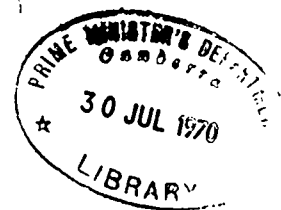


PRESS STATEMENT



MECHANICAL INSPECTION OF LONG-DISTANCE BUSES

(Statement by the Ministers)

Minimum safety inspection standards will be drawn up for long-distance tourist buses operating throughout Australia.

This was decided today (July 10) by Commonwealth and State Transport Ministers meeting in Port Moresby as the Australian Transport Advisory Council.

The Ministers have asked the Advisory Committee on Vehicle Performance to prepare the standards together with a time scale for their introduction.

They also asked the Standing Committee of Advisers to closely examine the question of adequate enforcement of such a standard by means of periodic and random inspections.

All Ministers agreed with the serious concern expressed about the road-worthiness of tourist coaches in a paper presented to the meeting by the N.S.W. Minister.

The item was raised following a number of serious accidents involving long-distance buses in which a number of people were killed and injured.

The matter of tourist vehicle road-worthiness was of the utmost importance because large numbers of people were exposed to risk in any accident involving a bus, and also because the good safety record of the industry should be maintained in the interest of tourism.

PORT MORESBY, T.P.N.G.
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

10 JULY 1970