



PRIME MINISTER

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CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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

The Prime Minister, Mr. McMahon today announce that a high-level delegation from Australia would attend the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, to be held at Stockholm, Sweden from 5-16 June, 1972.

The delegation will consist of:-

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| The Hon. Peter Howson (Leader) | - Minister for the Environment, Aborigines and the Arts. |
| The Hon. J. G. Beale, M.L.A.
(Representative) | - N.S.W. Minister for Environment Control. |
| The Hon. V.O. Dickie, M.L.C.,
(Representative) | - Victorian Minister for State Development |
| Sir Lenox Hewitt, O.B.E..
(Representative) | - Secretary, Department of the Environment, Aborigines and the Arts. |
| Sir James Plimsoll, C.B.E.
(Representative) | - Australian Ambassador to the U.S.A. |
| Sir William Refshauge, C.B.E.
(Representative) | - Director-General of Health |
| Mr. W.K. Pilz
(Alternate Representative) | - Under-Secretary, Department of Environment Control.NSW |
| Mr. J. C. Fraser
(Alternate Representative) | - Chairman, Environment Protection Authority, Vic. |
| Mr. C. N. Barton, O.B.E.
(Alternate Representative) | - Co-ordinator-General, Queensland. |

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Dr. W. G. Inglis (Alternate Representative)	-	Director of Environment and Conservation, South Australia.
Dr. B. J. O'Brien, (Alternate Representative)	-	Director of Environment Protection, Western Australia.
Mr. J. F. Pottinger (Alternate Representative)	-	Director of Environmental Control Tasmania.
Mr. H. J. Higgs, (Alternate Representative)	-	First Assistant Secretary, Department of the Environment, Aborigines and the Arts.
Mr. A. I. McCutchan (Alternate Representative)	-	Senior Assistant Secretary, Department of National Development.
Dr. J. B. Allen (Alternate Representative)	-	Assistant Secretary, C.S.I.R.O.
Mr. G. Unkles (Adviser)	-	First Assistant Secretary, Department of Shipping and Transport.
Mr. G. L. V. Hooton, (Adviser)	-	Assistant Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry.
Dr. R. S. Merrilees (Adviser)	-	First Secretary, Australian Mission to the United Nations New York.
	-	The Australian Ambassador - designate to Sweden, Mr. J. D. Petherbridge, will join the delegation in Stockholm.

Mr. McMahon said that Australia had been one of the first countries to support the Swedish initiative to hold the Conference and Australia has been closely involved in all aspects of preparations for the Conference. Australian observers had participated in all sessions of the Conference Preparatory Committee. Australian experts had attended all meetings of intergovernmental working groups which had been convened to prepare material for consideration at the Conference.

The Conference will consider recommendations on a wide range of environmental issues, including the feasibility of a global monitoring system, environmental implications of development and industrialisation, natural resources management, conservation and the establishment of permanent machinery to co-ordinate future international action.

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Mr. McMahon explained that the Conference was an inter-governmental meeting and that the Australian delegation had been chosen from Commonwealth and State representatives covering a wide range of environmental activities. The decision to include eight State representatives had been made in view of the important role of the States in environmental matters. The States had also participated in the preparation of the Brief for the delegation.

Mr. McMahon said that the Government believed the Conference to be of greatest importance. The problems of managing the environment were among the most complex to confront mankind and the Conference could not be expected to find instant or immediate solutions for them. It would however be a first important step in a long and challenging process.

CANBERRA,

14 May, 1972.