

# Laid to rest, 92 years late

CANBERRA. — The bones of Tasmania's last full-blood Aborigine, Queen Truganini, may soon be removed from the Tasmanian Museum and reburied — 92 years after they were exhumed.

Tasmania's Deputy Premier and Chief Secretary (Mr. K. O. Lyons) said last night he hoped to make a submission to Cabinet in the next few weeks.

Speaking from Hobart, Mr. Lyons — the Centre Party member who holds the balance of power in Tasmania's Lower House — said he was awaiting reports from expert authorities both in Tasmania and on the mainland.

"I can't speak for the Government but my feeling

is that Queen Truganini's remains should be reburied.

"I'm hopeful that this will be the Government's decision and that perhaps a suitable memorial to Truganini and her race will be built."

Mr. Lyons' statement was welcomed by ex-Victorian Aborigine Mr. Harry Penrith, who is now a first year law student at the University of Tasmania.

Mr. Penrith, with the support of the university's student union and Abschol, has been campaigning for the reburial of Queen Truganini's remains, claiming her body was dug up against her dying wishes.

He recently wrote to the trustees and director of the Tasmanian Museum (Mr.

W. Bryden) calling for a "dignified re-interment" of Queen Truganini.

Mr. Bryden said yesterday: "This is a State museum and everything belongs to the State.

"The matter is beyond the power of the trustees and I would think rests in the hands of the Government."

He said that shortly after Queen Truganini died on May 8, 1876, the Royal Society of Tasmania applied for the skeleton and two years later the then Colonial Secretary agreed to this request.

He said that in his 17 years as director of the museum Truganini's bones had been studied about 12 times by anthropologists and anatomists.