

Queensland Aboriginal councils launched

AURUKUN: The Queensland and Commonwealth Governments completed the launching yesterday of what the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, has called the "splendid experiment" to change the social structure of Aboriginal communities in Australia.

The two Governments were represented by the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Chaney, and the State Minister for Local Government, Mr Hinze, at the first statutory meeting of the new Aurukun Shire Council.

The two ministers attended on Saturday the first meeting of the Mornington Shire Council on Mornington Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

After all the conflict of the past 14 months between the Uniting Church, the Queensland Government and the Commonwealth, the making of history this weekend was carried out quietly by the people themselves.

The black councillors — eight at each community, including two women on Mornington and one at Aurukun — went through the motions of their first statutory meetings quickly and quietly, returning as chairmen the two who had led the councils appointed and then sacked by Mr Hinze last year.