

ABORIGINES BOARD TO SPEND £375,000 ON HOUSING PLAN

New housing construction for aborigines in the next three years will be at the highest rate yet, the Chief Secretary, Mr. C. A. Kelly announced in July.

The speed-up in work has been made possible by approval being given to the Aborigines Welfare Board to plan on spending £375,000 over the next three years on new housing.

Since the war, the Board has built more than 330 modern cottages on stations and reserves.

The intensified programme of new construction will give up-to-date, low rental housing to many aboriginal families, and will mean the end of much old accommodation whose standard has deteriorated.

On Town Blocks

Plans for the next three years call for the closing or re-siting of some reserves. An increasing number of homes will be built on blocks in towns.

Late last year the Board's allocation was increased to £125,000 by the Treasury. The result was that construction begun or completed in the past 15 months was brought to a total of 60 homes. In addition, tenders were called for ablution blocks at Burnt Bridge, near Kempsey, and at Gulargambone.

The Board also approved extension of electricity to homes and stations where a supply is available.

Construction in the past 15 months included: Twelve homes built near Deniliquin for residents of the Moonacullah reserve, which was closed; 14 homes at Armidale for families who lived in sub-standard dwellings they built on Crown lands; eight homes at Maclean for families who had lived on the reserve at Ulgundahi Island; four more homes on the Forster reserves; five at Mungindi; two at Coonabarabran and three at Coonamble.

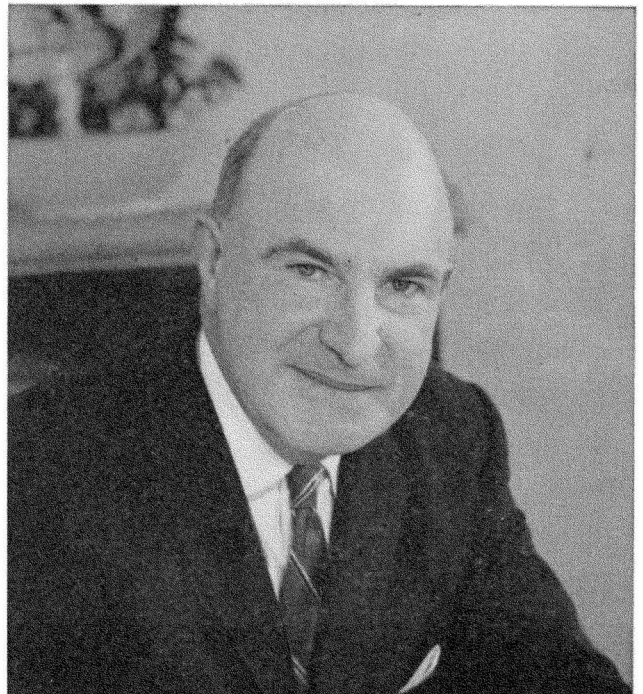
Six homes are being completed at Griffith and six at Coomaditchy, near Port Kembla.

All Parts of State

The new building programme on town blocks and on stations and reserves extends to all parts of the State.

These include two houses to be built by the Housing Commission in Warren, and 10 houses on town blocks in Bourke.

Construction provided for also includes 12 homes on the Forster Reserve; nine on the Coraki reserve; eight at Greenhills, near Kempsey; six at Yamba; 24 on a new reserve at Moree; 12 on the Wellington reserve; 12 on the Bellbrook reserve near Kempsey and 24 at Ennognia.



Mr. J. T. Purcell

Twelve homes have been provided for to rehouse a number of families living on the Cubawee reserve near Lismore. The Aborigines Welfare Board has for many years been endeavouring to acquire land and at present is negotiating for a site.