

G.H. STEWART

"GLENALTA"

55 OLD CAREY GULLY ROAD

STIRLING S.A. 5152

U 2 JUN 1995

MINISTER'S OFFICE

29 May 1995

Mr Shane Stone
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory
PO Box 4396
DARWIN
NT 0801

Dear Shane

Congratulations on your election to the office of Chief Minister of the Northern Territory of Australia.

I trust that you will be joining the State Premiers at a Premiers Conference as the Premier of Northern Australia at an early date.

With regards to the Committee on Darwin I have done my very best as the Territory's nominee on the Committee, but alas my best was not nearly good enough. I was no match for the head of the Secretariat, Dan the man from the Treasury, or the wily and very talented politician Chairman Wran.

A visionary, bold, imaginative approach by the Australian Government towards the development of Northern Australia's vast trade and investment potential with East Asia is obviously not the flavour of the month in Canberra, although half way through the life of the Committee that is what Neville had in mind. Something changed.

With regard to the report as it stands, the research was good, the consultants' reports were excellent but the conclusions and recommendations were, to say the least, disappointing. An opportunity lost, or has it been lost? I trust that your Government will turn the research to account. If not, the Commonwealth Government has blown \$4m.

Australia east of the Great Divide needs the infectious, enthusiastic drive and imagination of the Northern Territory and its Government. However as yet this is not realised by the 12 million people and their Government east of the Great Divide.

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I have formed a company which has discovered 1 million ounces of mineable gold in Tanzania. We propose developing in 1996 and commencing production in 1997. Unfortunately in the effort I have denuded North Flinders of some key people. However when the conditions are right I will return to mineral exploration and mining in Australia stronger than ever.

I trust I can be of some service to the Northern Territory and your Government in the future.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Stewart.

Geoff Stewart

replied 2/16



CHIEF MINISTER

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21 June, 1995

Mr Geoff Stewart
Glenalta
55 Old Carey Gully Road
STIRLING SA 5152

Dear Geoff

Thank you for your letter of 29 May 1995 and your warm congratulations on my election as Chief Minister.

Even after we achieve a Statehood I will work to retain the title of Chief Minister in preference to a Premier. The former has much greater relevance and meaning to our near neighbours.

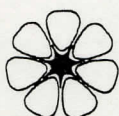
Also, it would be most likely that we would always retain the State of the Northern Territory as our name although it represents a contradiction of sorts.

I am bitterly disappointed at the forecast outcomes of the Committee on Darwin Report.

Regardless of whatever Mr Wran might ultimately report, I intend to implement much of what I made by way of submission to the committee.

If the report is as unproductive as it is sounding, it will be a great shame and an opportunity missed.

Congratulations on what you are achieving in Tanzania. Perhaps I might have the opportunity to find a reason to visit your operations in Africa one day.

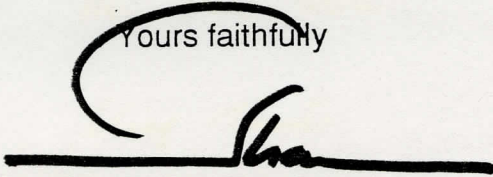


Northern Territory Government

Again, thank you for your continuing enthusiastic support for Australia's Northern Territory. You have been one of our great friends over many years and your commitment and support has never wavered.

I look forward to working closely with you in the time ahead and in the event that I can ever be of any assistance in my ministerial capacity, you should not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane', is written over a solid black horizontal line.

Shane L. Stone