



EMBARGO: 6:00 pm

## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

THURSDAY, 20 NOVEMBER, 1980

### THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will visit Australia next year. They will arrive in Melbourne by air from London on Saturday, 26 September, and will leave Australia from Adelaide on Monday, 12 October.

The primary purpose of the Royal Visit is to enable the Queen, in her capacity as Head of the Commonwealth to be present in Melbourne when the Commonwealth Heads of Government assemble for their Meeting in 1981 and to meet the respective Heads of Government.

As already announced the dates for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting are Wednesday 30 September to Wednesday 7 October 1981.

In addition, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness have accepted the Government's suggestion to extend their stay. An itinerary has been accepted that will take the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh from Victoria to Tasmania, Western Australia and South Australia, in that order.

The precise timing of the Royal Visit itinerary has yet to be determined.

Consultation between the Commonwealth and States to be visited will take place to prepare a program of engagements for the visit. Those details will be announced as soon as practicable when an approved program has been decided.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Australia in May this year when Her Majesty opened the new High Court Building in Canberra and thereafter made one day visits to Sydney and Melbourne. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness last visited Tasmania, Western Australia and South Australia in 1977, the Silver Jubilee year of Her Majesty's accession to the Throne.

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