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CROWN OF THORNS STARFISH

Ministerial Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

Honourable Members will be aware that the Commonwealth and Queensland have agreed to establish a Joint Committee to investigate the problem of the Crown of Thorns starfish.

The Committee will be supported on a \$1 for \$1 basis by each government.

It will report to each government.

On behalf of the Premier of Queensland and myself I am pleased to be able to announce to the House that the Committee will comprise the following experts:-

COMMONWEALTH NOMINEES

Professor R. J. Walsh, Professor of Human Genetics at the University of New South Wales (Chairman).

Professor W. G. H. Maxwell, Associate Professor of Geology at the University of Sydney.

Mr. D. J. Tranter M. Sc., Senior Research Scientist, Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, C. S. I. R. O.

QUEENSLAND NOMINEES

Dr. J. M. Harvey, Director-General of Primary Industries.

Professor J. M. Thompson, Professor of Zoology at the Queensland University.

Mr. C. L. Harris of the Department of Primary Industries.

I have asked that the Joint Committee meet as soon as is practicable in view of the urgency of the situation.

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CANBERRA  
7 April 1970