



PRIME MINISTER

19/92

EMBARGOED 7:30PM 26 FEBRUARY 1992

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP, AND THE PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES, THE HON NICK GREINER MP

GLEBE ISLAND BRIDGE

Following today's announcement by the Prime Minister of the broad range of transport and other infrastructure initiatives which will benefit the State of New South Wales, the Prime Minister and Premier Nick Greiner, today announced that work on the Glebe Island Bridge can immediately move ahead with a view to completion of the project by 1995.

In light of the implications of the Economic Statement initiatives for the longer term road funding responsibilities of the Commonwealth and the States, New South Wales has been assured of the fiscal capability to proceed with the 4 year Glebe Island Arterial Project.

The Prime Minister also re-affirmed that the Commonwealth would contribute \$65.85 million to the Project in the life of the existing Commonwealth roads program which ends in 1993.

In making the announcement, the Premier explained that the new bridge, which will remove a major bottle-neck in traffic flow between Sydney and its western environments, will carry six lanes of traffic. It will have an overall length of 800 metres and a main span of 345 metres across the entrance Blackwattle Bay. The bridge deck is to be suspended by cable from two towers of 120 metres height.

Mr Greiner announced that the contract for construction of the bridge will be awarded to Baulderstone Hornibrook in conjunction with the French company, Campeon Bernard. The tender price is approximately \$69 million in 1990 dollar terms. The total Glebe Island Arterial Project, which is approximately 2 kilometres in length, will have a final cost, in out-turn dollars, of approximately \$160 million.

Work on the site will commence virtually immediately, with the creation of new jobs expected to reach approximately 200 by the end of the year. An additional 800 jobs are likely to be created off-site by the new Project.

The Prime Minister and the Premier look forward to the benefits that this link, together with the City-West Link, will provide as an east-west route from the City to the F4 at Concord. The Glebe Island Bridge will also enable better access to Sydney's inner ports and is an important project in the context of the infrastructure required for the Olympic Games in Sydney.

Canberra
26 February 1992