



## PRIME MINISTER

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### AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL MEETING

Statement by the Prime Minister, The Rt Hon. William  
McMahon, C.H., M.P.

The Prime Minister said today he welcomed the first formal meeting of the Australian Environment Council as evidence of a co-ordinated nationwide approach to the problems of improving and protecting the environment and the management of pollution throughout Australia.

The Council, which comprises Commonwealth and State Ministers responsible for environmental matters, meets in Sydney tomorrow.

Mr. McMahon said that Commonwealth/State co-operation was essential to the effective solution of problems associated with the environment.

The Commonwealth wanted to facilitate co-operation and ensure a common approach which was essential to effective control and protection measures.

He said the Commonwealth had now decided to establish its own Commonwealth Advisory Committee on the Environment. A full statement covering the function and personnel of this new advisory body would soon be made by the Minister for The Environment, Aborigines and The Arts, Mr. Howson.

The Prime Minister said a major share of the responsibility for the environment within State boundaries lay with State and local governments and there were already encouraging signs of success.

The States were already showing their concern and their capability through the establishment of new ministries and authorities and the implementing of stronger control measures.

Mr. McMahon also emphasised that Government activities needed to be supplemented by the work of private organisations and companies if anti-pollution and environmental protection efforts were to succeed.

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CANBERRA,

6 April, 1972.