

ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER,
THE HON. R.J.L. HAWKE, AC, MP.,
BUSINESSPERSONS LUNCH
PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL HOTEL
CAIRNS, 11 AUGUST 1983

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE BACK IN CAIRNS ENJOYING YOUR
SPLENDID HOSPITALITY ONCE AGAIN.

MY LAST VISIT TO CAIRNS WAS IN FEBRUARY JUST PRIOR TO THE
LAST FEDERAL ELECTION.

I SPOKE THEN ABOUT THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS FACING NORTH
QUEENSLAND AND OF THE POLICIES WE IN THE LABOR PARTY
PROPOSED TO INTRODUCE IF ELECTED TO GOVERNMENT.

IT IS APPROPRIATE THEREFORE THAT I REPORT BACK TO YOU AND
THE PEOPLE OF NORTH QUEENSLAND ON PROGRESS TO DATE AND OUR
PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

DURING MY VISIT TO CAIRNS IN FEBRUARY I SPOKE OF WHAT HAS
BEEN TERMED THE "TYRANNY OF DISTANCE".

I POINTED TO THE GREAT PROBLEMS THIS POSED FOR NORTH
QUEENSLAND AND THE CONSEQUENT NEED TO GIVE TO HIGHEST
PRIORITY TO COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO PROCEED WITH THE NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE SYSTEM - THE AUSSAT PROJECT - WILL BE TREMENDOUSLY VALUABLE TO PEOPLE IN REMOTE AREAS.

IT WILL BRING ABC RADIO AND IT WILL BRING TV TO THOUSANDS OF NORTH QUEENSLAND PEOPLE WHO AT PRESENT RECEIVE NO SERVICE.

THE SATELLITE SHOULD ALSO ENSURE THAT ALL AUSTRALIANS CAN BE CONNECTED TO THE AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE NETWORK.

AS WELL, THE SATELLITE IS LIKELY TO BE USED FOR EDUCATION SERVICES TO REMOTE AND UNDERSERVED AREAS.

THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION ON THE SATELLITE - TAKEN, I MIGHT SAY, IN THE FACE OF STRONG OPPOSITION FROM SOME TRADE UNIONS - CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES OUR COMMITMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION AND TO THE WELFARE OF PEOPLE IN REMOTE AREAS.

ANOTHER PROPOSAL THAT HAS FOR A LONG TIME BEEN WIDELY SUPPORTED IS TO SET UP A SECOND ABC REGIONAL RADIO NETWORK.

PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOT SEEN FIT TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PROPOSAL, DESPITE ITS CLEAR BENEFITS TO NORTH QUEENSLAND AND OTHER REMOTE AREAS. THAT WILL NOW CHANGE.

THE FEDERAL LABOR GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A SECOND REGIONAL RADIO NETWORK FOR THE ABC.

WE WILL MAKE AN IMMEDIATE START BY PROVIDING FUNDS IN THE 1983-84 BUDGET TO GET THE PROJECT OFF THE GROUND.

WE ANTICIPATE THE FIRST STATIONS OF THE NETWORK WILL BE COMPLETED BY 1985.

MANY NORTH QUEENSLANDERS AND OTHERS HAVE EXPERIENCED THE FRUSTRATION INHERENT IN A SOLE ABC RADIO SERVICE WHOSE PROGRAM SCHEDULES MUST SERVE A WIDE VARIETY OF INTERESTS SUCH AS CATERING FOR RURAL AND URBAN LISTENERS, SCHOOLCHILDREN AND THE GROWING DAYTIME AUDIENCE.

WHEN THE SECOND REGIONAL NETWORK COMMENCES TRANSMISSIONS IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR THE ABC TO OFFER A MUCH WIDER CHOICE OF PROGRAMMING TO ALL ITS LISTENERS IN THE NORTH AND ELSEWHERE.

THE NETWORK WILL CONSIST OF MORE THAN 40 REGIONALLY-LOCATED STUDIOS, OF WHICH ONE QUARTER WILL BE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED.

THIS WILL ALLOW THE ABC TO PROVIDE PROGRAMS WITH A GREATER AMOUNT OF LOCAL MATERIAL OF INCREASED RELEVANCE TO THE REGIONS SERVED.

WE ESTIMATE THAT AS MANY AS 4 MILLION AUSTRALIANS WHO ARE NOW ONLY RECEIVING ONE ABC RADIO PROGRAM WILL BENEFIT FROM THE SECOND NETWORK.

THE DOMESTIC SATELLITE WILL BE USED TO DISTRIBUTE THIS ABC SERVICE.

A NUMBER OF ASPECTS SUCH AS LOCATION OF STUDIOS AND FREQUENCY ALLOCATION NEED SOME FURTHER STUDY.

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE THESE MATTERS AND PREPARE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SECOND REGIONAL RADIO NETWORK.

OUR DECISION TO ESTABLISH THE SECOND REGIONAL RADIO NETWORK WILL REPRESENT A SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT IN ADDITIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICES IN NORTH QUEENSLAND AND WILL MORE THAN MEET OUR PROMISE TO PROVIDE \$250,000 FOR UPGRADING SERVICES IN THIS REGION.

I NOW TURN TO ANOTHER COMMUNICATION PROBLEM FACED BY A GREAT MANY PEOPLE IN NORTH QUEENSLAND AND ELSEWHERE WHO RECEIVE ABC TELEVISION BUT WHO ARE UNABLE TO RECEIVE COMMERCIAL TELEVISION.

THEY HAVE A SPECIAL DIFFICULTY IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE RIGHTS TO PROGRAMS OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE ARE HELD BY COMMERCIAL STATIONS AND NOT THE ABC.

A RECENT CASE IN POINT IS THE REPLAY OF NSW RUGBY LEAGUE IN QUEENSLAND.

WHEREAS THE ABC USED TO TELEVISIONISE THE LEAGUE, THOSE RIGHTS ARE NOW HELD BY THE QUEENSLAND COMMERCIAL TELEVISION STATIONS.

THIS HAS MEANT THAT THOSE PEOPLE IN QUEENSLAND IN AREAS WHERE THERE IS NO LOCAL COMMERCIAL TELEVISION STATION HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF THE LEAGUE.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED STRONG REPRESENTATIONS FROM KEITH WRIGHT AS WELL AS UNHAPPY QUEENSLAND RUGBY LEAGUE FANS.

THE DIX COMMITTEE OF REVIEW INTO THE ABC RECOMMENDED THAT SPECIAL ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO THIS PROBLEM.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED CONSIDERATION OF A TELEVISION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM THAT ALLOWED DIFFERENT PROGRAM MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN NATIONAL TELEVISION SCHEDULES INTENDED FOR AUDIENCES WHERE ABC TELEVISION PROVIDED THE ONLY TELEVISION SERVICE.

THE DIX COMMITTEE ENVISAGED THAT THIS WOULD ALLOW THE ABC, IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER BROADCASTING INDUSTRY OPERATORS, TO CONSIDER SEPARATE PROGRAMMING FOR THESE AREAS. THIS SEPARATE PROGRAMMING WOULD BE BASED ON:

- FIRST, POPULAR APPEAL MATERIAL OF QUALITY SUCH AS AUSTRALIAN FEATURE FILMS AND OVERSEAS FEATURE PRODUCTIONS;

- . SECOND, MATERIAL OF WIDE OR "NATIONAL INTEREST" SUCH AS SOME SPORTING EVENTS OVER WHICH COMMERCIAL OPERATORS POSSESSED EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS;
- . THIRD, MAINSTREAM TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS OF THE MULTICULTURAL TELEVISION SERVICE.

THIS IS A DIFFICULT ISSUE.

HOWEVER, WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED, I BELIEVE THAT THE DIX COMMITTEE PROPOSAL PRESENTS A POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS, MICHAEL DUFFY, TO TAKE UP THE PROPOSAL WITH THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION, MR KEN MYER.

SHOULD THIS SOLUTION PROVE FEASIBLE IT WILL ALLOW A MUCH BROADER RANGE OF PROGRAMMING TO PEOPLE IN QUEENSLAND AND ELSEWHERE WHO DEPEND ENTIRELY ON THE ABC TELEVISION SERVICE.

ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE "TYRANNY OF DISTANCE" IS TRANSPORT.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES THE JUSTIFIED CONCERN OF NORTH QUEENSLANDERS ABOUT THE STATE OF THEIR ROADS. WE ARE SQUARELY ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL INCREASE TOTAL ROAD FUNDING TO QUEENSLAND IN 1983-84 BY 40 PER CENT TO \$253 MILLION.

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AS WELL AS ADDRESSING AN IMPORTANT PROBLEM AREA, THIS WILL PROVIDE OVER 12,000 JOBS BOTH DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY.

WE REGARD THE BRUCE HIGHWAY AS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY FOR THE ALLOCATION OF NATIONAL ROAD FUNDS WITHIN QUEENSLAND.

WE ARE ACCELERATING ITS UPGRADING TO BRING IT UP TO AN ACCEPTABLE NATIONAL STANDARD AND ELIMINATE FLOOD-PRONE SECTIONS.

ABOUT \$65 MILLION, AN ALL-TIME RECORD, WILL BE SPENT IN 1983-84.

ANOTHER MAJOR CONCERN OF NORTH QUEENSLANDERS - LOCAL ROADS - IS ALSO A PRIORITY AREA.

LOCAL ROADS WILL BENEFIT FROM THE 40 PER CENT BOOST IN TOTAL ROAD FUNDING FOR QUEENSLAND, TO WHICH I HAVE JUST REFERRED.

IN ADDITION WE ARE PROVIDING QUEENSLAND WITH \$12.4 MILLION IN 1983-84 FOR JOBS ON LOCAL ROADS UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF OUR COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH QUEENSLAND DEPENDS ENORMOUSLY ON ITS GREAT PRIMARY INDUSTRIES.

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY HAS FACED HUGE PROBLEMS IN RECENT YEARS WITH THE SLUMP IN WORLD SUGAR PRICES COMING ON TOP OF OTHER MAJOR PROBLEMS.

ONE OF THE FIRST ACTIONS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS TO CHANNEL \$10 MILLION INTO THE QUEENSLAND SUGAR INDUSTRY THROUGH THE RURAL ADJUSTMENT SCHEME.

THESE FUNDS ARE BEING MADE AVAILABLE IN THE FORM OF CARRY-ON LOANS AND WILL UNQUESTIONABLY KEEP MANY GROWERS IN THE INDUSTRY WHO WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN FORCED OUT.

OUR NEW FIVE-YEAR STABILISATION PLAN FOR THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY WILL ALLOW GROWERS TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE.

WE ARE NOW FINALISING PLANS FOR REORGANIZING THE MEAT INDUSTRY ORGANISATIONS.

THESE PLANS WILL ENABLE PRODUCERS AND PROCESSORS TO HAVE A GREATER CAPACITY TO INFLUENCE POLICY MAKING WITHIN THEIR INDUSTRY.

THE FISHING INDUSTRY WILL BENEFIT FROM A NEW ORGANIZATION - THE FISHING INDUSTRY CONSULTATIVE PANEL - WHICH WE ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE INDUSTRY-WIDE ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THE CONCERN OF NORTH QUEENSLANDERS FOR THE STATE OF OUR DEFENCE PREPAREDNESS AND THE ADEQUACY OF OUR COASTAL SURVEILLANCE.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE DEFENCE SPENDING IN REAL TERMS IN THE COMING BUDGET.

THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO CONDUCTING A FULL SCALE REVIEW OF OUR COASTAL SURVEILLANCE ARRANGEMENTS, HEADED UP BY MY COLLEAGUE, KIM BEAZLEY.

BUT I KNOW THERE IS A MATTER OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO CAIRNS - THE QUESTION OF FUTURE ORDERS OF PATROL BOATS AT NORTH QUEENSLAND ENGINEERS AND AGENTS.

THIS MATTER IS CURRENTLY RECEIVING THE URGENT CONSIDERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ADVICE WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OUR DEFENCE AUTHORITIES THAT THEY CLASSIFY FURTHER F-CLASS PATROL BOATS AS A LOW PRIORITY.

BECAUSE OF THIS, I AM NOT ABLE TO INDICATE AT THIS POINT PRECISELY WHAT THE POSITION WILL BE.

BUT I CAN SAY THIS.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS IN NO DOUBT - AND HAS BEEN LEFT IN NO DOUBT - OF THE IMMENSE CONCERN IN CAIRNS THAT FURTHER ORDERS BE PLACED WITH NQEA - AND SOON.

I CAN ALSO SAY THAT THE DEFENCE MINISTER, GORDON SCHOLES, HAS FORESHADOWED A HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAM FOR ABOUT FIVE PATROL BOATS FOR SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC ISLAND STATES.

SUBJECT TO PROGRESS WITH NEGOTIATIONS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IS EXPECTED IN LATE AUGUST, DURING THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEETING.

NQEA WOULD BE EXPECTED TO BE A STRONG TENDERER, ON THE BASIS OF THEIR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE ON FREEMANTLE-CLASS PATROL BOATS FOR THE NAVY AND THEIR HIGH LEVELS OF EFFICIENCY.

THE FUTURE VIABILITY OF NQEA IS A HIGH PRIORITY WITH ME AND MY GOVERNMENT AND WE WILL BE PURSUING THIS AND OTHER AVENUES TO ENSURE THAT VIABILITY.

A MATTER I KNOW IS OF GREAT INTEREST TO SO MANY IN THIS AUDIENCE IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOURIST INDUSTRY.

THIS IS IMPORTANT FOR THE WHOLE OF AUSTRALIA,

IT IS CRUCIAL FOR THE FUTURE PROSPERITY OF NORTH QUEENSLAND.

INDEED NORTH QUEENSLAND HAS VAST POTENTIAL TO DEVELOP A TOURIST INDUSTRY OF WORLD RENOWN.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE ITS FULL BACKING TO THE EFFORTS OF NORTH QUEENSLAND TO DEVELOP YOUR TOURIST INDUSTRY.

YESTERDAY I ANNOUNCED A DECISION THAT WILL GREATLY ASSIST THE TOURIST INDUSTRY IN NORTH QUEENSLAND - A SPECIAL GRANT OF APPROXIMATELY \$1 MILLION THIS FINANCIAL YEAR TO SUBSIDISE THE DIESEL FUEL COSTS TO BARRIER REEF ISLAND RESORTS.

THIS EFFECTIVELY MEETS ONE OF THE COMMITMENTS WE MADE TO NORTH QUEENSLAND - TO EXEMPT THE GREAT BARRIER REEF ISLAND RESORTS FROM THE DIESEL EXCISE IMPOSED BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT.

THE TOURIST INDUSTRY IN NORTH QUEENSLAND WILL ALSO BENEFIT FROM THE SUBSTANTIAL BOOST IN FUNDING WE WILL PROVIDE THIS FINANCIAL YEAR TO THE AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION.

THIS WILL ENABLE THE COMMISSION TO STEP UP ITS ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE INBOUND TOURISM TO AUSTRALIA.

THE GOVERNMENT SEES THE PROVISION OF MORE LOW-COST ACCOMMODATION AS A MEANS OF ENCOURAGING MORE AUSTRALIANS TO SEE AUSTRALIA

- PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO WOULD OTHERWISE BE UNABLE TO AFFORD A HOLIDAY.

WE PLAN TO UNDERTAKE A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATES AND RELEVANT AGENCIES TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM WHERE A DEMONSTRATED NEED EXISTS.

AS AN INITIAL STEP, STATE TOURISM AUTHORITIES HAVE PROVIDED INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT STATE OF LOW-COST ACCOMMODATION.

ANOTHER OF OUR NORTH QUEENSLAND COMMITMENTS ON TOURISM WAS TO NEGOTIATE WITH TRANSPORT OPERATORS FOR 30 DAY FIXED FARE AIR TRAVEL AND ALL INCLUSIVE AIR-RAIL-COACH TICKETS TO ATTRACT MORE PEOPLE TO NORTH QUEENSLAND.

MY COLLEAGUE, JOHN BROWN, MINISTER FOR SPORT, RECREATION AND TOURISM, HAS SET IN TRAIN THESE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE AIRLINES ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WILL NEED TO FOLLOW WITH RAIL AND COACH OPERATORS.

AN ISSUE OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE TOURIST INDUSTRY AS WELL AS TO THE BOAT CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN QUEENSLAND HAS BEEN THE IMPOSITION BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT OF A 20 PER CENT SALES TAX ON TOURIST VESSELS.

THIS TAX HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY BOTH THESE INDUSTRIES IN RECENT TIMES.

TO ALLEVIATE THESE PRESSURES THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO REINSTATE THE EXEMPTION FROM SALES TAX FOR CERTAIN TOURIST BOATS.

THE EXEMPTION WILL EXTEND TO THOSE VESSELS WHICH ARE LICENCED TO CARRY NOT LESS THAN 12 PASSENGERS AND WHICH ARE USED PRINCIPALLY BY THE OWNER IN CARRYING ON A BUSINESS OF PROVIDING REGULAR, SCHEDULED SIGHT SEEING TOURS FOR PAYING PASSENGERS.

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TO MAXIMISE ITS BENEFITS, THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXEMPTION WILL BE BACKDATED TO 19 AUGUST 1981, WHICH IS THE DATE SUCH VESSELS FIRST BECAME TAXABLE.

THE EXEMPTION IS NOT TO APPLY TO VESSELS CHARTERED OR HIRED FOR PURPOSES OF PLEASURE, SPORT OR RECREATION.

THIS DECISION WILL PROVIDE A SUBSTANTIAL BOOST NOT ONLY TO THE TOURIST INDUSTRY BUT ALSO TO THE SMALL SHIPS CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

THIS INDUSTRY WILL AGAIN BE ABLE TO MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE QUEENSLAND ECONOMY.

THE INDUSTRY HAS DEVELOPED OVER MANY YEARS IN QUEENSLAND AND CARRIES WITH IT UNIQUE SKILLS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNDER THREAT.

THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION REFLECTS OUR COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND WORKFORCE SKILLS IN THE IMPORTANT REGIONAL CENTRES OF AUSTRALIA AS WELL AS TO ENCOURAGING THE TOURIST INDUSTRY TO ACHIEVE ITS FULL POTENTIAL.

WE RECOGNISE THE ACUTE SHORTAGE OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION IN NORTH QUEENSLAND.

THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TO PROVIDE BETTER FACILITIES, ESPECIALLY FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHICH MAKE USE OF SHOP FRONT ACCOMMODATION - FOR EXAMPLE SOCIAL SECURITY, IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS AND OTHERS.

ACCORDINGLY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS TO EMBARK ON A MAJOR NATION-WIDE OFFICE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM.

THIS WILL PARTICULARLY BENEFIT NORTH QUEENSLAND. CAIRNS IS ON THE TOP OF THE LIST FOR THIS NEW OFFICE CONSTRUCTION ALONG WITH ROCKHAMPTON, MACKAY AND THURSDAY ISLAND.

MY COLLEAGUE, JOHN BROWN, THE MINISTER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, WILL ANNOUNCE DETAILS SHORTLY AND WE WILL BE ADVERTISING SOON FOR SUBMISSIONS OF INTEREST FROM DEVELOPERS.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL UNDERTAKE THIS NEW PROGRAM OF OFFICE CONSTRUCTION BY USING LEASE PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR - A NEW AND INNOVATIVE FORM OF CO-OPERATION WITH BUSINESS.

WE INTEND TO ENTER INTO FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH PRIVATE SECTOR INTERESTS WHEREBY THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION WILL BE RECOUPED BY DEVELOPERS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OVER A FIXED PERIOD AT THE END OF WHICH OWNERSHIP OF THE OFFICE BUILDINGS WOULD BE VESTED IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

EIGHTY-THREE PER CENT OF COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ACCOMMODATION IS LEASED - PROBABLY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF ANY COMPARABLE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD.

OUR OFFICE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM WILL HELP CORRECT THAT IMBALANCE.

IT WILL STIMULATE THE BUILDING INDUSTRY IN REGIONAL AREAS AND PROVIDE BETTER SERVICE FROM COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENTS TO THEIR CLIENTS.

THIS NEW PROGRAM OF OFFICE CONSTRUCTION, USING BOTH BUDGET-FUNDED AND PRIVATE SECTOR-FUNDED ARRANGEMENTS, REPRESENTS A WELCOME RESUMPTION OF COMMONWEALTH ACTIVITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS OWN OFFICE SPACE.

EXPENDITURE ON THE PROGRAM WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY OFFSET BY RENTAL SAVINGS, AND IN DUE COURSE, BY THE DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

THE BENEFITS TO CITIES LIKE CAIRNS ARE CLEAR - BETTER GOVERNMENT SERVICE, MORE CONSTRUCTION AND MORE JOBS.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, NORTH QUEENSLAND HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THE ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION OF AUSTRALIA.

THE TASK WE FACE IS TO MAKE SURE THAT POTENTIAL IS REALISED.

WE NEED A NEW AUSTRALIA - ONE THAT IS HEALTHIER, STRONGER AND MORE SECURE.

ONE THAT FULLY EMBRACES THE GREAT CHALLENGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATIONAL RESOURCES.

AND I BELIEVE THAT NEW AUSTRALIA OF THE FUTURE CAN BE FOUND HERE - IN NORTH QUEENSLAND.