Territorians have been given new insight into life in the Territory in 1984 following the release today of Cabinet Records from that year.

“These documents provide an opportunity to reflect on the Territory’s history and the decisions that have helped shape who we are as Territorians today,” said Minister for Business Peter Styles.

“Several significant events took place in the Territory in 1984 that still hold a place in the memories of Territorians who lived here at the time.

“On 23 March, category five Cyclone Kathy devastated Borroloola causing significant damage, and Cabinet offered relief payments to those affected.

“The Araluen Arts and Entertainment Centre in Alice Springs and Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin were officially opened by then Governor General Sir Ninian Stephen, the inaugural National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award was held in Darwin and one of the biggest social events on the calendar saw Cliff Richard perform at the Darwin Amphitheatre.

“The Territory gained a new Chief Minister when Paul Everingham resigned to enter Federal politics with Ian Tuxworth appointed his successor.

“Planning for the Australian Bicentennial celebrations was in full swing with Cabinet endorsing funding of $2 million to go towards capital projects for the 1988 occasion in the Territory.

“Several key decisions were made around the protection and promotion of Northern Territory Parks in 1984 with $5.7 million allocated over five years for a development plan for Kings Canyon in Central Australia. A proposal was approved to develop a new major National Park in the Victoria River District along with endorsing a new management plan for Kakadu.

“The Junior Police Ranger program was born with $183,000 in funding provided to set up the scheme which is still popular with young Territorians today.

“A new research program to control cane toads in the NT was supported by Cabinet and Cabinet considered the progress on the downgrading of the status of salt water crocodiles, from a highly endangered species and the development of the crocodile farming industry.
“The Territory’s livestock industry also got a boost with a new Bull Purchase Incentive Scheme for Territory farmers helping the Territory’s commercial cattle herd boom into the $600 million a year industry it is today.”

Cabinet Records are made public 30 years after they are created under the Northern Territory Information Act by the NT Archives Service. Records can be accessed at the NT Archives Centre, Millner with select documents available at: www.cabinetrecords.nt.gov.au

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