

PRIME MINISTER

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WHALE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

The Australian Government, along with the International Whaling Commission, follows a policy designed to achieve the preservation and conservation of the many species of whales.

Australia has been in the vanguard in instituting procedures which have, over the past ten years, already achieved a moratorium on the taking of many species.

As a result of action initiated at the I.W.C. meeting in June, the Cheynes Beach whaling licence has been renewed for one year. This action was taken on the basis of scientific advice.

However, because the Government is very much concerned about the preservation of whales now, and in the future, an independent inquiry will be appointed as soon as the Government returns to office after the elections.

The inquiry will advise on the best way in which Australia might continue to pursue the preservation and conservation of the many species of whales. It will be asked to advise whether the present course of action, that is, control through the International Whaling Commission, is in the best interests of preserving all whale species.

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