

FOR PRESS:

PM No. 71/1971

DEATH OF SIR FREDERICK SHEDDEN

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. William McMahon

It is with deep regret that I learnt of the death of Sir Frederick Shedden.

Sir Frederick had a long and distinguished career in the Commonwealth Public Service and was an eminent figure in defence administration.

He was Secretary of the Defence Department from 1937 to 1956, spanning the critical years of World War II and the unsettled period which followed.

From 1939 to 1946 he was Secretary of War Cabinet and from 1940 to 1945 Secretary of the Advisory War Council.

Earlier in his career Sir Frederick Shedden was attached to the British Cabinet Office and the Committee of Imperial Defence where he was closely associated with Lord Hankey.

Sir Frederick participated in many important overseas missions with the Prime Minister and Minister for Defence.

On the basis of experience during World War II, Sir Frederick Shedden had developed arrangements in the Defence Department which had laid the foundations for closer co-ordination and direction of defence policy and administration.

The Prime Minister said that Sir Frederick Shedden would be long remembered for his outstanding service to Australia.

On behalf of the Government I extend sympathy to his widow.

CANBERRA
9 July 1971