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PRIME MINISTER

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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Australia, with many other countries, will observe World Environment Day on 5 June.

The United Nations Environment Programme has established e-Day to focus attention on the need for cooperative action to improve the quality of life.

In Australia, World Environment Day activities are being sponsored by the Australian Environment Council which consists of Federal and State Ministers concerned with environmental protection.

It is important that we take stock of what is happening to our environment. Our recognition of World Environment Day, with many other countries, is an important part of that stocktaking.

This task is not one that should be or is being left to Governments. In all walks of life Australians are working to protect our unique natural and historic heritage. The efforts of conservation groups and concerned individuals are being rewarded by an increasing awareness of the need for concerned action to preserve our common environment.

This year the international theme for e-Day is "water".

Australia is particularly aware of the need to conserve our water resources and use them wisely. We need to ensure adequate quality and quantity water for agriculture and our major cities and on a smaller, often local scale to protect urban waterways from pollution and degradation. In this way we will help preserve essential breathing spaces in our cities.

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