

Background

Queensland separated from New South Wales on 10 December 1859. After separation, the administration of Aboriginal affairs was transferred to the Colonial Secretary for Queensland and from 1896 to the Home Secretary's Office.

The correspondence records of the Colonial Secretary's Office consists of letters and reports covering a wide range of topics such as blanket distribution to Aborigines, reports from the Native Police on the operation of the force, letters relating "outrages" committed by Aborigines and requests for Native Police protection, lists of prisoners, medical assistance to Aborigines and suggestions from private individuals on administrative changes to Aboriginal policy.

In 1864 the Native Police were brought under the control of the newly appointed Commissioner of Police. In 1865 the force was renamed the Native Mounted Police and the force continued to operate as a separate police unit until its disbandment in 1900.

There are also several references to Torres Strait Islanders, mainly in the reports from the Government Resident at Somerset (Cape York) and the Government Resident on Thursday Island.

Please be aware some information contained within these indexes may be culturally sensitive for some individuals and communities.

Explanatory notes

- Many words in the descriptive text have been transcribed as per the original record. Spellings vary.
- Indigenous Names have not been anglicised and appear as recorded in the original record.
- 59/62 indicates 1859 Letter No. 62

For more information or to view these datasets in PDF format, please visit [Queensland State Archives](#) website.