

HOUSING PLAN—*continued*

announced by the Chief Secretary to provide houses for aborigines in Inverell and Tingha.

“ In Inverell one home is to be built almost immediately and others are planned at a future date on the same site in Hindmarsh Street. In Tingha, four homes are to be built in the next financial year with a view to eliminating the reserves there. All this, of course, is little more than an approach to the problem, but for the first time in the history of Inverell we can say that something concrete is to be done to assist those aborigines in our midst who have earned respect and deserve assistance. Shortage of funds, of course, is restricting the Aborigines Welfare Board in its activities, and its plans for Inverell and Tingha do not sound very extensive, but in the next few years expenditure of £375,000 is envisaged.

“ The problem of the hundreds of aborigines who move to and fro through the Inverell district remains, and one wonders if something more could not be done to provide basic requirements for these people until such time as more homes can be built to accommodate those aborigines who are prepared and able to settle down and become part of the local community.

“ The new moves for Inverell and Tingha will be a challenge to citizens to do all they can to ensure the complete integration of the aboriginal families into town life, and it could be a further challenge to the community itself to do something, through its own initiative, to house other families within the town boundaries, instead of leaving it all to the Aborigines Welfare Board with its limited funds and resettlement plans that will take decades to implement.”

“ Equality,” says the Housing Commission

The Housing Commission of N.S.W., which is represented on the Welfare Board by its Chairman, Mr. J. T. Purcell, last month informed Kempsey Municipal Council that the Commission sees “ absolutely no reason ” why aborigines should not be given equal treatment in the allocation of houses.

The letter from the Housing Commission was dealt with in committee at a meeting of Kempsey Municipal Council. It was written by Mr. R. H. Morton, Estates Manager of the Housing Commission, and referred to a report of a recent meeting of Council.

The letter is published in full below:—

It is noted from an article which appeared in the Kempsey *Macleay Argus* on May 10th, 1962, that some discussion took place at a Council meeting held on May 7th, regarding the possibility that applicants of aboriginal extraction might be allocated the two new homes which the Commission is now building in Albert Street, South Kempsey.

While I fully appreciate the fact that your Council decided against making any approach to the Commission

I do feel that it would be wise to clarify the Commission's position so as to avoid any misunderstandings in matters of this nature.

The question of determining which applicants should be admitted to the priority lists for Commission Homes at Kempsey is a matter for the local Tenancy Advisory Committee, which, as you know, comprises representatives from various interests in the community, including your Council.

When deciding whether or not a particular applicant is eligible for assistance under the Government Housing Scheme the Kempsey Committee has before it reports prepared by the local Housing Officer on the living conditions and the suitability of the applicant concerned as a prospective tenant or purchaser of a Commission home.

The Commission follows this practice of investigating the living conditions of applicants in order to ensure that any family which obviously would be unsuitable as tenants or purchasers is not allocated a home.

As far as the Commission is concerned, there is absolutely no reason why the eligibility of aborigines should not be determined on exactly the same basis as that applying to other members of the community.

It will be seen, therefore, that provided an aboriginal applicant satisfies the bases of eligibility outlined previously and has a need for housing, he is entitled to be admitted to the Commission's waiting lists and allocated a home on either a purchase or rental basis when his priority is reached.

Pretty Wedding at Moree

A young couple from Moree's Aboriginal Station were married at a pretty wedding at Moree R. C. Mission Chapel on July 28th.

They were Beverley Ann Pitt and Edgar Tighe. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Father Fisher, who wished the couple every happiness for their future life together.

The bride was given away by Mr. Walter Binge. Beverley looked charming in a white satin ballerina. She carried a bouquet of white gladioli.

Bridesmaid Miss Rose Weatherall and flower girl Louella Pitt wore ballerinas of pink satin and both carried pink gladioli bouquets.

Edgar was attended by John French as best man.

A reception was held at Moree Station hall, where a lovely wedding breakfast had been set out by the young couple's many friends. Dancing continued till midnight to music provided by Max Cutmore, Glen Cutmore and Steve Duke.