

FOR PRESS:

P. M. No 55/1970

GREAT BARRIER REEF OIL DRILLING INQUIRY  
Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

The Prime Minister said today that he and the Premier of Queensland expected to be in a position in the near future jointly to announce the composition of the Royal Commission to inquire into the risk of damage to the Great Barrier Reef from drilling for oil.

The Inquiry will be conducted under the Commonwealth's Royal Commissions Act 1902-1966 and Queensland's Commissions of Inquiry Acts 1950 to 1954.

Arrangements to establish the Inquiry are proceeding smoothly with complete co-operation between the two Governments.

Approaches have been made to the persons whom it is proposed to appoint as Commissioners for the Inquiry.

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CANBERRA  
28 April 1970