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PRESS STATEMENT NO. 41

22 January 1973

ALBURY - WODONGA VISIT

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, and the Federal Minister for Urban and Regional Development, Mr. Uren, will meet with the Premiers of N.S.W. and Victoria in conference at Albury next Thursday. The meeting will be the first step towards fulfilling Labor's election pledge to develop Albury-Wodonga as a regional growth centre.

In his policy speech, Mr. Whitlam said that Albury-Wodonga had all the ingredients for a successful effort to establish another inland city the size of Canberra. He pledged that he and the new Minister for Urban Affairs would have an early meeting with the Premiers of N.S.W. and Victoria to initiate a programme for the development of the Albury-Wodonga project.

The Deputy Premier of N.S.W. and Minister for Local Government, Sir Charles Cutler, the N.S.W. Minister for Decentralisation, Mr. Fuller, the Victorian Minister for Local Government, Mr. Hunt and the Minister for State Development, Mr. Byrne, will also be present. They will be accompanied by senior State officials as advisers.

The meeting will also be attended by the Secretary of the new Commonwealth Department of Urban and Regional Development, Mr. E.B. Lansdown, the Commissioner of the National Urban and Regional Development Authority, Sir John Overall, and the Commissioner of the National Capital Development Commission, Mr. W.C. Andrews.

The meeting will begin at 10.30 a.m. in the Banquet Room of the Albury City Hall. An official luncheon will be given by the Prime Minister for State Ministers and local Government officials at the Provincial Hotel, Wodonga at 1.00 pm.

For all enquiries contact the Prime Minister's Press Office on 73 1770, or Mr. Harry Stein (Mr. Uren's Press Secretary) on 73 2333 or at the Hotel Canberra tonight.