

DEVELOPMENT OF EXMOUTH TOWNSHIP

Joint Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt and  
the Premier of Western Australia, Mr. D. Brand

The Commonwealth and Western Australian State Governments are to continue their financial support for the development of Exmouth, the support township for the United States Communication Station at North West Cape. The township is being constructed by the West Australian State authorities.

This was announced today in a joint statement released by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt, and the Western Australian Premier, Mr. Brand.

The overall cost of housing and other public facilities and amenities is estimated to be in excess of \$7,000,000. This expenditure will be shared between the Commonwealth and State with the Commonwealth providing the greater share.

In the development of Exmouth, the aim is to create an attractive town of good standard, with an integrated community of Australian and American families.

The population of Exmouth is expected to reach about 2,000 by the end of 1967.

In the first phase of development, which is nearing completion, forty-six houses have been built for Australian families, and 130 are under construction for American families.

An office has been built for the Civil Commissioner and his staff. Certain public buildings including a police station and court house, health centre and library, emergency centre, and fire station are nearing completion. A nursing post of five small wards is also nearing completion.

There will be an integrated school in the town for Australian and American children. Two classrooms built by Australian authorities have been in use for a year, and six classrooms are being built by United States authorities at their expense. A children's playground and pre-school kindergarten are also being developed.

A hotel-motel has been opened and other commercial developments include the completion of a store, garage and transport depots.

The second phase for development at Exmouth, which is now being commenced, will include the building of an additional 84 houses for Australian families, a community hall and a swimming pool.

The number of classrooms at the school is to be increased further, and full hospital facilities will replace the nursing post now under construction.

A programme of tree and grass planting for streets and park lands will be undertaken, a nursery of shrubs and trees has been established, bowling green, cricket oval, tennis and basketball courts are nearing completion and various social clubs have been launched.

In releasing the statement in Canberra, Mr. Holt said -

"The development of the township at Exmouth will make an important contribution to the operation of the US Navy's communication station at North West Cape.

"I need hardly emphasise the significance for Australia and her Allies of the rapid and successful completion of this whole project. But in addition to this defence significance, the Exmouth development will add an aspect of decentralisation to the many other projects now under way in Western Australia, bringing greater diversification and balance to the activities of the State."

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C..NBERRA,

17th April, 1966