

ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr William McMahon

The Government has been giving consideration to ways of improving the effectiveness of the periodic economic consultations with representatives of industry and commerce. After obtaining the views of participating organisations, it has been decided for the future to hold one longer set of consultations each year instead of the present practice of two meetings. It is intended that the annual consultations extend over three days so that more time will be available for discussion of issues of particular concern to organisations and to the Government. The Government believes that the new arrangements will increase significantly the usefulness of the consultations for all participants.

Invitations have been extended for the next consultations which will be held from 7-9 July. On 7 and 8 July, Ministers will meet national organisations in three groups: primary industry, manufacturing industry, and commerce and mining. Also on 8 July, Ministers will meet with the Manufacturing Industries Advisory Council. On 9 July, meetings will be held with the Export Development Council and the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

The organisations invited in the primary industry, manufacturing industry, and commerce and mining groups are shown below :-

Primary Industry Group

Australian Farmers' Federation
Australian Woolgrowers' and Graziers' Council
Australian Wool and Meat Producers' Federation
Australian Wheatgrowers' Federation

Manufacturing Industry Group

The Associated Chambers of Manufactures of Australia
Master Builders' Federation of Australia
Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries

Commerce and Mining Group

The Associated Chambers of Commerce of Australia
Australian Bankers' Association
Australian Council of Retailers
Australian Mining Industry Council