



PRIME MINISTER

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URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH TASMANIA

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, and the Tasmanian Premier, Mr Reece, today signed two agreements relating to the Australian Government's Urban and Regional Development program.

The two agreements will provide Tasmania with financial assistance of more than \$3 million.

Under the Sewerage Program \$2,300,000 will be made available to provide environmentally acceptable sewerage facilities, and to protect water supplies from pollution. A contribution of \$450,000 will go to Hobart to assist in preventing the discharge of raw sewage into the River Derwent. The program also covers the treatment of industrial wastes.

Tasmania will receive a total of \$895,277 for National Estate projects for the present financial year. Restoration work will be carried out on many historic buildings including St Georges Church, Battery Point (\$20,000) the Theatre Royal, Hobart (\$15,000) and the Courthouse, Town Hall and Old Goal at Oatlands (\$20,000).

Conservation studies will be carried out at Longford, Bothwell, Oatlands and Campbell Town.

One grant will go towards a photographic study of the wilderness and recreational aspects of the South West region, and another will be for a conservation/landscape study of the Tasman Valley with particular reference to the woodchip industry and industrial development in the region.

The Prime Minister said: "The conclusion of these agreements is evidence of the co-operative endeavours of our two Governments in promoting sound urban development and enhancing the environment.

Tasmania has already set a fine example to the rest of Australia in the preservation of historic buildings.

I look forward to visiting Hobart this weekend and being able to see for myself the results of restoration work already carried out in the Hobart city area - especially at the Theatre Royal which has just received a grant - and in the village of Richmond."

CANBERRA. A.C.T.