



PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 92

16 May, 1973

TASK FORCE ON THE NATIONAL ESTATE

Mr Justice Hope, of the Court of Appeal division of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, has agreed to act as Chairman of the Government's proposed Task Force on the National Estate.

I am grateful to Mr Justice Hope for his ready agreement to chair this important inquiry and to the Premier and Government of New South Wales for releasing him for this work.

I pay tribute to the Government of New South Wales for its ready co-operation in projects of this kind. They have made available the services of five Justices of the Supreme Court of New South Wales to participate in commissions of inquiry initiated by the Australian Government.

It is anticipated that the work of the Task Force will be conducted by a Committee of seven with a permanent secretariat supplied by the Departments of Urban and Regional Development and of the Environment and Conservation. The Committee will advertise for submissions and hold public hearings in the States. The work of the Committee is expected to take several months.

In Mr Justice Hope we will have a Chairman of great capacity and experience, with a sympathetic understanding of the problems which the Task Force will face.

The Task Force is needed because increasing numbers of Australians are concerned to preserve for the enjoyment of future generations the best buildings of our past and the best features of our natural environment. This concern is shared by Governments.

The Australian Government is committed to the preservation and enhancement of the National Estate. The concept of the National Estate embraces such things as historic buildings and towns, buildings of architectural merit, major parks, nature reserves, urban parks, scenic reserves, areas along the coastline and so on.

The Task Force will be asked to advise the Australian Government on any additional measures and policies which should be applied to preserve and enhance the National Estate and the role the Australian Government can play in assisting the implementation of these measures and policies.

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