



# PRIME MINISTER

## MACQUARIE NETWORK WEEKLY BROADCAST

BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RT. HON. WILLIAM McMAHON  
CH, MP.

5 JULY 1972

### NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Good Evening :

I thought on this occasion I would vary the diet a little and talk about some of the things that make Australia such a great and wonderful country to live in.

Some time ago, I received an invitation to go up to the North - that is the Far West, East and West Kimberley, Gove and Darwin. And the matters that excited my interest were these. Australia is a country that needs a tremendous amount of water conservation. We need exports in order to permit our development to go on and our standards of living to improve.

We also have the problems of the environment, and I also wanted to make enquiries, if I could, about the Crown of Thorns Starfish and the Great Barrier Reef.

First of all, then, about water conservation. I was invited up to open a dam in Darwin that will give water supply there for many years to come. And Darwin is, I believe, the fastest-growing capital - if I might use that word - in Australia.

I was also invited to go across to the Ord Dam. And to give you an impression of what it is like, the Ord will service an area twice as big as Victoria and will have nine times as much water as Sydney Harbour.

In time there is no doubt that this water conservation will pay big dividends for us.

Up there when talking about the Ord scheme, they talk about "Sydharbs" - (Sydney Harbour). And they measure the water flow by the amount of water in the Sydney Harbour that would pass through the gateways in the course of half an hour, and believe me, it is a tremendous amount of water.

I then moved on to the second place that I had to open, and that is the works in Gove, right up in the far North-East of the Northern Territory. About \$300-\$350 million has been spent here in order to establish bauxite and alumina works. There is a difference between the two.

And in the not too distant future, we will be exporting overseas approximately \$60 million worth of bauxite and alumina per annum.

There is a large Australian holding in the Corporation and the Australian holding can be increased should they wish to do so in the future.

I then went on to a place called Mission Beach, just south of Cairns. My main reason for going was that it was on the way home but I also wanted to have a look at the Crown of Thorns Starfish and see to what extent this could be controlled so as to ensure that the Reef could be maintained.

The Reef will be in the future as it is now - a great attraction throughout the world. CSIRO is working on the problem and we have had a commission that has reported to us about it. I now know a lot more about this and I will be taking a bigger interest in it when I return home.

These were the reasons for my visit. And then I realised during the time I have been here what a tremendous potential the whole of the North has, not only for Australians - because I hope they will be able to enjoy it to the full - but also for overseas people as well.

The North is a wonderful area. It is part of the greatness of this country. It gives a tremendous amount of enjoyment to everyone who has the opportunity to travel up here. And I believe Australians will be able to travel here much more in the future.

Goodnight.

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