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CABINET—SUBJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION, 8th February 1988

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CABINET	SUBJECT	DOCKET
Not relevant		
No. LATE 2.4 Decision	Further discussion of previous Cabinet decision to allow for taking of bottle-nosed dolphins to the extent necessary to provide for breeding stock of animals. REAFFIRM PREVIOUS ATTITUDE	D.E.P. 4028/1986
Not relevant		

2.4/1

MINUTES forming ENCLOSURE to

DEP 4028/86

TO THE PREMIER
FOR CABINET

1. Proposal

That Cabinet further discuss its previous decision to allow for the taking of bottle-nosed dolphins to the extent necessary to provide for a breeding stock of animals if these cannot be obtained from established oceanaria.

2. Background

2.1 On the 5th May 1986 Cabinet approved: "Allow for the upgrading of Marineland (both in facility and function) in accordance with a plan of management approved by government and subject to this approval permit the taking of bottle-nosed dolphins from State waters to the extent necessary to provide for an initial breeding stock of animals if these cannot be obtained from established oceanaria".

2.2 The 1986 State Convention of the Australian Labor Party carried the following resolution: "State Convention supports the conclusions and recommendation of the Report of the Senate Select Committee on Animal Welfare: 'Dolphins and Whales in Captivity'. Convention calls upon the State Government to implement these recommendations and as a first step, to move to ban import or capture of cetacea in South Australia as soon as possible.

2.3 On the 20th October 1986 Cabinet reaffirmed its previous decision with the exception of the word "initial".

2.4 The 1987 State Convention of the Australian Labor Party carried the following resolution:-

"In view of the 1986 State Convention's policy on dolphins, this State Convention directs Cabinet to revoke all permits issued for the capture and importation of Dolphins into South Australia, and to initiate an urgent enquiry into the financial backers of the proposed Marineland developments and their appropriateness as managers of dolphins in captivity".

2.5 The December State Council Meeting of the Australian Labour Party carried the following:

"That the State Council support the Minister for Environment and Planning, Hon. Don Hopgood, in implementing State Convention policy of 1986 and 1987, calling for a ban on the capture and importation of Dolphins in South Australia, and call upon the Minister to report to the subsequent State Council meeting on the actions he has taken to implement that policy, and in particular, to report on the enquiry into the financial backers of the proposed Marineland developments".

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3. Discussion

3.1. The developers, Tribond, are steadily working towards a point when they will be seeking a permit for the capture of dolphins from the sea.

3.1.1 Cabinet has given the developers planning approval for the extensive upgrading of Marineland.

3.1.2 A Management Plan has been submitted and is presently under consideration by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Some alterations and additions will be required before the Management Plan seeks approval.

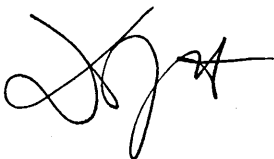
3.1.3 Tribond have indicated by letter that they have made some initial enquiries in an attempt to gain dolphins from existing oceanaria in Australia. These enquiries have generally been negative. The situation in N.S.W. is uncertain as the Government has indicated that only one of three facilities will be allowed to remain. There, therefore, may be a potential for obtaining dolphins from that State but that situation will be unclear for the next 12 months.

3.2 In granting a permit I would have to be satisfied as to the health and welfare of the dolphins during their capture and this would be satisfied through an agreed plan of action between Tribond and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

3.3 Although the Australian Labor Party motions make reference to the Senate Select Committee on Animal Welfare Report neither the Federal or State governments have adopted this report as policy.

4. Recommendation

That Cabinet further discuss its previous decision to allow for the taking of bottle-nosed dolphins to the extent necessary to provide for a breeding stock of animals if these cannot be obtained from established oceanaria in the light of the Convention and State Council decisions.



DEPUTY PREMIER AND
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

28/1