For many years the subject of complete motor car manufacture had been under consideration by successive Australian Governments. L.J. Hartnett, Managing Director of GM-H pursued the idea which became known as the Australian Car Project. After the repeal of various Acts of Parliament in 1945 production of an all Australian car was open to anyone. Proposals were made to government by various vehicle manufacturers and GM-H presented their proposal to Parliament in March 1945. Experimental designs and models were developed beyond theory. The U.S. development vehicles 19515 and 19525 were integrated into Australian developments and became known as Project 2000. The 19525 was based around the 1938-1939 Chevrolet, much modified for the shorter 102" wheel base. Project 2000 consisted of seating bucks, scale clay models and 1/8 full size brush drawings. In 1945/46 Project 2000 became known as Project 320. This car was eventually released as the 48-215 on 2/11/48.

Information relating to the development of the Australian Car project, experimental development of vehicles, 19515 and 19525, Project 2000 and Project 320.

See Also BRG 213/121/24 newspaper cutting book – the latter pages describe the beginnings of the Australian car project in the context of post war reconstruction.

Papers and correspondence relating to the making of the All Australian Car.
   c.1935-1946. 12.5cm. (7 envelopes & folders)
   [Includes: details of negotiations and discussions between GM-H and government, ACI pre-war monopoly agreement, relevant Acts and Parliamentary Debates, developments late in war and post war, opinion regarding viability of an all Australian car and GM-H developments towards this objective, details of parts, personnel etc. in relation to Projects 2000 and 320. Also report on the design invention and scientific thought in Australia pertinent to vehicle production in Australia.]
   (previously 65/1, 7, 8, 9)

Cablegrams
   1936-1946. 1.5cm.
   [Miscellaneous cablegrams to and from General Motors, New York.] (formerly 66/5).
Government and parliamentary papers regarding vehicle manufacture in Australia.
1938-1940. 1cm. (2 parts)

Papers relating to motor car manufacture in Australia. 65/4
ca.1940, 1945. 13cm (3 folders).
[Includes: Volume 1 – General review and market study. Volume 2 - Australian materials and manufacturing processes. Volume 3 - Determination of manufacturing plant location which also includes minutes of committee re Project 2000 (1945).] (formerly 65/2).

Papers and correspondence relating to the establishment of the Australian car. 65/5
1938-1947. 1.5cm. (4 parts)

Car manufacturing proposal. 65/6
ca.1944. 8cm. (2 parts)
[Includes: Part 1 – General data and summaries. Part 2 - Production and studies.] (formerly 65/3).

Market, product and cost data related to projected motor car manufacture in Australia. 65/7
ca.1944. 4cm.
[Includes photographs of 1940 Vauxhall 10/4 and 14/6 Deluxe sedan, 1939 Opel Olympia four door sedan, 1939 Opel Kapitan four door sedan, 1940 and 1941 Chevrolet special deluxe sport sedan, experimental model 195-Y-15 and projected Australian GM car.] (formerly 65/4).
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**Papers relating to Australian body production 1940.**
ca.1944. 4cm (2 parts).
[Australian body production for 1940 Chevrolet, Vauxhall 10/4 and Vauxhall 14 h.p. sedan. Includes materials, usage and cost analysis, achievements in body costs of material to emphasize savings to accrue with full control of production conditions, automobile design as affected by climatic and physical conditions.] (formerly 65/5).

**Papers relating to General Motors operations and performance in Australia.**
ca.1944. 4cm.
[Includes historical summary, results, plants, market position, local manufacture and economic influences.] (formerly 65/6).

**Papers and correspondence relating to Australian car projects.**
1944-1947. 5.5cm. (2 parts)
[Includes a letter from W.D. Appel, Chief Engineer to E.S. Hoglund, New York re: staffing of British and German plants and suggested engineering staff for Australia; plan of operation for producing 195-Y-15 by W.D. Appel; Alfred P. Sloan (Chairman) to E.C. Riley re: Sloan’s reluctance for Australian car manufacture; L.J. Hartnett to Russ. Begg with details of Project 2008; suggestions for central point of construction Project 2000; summary progress 19525; ‘Ford’s Australian Car’; importation of essential components for Australian car; Kirkite dies for Project 320; Project 320 deadline; Engineering Department product program.] (formerly 66/7).

**Correspondence relating to Project 320.**
ca.1944-1948. 2cm (2 parts).
[Includes erection of foundry for Gray Marine diesel project, proposed small car for post war Australia by L.J. Hartnett, extract from government budget debate re: Motor car manufacture, styling trends for Project 2000, utility based on Project 2008, cost information and date for model 19525 and Project 2000, report on manufacture of gears for Project 2000, Project 320 body and chassis parts, tooling costs Woodville.] (formerly 67/9).

**Papers relating to Australian car manufacturing Project 320.**
ca.1945. 1cm.
[File of L.J. Hartnett. Includes Project 320 estimates.]
Papers relating to Australian car manufacturing Project 320.ca.1945. 4cm.
[File of H.E. Bettle. Data re: equipment and machinery for producing the 320, includes costing structure, financial summaries, budgets and analyses.] (formerly 67/1).

Data re: 19525. 65/13
1945. 0.5cm.
[Includes description and specifications and Australian objections to building it.] (formerly 68/1).

Correspondence and papers relating to Project 2000 and Project 320.ca.1945-1946. 1.5cm (2 parts). Part 2 in OUTSIZE 6.

Papers and correspondence relating to Project 2000. 65/15
da.ca.1944-1945. 11cm. (4 parts)
[Includes: cost itemization of components for Project 2000 car, progress with Project 2008 and utility, details of machinery for use in Australian car, Hartnett objecting to too much America influence, negative rate milling, 2008 vs. 19525, breakdown of 1939/1940 vehicle complaint analysis, use of sheetleather in Australian car, seat spraying wire for Project 320 at Woodville.] (formerly 66/1, 4).

Papers and correspondence relating to manufacture. 65/17
da.ca.1945. 1.5cm.
[Includes: feasibility of manufacture and government reaction, negotiation on award structure with unions, comparative specifications of car, report on project activities in America, costs and expenses, directives by L.J. Hartnett.] (formerly 66/2).

Papers and correspondence relating to the proposal to build an all Australian car. 65/18
1945-1946. 4cm (2 parts).
[Includes replies to announcement letters re: Motor car manufacture in Australia. GMH makes proposal to government.] (formerly 67/6).
Report: Plan of operations.  
1946. 1.5cm. (1 volume).  
[Includes reports and worksheets.] (formerly 65/7).  

65/19

Reports relating to 19525 car seat.  
1946. 1.5cm (2 parts).  
[Includes fatigue test report - front cushion of universal wire spring construction and conventional front seat cushion, comparison of proposed seat construction for Australia 19525 with 1946 Chevrolet sedan style 1219.]  

65/20

ca.1947. 0.5cm. (1 volume). (formerly 65/8 new).  

65/21

Correspondence relating to Project 320.  
1947. 1.5cm. (3 parts)  
[Includes duty free importation of components 17/2/47, spare parts by NASCO 22/4/47; Australian car manufacturing costs policy 1/4/47, labour outlook and requirements 9/9/47; seat springs by Universal Wire and Spring Company, Cleveland, Ohio.]  
(formerly 67/7, 8, 10).  

65/22

Expenditure data relating to Project 320.  
1946-1949. 4cm (3 parts).  
[Includes notes taken at Project 320 meetings throughout 1947-1949, Project 320 outlook for expenditures 1946, Cost estimate May 15 1948.]  
(formerly 67/2).  

65/23

Correspondence relating to Project 320.  
1944-1948. 2cm (3 parts).  
[Includes details on item manufacture, parts, materials, building requirements and personal requirements.]  
(formerly 67/3).  

65/24

Description and specification of car model 19525.  
1948. 0.5cm.  
[Report of Engineering Department.]  
(formerly 67/4, 5, 68/3).  

65/25

Correspondence prior to and immediately after launch 48-215.1947-1948. 7cm. (6 parts)  
[Includes correspondence of Regional General Manager, New York and inter office communications on the Australian car and miscellaneous cablegrams. Organisation of final details including advertising, release details, delivery, pricing, suppliers. Also publicity relating to release of 48-215.] (formerly 68/2).  

65/26
Holden vehicle tests.  
1944-1949. 1cm.  
[GM Proving Ground Car tests. 1949 Holden.]

Black and white photographs  
1944-1945 1.5cm (1 volume). Originals WITHDRAWN, photocopies available.  
[Includes photographs of components comparable with '2000' design - body, frame, front end suspension, brakes, engine and clutch, transmission, fuel tank and exhaust, steering, wheels and tyres, chassis sheet metal, chassis electrical, radiator and grille, bumpers and final assay.]

Black and white photographs  
1947-1948 15cm (3 envelopes). Originals WITHDRAWN, view online.  
[Project 320 - Chassis Volume 1, Sections 2-6; Chassis Volume 2, Sections 7-14 and Section 35 - Includes detailed photographs of the vehicle. No photos for Volume 1, Sections 2 & Volume 2, Sections 8,14&35]

Black and white photographs  
1947-1949 1.5cm (1 envelope). Originals WITHDRAWN, to view do an ARCHIVAL NUMBER search for BRG 213/65/30.  
[Project 320 - Includes complete cars from various angles.]

Report outlining comparisons for potential local vehicle production.  
1944 3cm  
[Includes braking systems and modern automobiles, comparison of air and liquid cooling, the use of semi three quarter and full floating axles, overhead versus side valves, utility loading, comparison of four and six cylinder engines, six volt V 12 vault electrical systems, the English horsepower tax, extracts from trade papers.]

See Also BRG 213/121/24 newspaper cutting box. Latter pages describe the beginnings of Australian Car Project.

Film and video are described in the Library Catalogue. For details on this subject do a KEYWORD search and limit to Film & sound.