

LETTERS PATENT PLACING THE POSSESSION
OF BRITISH NEW GUINEA UNDER THE
AUTHORITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
AUSTRALIA. ⁽¹⁾

**LETTERS PATENT passed under the Great Seal of the
United Kingdom for placing British New Guinea
under the authority of the Commonwealth of Aus-
tralia.**

Dated, 18th March, 1902.

*EDWARD the Seventh by the Grace of God of the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British
Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith,
Emperor of India: To all to whom these Presents shall
come, Greeting.*

WHEREAS by certain Letters Patent of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, bearing date the Eighth day of June, 1888, the territories and islands therein described were constituted and erected into a separate possession and Government by the name of British New Guinea:

And whereas by the *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act*, 1900, it is provided that the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia may make laws for the Government of any territory placed by Us under the authority of and accepted by the Commonwealth.

And whereas the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia have respectively passed Resolutions authorizing the acceptance of British New Guinea as a territory of the Commonwealth:

And whereas We are minded to place Our possession of British New Guinea, as defined and delimited in the aforesaid Letters Patent of the Eighth day of June, 1888, under the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia:

Now, therefore, We do by these Our Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland ordain and declare as follows:—

I. We do hereby place Our possession of British New Guinea under the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia.

(1) Published in British N.G. Govt. Gaz. of 26.5.1902.

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT—

II. The Governor-General of Our Commonwealth of Australia shall, so soon as the Parliament of the Commonwealth has made laws for the Government of Our possession of British New Guinea, issue a Proclamation signifying and declaring that the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia has made laws for the Government of that possession, and from and after the date of such Proclamation (hereinafter referred to as the appointed day) the aforesaid Letters Patent of the Eighth day of June, 1888, and any instructions which may from time to time have been given to any Officer Administering the Government of British New Guinea, either under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria or by the Order of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria in Her Privy Council or by Her through one of Her Principal Secretaries of State with respect to the execution of any things that belong to the said Office of Administrator of British New Guinea, shall cease to have effect and shall be revoked without prejudice to anything lawfully done thereunder.

III. The powers and authorities conferred by the said Letters Patent of the Eighth day of June, 1888, and any instructions as aforesaid shall, until the appointed day, be read and construed as though any powers, authorities, and duties thereby conferred or imposed upon the Governor of Queensland were conferred and imposed upon the Governor-General of Our Commonwealth of Australia, and the said Letters Patent and Instructions shall be construed and take effect with the substitution of the Governor-General of Our Commonwealth of Australia for the Governor of Queensland.

IV. And whereas it is expedient that the provisions hereinbefore contained with respect to the substitution of the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia for the Governor of Queensland in the said recited Letters Patent and Instructions should come into operation without delay.

Now, therefore, We do ordain and declare that these Our Letters Patent shall come into force forthwith.

In witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent. Witness Ourselves at Westminster, the Eighteenth day of March, in the Second year of Our reign.

By Warrant under the King's Sign Manual.

MUIR MACKENZIE.