16 Aug 1982)
Minister for Industrial, Commercial and Regional Development; the North West and Tourism (from 16 Aug 1982)

The Hon. Robert Gerald PIKE M.L.C
Chief Secretary; Minister for Cultural Affairs and Recreation (up to 30 Dec 1982)
Chief Secretary; Minister for Prisons; Minister for Cultural Affairs and Recreation (from 30 Dec 1982)

The Hon. James George CLARKO, A.E., B.A, Dip. Ed. M.A.C.E, J.P, M.L.A
Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister in the portfolio of Education (up to 14 May 1982)
Minister of Education (from 14 May 1982)

The Hon. Richard Steele SHALDERS M.L.A
Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister in the portfolios of Community Welfare, Housing and Consumer Affairs (up to 14 May 1982)
Minister for Community Welfare, Housing and Consumer Affairs (from 14 May 1982)

The Hon. Thomas Knight M.L.C
Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet