

Aboriginal governing council is planned

BRISBANE. — The Federal Government is considering a plan for aboriginal "government" in Australia.

It plans to establish an aboriginal consultative council, with members elected from the aboriginal and part-aboriginal population.

Maps have been drawn up by aboriginals to provide electorates for the council in all mainland states and the Northern Territory.

The council, if formed, would advise the Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Mr Bryant.

Other proposals are to set up special electoral areas and electoral rolls for full and part-blooded aboriginals.

The electoral maps have been drawn up by the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee, which was formed by Mr Bryant soon after Labor took office.

This was done in conjunction with the electoral office and Government mapping experts.

Aboriginal community leaders believe the con-

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sultative council could be a step towards a stronger "black parliament" to deal with problems affecting aboriginals and part-aboriginals.

Existing aboriginal electoral maps divide mainland states and the Northern Territory into electoral zones for the consultative council.

These would provide about 80 representatives selected from 27 divisions—six in Queensland, the NT and NSW, five in South Australia, and four in Victoria.

Tasmania, which has a very small aboriginal population, would have no representative.

The Federal Government's Aboriginal Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator Keefe (Qld.), will meet today to consider the technicalities of the proposal and will seek the views of a top Federal electoral officer.