

Weather
 Today's forecast: Late shower or thunderstorm.
 Temperatures: Max. 31, Min. 19.
 Tides: High, 11.49 a.m. (2 m) and 12.01 a.m. (1.4 m). Low, 5.33 a.m. (0.2 m) and 6.32 p.m. (0.5 m).
 Weather in full on back page.

Telephone 52 6011

BRISBANE, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1976

Recommended Price 10c By A4 Extra 22c

LA CIT

Parties back State Premier against Fraser Island minerals ban

'THE CANBERRA'

'The rift ang, and drift pens'

By Political Reporter PETER TRUNDLE

THE rift between the Federal and State governments widened yesterday with the Federal Government decision to end sand mining on Fraser Island by December 31.

A period of major confrontation appears to be ahead.

The Premier (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) is pulling no punches and is returning to his anti-Federal Government isolationist Queensland stance of the Whitlam era.

The Deputy Premier and Liberal Leader (Mr. Knox) is certain to back him. The joint Government parties yesterday passed a motion criticising the Federal Government's action.

Angry and bitter, the Premier yesterday told a press conference in the old Legislative Council chamber, an unusual site for one.

"This is a political decision to appease Sydney and Melbourne conservationists."

'Keep jobs'
 The Premier said he would not go to Melbourne and Sydney at the next Federal election to help Federal Parliamentarians there, as he had done last year.

Indications were that he would not be in Queensland throughout Queensland as he did in 1975 when he fought to help oust the Whitlam Labor Government.

'Centralist'
 Mr. Bjelke-Petersen said yesterday there seemed to be little difference between that Government and the Fraser Liberal Government in centralist tendencies.

"I'm disappointed in the Prime Minister over this irresponsible and incredible decision," the Premier said.

"The New South Wales and Victorian Federal Parliamentarians who influenced him are probably happy now — but they won't be for long."

"I challenge them to go to Maryborough and talk to the people whose jobs they've taken away. They wouldn't have the courage."

The State Opposition leader (Mr. Burns) yesterday asked Mr. Fraser by telegram to announce



IT'S FINAL
 Mr. Burns said the latest figures showed 943 registered unemployed in the district, with only 30 job vacancies.

The Federal-State confrontation began yesterday when the Premier

urgently alternative long term employment plans for the Maryborough-Hervey Bay district.

He said it would be tragic if workers and their families were forced

to leave the area to find jobs.

Mr. Burns said the latest figures showed 943 registered unemployed in the district, with only 30 job vacancies.

The Federal-State confrontation began yesterday when the Premier

saw the Federal Transport Minister (Mr. Nixon) and the Environment Minister (Mr. Newman) in his Parliament House office.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen told the press conference: "They suggested the Federal Government put Fraser Island in conjunction with the State Government."

"I told them it was a State matter and I also said I don't want to have anything further to do with you."

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen told reporters: "I felt like I was in a cage. It made it clear I couldn't believe this would happen."

He said Mr. Nixon told him there would be retraining schemes and financial aid for relocating unemployed. But there had been nothing specific.

The Premier said he told Mr. Newman that the Federal Government should not look to the Queensland Government

for any aid in compensating the mining industry.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen said an amount of \$100 million over 23 years had been reported as possible compensation. Sand mining was worth more than \$8,400,000 a year to Maryborough.

The Premier said the State Government had to accept the Fraser Island decision. Legal advice was sought as a challenge in the High Court.

A source close to Mr. Bjelke-Petersen said yesterday: "The Prime Minister has backed the Premier on any project. The Premier has had enough."

The National Party State president (Mr. E. L. Sparkes) said last night that his party was concerned that it had not been possible to arrive at a compromise. A phasing-out period of even two years could have permitted miners and their families to rearrange their lives.

EMISSARIES from Canberra in the Parliament House office of the Premier (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) yesterday. Waiting for him to finish a telephone call were (from left) the Federal Transport Minister (Mr. Nixon), the Federal Environment Minister (Mr. Newman) and the Federal National Country Party Member for Wide Bay (Mr. Millar).

Next it's uranium

From WALLACE BROWN

CANBERRA—The Federal Government is expected now to move on to the big national issue of uranium mining.

Several Ministers last night said they anticipated that the Government would agree to the mining and export of uranium under strict conditions and safeguards as outlined in the recent Fox report.

Many Liberal and National-Country Party MPs said they expected this to be the "trade-off" for the decision to end Fraser Island sand mining.

They said the Government would have been able to demonstrate its concern for the environment with its Fraser Island decision — yet also to demonstrate its concern for world energy needs by allowing uranium to be exported.

In addition, the Government would be able to

claim it was being consistent, because in both cases it would be following strongly the recommendations of expert committees.

Mr. Fraser at the week-end promised a parliamentary debate on the Fox report — but he may hold this after a Cabinet decision on uranium mining is made, rather than before, as sought by the Fox committee.

Hard decision

CANBERRA—The Prime Minister (Mr. Fraser) told Federal Parliament yesterday the decision on Fraser Island had been difficult.

In a letter sent to the Queensland Premier (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) with the Transport Minister (Mr. Nixon) and the Environment Minister (Mr. Newman) yesterday, Mr. Fraser proposed further Commonwealth-State consultations.

He said in his letter the consultations would cover special arrangements to be made by the Employment and Industrial Relations Department, the development of forestry on the mainland and the development of the tourist potential of Fraser Island and the Maryborough region.

Mr. Fraser said his Government's policy was to co-operate closely with the States in future "so environmental decisions can be made well ahead of production and export and thus provide maximum security to the mining and other enterprises concerned."

Told House
 Mr. Newman formally announced the Government's decision in Parliament at 6 pm after he returned from Brisbane.

He said the environmental inquiry took 16 months to reach its conclusions and was a "thorough and comprehensive review of the environmental features of Fraser Island and the impact of the sand mining industry."

Mr. Newman said Fraser Island would be recorded as part of the National Estate, under the Australian Heritage Conservation Act.

He said he would consult the Queensland Government to develop an agreed management plan for Fraser Island, having in mind the preservation of the island's natural features and the oversight of island activity.

Mr. Newman said the inquiry had reported that the "natural environments of Fraser Island is of great significance, complexity and fragility."

Mr. Newman said the Commonwealth was most concerned to assist people affected to find suitable alternative employment — but the Federal and State Governments, and employers and unions concerned, must act in a co-operative and constructive way.

At a press conference later, Mr. Newman said it was "sorry" for Mr. Bjelke-Petersen to say the Federal Government was chasing votes in Sydney and Melbourne.

He also said the question of compensation for Dillingham-Murphyores would be discussed by the Government.

However, a senior Government source said last night it was doubtful if "much or any" compensation would be given to the company, because it had known that when the original export licences were granted that they were conditional on the findings of the environmental inquiry.

Murphyores Holdings Ltd. managing director (Mr. W. Murphy), whose company is a partner in Fraser Island sand mining, said yesterday in reference to possible compensation by the Federal Government: "We have heard the bad news. Now we are waiting for the good news."

City, media: Expect fear: Plan for jobs — Page 12.