



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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I welcome the decision by union convenors in Dampier today, to recommend to their members the concept of an Iron Ore Industry Council.

This represents an important step towards the establishment of a new tripartite Council, to improve consultation among the parties and so to improve industrial relations in the Pilbara.

My Government is firmly committed to strengthening the competitive position of the Australian iron ore industries.

The improvement of industrial relations in the Pilbara is one important aspect of this strengthening.

Governments, employers and unions all share an obligation to consult closely on all aspects of the economic performance of the industry, so as to avoid unnecessary industrial disputation and damage to the industry's competitive position.

I welcome today's progress towards the establishment of improved mechanisms for consultation within this major industry.