



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

27 APRIL 1979

EXCHANGE OF COMMONWEALTH AND STATE LANDS

The Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Fraser, and the Premier of New South Wales, Mr Wran, have exchanged letters authorising the transfer of certain Commonwealth and State lands details of which are set out in the attached schedule. The letters also provide for future exchanges by mutual agreement of the two Governments.

The announcement that the way is now clear to add areas of significance to the Sydney Harbour National Park was made, appropriately, during this week of commemorative celebrations being held to mark the centenary of the establishment of the Royal National Park as the first National Park in Australia and the second National Park established in the World.

This important and historic agreement was reached at discussions between the Minister for Administrative Services, the Hon. J.E. McLeay, representing the Commonwealth and the Minister for Lands and Services, the Hon. W.F. Crabtree, representing the State.

The exchanges follow discussions between the State and Commonwealth dating back to 1969 and reflect the State's desire to preserve for all time public ownership of the magnificent vantage points overlooking one of the World's finest harbours and the gateway to the City of Sydney.

The main headlands on Port Jackson, North Head, South Head, Middle Head and Dobroyd Head as well as land at Green Point, Steel Point and Georges Heights will all be available to be added to the Sydney Harbour National Park.

Ten other areas in Sydney are being acquired by the State for recreational purposes. They include five areas along the coastline, two on Botany Bay and one on Rushcutters Bay.

The State will obtain title to various parklands around Sydney and land for residential development at Holsworthy and St. Marys.

The Commonwealth in its turn will acquire title to land it occupies at Holsworthy and Beecroft Peninsula which does not include public roads.

Sydney Harbour National Park

Purchase of the harbour foreshore lands is subject to an undertaking by the State that they will be permanently dedicated for national park purposes except for Tania Park which will continue to be used for public recreation and the sewerage treatment works located at North Head.

"A total of 376 ha is to be added to the Sydney Harbour National Park, 254 ha immediately and the remainder when the Commonwealth removes or vacates its facilities for defence quarantine and training from the areas concerned", Mr Fraser said.

--o0o--

THE SCHEDULE

Sydney Harbour National Park

The land to be transferred immediately comprises 157.6 ha at North Head, 4.9 ha at South Head, 38.3 ha at Middle Head, 38.1 ha at Dobroyd Head, which does not include the area of Tania Park which will continue to be utilized for recreation purposes, 0.4 ha at Steel Point, 1.1 ha at Green Point and 13.4 ha at Georges Heights.

Holsworthy and Beecroft Peninsula

The Premier has announced that the State is to sell to the Commonwealth 13,600 hectares of land at Holsworthy and 2,820 hectares of land which does not include public roads at Beecroft Peninsula.

Both these areas have been used by the Commonwealth for Defence purposes.

They will continue to be so used except for an area which will provide a safety buffer zone around the Australian Atomic Energy Commission's establishment at Lucas Heights.

Ten Small Areas for Public Recreation

The Commonwealth is to sell to the State ten small areas in Sydney for recreational purposes.

Details of the more prominent areas are:

Rushcutters Bay Naval Reserve

This .59 ha area accommodates a slipway, Naval Research Laboratory, the Command Sailing Pool and the R.A.N. Sailing Association.

The land is to be transferred immediately and leased back, at a nominal rental, to the Commonwealth pending relocation of the naval facilities.

A lease of the area it presently occupies will be granted to the R.A.N. Sailing Association when the Commonwealth lease is terminated.

Engineers Depot - Moore Park

This 3.63 ha area, occupied by the Army, separates parts of Sydney Showground and the Sydney Sports Ground.

The land is to be transferred immediately and leased back, at a nominal rental, to the Commonwealth pending relocation of the Army establishment.

The Commonwealth has undertaken to use its best endeavours to vacate the land no later than 1983 and earlier, if possible.

Bumborah Point - Botany Bay

This 3.52 ha area of Commonwealth land adjoins the Botany Bay Port Development Project area and is presently being used by the Maritime Services Board as its works construction depot.

The land is to be transferred immediately.

Following completion of the Port Development Project the land is to be restored as a recreation reserve.

Henry Head - La Perouse

This 25.66 ha area of coastal heath land slopes down to include Congwong Bay situated between Henry Head and Bare Island.

The land is to be transferred immediately.

Barrenjoey Head - Palm Beach

This 21.62 ha area of rugged natural bushland comprises the outer slopes and waterfrontage around the lighthouse reserve on the southern headland to Broken Bay. It adjoins Governor Phillip Park.

The land is to be transferred immediately.

Signal Hill - Vaucluse

This 1.9 ha area is in two parts.

The northernmost section is to be transferred immediately and the remainder when vacated by the Commonwealth.

It adjoins the Signal Station and enjoys magnificent views along the coastline.

The remaining four areas, to be transferred immediately are located at -

Clark Reserve, Vaucluse (1.04 ha)

Mark's park, Bondi (2.64 ha)

Williams Park, Bondi (9.35 ha)

Burrows Park, (addition), Clovelly (.27 ha)

Other Lands for Transfer to the StateHolsworthy

The Commonwealth is to sell 328 hectares of land near Holsworthy for urban development.

The land is to be transferred immediately.

St. Marys

This 109.3 ha area has already been transferred to the State for residential development by the New South Wales Land Commission.