Indexes to correspondence relating to Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in the records of the Colonial Secretary’s Office and the Home Secretary’s Office 1896 – 1903.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 88/4149 (this top letter is missing)
Letter number: 88/328
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 3-4 contain a copy of the original letter. The original is contained on frames 5-6.

Letter from the Reverend GJ Richner on behalf of the Committee for the Lutheran Mission of South Australia. He acknowledges receipt of the Colonial Secretary's letter advising that CA Meyer and FG Pfalser have been appointed trustees of Bloomfield River Mission Station (Wujal Wujal). He also asks for government support for both Bloomfield River and Cape Bedford Mission stations. He suggests that "It is really too much for the Mission Societies to spend the collections of poor Christians for to feed the natives". A note on letter 88/328 advises "10 pounds per month for 12 months".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 88/4149 (this top letter is missing)
Letter number: 88/4058
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 8-9 contain a copy of the original letter. (The original is contained on frames 10-11).

Letter from the Reverend GJ Richner thanking the Colonial Secretary for the allowance of 10 pounds per month for Cape Bedford and Bloomfield River Mission Stations. He suggests, however, that the 10 pounds is "fully required" for the Cape Bedford Mission Station and asks for further funding to support Bloomfield River Mission Station.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 88/9301 (this top letter is missing)
Letter number: 87/7064
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 14-15.

Letter from the United German and Scandinavian Lutheran Missionary Society requesting a grant of land to establish a mission station between Mackay and Bowen. "We intend to civilise the aboriginals, educate their children and Christianise the grown up people". Andreas Clausen and his family are recommended to run the mission.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 88/9301 (this top letter is missing)
Letter number 87/9874
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 16-17.

Letter from the United German and Scandinavian Lutheran Missionary Society thanking the Colonial Secretary for the grant of land on the Andromache River, Proserpine for an Aboriginal mission station (Marie Yamba). They also ask for funding until the mission becomes self-sufficient.
Letter from the United German and Scandinavian Lutheran Missionary Society thanking the Colonial Secretary for the interview at which he promised to provide support for the mission at the Andromache River (Marie Yamba).

Letter from the United German and Scandinavian Lutheran Missionary Society thanking the Colonial Secretary for the grant of 20 pounds per month to assist with the running of the mission at the Andromache River (Marie Yamba).

Letter from Fred Robinson of Wooroora Run, Herberton complaining that the Aborigines are spearing his cattle and asking for Native Police protection. He advises that he wired the Sub-Inspector in charge of the Native Police camp at Barron Waters but he has not yet arrived. Attached is a copy of the telegrams sent by Robinson to the Native Police at Barron Waters.

Letter from Fred Robinson of Wooroora Run from Native Police cadet Attleck advising that he will patrol his run as soon as possible.
Note from Thomas Stewart at Barron River: "Mr Affleck, Sir black sperin cattle down the river saw three just dead 5 speared. One month since the started sperin down the river".

Letter from Mr Fullerton at Mitchellvale Station to the Inspector of Police in Port Douglas: "The Blacks have been spearing cattle on Bushy Creek about three miles from here during the last few moonlight nights, can you send a detachment of the boys to patrol this part".

Telegram from George Robinson at Wooroora Run: "Blacks killed maimed seven cattle last week cannot you assist".

Memorandum from Inspector Stuart to Native Police cadet Affleck in relation to alleged depredations by the Aborigines on Wooroora Run, owned by Mr Robinson. The Inspector wants to know: How does Mr Robinson patrol his run, how does he treat the aboriginals, are the aboriginals allowed to camp in and around the Head Station, are any aboriginals employed or used by Mr Robinson in any of the station lands.

Report from Inspector Stuart in Port Douglas to the Commissioner of Police, Brisbane. Stuart advises that Mr Robinson, the owner of Wooroora Run, does "nothing himself towards patrolling his run". He only employs one Aborigine, does not interfere with them or allow them to camp near the Head station. Stuart also recommends that a detachment of Native Police should be stationed at Nigger Creek.

Memo from the Police Sergeant at Herberton forwarding a statement from Native Police cadet Affleck in relation to complaints received from George Robinson of Wooroora Run.
Brief report from Native Police cadet Affleck replying to questions asked by Inspector Stuart re Mr Robinson of Wooroora Run, Herberton.

Letter from D Seymour the Commissioner of Police to the Colonial Secretary: "I have the honor to forward herewith a report received from Sub-Inspector Brooke, now in charge of the Native Police camp at Barron River. As Mr Brooke has had considerable experience with the blacks when in charge of the reserve at Mackay and since, his remarks may be worth consideration".

Report from Sub-Inspector Brooke from the Barron River Native Police detachment on a patrol to Thornborough and the Union Camp. He advises that many "depredateions" have taken place in this district lately. He suggests that these are due to the Aborigines receiving free rations from the government. "If these blacks are encouraged to loaf in idleness it is not to be wondered at if they steal". He also suggests that this behaviour is "what may be expected at Atherton if the blacks receive government rations without being made to do some work".

Report from the Police Station at Thornborough advising that an Aborigine named Jarvie had speared another Aborigine named Tommy, who had then come running into the town with the spear sticking out of him. The offender was charged with assault and sentenced to seven days in the Thornborough lockup.

Letter from FG Pfalser forwarding a report for the year 1888 on Elim Mission Station, Cape Bedford. Reports that they are having trouble growing crops; the school is progressing well; two cottages have been built to separate the children; few Aborigines stay on the station because they are encouraged to stay in Cooktown; there are many children "roving about Cooktown", they should be induced to come to the mission station; asks for funds to support the mission school; suggests that the mission should say where it is because all the productive country has been taken up by the settlers.
Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 89/3951
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 50-52.

Report on the Elim mission Station from the Police Magistrate in Cooktown. The Magistrate, Hugh Milman, recommends that a grant of 200 pounds per annum should be given to Elim but should be discontinued if the management at any time is deemed unsatisfactory. Concurs with the recommendation from the mission (see letter directly above) that the children should be kept out of Cooktown and induced to live on the mission.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 89/6114
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 54.

Letter from Inspector Stuart in Port Douglas to the Commissioner of Police, Brisbane. The letter is in relation to the forwarding of two reports from Native Police Sub-Inspector Brooke one in relation to Mr Robinson's station, Wooroora Run, Herberton, and the other in relation to the Aborigines at Atherton (see directly below).

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 89/6114
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 55-56.

Report from Sub-Inspector Brooke at the Barron River Native Police camp advising on a patrol to Wooroora Run. Informs that the Aborigines have been killing cattle on the run; he sent the Native Troopers in to the scrub to try and induce the Aborigines to come into the station, they brought one man back to the station to talk to him, Brooke told the man that if they did not kill any cattle they would not be molested by the Native Police; Mr Robinson agreed to kill one bullock per month for them if they would come in and camp near the station and not hunt the cattle. Also reports on a patrol to Atherton where there are about 60 Aborigines; "there is a good chance that the government can do some good. And if I am asked to do so will make suggestions that may be of use to the government".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 89/6320
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 57-59.

Report on Bloomfield River Mission Station from CA Meyer suggesting that the Lutheran Mission of South Australia has substantially contributed to the running of the mission station and has done all in its power to make the mission self-supporting but will need further government assistance. "I am of the opinion: they should all and everyone be supplied with the necessities of life so as to prevent them from roaming about and inducing them to settle down on those reserves laid out by the government". "It is certainly not only the aim of the mission to civilize the aborigines but also to teach them the word of god and to make them acquainted with the rules put down by the same".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 89/7756, Letter number 89/1789
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 61.

Telegram from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton: "WB Kelly of Herberton reports trooper Hanson has gathered large mob of blacks from the scrub in starving condition asks Government supply them with some food please instruct me report in full by mail".
Letter from WB Kelly on behalf of the settlers of the Upper Barron Valley to AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton. Kelly advises that the Aborigines in the Atherton district are starving. He states that some of the Aborigines have been persuaded to come into town and are supplied with some rations from his store but they need government assistance to supply them with further rations. Constable Hanson "is confident that he is able to get all the blacks in if there was a little food given them by the government. After a short time the selectors would employ them they would be in a short time in a position to earn sufficient for themselves".

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton to the Colonial Secretary. Reports on a trip to Atherton to supply the Aborigines with rations. Advises that Mr Kelly has supplied some rations and suggests that the Aborigines should be supplied further rations to induce them to come in. This course of action will "be a good policy" to stop "their depredations on the crops of the settlers".

Letter from WB Kelly on behalf of the settlers of the Upper Barron Valley to AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton. Kelly advises that the Aborigines in the Atherton district are starving. He states that some of the Aborigines have been persuaded to come into town and are supplied with some rations from his store but they need government assistance to supply them with further rations. Constable Hanson "is confident that he is able to get all the blacks in if there was a little food given them by the government. After a short time the selectors would employ them they would be in a short time in a position to earn sufficient for themselves".

Report from Inspector Stuart sent from Port Douglas to the Commissioner of Police. Advises that Mr Kelly has suggested that there are about 200 Aborigines in and around Atherton in a destitute condition. He has instructed Native Police Sub-Inspector Brooke to proceed to Atherton at once and furnish him with a report. If the report collaborates Mr Kelly's assertions he asks if he can expend 20 pounds per month for three months on rations.

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, to the Colonial Secretary. He acknowledges the authorisation to spend 20 pounds per month on rations for the Aborigines in Atherton and asks for it to be increased to 50 pounds per month. He states that at Atherton he saw one camp of 25 "scrub blacks". There are about 80 more waiting to come in but
Constable Hanson has recommended that it is not advisable at this stage because there are not enough rations for them all. "There are in all, it is estimated, about two hundred blacks in the Barron Scrub willing to come into Atherton ... I think if they were fed for a month or two and a good understanding with them established, they would, like the Russell and Johnstone River blacks, become of use to the selectors".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 89/7756, Letter number 89/2813
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 73-78.

Letter from Fred Wimble to the Colonial Secretary forwarding some suggestions to stop the depredations of the Aborigines in the Barron Valley and to afford them some means of subsistence. He suggests that a reserve should be established, this is "more humane than carrying out the old regime of the Native Police Force whose simple but evasive reports invariably stated: Inspector so and so had visited the scene of such and such depredation and with his troopers followed up the tracks of the offenders who had now been dispersed, a phrase which is capable of being significantly translated!"; the government to subsidise the reserve until it was self-supporting; the Aborigines on the reserve could be hired out to the selectors.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 89/7756, Letter number 89/4238
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 79.

Telegram from Inspector Stuart in Port Douglas to the Commissioner of Police advising that Sub-Inspector Brooke has reported that the Aborigines in Atherton are not in a starving condition.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 89/7756, Letter number 89/4756
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 80.

Report from Sub-Inspector Brooke to Inspector Stuart in Port Douglas reporting that he has visited Atherton and found that the Aborigines were not in a starving condition. "I think it is a mistake giving out rations to blacks without some kind of work is done in return for them". He also advises that "there is a reserve of 640 acres at Atherton for agricultural purposes and if the blacks could be got to clear it I think the German Mission Society would be glad to take the blacks in hand".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 89/7756, Letter number 89/3035
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 81-82.

Report from Inspector Stuart in Port Douglas to the Colonial Secretary forwarding a report from Sub-Inspector Brooke. He reports that Sub-Inspector Brooke has advised that the Aborigines in Atherton are not in a starving condition and concurs with Brooke's suggestion that the Aborigines should not be supplied with rations without working for them. Stuart suggests that "to civilize the wild aboriginal the primary step is to overcome his fear of the white man which can only be done through his stomach - but once that is accomplished the reminder of his education is mainly a matter of time".
Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 89/7756, Letter number 89/3161
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 83-84.

Letter from WB Kelly in Atherton to the Colonial Secretary advising that there are about 70 Aborigines in Atherton and 200 wanting to come in. He requests that the allowance for rations be increased to 100 pounds. He also comments that there are between 300 and 400 Aborigines that could be placed on a reserve.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 89/7756, Letter number 89/3554
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 85-87.

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton to the Colonial Secretary acknowledging that a further 40 pounds has been authorised for rations to the Aborigines in Atherton. He reports on the supply of rations and gives his reasons for recommending that they continued to be given out.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 89/7756, Letter number 89/5263
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 88.

Letter from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, to the Colonial Secretary forwarding vouchers from Mr Kelly for payment of rations supplied to the Aborigines in Atherton. He also makes the recommendation that reserve be gazetted and a reliable man, such as Constable Hanson, is appointed to run it.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 89/7756, Letter number 89/19510
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 89-90.

Letter from Hans [Halkien?] sending AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, a copy of a letter sent to Mr Little and Mr Wimble. The letter sets out his ideas for a reserve for the Aborigines, which he suggests should be located at Pinnacle Pocket on the Barron River to Cairns road. He also offers his services as manager of the proposed reserve. Attached are copies of his references (Microfilm frame numbers 91-93).

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 89/7756, Letter number 89/5684
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 94-96.

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, to the Colonial Secretary advising on the progress made in relation to the scheme of supplying rations to the Aborigines at Atherton.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 89/7756, Letter number 89/6113
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 97.

Letter from the Tinaroo Divisional Board, Herberton to AH Zillman the Police Magistrate. They ask for the supply of rations to the Aborigines in Atherton to be continued. They state that there are about 100 Aborigines in Atherton and "fully two hundred on the Mulgrave and Russell waiting to come in". They suggest if the rations are discontinued the Aborigines will most likely go back to committing depredations even worse than before.
Letter from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton to the Colonial Secretary forwarding a map of the land recommended for an Aboriginal reserve at Atherton (no map attached).

Telegram from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, to the Colonial Secretary: "Is rationing allowance to blacks at Atherton to be continued".

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, to the Colonial Secretary. Advises that since the Aborigines in Atherton have been supplied with rations they have been "peaceably disposed" and have not "molested the selectors". He advises that it would be "injudicious to stop the supply of rations as they would probably resume their depredations". He also states that the Native Police Force has been reduced in the district and "if the rations are stopped and the blacks again become troublesome there would not be adequate protection against them".

Letter from Charles Denford at California Creek via Herberton to WC Little MLA advising that the Aborigines in the district have been stealing rations from the miner's camps. "There are often from 150 to 200 of them in at a time and I have at my own expense been feeding them. He wishes to make an application to the government for remuneration and asks Mr Little to direct him to the proper department.

Telegram from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton to the Colonial Secretary advising that he is going to the California Creek district to inquire about the condition and necessities of the Aborigines and to determine the best place and method of distributing rations.

Report from AH Zillman the Police Magistrate in Herberton to the Colonial Secretary advising that he was unable to proceed to California Creek to enquire into the condition of the Aborigines so he sent Sub-Inspector Lamond in his place. He makes the recommendation that the present expenditure on rations for the Aborigines of one pound 11 shillings and 8 pence per week is excessive. He suggests that it would be better just to supply them with 100
pounds of beef per week.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 92/7165, Letter number 92/195
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 110-111.

Report from Sub-Inspector Lamond to AH Zillman the Police Magistrate in Herberton on the condition of the California Creek Aborigines. He advises that they are "fairly well off" and distributed half a blanket to each of the 30 or so Aborigines there. He has also advises that if a 50 pound bag of flour and 100 pounds of beef weekly there "would be no further complaints". He also comments: "I made particular inquiry as to whether the California Creek tribe ever went to [Mulania?], Coolgarra, Mount Albion or Irvinebank but found they do not, this tribe's boundary in the north east being near California Creek".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 92/12879
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 112.

Letter from TP Lucas on behalf of the Bribie Island Mission Station to the Colonial Secretary: "As our Mission is in straits, as to the needful, I am directed by the Committee of the Bribie Island Aboriginal Mission to respectfully ask you for the quarter's grant June 30th to Sept 30th of this year, as promised by yourself. We have kept down the expenses as much as possible, by the Ladies Auxiliary making clothes and by other helps, but at present we are as reduced as to be unable to carry on our work unless by your aid as promised". PS: The grant of 250 pounds per annum would be 62 pounds, 10 shillings for this quarter.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 No letter numbers
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 115-117.

Itemised lists showing the amount spent on rations to the Aborigines by location and institution: Atherton, Bloomfield River, Cooktown, Queensland Aborigines Protection Society, Cape Bedford, Cullen Point, California Creek, Dugandan, Daintree River, Deebing Creek, Marie Yamba, Mount Orient, Montalbion, Thornborough, Union Camp and Waterford, Westwood, Bowen, Taroom and Croydon.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 94/1581, Letter number 91/11873
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 120.

Telegram from Charles Masterton at the Daintree River to the Colonial Secretary: "Great number of aborigines on this river no police handy would you advise distribution of food among them".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 94/1581, Letter number 91/12174
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 121-122.

Letter from Charles Masterton at the Daintree River to the Police Magistrate in Port Douglas advising that there are a great many Aborigines on the Daintree River and that he has been giving them rations but he needs government help to continue. He is afraid that if they are not given rations they will have to be dispersed.
Telegram from Alex Lawson the Sub-Collector of Customs in Port Douglas to the Colonial Secretary: "Am leaving tomorrow with Inspector Police for Daintree re rationing blacks".

Report from Alex Lawson the Sub-Collector of Customs in Port Douglas to the Colonial Secretary. He advises that there are about 50 Aborigines camped near Mr Masterton's station on the Daintree River. He suggests that Mr Masterton would be a suitable person to supervise the distribution of rations to these Aborigines. He also suggests that the Aborigines who are working for selectors should be supplied rations by them.

Telegram from Sub-Inspector Lamond to the Commissioner of Police advising that there are about 30 Aborigines on the Daintree River and more are expected. Mr Masterton is distributing rations to the aged and infirm Aborigines. I "believe a very small outlay in rations will have a most pacifying effect as the blacks are most anxious to get back to their Daintree hunting grounds and also get employment from settlers they thoroughly understand if they commit depredations the rations will cease and Native Police be sent instead".

Report from Alex Lawson the Sub-Collector of Customs in Port Douglas to the Colonial Secretary advising that Sub-Inspector Lamond has delivered rations to the Aborigines of the Daintree River. He suggests that 20 or 30 pounds per annum would be sufficient to cover the ongoing cost of the rations.

Report advising that rations have been supplied to the Aborigines at Mr Masterton's on the Daintree River and that their numbers are increasing. There are presently 87 Aborigines there. If they do not soon return to their hunting grounds the initial cost estimate for the supply of rations will have to be increased.

Telegram from the Colonial Secretary to the Police Magistrate in Port Douglas: "Continue supply to blacks and report at end of January".
Telegram from Alex Lawson the Sub-Collector of Customs in Port Douglas to the Colonial Secretary advising that the number of Aborigines on the Daintree River has greatly increased since the rations have been issued. Between 70 and 90 are now being fed.

Report from Alex Lawson the Sub-Collector of Customs in Port Douglas to the Colonial Secretary advising that there are between 70 and 90 Aborigines on Mr Masterton's station. He advises that the Aborigines do not look like they will leave so the supply of rations will have to be maintained. He states that only one "depredation" has been committed since last October and that was committed by a party from Bloomfield.

Report from Sub-Inspector Lamond advising that he visited the Aboriginal camp on Mr Masterton's station and found the rations were being distributed properly. He does not think that the rations can be reduced because there are on average 50 Aborigines living there. "And if that number can be kept quite for an expenditure of 6 or 7 pounds per month as also the orphans and old people, feel it is very good work". "The Native Police camp at Saltwater is not in the Daintree River blacks country, and I do not think it advisable to rush any change to existing arrangements".

Letter from Alex Lawson in Port Douglas advising that he has instructed Sub-Inspector Lamond to inquire whether the rations supplied to the Aborigines at the Daintree River can be reduced. Alternatively, he wants to know if it would be better to have the Native Police from Saltwater Creek distribute them.

Letter from Charles Masterton at The Chestnuts, Daintree River complaining that the supply of rations for the 50 to 60 Aborigines on his station have been irregular. He is worried that if the rations are discontinued he will need police surveillance.

Letter from the Police Magistrate in Port Douglas advising that the supply of rations to the Aborigines should be continued until there is closer settlement of the district. He also advises that the present Aboriginal population consists of 17 men, 23 women and 20 children.
Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 94/1581, Letter number 93/775
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 149.

Letter from the Police Magistrate in Port Douglas forwarding vouchers for the payment of rations to the Aborigines on the Daintree River. He also advises that the cost has increased from 3 pounds to 5 pounds per month.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 94/1581, Letter number 93/308
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 150-152.

Report from Constable Casey at the police station in Port Douglas to Sub-Inspector Galbraith in Herberton. Casey reports that most of the settlers on the Daintree River are happy with the conduct of the Aborigines except Mr Osbourne. He fails to see what he is complaining about because he allows his son to go fishing with them. The settlers in the lower Daintree stated that they never see any Aborigines and wished they did so that they could employ them. He also reports that Mr Reynolds two miles up the river from Mr Osborne's place hires the Aborigines to clear the scrub for him. He also suggests that if the police were to distribute the rations to the Aborigines it would be too expensive.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 94/1581, Letter number 93/13228
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 153-155.

Letter from Frank Osbourne on the Daintree River recommending that the supply of rations to the Aborigines on the Daintree River should be discontinued. He suggests that the supply of rations brings other Aborigines from the interior into the district which causes "great annoyance". He is concerned that the nearest police are 30 miles away and that the rations are distributed by an irresponsible person [Mr Masterson]. "It is rather an anomalous state of affairs when blacks are pampered and allowed with impunity to destroy the property and threaten the lives of people who are taxed to feed them".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 94/1581, Letter number 94/896
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 156.

Letter from D Seymour the Commissioner of Police forwarding a report from Constable Casey in relation to complaints from Mr Osbourne about supplying rations to the Aborigines on the Daintree River. He also advises that from Constable Casey's statement it would not be advisable to alter the existing arrangements for distributing the rations.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 94/1581 (top letter),
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 157-158.

Letter from Frank Osbourne on the Daintree River complaining about the distribution of rations to the Aborigines. He states that it leads to large "assemblages" of Aborigines who then threaten the settlers.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 94/2853, Letter number 89/9303
Telegram from Arthur Longden sent from Cairns advising that he has some Aborigines in his camp at the Mulgrave goldfields and asking if he can be supplied with rations for them.
Telegram from Arthur Longden sent from Cairns advising that the Aborigines are waiting at the top camp of the Mulgrave goldfields for rations. He asks when they will be supplied.

Letter from Arthur Longden sent from the Mulgrave River, Cairns forwarding the new supply structure for the rations distributed to the Aborigines at the Mulgrave River.

Letter from James Allen at Goldsborough alleging that Arthur Longden has been supplying the Aborigines working for him with rations. Allen is of the opinion that the rations are supplied to feed the old men and women.

Letter from Arthur Longden advising that he has been told that the Police Magistrate in Cairns has been instructed not to sign any more vouchers for rations to the Aborigines. He asks that they be signed so that the supply of rations can continue. He states that it has not been necessary to use the Native Police to control them since the rations have been supplied but this cannot be guaranteed if they cease.

Letters from Arthur Longden and James Thomas in relation to stopping the supply of rations to the Aborigines in the Mulgrave River district.

Telegram from Arthur Longden to the Colonial Secretary requesting that the supply of rations to the Aborigines on the Mulgrave River be continued.
Letter from Alex Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, advising that he has ordered the officers in charge of distributing rations to the Aborigines to exercise the strictest control. He has ordered that rations are not to be given out if their natural food is obtainable without much difficulty. He suggests that the rations should be discontinued at Mountalbion and the Aborigines supplied in one central place, such as California Creek. They should also be discontinued at Thornborough and distributed from the Union Camp, a central point.

Letter from Samuel Byrnes at Olive Vale, Laura River requesting rations for the Aborigines that come into his station. He suggests that there are far more Aborigines there than in other parts of the colony where rations are distributed. He writes that "the blacks come in from all parts, especially if they do anything wrong out side, for they know that the Native Police can do nothing with them while they stoop inside". He also comments that there are "over 200 blacks within 3 miles of the Laura terminus. The letter includes an answer from Inspector Fitzgerald stating that rations should not be supplied (frame 185).

Letter from the Police Magistrate in Ingham advising that the Police Constable has given him a voucher for the supply of rations to the Aborigines in Cardwell at the rate of 100 pounds per month. He states that there is no need to supply them with rations because they have a 30 mile stretch of coastline, with not a soul living on it, which has ample supplies of fish, oysters, clams, crabs and wallabies.

Letter from the Clerk of Petty Sessions in Thornborough advising that after the Aborigines had received their blankets at the Courthouse they were reluctant to leave before they also received their rations, which have been stopped for over 12 months. The Police Magistrate bought and distributed some tobacco to them. He hopes that this action meets with the Colonial Secretary's approval and that the enclosed voucher will be paid.

Letter from J Hamilton MLA (microfilm frame number 191) enclosing three letters sent to him suggesting ways to solve the plight of the Aborigines.
The first letter is from Frederick Margetts (ex Native Police officer) sent from Townsville suggesting that, in his experience, when the Aborigines are brought into the stations and fed, after a while, they "commit fewer depredations". He suggests that this course of action is safer because "supervision can then be exercised over them".

The second letter is from (?) suggesting that it is time the government did something about the plight of the aborigines. He suggests that to say we will not feed them or cannot afford to feed them would be a "stigma on ourselves to hand down to future times". However the supply of rations should be done judiciously so that they are not given too many rations and give up their traditional hunting. They should also be gradually encouraged to work for their rations. The rations should be handed out by the police because "they know more about the blacks and their movements, centres, number, requirements and condition generally than anyone else". He suggests that rations should be distributed at designated centres such as Coen, Maytown, Laura, Bloomfield, Butchers Hill, Thornborough and Atherton. And on the coast at Cooktown, Port Douglas, Cairns and Innisfail. He also asks why the Aborigines did not get their blankets this winter, "surely the government did not stoop to false economy". He suggests that a country which exports 8 million pounds worth of goods per year can afford half a blanket for each Aborigine. "After all it is the blacks country taken from them which yields the 8 million pounds worth". "The intruders are not satisfied with having shot half the aboriginals that were in the country but they actually refuse a rag to each of the survivors, once a year".

The third letter is from James Earl at Butcher Hill who suggests that the best way to treat the Aborigines "is to let them live as near as possible in tribes as distinct as when the white man came and took the country from them and do not let them gather up to great Borears, as that is the time the mischief commences". He states that by feeding them he keeps them in hand and makes them a home where they know they are safe. "Some say hunt them out" but if you do that they only go wild again, they are not afraid of anyone. "The half caste children could be made some good if they were taken from the influence of the blacks at a certain age". "The government should form reserves where they can camp and get a living without molesting the settlers".

Letter from W Wolstencroft to AH Zillman the Police Magistrate in Herberton: "I have the honor by direction of a meeting held at Thornborough on Tuesday 6th inst to call your attention to the state of the aboriginals at Woodville and Waterford where there are several picanninies apparently of the age from 6 to 10 years in a state of starvation".
Letter from AH Zillman to the Colonial Secretary enclosing a letter from the Clerk of the Woothakala Divisional Board. "I am unable to report thereon without inspection and inquiry and await your instructions herein".

Telegram from AH Zillman the Police Magistrate in Herberton to the Colonial Secretary advising that he is unable to visit the Aborigines at Waterford and Woodville until Tuesday and asks if Sub-Inspector Lamond can accompany him.

Telegram from Sub-Inspector Lamond advising that he is leaving for Woodville and Waterford.

Telegram from Sub-Inspector Lamond to the Commissioner of Police advising he has returned from Waterford and Woodville and that there are about 40 Aborigines at each place. They are mainly "old blacks and orphan children". He advises that they are nearly starving and that rations should be supplied to them.

Telegram to the Police Magistrate in Herberton: "Upon Inspector Lamond's report Colonial Secretary directs that rations be distributed at Waterford and Woodville and discontinued at Union Camp. Please arrange for this being done under proper supervision". (A copy of this telegram is on frame 219).

Telegram from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton urging the Colonial Secretary to increase the amount of rations supplied to the Aborigines in the Thornborough district.
Letter from Edward Putt at Carri ngton, Barron River suggesting that the rations distributed to
the Aborigines at Atherton should be stopped. He suggests that it is unfair that the Aborigines
are all working for the Chinese and Malays and yet the government supplies the Aborigines
with rations and the Chinese and Malay employers only have to supply the Aborigines with
tobacco. He is also concerned that the rations are only given once a week, which will
encourage the Aborigines to steal in between distribution time. "With the police protection the
government has been pleased to give us the aboriginal question is solved as far as our own
district is concerned, with the food they get from the various selectors, while the back scrubs
are teeming with tucker that has supplied them for centuries".

Telegram to the Police Magistrate in Herbert on: "Upon Inspector Lamond's report Colonial
Secretary directs that rations be distributed at Waterford and Woodville and discontinued at
Union Camp. Please arrange for this being done under proper supervision".

Telegram to the Police Magistrate in Herbert on: "It has been stated more than once that Wason
does not fairly distribute rations to blacks and that even a more serious charge might be
substantiated. Colonial Secretary wishes you to make full inquiry and report by letter".

Telegram to the Police Magistrate in Herberton: "Pending receipt of your report which should
afford information as to the system of relief generally in the district Colonial Secretary consents
to increase to twelve pounds per month".

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, on a visit to Thornborough,
Waterford and Woodville in relation to the supply of rations to the Aborigines. Reports that
Mr Wason supplies the rations and gives good value for money. He suggests that the ill feeling
towards Mr Wason is the result of him being a witness in the case of a white man shooting an
Aboriginal woman. "In this case the man Coombes rode into a camp of blacks at Union Camp
and fired into a mob of gins wounding one Polly and for which he was afterwards sentenced
to three years imprisonment". Wason was also instrumental in getting Duffy and Crowley
arrested for shooting Aborigines at the Union Camp. "I found about 30 blacks at Woodville
about 20 at Union Camp and about a dozen at Waterford. At the latter place I was informed that
a number of the blacks were out fishing and that the average number located there was 30."
Telegram from Sub-Inspector Lamond at Thornborough to the Commissioner of Police advising that the flour for the Aborigines was dispatched this morning and asking if the vouchers are to be sent to the Commissioner.

Report from Sub-Inspector Lamond sent from the police station in Thornborough advising that he has received verbal reports that the rations supplied by the government are not being distributed to the Aborigines at the Union Camp.

Report from Sub-Inspector Lamond at Herberton advising that the Aborigines at the Union Camp, Waterford and Woodville are not receiving the rations allocated by the government. He suggests that in future the police should distribute them. At Woodville and also at Waterford there were 40 Aborigines. He suggests "that a sufficient supply of rations be given to each tribe twice a week as would enable them all to go out for 2 or 3 days hunting expedition".

Telegram from Sub-Inspector Lamond sent from Herberton: "The half ton flour purchased twelfth ultimo for food Woodville Waterford blacks exhausted please wire if another supply granted for them".

Newspaper clipping from The Wild River Times in relation to a proposal at a Board meeting: "Mr Putt moved that the government be asked to increase the ration allowance to the blacks at Atherton by 20 pounds a month, and that the male aboriginals be employed under the supervision of Mr Kelly to clear the Cairns road, also that Mr Zillman be asked to support the application".

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton advising that the time has not yet come "when it would be advisable or safe to cease feeding the blacks at Atherton. I believe were the rations stopped now we should have a return of the old state of affairs so bitterly complained of by the selectors three or four years ago. "The chief object, I take it, is to restrain the aborigines from committing depredations and I maintain that since they have been fed this object has been attained at far less cost to the Government than could have been possible under the old system of sending the [Native Police] troopers after them". He also
comments on the tension between the white settlers and the Chinese and Malays, the latter are accused of not feeding their Aboriginal employees.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/823, Letter number 92/7
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 237-238.

Letter from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, and Sub-Inspector Lamond in relation to their reports on feeding the Aborigines at the Union Camp. They state that the statements made against Mr Wason, which accused him of not supplying the rations he is given by the government, are not proved. The trouble seems to be that he only distributed them intermittently and that he gives them everyone in the camp, not just the women, children and old men but "the able men took umbrage and made compliant about it".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/823, Letter number 92/2465
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 239.

Voucher from Wah Lee and Company for the payment of flour delivered to Woodford and Waterford for the Aborigines.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/823, Letter number 92/2306
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 240.

Letter from Sub-Inspector Lamond to the Commissioner of Police forwarding a voucher for the payment of flour supplied to the Hodgkinson Aborigines (see directly above- 92/2465 Police).

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/823, Letter number 93/248
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 241-242.

Letter from JW Crowley at Curraghmoro Station, Thornborough complaining that Mr Wason's privilege of supplying the Aborigines with rations gives him complete control over them. He alleges that the "depredations" committed on his station by the Aborigines are being encouraged by Wason. He suggests that the rations should only be distributed in Thornborough and by the police. He also suggests that the Aborigines are not getting the quantity of rations allowed them.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/823, Letter number 93/140
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 243.

Telegram from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, advising he is going to Waterford to investigate claims that the rations supplied to the Aborigines there are below standard. "Inclined to think Waterford may be closed".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/823, No letter number
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 244-247.

List of questions (with answers) put to Constable McGuire of Thornborough by AH Zillman the Police Magistrate in Herberton in relation to the supply of rations to the Aborigines. Includes: what is the number of Aborigines at Waterford: 21; if the Aborigines are fed at Union Camp would this interfere with their hunting pursuits: no; what is the average number fed at Union
Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, recommending that the supply of rations be stopped at Waterford and all the rations given out at Union Camp.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/823, Letter number 93/1407
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 250-252.

Report from Constable McGuire sent from the police station, Thornborough replying to several accusations from Mr Cowley. McGuire states that he has not heard of any depredations being committed by the Aborigines on Mr Cowley's, or any other station, since the rations have been supplied. He also advises that the Aborigines were told that if they burned the grass or committed any other depredations the rations would stop.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/823, Letter number 93/1407
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 253.

Letter from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, advising he had instructed Constable McGuire to investigate accusations made by Mr Cowley in relation to the supply of rations to the Aborigines by Mr Wason. There appears to be no foundation for the accusations. He also comments that the Aborigines are afraid of Mr Cowley "particularly since several of them were shot in the raid made upon their camps some two years ago on the Mitchell River".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/823, Letter number 93/2735
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 254.

Telegram from J Crowley sent from Thornborough stating that he can prove his allegations in relation to Mr Wason and the supply of rations to the Aborigines (see above).

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/823, Letter number 93/9737
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 255-256.

Letter from T Marchal on the Barron River to the Colonial Secretary drawing his attention to an article in The Wild River Times written by Edward Putt. He suggests that Putt's remarks that the Aborigines around Atherton are self-supporting and therefore do not need rations are correct. He states that the Aborigines that are employed by Europeans "are supplied with clothes and food, they wish for no government aid it is only the chinamen and kanakas who make the go to police of supplies". The related newspaper article is on frame number 257.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/823, Letter number 93/11487
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 260-262.

Report from Constable Higgins sent from the Atherton police station in relation to allegations from Edward Putt that the Aborigines trade their rations with the Chinese, Kanakas and Malays for tobacco.
Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/823, Letter number 93/11487
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 263-265.

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, advising that he cannot find out who Mr Marchal of Barron River (see above: Letter 93/9737) is and the handwriting is suspiciously like Mr Kelly's the former contractor who supplied rations to the Aborigines. Mr Marchal's letter suggested that the Aborigines no longer need rations because they are self-supporting. Zillman makes the recommendation that the rations should continue.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/823, Letter number 93/11487
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 266.

Memorandum from Inspector Stuart to Constable Higgins instructing him to find out who Mr Putt's informants are that state the rations given to the Aborigines are exchanged with the Kanakas for tobacco. He also wants a report on how many Aborigines are receiving rations and what condition they are in; where the rations are distributed; who held the previous contract; the number of Chinese who employ Aborigines; the names of the principle employers of Kanaka labour; the number of Kanakas in the district.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/823, Letter number 95/288
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 267.

Telegram from Thomas Kilpatrick sent from Thornborough advising that the tribe at Union Camp will not go to Thornborough to receive rations. He asks if the rations can be brought there as this will "benefit residents and prevent depredations".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/823, No letter number
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 268.

Telegram from Inspector Fitzgerald in Herberton to the Commissioner of Police advising that the Police Magistrate in Herberton has instructed that the rations to the Aborigines be distributed at Thornborough not at Union Camp. "Very advisable under circumstances".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/823, Letter number 95/688
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 269-273.

Tenders for the supply of rations to the Aborigines at Thornborough.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/823, Letter number 95/823 (top letter).
Microfilm frame number 274.

Telegram from H Wason to the Colonial Secretary: "have not received any money for rationing aboriginals four months due not rationing them now kindly inquire into it".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/1170, Letter number 94/14209
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 277.

Letter from Mr Giles in Thornborough complaining that it would be an injustice to hand out rations to the Aborigines in the town for the following reasons: they are all suffering from
disease, the water supply in the town is limited and the Aborigines would bath in it and make it dirt and the main tribe would not come to town and instead rob the miner's camps and Chinese gardens for food. He asks that for the "benefit of parents of families (of which I am One) keep the blacks away from the township".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/1170 (top letter)
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 280-282.

Report from Constable McGuire at the police station in Thornborough in relation to tenders for the supply of rations to the Aborigines in Thornborough. He also comments on Mr Giles' letter (see directly above) and suggests that the Aborigines are no worse with disease in the district then elsewhere, they do not pollute the water in the river, the Aborigines would come to

Thornborough for rations only for the amount of influence but on them to remain down the river, only one act of theft has occurred from the Chinese gardens, the Aborigines are fed 2 miles out of town.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 No file or letter number
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 284.

Note: "Deputation from? of the Presbyterian Church. Whether the government would not issue an order that no children attending mission schools should be taken away for employment in connection with the fisheries four northern seas until 14 years old".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/6927, Letter number 89/5666
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 286-287.

Telegram from AH Zillman advising that Mr Robinson of Wooroora Run has thirty Aborigines on his property and many more to come in. Robinson asks for an allowance to supply them with meat. Zillman states that Robinson had over thirty head of cattle speared last year and giving the Aborigines some meat may stop the "depredations".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/6927, Letter number 89/5832
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 288.

Telegram from Herberton advising that the Aborigines have been brought in to Wooroora Run and asking for a subsidy for Mr Robinson to feed them.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/6927, Letter number 89/5905
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 289.

Letter from AH Zillamn, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, recommending that 8 pounds per month be authorised to feed the Aborigines on Wooroora Run. This will allow them to stay there for a month or two after which they can be incorporated with the Aborigines in Atherton. He suggests that the Aborigines in the district "can be tamed" with the assistance of the government.
Letter from Frederick Robinson sent from Herberton requesting rations for the 30 Aborigines who have come in to his run (Wooroora). He states that if they get food they will give up "molesting the stock".

Frame numbers 291-292: Letter from Inspector Stuart in Port Douglas recommending that the Aborigines on Wooroora Run receive rations. "As this appears favourable opportunity of doing something towards civilizing them".

Report from Sub-Inspector Brooke sent from Barron Waters advising that he is enclosing a letter from Mr Robinson. He also advises that the Aborigines have been killing stock on Mr Robinson's station, Wooroora Run and he had tried harsh measures but it seemed to make them worse. Brooke states that Robinson devised another plan to get the Aborigines to come in. "With that object in view he had got one black in but as he had tried to escape had beaten and chained him'.

Letter from Frederick Robinson advising that the Aborigines are starting to come into the station (Wooroora Run) and requesting blankets and rations for them.

Letter from Frederick Robinson advising that there are 70 Aborigines from the south Johnstone and district at Wooroora but he could muster about 120. He asks for government assistance to feed them.

Voucher from Mr Wason or the supply of rations to the Aborigines at the Union Camp.

Telegram from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, advising he is going to Thornborough to investigate the expenses in relation to the supply of rations to the Aborigines.
Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, advising that it would not be a good idea to stop the rations to the Aborigines at Thornborough, where he "found some 30 blacks. I saw no half castes". He recommends that Mr Wason continue to supply them. Also advises that Native Police Sub-Inspector Brooke and his troopers visited the Union Camp and that an Aboriginal man speared another to in order to take one of his wives off him.

Letter from the Chairman of the Woothakala Divisional Board, Thornborough complaining that the rations to the Aborigines have been stopped and asking for them to be resumed.

Telegram from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton: "re blacks Northcote do not think it necessary to feed them travel about a good deal and employed and fed by whites numbers small re union camp think amount allowed scarcely sufficient".

Letter from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, advising he has had a request from William Atherton at Chillagoe Station for rations for the Aborigines. He states they are from the Walsh River. He suggests that they do not need rations because they "pick up a good deal in their ramblings".

Letter from William Atherton requesting rations for the Aborigines on Chillagoe Station (see directly above). He states that there are about 200 in the tribe and that they would be hostile if brought into Atherton because they speak a different language to the tribe there.

Letter from the Police Magistrate in Herberton, suggesting that the amount paid to Mr Robinson to feed the Aborigines on Wooroorra Run is not sufficient. There are far more Aborigines than a first anticipated. He recommends an increase in the allowance because this is the only way to get them to come in. He is of the opinion that this is a preliminary stage in dealing with the whole subject. "I have already suggested a reservation for them with a competent person in charge where they would be under certain restraints and under proper control. It will probably be necessary to establish more than one reserve on account of tribal differences".
Letter from WH Rider, the Assistant Under Colonial Secretary, to G Murray the Police Magistrate in Brisbane. He suggests that the Colonial Secretary has come to the conclusion that the time has come to do something comprehensive about the condition of the Aborigines in the Herberton district. He directs Murray to travel north to investigate and report on the matter.

Copies of telegrams sent from the Under Colonial Secretary to the Police Magistrate in Herberton in relation to the supply of rations to the Aborigines at Herberton, Northcote, Union Camp and Wooroora run.

Letter from the Under Colonial Secretary to the Police Magistrate in Herberton advising that authorisation has been given to increase the expenditure in rations to the Aborigines in Atherton. However, it appears as though there are conflicting in relation to the condition of the Aborigines and a more detailed report is required.

Letter from the Under Colonial Secretary to F Wimble MLA acknowledging Wimble's letter suggesting a reserve should be set up for the Aborigines in the Barron Valley. He advises that consideration of the proposal will be brought forward to when the next estimates are being prepared.

Letter from the Under Colonial Secretary to AH Zillman the Police Magistrate in Herberton directing him to mark on the enclosed map the land required of a reserve for the Aborigines (the map is not attached).

Letter from the Under Colonial Secretary to the Clerk of the Herberton Divisional Board acknowledging the Board's letter requesting that the rations to the Aborigines be continued and informing that a decision to continue them has been made.
Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/6927, Letter number 89/8172
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 319.

Letter from the Under Colonial Secretary to Bench in Herberton advising that the rations applied for by William Atherton of Chillagoe station will not be supplied.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/6927, Letter number 89/9948
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 322-332.

Report from G Murray on the condition of the Aborigines at Herberton. He informs that on Wooroora Run there are 65 Aborigines camped on the river; "the blacks are very numerous and live chiefly on the heads of the Johnstone, Tully and Murray rivers on to the Herbert River"; in Atherton there were 50 Aborigines in the camp; feeding the Aborigines has decreased the stealing of settlers' crops; at Northcote there were 17 Aborigines; during the recent ration distribution in Thornborough about 80 Aborigines attended; a short time previously there were between 70 and 100 Aborigines; "the Russell River, Johnstone River, Herberton and Atherton Aborigines come about Mount Orient"; he thinks that setting up a reserve for the Aborigines and encouraging them to cultivate the soil would be "time and money thrown away" because "hunters they have been in the last century (and may have been the same for the past thousand years) and hunters they will remain"; the only permanent way of benefiting the Aborigines would be to remove them far from their homes where they could be taught to support themselves; it is only a question of a few years how long they will exist, the sooner they are brought in contact with the whites under present circumstances the sooner will they disappear, disease, clothing, rum etc will soon work their destruction"; a strong detachment of Native Police should be stationed in the district for the next twelve months to stop the fights when the white men molest the Aboriginal women.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/6927, Letter number 89/10209
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 333-334.

Letter from Mr Robinson of Wooroora Run requesting an increase in the ration allowance because he has had up to 120 Aborigines come in to his station.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/6927, Letter number 89/10800
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 335.

Letter from the Lands department advising that the land selected by Mr Murray for a reserve is needed for agricultural purposes. A note on the letter states: "The Lands department should select an area not required for agricultural settlement".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/6927, Letter number 90/606
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 336.

Letter from the Cairns Divisional Board advising that they assist in the dispensing of food to the Aborigines of the district.
Letter from the Woothakata Divisional Board advising that they have agreed to assist in the dispensing of rations to the Aborigines in the Thomborough district.

Letter from the Tinaroo Divisional Board advising that they have agreed to assist in the dispensing of rations to the Aborigines in their district.

Letter from the Lands department informing that it is not advisable to proceed with a reserve for the Aborigines at present.

Report from AH Zillman, the Police magistrate in Herberton, advising that he has made a visit to Atherton and found there are about 120 Aborigines in the camp and a good many more out hunting. He asks for the ration allowance to be increased. About 50 of the Aborigines are employed by the selectors in the district.

Letter from WB Kelly to the Colonial Secretary advising that there are a great number of Aborigines now in Atherton and he has found many of them work. He advises that the natural food is becoming scarce with the onset of winter and asks if the present allowance of 12 pounds for rations can be increased to 20 pounds.

Telegram from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, reporting that there are 300 Aborigines in the camp at Atherton and requesting an increase in the ration allowance.

Letter from WB Kelly in Atherton to Inspector Lamond reporting that there are about 200 Aborigines presently receiving rations. Another large group are camped on Freshwater Creek. He point out the success of the scheme to bring them in and feed them and to get them to work for a living. He points out that previous to the scheme it had cost 3000 pounds to keep a Native Police camp at the Barron River. The district is now prospering with more land cleared in all directions and cultivation taking place. He asks for an increase in the Ration
allowance.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/6927, Letter number 90/11961
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 345.

Report from Sub-Inspector Lamond sent from the police office in Herberton forwarding reports from Constable Higgins and WB Kelly in relation to the number of Aborigines fed on the present allowance. He suggests that the scheme has been a success and many are now employed. He asks for the ration allowance to be increased so that more Aborigines will be persuaded to come in and can then be "civilized".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/6927, Letter number 90/11961
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 346.

Report from Constable Higgins sent from the Atherton police station advising that 250 to 300 Aborigines are camped at Atherton and during the winter months have no food and are unable to gain employment. He asks for an increase in the ration allowance.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/6927, Letter number 90/11961
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 347.

Report from Inspector Frederick Murray sent from the Cooktown police office stating that the rations supplied to the Aborigines have so much good that he recommends that the ration allowance be increased.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/6927, Letter number 90/12292
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 349.

Letter from WB Kelly requesting that new tenders be called for the supply of rations to the Aborigines in and around Atherton because he can now supply them much cheaper. He also suggests that the expenditure can cut because many of the Aborigines are now working and are supplied rations by their employers.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/6927, Letter number 94/12834
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 350.

Letter from the Police Magistrate in Herberton advising that he has arranged with Robert Gordon for the price of the flour supplied to the Aborigines in Atherton to be reduced.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 95/6927, Letter number 95/29
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 351.

Letter from the Police Magistrate in Herberton advising that he has arranged with Robert Gordon for the price of the beef supplied to the Aborigines in Atherton to be reduced.
Petition from several residents of the Barron Valley calling for the rations supplied to the Aborigines to be stopped because there is plenty of employment, the selectors are only too happy to feed and cloth them if they will work, to keep them about Atherton is better than exposing them to the Chinese and Malays.

Report from the Police Magistrate in Herberton suggesting that the petition sent by the residents of the Barron Valley (see directly above) was instigated by Mr Kelly. Kelly had a grudge against the contractor who supplies the rations to the Aborigines and used the petition to retaliate. The Police Magistrate advises that the rations should be continued because there were 400 Aborigines at the last blanket distribution. This number cannot be fed from the meagre natural resources in the Barron Valley. He also suggests that Atherton is the place to distribute the rations because it is sparsely populated with Europeans and therefore minimises the inconvenience and shock caused by the presence of Aborigines.

Brief letter from the Police Magistrate in Cairns in relation to the supply of rations to the Aborigines.

Letter from John Douglas on Thursday Island forwarding a return sent by Burns, Philp and Co for the cost of goods supplied to the Batavia River Mission Station (Mapoon).

Letter from Mr [Hannam?] at Northbourne, Myola requesting rations for the tribe on his selection. He states that they were here long before we came and chopped down all the trees and took "their creek from them and sent away their wallabies". "I try to civilize some of the young ones but there are too many".

Letter from the Bench in Cairns suggesting that tenders be called for the supply of beef to the Aborigines at Myola.
Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 96/10
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 364.

Letter from the Police Magistrate in Herberton forwarding the tenders for the supply of rations to the Aborigines in Atherton. He recommends that Mr Gordon’s tender be accepted. (The tenders appear on frames 365-366).

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 96/5091
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 369-371.

Letter from William Gray at Niagara Vale, Cardwell drawing attention to the treatment of the Aborigines by the Cardwell Native Police. He alleges that the Aborigines will not go hunting because some of their companions have been killed by the Native Police and they are afraid to leave the safety of the stations. He also alleges that the Native Police have given license to kidnappers to take Aboriginal women and children and if they attempt to leave they trump up charges against their husbands.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 96/8199, Letter number 96/419
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 373-380.

Tenders for the supply of rations to the Aborigines at Thornborough.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 96/8199 (top number)
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 381-382.

Tenders for the supply of rations to the Aborigines at Thornborough.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 96/10839, Letter number 93/7838
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 386.

Letter from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, advising that he has had an offer from Charles Denford to supply beef to the Aborigines at California Creek but if the present contractor can match his offer he suggests that he should retain the contract.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 96/10839, Letter number 93/13381
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 387-388.

Two letters from Charles Denford forwarding a tender for the supply of beef to the Aborigines at California Creek.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 96/10839, Letter number 93/13381
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 389-392.

Correspondence in relation to tenders for the supply of beef to the Aborigines at California Creek.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 96/10839 (top number)
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 393-394.

Correspondence in relation to tenders for the supply of beef to the Aborigines at California Creek.
Petition from the residents of the Murray River and Tully River near Cardwell requesting Native Police protection from the "depredations" of the Aborigines. A note from the Police Commissioner (frame 399) states there is a detachment of Native Police at Stewarts Creek who can patrol the district.
Letter from the Police Commissioner to the Colonial Secretary in relation to the supply of rations to the Aborigines in Cardwell. He suggests that a boat should be purchased so that the rations can be distributed from Kirkton. The boat can take the rations to the government reserve on the coats and also to the Tully River once per week, "thus avoiding bringing the blacks into Cardwell or collision with each other.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 97/976 and 97/977
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 411-416.

Tenders for the supply of rations to the Aborigines at California Creek and Irvinebank.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 97/7080, Letter number 96/13709
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 418-419.

Frame 418 contains a letter from the Tate Mineral Field Progress Association to the Police Magistrate in Herberton. They state that the Aborigines have been stealing the miner's rations while they are absent from their camps and ask the government for a weekly supply of rations to distribute to the Aborigines.

Frame 419 contains a letter from the Police Magistrate in Herberton to the Colonial Secretary forwarding the letter from the Tate Progress Association (see directly above) and recommending that the rations be supplied.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 97/7080, Letter number 96/14999
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 420-421.

Letter from the Police Magistrate in Herberton recommending that a relief camp should be set up on the Tate River. He advises that there are about 50 Aborigines there at present many old men and women who cannot fend for themselves therefore they have resorted to stealing from the miner's camps. He recommends that rations be supplied to them.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 97/7080, Letter number 97/3632
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 422.

Report from Inspector Gilmour to the Commissioner of Police in relation to the supply of rations to the Aborigines at the Tate River tin mines. Frames 423-428 contain tenders for the supply of rations to the Aborigines at the Tate tin mines.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 97/7913, Letter number 97/7602
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 430.

Telegram from the Police Magistrate in Herberton applying for rations for the Aborigines at Herberton for distribution on Jubilee Day.
Correspondence in relation to a request from the Mountalbion Progress Association for rations for the 50 Aborigines in the town camp, to be distributed on Jubilee Day.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 97/7913, Letter number 97/7746
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 431-433.

Report from the Police Magistrate in Bowen in relation to a request from the Reverend Cassar for medical assistance and rations for the Aborigines of the district. The Police Magistrate suggests that the Aborigines are "having a go" at Reverend Cassar because he is a "new chum." They make out they are starving to get money from him. He advises that the Aborigines already get medical assistance. However, he suggests that it would be a good idea to employ an "intelligent black boy" as a tracker to go around the camps and bring in any cases of disease for the Medical Officer to attend to and to report any cases of destitution so that he can arrange for rations to be supplied to the needy. He also suggests that the tracker should report any cases of alcohol being supplied to the aborigines.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 97/9119, Letter number 90/1211
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 435-436.

Letter from the Bowen Hospital Committee complaining about the stoppage of the allowance for the treatment of Aborigines. They advise that they are unable to afford to pay for the treatment themselves and ask for the allowance to be resumed.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 97/10215
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 439-440.

Correspondence from the Irvinebank Progress Association requesting rations for the Aborigines there.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 97/10813, Letter number 96/16347
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 443-445.

Tenders for the supply of rations to the Aborigines in Atherton.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 97/10813, Letter number 96/16681
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 447-449.

Correspondence in relation to tenders for the supply of rations to the Aborigines in the Herberton district.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 97/10813, Letter number 96/16682
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 450-451.

Telegram from the Police Magistrate in Herberton calling for fresh tenders at several centres for the next year.
Telegram from the Police Magistrate in Herberton asking if he can accept the lowest tender for the supply of rations to the Aborigines if the amounts do not exceed the yearly estimate.

Tenders for the supply of rations to the Aborigines at Thornborough and Atherton.

Correspondence from Atherton in relation to vouchers for the supply of rations to the Aborigines in the district.

Telegram from Joseph Cummings in relation to the price of rations supplied to the Aborigines at Thornborough.

Report from Archibald Meston dated February 17, 1897 to the Colonial Secretary advising that he is leaving for Maryborough tomorrow to arrange for the removal of Aborigines to Fraser Island. He also recommends that the allowance given to Hislop for rations for the Aborigines should be stopped because they could easily walk to Bloomfield River mission to get them.

Letter from several residents of the Bloomfield River protesting that public money is supplied to Robert Hislop so that he can supply the Aborigines with rations. They suggest that the money should be handed over to the Bloomfield River Mission Station. Also mentions that Robert Hislop of Bloomfield River is the father of "several half caste children".

Letter from George Hislop at Wyalla, Bloomfield River advising that it would be a "false step" to discontinue the rations to the Aborigines at Cooktown. Attached is a return (frame number 477) showing the average number of Aborigines in the camp at Wyalla from March to August 1897.
Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 97/16399, Letter number 97/12828
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 478-480.

Correspondence from George Hislop in relation to the discontinuation of rations to the Aborigines at Wyalla, Bloomfield River.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 97/16399, Letter number 97/12850
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 481-482.

Letter from Henry Chester, the Police Magistrate in Cooktown, forwarding a letter from George Hislop (see directly above) and defending his "moral character".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 97/16399, Letter number 97/14897
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 483-489.

Letter from AJ Traill (frames 483-484) to George Hislop at Bloomfield River stating that it is "rather hard lines" for the government to stop his allowance for the supply of rations to the Aborigines on the testimony of Mr Collins of Bloomfield River mission. Also includes a letter (frames 485-489) from George Hislop acknowledging a copy of a letter from Mr Collins of Bloomfield River mission making allegations that Mr Hislop keeps the Aborigines away from the mission station and that his son, Robert Hislop, has an Aboriginal wife and "half caste children".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 97/16399, Letter number 97/15870
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 490-494.

Report from Archibald Meston advising that Mr Hislop junior of Bloomfield River has been cohabiting with Aboriginal women for some years, "one of whom has borne three half caste children". Meston comments that a man who cohabits with Aboriginal women looses all respect of the other Aborigines. He therefore recommends that the rations to the Aborigines should only be supplied at Bloomfield River mission and not by Hislop at Wyalla.

Frame numbers 492-494: Letter from several residents of the Bloomfield River district stating that the allegations from Mr Collins of Bloomfield River mission against Robert Hislop are false. In their opinion there is no better or experienced man to take control of the Bloomfield River Aborigines. They also comment that although Hislop has "half caste" children he looks after them out of his own pocket, unlike some who allow them to "run wild" and become an expense to the government.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820 98/10081
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 496-497.

Return showing the financial assistance given for Aborigines by location and amount. Includes Fraser Island, Atherton, Ayton, Rossville, Banana, Batavia River, Bellenden Kerr, Bloomfield River, Bowen, Butchers Hill, California Creek, Cape Bed ford, Coen, Cardwell, Daintree, Deebing Creek, Fisherton, Highbury, Normanton district, Mareeba, Marie Yamba, Maytown, Montalbion, Cook district, Mein, Mungindi, Myola, Thornborough, Thursday Island and Whitsunday Island.
Letter from the Maryborough police office advising that a voucher for the payment of rations supplied to an "old blind aboriginal" at Cania has not been paid.

Letter from the Maryborough police office in relation to the payment of a voucher for rations supplied to a blind Aborigine at Cania.

Correspondence in relation to rations supplied to a blind Aborigine at Cania.

Letter from the Cania police station advising that one blind Aborigine and three others are receiving government rations.

Letter from Walter E Roth to Mr Foxton enclosing a return of the northern districts showing the number of Aborigines receiving government relief, the nature of the relief, and the cost. Includes a reference to "17 incorrigibles being sent to southern reserves". The return is on frame 510.

Report from Walter E Roth dated February 4, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Recommends that no permits will be issued to publicans to employ Aborigines; asks for authority to send a letter (in the report) to the Shipping Master in Cooktown setting down the regulations for employing Aborigines on "coasting, trading, beche-de-mer, pearling and other vessels"; he discuses the expense of treating Aborigines in the hospital and proposes to move them to the 8 Mile Native Police camp; asks permission to visit the Bloomfield district; advises that he has visited three local Aboriginal camps to give them "expressions of my friendship" and where he counted "about 130 souls" but some were out hunting and in town and the number would be nearer to 200, their health was mainly good; people have been spreading "malicious rumours" about him so that the Aborigines will all leave the area. These have been started by people who are keeping horses and cattle on the Quarantine and Aboriginal reserves; he has been working on Aboriginal vocabularies and customs.
Report from Walter E Roth dated February 11, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

As soon as he has permission he will remove the remaining Aborigines from the hospital; the residents of the local Aboriginal camps "are beginning to understand that I am here on their behalf and acting in their interests", He names some of the Aboriginal people who have sought medical treatment: Barney's gin, Tommy, Corporal Dick's wife.

Report from Walter E Roth dated February 15, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Advises that he will immediately see about moving the Aborigines to 8 Mile Native Police camp; he is keen to visit the Bloomfield River district and gain information on the customs of the Aborigines from Mr Hislop, Hislop has been collecting Aborigines from other districts so that he will have a good number to show me; discusses the issue of rations at Wyalla and Butchers Hill; advises that white men have been over to the North Shore reserve after Aboriginal women; he has two requests from miners to employ Aborigines, he has draw their attention to the fact they need permits.

Report from Walter E Roth dated February 24, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Gives the number of Aborigines at stations, mining camps and missions: Tablelands Station 36, Wyalla Station 37, Bloomfield Station 4, Bannabilla Station 34, St Nicholas Station 6, Nunnville Station 2, Granite Creek Station 2, Cunnamurra Station 2, Mt Romeo mining camp 10, Mt Hartley mining camp 10, China Camp 60, Mt Amos 35, Bloomfield River Mission Station 35. Also an entry for "wild ones": "there is said to be a small tribe living on the Tableland independently of Young: they cannot be got in, Const Whelan has never seen them". He estimates he has 300 Aborigines "to deal with" in the district; advises on visits to selectors in the district who employ Aborigines and gives general comments about their health, the availability of food and the treatment of the Aborigines; advises that Mr Hislop of Wyalla has three "half caste children who he cares for; Mr Johnson, Antonio and another man living at St Nicholas Station are Portugese and are living with Aboriginal women to whom they have "half caste children" who attend school, the three men own a boat that trades with Cooktown; advises on the produce grown, living arrangements, buildings and treatment of the Aborigines at Bloomfield River Mission Station; mentions that Mr Baird (formally Mayor of Cooktown) of Cunnamurra has two "half caste" children who are sent to school; at China Camp there are complaints from Aboriginal men that Mr Coleman, Mr Leslie, Mr Murray and John Waugh are
cohabiting with their women, also at Mt Romeo Ross Kelly and Ah Moo are cohabiting with Aboriginal women.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 538-540 (this is a typescript copy of the report. The original is located on microfilm Z1609 frames 23-25).

Report from Walter E Roth dated February 25, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Acknowledges the maps showing the size and location of the reserves and suggests they should be made smaller, he is keen to have the Quarantine reserve proclaimed an Aboriginal reserve; advises that he is working on his ethnological notes of the Bloomfield River Aborigines; briefly mentions receiving a letter from RN Smith about his Kanaka and Aboriginal wife; hopes that Police Inspectors will soon be proclaimed Aboriginal Protectors and then refuse permits to publicans and “asiatics” so that they are unable to employ Aborigines; asks for permission to increase the allowance for rations supplied to the Aborigines at Bloomfield River Mission Station.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 541-543 (This is a typescript copy. The original is located on microfilm Z1609 frames 48-50)

Report from Walter E Roth dated March 11, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police

Advises that he is getting information on prospective employers of Aborigines from "the most reliable source - the police"; states that he is "taking every care to work the Act in a manner least irksome to the public"; proposes to send monthly returns of employment permits granted and refused and returns of Aborigines coming to Cooktown for medical treatment; he has several Aboriginal weapons to forward and is trying to get the police interested in collecting them; advises that a Clergyman from the Batavia River mission (Mapoon) advised him that some beche-de-mer fishermen have been recruiting at the mission and that some of the people recruited have not been returned, the Clergyman is keen to have the station proclaimed a reserve so that no one would have the right to go there.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 544.

Letter from Edwin Brown at Mapoon dated May 3, 1898 advising that a pearl shelling boat named 'Bingo' had arrived at the mission after recruiting Aborigines "the hands of the aboriginals were tied, and they were fastened down to the hold. During the night however the men managed to get off their ropes, knocked the hatches off, jumped overboard, swam ashore and escaped".
Report from Walter E Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated May 6, 1898.

Discusses the employment of Aborigines in and beyond Queensland waters; about 300 Aborigines are employed pearl shell diving; the natives employed in the fisheries in the Torres Strait are able to look after themselves and do not require protective legislation; the resurgence of the pearl shelling trade has increased the recruitment of mainland Aborigines, principally from the Seven Rivers district of western Cape York; the press-gang system of recruiting is carried on at the present time; permits for recruiting south of Duyphen Point will not be issued because the Aborigines are "myalls" and outrages will follow if it continues; deposits should be paid by the fishermen for each Aborigine they employ to encourage them to return the Aborigines to their homes after their employment agreements expire; there has been a suggestion from Mr Douglas that the Japanese, Malays and Manilla men should not be allowed to employ Aborigines; included in the report are copies of notices re the employment of Aborigines by aliens that appeared in the Torres Strait Pilot; also comments that there are Aborigines employed on Thursday Island who will need permits; he has advised the Batavia River mission (Mapoon) to get the Aboriginal residents under employment permits to prevent the raids on the mission; reports that at Normanton the Europeans are very keen to get their Aborigines under work agreements.

Report from Walter E Roth dated May 13, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Report forwarding an account of some of the native foods of the Bloomfield River Aborigines. Description of how yams, nuts, fruits and berries, bulbs and tubers and game animals are harvested, prepared and cooked. Also some detail of the customs associated with their consumption, e.g. yams harvested by men can only be eaten by men. Also the names of the various food resources in the local Aboriginal language:

Native names for yams: Diobcorea Satava (redish yam growing on edges of scrub): wo-ki long white yam growing in forest country: kal-koor Long whit yam growing in hills and rocky places: kou-oo Short white yam growing on exposed ridges: mareme

Nuts:
Pygeum Turnerianum: joon-da (called abill by the Cairns Aborigines). Match Box Bean: baboor
Morton Bay Chestnut: marchay
Candle nut: belere
Almond: berka
Zamia: ma-ra
Cyrptocarya Palmerstoni: bood-ja-bi

Bulbs and Tubers:
Amorphophallus: woo-rad-ji
Poppy: mar-kad-ji
Microstemma Tuberosum: wa-ra-boo-ga
Typhonium Brownii Schott: bund-ja
Also marbil, dillanjure (no English equivalents noted) Curculio vel Hyposcis: koo-mool
Tacca Pinnatifida: be-ung-gal
Blue Water Lily: de-ker


Black iguana: walkar
Dark face lizard: wonggo
Light face lizard: gal-lidga
Frilled scrub lizard: talbil
Frilled forest lizard: binadje
Water lizard: bull-boo
Minerals:
Clay from ant hills: kappay
White clay: kumbar - eaten and used to paint weapons

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 565-566.

Report from Walter E Roth dated May 15, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Advises that he has forwarded some photographs including scenes depicted launching a canoe and Aboriginal huts etc (the photographs are not in the file).

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 567-568 (This is a typescript copy. The original report is located on microfilm Z1609 frame 174).

Report from Walter E Roth dated May 27, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Roth expresses his surprise that a deputation of graziers who met the Premier in Cairns
suggested that the "Aboriginals Protection Act" was enacted to remove Aborigines to reserves. He states that this is "a false impression" ... "originally emanating in the imagination of mischievous whites".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 569-575.

Report from Walter E Roth dated May 27, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

The report includes a letter sent from several Aborigines living at Cape Bedford to the Chief Protector (ie the Commissioner of Police) in their own language with an English translation. The authors of the letter are: Magdalena, Elisabeth, Martha, Freida, Maria and Anna. The report also has a section on the manufacture of hair twine and the customs associated with it "as practiced on the Morehead River and Musgrave River". The informant is Mary, a native tracker's wife from 8 Mile Native Police camp, Cooktown.

Aboriginal name for human hair twine: ma-nung-an
The needle used: ng-gi-ur-jur

Frame numbers 576-578. (The original of this report and attached minutes are located on microfilm Z1609 frames 252-261).

Report from Sub-Inspector Cooper sent from Cairns and dated June 3, 1898.

Advises that he travelled from Cairns to the Tate River police station visiting the Aboriginal camps on the way in his capacity as Aboriginal Protector. The visit was in response to the "wishes expressed by the Honourable TJ Byrnes the Premier that he would like to know the feelings of the Cairns district with regard to the amending of the Aboriginal Act". He advises that he met with the various progress associations and "fully explained the Act at the meetings referred to" (see below for the minutes from the meetings). He interviewed 500 Aborigines on the way and explained to them that the government was their friend and that they would not be removed from their country, but that they must work. Also advises that he authorised the issue of rations to those incapable of work; he does not think the idea of removing Aborigines on to reserves would be a success, public opinion is against it; there are 5 or 6 blind Aborigines in Atherton, the blindness is thought to be caused from eating a poisonous root or nut; Mr Kelly the Chairman of the Atherton Progress Association has been feeding the Aborigines which is a burden on him, suggests only feeding those incapable of looking after themselves; there is a large and increasing demand for Aboriginal labour and if the able bodied were not fed they will look for work; suggests that the presents of pipes and tobacco he gave them from the government had more effect in showing the Aborigines that they were to be befriended than all the talking in the world could have done.

Attached to the report are the minutes from the meetings between Sub-Inspector Cooper and the Barron Valley and Montalbion progress associations (frames 579-583). The main resolutions of the meetings include: Asiatics, Chinese and Malays should not be able to employ Aboriginal labour, Aborigines should not be removed because they "pine for their native country and friends and die under the confinement".
Letter from Sub-Inspector Cooper to the Chief Protector sent from Cairns and dated June 2, 1898 in relation to the "Employment of Aborigines by Chinese and other Aliens".

Advises that the Chinese and South Sea Islanders have been in the habit of employing Aborigines in the district and that this practice has led to abuses, mainly because the Chinese pay the Aborigines in opium. He asks for instructions for the issue of work permits to Chinese or Kanakas. He also advises that many Chinese and Kanakas are living with Aboriginal women and have families of "half caste" children. He suggests that cases such as these "should not be interfered with".

Report from Walter E Roth dated June 6, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Advises that he visited Boggy Creek reserve at Butchers Hill and Kings Plains. At Boggy Creek there are about 60 Aborigines; 4 Aborigines are employed at Springvale; at Kings Plains 2 Aboriginal women are employed. "The gins [at Kings Plains] complained to me of their children being detained, against their wishes, at a neighbouring station. Maggie has a full-blooded son about 8 or 9 years of age at Springvale, whence he has already attempted to run away but been brought back: Mollie has a little half-caste girl at Oakey Creek station. I have written to Mr Cooke to return the former, and Mr Marrett will deal with the latter". Also gives the Aboriginal language names of various places in the district: Butchers Hill headstation: da-bi-Li The whole run: young-koor West Normanby River, main portion: cho-kon Its most westerly head: jou-wool Head of the Daintree River: jol-li Mount Windsor: kulm-bar Kings Plains run: tandi Lake country above run: boon-ka-ra Christmas Day Lagoon: wou-a-bud-ja East Normanby River: yoo-moo Mount Byerley: kun-ya-ka-ra Banana Creek: ka-boo Scrubby Creek: mud-ja Maytown: wool-boor-joor-boor

"The only tribes discoverable in the district just traversed are the Yoongkoor-ara of Butchers Hill and amongst them two remnants of the Jou-wool-ara (of the most westerly head of the W Normanby River): the former speak Koko-yalanji, and the latter Kokoboin-ji". "These Butchers Hill aboriginals used in the old days to have their walkabout comprising the head of the Daintree R, the Bloomfield, Mount Windsor, and sometimes to the Laura and Maytown". Maytown is the "head-camp of the wool-boor-ara who wander between that township, Laura and Palmerville and who speak Ko-ko-min-ni . . .[and who are] "at enmity with the Deighton blacks who speak Ko-ko-wa-ra. The social organisation of the Butchers Hill Aborigines has four primary divisions: Woongko, Bunburi, Koorkilla and Koopooroo.

Jo-rong-oor: a small flat piece of iron wood for smoothing down the resin in the manufacture of a spear, at the union of the shaft and butt.

Too-cha-ba-la: ironwood

Chil-ngar: the square nautilus-chip necklace worn by men over the forehead, by women around the neck.

Mel-bar: the cup-shaped nautilus shell worn by men over the back of the shoulders, by women between the breasts.

Mar-war: the particular form of string used for tying round the waists of women and old men, or across from one shoulder to the opposite arm-pit, in the case of women, as signification of mourning.

Nging-gun: mussel shell (used a "spoon" etc) brought here from Byerstown and Palmer River.

War-kul and Kar-bo: "spoons" made from marine shell obtained from the Bloomfield and Cooktown.

Boo-rad-ja and Ji-ba: two names for the beeswax used for fixing the pegs and hafts on to the woomeras.

Mil-bar: the woomera made of ironwood.

Nga-til: woomera made of yellow-coloured wood.

Mun-nim-bul: match-box firesticks.

The report also advises on a trip to Bloomfield River and Cape Bedford mission stations. Roth suggests that the Bloomfield mission station is not run "for the amelioration of the blacks and is run rather on commercial lines than on philanthropic lines", if they do not show a marked improvement in the next 12 months their subsidy should be cut; Cape Bedford should be granted a subsidy of 100 pounds on the understanding that they take in more of the "Cooktown aboriginal waifs and strays"; requests the condemned tobacco from the Customs stores for distribution to the Aborigines; the main beche-de-mer fishing grounds are near New Caledonia and out of the jurisdiction of Queensland, which puts any Aborigines working in the industry out of reach of any supervision; suggests that marriages between white men and Aboriginal women will be resorted to in order to evade the provisions of the Act, which may prove advantageous to both parties, as well as the children, but permission should be sought from the local Protectors who will enquire into the particulars; Roth is anxious for the reserves to gazetted: "when the cattle come the blacks must go, and each succeeding year will increase the difficulties of protecting the aboriginals so long as certain tracts of land are not specially set apart for them".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820

Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 593-599. (This is a typescript copy of the original. The original is located on microfilm Z1609 frames 343-348).

Report from Walter E Roth dated June 24, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Report on a visit to the Starcke River in the neighbourhood of Munbarra. Roth advises on the Aboriginal language names of places in the district: Mountain range east of Starcke River: Moon-bar, and the Aborigines inhabiting them: Moonbar-ara (it was this name which gave the first settlers Munbarra for the township). Country on either side of the Starcke River: Doon-jo, and the Aborigines inhabiting it: Doonjo-ara. Now, piri is the locally spoken (Kokoyimidir) name for a river and hence:

Stracke River: Piri-doonjo Similarly, Wallace's selection on the Mclvor: Bin-di and occupied by the Bindi-wara, Mclvor River, or rather that portion passing through it, being called Piri-bindi,

"The Koko-jombol speaking aboriginals inhabit the coast line from the mouth of the Starcke River round to Cape Flattery. They walk about down the coast to the mouth of the McIvor River where they meet the Cape Bedford and McIvor blacks, and up the banks of the Starcke as far as Munbarra".

"The Koko-yimbol speaking blacks inhabit the coast line from the mouth of the Starcke as far certainly as Barrow Point, travelling a little way up both the Jeannie and Starcke rivers". "From the fact of the Munbarra (Starcke River) people being able to communicate with both the koke-jom-bol and koko-jimol speaking blacks, there cannot be much difference in their dialects and that of the Cooktown (koko-yimidir speaking) individuals".

Also discusses the relations between the Aborigines and the miners at Munbarra and names three of the Aborigines as Frank, Missy and Billy.

Roth also asks for an opinion on Aboriginal minors being employed on fishing boats, there has been a case of a father trading one of his children to a fisherman for flour and tobacco. "As far as I can learn from tribal customs any child under puberty (i.e. before the first initiation ceremony) is the absolute slave, and has to obey the absolute bidding, of its father". "Hence if the father (bribed or not) says yes, the child has to go".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 600.

Telegram from Walter Roth to the Commissioner of Police advising that he is going to the Starcke River to inspect the Aborigines.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame number 601.

Telegram from Walter Roth advising he has returned from the Starcke River and is forwarding a report.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6820
Microfilm Z1604, Microfilm frame numbers 602-608.

Report from Walter E Roth dated October 30, 1898 from Atherton to The Commissioner of Police.

Report on "the Barron Valley Farmers and Progress Association and its opposition to the employment of Aboriginals by coloured Aliens". In a letter to the Sub-Inspector of Police in Cairns the Association has demanded that something be done about "aliens" employing Aborigines and that heavy fines be imposed. Roth advises that he has spent a week in Atherton investigating the situation. He describes the character of each Association member.
and whom they employ. Roth also comments that the "anti-Chinese feeling is not confined to the members of the Committee, but is rife and rampant throughout the district". He lists the Chinese men who have been charged with supplying opium and the amount of land under cultivation. Advises that the local Aborigines are made up of three tribes; at the last blanket distribution in Atherton 350 Aborigines were supplied and "it is safe to presume there are more than 400 in the whole district"; the Aborigines told him there is plenty of game in the scrub; the 100 European farmers in the Atherton district, according to the register books, employ 116 Aborigines; the 300 Chinese farmers employ under 100. Roth concludes that the grounds for protest are not supported by the evidence but recommends that "the coloured aliens be not allowed to employ black labour". "At the same time I do not wish it to be thought for one moment that I am sacrificing the aboriginal for State policy, in taking him away from his employment under a Chinaman. I am perfectly satisfied that those who are able to work for their food in the cornfield, are able to hunt for it in the scrub where plenty is to be found, their alternative if not willing to serve a European man".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6826 96/2538
Microfilm Z1608, Microfilm frame numbers 1-4.

Memorandum and letter from John Douglas, the Government Resident on Thursday Island, strongly recommending legislative action to restrict and regulate the sale of opium because "The Sale and Use of Poisons Act of 1891 is not sufficiently elastic and definite to admit of the easy conviction of offenders".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6826 96/2538
Microfilm Z1608, Microfilm frame numbers 5-17.

Deputations in the case of Police v John Lewis, who was charged with selling opium on Thursday Island but who was dismissed for lack of admissible evidence.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6826 96/14640
Microfilm Z1608, Microfilm frame numbers 19-27.

Correspondence in relation to the supply of rations for the Kamerunga Aborigines. The report from Archibald Meston (frame 27) suggests that Kamerunga is not a suitable location to distribute rations and they would go to Kuranda, where the police distribute rations, if they wanted food. Meston also comments that Kamerunga "was originally used as a burial ground and as such was visited only during the performance of funeral ceremonies".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6826 96/15515
Microfilm Z1608, Microfilm frame numbers 29-32.

Report on the Aboriginal Reserve at Durundur from Archibald Meston. Gives an overview of its history, size and geographical location and features. Meston also comments that "the Durundur reserve was, in old times, a favourite resort for the aboriginals and a friendly meeting place for tribes speaking three dialects; a neutral territory for at least two thousand blacks ... who once assembled at grand corroborees and great Bora ceremonies of departed days". "The widespread Wacca and Cabbee dialects, and the Gooray dialect of Durundur, are spoken by the few men and women who are brushing and ringbarking their old domain". Among them is the widow of the once notorious Johnny Campbell ... and the wife of Sambo who is
suspected of recently poisoning two blacks at Kedron Brook ... one woman (Warrany) a widow, has a boy and girl Wangindie and Jandoo, at Deebing Creek where they are known as Robertson and Julia. One old man (Chumgurra) is quite blind ... and a feeble old woman named Barriebill ... belong to the old Boolwanburra tribe of Durundur, speaking Wacca, a dialect spoken by Darling Downs tribes and down the Burnett to Bundaberg, the Cabbee and Yuggaran dialects intervening between it and those spoken at Morton Bay". Meston also comments that Durundur is in an excellent location and that it, and the one proposed at Fraser Island, would "easily accommodate all the blacks left in South Queensland".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6826 97/147
Microfilm Z1608, Microfilm frame numbers 33-37.

Report on the South Queensland Aboriginals from Archibald Meston. Reports on the Aborigines south of the Burnett River and east of the Great Diving Range. The report "refers to their numbers and condition, their prospects of amelioration and the requisite conditions under which that amelioration is likely to be accomplished". Meston comments that "In the convict period of Morton Bay, the aboriginal population from Wide Bay to the Darling Downs was estimated (in 1836) at 10,000. Including the tribes north to the Burnett the number would have been extended to 12 or 15 thousand. As there were then at least 2000 aboriginals on Fraser Island alone, there is a probability that there were at least 20,000 aboriginals between the Burnett and the Tweed. On Bribie Island there were about four or five hundred and Morton and Stradbroke islands represented at least eight hundred more". Meston states that in 1896 there were only about 450 Aborigines between the Burnett and the Tweed: 130 at Deebing Creek, 60 at Maryborough, a few working on stations "and the rest living a fugitive existence combining their primitive habits with some of the customs of civilisation". Also comments on the use of opium; "pointing the bone"; recommends the removal of the Aborigines at Maryborough and Bundaberg to Fraser Island; mentions the Aborigines at Tiaro, Gympie, Landsborough, Boonah, Beaudesert, Beenleigh and Southport. He suggests that the Boonah and Beaudesert Aborigines "profess to be much attached to the locality as their fathers or mothers were born there. Meston suggests that "this is not to be accepted as an argument against collecting them together for their own benefit in some central reserve. It is too late in the day to humour these caprices and sentimentalisms which the total change of environment has deprived of all tangible significance"; Meston comments that the Aborigines at Deebing Creek come from "all directions" and that he has sent up from Brisbane one man from the Tuccalugga tribe on the Palmer and another from the Yeeranthurly tribe near Ravenswood; "there are no blacks either in or around Stanthorpe, the old Toowoomba aboriginals are now represented by ten or a dozen men and women"; mentions he has had requests from NSW and Victoria asking for young Aborigines either for domestic servants or adoption.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6826 No letter number
Microfilm Z1608, Microfilm frame numbers 38-39.

Memorandum from W Parry-Okeden to the Home Secretary forwarding suggestions from Walter Roth (on frame 38) in relation to the draft of the proposed bill "Protection of Aborigines, p.18.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6826 97/10508
Microfilm Z1608, Microfilm frame numbers 41-51.

Correspondence in relation to keeping the pine nursery on Fraser Island operational after
the Aborigines are removed there. There is a suggestion that whoever is in charge of the Aboriginal reserve on Fraser Island can also run the plantation, "who will have at his command a sufficiency of aboriginal labour to assist in the work of the nursery". There is the suggestion that Mr Mitchell who presently runs the plantation should also take over the running of the reserve. However, Meston is against Mr Mitchell having anything to do with the reserve and Mitchell has been told to leave the island. The file also contains a letter from Archibald Meston (97/10415frame 49) advising that a "crowd of larrikins" intends to land on Fraser Island to protest Mr Mitchell's removal from the island in defiance of the "Home Secretary and the law of the country".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6826 97/12483
Microfilm Z1608, Microfilm frame numbers 52-53.

Letter from the Chief Secretary in response to a directive from the Governor asking what action the Ministers have taken in regard to Mr Parry-Okeken's report on the North Queensland Aborigines and the Native Police (a copy of this report is available at the CPH office at QSA). The Governor is advised that the Police Commissioner has been empowered to continue the employment of the Native Police north of the Tropic of Capricorn and the supply of rations to the Aborigines. "In the southern part of the colony where the conditions are altogether different from those in the north, the protection of the blacks is authorised to apply experimentally a system of a less repressive nature, from which good results are anticipated". Also advises that a Bill for the protection and better government of the Aborigines of the colony is now prepared and will shortly be ready.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6826 97/13206
Microfilm Z1608, Microfilm frame numbers 55-73.

Correspondence from the Attorney General's department enclosing documents forwarded to the department in relation to drafting a Bill for the protection of Aborigines. Includes letters from Thursday Island in relation to the inability to convict Mr Lewis for supplying opium, a letter from Edward Baker at Mitchell suggesting that something should be done about the use of opium by Aborigines, a draft of the Aborigines Protection Act from Archibald Meston with a copy of the "American Indian Laws on Indian Reserves".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6826 97/13253
Microfilm Z1608, Microfilm frame numbers 75-88.

Report from Archibald Meston titled: "Queensland Aboriginals, Outline of Work In 1897: New Systems of Improvement Their Future Welfare". Reports that one innovation has been "the creation of Reserves on which they are entirely isolated from all contact with other races"; the Native Police have been changed from "an aggressive force" to one that is "entrusted with the defence of the whites and the protection of their countrymen"; gives a brief history of the Native Police Force; Native Police officers have been instructed to protect the Aborigines from all forms of injustice by lawless whites and only to punish the Aborigines who are directly responsible for any outrages; the Native Police are also to distribute rations and tobacco as "a satisfactory guarantee that the new professions of friendship are genuine"; the Commissioner of Police is initiating a policy of protecting and improving the condition of the Aborigines in the north and a system of reserves is being established in the older and settled districts; mentions the reserve on Fraser Island and that 52 Aborigines have been removed
from Maryborough to Fraser Island; also mentions Durundur and that it will be used to accommodate some of the coastal Aborigines and those removed from the west; the reserve near Cairns extending from False Bay to the Mulgrave River will be able to accommodate all the Aborigines in north Queensland; discusses the mission stations at Deebing Creek, Marie Yamba, Bloomfield River, Cape Bedford and Batavia River (Mapoon); discusses the steps taken by the two Commissioners (Meston and Parry-Okeden), appointed to inquire into the condition of the Aborigines, leading up to the introduction of the Protection of Aborigines and Restriction of Opium Act; frame 82 also contains a list of the food distribution centres in Queensland and the cost associated with each centre; frame 87 contains a return of blanket distributions for 1897 with entries for the number issued and the location.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6826 98/5120
Microfilm Z1608, Microfilm frame numbers 89-95.

"Progress Report" from Archibald Meston dated April 18, 1898. Suggests the new "Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act" has already had a beneficial effect; applications for permits to employ Aborigines have "come in from all quarters ... and were in all cases so far immediately granted"; the Act needs to be enforced with considerable tact and great moderation; Meston intends to encourage the employment of Aborigines and "half-castes" by respectable people; "when originally advising the establishment of reserves and the principle of isolation from whites, I indicated, among other advantages of the system, the training of the aboriginal tracker", after barely one year the Fraser Island Settlement is already supplying the Commissioner of Police with Trackers: one at Goondiwindi, one at Wyandra, one at Surat, one at Charleville and two at Longreach; advises that on March 21 he removed the Durundur and Gympie Aborigines to Fraser Island, a total of 31, "the reason for removing the blacks from Durundur will be given in a special report ... the Gympie blacks were removed because they were leading lives which made their removal highly desirable"; mentions the Fraser Island reserve, comments on health, food gathering, which locations the Aborigines on the reserve come from (no names); gives the numbers sent out to employment from Fraser Island and Deebing Creek, and hopes the skills learned while they are away will be an example to the others when they return; recommends that a school be established on the Fraser Island reserve; intends to ask the Minister's approval for a second reserve to be established on Fraser Island near the pine plantation and the Durundur reserve abandoned "making Fraser's Island the one great central permanent aboriginal home for all South Queensland.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6826 98/8319
Microfilm Z1608, Microfilm frame numbers 96-99.

Report re the Aboriginals Protection Act from Archibald Meston dated June 21, 1898. The report forwards a return of those persons who have written directly to Meston for permits to employ Aborigines. The list has headings for the person's name and location or station name. (He also advises that he has entrusted a considerable number of signed permits to the Pastoralists' Association and to the Police. These lists have not yet been returned). The return also lists the Native Trackers and Native Troopers who have been supplied to the Commissioner of Police from the Fraser Island reserve: Galmarra to Ingelwood Terinnamee and wife to Wyandra Moloora and wife to Longreach Windanndera and wife to Jundah Nandee and wife to Surat Nanboono and wife to Roma Wangera and wife to Southwood
Naboor to Mitchell Coolbine to Victoria Narallie and wife to Charleville Windunna to Inglewood.

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6826 98/12952
Microfilm Z1608, Microfilm frame numbers 101-102.

The letter 98/12951 from Archibald Meston advises that two white fishermen are in the habit of fishing on the beach frontage of the Aboriginal reserve at Bogimbah Creek on Fraser Island. He asks that the beach frontage be kept entirely for the use of the Aborigines. Meston suggests that it is unfair to the Aborigines and a potential source of "serious friction". The second letter in the file from Meston (98/12952) asks that the oysters on Little Woody Island be reserved for the exclusive use of the Aborigines. It "is a favourite resort of the aboriginals for fishing and oystering and excursions for the women".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6826 98/14424
Microfilm Z1608, Microfilm frame numbers 104-126.

Large file containing correspondence in relation to allegations from Archibald Meston that Dr Garde of Toowoomba was negligent in the treatment of an Aboriginal woman named Lottie Law. Lottie's husband is named as Willie Law, who was employed as a Native Tracker. Also mentions Willie's sister Annie Law (Lottie, Willie and Annie are described as "half-caste" in the correspondence). Lottie had become ill after giving birth to a child, which subsequently died. Dr Garde is accused of letting Lottie leave the Toowoomba Immigration Depot for Fraser Island where she also died. The report from Meston (98/13982) also mentions "as there was no need for Annie Law and Willie Law to remain at the Depot I took them away with me, sending [Willie] Law to Deebing Creek and bringing Annie to Brisbane".

Queensland State Archives Item ID 6826 99/36 18
Microfilm Z1608, Microfilm frame numbers 127-132.

Return from Archibald Meston of all those who employ Aborigines in South Queensland. Entries for the names of the persons employing Aborigines, where they live, his category for the Aboriginal employee (e.g. "station blacks", "domestic blacks"), some entries for the number of employees, entries for the date the permit was issued. Meston also comments that "there must be at least 2000 aboriginals employed South of the Tropic of Capricorn".

The following entries name the Aboriginal employee or employees: T Bowman of Harrisville: Beeba (a Cairns boy)
JG Dickson of via Mitchell: half caste Collins.
Mrs Gillies (Constable) of Dalby: Amelia Combo.
Mrs JJ Hammond of Tenham, Windorah: Sarah.
JC Hassall of Mount Ubi, Eumundi: Darby and Polly.
May Johnson of Kingholme, Ipswich: Susie Ben.
GH Jones of Nambour: Jacky Ball.
Sergeant J Kelly of Childers: Susie.
John Laherty of Nanango: George.
G and V Lloyd-Owen of Konobi: Quelp.
WJ Mahoney of Oxley: Tahbillie.
Tom Mellish (police dept): Amelia.