

THE CAIRNS POST

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1980

Aurukun linked to phone network

BRISBANE (AAP) — Aurukun, one of Australia's most isolated communities, was linked yesterday with the national telephone network.

The Commonwealth Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Mr Chaney, inaugurated the service with a call to the Aurukun shire chairman, Cr Donald Peinkinna.

The call spanned 2700 km between Canberra and Aurukun, an Aboriginal settlement of 662 people on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula.

The area was previously served by a radio link for telegrams and limited radio voice time.

The Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs provided \$64,000 of the total cost of \$80,000 for the new link, telephone number 070-733600.

A department spokesman said the Commonwealth had undertaken to provide direct communications to several remote areas of Queensland, including a major scheme to link the Torres Strait islands with the national telephone network.

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